



European Commission  
Directorate-General Fisheries  
c/o Mr Fokion Fotiadis  
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Date: 20 October 2008  
Our reference: 0809PRAC02/AC  
Subject: Recommendations mackerel and herring stocks

Dear Mr Fotiadis,

Please find attached as an annex the unanimous recommendations on a number of pelagic stocks.

If you have any questions, please contact the secretariat. Looking forward to your response,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' followed by a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Aukje Coers  
Pelagic RAC secretariat

c.c. Ms Isabelle Viallon, Mr Edward-John Spencer, Mr Andrew Thompson (by e-mail)

## **Annex 1: Pelagic RAC Recommendations October 2008**

### North East Atlantic Mackerel management plan

As an input to the upcoming Coastal States meeting on mackerel, the Pelagic RAC recommends that the Commission seeks an amendment to the agreed management plan that is based on the advice from ICES to the European Commission (EC) request on evaluation of a management plan for NEA mackerel – ICES Advice 2008, Book 9, 9.3.2.1

The Pelagic RAC specifically recommends that:

- The new precautionary management plan should be based on an HCR which should include;
- A trigger value for SSB at 2400 kt;
- A target harvest rate set at 0,20 when SSB is above the trigger point and at  $0.20 * (SSB)/2.4$  when SSB is below the trigger point and;
- An IAV limitation of 15%, which should be applied always (irrespective of level of SSB).

### Herring – North Sea

Having considered the ICES Working Group report on the long term management plan for this stock, in which ICES proposes three options for amendment of the management plan in order to make it precautionary, the Pelagic RAC recommends that:

The Commission will seek an amendment to the management plan by following option two suggested by ICES in their report, i.e. to;

- Accept the proposed new HCR which incorporates:
- An increased SSB trigger point of 1.5 Mt;
- A target  $F_{2-6}$  of 0.25 above the trigger;
- A target  $F_{0-1}$  of 0.05 and;
- A 15% limit on IAV in TAC.

Furthermore, in accordance with this option for amendment of the management plan the TAC for 2009 should be set in line with the ICES advice, i.e. incorporating a decrease of 15%.

### Herring – West of Scotland (VIa North)

The Pelagic RAC recommends that:

- The Commission reconsiders the proposed P-RAC management plan;
- But that, in general, a management plan should be implemented as soon as possible;
- And that the TAC for 2009 should be set according to the implemented management plan.

#### Herring – VIa South

The Commission is to take note that considering long term management options for this stock are in the remit of the established P-RAC focus group and thus will be considered there. Furthermore, due to the considerable uncertainty around this stock, the P-RAC considers itself not in the opportunity to provide a TAC advice for 2009.

#### Herring – Celtic Sea

In line with the recommendations for the previous two stocks, the Pelagic RAC refrains from providing an advice on a specific TAC for 2009, but we encourage the Commission to actively pursue the implementation of a rebuilding plan.

#### Herring - IIIa area and sub division 22-24 (Western Baltic)

The Pelagic RAC recommends that:

A draft management plan should be prepared as soon as possible, and the following points – from the ICES-advice – should be part of the plan:

- Target F should not be higher than 0.25;
- A 15% limit on IAV of the TAC should be included;
- A specific rule determining a fixed allocation between Division IIIa and Subdivisions 22-24 should be included.

Furthermore, the Pelagic RAC recommends for the IIIa area that:

- A documentation should be made, explaining the rationale behind the setting of this TAC;
- In the mean time the RAC will refrain from recommending on a specific TAC for 2009.

#### Herring – Irish Sea

The Pelagic RAC recommends that the TAC for 2009 for this stock should be set in line with the ICES advice, i.e. at 4400 t.