



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels,
D(2011)

Mr McSween
Pelagic RAC
Treubstraat 17
PO Box 72
2280 AB Rijswijk
The Netherlands

Dear Mr McSween,

Thank you for the Pelagic RAC's letter of 22 July 2011 in which you suggest options to improve the long term management plan for herring in the North Sea for evaluation by ICES. These options are well constructed, and they merit full consideration.

I agree that for this to be the collaborative exercise envisaged by ICES, stakeholders should be free to suggest any other options for evaluation as they see fit. At the same time, we will have to be selective in order to keep the work focused. This is particularly important given that the results of the evaluations would need to be available for discussion at the EU-Norway fisheries consultations in November and December if we are to use a modified plan to set the TAC in 2012.

My services will contact their Norwegian counterparts and ICES to explore the best working procedures to achieve that goal and discuss the content of a joint EU-Norway request to ICES for the evaluations. They will also keep in direct and informal contact with yourselves in order to ensure your full involvement in this process.

Yours sincerely,

Lowri Evans