

**Danish AgriFish Agency**

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Date: 21 January 2015  
Our reference: 1415/PAC 64  
Subject: EMFF

Dear Mr Sveistrup<sup>1</sup>,

According to Article 40 of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) the operational programmes of the Member States may support, among others, operations contributing *“to a better management or conservation of marine biological resources”* (Article 40.1 (c)). These *“operations...may be implemented by scientific or technical public law bodies, **Advisory Councils**, fishermen or organisations of fishermen which are recognised by the Member State, or by non-governmental organisations in partnership with organisations of fishermen or in partnership with FLAGS”* (Article 40.3).

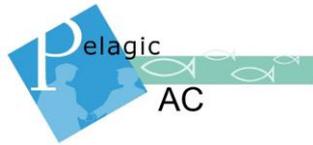
As you are well aware the Pelagic AC has a long history of successfully developing multiannual management plans for the stocks in its remit which has undoubtedly contributed significantly to the sustainable exploitation of those fish stocks. While most Pelagic AC stocks are now covered by multiannual plans the greatest obstruction to developing such plans for the remaining stocks has been lack of funding. With the adoption of the EMFF the role of the Advisory Councils has been strengthened, now allowing them to apply for funding under the operational programmes of the relevant Member States. This development has been very much welcomed by the Pelagic AC. Projects currently halted halfway due to lack of funding include the development of multiannual management plans for Irish Sea herring and southern horse mackerel, but also the identification of herring spawning grounds in the North Sea in order to protect these areas from disturbance.

With this letter we would kindly like to remind Member States of the significant role our Advisory Council has played in the past in terms of contributing to the successful implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and sustainably exploiting pelagic fish stocks. At the same time we would like to point out that in order to continue this positive development funding for e.g. the above mentioned projects must be secured. Therefore, when drawing up the operational programmes under

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<sup>1</sup> This letter has also been sent to the national governments of France, Germany, Ireland, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom





the EMFF, we hope that Member States will take into account projects to be carried out within Advisory Councils.

We are looking forward to receiving your written response on this matter and in case you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Gatt" with a small flourish at the end.

Ian Gatt  
Chairman of the Pelagic AC

