



**International Council for the Exploration
of the Sea (ICES)**

Eskild Kirkegaard, ACOM chair
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Date: 9 March 2015
Our reference: 1415/PAC 76
Subject: Meeting with stakeholders before/after ICES working groups

Dear Eskild,

Since the inauguration of the Pelagic AC in August 2005 the collaboration with ICES has increasingly resulted in a better mutual understanding and consequently a more validated scientific advice for managing pelagic fish stocks. The Pelagic AC highly appreciates the opportunity to participate in certain ICES meetings as observers as well as ICES' willingness to present the annual catch advice for pelagic stocks at our meetings.

At a recent Pelagic AC meeting, however, it has been discussed that having short stakeholder meetings before and after relevant ICES working group meetings would be beneficial in order to better integrate and adopt stakeholder's qualitative knowledge into the work of ICES experts. This issue was also mentioned by the Pelagic AC representatives at the MIACO meeting in Copenhagen on the 13th and 14th January 2015.

Therefore I would like to propose having brief stakeholder consultations preceding and following ICES working group meetings in the future. From a Pelagic AC perspective the ICES working groups most relevant are HAWG, WGWIDE and WGHANSA.

I am looking forward to receiving your response on this matter.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ian Gatt' with a small flourish below it.

Ian Gatt
Chairman Pelagic AC

