



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels,
EG/A2 D(2014)

Ms Verena Ohms
Executive Secretary
Pelagic AC
Louis Braillelaan 80
2719 EK Zoetermeer
The Netherlands

Subject: Recommendation on fishing opportunities for the stocks in the remit of PELAC

Your reference: 1415/PAC19

Dear Ms Ohms,

Thank you for the PELAC recommendations on TAC levels for the species listed in your letter of 7 October 2014. It was very useful for my services to know the AC's views on this matter, as we were preparing the proposal for Atlantic fishing opportunities for 2015. As you know, Commission proposal was adopted on 28 October and I am pleased to see that for many of the TACs, the proposal corresponds to the approach you suggest.

In particular:

For **stocks subject to international negotiations** (i.e. mackerel, blue whiting, Atlanto-Scandian herring, North Sea autumn spawning herring and Western Baltic spring spawning herring), we take note of your recommendations for the negotiations with the third countries concerned.

For **Western horse mackerel**, the Commission proposal follows the MSY advice as you suggest.

For **Southern horse mackerel**, the Commission has decided to moderate the increase in its proposal, in line with ICES advice. I note that you do not suggest a TAC figure for **North Sea horse mackerel**.

For **West of Scotland herring** (VIaN), our proposal follows the multiannual plan, as you also suggest.

For **Herring VIa(S) and VIIb,c** the Commission has proposed the zero TAC suggested by the scientific advice. However, we fully acknowledge the work that the PELAC has done on this stock.

For **Herring in the Irish sea**, we followed the MSY advice, as you also suggest.

For **Herring in the Celtic Sea and South of Ireland** we propose a TAC in line with the management approach developed by PELAC. We ask ICES to always base its advice on MSY where this is possible, but to also give other catch options, for example following a plan proposed by an AC. MSY is the policy target of the reformed CFP, and in the case of this herring stock, the TAC according to MSY or according to the approach suggested by the PELAC are almost identical. We look forward to the outcome of the herring benchmark, which ICES will undertake in 2015.

Finally, for **boarfish** in the NE Atlantic, we have proposed a TAC in line with the scientific advice and your recommendation. We also take note of your recommendation to include this stock in the DCF, and will follow up as work on the new DCF gets underway.

Thank you for your continued efforts to improve our knowledge of the stocks in your remit and for suggesting management approaches for them. If you have any further question on this reply, you may contact Ms Evangelia Georgitsi, coordinator of the Advisory Councils (evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.295.04.43).

Yours sincerely,



Lowri Evans

Copies: J. Verborgh, F. Schutyser, L. Markovic, E. Bianchi, E. Georgitsi (DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries)