

Mr Frédéric Gueudar-Delahaye
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Date: 2 May 2017
Our reference: 1617/ PAC 92
Subject: Amendments to the pelagic discard plan in the South Western Waters

Dear Mr Gueudar-Delahaye,

Please see hereunder the Pelagic AC's recommendation on amending the pelagic discard plan in the South Western Waters.

Please note that all recommendations have been unanimously endorsed by the Executive Committee.

De minimis exemptions

The Pelagic AC recommends the following de minimis exemptions:

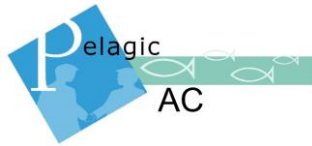
(a) for blue whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*), up to a maximum of 6% in 2018 and 5% in 2019 and 2020, of the total annual catches in the industrial pelagic trawler fishery targeting that species in ICES zones VIII and processing that species on board to obtain surimi base;

(c) up to a maximum of 4% in 2018, 2019 and 2020, of the total annual catches in the pelagic trawl fishery for anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*), mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*), horse mackerel (*Trachurus* spp.) in ICES zone VIII;

(d) in the purse seine fishery in ICES zones VIII, IX and X and in CEFAF area 34.1.1, 34.1.2 and 34.2.0 targeting the following species: up to a maximum of 4% in 2018, 2019 and 2020, of the total annual catches of horse mackerel (*Trachurus* spp.) and mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*); and up to a maximum of 1% in 2017, 2018 and 2020 of the total annual catches of anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*).

Monitoring and data collection

The Pelagic AC furthermore would like to emphasize that it is of paramount importance to appropriately monitor the use of the de minimis exemption and to properly record all data in relation to using the exemption. Furthermore, these data must be made available to ICES and STECF.



In case you have any questions concerning this recommendation please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jesper Raakjær".

Jesper Raakjær
Chairman Pelagic AC

