



Ms. Charlina Vitcheva
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Date: 04 May 2021
Our reference: 2021PAC53
Subject: North Sea herring TAC calculations & Management Strategy Evaluation for blue whiting

Dear Ms. Charlina Vitcheva,

Following the Pelagic Advisory Council's Working Group I meeting on March 2nd 2021, I am writing to request clarification on two, stock-specific issues raised by our members.

North Sea herring

PelAC members would like to request a clarification on how the different Total Allowable Catches (TACs) are calculated for herring in Area 4 and herring in Area 3a.

Blue whiting

On the 14th October 2020, in a letter to the Commission on TAC and quota advice, the PelAC underscored its concerns that the Long-Term Management Strategy (LTMS) for blue whiting may no longer be precautionary – based on concerns raised by ICES in the advice around the impacts of unilateral quota-setting by Coastal States for this stock. In this letter, the PelAC recommended that a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) be carried out for this stock, and asked the Commission to request this action from ICES. At this time, the PelAC would like to seek an update from the Commission on this issue, and further emphasise the importance of ensuring the LTMS for blue whiting remains precautionary. Can the Commission please confirm whether it is willing to pursue an MSE at the Coastal States level and send this request on to ICES.

Many thanks for your consideration of these two requests.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jesper Raakjaer'.

Jesper Raakjaer
Pelagic AC Chairman