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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

Fisheries Policy Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic and Outermost Regions
The Director

Brussels
MARE.C.1/MK/ds/Ares(2021)

Katrina Borrow
Interim Executive Secretary
Pelagic AC
k.borrow@pelagic-ac.org

Subject: Your letter to DG MARE dated February 12th

Dear Ms. Borrow,

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 12 February 2021. We have taken the time to assess the Pelagic Advisory Council's request regarding the southern horse mackerel management plan.

As you know, there have been divergent views in the past regarding the objectives and content of this plan both within the PELAC and among other stakeholders. In this sense, and as we have recommended previously, we would therefore advise that you liaise and coordinate with the South Western Waters Advisory Council on an agreed approach for this management plan. This condition is set out in article 44(2) of the CFP Regulation: "If an issue is of common interest to two or more Advisory Councils, they shall coordinate their positions with a view to adopting joint recommendations on that issue."

We once again strongly emphasize on the need to bring all the stakeholders concerned on board with the way forward in order for this plan to receive a broader acceptance.

Moreover, please note that at the moment, ICES has informed us that they are not in a position to accept any more ad-hoc requests until May 2021 due to the sanitary crisis.

We hope that this clarifies the situation regarding the PELAC's request, and we stay available for any further elements you may need.

Best regards,

Maja Kirchner
Acting Director

Commission européenne/Europese Commissie, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË - Tel. +32 22991111
Office: J-79 02/005 - Tel. direct line +32 22980508