



Mr. Kenn Skau Fischer
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Date : 6 September 2021
Our reference : 2122PAC01
Subject : Request Pelagic AC to deal with pelagic stocks in areas IV and IIIa

Dear Mr. Skau Fischer,

I am writing to you with a request from the Pelagic AC (PelAC). During the 2021 Brexit Focus Group meetings organised by the Pelagic AC, possible changes to the Pelagic AC organizational structure post-Brexit were discussed. From these discussions, strong support was voiced for the Pelagic AC to provide advice on a number of additional stocks that do not fall within its area of competence following Annex III of the CFP 1380/2013. This recommendation was subsequently endorsed by the wider PelAC during its Executive Committee meeting on July 8th 2021.

The following species are of interest to the Pelagic AC, but currently fall under the remit of the North Sea Advisory Council:

In waters of ICES sub areas IV and IIIa:

- Sprat
- Norway pout
- Greater silver smelt

In waters of ICES divisions IVa–c, 6a and Subdivisions 20-22:

- Sandeel

It is our understanding that the NSAC is currently not issuing advice for these stocks. If this is till the case, we wonder whether the NSAC could agree that the PelAC covers these stocks moving forward. We consider the PelAC the relevant Advisory Council to deal these stocks since it possesses the necessary expertise and experience in dealing with short-lived pelagic species.

If agreed with the NSAC, we propose that the Pelagic AC covers these stocks informally while awaiting the next reform of the CFP, where Annex III can be amended formally to reflect this change. We would gladly take the initiative to draft for NSAC approval, a communication regarding this informal 'transition' arrangement to the Commission.

We would be very grateful if you could consult the wider NSAC membership regarding above request, and we hope for your positive response.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat. Thanking you in advance for your cooperation,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jesper Raakjaer'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Jesper' and the last name 'Raakjaer' clearly distinguishable.

Jesper Raakjaer
Chairman, Pelagic AC