



Pelagic RAC
Treubstraat 17
PO Box 72
2280 AB Rijswijk
The Netherlands

Tel: +31 (0)70 336 9633
Fax: +31 (0)70 399 3004
E-mail: info@pelagic-rac.org
<http://www.pelagic-rac.org>

European Commission
Directorate General Fisheries
Att. Mr Fokion Fotiadis
Rue de la Loi 200
B 1049 Brussels, BELGIUM

Date: 22 February 2007
Our reference: PRAC07.02/IH
Subject: Immediate removal Butt of Lewis box

Dear Mr. Fotiadis,

For some time now, the Pelagic RAC has recommended the removal of the Butt of Lewis Box and this change has the support of scientists, national administrations and the Commission.

The RAC recognises that the Commission has included the removal of the Box in their Long-term Plan for the Management of the Stock of Herring to the West of Scotland (DG Fish non-paper dated 20 June 2006). It is noted however that the management plan is unlikely to be in place until 2008 at the earliest.

The RAC wishes to encourage continued high levels of compliance in this fishery and accordingly seeks the early removal of this closure which is both an unnecessary inconvenience to fishermen and a wasteful distraction for enforcement bodies. The RAC recommends therefore that the Commission extracts the proposal for removal of the Box from the management plan and proceeds with its removal without further delay.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ingvild Harkes", written over a horizontal line.

PELAGIC RAC

Ingvild Harkes