



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

Directorate E – Baltic Sea, North sea and landlocked Member States

Brussels,  
DG MARE – C2/JL

M. Ian McSween  
Pelagic RAC secretariat  
Treubstraat 17  
PO box 72  
2280 AB Rijswijk  
The Netherlands

**Subject: PELRAC advice on NS herring stock status**

Dear Mr MacSween,

Thank you for drawing our attention to the stock assessment work done by the ICES Herring Assessment Working Group 2010. We should welcome the upward review of the biomass estimation, provided it will be confirmed during review, as positive news.

You are suggesting that management should as an urgency react to this new situation and possibly revise the TAC upwards after summer advice from STECF.

While I understand the interest of having the possibility of upward reviews when the industry also had to cope with an emergency downward review in the past, I am hesitant to attach priority to this as an in-year-exercise. I do not see that our meeting plans with Norway allow for any such venture, and I would also be cautious to attempting to revise the sub-TAC in ICES division IIIa where the fishery is partly fishing on the Western Baltic stock, which is in very poor condition.

I keep the suggestion to let STECF particularly look into the upward review of SSB when providing its advice for 2011.

Yours sincerely,

P.O. A. ASTUDILLO  
Ernesto Penas