**Executive Committee meeting**

5 October 2017, Parkhotel, Den Haag

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**Agenda**

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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Opening of the meeting</td>
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<td>10:05</td>
<td>Adoption of the agenda</td>
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<td>10:10</td>
<td>Follow-up on action items</td>
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<td>10:20</td>
<td>Report from the NWW AC meeting on the functioning of the ACs</td>
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<td>10:50</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>11:00</td>
<td>Advice from Working Group I</td>
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<td>11:20</td>
<td>Advice from Working Group II</td>
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<td>11:40</td>
<td>Fishing opportunities consultation</td>
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<td>11:50</td>
<td>MIAC meeting 18-19 January 2018</td>
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<td>11:55</td>
<td>AOB</td>
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<td>12:00</td>
<td>End of meeting</td>
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**Follow-up on action items**

- Indicate interest of joining the Working Groups and/or the Executive Committee as soon as possible (all members)
  ✓
- Organize focus group meeting on choke mitigation tool (Sean O’Donoghue, secretariat) and present results at October meeting (Sean O’Donoghue)
  ✓
- Draft recommendations for North Sea herring and WBSS herring and circulate it prior to the October meeting (Esben Sverdrup-Jensen)
  ✓

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**NWW AC meeting on the functioning of the ACs**

**Conclusions:**

- List new and existing models for how the ACs could be structured in the future
- Assess pros and cons of each option
- Focus on things that work well, e.g. focus groups
- PELAC will take the initiative forward and arrange the next meeting
- The meeting must be small enough to be effective, yet include members from other relevant ACs

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**Advice from WG I**

**Blue whiting**

The Pelagic AC recommends following the ICES MSY advice and setting the TAC at 1,387,872 tons in 2018. The Pelagic AC further encourages Coastal States to explore the two-tier approach to fishing mortality as originally suggested in the multiannual management strategy developed by the Pelagic AC in 2012. The Pelagic AC believes that working with different fishing mortality values at different SSB levels could be a key tool in securing long-term stability without sacrificing yield. The Pelagic AC has established a Focus Group working on developing methods to manage the stock in a dynamic and sustainable manner. The PelAC encourages the EU Commission and Member States to contribute to the Focus Group work. A key element in the Focus Groups work is to identify methods to improve data and knowledge on stock recruitment – one of the key elements in the ICES stock advice.

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**Advice from WG I**

**Atlanto-Scandian herring**

The Pelagic AC recommends following the existing long-term management plan and to set the TAC at 546,472 tons accordingly in 2018. In addition the Pelagic AC will await the re-evaluation of reference points scheduled to take place in early 2018 after which further recommendations might be submitted.
Advice from WG I

North Sea horse mackerel

The Pelagic AC recommends that the TAC is set at 15,179 tons in 2018 in line with the ICES “catch advice”. This figure excludes 2,338 tons based on discard estimates from the demersal sector which has not yet come under the landing obligation. The Pelagic AC recommends that Member States and the EU-Commission develop solutions on how to eliminate discards of pelagic species in demersal fisheries. The landing obligation will be fully implemented by January 2019 and sustainable solutions to minimize bycatches of pelagic species in the demersal sector must be developed and implemented. The Pelagic AC notes that the EU approach to ICES catch advice may result in an increased fishing mortality in the directed fishery which under sustainability considerations must be avoided. The unexpected high discard rate of 13.35% estimated by ICES causes concern amongst members of the Pelagic AC. Furthermore there is significant discrepancy between discard data used by ICES and data used by STECF. The Pelagic AC therefore further recommends that the discard data from the demersal fishery will be thoroughly analyzed.

Advice from WG I

North Sea autumn spawning herring

The PELAC notes that ICES has revised the Fmsy reference point for North Sea autumn spawning herring in 2016. Despite the PELAC’s recommendation to adjust the EU-Norway management strategy accordingly, the new Fmsy reference point has not been incorporated into the management strategy. The PELAC again recommends that the management strategy will be revised to include the correct Fmsy reference point. This must be done as quickly as possible and before the December Council meeting so that the TAC for 2018 can be set based on a management strategy that is in accordance with the CFP and the latest scientific advice.

Advice from WG I

Western Baltic spring spawning herring

The Pelagic AC recommends following the management strategy agreed by the EU and Norway, but to revise the TAC setting mechanism taking into account the revision of the EU-Norway management strategy for North Sea autumn spawning herring as recommended by the Pelagic AC.

Advice from WG I

FOOTNOTES

Resend 2016 recommendations on extending footnotes in the TAC and Quota Regulation with the objective to solve by-catch problems in the pelagic fisheries under the landing obligation.

Advice from WG II

Fishing opportunities consultation

- Stock advice from the Working Groups
- Introduction section emphasizing that a key objective of the PELAC is to develop management strategies for its stocks and to follow these once they have been assessed by ICES as precautionary
- Point out limited usability of economic data presented in policy statement
MIACO meeting 18-19 January 2018

Issues to be raised?

AOB

Inter AC meeting on 14 November in Brussels: Issues to be raised?

Thank you!