

Mr Fokion Fotiadis
European Commission
Directorate General - Mare
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Date: 7 October 2009
Our reference: 0910PRAC08/AC
Subject: Recommendation on horse mackerel plan

Dear Mr Fotiadis,

The Pelagic RAC wishes to express that it unanimously adopted a recommendation in response to the Commission's proposal for a long term management plan for Western horse mackerel. Above all, the Pelagic RAC is very pleased to see that the Commission's proposal reflects to a very great extent the work that has been carried out by the Pelagic RAC and the ad hoc group of scientists that was set up in 2007. The Pelagic RAC therefore wishes to express its general support for the Commission's proposal.

However, the Pelagic RAC requests that the plan should be amended on two detailed, but essential matters. The Pelagic RAC requests that:

1. Article 6.2 on discards is amended to reflect that in case that STECF is not able to estimate the level of discards in a particular year, the average over a recent period should be used in the calculation of the TAC and that no minimum deduction should be defined for those cases.
2. Article 11.2 should be amended to allow fish caught in other areas to be landed in a port inside the Western horse mackerel area, noting that safeguards need to be put in place to prevent misreporting.

If you have any questions, please contact the secretariat. Looking forward to your response,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Aukje Coers', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Aukje Coers
Pelagic RAC secretariat

c.c. Ms Isabelle Viallon (by e-mail)