

Mr Rupert Howes - MSC
Ms Melanie Carter - Independent Adjudicator

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Date: 16 July 2010
Our reference: 0910PRAC84/AC
Subject: Objection against Faroese MSC certification of mackerel fishery
CC: Ms Sandhya Chaudhury (Det Norske Veritas)

Dear Mr Rupert Howes and Ms Melanie Carter,

Via this letter, the Pelagic Regional Advisory Council would like to inform you of its support to the objection made by Marine Scotland against the MSC accreditation of the Faroese North East Atlantic mackerel fishery.

The Pelagic RAC represents, amongst others, the catching sector and processing industry of all EU member states that take a share of the EU's quota of the NEA mackerel stock. The stock is of enormous economic importance to the EU fleet and a majority of the represented fleet's mackerel fishery has been certified under the MSC principles and criteria.

The Pelagic RAC is of the opinion that the decisions by the Faroese authorities to withdraw from the tri-party management agreement with Norway and the EU, and possibly establish substantial autonomous quota, form a major threat to the sustainability of the stock and are therefore absolutely unacceptable. Accrediting the Faroese fishery with an MSC certificate despite these actions would forever undermine the credibility and status of the MSC certificate; something that the members of the Pelagic RAC would very much regret.

If you have any questions, please contact the Pelagic RAC secretariat.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Aukje Coers', written over a horizontal line.

Ms Aukje Coers
Pelagic RAC secretariat