



Ms Lowri Evans
European Commission
Directorate General - Mare
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Date: 12 August 2010
Our reference: 0910PRAC87/AC
Subject: Response to consultation on reducing incidental catches of seabirds
CC: Ms Isabelle Viallon; (by e-mail)

Dear Ms Evans,

First and foremost, on behalf of the Pelagic RAC, I would like to congratulate you with your recently obtained position as Director General. The members of the Pelagic RAC look forward to (the continuation of) a fruitful collaboration with you and your services in striving for the optimisation of the management of pelagic fish stocks and fisheries. You are of course most welcome to attend any of the RAC's meetings, but in any case, we would be delighted if you would seek an opportunity to meet with the president of the Pelagic RAC, Mr Iain MacSween, to get acquainted. Please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat for making arrangements to this purpose.

As for the main purpose of this letter, the Pelagic RAC would like to express its appreciation for the opportunity to comment on the EU Action Plan for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Fishing Gears. The Pelagic RAC is generally supportive of the Commission's proposed objectives to develop a deeper understanding of the interactions between fisheries and birds, and to protect vulnerable and valuable bird species. However, since there are no indications of a bird by-catch problem in any of the fleets in the Pelagic RAC membership, the Pelagic RAC does not deem it appropriate to provide further comments on the Commission's consultation document.

If you have any questions, please contact the secretariat.

Yours sincerely,

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

Ms Aukje Coers
Pelagic RAC secretariat