



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

30.10.2009 D 12463

Brussels,
JL/C2 D(2009)

Ms. Aukje Coers
Pelagic RAC
Treubstraat 17
PO Box 72
2280 AB Rijswijk
Nederlands

Subject: Pelagic RAC recommendations on fishing opportunities for several herring stocks

Ref.: Your letter N° 0910PRAC06/AC (Adonis N° D 11156)

Dear Ms. Coers,

Thank you for your letter in which the pelagic RAC presented its recommendations on fishing opportunities for herring stocks. With the Commission's proposal on fishing opportunities 2010 now published, you will see that the RAC's perception of the stocks and its advice on next year's fishing opportunities are broadly in line with the Commission's initiative.

However, this is not the case for the herring stock in areas VIaS and VIIbc. The Commission has studied with interest your proposals to improve scientific knowledge on the stock and develop a long-term management. Despite the fact that the Commission, in line with the rules of the spring consultation paper, has not proposed a TAC roll-over for this stock in 2010, we would like to accompany the pelagic RAC in its efforts to improve the scientific knowledge, with a view to developing a long-term management in the future.

It is clear that at present there is not enough scientific knowledge about the state of the stock, its exploitation and the appropriate reference points to permit the development of a long-term plan. In order to improve this knowledge, the Commission will ask STECF for advice on how to structure and document the "sentinel fishery" that the Irish fleet is willing to undertake in order to improve stock assessment.

We will inform you of the outcome in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Fokion Fotiadis