

Ms Lowri Evans
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Date: 20 August 2010
Our reference: 1011PRAC02/AC
Subject: New information on NS herring stock status
CC: Mr Ernesto Penas-Lado, Ms Isabelle Viallon (by e-mail)

Dear Ms Evans,

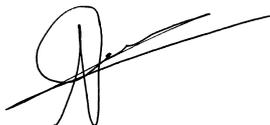
At the latest Pelagic RAC meeting on 13 July 2010, Ms Manuela Azevedo from ICES presented this year's ICES advice for several pelagic stocks – amongst which North Sea herring. The presentation confirmed what had already been expected for some time (see letter sent by the Pelagic RAC on 7 May 2010), namely that the North Sea herring stock is currently much larger than was forecast by ICES a year ago when preparing its advice for a TAC for 2010. Consequently, the realised fishing mortality in 2010 is now estimated to be 0.11, which is considerably below what it would have been had ICES then had the knowledge of today.

In light of this information, a majority of the members of the Pelagic RAC request that the Commission – together with Norway – reviews the TAC for 2010 for North Sea Herring. It is the Pelagic RAC's firm belief that had this information been available in autumn of 2009, the TAC for 2010 would not have been reduced by 4% as compared with 2009, but instead had been increased by 15%.

The Pelagic RAC realises that the implementation of an adjustment of the TAC for 2010 may take considerable time and therefore may only be finalised in autumn this year. However, since the North Sea herring fishing season stretches until New Years eve, there would still be opportunity to utilise the additional quota.

It should be noted that this request is not supported by the NGOs in the Pelagic RAC. If you have any questions, please contact the 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