



Ms Lowri Evans  
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Date: 31 May 2011  
Our reference: 1011PRAC105/AC  
Subject: Including boarfish in the remit of the Pelagic RAC  
CC: Ms Isabelle Viallon (by e-mail)

Dear Ms Evans,

During the last Pelagic RAC Executive Committee on 12 April 2011 in Bilbao - Spain, the Pelagic RAC unanimously agreed that it would be appropriate to include boarfish (*Capros aper*) in the remit of the Pelagic RAC.

Over the last number of years targeted boarfish fisheries were developed by Irish, Danish and Scottish pelagic fleets. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2011, the species is included in the TAC and quota regulation (BOR/678). Both the Irish and Danish pelagic industries and their respective scientific institutes have been actively engaged in carrying out scientific work on boarfish over the past fifteen months. The results of this work will be submitted to the ICES working group on widely distributed stocks (WGWIDE) in August 2011. In addition a major 24 days acoustic survey funded by the industry will be carried out by the Irish Marine Institute in July 2011.

A suitable management framework will have to be developed over the next few years. The species is not part of the remit of any of the RACs at present and so no stakeholder advice is delivered at present. Boarfish is a pelagic species fished by pelagic vessels and a number of Pelagic RAC members are closely engaged with scientists in establishing a knowledge base. On this basis, the Pelagic RAC requests that in the absence of a legal framework it is assigned the task as the appropriate Regional Advisory Council to provide advice on this species on an ad hoc basis until it can legitimately be made part of its remit.

We look forward to receiving your confirmation,

Yours sincerely,

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

Ms Aukje Coers  
Pelagic RAC secretariat