



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR FISHERIES AND MARITIME AFFAIRS
THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels, 08 JUL. 2010
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Ms. Aukje Coers
The Pelagic RAC Secretariat
Treubstraat 17
PO Box 72
2280 AB Rijswijk
The Netherlands

Subject: Multi-annual management plan for the Western Baltic Spring Spawning Herring

Dear Ms Coers,

Thank you for your letter and the recommendations of the Pelagic RAC sent on 27 May 2010 regarding the future management of WBSS herring stock.

The approach of the Commission is to develop an overall management concept for all pelagic stocks, in opposition to a specific one for the WBSS herring. Whether this stock is included in the North Sea or in the Baltic Sea plans is a matter for further discussion. Nevertheless, although this stock is exclusively fished by the European Union in the Baltic, it is shared with Norway in Subdivision IIIa and management measures will therefore have to take account of the bilateral negotiations.

Stock management targets and reference points will nonetheless be developed for each of the stocks individually based on scientific advice. I would like to point out that we agree on several points including using MSY target fishing mortality. We however have different views on your recommendation for an unchanged TAC variation constraint of 15% at any stock status, including when the stock is under Blim and particularly considering the rapid response of a pelagic stock to environmental conditions.

Although this letter is brief, it touches on a number of important points that require further discussion. I look forward to our continued exchange of ideas, and count on your continued cooperation to develop a multiannual plan for pelagic stocks that will ensure the sustainability of the stocks and the economic well being of the industry.

Yours sincerely,

Lowri Evans