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Date: 22 October 2013
Our reference: 1314/PRAC14
Subject: Data collection under the EMFF
CC: PECH (Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament), Member State administrations, DG MARE (European Commission)

Dear ministers,

The Pelagic RAC welcomes that the proposal for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) for the coming years in its Art 15.4 has effectively increased the amount earmarked for data collection in comparison to the data collection framework currently in place. However, following the Council agreement on a 'full general approach' on the EMFF, the Pelagic RAC would kindly ask you to reconsider your proposal, resulting in a reduction of the specific amount earmarked for data collection (EUR 344,609,000) in comparison with that included in the Commission's initial proposal (EUR 358,000,000).

Although relatively well studied compared to many other stocks in EU waters, because of their widespread occurrence, the pelagic fisheries in general suffer from limited data, which hampers their proper scientific evaluation. This limits the possibilities to establish well defined harvest control rules in long term management plans. The pelagic sector is advancing substantially on these plans, but is regularly facing the limited capacity of science to advice on further steps.

Furthermore, the Pelagic RAC proposes that you provide Member States with the opportunity to shift additional funding from measures under Article 15.2 to data collection activities.

A similar opinion has already been adopted by other RACs.

Yours sincerely,



Verena Ohms
Executive Secretary Pelagic RAC