



**International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)**

Eskild Kirkegaard (ACOM chair)

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Date: 29 July 2015  
Our reference: 1415/PAC 138  
Subject: Meeting between ICES and Advisory Councils (ACs)

Dear Eskild,

On behalf of the Pelagic AC I would like to express concerns regarding the recent extension of the former MIRAC meeting between ICES and the ACs to include other observers. While we fully understand and support ICES' decision to extend its dialogue to other relevant stakeholders, e.g. from non-EU countries, we would also like to point out that we consider a meeting exclusively between ICES and the ACs as very valuable to further strengthen cooperation and mutual understanding. Including other observers might lead to a loss of focus when dealing with issues particularly relevant for the ACs.

Therefore we would like to propose having a specific meeting between ICES and the ACs annually in the format of the former MIRAC meeting.

I am looking forward to receiving your response.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ian Gatt' with a stylized flourish below it.

Ian Gatt  
Chairman Pelagic AC

