

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/ (2015)

Mr Ian Gatt
Chairman of the Pelagic AC
Louis Braillelaan 80
2719 EK Zoetermeer
The Netherlands

Subject: Request to update forecast for Celtic Sea herring; revised draft management strategy boarfish

Your reference: 1415/PAC 150 and 1415/PAC150

Dear Mr. Gatt,

Thank you for your revised draft management strategy for Northeast Atlantic boarfish and the request to ask ICES for an updated forecast of fishing opportunities for Celtic Sea herring. I apologize for this delayed answer, but we were waiting for ICES responses on these topics.

On Celtic Sea herring, we have requested ICES to update its catch advice for 2015, in light of the recent herring benchmark, and also to calculate what the catch option would be for 2016, if a revised TAC is set for 2015. ICES has now delivered its response¹. On this basis, we have proposed a change to the 2015 TAC, which was effectively taken on board in the 3rd amendment of the Fishing Opportunities Regulation. The ICES response is also being considered for the Commission proposal for 2016.

The revised draft management strategy for boarfish was also transmitted to ICES for evaluation. According to ICES², this management strategy follows the rationale for TAC setting procedures used in the ICES advice, but with some additional caution. ICES

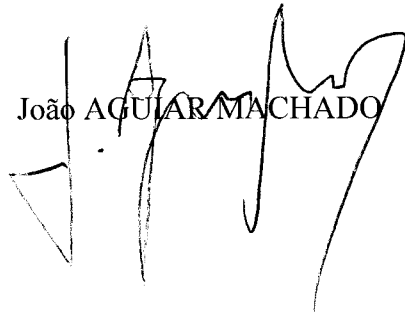
¹http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/Special_Requests/EU_her-irls_update.pdf

²http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/Special_Requests/EU_boarfish_management_plan.pdf

therefore concluded that the revised draft management strategy was precautionary. We will take this into consideration for our future work on boarfish.

Thank you again for your continued interest and constructive input. If you have any questions on this reply, you may contact Ms Evangelia Georgitsi, coordinator of the Advisory Councils (evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.295.04.43).

Yours sincerely,


João AGUIAR MACHADO

C.c.: Ms. Verena Ohms, Executive Secretary of the Pelagic Advisory Council