



Direção-Geral de Recursos Naturais,
Segurança e Serviços Marítimos

[Mr. Ian Gatt]
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Sua referência
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SWW Group -Joint recommendation proposal to ammend the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 1394/2014

Dear Mr Ian,

I'm writing to you regarding your letter referred above where a formal complaint is expressed concerning the lack of consultation of the Pelagic Advisory Council by the South Western Waters (SWW) Regional Group in contravention of the procedures established in the Common Fisheries Policy.

On behalf of the SWW Group, chaired by Portugal during 2016, I would like to present my apologies for not having you involved sooner but that shall not be seen as a lack of consideration by the stakeholders involvement in the Pelagic AC, in particular.

Actually, the SWW Group started working on both the revision of the discard plan for demersal fisheries and of the discard plan for pelagic fisheries late this semester and few meetings were organised. In the case of the discard plan for pelagic fisheries, the revision is limited to the amendment for the minimum conservation reference size (MCRS) for horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*) in ICES divisions VIIIc and IXa, which is aiming to include in the Commission Delegated Regulation the current footnote annually included in the TAC and Quota regulation for this species in those fishing areas. Additionally, a proposal is also formulated to abolish MCRS for horse mackerel in ICES division IXa limited to a very small percentage to accommodate the activity of a SWW fishery with ethnographical value. Thus, this revision only has a local incidence and, according to the scientific advice, with no impact in the horse mackerel stock that is in a very good shape

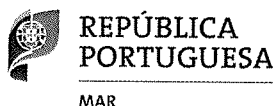
The urgency of a timely presentation of the joint recommendations to the Commission and the belief that it would not impact on other pelagic fisheries is at the origin of the late consultation of the Pelagic AC.

I would very much appreciate the Pelagic AC advice regarding this joint recommendation in the shortest time possible and I reiterate my apologies for this involuntarily maladjusted process.

Yours sincerely

Deputy Director General

(Ana Rita Berenguer)



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