

Sean O'Donoghue
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Our Ref: G.81/EK/mo

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Subject: Editorial rights to stakeholder information

Dear Sean O'Donoghue,

Thank you for your letter regarding the section "Information from stakeholders" in ICES single stock advice sheets. The section 'Information from stakeholders' was included in the advice sheets in 2015 when the format of these was revised. The intention with the section is to allow ICES to make reference to new information provided by stakeholders that has been considered in the assessment. ACOM, when approved the revised format of the advice sheets, agreed that only new information that has been considered when conducting the assessment or preparing the advice should be included. The expert groups, who prepares the first draft of the advice, are therefore requested to include a short summary of information received from stakeholders and considered by the group when doing the assessment and preparing the advice and not to include information or statement not considered by the group. Similar, the Advice Drafting Groups are requested to include information only if considered in the assessment or the development of the advice. The section is not meant as a forum to advocate for a particular position on an issue but to provide objective information relevant to the assessment and advice.

On the issue of the management plan for Celtic Sea herring, ICES has clearly described the situation relevant to the proposed management plan in previous advice released in 2015 and 2016. For example, in the advice from 2016 for 2017, in the Basis of the advice table, ICES has indicated in the Management plan section: 'The long-term management strategy for Celtic Sea herring that was proposed by the Pelagic AC in 2011 (Pelagic AC, 2011) was evaluated by ICES and found to be precautionary (ICES, 2012; 2015a). ICES is requested by the EC to provide advice based on the MSY approach and to include the management strategy as a catch option.'

Because the current status of the management strategy developed by the Pelagic AC was already described in the advice sheet and the proposed statement was considered to be advocating for a particular position, it was not included in the advice sheet.

Sincerely



Eskild Kirkegaard
ACOM Chair



ICES
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