



Mr Joao AGUIAR MACHADO
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Directorate General Maritime Affairs
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Date: 12 April 2019
Our reference: 1819/PAC67
Subject: Request for revised NEA mackerel catch advice for 2019

Dear Mr. Aguiar Machado,

In light of the recent ICES inter-benchmark assessment of North East Atlantic mackerel held in March 2019 (report published on 4 April 2019), and the considerable change in the perception of the stock that has resulted from this process, the Executive Committee of the Pelagic AC asks that the European Commission requests ICES to revise the 2019 catch advice for NEA mackerel.

The Pelagic AC again alerts the Commission to the fact that the scientific advice for this stock has been considerably exceeded in recent years. If this practice continues, it is unlikely that the stock reaches and/or remains within biological safe limits. It is important that this fact is expressed and recognized during Coastal States negotiations.

In case you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Pelagic AC Secretariat.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration of the above. I am looking forward to receiving your positive response.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jesper Raakjær'.

Jesper Raakjær
Chairman Pelagic AC

