



Mr Joao AGUIAR MACHADO
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Date: May 13th 2019
Our reference: 1819/PAC70
Subject: Request evaluation Monitoring TAC Celtic Sea herring

Dear Mr. Aguiar Machado,

The Pelagic Advisory Council would like to submit a request regarding a monitoring TAC for the Celtic Sea herring stock. This request has unanimously been endorsed by the Executive Committee.

Please find the details of this request in the Annex. We ask the Commission to submit this request to ICES for evaluation.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration of the above.

Looking forward to your response,

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jesper Raakjær'.

Jesper Raakjær
Chairman Pelagic AC



Annex

Request to evaluate a monitoring TAC for the Celtic Sea herring

May 2019

The Celtic Sea Herring Stock occurs in divisions 7aS, 7g–h, and 7j–k. The most recent assessment indicates that SSB decreased from 2011 to 2017 and is estimated to be below Blim since 2017, with a zero catch advice for 2020 being the most likely scenario. The management plan that was in place from 2011 was found to no longer be precautionary in 2018 and advice has been given on the basis of MSY ever since.

The Celtic Sea Herring is a category one ICES assessment supported by a long time series of catch at age and an acoustic survey that has been conducted since 2002. The fishery is exploited by two separate fleets with the majority of the catch taken by trawlers operating primarily in division 7.g. A sentinel fleet of smaller vessels is allocated 11% of the total TAC and operates in division 7.aS. An inter-benchmark assessment was carried out in 2018, which focussed on the use of the acoustic survey tuning index in the assessment and the revision of the stock reference points.

In order to support future stock assessments, it would be beneficial to permit a level of catch that would maintain an uninterrupted time series of fishery-dependent catch data (see [link for STECF conclusions with regard to NW Herring, a stock complex also considered to be below Blim](#)). ICES is requested to advise on the following with respect to the establishment of a monitoring TAC for the Celtic Sea Herring stock:

- the relevant timeframe for any fishery
- the geographical areas where each fleet should operate
- a level of catches that would not impair the recovery of the stock but would be sufficient to allow collection of fisheries dependent data.

