



The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/D3/PCO-mb/Ares (2019)

Mr. Jesper Raakjær
Pelagic Advisory Council
Louis Braillelaan 80 2719 EK
Zoetermeer
The Netherlands

Subject: Request for revised NEA mackerel catch advice for 2019

Your reference: 1819/PAC67

Dear Mr Raakjær,

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 12 April 2019 regarding a request for a revised catch advice for North East Atlantic mackerel and I sincerely apologise for the delay in replying.

Let me remind the current state of play of this file: after the publication of the inter-benchmark assessment in April 2019, ICES released its revised advice for North East Atlantic mackerel on 15 May 2019 following a special request made by Norway. The Coastal States then convened on 20 and 21 May to discuss the way forward in light of this new development. ICES was invited to the first plenary meeting to present the revised catch advice.

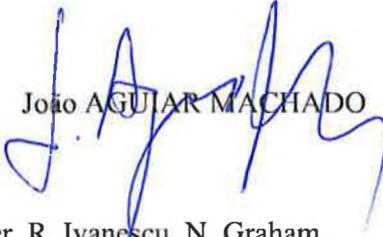
Faced with the fluctuating assessments that have been given to this stock over the past years, the European Commission aims to maintain a cautious approach with this advised increase. Since a new advice is expected in September 2019, there is also a need to ensure that any change compared to the current TAC is not jeopardising the efforts of the European Union and some of the other Coastal states to bring the stock back within safe biological limits.

The Coastal States will reconvene soon to make a final decision on the next steps to take for the North East Atlantic mackerel 2019 TAC.

I will also take this opportunity to acknowledge the work and constructive input that has been provided by the Pelagic Advisory Council throughout the inter-benchmark exercise. I hope that we will have your support in the conclusions that will come out of these Coastal States consultations.

I am looking forward to our continued cooperation. Should you have any question regarding this letter, you may contact Ms Pascale Colson, coordinator of the ACs, (pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu; + 32 2 29 56273).

Yours sincerely,


João AGUIAR MACHADO

c.c.: F. Donatella, H. Clark, M. Kirchner, R. Ivanescu, N. Graham,
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