



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: Industry rebuilding plans and follow-up 6a herring recovery plan

Your reference: 1819/PAC17

Dear Mr Raakjær,

Thank you for your letter dated 23 April 2019 on the request for ICES guidelines for rebuilding plans and follow-up for herring in 6a, 7bc.

Let me first thank you for the work that your Advisory Council has provided until now on the development of this plan. We have taken note of the positive assessment by the relevant ICES working group of your revised rebuilding plan in March 2018, as well of the different outcome from the final ICES peer-review exercise. We understand your concern over this matter in the absence of visibility and clear indications on how to move forward with this particular rebuilding plan and possibly future ones.

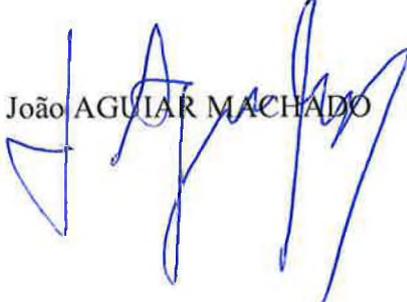
I would like to assure you that we take your concerns seriously and I have therefore asked my services to follow up on this important matter. A meeting between DG MARE and ICES is planned to take place before the summer break, and we will be raising this and other matters with them at that occasion. We will keep you informed once we have the necessary clarifications on the next steps.

Let me also stress that we share the same objectives as you, i.e. to have measures in place for this stock to recover, as well as to provide a sustainable fishery for this stock and other important fisheries in Europe. In this regard, we acknowledge the work your Advisory Council has undertaken over the past years also on other stocks, such as Celtic Sea herring and southern horse mackerel to mention only a few, and I encourage you to continue your valuable work.

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

Yours sincerely,

João AGUIAR MACHADO

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by 'A', 'G', 'U', 'I', 'A', 'R', 'M', 'A', 'C', 'H', 'A', 'D', 'O' in a cursive script.