

Ms Charlina Vitcheva
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Date: 28 July 2020
Our reference: 1920PAC86
Subject: Rebuilding plan for Western horse mackerel
CC: Pascale Colson

Dear Ms Vitcheva,

It is my pleasure to submit to you in Annex I a rebuilding plan for Western horse mackerel. This plan has been developed by the Pelagic AC in close collaboration with scientists from a number of institutes and also industry scientists.

We kindly ask the Commission to request ICES to carry out a scientific review of the rebuilding plan evaluation that has been carried out by a group of experts under the remit of the Pelagic Advisory Council. The group of experts carried out a full evaluation of potential rebuilding measures based on two stock assessment models (Stock synthesis as used by ICES WGWIDE and an exploratory SAM assessment) using two evaluation techniques (EqSim simulator and SAM HCR forecast) and taking into account the ICES guidelines on MSE¹ and rebuilding plans² (ICES, 2019; ICES, 2020). The results of the evaluations are documented in a scientific report which will be forwarded to you separately in the near future. On the basis of the evaluations, the Pelagic AC selected a specific set of rebuilding measures that are embedded in the attached proposed rebuilding plan.

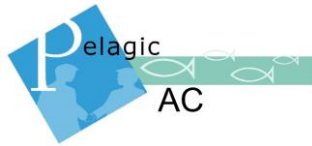
ICES is requested to review the evaluation approach and outcomes used by the group of experts and to assess whether the selected rebuilding measures are in conformity with the precautionary approach, achieving Maximum Sustainable Yield and general guidelines of rebuilding stocks.

The PelAC kindly requests that you ask ICES to finalise the review in due time before the advice on Western Horse Mackerel is published in September 2020.

¹ ICES.2019. Report of the Workshop on Guidelines for Management Strategy Evaluations (WKG MSE2). Volume 1, Issue 33.

² ICES. 2020. Workshop on guidelines and methods for the evaluation of rebuilding plans (WKREBUILD).2:55. 79 pp. Volume 2, Issue 55. 79 pp pp.





We would therefore be grateful, if the Commission submitted the plan to ICES as soon as possible so that it can be dealt with at the next Working Group on widely distributed stocks (WGWIDE).

In case you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Jesper Raakjær'.

Jesper Raakjær
Chairman Pelagic AC

