



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTOR GENERAL ON FISHERIES AND MARITIME AFFAIRS

The Director-General

Bruxelles, le
MARE.C3/OS/Ares(2021)

Dear M. Raakjaer,

Thank you for your letter of 1 March 2021 on stakeholder information in ICES Advice.

DG MARE has been informed of the change in the ICES advice sheets in the MIACO/MIRIA meetings which took place early January this year. We recognize the concerns of PelAC, but would like to underline that this is an internal ICES decision, which is not covered by our grant agreement with ICES. We mainly request from ICES advice on total catches for various stocks in the North Atlantic, North Sea and Eastern Baltic to support the process of fishing opportunities.

The manner in which ICES works to produce this advice and presents it, with the exception of indicating a number or ranges for total catches, which is stipulated in our contract with ICES, is regulated solely by this organization, according to their transparent assessment and quality of advice framework. DG MARE does not have control over the categories presented in the ICES sheets or the consultation process and we firmly support the impartiality of advice provided by ICES.

It is our understanding from the information given in the MIACO/MIRIA meetings that ICES does not intend to make the removal of the stakeholder information section permanent, but to further discuss and refine this section in order to better reflect a common reading of the stakeholder angle to advice. We therefore encourage you to contribute to this discussion by making your views known to ICES.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

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