

Ms. Anne-Marie Svoboda
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Department FDA, DG Agro, DAD, Dz Viss
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Date: 12 November 2021
Our reference: 2122PAC12
Subject: Letter of support CIBBRiNA project

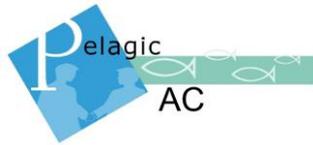
Dear Ms Svoboda,

With this letter, the Pelagic Advisory Council (Pelagic AC) wishes to voice support of the proposal being submitted to EU LIFE for co-funding, on 'Coordinated Development and implementation of best practice in bycatch reduction in the Northeast Atlantic region' (CIBBRiNA). This letter also serves to express our willingness to take part in the project's stakeholder advisory board.

The Pelagic AC is one of 11 stakeholder-led Advisory Councils for fisheries in the European Union, and provides advice to the European Commission and Member States on matters pertaining the management of pelagic fish stocks in all Union waters excluding the Baltic and Mediterranean seas. The Pelagic AC encompasses all relevant stakeholders, namely pelagic fishing industry (60%) and other groups of interest including NGO's (40%).

The issue of bycatch of sensitive species in pelagic gears was recently selected as a core theme to work on within our Ecosystem Focus Group (EFG). It is recognised within the EFG that further development of a sound knowledge base as regards bycatch data, impacts on sensitive species and effective measures, would progress our work in a meaningful way. The CIBBRiNA project is therefore considered timely and relevant. The project outcomes would generate useful data and insights to further the debate on how to mitigate this sensitive issue. Furthermore, our organisation has a strong track record of producing science-based advice reached by consensus, thus supported by all member stakeholders. As such, the Pelagic AC supports the inclusive approach the project plans to undertake involving the fishing industry from the start, to decide on appropriate and feasible measures. We believe such an approach will greatly enhance the success of such measures.

As a participant in the stakeholder advisory board, the Pelagic AC can provide a wide representation of views both in terms of interest groups as well as geographic regions in Europe. It would equally be beneficial to the Pelagic AC members to monitor the outcomes throughout the project course.



In conclusion, the Pelagic AC supports the efforts by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture to seek external funding for this project designed to mitigate effects of bycatch and ensure support and compliance by the fisheries sector.

Sincerely yours,

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

Jesper Raakjær
Chairman Pelagic AC

