



Mr. Jesper Raakjaer
Chairman Pelagic AC
Louis Braillelaan 80
2719 EK Zoetermeer
The Netherlands

Dun Laoghaire, 15 November 2021

Subject: Pelagic AC request to deal with pelagic stocks under NWWAC remit (your reference 2122PAC02)

Dear Jesper,

Thank you for your letter of 06 September 2021 in which you inform us that the members of the PelAC have voiced a wish to provide advice on two stocks which fall within the NWWAC area of competence according to Annex III of the CFP 1380/2013:

- Sprat in waters of ICES subarea VI and areas VIIa-k
- Greater silver smelt in Union waters of ICES areas VI and VII

Members of the NWWAC discussed this proposal at the Working Group meetings on 09 September and put forward their agreed position to the NWWAC Executive Committee at its meeting on 24 September.

In your letter you identify that the NWWAC does not currently seem to provide advice on these species. While this AC is indeed not addressing these two species regarding directed fishing, they are taken into account as part of the bycatch advice.

While recognizing that the PelAC is in a position to provide advice on the directed fishing for these two species, members agreed that they must remain within the remit of the NWWAC as detailed in Annex II of the CFP as they play an important role in fisheries management in the North Western Waters.

In appreciation of both ACs' interest and recognizing the importance of both ACs being able to provide advice within their competencies, NWWAC members propose to establish a "gentlemen's agreement" between the Pelagic AC and the North Western Waters AC identifying and agreeing on a protocol going forward where both ACs can jointly discuss and be consulted regarding any proposed advice on the above species.

In order to progress this issue, we suggest holding a virtual meeting between relevant representatives from both ACs. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Emiel Brouckaert, NWWAC Chair



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