



Ms Lowri Evans  
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Date: 14 August 2012  
Our reference: 1112PRAC128  
Subject: Fishing opportunities 2013 southern horse mackerel  
CC: Catherine Dale (by e-mail)

Dear Ms Evans,

At the latest Pelagic RAC Working Groups meeting on 11 July 2012, the Pelagic RAC discussed fishing opportunities in 2013 for southern horse mackerel and it was decided that the TAC should be set at 30,000 tons corresponding to a fishing mortality of 0.11. The Pelagic RAC believes that the stock is in a rather good state and not over-exploited which was confirmed by Carmen Fernandez, vice-chair of the Advisory Committee of ICES. Moreover, setting a TAC corresponding to a fishing mortality of 0.11, where the proxy  $F$  for  $F_{msy}$  is defined as being  $F=0.14$ , can be seen as a very prudent approach.

Furthermore it is important to resolve the data situation. Spanish Commercial data for 2011 could not be included in this year's assessment and hence the current assessment is based on assumptions over a longer time period than would be optimal. According to ICES this increases uncertainty and has resulted in a decreased recommended TAC for 2013. However, the Pelagic RAC is convinced that the TAC could be set significantly higher if sufficient data were available.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Verena Ohms', written in a cursive style.

Ms Verena Ohms  
Pelagic RAC Secretariat