



Anders Mikkelsen
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Date: 12 December 2016
Our reference: 1617PAC/ 27
Subject: Derogation from the sprat box

Dear Mr Mikkelsen,

Thank you very much for your letter of 17 November 2016 regarding the Scheveningen Group's joint recommendation on a derogation from the sprat box. The Executive Committee of the Pelagic AC has considered the recommendation and supports the derogation from the sprat box as suggested.

At the same time the Pelagic AC would like to recollect that the original intention of the sprat box was to reduce the catches of juvenile herring. The Pelagic AC supports effective measures that do protect juvenile herring, including the protection of herring spawning grounds. ICES states that "*activities that have an impact on the spawning habitat of herring should not occur, unless the effects of these activities have been assessed and shown not to be detrimental*" (ICES herring advice 2016). The most serious of these is the ever increasing pressure for marine sand and gravel extraction and the development of wind farms (ICES HAWG report 2016).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Ohms', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Verena Ohms
Executive Secretary Pelagic AC

