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Date: 2 May 2017  
Our reference: 1617/ PAC 91  
Subject: Amendments to the pelagic discard plan in the North Western Waters

Dear Mr Welvaert,

Please see hereunder the Pelagic AC's recommendation on amending the pelagic discard plan in the North Western Waters.

Please note that all recommendations have been unanimously endorsed by the Executive Committee.

### **De minimis exemptions**

The Pelagic AC recommends the following de minimis exemptions:

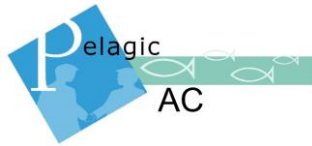
(a) for blue whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*), up to a maximum of 6% in 2018 and 5% in 2019 and 2020, of the total annual catches in the industrial pelagic trawler fishery targeting that species in ICES zones Vb, VI and VII and processing that species on board to obtain surimi base;

(b) up to a maximum of 1 % in 2018, 2019 and 2020 of the total annual catches of mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*), horse mackerel (*Trachurus spp.*), herring (*Clupea harengus*) and whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) in the pelagic fishery with pelagic trawlers up to 25 metres in length overall, using mid-water trawl (OTM) and mid-water pair trawl (PTM) targeting mackerel, horse mackerel and herring in ICES zone VIId.

### **Monitoring and data collection**

The Pelagic AC furthermore would like to emphasize that it is of paramount importance to appropriately monitor the use of the de minimis exemption and to properly record all data in relation to using the exemption. Furthermore, these data must be made available to ICES and STECF.





In case you have any questions concerning this recommendation please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jesper Raakjær".

Jesper Raakjær  
Chairman Pelagic AC

