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Date: 13 August 2019
Our reference: 1819/PAC83
Subject: ICES advice for Southern horse mackerel

Dear Mr. Aguiar Machado,

With this letter, the Pelagic Advisory Council would like to seek clarification from the European Commission on why it requested ICES to follow the MSY approach in its TAC advice for Southern horse mackerel in 2019.

We remind you that the Pelagic AC has spent significant time and effort developing a management plan for Southern horse mackerel, which has been evaluated and deemed precautionary by ICES. It was therefore quite surprising and disappointing to learn that ICES was requested to base its 2019 TAC advice for this stock on the MSY approach.

The Pelagic AC also recalls that it is the objective of any Advisory Council to support processes leading to stocks being managed under long term management strategies. In our view, continuing to ask for MSY advice for a stock for which an agreed management plan is in place, undermines the work and purpose of the Pelagic Advisory Council.

In light of the 2020 TAC setting, we strongly urge the Commission to request ICES to base its advice for Southern horse mackerel, expected in October 2019, on the management plan that has been developed by the Pelagic AC.

We are hopeful for your collaboration on this matter and look forward to your positive response.

Kind regards,

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

Jesper Raakjær
Chairman Pelagic AC

