



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/D3/PCO/mb/Ares (2019)

Mr. Jesper Raakjær
Pelagic Advisory Council
Louis Braillelaan 80 2719 EK
Zoetermeer
The Netherlands

Subject: request ICES working group on underwater noise
Your reference: 1819/PAC71

Dear Mr Raakjær,

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 29 May 2019 regarding the impact of seismic activities on herring spawning grounds.

We take note of your concern regarding the impact offshore activities may have on fish, spawning grounds and larval development. We agree with you that it would be worth working on the issue of the effects of seismic surveys on fish, given that research on these effects have so far mainly been focused on marine mammals.

In the framework of our cooperation with ICES, we would explore the possibilities to address this issue. In the meantime and in order to scope as best as possible the issues to tackle in this regard, I would like to invite you to contact DG ENV colleagues with more details on your request. The contact persons in DG ENV to discuss further this issue are Ms Anna Cheilari and Maud Casier in unit C2 (anna.cheilari@ec.europa.eu; + 32 2 29 65348, Maud.casier@ec.europa.eu, +32 2 296 77 21).

I wish to thank you again for your cooperation and constructive input. Let me also apologise for the delay encountered in answering you.

Should you have any questions on this response, I invite you to contact Ms Pascale Colson, coordinator of the Advisory Councils (pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu; +32 2 29 56273).

Yours sincerely,


João AGUIAR MACHADO