



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,  
MARE/C1/CB (2020)

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

**Subject: Your reply to the Spanish administration regarding the southern horse mackerel management strategy**  
**Your reference: 1920/PAC14**

Dear Mr Raakjær,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 4 December 2019 regarding your reply to the Spanish administration on the southern horse mackerel management strategy.

We appreciate that you engaged with the administrations of the two Member States concerned by this fishery, Spain and Portugal, to explain the aims of the management strategy. Raising awareness on the plans developed by Advisory Councils is key for them to be politically accepted and successfully taken on board. I also acknowledge that you took into account the concerns addressed to you by the Spanish administration regarding the disparity between the MSY and the management plan TAC figure, and that you are looking into this.

As you know, the Council adopted in December the MSY figure for the southern horse mackerel. Going forward we would like to recommend that in 2020 and future years you engage in a timely coordination with the involved Member States as soon as the scientific advice is published in order to discuss and address concerns well in advance of the publication of the Fishing Opportunities proposal.

In this regard, I also encourage you to liaise with the South Western Waters Advisory Council. A pro-active and early communication between the relevant Advisory Councils on stocks of mutual interest is key to producing recommendations, which reflect the aspirations of all concerned stakeholders. This is set out in article 44(2) of the CFP Regulation: *“If an issue is of common interest to two or more Advisory Councils, they shall coordinate their positions with a view to adopting joint recommendations on that issue.”* We know that finding common ground is not always possible, but we encourage exchanges towards this objective.

Let me in the end use this occasion to thank you for the good cooperation we had throughout 2019 and for your hard work in the Pelagic Advisory Council and the recommendations you have produced. We encourage you to continue your valuable work in 2020.

Finally, should you have more questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms Pascale Colson, coordinator of the ACs ([pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu](mailto:pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu)).

Yours sincerely,

Bernhard FRIESS  
Acting Director-General