



Ms. Charlina Vitcheva
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Date : 15 February 2021
Our reference : 2021PAC16
Subject : Inclusion of PelAC genetics studies in Data Collection Framework

Dear Ms. Charlina Vitcheva,

In a letter to the Commission on the 14th October, 2020 (Ref: 2021PAC05) the Pelagic Advisory Council highlighted its work on a large-scale genetics project focused on stock identification, emphasising the need for this kind of data collection and analysis to be included in the scope of the Data Collection Framework (DCF).

This research includes the recent EASME-funded project '*Herring in Divisions 6.a, 7.b and 7.c: Scientific Assessment of the Identity of the Southern and Northern Stocks through Genetic and Morphometric Analysis*', which concluded in December 2020.

For the sake of continuity of the data flow, the PelAC believes it is vital that the methods used for genetics sampling and analysis are included in the Data Collection Multi-Annual Programme that is currently under development.

If you have any questions or require further detail on the studies carried out, do not hesitate to be in contact.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jesper Raakjaer', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jesper Raakjaer
Chairman, Pelagic AC