



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/C3-D3/OS-PCO

Mr E. Brouckaert
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The Netherlands

Subject: Joint NWWAC/PELAC advice on seismic impacts

Ref.no. PELAC: 1920PAC87

Dear Mr. Brouckaert, Dear Mr. Raakjaer,

Many thanks for your letter of 4 August 2020 regarding a non-recurrent request to ICES on seismic impacts. In your letter you underline the necessity of independent scientific research on seismic impacts and encourage the development of scientific expertise by ICES in this field, by DG MARE sending a non-recurrent request for advice to this scientific advisory body.

In our assessment, a non-recurrent advice request to ICES would not be an appropriate way forward as such a request would not fit into the scope and timeframe envisaged in the cooperation we have in place with ICES. The yearly grant agreement DG MARE concludes with ICES is dedicated to advisory services. ICES is asked to produce scientific advice for stock management on a yearly basis or one-off advice fitting into a similar scope, during a circumscribed timeframe and within a limited budget. Furthermore, the process of non-recurrent requests under the grant agreement is that they create a one-off advice, which is not necessarily followed-up in the advisory body's future activity and therefore not necessarily creating extensive and new scientific expertise in ICES. The items and issues identified in the analysis that you have forwarded to DG MARE are too extensive and complex to reasonably be addressed within this scientific advisory framework.

We would however be happy to discuss with you potential other options and to this end, I suggest that my collaborators would be in touch with you shortly.

Let me thank you for your commitment and valuable input. Looking forward to our continued cooperation, I invite you to take contact with Ms Pascale Colson, coordinator of the ACs (Pascale.Colson@ec.europa.eu; +32 2 29 56273), should you have any question on this reply.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA