

Pelagic Advisory Council Att. Mr Jesper Raakjaer, Chairman of the PelAC Louis Braillelaan 80 2719 EK Zoetermeer The Netherlands

Zoetermeer, 6 October 2021

Subject: NSAC response to PelAC request to cover the NSAC stocks in areas IIIa and IV

Dear Jesper Raakjaer,

We appreciate receiving your letter of request to the NSAC, dated 6 September 2021. In this letter you inform us that the members of the PelAC have voiced a wish to provide advice on a number of stocks that fall within the NSAC area of competence following Annex III of the CFP 1380/2013. You refer to the specific species: sprat, Norway pout and greater silver smelt in ICES sub-areas IV and IIIa, and sandeel in ICES divisions IVa-c, VIa and subdivisions 20-22.

On 14 September the NSAC held a meeting in the Executive Committee, where your request was discussed with the membership. At the meeting, the NSAC members took the principal position not to accommodate your request given that the stocks you mention should remain within the remit of the NSAC as this follows from Annex III of the CFP regulation no. 1380/2013. Though the NSAC is open to have this changed following a revision of the regulation no. 1380/2013, as long as the official amendment does not take place, the ACs must respect each other's dossiers.

Having said this, the NSAC is open to cooperate with members of the PelAC on drafting advice on the stocks that the request relates to. We would be happy to establish a joint focus group on the stocks and invite PelAC members to participate in such a working group. We recognise and acknowledge the expertise of your members to deal with the mentioned stocks and would most welcome such cooperation.

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We hope that this is acceptable to your membership. Do not hesitate to revert to us should you have any further questions or suggestions.

With best wishes,

Kenn Skau Fischer,

NSAC Executive Committee Chairman