



PELAGIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

Newsletter 3/2019

July - September 2019

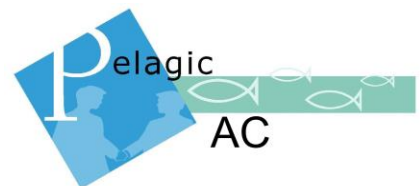


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PELAC MEETINGS

WORKING GROUP I MEETING (10 JULY 2019, LISBON)

As in previous years this meeting focused on the ICES advice for North Sea herring and Western Baltic spring spawning herring. In both cases the advice was based on MSY, leading to a recommended TAC of no more than 431 062 tons for North Sea herring (with 418 649 tons for the A-fleet) and zero tons for Western Baltic spring spawning herring for 2020. ICES also presented the advice for the North Sea herring management strategy.

The advice triggered some debate about the quality of the NS herring assessment. ICES couldn't fully explain the reasons for the perceived increase in SSB this year, and also noted the stock was expected to decline in the coming years because there is a lack of strong year classes coming into the fishery. The industry feared new surprises in the assessment next year. The OIGs proposed to formulate a recommendation for this stock that is more cautious than the recommended TAC, and perhaps more in line with the options presented in the MSE advice TAC.

It was decided to postpone the formulation of the recommendations on both stocks to the October meeting to await the outcomes of other meetings, such as the Coastal States meeting scheduled in September where the management strategy for NS herring will be discussed.

An update on blue whiting was provided. The focus group decided to move forward with development of a two-tier management strategy and to support this work, industry members hired an external scientific consultant to carry out a hindcasting evaluation for this stock. This evaluation could give insights on how such a two-tier approach could look like, and the aim is to submit this work for further discussion to WGWIDE.

It was decided to give the Focus Group a mandate to complete this work and to inform Commission about this ongoing work to prepare a rapid submission to ICES for WGWIDE late August, given the tight summer timelines.

WORKING GROUP II MEETING (10 JULY 2019, LISBON)

Working Group II dealt primarily with the ICES advice for herring stocks in the Celtic Sea. ICES also briefly presented its advice on a special request for boarfish.

For Irish sea herring, ICES advised a TAC of 8064 following the MSY approach. For both Celtic and 6a herring, ICES advised a zero catch. It was decided to postpone the advice for Celtic Sea herring to the October meeting, to await further updates from ICES and the Commission in relation to the request for a monitoring TAC for this stock. For Irish Sea herring, Working Group II agreed to recommend following the ICES advice.

For 6a herring, a discussion was held about the recovery plan. ICES explained not being able to evaluate the plan and the Commission did not manage to find a solution with ICES. It was decided to submit the recovery plan as case study to the ICES workshop rebuilding plans (planned for February 2020), and to postpone recommendation October as there were still some considerations to discuss. Subsequently, an update was received about the ongoing work on genetics, which will be followed up during the October meeting where a further update as well as an update on the morphometrics work will be provided.

ICES briefly went over the special request boarfish. ICES was asked to give advice on the risk of the removal of the TAC instrument for this stock. Based on precautionary considerations ICES is not in a position to give such advice so recommended to maintain the current boarfish TAC.

A presentation was held on mackerel acoustic surveys, where progress in relation to issues in the target strength was highlighted, looking promising. New insights are now showing abundance estimates more in line

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with stock assessment values, and better explain the underestimation of the estimates in the past. The industry members agreed to look into costings for carrying out such a survey for mackerel, and the discussion will be reconvened in October.

An update was provided on the Western horse mackerel Focus Group, which hopes to develop a rebuilding plan for this stock. The ad hoc rebuilding plan working group will investigate if current approaches used in the rebuilding of Celtic Sea and WBSS herring could be applied to Western horse mackerel. A contribution is expected to be submitted to WGWIDE and will serve as input for the ICES workshop on rebuilding plans.

With regard to the landing obligation, a discussion was held with the Commission on the calculations for horse mackerel TAC reductions to account for de minimis exemptions. This led to a complex debate over the sources of certain figures used in the calculations, so it was decided to go over figures and methodology offline to ensure common understanding on the basis. The discussion will reconvene in October, where linked to this, a possible Pelagic AC position on the revision of pelagic discard plans can be discussed.

Finally, Working Group II adopted the recommendations on the proposal for revision of the Control regulation, subject to two minor amendments.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (11 JULY 2019, LISBON)

During the Executive Committee meeting an amendment to the current budget was proposed and accepted. The budget and work programme for the new financial year (2019-2020) was subsequently discussed and approved.

The Commission also presented the policy statement, which triggered some debate about the Commission's cautious position with regard to the revised mackerel advice.

Subsequently, the advice from the Working Groups was presented and adopted unanimously, including the recommendations on the proposal for the revision of the Control regulation.

The meeting came to a close with the presentation by IPMA on the 'Sardinha 2020' project, as a special contribution to this meeting set in Portugal. This ambitious project gave a good general overview of pelagic fisheries in Portugal (with a special focus on Iberian sardines and chub mackerel), highlighting the potential of future fisheries management and served as an inspiring example of how the ecosystem approach to management could be applied.

BLUE WHITING FOCUS GROUP (21 AND 26 AUGUST 2019, WEBEX)

As agreed during the Blue whiting Focus Group meeting in April 2019, the industry members of the Pelagic AC hired an external consultant (Sea++) to carry out a hindcasting evaluation for blue whiting. The Focus Group met on two dates in August through WebEx to discuss the outcomes of this work and the way forward, ahead of the WGWIDE meeting.

The objective of the study was to see what would have happened if a two-tier HCR was used rather than the current ICES MSY rule. In both scenarios, the rule was evaluated with and without a TAC stability mechanism (20 % down and 25% up) when the stock is assessed to be above Bpa.

The main outcomes of the report are:

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- Blue whiting assessment is uncertain and difficult to predict
- Large fluctuations in recruitment impact on catch opportunities
- Application of an HCR would have led to lesser fluctuations in catches than observed in reality
- The simple HCR and two-tier HCR give broadly similar results
- Application of bounds on TAC-change could lead to counter-intuitive and undesirable results

The study concludes that a two-tier HCR would not give major advantages over the current ICES MSY rule in relation to the catches that could be obtained (although the final stock size was estimated to be 15% higher with the two-tier rule). It was therefore concluded not to recommend the two-tier approach at this stage. However, it was striking to see the effects of the TAC stability bounds on the catches: when a TAC bound was applied, stocks would tend to crash as the large reductions in stock biomass seen were driven by recruitment, and find it difficult to recover. After the stock collapse the use of bounds prevented the TAC being increased as the stock recovered. Bounds therefore appear to limit the possibility to react to stock change and thus give more instability.

This outcome suggests the current implementation of the bounds can be problematic for the blue whiting stock. The focus group agreed this finding was worth further investigating. The work will be presented at the WGWIDE meeting as well as the Pelagic AC October meeting, where options for follow-up work on blue whiting will be further discussed.

All in all, the hindcasting exercise provided useful insights which could also serve as valuable input for the discussions with Coastal States on the management of blue whiting. The Pelagic AC has therefore informed the Commission about these outcomes, encouraging the Commission to share the results with the Coastal States before the next meeting.

All detailed meeting minutes can be downloaded from the PELAC website once they are finalized:

<https://www.pelagic-ac.org/2019>

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TECHNICAL MEETING SCHEVENINGEN GROUP (12 SEPTEMBER, COPENHAGEN)

Participants: Technical representatives from the MS administrations around the North Sea, representatives from the NSAC and PELAC. Esben Sverdrup-Jensen attended on behalf of the PELAC

Issues raised relevant for the PELAC:

- Schevening Group will have a look at the pelagic discard plan in 2020 to identify any necessary changes.
- PELAC encouraged Member States to consider their role as clients in ICES and if they are sufficiently involved in developing the yearly agreement with ICES and the requests made to ICES.
- PELAC encouraged MS to use the PELACs communication on the Control Regulation and Technical Measures as the basis for their work on the two files.

ADG WIDE (17-19 SEPTEMBER 2019, COPENHAGEN)

PELAC representatives: Sean O'Donoghue and Ian Gatt.

This ICES Advice Drafting Group (ADG) provides advice for mackerel, blue whiting, Atlanto Scandian herring, western and North Sea horse mackerel, and boarfish. All of these stocks fall under the remit of PELAC. North Sea horse mackerel and boarfish advice is provided bi-annually, new advice was drafted this year applicable for 2020 and 2021.

Mackerel

As there is no internationally agreed management strategy ICES advice is based on the MSY approach. Catches in 2019 should be no more than 922,064 tonnes.

SSB reached a high level in 2014 and has declined a little since. It has remained above $MSY_{B_{trigger}}$ since 2008. Fishing mortality declined in the period 2005 and is now estimated to be close to F_{MSY} .

The advised catch for 2020 is higher than the updated advice for 2019 (May 2019) because:

The highest recruitment in the time series (year classes 2016 and 2017), are entering the fishery and the spawning stock.

There has been an upward revision of the SSB, and a downward revision of F.

Stakeholder information from PELAC

Over the last eleven years the pelagic industry has encountered large shoals of mackerel over the entire distribution area. Based upon these observations the industry consider that the stock size has significantly increased over those years and remains at a high level. This increase in the stock is not confined to one area or observed by only one fleet. The industry has noted signs of larger recruitment in recent years, particularly in 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018 and again at the start of 2019. Mackerel is also caught in substantial amounts outside of the directed mackerel fishery areas. The timing of the main spawning migration at the end of January in 2019 was similar to 2018.

The IENSSN survey, which was expanded into the North Sea in 2018, was continued in 2019 with a Danish commercial vessel participating. The European industry is examining the possibility of carrying out an acoustic survey at the end of this year or at the start of the next year.

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Blue whiting

ICES advises that when the long-term management strategy is applied, catches in 2019 should be no more than 1,161,615 tonnes.

Fishing mortality (F) has decreased since 2016 and is slightly above F_{MSY} in 2019. SSB has decreased since 2017 but remains well above $MSY B_{trigger}$. Recruitments in 2017 to 2019 are estimated to be low, following a period of high recruitments.

Since 2016, the assessment has used a preliminary estimate of catch-at-age in the year in which the assessment is carried out to supplement information from the acoustic survey conducted in the spring. In most recent years more than 90% of the annual catches of the age 3+ fish are consistently taken in the first half year, which makes it reasonable to estimate the total annual catch-at-age from preliminary first semester data.

In previous assessments a three years average of the mean weights at age was used for the preliminary catch data. Due to a decreasing trend in mean weight for the main age classes in the fishery, these values were an overestimate compared to the final mean weights obtained in the following year. This gave a tendency to overestimate SSB and underestimate F. For 2019, the preliminary mean weights were used in the assessment. This has partly removed the previously observed bias in SSB and F. The upward revision in SSB and downward revision in F this year are mainly due to a higher than expected survey index for the large 2014 year-class.

The advice is based on the application of the long-term management strategy agreed by the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and Norway and does not take into account the deviations from the plan as evident from the sum of unilateral quotas in 2018.

Stakeholder information from PELAC

The EU industry reported that the fishery for blue whiting in 2019 was very good. High catch rates were maintained all through the season and the vessels had no difficulty catching their quota. A very large fishery took place west of Ireland in the Porcupine area and west of Scotland. Large blue whiting dominated the catch. Some of the fleets observed a larger number of small blue whiting on the fishing grounds in 2019 than in previous year.

PELAC has carried out a study of the blue whiting management strategy during 2019. The PELAC is following this up with the EU Commission.

Atlanto-Scandian herring

ICES advises that when the long-term management strategy agreed by the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway, and the Russian Federation is applied, catches in 2020 should be no more than 525 594 tonnes.

Fishing mortality has increased since 2015 but is estimated to be below F_{MSY} in 2018. The spawning stock biomass (SSB) is declining since 2008 but estimated to be above $MSY B_{trigger}$ in 2019. Since 2007, recruitment is estimated to be average or small.

There is an upward revision of SSB for later years in this year's assessment, but the revision is within the confidence limits of the model. There is a downward revision of the 2016 year class in this year's assessment. The uncertainty around the estimate of recent year-classes is, however, generally high.

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The advice is based on the target fishing mortality in the long-term management strategy agreed by the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland Norway and the Russian Federation and does not take into account the deviations from the plan as evident from the sum of unilateral quotas in 2018.

Stakeholder information from PELAC

The European fleet (Dutch) last year reported that the herring came later out of the Icelandic zone. The individual size/weight were on average 400 g and the first lots of herring going eastward were even bigger (500 g). The herring was easy to locate and catch from the Iceland-Faroe Ridge to the NEAFC regulatory area.

Western horse mackerel

The advice is based on the MSY approach and recommends that catches in 2019 should be no more than 83,954 tonnes.

This stock and the fishery are highly dependent on infrequent high recruitments. Following a period of low recruitment, the estimates since 2014 are above average. SSB has declined since 2006 and is estimated to be around B_{lim} since 2014. Fishing mortality has decreased since 2013 but remains above F_{msy} .

Catch advice for 2020 is 42% lower than that for 2019. This is due to both an update of the reference points and a downward revision in the perception of the stock biomass from the assessment.

The stock is just above its historical low and this year's advice is for a decrease in catches compared to last year. The main reasons are the downward revision of the biomass estimates and update of reference points in the recent inter-benchmark (ICES, 2019b). Given the recent above average recruitments, the stock is predicted to increase in 2020.

The stock reference points were revised in August 2019 (ICES, 2019b), from 911587 to 1168272 tonnes for MSY $B_{trigger}$ and 0.108 to 0.074 for F_{MSY} . The biomass reference points were derived from the lowest biomass estimate (SSB in 2003) from the stable period where recruitment was not impaired.

Stakeholder information from PELAC

The industry, in conjunction with the Pelagic AC (PELAC), has been working actively on two key issues, namely a large-scale genetics project on stock identification and the development of a rebuilding plan with the scientists. The development of a rebuilding plan is at an advanced stage and it is hoped to have a draft available next year.

The research project on genetic composition of horse mackerel stocks was initiated in 2015 with University College Dublin (Ireland). Genetic samples have been taken over the whole distribution area of horse mackerel during the years 2015, 2016, and 2017, with a specific focus on the separation between horse mackerel in the western waters and horse mackerel in the North Sea. A full genome sequencing exercise has been initiated to allow for future mixed-sample analyses.

The main fishery for horse mackerel by the Irish, Dutch and Danish vessels took place west of Scotland (Division 6.a) at the end of 2018 and during the first months of 2019. The fleets observed an increase in small horse mackerel. The Irish demersal fleet encountered increased numbers of small horse mackerel to the south and west of Ireland, in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

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North Sea Horse Mackerel

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should be no more than 14 014 tonnes in each of the years 2020 and 2021.

The combined CGFS–IBTS (Channel Groundfish Survey–North Sea International Bottom Trawl Survey) survey index indicates that the stock continues to be at a low level. ICES assesses that fishing pressure on the stock is above F_{MSY} ; No reference points for stock size have been defined for this stock.

The ICES framework for category 3 stocks was applied (ICES, 2012). The index of stock abundance is derived from the combination of two surveys: The Channel Groundfish Survey (CGFS) in September–October and the North Sea International Bottom Trawl Survey (NS-IBTS) in July–September. The combined index is used as the index of stock development over time. The advice is based on a comparison of the two latest index values (index A) with the three preceding values (index B), multiplied by the recent advised catch.

The index is estimated to have decreased by more than 20% and thus the uncertainty cap was applied.

Fishing mortality is above the F_{MSY} proxy (as indicated by a length-based analysis), and stock size relative to reference points is unknown. However, because the last application of the precautionary buffer in 2017 is within a period of three years, the precautionary buffer is not applied in the current advice.

In 2019 an error was identified in the code that was used to generate the assessment of this stock in 2017. The error was in the calculation of CPUE from the DATRAS database for the years 2016. This led to the high estimates of biomass in the 2017 assessment. The error has now been corrected, which resulted in a substantially lower estimate of biomass in 2016. The resulting 2017 advice without error would have resulted in the same catch advice because of the uncertainty cap.

Discarding in the target pelagic fisheries is considered negligible. Since 2015, discard information from some bottom-trawl fisheries, not directed at horse mackerel, is available and ranges between 2 and 17%. The average discard rate over 2017 and 2018 is of 5.1%. Still, discard information is considered to be incomplete, and discard numbers from earlier years have not been submitted to ICES.

Since 2013, signals of better recruitment have been observed in the combined survey index (ICES, 2019) and also the fisheries encountered more small fish than before. Catching mostly immature individuals might hinder the recovery of the stock by removing an important portion of the recent year classes before they can enter the spawning stock.

Stakeholder information from PELAC

On behalf of the Pelagic Advisory Council and the EAPO Northern Pelagic Working Group, a research project on genetic composition of horse mackerel stocks was initiated in 2015 with University College Dublin (Ireland). Genetic samples have been taken over the whole distribution area of horse mackerel during the years 2015, 2016, and 2017, with a specific focus on the separation between horse mackerel in the western waters and horse mackerel in the North Sea. The result of the research indicated that the western horse mackerel stock is clearly genetically different from the North Sea stock. However, with the available information it was not yet possible to determine the genetic composition of mixed samples of non-spawning fish. Therefore, a full genome sequencing exercise has been initiated to allow for future mixed-sample analyses. Results are expected to be available in 2020.

In the autumn of 2018, the Pelagic Freezer-trawler Association has implemented a voluntary move-away scheme to avoid the catch of small horse mackerel in 27.7.d. The trigger in the move-away scheme was a catch of more than 25% in a haul consisting of small fish (more than 250 fish in a carton of 23 kg, equating to around

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18 cm). When the trigger was reached, all vessels of the PFA would be notified and instructed to move out of the area with a distance of at least 5 NM. The move-away scheme has been triggered 17 times during the period October – December 2018.

Boarfish

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should be no more than 19152 tonnes in each of the years 2020 and 2021.

The stock biomass was relatively stable until 2009, then increased in 2010–2012 before declining rapidly in 2013 and 2014. Since 2014, stock biomass has been relatively stable.

ICES cannot assess the stock and exploitation status relative to MSY and PA reference points because the reference points are undefined.

The ICES framework for category 3 stocks was applied (ICES, 2012). The Schaefer surplus production model provides an index of the total stock biomass (TSB), which is used as the index of stock development.

The advice is based on the ratio of the mean of the last two index values (Index A; 2018–2019) and the mean of the three preceding values (Index B; 2015–2017) multiplied by the recent advised catch.

The index is estimated to have changed by less than 20% in the period 2015–2019 and thus the uncertainty cap was not applied in the calculation of the catch advice. The precautionary buffer was previously applied in 2016. However, the stock status relative to reference points is unknown and there is no evidence that the stock is increasingly significantly, therefore the PA buffer is applied in 2019.

The model is still considered suitable for category 3 advice, because it provides the best means of combining the available survey series. The acoustic survey has undergone several developments to improve its suitability with updates to methodology in 2012, a change in direction in 2017 and extension of transects at the boundaries to improve the coverage of the stock distribution area. The bottom trawl survey data are considered to be a good index of abundance given that boarfish aggregate near the bottom at the time of year when the survey is conducted.

WG WIDE recommend that this stock should be benchmarked in 2021.

Stakeholder information from PELAC

Only a small number of Irish vessels prosecuted this fishery in 2018 and in the first quarter of 2019. The Danish vessels did not participate. The low participation is mainly due to the fact that the vessels have other pelagic opportunities available which are far more profitable and much easier to prosecute, the low prices and the uncertainty about Brexit. The Irish catch level during 2018 was approximately 60% of its quota.

The demersal trawlers have encountered small boarfish in their catches, particularly in southwestern Ireland over the last twelve months.

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SEMINAR ON FISHERIES SCIENCE BRUSSELS (20 SEPTEMBER, BRUSSELS)

The seminar opened on a statement of Andras G. Inotai on behalf of Commissioner Karmenu Vella. The importance of fisheries science as a guide but also as a credibility factor for fisheries management was highlighted. Examples of this are the two “principles” inherited from fisheries sciences: the precautionary approach and the MSY. Mr. Inotai also linked the improvements of stocks status and profits of fisheries to science progress. The seminar subject was to focus on the long term, on the future contribution of science for policies. This focus was set in the context of the 2021 new research program: Horizon Europe. The future challenges he identified were the MSY goal and the goal to reach a good environmental status. This would require a well-defined agenda.

Several research projects funded through the previous research program (Horizon 2020) and the EMFF were presented. They showcased the outcomes, lessons learnt and recommendations of fisheries research projects and scientific advice studies for future funding programs.

- CERES was presented by Myron Peck (University of Hamburg, CERES co-ordinator)
- ATLAS was presented by Matthew Gianni (independent consultant, partner in the ATLAS project)
- EFICA in the MOSAIC expedition was presented by: Hauke Flores (group leader at Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research)

The future research and innovation program Horizon Europe was then presented by Sieglinde Gruber (European Commission, Head of Unit at the Directorate General for Research and Innovation). A request of 100 b€ was asked for for this program (30% more than the previous one) that will last 4 years from 2021. The transnational program will allow investments where not usually possible, at local level, thriving to upscale, opening new market opportunities, and increasing excellence through competitive grants. It will be structured in 3 pillars: Excellent science, Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness (in which cluster 6 on food is the one for fisheries), and Innovative Europe. A new *European Innovation Council* will be created to foster disruptive and added forms of innovations. The 5 mission-areas identified are Cancer, Adaptation to Climate Change, Healthy Oceans, Climate Neutral and smart Cities, Healthy Soils and Food. At the time of the meeting, negotiations were ongoing between the EP and the Council and the public consultation was open until the 4th of October.

A roundtable followed, discussing the prospects for fisheries and marine science and research in the next decade. It focused on the questions of what should be the most relevant priority topics for research and what can be done to ensure better take-up of research results in policy making.

- Sheila Heymans (Executive Director of the European Marine Board) started by identifying the key challenges of multispecies management and the incorporation of science projects in shorter term management. She pointed at the need for policy makers to be present when scientists draft grants projects and at the interest of using more extensively a risk-based approach.
- Anne-Cécile Dragon (Marine and Fisheries Policy Officer for the European Policy Office of the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)) insisted on the importance for scientists to communicate their findings and for policy makers to read scientific reports. She stressed the difficulty of implementation of some scientific findings and the amount of science already available but insufficiently used for management purposes.
- Dennis Lisbjerg (President of the European Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Organisations Association (EFARO)) emphasized that fishermen already are much more part of data collection and research programs than before. This is needed in addition to traditional data gathering in research

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programs, not instead of them. He agreed with some remarks that fisheries management relied still too much on single stock assessments instead of multi species ones. He also touched on the blue economy and other human activities to take into account when thinking about fisheries.

- Martin Pastoors (Chief Science Officer at Pelagic Freezer-trawler Association (PFA)) pointed at the importance of conducting “responsible” research and innovation, meaning that people from different areas should work together. The fishing industry should be seen as a partner for research. The possibilities have not been exploited enough within this perspective. He proposed some advices to tackle that: to drive up active engagement through feedback given to the fishermen, to capitalize on the equipment that already exist on fishing vessels that are out all year long, to collaborate more between member states on sampling approaches. This could be possible for a wide range of fisheries including for smaller scale fisheries where it is possible to rely on fishermen’s organizations.

The seminar concluded with Bernhard Friess (European Commission, Director at the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) thanking everyone and explaining that the remarks would be taken onboard for the further elaboration of the research program.

MISCELLANEOUS

NEW INTERIM EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Pelagic AC has a new Interim Executive Secretary: Guillaume Carruel. Guillaume Carruel started the post on September 9th, 2019 and will be in position until the 31st of January 2020, when Anne-Marie Kats is scheduled to resume work. He holds a Master's degree in 'Environmental Policy' from the London School of Economics and a Master's degree in 'Fisheries and Coastal Ecosystems Management' from Bordeaux Sciences Agro University. He previously interned for the Pelagic AC and for the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation.

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL COSTS

Please remember that the secretariat has to receive your reimbursement claims within 1 month after the meeting by post or email including copies of all receipts. Reimbursement sheets received after the deadline will not be taken into account. If you cannot meet the deadline, please inform us as soon as possible. To find out more about reimbursement rules please consult the PELAC's "Rules of procedure" or contact the secretariat.

<https://www.pelagic-ac.org/aboutus>

UPCOMING MEETINGS

WORKING GROUP I AND II MEETING (2 OCTOBER 2018, DEN HAAG)

The next Working Group meetings will take place on 2 October. As in previous years these meetings will deal primarily with the ICES advice for widely distributed stocks as well as the PELAC TAC recommendations for 2020.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (3 OCTOBER 2018, DEN HAAG)

During the General Assembly meeting the final activity and financial report for 2018-2019 will be presented. Subsequently the Executive Committee will discuss the Pelagic AC comments on the Commission consultation on fishing opportunities as well as the advice from the Working Groups.

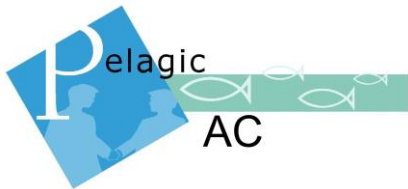
For more information please visit our website:

<https://www.pelagic-ac.org/pracmeetings/upcomingmeetings>

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