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Chair of Advisory Committee
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
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Date: 19 July 2022

PelAC reference: 2122PAC74

Subject: ICES draft stakeholder engagement strategy – PelAC comments

Dear Dr Dickey-Collas,

At the occasion of the MIACO meeting of 22 June, ICES presented the draft stakeholder engagement strategy and requested input from stakeholders. The Pelagic Advisory Council (PelAC) participated in this meeting and then discussed the draft stakeholder engagement strategy at its Executive Committee meeting on 13 July. You can find here below the comments that the PelAC would like to share with ICES regarding this strategy.

PelAC comments

- The PelAC welcomes this document which constitutes a **good strategy** for stakeholder engagement and **appreciates the opportunity to provide comments**.
- The PelAC considers that **the role of ‘observer’** would deserve some clarifications with regards to the **basis on which organisations or individuals would be invited** to gain access to the advice before it is delivered to decision-makers.
- As highlighted by the strategy, **appropriate feedback to stakeholders** engaging with ICES (e.g. on the information needed and provided), especially as participants or partners, is crucial in order for this engagement to deliver best and respond to the engagement goals.
- The issue of the **incorporation of stakeholder information into ICES advice** is not covered by the present draft strategy but the PelAC would like to reiterate its point regarding the need for **clarity on the type of content and the editorial rules** for its inclusion. Given the divergence of opinion between ICES and the PelAC, it was agreed during the MIACO meeting on 22 June that a working group of interested parties would be set up to address this issue in view of reporting back to MIACO in January 2023. The PelAC reiterate its interest and availability to participate in such a working group.
- Finally, as part of ICES’ engagement with stakeholders, the PelAC would like to underline the **importance of ICES’ participation to the PelAC meetings**, in particular those taking place each





year in July and October, during which the PelAC works on its recommendations for fish stocks within its remit. **In-person participation** (the PelAC foresees two sets of in-person meetings each year) has great added value to the quality of the exchanges with ICES on advice and to the goals of ICES engagement with stakeholders.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of the above, and look forward to your response.

Kind regards,

Jesper Raakjær
Chairman Pelagic Advisory Council

