

**Mr Eric Banel**

**Chair of the Scheveningen High Level Group**

Ministere De La Mer

Direction générale des affaires maritimes, de la pêche et de l'aquaculture

Service des pêches maritimes et de l'aquaculture durables

France

**Cc to:**

- Charlina Vitcheva, Pascale Colson, MARE AC Team (DG MARE, European Commission)
- Susan Steele, Eva Madariaga, Pedro Galache, Gregoria Cuesta (EFCA)
- Aurelie Darpeix, Stephane Gatto, Pauline Joyeux, Pierre Leconte (Scheveningen Group)

**Date:** 19 August 2022

**PelAC reference:** 2223PAC01

**Subject:** Follow-up on the publication of the report on the evaluation of compliance with the landing obligation for mackerel in NS and NWW 2015-2017 and ongoing review

Dear Mr. Banel,

As the regional groups are currently reviewing the evaluation of the compliance with the landing obligation for mackerel after the first report published in 2020, the Pelagic Advisory Council (PelAC) would like to follow-up on its previous letters<sup>1</sup> concerning its **request for the full evaluation report to be published on the EFCA website.**

You will recall that the PelAC expressed its surprise that only an executive summary of the report was published on the EFCA website without disclosing the methodologies used, while – given the nature of the report's conclusions - the pelagic fisheries sector was left exposed, with no opportunity to address or challenge these conclusions. The PelAC then expressed its great disappointment over EFCA and the regional groups' refusal to publish the full report. Since then, this point has been regularly raised and discussed by the PelAC members in meetings with EFCA and the regional groups. Unfortunately, to this date, this remains an unresolved issue from our point of view.

While the PelAC's request for the publication of this first report still stands, the ongoing review of the evaluation by the regional groups is an opportunity to rectify this situation and ensure full transparency. Once the review will be completed, the **PelAC urges the High-Level regional groups to authorise and instruct the EFCA to publish not only the executive summary but also the integral report, regardless of its conclusions.**

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<sup>1</sup> [Letters of the Pelagic Advisory Council on the release full report evaluation of compliance with the landing obligation mackerel in NS and NWW 2015](#)





In this regard, the PelAC welcomes and recalls the Regional Control Expert Groups' commitment to publish the reports of future landing obligation compliance evaluations, as mentioned during the EFCA advisory board meeting of 4 April 2022<sup>2</sup>.

The failure to publish this reviewed full report would be contrary to good governance, unacceptable and undermine its credibility.,

The PelAC remains of course willing to cooperate with EFCA and the High-Level Groups to discuss the findings of the report.

Thanking you in advance for the careful consideration you will give to our request, we look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Jesper Raakjær  
Chairman Pelagic AC

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<sup>2</sup> [Conclusions of the Advisory Board Meeting held in Vigo / online on 4 April 2022](#)

