



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels
MARE.C.5/NG/vr

Dear Mr O'Donoghue,

Thank you for your letter regarding the need for an urgent ICES inter-benchmark for Western Horse mackerel.

I am fully aware of the challenges that have arisen as a consequence of the ICES zero catch advice for 2023 for this stock. As you may be aware, this issue was discussed in detail during the EU-UK consultations late last year and both Parties committed to asking ICES for an inter-benchmark assessment in 2023.

My services addressed this in a recent technical discussion with the UK and we are urgently preparing a specific request to ICES on this. We will also underline the ongoing genetics work and that this should be considered in the benchmark.

My services will keep you informed regarding the ICES response.

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact the functional mailbox of the Advisory Councils MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu.

Yours faithfully,

Charlina VITCHEVA

Mr O'Donoghue
Chairman Pelagic AC
info@pelagic.ac.org

Commission européenne/Europese Commissie, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË – Tel. +32 22991111
Office: J-99 05/014 – Tel. direct line +32 229-50483