



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels  
MARE.C5/JS/ac/Ares(4822508)

**Subject: Coastal States sharing status for the Northeast Atlantic mackerel stock**

Dear Mr. O'Donoghue,

Thank you for your letter of 20 April 2023 concerning the sustainable management of Northeast Atlantic mackerel. I take note of your concerns and recommendations on the lack of agreement amongst coastal States on the sharing arrangement for mackerel.

Let me assure you that the EU shares with you the same view regarding the situation of the mackerel stock and the objective to bring this stock back to sustainable levels as soon as possible.

As you are aware, the EU has entered into these consultations in good faith to reach a sharing arrangement for mackerel that is comprehensive, fair and balanced between all coastal States. In fact, the EU is the only party that has taken a conservative approach compared to the previous sharing arrangement (2014-2020) with a view to reaching a comprehensive 6-party agreement. To protect the mackerel stock, the EU in these discussions also invited other coastal States to take the sustainability of mackerel very seriously and follow the ICES advice.

I can confirm that the EU remains committed to exploring all possible avenues to find a comprehensive sharing agreement still this year that includes all parties in the best interest of the long-term sustainability of mackerel. A round of consultations is foreseen to take place virtually in June and physically in September.

While the EU has already set its mackerel quota for 2023 during the December AGRIFISH Council, some other parties, in particular Norway and the Faroe Islands, having set provisional quotas are still to set their final quota for 2023. In this regard, the Commission will continue to raise concerns on this matter with the said coastal States.

Mr Sean O'Donoghue  
Chairman Pelagic AC  
[info@pelagic-ac.org](mailto:info@pelagic-ac.org)

Once more, I would like to thank you as well as the members of the PelAC for your active involvement and views regarding mackerel stock.

Yours faithfully,

Charlina VITCHEVA

c.c.: Eva Maria Carballeira Fernandez (HoU); Thomas Brégeon (dHoU); Ana Leocadio; Jessica Demblon