



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/C5/SS/vr

Subject: PelAC call for urgent planning of inter-benchmark meeting for horse mackerel in Q1 2024

Dear Mr Sean O'Donoghue,

Thank you for your letter of 27 October transmitting the PelAC concerns for a possible delay in the inter-benchmark process for the three horse mackerel stocks (Western, Southern and North Sea).

As already mentioned in my letter of 21 September 2023 ⁽¹⁾, according to the information at our disposal, the benchmark process is underway and should be completed by the first half of 2024.

I have asked my services to follow up on this issue with ICES and to request an update on the schedule of this inter-benchmark exercise, stressing again its utmost importance. I should however reiterate that ICES is an independent international organization and the Commission has no margin to control their internal planning.

We will keep you informed in case we receive any indication that there are changes in the schedule.

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Silvia Scalco, desk officer in MARE C5 (Silvia.SCALCO@ec.europa.eu), or Ms Julia Rubeck, our Advisory Councils coordinator, via the functional mailbox MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu.

Yours faithfully,

Charlina VITCHEVA

⁽¹⁾ Ref. Ares(2023)6397575.

Mr Sean O'Donoghue
Chairman Pelagic AC
sean@kfo.ie
info@pelagic-ac.org
The Netherlands

c.c.:

Anne-Marie Kats a.kats@pelagic-ac.org
Merel Barbosa m.barbosa@pelagic-ac.org