



Annex 7

Mr Fokion Fotiadis
European Commission
Directorate-General Mare
Office: J-99 0/07
B-1049 BRUSSELS
Belgium

Contact details for
correspondence:

Pelagic RAC
Treubstraat 17
PO Box 72
2280 AB Rijswijk
The Netherlands
E-mail: info@pelagic-rac.org

Date: xx November 2009
Subject: Recommendation on LTM arrangements for Western Baltic herring

Dear Mr Fotiadis,

The Baltic Sea RAC and Pelagic RAC are writing to you this joint letter to express their view on the process of making Long Term Management arrangements for the Western Baltic herring stock, which is exploited by fishermen represented by the BSRAC and the PRAC, mainly in areas 22-24 and IIIa respectively.

The two RACs take note that the Commission will soon produce a non-paper which will propose a management plan for this stock, as well as other stocks in the Baltic. We generally support moving into a regime that takes a long-term approach. For this reason the two RACs have, under the auspices of the scientific project JAKFISH, been collaborating with a number of key representatives from the scientific community on management possibilities for western Baltic herring.

On 21st October 2009, a one-day joint workshop took place in London. Representatives from both RACs came together with a number of scientists, most of whom had also been involved in the ICES working group that evaluated the proposed Harvest Control Rules for the Baltic stocks.

It is the understanding of both RACs that ICES was very much constrained in time and resources in relation to the HCRs for the Baltic stocks, with the result that ICES was only able to 'crudely explore' the plan. ICES has not had sufficient opportunity to explore alternative approaches, and it is thus altogether unclear whether the currently proposed HCR delivers optimal results. This is a question, however, that the JAKFISH project will



Annex 7

soon be able to answer, as it is now advancing into the stage where the scientists are endeavouring to run simulations for different HCRs.

The BSRAC and PRAC therefore strongly urge the Commission to postpone putting forward a proposal for a Council Regulation until the results from JAKFISH are available for consideration. This is expected to be no later than May 2010.

We look forward to your response. If you have any questions, please contact the secretariat.

Yours sincerely,

Reine J. Johansson
Chair BS RAC

Ian MacSween
Chair P RAC

c.c. Ms Isabelle Viallon (by e-mail)