



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/C.5/PV/EL/

Dear Mr Kenn Skau Fischer,

Thank you for the letter of 01 December 2022 regarding the North Sea Advisory Council Advice on anglerfish in subareas 4 and 6 and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat). In your letter you raise concerns with the ICES advice published on 28 October 2022 and the fact that fishermen have a different perception of the stock abundance.

I take note of your concerns on the ICES advice while recalling the key role of ICES to inform TAC setting from a scientific point of view, also in negotiations with the UK. In this regard, I take the occasion to announce that the EU-UK annual consultations are just concluded and the written record was signed on 20 December 2022 (additional information on this subject is available at the European Commission website ⁽¹⁾).

Furthermore, as mentioned in your letter, there is a common interest in the EU, UK and Norway to develop a joint management strategy for anglerfish. In this particular context, during the trilateral consultations on fishing opportunities for 2023, the Delegations reached an agreement for developing a specific working group for anglerfish. We certainly see the benefit of a participatory process in relation to this working group, in order to allow discussing this issue in detail and incorporating the views of relevant stakeholders.

As already stated in previous occasions, the Commission acknowledges the relevant information and advice provided by the NWWAC, further confirming your commitment to support the concerns raised by the fishing communities. Should you have any questions on this reply, please contact Mr. Paulo Vasconcelos

⁽¹⁾ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/fisheries/international-agreements/northern-agreements_en

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(Paulo.vasconcelos@ec.europa.eu) or Ms Pascale COLSON, coordinator for the Advisory Councils (Pascale.COLSON@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.295.62.73), who will forward them to relevant colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

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