



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels
MARE.C.5/NG/vr

Dear Mr Brouckaert,
Dear Mr O'Donoghue,

Thank you for your letter dated 26 May 2023 regarding the NWWAC and PelAC position on the setting of fishing opportunities for sprat in the Channel and your comments on wider ecosystem considerations regarding forage fish species such as sprat.

I am pleased to inform you that the outcome of the EU-UK consultations was aligned with the NWWAV/PelAC position to follow the ICES advice in full.

Regarding the role of forage fish in the wider ecosystem, the EU and the UK have jointly written to ICES requesting further details on how such considerations are factored into the ICES advice. Thus far ICES has been unable to provide a response and has asked for further time to respond.

Once more, thank you and members of the NWWAC and the PelAC for your active involvement and views regarding the consultations. I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Norman Graham, desk officer in MARE C5 (Norman. GRAHAM@ec.europa.eu), or Julia Rubeck, coordinator for the Advisory Councils (Julia.RUBECK@ec.europa.eu), who will forward them to relevant colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

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