

Brussels, 19/12/2016
DG MARE Ares(2016)7053350

Mr Jean Marie Robert
CC SUD
6, rue Alphonse Rio
56100 Lorient
France

Subject: Scientific work and management of North Atlantic Albacore

Ref.: Opinion No. 105 and No. 108

Dear Mr Robert,

I thank you for the SWWAC opinion concerning Albacore tuna in the framework of the annual meeting of the CICTA which took place in Vilamoura (Portugal) from 14 to 21 November 2016. First of all, I would like to share with you our satisfaction with the results of this meeting. The European Union has reached most of its objectives and, at the same time, has confirmed its leading role by proposing the majority of the recommendations finally adopted.

As regards Atlantic North Albacore tuna, which is the subject of SWWAC opinions 105 and 108, the European Commission has taken account of SCRS' observation regarding the apparent healthy state of the stock following the last assessment, as well as the uncertainties surrounding the consequences of an increase in the TAC beyond 28.000 tonnes. Indeed, the working group responsible for stock assessment recommended that any increase in this TAC should be carried out with the greatest precaution.

The Recommendation finally adopted by CICTA establishes the renewal of the TAC of 28.000 tonnes for the years 2017 and 2018 and leaves the possibility of an increase open for 2018: (from 28.000 tonnes to 30.000 tonnes) so as to avoid the current TAC remaining in place until the next assessment planned for 2020. Moreover, we have also succeeded in promoting the continuation of the scientific work on the Harvest Control Rules with a view to their possible adoption in 2017 or 2018, which could allow a review of the TAC adopted.

I thank you once again for your constructive contribution. If you have any further questions, I would ask you to contact Mrs Evangelia Georgitsi, coordinator of the Advisory Councils (evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.295.04.43).

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João AGUIAR MACHADO

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'João Aguiar Machado', written over the printed name.