

Northern Fishing Alliance

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ICES
H. C. Andersens Boulevard 44-46,
DK 1553 Copenhagen V,
Denmark

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Anglerfish Benchmark

Dear Mark,

I hope this note reaches you in good health.

As Chair of the Northern Fishing Alliance (NFA), Anglerfish Focus Group I have been asked to reach out to you once again regarding our involvement in the benchmark process. The Alliance seek your support, and importantly the support of ACOM members to engage with the fishing industry ahead of the forthcoming benchmark on anglerfish. We very much appreciated your personal support and the support of ACOM members for the two cod symposiums, which alliance members viewed as extremely successful and worthwhile.

The fishermen drew much from the frank exchanges and sharing of information, which importantly was two-way. Aside from the positive outcomes, fishers viewed the meetings as a tangible sign that scientists and fishers were edging closer together in terms of collegiate working.

Anglerfish is a key commercial species for several alliance members, and moving away from the current data poor status, which continues to cause a high degree of frustration with the fishers, would be extremely welcome. Given the success of the cod symposiums and the one of six-recommendation contained in the report¹, which mentions that similar processes

¹ ICES (2022). Workshop on research needs and a roadmap for further research on cod in the northern shelf seas (including cod in the Celtic Seas) (WKRRCOD). ICES Scientific Reports. Report. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.21740090.v1>

should be used for species such as anglerfish, ling, and mixed fisheries issues, we are reaching out in the hope the recommendation will be followed.

As with the cod symposiums the alliance is very happy to facilitate the meetings at a time and place of your choice, albeit ahead of any data call. The important issue is that we continue to engage meaningfully in these important events.

We look forward to your response and remain committed to playing a meaningful role in the delivery of best science and stock management.

Yours Sincerely

Michael Park

Mike Park
On behalf of the Northern Fishing Alliance