

Cc: Dr. João Aguiar Machado

DGMARE

To

Anne Christine Brusendorff

General Secretary ICES

H. C. Andersen

Boulevard 44-46, DK 1553

Copenhagen V,

Denmark

09.09.2019

Request to follow up the work done during WKSARMP (2019)

Portugal and Spain thank ICES for the extensive work carried out to answer the request to evaluate a management and recovery plan for the Iberian sardine.

The ICES advice on the management rules only considered precautionary the low productivity scenarios, among the set of management rules which were submitted by the WGSARMP.

The HCR advised by ICES corresponded to a low productivity scenario with a 1% probability of the spawning-stock biomass (SSB) falling below Blim on the long term. This level of risk is well below the 5% probability level, which is the threshold accepted by ICES to consider as precautionary a management and recovery plan.

Therefore, using the same HCR if we use the Blim and the Blow level adopted by ICES, but with higher Ftarget and Flow levels, long term sustainability can be ensured with a probability level of 95% and allowing short-term median catches larger than those initially assessed by ICES.

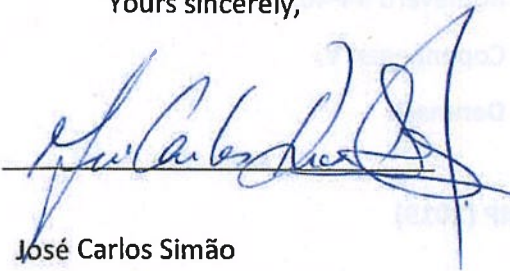
Preliminary calculations using a "short cut" simulation approach, point to the possibility of Ftarget between 0.08 and 0.09 and median catches on the short-term between 12kt- 14kt, with a moderate increase on the long-term, as expected by a low productivity scenario.

Nevertheless, there is a need to better clarify the performance of the management rules, particularly HCR4, applying the same approach and methodology already reviewed by ICES (full-feedback MSE). This will complete a full series of scenarios needed to allow the choice of the best strategy in terms of long-term sustainability of the stock, while preserving the sardine fishing activity in Portugal and Spain.

Therefore the Spanish and the Portuguese administrations would like to request to ICES to continue the WKSARMP work considering the HCR4 (low productivity) with Ftarget between 0.08 and 0.09 being the long term sustainability ensured with a probability level of 95% of not falling below Blim in the long term.

We request the revised HCR could be the basis of ICES advice on the catch opportunities for the Iberian sardine for 2020 in the bilateral management plan. Therefore and if it is necessary, we would like to ask ICES to present all the management alternatives, including long-term scenarios. We also would like to ask to ICES to update the 2019 advice, on the same basis.

Yours sincerely,



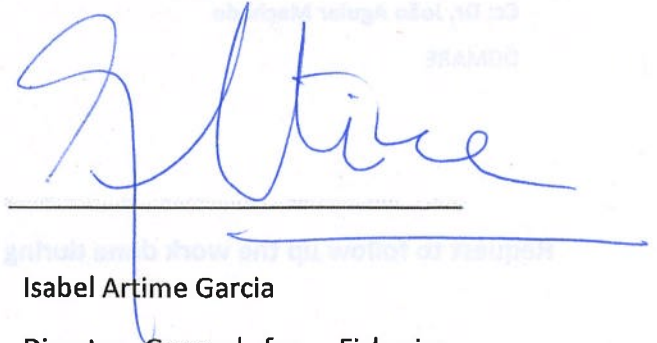
José Carlos Simão

Director General for

Natural Resources

Safety and Maritime Services

PORTUGAL



Isabel Artime Garcia

Director General for Fisheries
Resources

SPAIN