

From: [REDACTED] (Adjoint au sous-directeur des ressources halieutiques) - [REDACTED]@developpement-durable.gouv.fr>

Sent: 05 July 2017 19:50

To: [REDACTED] (MARE)

Cc: [REDACTED]@developpement-durable.gouv.fr;
[REDACTED]@developpement-durable.gouv.fr; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (MARE); [REDACTED] (MARE); [REDACTED] (MARE); [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (MARE); [REDACTED] (MARE); [REDACTED] (MARE);
[REDACTED] (MARE); [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@developpement-durable.gouv.fr; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Additional information from the SWW MS group concerning the JR on exemptions for hake&Nephrops

Attachments: Study of the Portuguese Fleets targeting hake.pdf;
Informe_Descartes_20170630_JAP.pdf; Revision end of June _HAKE de minimis request 2017f.pdf; Bioeconomic assessment_s-species fleet_LO.pdf; Nephrops LO data VIII&IX v2.xlsx

Dear [REDACTED],

The SWW MS Group was asked to provide additional information in order to better assess two exemptions.

About the *de minimis* exemption for hake caught with bottom trawls in ICES subareas VIII and IX:

Please find enclosed:

- one paper proposed by PT:
- *Study of the Portuguese Fleets catching hake (Merluccius merluccius) in Area IXa*
- three papers proposed by ES:
- *información científica a una solicitud de información complementaria sobre el estudio de la merluza para la solicitud del de minimis*
[Informe_Descartes_20170630_JAP.pdf]

- Additional information for the *de minimis* exemption consolidation request for Hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) of 6% , for 2017 and 2018 and 5% thereafter proposed) from Spain for trawlers catching hake in the Bay of Biscay (ICES VIIIabd)

[Revision end of June _HAKE *de minimis* request 2017f.pdf]

- Bioeconomic assessment of a change in fishing gear selectivity: the case of a single-species fleet affected by the landing obligation

which aim to detail the *métiers* concerned and to better sustain the demand on the basis of disproportionate socio-economic impacts.

Focus on the French vessels operating in the Bay of Biscay:

Since the LO for hake only applies to mesh size greater than 100mm, this greatly limits the number of French vessels interested in; moreover, vessels using such mesh size have very low observed discard rate of hake.

Regarding the selectivity studies on the by-catch of hake, particularly in the targeted *Nephrops* fishery, many studies have been performed during the years 2000. Though, the results are not fully relevant since the mesh size used by the French fleet in the subarea VIII for the Norway lobster fishery is 80-85mm (the national authorisation to target *Nephrops* in VIII makes compulsory the use of additional devices to limit the by-catch of hake, especially the undersized specimens):

<http://www.comite-peches.fr/nos-programmes/amelioration-de-la-selectivite-du-golfe-de-gasconne-ascq/>

The French vessels that would eventually be affected by the LO of hake before 2019 are large bottom trawlers (at least 12m length) targeting species such as anglerfish or megrim.

Finally, to our knowledge, the Commission regulation (EC) No 494/2002 of 19 March 2002 *establishing additional technical measures for the recovery of the stock of hake in ICES sub-areas III, IV, V, VI and VII and ICES divisions VIII a, b, d, e* has not yet been repealed (amended by 2015/1867).

About the high survivability exemption for *Nephrops* caught with bottom trawls in directed fisheries in ICES subareas VIII and IX:

Please find enclosed a table (Excel sheet) summing-up the Portuguese, Spanish and French data available in a short notice.

We hope this will help.

Best regards,



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Le 21/06/2017 12:40, > [REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu (par Internet) a écrit :

Dear [REDACTED],

As you may know STECF has started evaluating the Joint Recommendation for the 2018 discard plans. The report is not yet available. However, our team has followed the discussions in the expert working group and our preliminary assessment is that the following information is missing and will have an impact on the ability of STECF to make a proper assessment:

- As regards **the JR on DE MINIMIS EXEMPTION FOR HAKE CAUGHT WITH TRAWLS IN DIRECTED FISHERIES IN ICES SUBAREAS VIII AND IX**: (1) more robust and detailed information backing the economic impact of increasing selectivity and of sorting and handling catch (2) descriptions of the fleets and fisheries concerned by the exemption (for instance the French fleet in Area VIII is not included and there is also a contradiction in that the exemption as described in the Delegated Act applies to fleets targeting hake yet the justification includes a number of mixed fisheries where hake is an important bycatch).
- As regards **SURVIVABILITY EXEMPTION FOR NEPHROPS CAUGHT WITH TRAWLS IN DIRECTED FISHERIES IN ICES SUBAREAS VIII AND IX**: (1) the fleet descriptions provided are detailed for French and Portuguese fleets, but there are other relevant fleets, notably Spanish, for which no information has been provided.

We would therefore kindly ask the SWW group to provide the missing information by the end of June, so that the additional data can be taken into account by the STECF plenary which will take place from **10 July** onwards. We realize that the time is quite

short, however I hope you will agree with me hat it is in our common interest to provide STECF with the full picture of available data so as to enable them to make a proper assessment of the requests.

Thank you in advance for providing us with the relevant information.

Cordialement



Mare [redacted] | DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries



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