

To: [REDACTED]
Cc: CLARK Helene (MARE); [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Joint Recommendation of the NWW Member States group for a 2018 demersal discard plan: request for additional scientific evidence following the meeting of the STECF Expert Working Group
Importance: High

Dear [REDACTED],

I am writing to you in your position of Chairman of the North-Western Waters (NWW) Member States Group. A STECF Expert Working Group (EWG) met last week to assess the Joint Recommendations of the various Member States Group and prepare the work for the STECF Plenary of 2 to 6 July.

The EWG issued a number of comments on the Joint Recommendation of the NWW Member States group and I would like to share them with you (see Annex).

In the light of the EWG's report and of the scientific evidence provided by to date, we expect the STECF's Plenary to express reservations as regards the granting of certain exemptions if these data gaps are not being closed.

Please note that the annex list cannot be interpreted as a positive STECF assessment regarding exemption requests for which no data gaps have been identified. Please also note that the tables contain only those exemptions where EWG18-06 considered there were information or data shortfalls that might be corrected by provision of information from the respective Regional Groups in the short term (ie before the STECF July Plenary meeting).

You certainly share my view that it is extremely important that the NWW Member States group provide the additional scientific evidence requested by the STECF well ahead of the Plenary. We share the same objective here, namely to make sure that STECF is in a position to give as much positive advice on the proposed measures as possible.

I would kindly ask you to send me the data requested by Monday 25 June, close of business.

Please copy [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as well as [REDACTED] in any electronic correspondence on this matter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Mare.C1 | Fisheries Management Atlantic, North Sea and Baltic Sea | DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries



European Commission

[REDACTED]

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North Western Waters De Minimis

Exemption	Shortfalls
Whiting caught with bottom trawls and seines >80mm and pelagic trawls and beam trawls (80-119mm) to catch whiting in the Eastern Channel (VIIId)	No supporting evidence relating to request to include BT2. Regional Group should provide fishery information (landing discards etc)
Combined <i>de minimis</i> for Gadoids (cod, haddock, whiting) caught using bottom trawls, seines and beam trawls of greater than or equal to 80mm mesh size in the Celtic Sea and the Channel (ICES VIIb-c, e-k)	a) No information provided for fleets other than France and Ireland. Regional Group should provide fishery information (landing discards etc) b) EWG 18-06 notices that in the "Template for the provision of information that defines the fisheries to which de minimis exemptions should apply (Annex IV)" the estimated landings and the estimated discards for gadoids report the same value (9097.84 tons), and this is not consistent with the reported discard rate (53%). Can this be corrected.
By-catches of pelagic species (mackerel, horse mackerel, herring, boarfish, greater silver smelt) caught by vessels using bottom trawls and seines, and beam trawls in ICES subarea VI and VIIb-k	a) No information provided for beam trawl and seine net fisheries. b) Information related to safeguards only provided for France. Discard profiles for other MS are required.

North Western Waters High Survivability

Exemption	Shortfalls
Common sole (undersized only) caught with trawl gears in area VIIId	Location of sole nursery grounds has not been provided. Provision of this material is a condition in the Delegated Act (COM 2018/46) and should be supplied .
<i>Nephrops</i> in the TRI fisheries in Area VII and in the TR2 fisheries in Area VII in combination with highly selective gears	Apart from Ireland, fisheries descriptions of other countries fleets are lacking which makes the magnitude and effects of this exemption difficult to assess
Skates and ray species caught by any gear in the North Western Waters (areas VI and VII)	Very few landings and discards data provided. EWG18-06 recognises these data are sparse and that there are quite a lot of species, however, Regional Group should provide whatever they do have to assist in the evaluations.
Plaice caught by trammel nets in ICES	a)The supplementary material provided as

divisions VIIId and VIIe	<p>scientific evidence of the high survivability of Plaice is too limited to be reviewed. Experimental details about a large extent of the study are missing (e.g. analysis, control group, vitality assessment and animal observations)</p> <p>a) Fleet and fishery descriptions are provided for the United Kingdom, but there are other countries associated with the proposed exemption that have not been described.</p>
Plaice caught by trammel nets in ICES divisions VIIIf and VIIg	As above
Plaice caught by Otter Trawls in ICES divisions VIIId and VIIe	As above
Plaice caught by otter trawl gears in ICES subarea VIIIf and VIIg	As above
Plaice caught with beam trawls in ICES subareas VIIa to VIIk	Fleet and fishery descriptions are provided for Ireland, but the source related to numbers supplied is unknown. There are other countries associated with the proposed exemption that have not been described.
Fish caught in pots, traps and creels in North Western Waters	Fleet and fishery descriptions are detailed for Scotland, but data from other countries associated with the proposed exemption were not submitted. Regional Group should provide this

