

Executive Committee
North Western Waters Advisory Council
c/o Bord Iascaigh Mhara
Crofton Road
Dun Laoghaire
Ireland

26th August 2016

Dear members of the North Western Waters Advisory Council.

Thank you for your letter of 22nd August providing an initial response of the NWWAC to the Control Expert Group (NWWCEG) report on 'Recommended measures to achieve compliance with the landing obligation in demersal fisheries in North Western EU Waters'. We would also like to thank you for providing the opportunity for members of the NWWCEG to attend the recent NWW Advisory Council working group in Edinburgh to present a summary of the report and listen to feedback.

The NWWCEG report outlines a range of options for the High Level Group to consider, which can be deployed on a risk-based approach. Whilst we believe that the landing obligation shifts control requirements towards a greater need for the observation of catches at sea; the CEG recognises that an overall culture of compliance is paramount and that improved trust and transparency across all stakeholders can help to underpin this.

In consideration of the NWWAC initial response, the NWWCEG agreed at a meeting on 24th August, that any collaborative initiatives that link to Option 3 in the report should be taken forward in the short term.

The NWWCEG welcomes the NWWAC initiative to carry out a detailed examination of the report and would also welcome the opportunity to view and comment on any proposals that arise. In order to assist in this process we would be pleased to take up your offer to attend the horizontal working group. Representation from the CEG should be limited to the provision of clarity on any aspects of the report and as far as possible on any regulatory interpretational matters.

The NWWCEG would ask that any detailed report from the horizontal working group should be provided by **30th October** in order to allow sufficient time for it to be discussed at our next meeting on 1st December 2016.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Roberts (current UK chair and on behalf of the NWW CEG)