



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels,
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North Western Waters AC
Bertie Armstrong
Chair of the Executive Committee
BIM, PO Box 12
Crofton Road,
Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
IRELAND

Subject: Request for scientific evaluation of management options for sole in Divisions VIIIfg

Yr reference: Email from B. Schoute dated 26 May 2016

Dear Mr Armstrong,

Thank you for sending us the NWWAC suggestions in respect of a management strategy for sole in ICES divisions VIIIfg. STECF¹ have identified the need for a Management Strategy Evaluation, MSE, to evaluate the impact of the various management options presented. We have explored how this complex analysis can be provided; ideally the MSE development should be informed by the most recent ICES advice. This advice will issue on the 30th June. The STECF Plenary on the 4th July allows insufficient time to develop the MSE and to undertake evaluation of the management options.

We will re-visit the need to develop this MSE after the issue of the imminent ICES advice. Should the need for an MSE remain this can be developed to allow evaluation of all management options at the next STECF Plenary, including of course the scenarios you have identified.

Thank you again for your constructive input. If you have any question on this reply, please contact Evangelia Georgitsi, co-ordinator of the Advisory Councils (evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.295.04.43).

Yours sincerely,

João AGUIAR MACHADO

¹ Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries 51st Plenary Meeting Report (PLEN-16-01).