



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES
THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels,
A2/EG D(2016)

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 the scientific evaluation of alternative management strategies for marginal bycatch quota species under the Landing Obligation

Yr reference: Email from B. Schoute dated 21 June 2016

Dear Mr Armstrong,

Thank you for the NWWAC letter of the 21 June proposing the examination of alternative management strategies for by-catch species and in particular the removal of some species from the TAC regime, to prevent them from becoming a choke species (identifying sole in ICES subdivision VIIh-k as an example). We share your concerns that stocks, which are not key components of particular fisheries become limiting factors solely due to a lack of information. Alternative management of several species needs to be addressed across a number of fisheries and I propose to take this forward as a comprehensive study programme. A project to examine these issues further is currently being developed with the intention to examine all such stocks across the North Sea, North West and South West waters.

This examination needs to establish on a case by case basis the conservation needs for each stock, assessing the history of exploitation, current status and of course future opportunities. We also need to clearly establish appropriate safeguards and metrics to demonstrate that we continue to meet the management objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy. There are clearly opportunities for the AC to be involved into this and my services will keep you updated as the project develops.

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

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