

Dublin, 23 April 2018

Subject: Data request to conduct an analysis to determine the under-utilisation of quota by different Member States

Dear Ms Clark,

To support the European Commission and the North Western Waters Member States Group on the implementation of the landing obligation, the NWWAC developed a Choke Mitigation Tool last year. This tool not only assesses the different levels of choke risks for the different mixed fisheries in the North Western Waters, but identifies what solutions might be most appropriate to mitigate choke risks on a case-by-case basis. More information on the NWW Choke analysis is available on the NWWAC website ([link](#)).

The Choke Mitigation Tool was broadly discussed at one of the theme sessions at the EC seminar on the implementation of the Landing Obligation (15th November, Brussels). The EC encouraged the NWWAC to continue its collaborative work and to focus on critical stocks, developing a more detailed assessment of the potential solutions. In this respect, the some NWWAC members requested to conduct an analysis to determine the under-utilisation of quota by different Member States. Such information is deemed useful for the NWWAC work in progress on advice to mitigate choke situations.

This analysis, in preparation for advice, will require more detailed data than is currently available in open-access databases like the [STECF](#) Fisheries Dependent Information. For this reason, the NWWAC would like to request that the EC shares the specific data detailed in Annex 1, with the NWWAC.

The NWWAC is determined to continue to support the EC and the NWW Member States Group with the implementation of the landing obligation and to find solutions to mitigate choke risks. I look forward to your response and thank you again for the collaboration we continue to receive from the EC, which is crucial for our work.

Yours sincerely,



Emiel Brouckaert
Chairman
Executive Committee



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

Tel: +353 1 2144 126
Fax: +353 1 2300 564
E-mail: nwwac@bim.ie
Web: www.nwwac.org
Co. Reg. No: 403877

Annex 1

In North Western Waters there are 24 stocks, for which a particular Member State or a group of Member States have no quota. While not unique to the NWW, it appears that this problem is more acute in this area than in other sea basins.

Many of the stocks in NWW are widely distributed species, for which catches are highly likely and unavoidable. When the landing obligation is fully implemented, these species will essentially choke fisheries from the start of the year for those Member States impacted, unless mitigation actions can be implemented (e.g. avoid capture; develop exemptions; develop alternative discard provisions or develop a mechanism to provide quota to cover such catches through swaps).

The NWWAC would like to request the EC to share the following data to allow the NWWAC to conduct this analysis:

- Initial Quota by Member States and by stock;
- Final Quota after amendments like swapping, banking and borrowing, deductions, etc. by Member States and by stock;
- Landings and discards by Member States and by stock.

For:

- Period: from 2008 to the recently available data (2017);
- TAC Stocks: Anchovy, herring, blue whiting, cod, mackerel, nephrops, saithe, haddock, sprat, megrim, horse-mackerel, sole, whiting, hake, boarfish, anglerfish, ray and plaice;
- ICES Areas: 6 and 7;
- Member States: Belgium, the Netherlands, UK, Ireland, France, Spain.



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