



The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE-D3/D4/LC-mb

Mr E. Brouckaert
NWWAC Chairman
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Subject: NWWAC's advice on the European Commission's proposal on the revision of the EU Fisheries Control System.

Dear Mr Brouckaert,

I would like to thank the North Western Waters Advisory Council (NWWAC) for the detailed advice sent to the European Commission on 4th June 2019 regarding the Commission's proposal concerning the revision of the EU fisheries control system. I am convinced that this advice will contribute in a positive way to the discussions on this proposal in the Council and in the European Parliament.

We take note of the reservations of the NWWAC concerning the submission of the logbook for vessels below 12m before entering the port and concerning the transport documents. We also noted the concrete proposals on some provisions in particular on Article 19a(4), Article 24(3), Article 25a on the control of the landing obligation, Article 55 on recreational fisheries and Article 118 on reporting.

We wish to recall that the reason why the Commission has proposed a change in the rules on the control and the monitoring of engine power is because the existing rules are not considered fit for purpose. As the physical engine power testing is expensive and cumbersome both for authorities and for operators, and is often ineffective as the engine output may be discreetly altered during testing, we consider that for certain fleet segments continuous engine monitoring is an appropriate solution.

We also noted your request for clarification concerning the proposed weighing system. We wish to underline that the weighing system proposed by the Commission is less complicated and more flexible than the existing rules as it allows different operators (the master, the registered buyer, the transporter or an independent weigher etc.) to be a registered weigher. Weighing at landing is feasible as fishery products could be weighed in any harbour on portable, approved weighing systems. In the new proposal, catch reporting is mainly based on landing declarations, which is under the responsibility of the master and must accurately reflect the quantities landed, based on the results of weighing at landing.

We also noted your questions concerning the point system for serious infringements and your request to clarify these issues in the revised Control Regulation. Those questions are in fact related to the provisions in the current Control Regulation. First, we would like to underline that under the Control Regulation, when a physical person is the licence holder and master at the same time, he or she may be attributed points both as the holder of the licence and as the master. We are aware that Member States are implementing the provisions of the Control Regulation on the point system in different ways. For example, some Member States transfer the points to the new holder of the fishing licence when the licence is transferred. Other Member States transfer the points to the new owner of the vessel for which the serious infringement was committed. Finally, points assigned to a master cannot be transferred.

We also have noted that the advice contains a number of additional requests for clarification, which we suggest to discuss at a meeting of the NWWAC, in particular of the Focus Group on Control and Compliance.

Let me thank you again for your constructive input and detailed recommendation. We are looking forward to discussing this proposal at a next Focus Group meeting of the NWWAC. Should you have any further questions on this reply, you are invited to contact Ms Pascale Colson, coordinator of the ACs (pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu; +32 2 29 56273).

Yours Sincerely,


João AGUIAR MACHADO