



## North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council

### SPECIAL REQUEST TO ICES

### ADVICE FOR COMMON SKATE

30<sup>th</sup> of March 2012

#### Background

The NWWRAC was informed at a Focus Group meeting on Skates, Rays and Sharks held in Paris the 29<sup>th</sup> of February 2012, that the common skate complex (*Dipturus batis*) is now considered to consist of two species: *Dipturus cf. flossada* and *Dipturus cf. intermedia*.

At present, there is only one single advice for the *Dipturus* complex (*D. cf. flossada* and *D. cf. intermedia* together). Further information on the status of each of these species is required and ICES is expected to provide such advice by 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2012. The advice released for the period 2013-2014 should provide information to allow the implementation of measures at an appropriate geographical and species level.

#### Basis for the request

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ICES and the European Commission for 2012, the North Western Waters RAC would like to ask the European Commission that a special request is submitted to ICES by 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2012 as follows:

**In view of the new scientific information available, the North Western Waters RAC would like to request that advice be provided by ICES on an individual species basis for the two components of the common skate, *Dipturus cf. flossada* and *Dipturus cf. intermedia*, if there is enough data available, by 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2012.**

**Furthermore, the North Western Waters RAC would like to seek clarification on the current state of knowledge regarding the biological characteristics and identification of each of the above species.**

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