



NSRAC

Thursday 22nd September 2011

Dear RAC chairs and vice-chairs,

Earlier in the summer, the chairs of the BSRAC and NSRAC discussed informally the idea of holding an inter-RAC meeting to address not administrative or financial issues (which is the mandate of Inter-RAC forum of the RAC secretariats), but to take up and discuss more substantial policy issues which concern all the RACs.

Also discussed was the idea of extending an invitation to someone outside the RACs to chair this meeting – someone with experience in fisheries issues, but who does not have any affiliation to the RACs. This would enable all the RAC chairmen to take a more active role. We would like to propose that John Goodlad (Chairman of Shetland Catch, pelagic processors) chairs the first meeting. We also propose that the secretary for this meeting be a person(s) from one/two of the RACs.

We propose that such a meeting be held once a year.

Discussions with the LDRAC later in the summer confirmed that the idea holding such a meeting could be useful.

On behalf of three of the RACs, we would like to suggest that such a RAC meeting could take place sometime during the autumn. Conscious of time and costs, this could be held back-to-back with an Inter-RAC meeting or another international meeting in Brussels. We would need to give our meeting its own name, and we welcome suggestions from you.

The current backdrop of CFP reform provides the perfect first opportunity for us to meet and discuss in depth the role of the RACs as put forward in the draft proposal for a new basic regulation. Our discussions could then extend to cover other issues of importance to us.

We look forward to receiving your views on this suggestion.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Reine Johansson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Reine Johansson BSRAC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Antonio Cabral', with a large, sweeping initial 'A'.

Antonio Cabral LDRAC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niels Wichmann', with a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Niels Wichmann NSRAC