

---

# **How to Made Operational a New Approach to Cod Management in Area VIa Content of Position Paper**

- 1. Background.**
  - 2. Fishing Activity Area VIa.**
  - 3. Scientific Assessment Cod Area VIa.**
  - 4. Setting an Operational TAC for COD VIa.**
  - 5. Monitoring and Verification.**
  - 6. Benefits of the New Approach.**
  - 7. Conclusions and Summary of NWWRAC Proposal**
  - 8. Appendices**
-

---

# NWWRAC Focus Group on Cod Recovery

## CNPMEM Paris – 31 January 2013

1. **Background.** Use existing material on position paper breaking the cycle of decline. **Responsibility?**
  2. **Fishing Activity Area VIa.** This section should contain the detailed information on the different fisheries in the area. Report ICES Working Group on Mixed Fisheries West of Scotland Copenhagen 2012  
**Responsibility?**
  3. **Scientific Assessment Cod Area VIa.** This section should cover the new problems with the assessment and in particular the discards issues. **Responsibility ?**
-

- 
4. **Setting an Operational TAC for COD VIa.** This section should have the transitional yearly table showing the TAC that will apply to reach the required reduction in fishing mortality to F 0.4 by 2015. **Responsibility ?**
  5. **Monitoring and Verification.** This is a critical section and should include paper “on elements of a fully documented fishery for the west of Scotland Demersal Fisheries”.  
**Responsibility?**
  6. **Benefits of the New Approach.** This section is already covered in our paper on breaking the cycle of decline.  
**Responsibility?**
  7. **Conclusions and Summary of NWWRAC Proposal**  
**Responsibility ?**
  8. **Appendices** **Responsibility?**
-

---

## Fully Documented Fishery (FDF) for the West of Scotland Demersal Fisheries

In your letter, you consider the establishment of a reference fleet as a move to a FDF in the West of Scotland. As you note the use of reference fleets is currently being examined by the European Fisheries Control Agency and its conclusions will be taken in consideration when examining any specific application of a FDF system to the West of Scotland.

In establishing a reference fleet there will be a number of risks that need to be assessed but this can be considered and hopefully addressed (in this regard, it would be useful if you could provide a couple of risk examples). The key concern is probably whether the reference fleet is truly representative and whether this activity represents the normal one for the vessel types. Another concern is the way it can be implemented given the current state and priorities for the stocks impacted. It is inevitable that for fisheries in the West of Scotland cod be the most impacted species. The current protection given to this stock to

---

---

ensure its recovery would severely limit any application of a FDF unless catching and discarding of cod can be avoided.

In your proposal you suggest that a revision of cod TACs with an inclusion of current discard levels (as a reflection of the actual catch) might facilitate the operation of a FDF and directly remove the discarding issue. This approach will however not reduce mortality of the stock. While we are open to any helpful initiative, it is essential that the target mortality can be achieved through changed fishing practices. Unless this is the case any FDF will need to be very restrictive.

The long term aim of the cod plan and hence the effort regime is to control the mortality of the cod stock and to encourage fishing that does not impair it. Previous measures introduced under the cod plan for the West of Scotland have not been successful. Current levels of mortality remain too high. The additional measures put into practice this year have not yet been evaluated and it is not clear whether spatial separation has the intended impact on catches and mortality. When the impact of the current measures will be assessed, it will further contribute to the discussion on a FDF.

---

---

In any case, given the extremely high levels of cod discarding recorded in the West of Scotland fisheries, in addition to cod avoidance measures, it would be imperative, in any future scenario and in addition to any FDF catch quota system, that the fleets introduce highly selective gears, similar at least to those used in the North Sea. This is especially needed in the TR2 gear group.

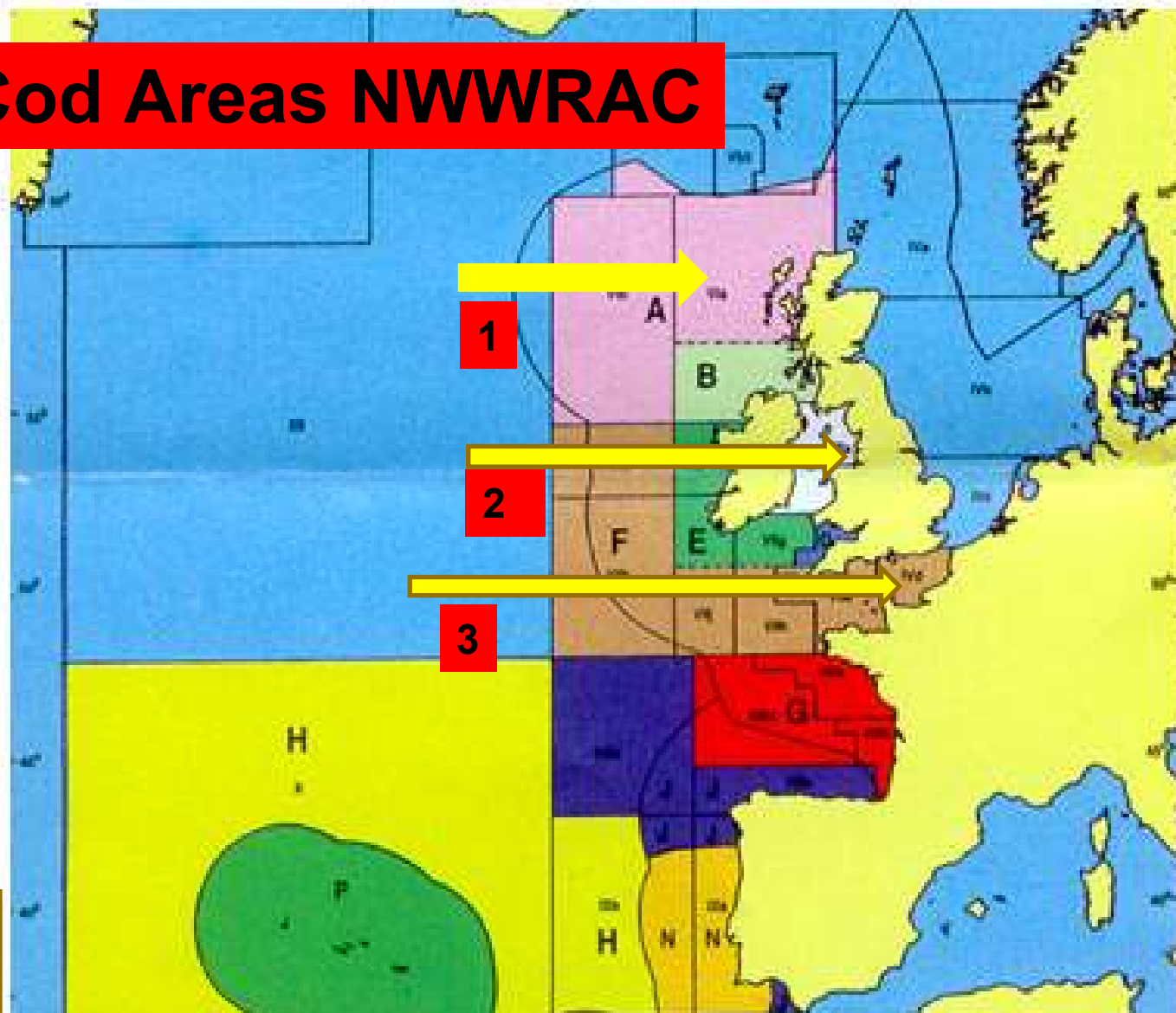
---



# **North Western Waters RAC Breaking the cycle of decline for Cod Stocks in VIa - VIIa**

European Parliament Public Hearing  
Committee on Fisheries meeting  
19<sup>th</sup> of September 2012

# Cod Areas NWWRAC



1=VIA

2=VII

a

3=VII

d



---

# Interim Measures to improve implementation of Reg. 1342/2008

## NWWRAC Recommendations

### 5 Articles

- **Art. 9: Procedure for setting TACs in data poor conditions**
    - remove automatic 25% TAC reduction
  - **Art. 11: Fishing effort regime**
    - Freeze in effort
    - simplification of exemptions regime
-

---

# Interim Measures to improve implementation of Reg. 1342/2008

## 5 articles (contd.)

- **Art. 12: Fishing effort allocation**

- provision 4.b. (annual reductions effort) removed

- **Art. 13: Allocation of additional fishing effort for highly selective gear and cod-avoiding fishing trips**

- Use of article clarified demonstrating cod avoidance – 13.a removed; 13.c simplified; 13.d coherent with TCMs;
-

---

# Interim Measures to improve implementation of Reg. 1342/2008

5 articles (contd.)

- **Art. 17: Exchange of maximum allowable fishing effort across effort groups**
    - Not penalise transfer effort TR2 to TR1
-

---

## Way forward: Breaking the cycle of decline:

- Groundbreaking long term approach: re-booting management WoS & IS demersal fisheries
  - Conclusions NWWRAC Position paper - June 2012:
    - Present management regime not fit for purpose
    - Specific Area approach (WoS, IS)
    - Mixed fisheries perspective: Look biological (species) & technical (fleets) interactions
-

---

# Way forward: Breaking the cycle of decline

## **Elements New Approach**

Multi-layered but integrated approach of cod

- ❑ TAC setting → Adjust TACs to constrain total catches
- ❑ Effort control suspended
- ❑ Fully documented fisheries
- ❑ Collaborative fisheries-science partnerships
- ❑ Discard reduction & elimination
- ❑ Cod avoidance strategies
- ❑ Data deficiencies

**NWWRAC working on detailed proposal.**

---

---

Thank you for your attention



---

Advice and publications available:

[www.nwwrac.org](http://www.nwwrac.org)