

## **COMPLEMENTARY STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION AND THE UK.**

The UK and the Commission commit to engaging with other Member States active in the West of Scotland fisheries with the aim of ensuring comparably low levels of unwanted catches and discards.

## **JOINT STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION, THE UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE AND IRELAND.**

### **XX. Celtic Sea.**

Last year selectivity measures were introduced in the Celtic Sea on the basis of a proposal from the North-Western Waters Regional Advisory Council which, while less selective than those identified by scientific advice, introduced a more selective gear which could be readily implemented. The proposal allowed for the assessment of these measures.

The Commission and the Member States concerned agree to undertake a review of these measures in 2013 with a view to identifying any necessary improvements in 2013 after discussion with stakeholders.

Member States based on the conclusions of this review and where appropriate, will agree to further selectivity measures to reduce discards in the mixed whitefish fishery by the end of 2013.

## **STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION**

### **XX. Management of the Porcupine bank, Nephrops VII**

The Commission acknowledges the additional information provided to improve the scientific understanding of the stock of nephrops in Area VII. In particular the additional survey of the Porcupine Bank has identified an increase in the abundance of nephrops.

In order to allow the required access to the grounds the Commission accepts the proposals of the NWWRAC that the period of closure should be shortened from 3 months to 1, running now from 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May.

The Commission considers it important that additional access does not result in overfishing on this low productivity, deep water stock and negate the rebuilding of the stock. Consequently the 'of which' sub TAC is retained in 2013 to restrict possible over-exploitation. However the Commission agrees to reconsider the retention of this sub-TAC on the basis of further scientific assessment and to make any in year TAC adjustment as necessary.

## **STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL**

### **XX AD Setting of the TACs for some short lived species**

The Council invites the Commission to submit separate TACs proposals for each stock of short lived species, following the delivery of scientific advice, so that the Council may adopt those proposals as quickly as possible, and in time for the beginning of the fishing season for each of these species.