



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels,
D(2010)

Mr. Sam Lambourn
NWWRAC
Bord Iscaigh Mhara
Crofton Road
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin
Ireland

Subject: Effort management in Zone VIIfg

Dear Mr Lambourn,

I refer to the concerns you raise in your letter of 25 November 2010 regarding the introduction of effort limits for the fisheries in ICES Zone VIIfg, proposed by the Commission in its proposal for the Fishing Opportunities Regulation for 2011.

At its meeting of 13 and 14 December, the Council of Fisheries Ministers decided not yet to implement the effort limitation for Zone VIIfg as proposed by the Commission. Instead, the Council and Commission made a declaration indicating that *"the Council and the Commission acknowledge advice issued by ICES and STECF on the need to avoid increase of fishing effort for any of the fisheries in the Celtic Sea. Further work on this matter should be pursued during 2011."*

In follow-up of this declaration, my services will be in touch in January to explore the next steps in conservation policy that will be needed for the Celtic Sea, including long-term plans, effort management and the need to protect an abundant incoming year-class of juvenile cod.

I hope the NWWRAC will engage with positive proposals concerning these issues.

Yours sincerely,

Lowri EVANS