



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES  
  
THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels,  
D(2011)

Mr. Lambourn  
NWWRAC Chairman  
North Western Waters Regional  
Advisory Council  
Bord Iascaigh Mhara  
Crofton Road, Dun Laoghaire  
Co Dublin, Ireland

**Subject: The North Western Waters RAC letter of 17 February 2011**

Dear Mr. Lambourn,

I refer to your letter of 17 February 2011 informing the Commission that the NWWRAC wishes to participate actively in the review process of the cod plan (Regulation (EC) 1342/2008) as well as to contribute exploring measures needed to respond to the scientific advice on the desirability to manage the *Nephrops* stocks in zone VII by functional unit.

First of all I would like to thank the NWWRAC for its commitment to contribute in a meaningful way to the review of the cod plan. Stakeholder consultation makes a major contribution to legislation. It is one of the main tools to collect the input needed to shape proposals, to test ideas and build consensus.

As you may know, the STECF held recently a scoping meeting on the evaluation of the cod plan. The aim of this meeting was to (i) identify issues related to the application of the cod plan, (ii) to determine the workload required to evaluate the application of the cod plan and (iii) to reconcile the workload with the available resources with a view to draw up a detailed plan of what is required in order to carry out the evaluation of the cod plan foreseen for June 2011 (week 25). At the present stage, stakeholders, in particular fishermen, are invited to liaise with the STECF with a view to provide relevant data and information whenever requested by the scientists.

As soon as the evaluation of the cod plan has been carried out and endorsed by the STECF Plenary (probably in July 2011), the Commission intends to consult stakeholders, through the Regional Advisory Councils concerned, on future management options. This consultation is expected to take place during second half of 2011 / beginning of 2012. We also intend to convene a conference to discuss the findings of these consultations.

Concerning the management of *Nephrops* in area VII, the Commission believes that it is necessary to explore further the measures required to respond to the advice issued by

ICES and the STECF on the desirability to manage the *Nephrops* stocks in zone VII by functional unit. We intend to pursue further work on this matter during 2011 and will keep the NWWRAC informed on any developments on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Lowri Evans