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Downderry
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PL11 3LY

12th January 2010

Dear Sir,

I am writing to the N.W.W.R.A.C. with regard to the lobster M.L.S. byelaws in U.K. waters.

In the area I fish we have had a 90mm M.L.S. for lobster combined with a berried hen 'V' notching scheme for several years. (Fishermen in the area voluntarily returned berried hens for many years before the byelaw was made legal).

The reason we had to do this was that during the late 1980's the fishery seemed to be in a terminal decline.

Since these measures were introduced the fishery has made a steady recovery.

However, nationally the M.L.S. is still 87mm and berried hens can still be retained, thus creating a loophole for unscrupulous fishermen to exploit with regard to the six mile limit and makes policing extremely difficult. Personally, I think the byelaws inside the six mile limit are now 'propping up' the fishery outside the limit.

I feel the recovery of the fishery inside the six miles proves beyond doubt that a 90mm M.L.S. and returning berried hen lobsters is the correct formula for ensuring the future of our fishery and should be adopted nationally.

However, I understand that in the N.E. of England, fishermen do not wish to adopt these byelaws and with this in mind I wonder if they could be implemented first in area seven?

Could the N.W.W.R.A.C. support the proposal that the lobster M.L.S. be increased to 90mm and that the returning of berried hen lobsters becomes a byelaw in all area seven waters?

Yours faithfully

Christopher Brett

c.c. Mr Sam Lambourn N.W.W.R.A.C.
The Secretary N.W.W.R.A.C.
Mr Eddie Derriman C.S.F.C.
Mr Dave Morgan S.D.S.A.
Mr Roger Covey Natural England
Mr Huw Irranca-Davies D.E.F.R.A.