



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF  
RÉGIONAL POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
SEPTENTRIONALES

**NORTH WESTERN  
WATERS**  
REGIONAL ADVISORY  
COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO  
REGIONAL PARA  
LAS AGUAS  
NOROCCIDENTALES

Dr Gerd Hubolt  
Secretary General  
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### **Fishing Industry Data**

Dear Gerd

Both ICES and the various regional advisory councils have signalled that strenuous efforts must be made during 2008 to improve the data on which ICES fish stock assessments are based. The situation where 50% of the principle stocks fished by the EU fleets have no analytical assessments and there are serious uncertainties about the assessments that are done cannot be allowed to continue.

We in the North Western Waters RAC are committed to this process and look forward to discussing with you and your colleagues in the January ICES/RACs dialogue meeting and in the envisaged data workshops how we might make progress. The first of these data workshops is planned for the 26<sup>th</sup> of February.

In the meanwhile, it would be very helpful to us in orienteering our initial discussion and preparations if you could outline (in as much detail as possible) the type of data and information from the fishing industry that would be most useful to the ICES assessment process. We can then begin to analyse how we might best obtain this data and the form in which we could provide it.

I hope that this request is clear and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

pp. Sam Lambourn  
Chairman  
North Western Waters RAC