

PESCAGALICIA-ARPEGA-OBARCO

ASOCIACION DE ARMADORES DE BUQUES PESQUEROS

NWWRAC Secretariat

Bord Iascaigh Mhara - Irish Sea Fisheries Board
Crofton Road
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin

A Coruña, 19 March 2013

**SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE AGENDA – GILLNETS
BILBAO MEETING 17 APRIL 2013**

To Whom It May Concern:

This association asks that an item is inserted in the Agenda of the NWWRAC meetings (Group 1 or Group 2) to comprise gillnets.

The use of these gears in EU waters is currently restricted to 600 meters depths and in non-European waters (NEAFC area) to 200 meters depth. The aim is to explain the current situation of this fishing fleet having difficulties to carry out its fishery (depth restriction, closed areas of vulnerable habitats, fishing area reduction and the consequent conflict with other fishing gears, the upcoming establishment of MPAs in Scotland, proposal to eliminate gillnets and trawl nets in deep sea fisheries, etc.), to describe the outcome of the existing scientific reports and net recovery campaigns that have been undertaken and finally, to ask the NWWRAC members to support a proposal to allow gillnet fisheries at depths up to 800 meters in European waters and that same is applied in waters within the NEAFC Regulatory Area.

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Consequently, we request that the following point will be added to the Agenda:

Gillnets:

1. Short introduction to the problems of gillnets. Results of the scientific surveys on catch composition and the recovery of lost nets; impact on deep sea stocks. Current situation (limiting fishing areas to protect vulnerable habitats, Marine Protected Areas, Cod protection, etc.)
2. Drafting a proposal to extend fishing area (increase fishing depth up to 800 meters in EU Waters and NEAFC Waters). Discussion and opinion.
3. Regulation proposal on deep-sea fisheries. Negative image of certain fishing gears (trawl nets and gillnets). Proposal to draft a report/document reflecting the positive features of these fisheries.

Yours faithfully,



Juan Carlos Corrás