



THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels,
MARE D3/PCO (2017)

Mr. Emiel Brouckaert
Chairman of the ExCom
North Western Waters AC
c/o Bord Iascaigh Mhara
Dun Laoghaire
Dublin
IRELAND

Subject: Data collection and assessment for Brown Crab

Your ref.: your letter of 27 June 2017

Dear Mr Brouckaert,

Thank you for your letter of 27 June 2017, in which you raise the need for further collection of data and stock assessment for Brown Crab.

First, I would like to stress the importance of the work carried out by the NWWAC in this regard, which contributes to achieving environmentally sustainable fisheries in the long term. The Commission recognises the importance of the Brown Crab fishery and congratulates all those involved in the ACRUNET project, which led to the creation of a specific Focus Group on Brown Crab in the NWWAC.

The Commission is always supportive of sustainable management measures developed in co-operation between all those involved. If relevant, DG MARE would be ready to send those suggested measures to the STECF for review if needed.

As regards small scale fishermen, we agree that the use of new technologies, such as electronic reporting, could bring benefits to both operators and public authorities. For this reason, DG MARE is funding a study to examine approaches developed for electronic monitoring of small scale fisheries and to identify good practices. In addition, the Commission has recently launched a political initiative to review the Fisheries Control Regulation. In this context, the use of innovative tools will also be taken into account and assessed, including for small scale fishermen.

Let me thank you again for your cooperation and constructive input. If you have any questions on this reply, you may contact Ms. Evangelia Georgitsi

(evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.295.04.43) or Ms. Pascale Colson
(pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu; +32 2 29 56273).

Yours sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to João Aguiar Machado.

fn João AGUIAR MACHADO *absint*
S. DEYPERE