



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,  
MARE/C1/ri/js/Ares(2020)

Mr E. Brouckaert  
NWWAC Chairman  
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**Subject: TAC setting for cod, haddock and whiting in Irish Sea statistical rectangles, 33E2 and 33E3**

Dear Mr Brouckaert,

Thank you for your letter. On the subject of TAC setting, we are aware that for several years already, ICES has been considering the data of catches from the Irish Sea in the development of their catch advice for several stocks in the Celtic Sea, most notably Cod. The question of stock connectivity in the Irish Sea is a complex one. To this end, DG MARE commissioned a project on Cod tagging in 2015, via the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME), which has contributed to the science on this topic.

We are currently involved in negotiations with the United Kingdom on their withdrawal from the European Union, so further clarifications on the future of TAC setting for this region will follow once these negotiations have concluded.

Please let me assure you and your members that this subject is important for the sustainable management of stocks in the future.

Thank you once again for your correspondence on this matter. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please kindly contact my colleague Ms Pascale Colson ([pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu](mailto:pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu); [+32.2.295.62.73](tel:+3222956273)).

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA  
Director-General

