

Ms Charlina Vitcheva
Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
European Commission
Jozef II-straat 99
1000 Brussels
Belgium

Dun Laoghaire, 07 July 2022

Dear Ms Vitcheva,

Subject: NWWAC advice for a non-recurrent request to ICES and request for information on UK Technical Measures

The North Western Waters Advisory Council (NWWAC) has recently established an Advice Drafting Group (ADG) to prepare advice to DG MARE on technical measures in the Celtic Sea, taking into account the STECF 21-18 report on Technical Measures on the Celtic Sea.

Following discussions during the first meeting of this ADG, the NWWAC wishes to submit the following preliminary recommendations to the attention of the Commission:

- 1) Cod management is one of the most important aspects to consider when discussing technical measures in the Celtic Sea. The STECF 21-18 report mentions a proposal for reducing fishing effort on cod including rolling closures across the Celtic Sea. ADG members have noted that the ICES stock assessment for Celtic Sea cod is not taking into account important issues such as climate change and rising sea temperatures which are affecting cod survivability. Therefore, the NWWAC recommends that DG MARE makes a non-recurrent request to ICES to conduct research on whether it is physiologically possible for the Celtic Sea cod stock to recover if the environmental conditions are not conducive to successful recruitment. This should provide a valid basis for further recommendations and contribute to the understanding of the future viability of cod fisheries in the Celtic Sea.
- 2) The NWWAC notes that the STECF 21-18 report only takes into account EU waters and that the report on the UK remit area of the Celtic Seas assessing technical measures has not been published yet. Therefore, the AC requests that the UK report is shared with stakeholders once published, to ensure that future discussions on the matter are fully supported by complete information.

Thank you for your attention on this matter. We are looking forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Emiel Brouckaert
NWWAC Chairman



Co-Funded by the
European Union

North Western Waters Advisory Council
C/o Bord Iascaigh Mhara
Crofton Road
Dun Laoghaire A96 E5A0
Ireland

Email: mo.mathies@nwwac.ie
Email: info@nwwac.ie
Web: www.nwwac.org
Tel: +353 (0) 1 2144 43
Co. Reg. No: 403877