



Ms. Charlina Vitcheva  
Director-General for  
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE)  
European Commission  
Rue Josef II 99  
1000 Brussels  
Belgium

Dun Laoghaire, 11 October 2021

Dear Ms Vitcheva,

**Subject: Seine fishing activity in the Eastern Channel (ICES 7d)**

Following the last meetings of its Working Group 3, English Channel, in July and September, the NWWAC decided to issue this advice on a specific action to address the cohabitation of the many fishery activities in the Eastern Channel (ICES 7d) and specifically in relation to seine fishing.

Whilst conflicts between fishers occur more and more frequently, the NWWAC considers that a joint sustainable management of the seine fisheries in the Eastern Channel is necessary and urgent. In order to be able to decide on efficient management measures, obtaining scientific fisheries data is essential.

To this end, the NWWAC advises the Commission to send a request to ICES to provide an analysis of the seine fishing activity in the Eastern Channel, including information on:

- The evolution of the use of gear codes SDN, SSC, SPR, SX (catch composition and effort) since 2010, per Member State (and UK flag if possible) and total, per ICES zone;
- A comparison of LPUE/CPUE with demersal trawling activities;
- A review of the status of the main non quota species involved.

The NWWAC took note of the Channel Working Group's consideration that it is urgent to have these data at its disposal in order to facilitate an agreement between stakeholders that enables to maintain sustainable fisheries in the Eastern Channel.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and for the collaboration with the Commission, which is crucial for our work. We are counting on your expeditious follow-up and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Emiel Brouckaert  
NWWAC Chairman

