



MINISTÈRE DE LA MER

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Direction des pêches maritimes et de l'aquaculture

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Direction générale des affaires maritimes, de la pêche et de
l'aquaculture

Service de la pêche maritime et de l'aquaculture durables

Sous-direction des ressources halieutiques

Bureau de gestion de la ressource

Mr Kenn Skau Fischer,
Chairman of the North Sea Advisory Council

Mr Emiel Brouckaert,
Chairman of the North Western Waters Advisory
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Réf. :

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Dear Chairs of the North Western Waters and the North Sea advisory Councils,

Your members have requested information on how Member States of the Scheveningen group implement Article 12 of Regulation (EU) 2018/973 establishing a multiannual plan for demersal stocks in the North Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks, specifying details of the implementation of the landing obligation in the North Sea and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 676/2007 and (EC) No 1342/2008 (hereafter "North Sea MAP").

This request specifically questioned the implementation of article 12.2 and the reference to the capacity ceiling set in ICES area 7d on the basis of the vessels that have been active in 2006 or 2007 using the gears listed under this article.

This letter aims at providing more clarity on the implementation of this capacity ceiling by the Member States which have vessels active in area 7d.

Belgium

The list of fishing autorisations issued on the basis of article 12 of the North Sea MAP has been uploaded on the official website¹ of Belgium authorities. This regime applies solely to vessels fishing for cod in area 7d.

In total 64 vessels have an autorisation for Cod VIId:

- . 58 vessels have an autorisation cod VIId, TBB
- . 5 vessels have an autorisation Cod VIId, OTB/SSC
- . 1 autorisation GNS/GTR

The autorisations are attributed on the basis of historical fishing activities.

The current total capacity expressed in kW of the vessels having a fishing authorization is lower than the maximum capacity of the vessels that have been active in 2006 or 2007.

¹ <https://lv.vlaanderen.be/nl/visserij/visserijbeleid/meerjarenplannen>

Netherlands

In accordance with Regulation (EC) 2008/1342 for the long-term plan for cod stocks, the Netherlands issued fishing authorisations for the area consisting of the areas 3a, 4 and 7 with a maximum capacity of 204.038 kW. After this Regulation has been repealed, the Netherlands still maintained the maximum capacity for this area in the national legislation. In line with Article 12, paragraph 2, the maximum capacity for area 7d has been specified further.

Specifically, the fishing authorisations referred to in Article 12, paragraph 2, for demersal fisheries in area 7d - the Channel authorisation - were issued on the basis of Article 8, paragraph 3, of Regulation (EC) No 2003/1954. The capacity ceiling for this fishery in this area is 19.250 kW.

In the Netherlands, Article 86a in conjunction with Article 98, paragraph 4, of the "Uitvoeringsregeling Zeevisserij" implements Article 12 of the North Sea MAP. Currently, the Netherlands has issued 21 fishing authorisations for area 7d with a total of 12.168 kW, therefore respecting the ceiling. Authorisations apply to demersal fisheries in 7d and are not limited to directed fishing for cod.

France

The "North Sea" European fishing authorization was created by the "arrêté" of December 28, 2012, creating European fishing authorizations for certain fisheries subject to a multi-annual management plan adopted by the European Union. It is granted to vessels wishing to operate in ICES area 4, irrespective of the gears used and the species fished.

Regarding article 12(2) of the North Sea MAP in 7d, the "East Channel demersal" authorization created by the "arrêté" of May 27, 2016 regulates the access of vessels to this area. This authorization reproduces the list of gears and mesh sizes provided for in Article 12 of the multiannual plan for the North Sea. It applies to all species caught and is not limited to cod.

In that regard, it duplicates in area 7d the mechanism of former article 10 of Regulation (EU) 1342/2008 of 18 December 2008 establishing a long-term plan for cod stocks and the fisheries exploiting those stocks and repealing Regulation (EC) No 423/2004.

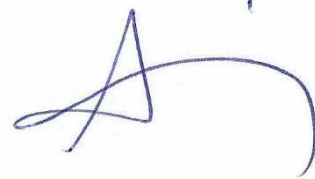
In accordance with Article 12(2) of the Regulation, a capacity ceiling of 115,723kW in total was set, i.e. the capacity of the French vessels operating in the area with these gears in 2006.

It is currently granted to 408 vessels, for a total capacity of 90,414kW.

The overall capacity of the French fleet deployed in the area therefore respects the ceilings in force.

We hope that this letter will clarify the implementation of this article and will respond to your questions.
Sincerely yours,

The Head of Directorate for sustainable
Sea fisheries and aquaculture



Aurélie DARPEIX VAN TONGEREN