



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels  
MARE.C.5/AS/SS/ac

Dear Mr Brouckaert,

Thank you for your letter from 9 March 2023 in which you share the North Western Waters Advisory Council (NWW AC) views on management of NWW piked dogfish (spurdog) fishery in 2023.

As you stated, Article 59(k) of the Fishing Opportunities Regulation mentions that the maximum size for piked dogfish should cease to apply on the date a delegated act introducing corresponding measures and regulating the treatment of catches of piked dogfish over 100 cm becomes applicable<sup>1</sup>.

The Commission is working on a draft delegated act to this end, in order to implement in the EU legislative framework the international obligation undertaken with the United Kingdom in the Written record of fisheries consultations for 2023<sup>2</sup>. For the time being the intention of the Commission is that the exemption from the landing obligation would apply only to catches above 100 cm, as this is what would be allowed with the legal basis of article 15(2) of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation 1380/2013<sup>3</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation (EU) 2023/194 of 30 January 2023 fixing for 2023 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, as well as fixing for 2023 and 2024 such fishing opportunities for certain deep-sea fish stocks, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32023R0194&from=EN>

<sup>2</sup> Written Record of fisheries consultations between the United Kingdom and the European Union for 2023: [EU-UK for 2023 \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32023R0194&from=EN).

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC,

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02013R1380-20230101&qid=1680002069601>

Mr E. Brouckaert  
NWWAC Chairman  
Crofton Road c/o BIM Dun Laoghaire  
Co. Dublin A96 E5A0  
IRELAND  
[emiel.brouckaert@rederscentrale.be](mailto:emiel.brouckaert@rederscentrale.be)

Commission européenne/Europese Commissie, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË - Tel. +32 22991111  
Office: J-99 05/014 - Tel. direct line +32 229-50483

[charlina.vitcheva@ec.europa.eu](mailto:charlina.vitcheva@ec.europa.eu)

We acknowledge your suggestion about a possible exemption based on high survivability and we are available to look into any relevant scientific evidence you might have on this subject. According to the information available to the Commission, the proportion of dead spurdog when taken aboard is low in longline fisheries, but higher in trawl and gillnet fisheries. Levels of discard survivability are unknown but likely variable. Against this background, and as required by the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), any proposal for a high survivability exemption should be supported by relevant scientific evidence, including as to the level of risk of discards that would be allowed under the said exemption and the impact on the status of the stock.

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact the functional mailbox for the Advisory Councils at [MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu](mailto:MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu).

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

c.c.: Mr Mathies  
[mo.mathies@nwwac.ie](mailto:mo.mathies@nwwac.ie);  
Mrs Vallerani  
[matilde.vallerani@nwwac.ie](mailto:matilde.vallerani@nwwac.ie);