



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

Dun Laoghaire, 6 June 2023

Dear Ms Vitcheva,

Subject: Joint special group on implementing the Marine Action Plan and monitoring its progress

The North Western Waters Advisory Council (NWWAC) recently established its Focus Group on the Common Fisheries Policy package, with the aim to prepare advice on the Commission's Communications on the EU Marine Action Plan [COM(2023) 102], e on the CFP [COM(2023) 103] and the related Staff Working Document [SWD(2023) 103/2].

Among the actions included in the Communication on the Marine Action Plan, the NWWAC notes that a new joint special group for Member States, with stakeholders as observers, is to be established to provide support to the Commission in implementing the Action Plan and monitoring its progress. The first meeting of this joint special group is planned for autumn 2023.

Given the relevance of the joint special group in the implementation of the Action Plan and in the advisory work of the NWWAC, we are seeking clarification on the procedure which would enable the AC to become observer in this group.

Furthermore, the Action Plan calls on Member States to prepare and publish roadmaps outlining measures needed to implement the Action Plan, including timelines for their submission and adoption, and proposals to improve coordination between national authorities and stakeholders. As explained in Section 7 of COM(2023) 102, *"in spring 2023, the Commission will provide to Member States a template and guidance to facilitate the preparation of the roadmaps."*

The NWWAC would appreciate if this template could be shared, as it would support and guide the preparation of advice by the NWWAC.

We thank you for your attention on these matters and look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Emiel Brouckaert
NWWAC Chair

