

## **BRIEFING NOTE TO CHANNEL WORKING GROUP OF THE NWWRAC**

### **Western Waters Effort for Scallops: The UK perspective**

**Author: Jim Portus - 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2012**

1. Since 2004, Member States have had a statutory obligation to control fishing effort targeting certain species in the sea areas known as Western Waters. The present regime follows the earlier one established in 1993. For the Member States concerned, there are annual Kw./days limits for demersal whitefish, crabs and scallops.
2. For ICES Area VII, the regime places a limit on the maximum annual fishing effort that may be exerted on trips targeting scallops by vessels 15 metres or over in length.
3. The regime requires Member States to “avoid alterations in the current balance in the areas and resources involved and to guarantee that the fishing effort deployed is in balance with available resources”.
4. The limit on maximum allowable fishing effort can be increased by transfers of additional effort among the EU member states, exchanging effort or quota. In 2009, 2010 and 2011 additional effort was transferred in to the UK to cover the effort used. Fish Quotas were exchanged.
5. It is widely anticipated that the present regime will be reviewed and renewed in 2013/14.
6. In 2011, the UK authorities closed the Area VII scallops fishery for the month of October. This caused disruption of the markets. For 2012 the industry wants a similar closure to be avoided.
7. For 2012, the UK industry, in co-operation with the government, has agreed to limit scallop dredging activity, initially to 45 days at sea in area VII per ¼. That limit repeated per ¼ through the year would allow the UK to stay within the basic effort maximum without the need for effort/ quota swaps.
8. We believe the authorities of the other Member States and their fishermen would like to repeat the swaps of effort for the quotas they obtained.
9. The UK scallop fishing industry has taken steps towards regulation of activity, including limiting the amount and size of scallop dredges allowed and now by limiting effort. However, for many of the scallopers there is no alternative fishing when the days are exhausted.
10. For them and for the market, it is important that additional effort is obtained from other Member States as in the last 3 years.
11. A proposal is tabled to close the VIId area to coincide with the French closed season. In exchange, UK would obtain effort from France. Quota swaps would also be used.