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WATERS
REGIONAL ADVISORY
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Dublin, 13th of February 2012

Subject: Data Deficiency Progress Report

Dear NWWRAC Data Coordinator

This note is to advise you that at each of the forthcoming Working Group meetings, on 28th February in CNPMEM HQ in Paris, all NWWRAC data coordinators will be invited to outline the progress that has been made in four main areas:

- Establishing a link and good lines of communication with the relevant stock assessment data coordinator in ICES;
- Identifying the particular type of data deficiency for their stock(s);
- Identifying the groups whose responsibility it is to resolve the data issue concerned (scientist, member state, fishing sector);
- If possible and where this is the fishing industry's responsibility, to suggest practical ways through which the data deficiency might be resolved and what initiatives might be undertaken by the RAC in this respect.

You may wish to know that at the annual Meeting between ICES and the RACs (MIRAC) meeting in The Hague on 23rd January, ICES agreed to convene a meeting in late spring or early summer to assess progress made and take stock of how the data deficiency work with the RACs is progressing.

It is also worthy of note that at the EC Seminar on the State of the Stocks, held in Brussels the 8th September 2011, this work was commended by the Director General of Fisheries, Ms. Evans, and that the South Western Waters RAC has announced its intention to launch a similar initiative.

To assist with assessing and communicating progress we have prepared a pro-forma which you may find useful.

I look forward to meeting you in the NWWRAC meetings in Paris.

Yours sincerely,

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NWWRAC Chairman

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