



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels, 06 JUN 2012  
MARE C2/rg Ares(2012)668634

Mr Bertie Armstrong  
NWWRAC Chairman  
Bord Iascaigh Mhara  
Crofton Road, Dun Laoghaire  
Co Dublin  
Ireland

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Thank you for your timely response to the amendment of Council Regulation EC (No) 1342/2008, the Cod Plan. You have reinforced a number of comments made during the workshop of 20 March and I appreciate that the RAC have addressed this as a matter of some urgency.

The aim of this amendment would be to introduce a number of improvements to the Cod Plan to clarify the plan, to address some of the uncertainties, making the plan more implementable for Member States and to improve its effectiveness. The basis for a new cod plan needs to be carefully approached to ensure that the identified failings of the current Plan are removed.

You have identified a number of Articles to be addressed, including addressing the automatic TAC reductions when there is uncertainty in the assessment of particular stocks, the implementation of an easier exemption process under Article 11, the freezing of effort at current levels, clarification on the use of Article 13 and its reliance on fishing mortality and lastly the transfer of effort between the current gear groups.

These points provide useful input for the preparation of our proposal in developing our amendments we will ensure that the aim of the cod plan is maintained. There should be a mechanism to reduce cod mortality and to encourage Member States and fishermen to participate in cod avoidance.

The Commission will propose amendments of the plan in due course.

Yours sincerely,



  
Lowri EVANS