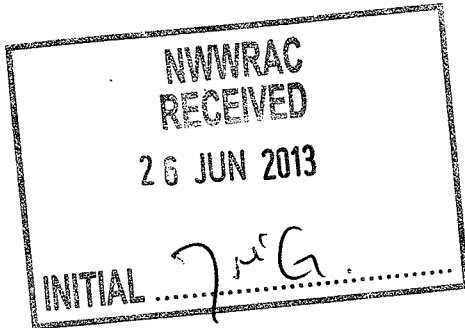




EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels, 13 JUN 2013  
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**North Western Waters RAC**  
Bertie Armstrong (Chair of the Exec. Committee)  
BIM, PO Box 12  
Crofton Road,  
Dun Laoghaire  
Co. Dublin  
Ireland

**Subject: Recommendation for improving the implementation of the Cod Management Plan**

*Yr reference: Email dated 10 April 2013*

Dear Mr Armstrong,

Thank you for the NWWRAC opinion on how to improve the implementation of the Cod Management Plan.

As you indicate in your letter, the Commission has already made a proposal to amend the current cod management plan, and this process is now well advanced between the two co-legislators. You have identified that you have provided this paper with the intention of producing an alternative interpretation of the current cod plan in the short term. It appears that some of your suggestions are not limited to interpretation and would require amendment of the regulation in force.

You will find below a more detailed response on each article of the EC Regulation No. 1342/2008 discussed in your recommendation.

Article 13: The amendments proposed by the Commission have not been opposed by the co-legislators.

Article 16(3) and Article 17(2): Your proposed change to Article 16 (3), the removal of the year 2009, would allow for the transfer of fishing effort and capacity between geographical areas. Given that target mortality objectives are set on a stock basis, it is important that such transfers do not result in any increase in cod mortality, nor in the reduction of incentive to reduce cod avoidance measures in one area, penalising other

areas where effective measures are already in place. In any case, until Article 16(3) of the cod management plan is amended, transfers of effort and capacity between areas are not possible.

Article 17(4): Fleets can currently utilise different mesh sizes, based on the current technical measures framework, to reduce their impact on cod stocks. This can be accommodated to an extent within the current plan by utilising additional effort allocation under Article 13 while developing the data to allow for the use of a non-standard CPUE for calculating the transfer. It is not possible to set the current legal requirements aside.

Article 17(5): The correction factors are publicly available on the STECF webpage.<sup>1</sup> The standard correction factors are based on the catch and effort data provided by the Member States and only for cases where there is sufficient catch data. Member States can already request and apply non-standard correction factors for particular gear groups on the basis of evidence submitted to the Commission.

Thank you for your continued interest and constructive input. If you have any question on this reply, you can contact Ms Evangelia Georgitsi, coordinator of the Regional Advisory Councils ([evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu](mailto:evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu); +32.2.295.04.43).

Yours sincerely,



Lowri Evans

Copies: F. Candella Castillo, R. Griffin, I. Jepsena, Goldmanis E., E. Bianchi, O. Baudelet, E. Georgitsi (DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries)

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<sup>1</sup> [http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/364146/12-07\\_STECF+12-13+-+Management+plans+II+-+cod+plans\\_JRC73149.pdf](http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/364146/12-07_STECF+12-13+-+Management+plans+II+-+cod+plans_JRC73149.pdf).