



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels, 29.06.2009 D 07504  
D(2009)

Mr. Alexandre Rodriguez  
NWWRAC Secretariat  
Bord Iscaigh Mhara - Irish Sea  
Fisheries Board  
Crofton Road  
Dun Laoghaire  
Co Dublin  
Ireland

**Subject: Discards in the Nephrops Fishery in Area VII**

Dear Mr Rodríguez

Thank you for sending me the NWWRAC's opinion on reducing discards in the Nephrops fisheries in Area VII.

Commissioner Borg announced in his speech on 25<sup>th</sup> May<sup>1</sup> that he now considers that the idea of interim discard reduction targets was not ambitious enough. Rather, discards must be eliminated, and in the shortest practical time-frame.

The Commission has not yet proposed specific measures for reducing discards in western waters, though measures such as a high-grading ban, real-time closures and quarterly targets for quota uptake – accompanied by a obligation to use more selective gear once those targets have been met – have been put in place in the North Sea and in the eastern English Channel. In the near future, the discard reduction measures adopted for the North Sea should soon be extended to other waters, including the high-grading ban. In addition to these measures, industry-led initiatives to further reduce discards by other measures would of course be very valuable.

With that context, I am pleased to see that the NWWRAC proposes to take the initiative to hold a meeting to review knowledge about discards in Area VII and identify practical

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press\\_corner/speeches/archives/speeches\\_2009/speech09\\_11\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press_corner/speeches/archives/speeches_2009/speech09_11_en.htm)

solutions for discard reduction. I think this a good idea, and will instruct my services to ensure attendance from our side.

I look forward to hearing about the details of the meeting in due course.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fokion Fotiadis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fokion Fotiadis