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European Commission J99
Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
DGMARE/A2 – Common Fisheries Policy and Aquaculture
B-1049 Brussels

Subject: Request for Advice to ICES on Management measures for Porbeagle and Spurdog

Dublin, 4th of September 2013

Dear Director General Evans,

It is noted by the NWWRAC that the current zero TAC for Spurdog and Porbeagle stocks leads to discarding of incidental by-catch.

In the context of the forthcoming landing obligation ("*discards ban*"), the NWWRAC would like the Commission to submit a request for advice to ICES containing the following two questions:

1. Could provisions be made to land incidental and unintended by-catch of spurdog and porbeagle, whilst preventing targeting of the species?
2. Would management measures including *inter alia* small by-catch quota, maximum landing size, closed areas, and closed seasons may offer an alternative to the current arrangements, and if so, could they specifically recommend what measure(s) could be used?

We hope you consider this request and submit this request for advice to ICES through the necessary procedure established in the Memorandum of Understanding between Commission and ICES for 2013.

Yours sincerely,

Bertie Armstrong
NWWRAC Chairman