



Paris, the 8th of April 2011,

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**MM. Members of the NWWRAC
NWWRAC Secretariat
C/O Board Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)
P.O. Box 12, Crofton Road
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin, Ireland**

Object : Willingness of the industry to enhance management of crab fisheries

Dear Members,

The supply of brown crab in Europe is mainly provided by the United Kingdom and Ireland, to a lesser extent by Norway and France. Since several years, there has been an expansion of brown crab landings, leading to heavy exploitation of some stocks and ongoing market difficulties.

In 2009, brown crab fishing fleets of the European Union have met serious economic difficulties and many vessels have ceased to be economically viable. The main causes of the problem were identified as: overproduction (especially during the summer months), competition from other often cheaper imported species, currency fluctuation and global recession. In order to address one part of the problem, delegates of brown crab vivier producers from Ireland, England, Scotland and France have met several times in early 2010 (28th of January in Paris, 8th of February in Edinburgh, 18th of March in Paris and 16th of April in London). This transnational group proposed several actions including: controlling the supply by voluntarily reducing crab landings during summer months and putting in place collective promotion actions.

The 6th of April 2011, the transnational group met again in Cherbourg (France), to make an update on the brown crab industry situation. They agreed on the fact that immediate actions taken in 2010 turned out to be benefit for the industry since the market situation was much better this year than previous ones. Even if these actions reach this year's objectives, they know that the situation will be rather precariously balanced. Indeed, most of the participants agreed on the fact that improving management to cap the crab fishing effort should be the first step to ensure a viable fishery and market in the long-term.

Given that a focus on this issue is settled to the next meeting of the WG 3 (Channel) in Bilbao, I take this opportunity to let you know that fishing industries delegations from United Kingdom, Ireland and France¹ which met the 6th of April reaffirm their willingness to enhance

¹ Killybegs fishermen organization (Irl), Jersey fishermen association, South Devon & Channel Shellfishermen, South West Fish Producers Organisation Ltd (UK), CNP MEM, CLP MEM Nord-Finistère, CRP MEM Bretagne, CLP MEM Nord Cotentin, CRP MEM Basse-Normandie (Fr).

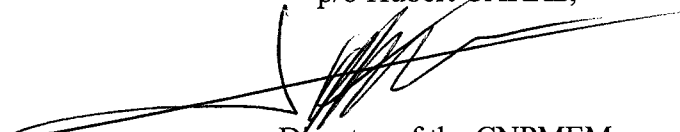
capping fishing effort on crab fisheries with industry-lead initiatives and call upon the support of their Administrations to achieve this, such as the French management system of crustacean fisheries does.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention on the transnational crab project which will be presented by Bord Iascaigh Mhara (Irlande) within the framework of the Atlantic Area Programme, which aims to ensure and sustain the economic viability of the European brown crab industry through transnational co-operation (*see attached, for circulating through the NWW RAC members*). The transnational group created in 2010 is seeking your support for this project, which will permit to develop a stronger network to promote effective marketing and long-term socio-economic viability for the sector.

Yours faithfully,

Jean-Jacques TANGUY,
President of the Crustaceans Commission of the CNPMM

p/o Hubert CARRE,



Director of the CNPMM.

