



Ms. Charlina Vitcheva
Director-General for
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE)
European Commission
Rue Josef II 99
1000 Brussels
Belgium

Dun Laoghaire, 27 August 2021

Subject: Technical measures in EU and UK waters

Dear Ms Vitcheva,

The North Western Waters Advisory Council acknowledges that DG MARE has been working on a Delegated Act including Technical Measures and a Discard Plan for the North Western Waters that will be in place until the end of 2022. Once the Delegated Act comes into force, a further step will be a discussion on the topic with the UK under the Specialised Committee on Fisheries, as foreseen by the Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

At the same time, the NWWAC is aware that the UK will implement new technical measures as of September this year and that the Commission already provided feedback on those, after having consulted the relevant Member States. This is an urgent matter for the NWWAC, as having different measures to comply with when crossing the border between EU and UK waters represents a great concern and difficulty for fishers. Thus, the NWWAC urges the Commission to ensure that measures between EU and UK waters are as cohesive and harmonised as possible.

Another UK measure requiring attention in this respect is reportedly becoming active as of October. The NWWAC trusts that also relevant clarification is requested by the Commission concerning the Extension of Single Area Licensing Conditions for beam trawlers in part of ICES-area 7e.

In case different measures are in place, the NWWAC seeks clarity on the procedure to follow when a vessel is crossing the line between EU and UK waters. We trust that this will be addressed as a matter of priority in the Specialised Committee on Fisheries and that an effective solution will be agreed.





As advised earlier, the NWWAC stand ready to contribute to the work of the Specialised Committee on Fisheries on the topics in the AC's remit.

Thank you for your attention on these matters. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Emiel Brouckaert
NWWAC Chairman

