



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE.C5/ac/JB

Subject: Reply to NWWAC/NSAC advice on skates and rays management

Dear Ms Philippe,
Dear Mr Fischer,

I would like to thank the NWWAC and NSAC for their joint advice on the management of skates and rays (ref. NSAC reference: 21-2425). The Commission greatly values the continued engagement of both Advisory Councils and their members in providing constructive, evidence-based input on this complex issue.

Your submission builds effectively on the outcomes of the stakeholder workshop of 2 September 2025, offering valuable insights for the ongoing policy discussions. The focus on identifying candidate species for separate management, based on biological vulnerability and data availability, will be particularly useful in our efforts to enhance conservation outcomes while ensuring sustainable fisheries.

Your reflections on the refinement of the current group TAC system and your call for a gradual and cautious approach are well noted. This input will inform our consideration of how best to align management units with stock assessments, while maintaining close dialogue with stakeholders.

The Commission looks forward to continuing its constructive cooperation with both Advisory Councils as we assess future management options for skates and rays and pursue discussions with the United Kingdom. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Mr Jurgen Batsleer (Jurgen.Batsleer@ec.europa.eu) or Ms Julia Rubeck, our Advisory Councils coordinator, via the functional mailbox MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina Vitcheva

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