



MINISTRY FOR ECOLOGY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY

La Défense, 24 March 2014

*Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture*

*Sub-directorate of Fish Resources*

Our ref. : 006553

Your ref.:

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**Mr. President of the Executive Committee of the  
North Western Waters RAC**

NWWRAC Secretary, C/O Board Iascaigh Mhara,  
P.O. Box 12, Crofton Road,  
Dun Laoghaire,  
Co. Dublin, Ireland

**Subject:** Plan for eliminating discards in the sprat fishery, application to the North-Western Waters

**Attachment:** none

Dear Mr President,

Within the application framework of article 18 (regionalisation) of regulation no. 1380/2013, 11 December 2013, related to the common fisheries policy, in the months of February and March 2014, I have served as president of the group of EU Member States interested in the north-western waters.

The subject of landing obligation foreseen by article 15 of the same regulation, applicable to pelagic fisheries, that will enter into force on 1 January 2015, is logically one of the priority topics of this group.

With a view to applying this obligation in the most realistic manner possible, and in agreement with the spirit of article 18, paragraph 2 of (EU) Regulation number 1380/2013, in my opinion it is desirable to reconcile all the data that can be provided by the partners interested in exploiting the relative fish stock.

Insofar as the "Pelagic" advisory council does not address the topics related to sprat fishing, I would be grateful if you could send me any element that will permit drawing up a draft management plan for the discards, applicable to sprat fishing in the north-western waters (relevance and requirements to access the different types of possible exemptions,...) and more specifically in the Channel.

If these data could be transmitted before the end of April 2014, this would be consistent with a particularly binding timetable (aim to submit the draft plan for the elimination of discards to the European Commission prior to 1 June 2014, which is the date established by the European Committee).

I am sure that I can count on your involvement in this delicate matter and I remain at your disposal,

Yours faithfully,

*The Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture*

*Cecile BIGOT*

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