

Ms Charlina Vitcheva
Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
European Commission
Jozef II-straat 99
1000 Brussels
Belgium

Dun Laoghaire, 28 April 2023

Dear Ms Vitcheva,

Subject: Catch reporting for shore-based netting activities

The North Western Waters Advisory Council (NWWAC) would like to follow up on a specific point raised in the 2021 NWWAC/NSAC joint advice on seabass management¹ related to catch reporting for commercial shore netting.

More precisely, the ACs were asking for confirmation that both the EU and the UK would introduce catch reporting for shore-based netting activities, as stated under point 13 f) ii) of the “Written record of fisheries consultations between the United Kingdom and the European Union for 2021”.

Indeed, some NWWAC and NSAC members had received feedback from UK sea anglers that the Welsh government had stated that it would not introduce catch reporting for landings of seabass by commercial shore netters in Wales, despite the commitment given during the EU-UK negotiations. The Welsh Government intended to rely on the existing “Registered Buyers and Sellers” scheme. However, no landing data is available for Welsh shore netting since 2015, indicating that the “Registered Buyers and Sellers” scheme is not effective for collecting data for shore netting.

Therefore, the ACs put forward a request that the matter would be raised in the Specialised Committee on Fisheries (SCF).

We would appreciate if you could confirm that this issue has been considered in the SCF and should be grateful for an update on the matter.

We thank you for your attention and remain at your disposal to elaborate on this request should this be necessary.

Yours sincerely,



Emiel Brouckaert
NWWAC Chairman

¹ [Joint NWWAC/NSAC recommendations on management measures for seabass for 2022](#)