



15th of April 2009

THE NORTH WESTERN WATERS REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETS IN PARIS TO DEBATE KEY CHALLENGES TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN EUROPE

The North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council (NWWRAC) will hold its next Executive Committee meeting in Paris the 21st of April where a number of key issues such as the review of the Common Fisheries Policy, the reform of the control policy or the marine spatial planning will be discussed with representatives of the EU Commission, national administrations from the Member States and the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES)

Furthermore, a number of own initiatives are expected to be put forward to improve management of stocks such as West of Scotland haddock, nephrops in VII, scallops in the Channel and Celtic Sea cod.

The NWWRAC is the principal stakeholder group, incorporating representatives from the fishing industry and environmental Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's), consumers and other interested parties. The NWWRAC is consulted by the EU Commission and ICES on all matters relevant to the North West Waters, and it is expected that there will be lively debate at this meeting.

The Chairman of the NWWRAC, Sam Lambourn, stated that he is looking forward to the meeting and hopes that it will help deliver on a number of issues in particular an agreed way forward on a response to the Commission's proposed reform of Control and Enforcement: *"This policy is very important to the fishing industry as it could have very serious ramifications; the RACs need to provide advice now which will ensure practical and fair implementation of this policy,"* he said.

Mr. Lambourn is also anticipating an update on where the Commission are at with the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), adding: *"I hope, by the time the meeting is held, that the Commission will have issued its proposals for the reform of the CFP so that we can kick-off our discussions on this matter."*

The meeting will commence at 10am and will run until 5pm on 21st April in the CNPMM headquarters in Paris and all stakeholders with an interest in fisheries management in area VI and VII are welcome to attend. All relevant information for the meeting can be obtained by contacting the NWWRAC Secretariat at nwwrac@bim.ie or visiting www.nwwrac.org

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NOTE TO EDITOR - BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The NWWRAC was established by the EU Commission in September 2005 to advise on EU Policy for Fisheries Management and is one of seven RACs which have been set out in EU legislation. It has 57 full members which include fishing organizations from across Ireland, UK, France, Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands, as well as environmental and other interest groups and approximately 100 active observers including scientists and Member States' representatives. The NWWRAC Secretariat is based in Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), the Irish Sea Fisheries Board in Dublin.

The NWWRAC is the principal stakeholder group which is consulted by the EU Commission and the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) on a regular basis on all matters related to fishing in the adjacent waters to Ireland (ICES areas VI and VII).

Essentially, the NWWRAC is an open forum for the fishing industry and environmental NGOs, consumers and other interested parties to come together to discuss, debate and develop proposals and opinions agreed by consensus on EU fisheries related management issues. Meetings are held 10-12 times a year to discuss a wide variety of horizontal and regional issues within its scope of action.

The European Commission has recently acknowledged that the 'RACs have delivered better access to information and better understanding of decisions taken at European level. In addition, they have also helped create regional networks where experiences and ideas circulate more readily'

CONTACT DETAILS

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