



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES  
ATLANTIC, OUTERMOST REGIONS AND ARCTIC  
FISHERIES CONSERVATION AND CONTROL ATLANTIC AND OUTERMOST REGIONS

Brussels,


To  
The Advisory Committee on  
Fisheries and Aquaculture and  
the Regional Advisory Councils for  
North Sea, North-Western Waters  
and South-Western Waters

**Subject : Fishing Opportunities for Deep Sea Species 2011 and 2012**

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed an information and consultation document concerning fishing opportunities for Deep Sea Species 2011 and 2012.

Yours sincerely,



Fuensanta CANDELA CASTILLO  
Head of Unit

Annexe : Information and consultation document fishing opportunities for deep sea species 2011 and 2012

**Information and consultation document<sup>1</sup>**

Addressed to the  
Advisory Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture  
and to the  
Regional Advisory Councils for North Sea, North-Western Waters and South-Western Waters

**Fishing Opportunities for Deep Sea Species 2011 and 2012**

The Commission intends to propose a Council regulation for fishing opportunities for certain deep-sea species for 2011 and 2012. The Council regulation is planned for adoption (political compromise) in November 2010, based on a proposal that the Commission plans to adopt at the end of September 2010.

In case that ACFA or RACs want to comment on this paper, please do so **by end of August 2010**. The consultation period is shorter than by standard, but this is forced by the short time available between scientific advice (draft STECF advice available only since July 19) and the adoption of the legislative proposal (end of September).

**Context**

Fishing for deep-sea species is regulated by the European Union since 2003 in terms of total allowable catches (TACs) per species and area, and in terms of maximum fishing effort deployable in the North-East Atlantic. For 2009 and 2010 the total allowable catches of certain deep sea species were established in Council Regulation (EC) No 1359/2008 of 28 November 2008 fixing for 2009 and 2010 the fishing opportunities for Community fishing vessels for certain deep-sea fish stocks<sup>2</sup>.

**Scientific advice**

ICES provided advice in June 2010, and STECF in July 2010. For deep-sea sharks, advice will be available, according to planning, in early October. For these species, the Commission intends to base its proposal on last year's advice and would suggest modifications, if necessary in view of the forthcoming advice, in a later state of the legislative procedure.

**Use of the advice for drafting the proposal**

As regards catch limitations, the Commission intends to use its Communication on the Consultation on Fishing Opportunities for 2011 (COM(2010)241final) as the link between scientific advice and proposed fishing opportunities. Stakeholders were consulted on this document. In accordance with this Communication, deep-sea stocks fall into advice categories established for data-poor situations. In particular, where advice is inconclusive, the TACs should be reduced towards recent real catch limits. The resulting new TAC levels will be

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<sup>1</sup> This non-paper was drafted by Commission services in order to facilitate discussion with stakeholders before the European Commission will launch a proposal for legislation. It does in no way commit the European Commission.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 352, 31.12.2008, p. 1.

calculated using the catch figures reported by Member States to the Commission from 2007 to 2009.

A summary table analysing the situation stock by stock is to be found at the bottom of this paper.

## **Other developments**

### *Orange roughy zone*

For orange roughy, scientific bodies advise that there should be no fishing in any of the TAC areas. The protection areas for orange roughy in ICES Divisions VI and VII which were introduced in Council Regulation (EC) No 2270/2004 are no longer adequate as a modality of the catch limits for orange roughy, in view of the fact that no orange roughy should be caught from any area. However, there is a need to prevent orange roughy being fished and later discarded as a by-catch of other species that might be targeted in the areas in which aggregations of orange roughy are known to occur. DG MARE is currently exploring whether it would be possible to allow fishing for other species in those areas, but to oblige the vessel to leave the area when a certain amount of orange roughy has been hauled on board which will then be discarded.

### *TAC area changes*

Changes to the TAC areas for roundnose grenadier and blue ling should be proposed in accordance with the scientific recommendation to align TAC areas with assessment units, so that management decisions can more easily reflect scientific recommendations. In particular, the main TAC for blue ling, which will be decided not in the November regulation, but in the annual (December) regulation, should be extended by the areas: EC waters of ICES division Vb and waters of ICES division XIIIb. On this point, the NWW RAC was consulted orally during its July meeting and therefore no further comments are expected.

Concerning roundnose grenadier, it is envisaged to merge the two existing TACs for the main fishery on the Hatton Bank (VIb and XIIIb) into one large TAC, and keep a residual TAC for other areas where low catches are reported.

## Summary table stock by stock

This summary table reflects assessment as of 19.07.2010 (draft STECF advice) and is subject to change. A reduction indicated under "TAC 2011 TAC 2012" means a reduction up to minus 15%, referring to the year before. If not indicated otherwise, the reductions are meant to move the TAC towards recent real catch levels.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Area for advice</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>TACs 2011 and 2012</i>	<i>Comment</i>
DS sharks	All areas	10/11	Unchanged but without by-catch allowance	3 TAC areas.
Black scabbard	I-IV, X, XIV, IIIa, Va	11	Two reductions	TAC covers areas I-IV. In order to avoid quotas in decimal number, possibly one reduction only
	VI, VII, Vb, XIIb	6	Two reductions	TAC covers full area XII. Reductions to move towards MSY in a situation of depletion to low levels
	VIII, IX	6	Unchanged	TAC covers in addition area X.
	CECAF 34.1.2 (Madeira)	11	One reduction	
Alfonsinos	All areas	11	One reduction	
Roundnose grenadier	I, II, IV, Va2, VIII, IX, XIVa, XIVb2	11	Two reductions	
	IIIa	6	Unchanged	
	VI, VII, Vb, XIIb	6	Two reductions	The changes refer to a rearranged TAC area covering Vb, VI, VII, XIIb. Reductions to achieve precautionary catch levels
Orange roughy	All areas	10	Unchanged	3 TAC areas
Blue ling <sup>3</sup>	IIIa, IVa, I, II, VIII, IX, XII	11	Unchanged	TAC for new area II, IV.
	III	11	Two reductions	
Red seabream	VI, VII, VIII	11	Unchanged	
	IX	6	Unchanged	
	X	6	Unchanged	
Forkbeards	I-IV	11	Two reductions	The advice is given for all areas combined
	V-VII	11	Unchanged	
	VIII, IX	11	Unchanged	
	X, XII	11	Two reductions	

<sup>3</sup> Main TAC will be fixed in December regulation.