

JOINT RAC PROPOSAL FOR DEDICATED MEETING ON DEEP SEA SPECIES STOCKS' DATA.

The debates which took place the last 16th and 17th of June during the NWW, SWW and North Sea RAC joint meeting in Lisbon, showed that scientists and fishermen and NGOs continue to have different perceptions from the situation of the deep sea species stocks.

One reason is the different evolution of commercial catches and outputs, which remain being the main indexes of abundance on which are based the scientific advices for these species.

Also, it appeared that the data detained by companies and organizations from fishing industry on deep sea species fisheries are potentially much richer and more complete that those used by the scientists entrusted with the evaluation of these stocks.

The NWW RAC, the SWW RAC and the North Sea RAC thus estimate that it is necessary to organize a technical workshop implying fishermen, NGO and other groups of interest representatives and scientists in order to join forces, share observations and elaborate joint reports aiming to reflect more accurately the current state of the deep sea stocks. On that seminar:

- It would be examined in detail and in a critical way the catch data currently used to carry out the evaluations, and their statistical treatment;
- It would be precisely inventoried all the available data detained by the fisheries sector, or which could be collected on board commercial vessels, and which would be useful to improve the reliability of the evaluations;

According to the RACs concerned, this workshop should associate the relevant scientists from ICES working groups involved in deep seas species, as well as their colleagues working on the same subject at STECF, and finally those scientists taking part in CECAF given the wide scope of the distribution areas for certain deep sea species.

The NWW RAC, the SWW RAC and the North Sea RAC would ask the Commission to take the initiative to organize such workshop as soon as possible.

