



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

DIRECTOR GENERAL

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16 JAN 2009

South western Watters RAC  
North Western Watters RAC  
North Sea RAC

Subject: Dedicated meeting on data for stocks of deep-sea species

Dear Messrs Badiola, Lambourm and Anderson,

Thank you for your joint letter of 16 September 2008. We welcome your proposal for a workshop on deep-sea data with the scientists concerned from ICES and CECAF, fishermen, NGOs and other groups interested in the evaluation of these stocks.

It is in the interest of fishermen, scientists and decision-makers to improve the quality of stock assessment. Data contributed by the sector may be of great use to scientists, provided that it is collected and processed in accordance with appropriate terms of reference.

The Commission is not directly involved in the collection of data and the preparation of scientific advice. However, we support any initiative to improve stock assessment. In the last Memorandum of Understanding signed between the European Community and ICES (2007), we insisted on the need for ICES to involve stakeholders in data collection and data quality evaluation. To that end, ICES decided to set up a number of data workshops. Your proposal works along the same lines.

As you know, scientific recommendations for deep-sea fisheries are issued every two years. This means that the next batch will be delivered in spring 2010. I would suggest you discuss with ICES arrangements to gather together all interested parties this year, before the ICES ad hoc working group launches its formal request for data.

My services have informed ICES of your request. The MIRAC meeting in Copenhagen on 26 and 27 January should provide an excellent opportunity for you to discuss these arrangements with your ICES counterparts. We would encourage you to seize this opportunity. My services will also be attending and will be pleased to assist this process as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Fokion Fotiadis