



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR FISHERIES AND MARITIME AFFAIRS

Director-General

Brussels, 28.01.2008 D 00880  
D(2008)

Mr. Hugo Andersson  
The North Sea Regional Advisory  
Council  
NSRAC Secretariat  
Woodhill House  
Westburn Road  
Aberdeen AB16 5GB  
Grande Bretagne

Dear Mr. Andersson,

**Subject: Long-Term Management of sole and plaice**

Thank you for your request to prioritise the STECF work concerning the social and economic impact assessment of the plaice and sole long-term plan. As you know, economic impact analysis is a new area of work in relation to the preparation of proposals for Community legislation, and some methodological issues have to be addressed. This will unavoidably take some time. I will explain the approach that has been decided in consultation between STECF and the Commission services.

The Commission asked STECF to begin work on an impact assessment in 2006, and a meeting was held in September of that year. Following the report of that meeting, the STECF plenary made a number of recommendations for improving the methodology. During 2007, methodological development continued, but this time in the context of the economic evaluation of long-term management options for northern hake.

In 2007 the impact assessment methodology for the flatfish plan will be further developed. In the April 2008 plenary meeting of STECF will propose methodological improvements. There will be an opportunity for intersessional work, and then in June 2008 the workplan for the definitive assessment will be decided. This is to be completed at a new working group which is planned for October 2008.

Of course, we would encourage stakeholders to participate in the process as observers. I would also encourage you to comment in writing on the relevant parts of the report of the STECF meeting in April. This input could then be taken into account by STECF in June. Finally, the October 2008 meeting will, subject to the approval of the chair, be open to the participation of observers.

Further details of the meeting arrangements and the reports of previous meetings can be found at [fishnet.jrc.it/web/stecf](http://fishnet.jrc.it/web/stecf).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reinhard Priebe', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Reinhard PRIEBE

cc. MM Biagi, STECF Secretariat (DG JRC, Ispra).