



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR FISHERIES AND MARITIME AFFAIRS

Conservation Policy

Brussels, 6 June 2007

D(2007) *6134

Mr Svend Erik Andersen
North Sea RAC
Woodhill House
Westburn Road
Aberdeen AB16 5GB
Scotland

Subject: Effort Management Scheme for the Kattegat

Dear Mr. Andersen,

Thank you very much for your letter with the concerns that the NSRAC Skagerrak and Kattegat WG has regarding the effort management scheme for the Kattegat. The Commission is extremely interested in discussing any proposals and suggestions from the RAC meetings, and specifically that allow for the effort scheme to be in place by 1 January 2008.

Regarding the fact of considering the Kattegat effort management scheme in a wider context, the Commission understands that only 7% of the catch in value corresponds to cod. However, cod is under extreme fishing pressure and in need of urgent protection. An exclusion of the concerns regarding the state of the cod stock in the Kattegat effort scheme might open a precedent for other management schemes to sacrifice other species (and in other areas) in the future. Consequently, the Commission cannot endorse this position, and thus the state of cod stocks will be taken into consideration in the effort management plan.

One of the main objectives of the Kattegat effort management scheme is its flexibility that provides a base for recovering cod, while achieving the reference effort levels already agreed under the overall objectives of the management plan.

The combination of this flexible system with the need to protect cod will allow for the distribution of effort throughout the year, with a minimum effort allocated to the first quarter of the year, in accordance with the latest scientific advice (STECF). Although this allocation of effort is only one of possible measures, a reduction of effort in the first quarter of the year is always envisaged in the management scheme.

Finally, the Commission will participate in the upcoming meeting of the Skagerrak and Kattegat WG of the NSRAC on the 7 June.

Reinhard PRIEBE
Director
(signed)