

The North Sea Regional Advisory Council

NSRAC Secretariat
Woodhill House
Westburn Road
Aberdeen AB16 5GB
Scotland



NSRAC

In the time now available to us in 2007 it does not seem sensible to continue discussions aiming at the introduction of the scheme 01 January 2008. There is no time left for the difficult task of implementing the scheme in the member states concerned. One more year has passed without our making progress with this scheme which was decided by consensus within the NSRAC.

The NSRAC is disappointed in the way this proposal has been handled by the Commission. It is most certainly the NSRAC's opinion that the proposal so far is the most constructive in finding solutions to the problems with discards. Furthermore, the NSRAC's opinion is that there have been some serious misunderstandings as to the content of the proposal.

However, the NSRAC is still open to further discussions as to finding improvements and new methods in the management of the fishery. It is still our belief that the NSRAC proposal is the way forward.

Kind regards



Hugo Andersson
NSRAC Chairman

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Secretary – **Ann Bell**, tel: +44 (0) 1224 665341, email: ann.bell@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

NSRAC is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland No 273169
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NSRAC

Commissioner Joe Borg
DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs
99 Rue Joseph II
B 1049 Brussels
Belgium

18 October 2007

Dear Mr Borg,

The proposal from the NSRAC on an Effort Management Scheme for the Kattegat

Thank you for the letter from your services in DG Fish of 06 September 2007 with the Commission's views on the proposal from the NSRAC on an effort management scheme for the Kattegat.

In 2005 the NSRAC presented a proposal to the Commission on how and why it was desirable and necessary to seek a new management regime. The proposal consisted of ideas on how to establish an effort management scheme for the assessed appropriate area: the Kattegat, where mainly two member states have important fishing interests. Several meetings (in the NSRAC, its Working Group for the Skagerrak/Kattegat and in Denmark and Sweden) have been held on the topic, resulting in a letter containing the Working Group's views on how to proceed before establishing the scheme. The letter was sent from the NSRAC's Skagerrak/Kattegat Working Group to Mr Priebe on 05 June 2007.

The NSRAC was surprised and disappointed by the content of the reply from the Commission of 06 September 2007. There were three reasons for our disappointment:

- i) the reasoning on the level of effort to be deployed the first quarter;
- ii) the proposal for a shadow-TAC implied that there is no trust in the proposal; and
- iii) the request to the NSRAC from the Commission to be more ambitious in future proposals regarding the reduction of discards.

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