

Ms Charlina Vitcheva
Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
European Commission
Jozef II-straat 99
1000 Brussels
Belgium

Dun Laoghaire, 28 June 2024

Subject: MRAG/Deloitte questionnaire supporting the evaluation of the Landing Obligation

Dear Ms Vitcheva,

The North Western Waters Advisory Council would like to express concern regarding the relevance of a questionnaire prepared by MRAG and Deloitte as part of a project funded by the European Commission to evaluate the landing obligation.

The NWWAC has prepared a response to the questionnaire, which was submitted on 28 June 2024. However, during the elaboration of such response, concerns emerged about the suitability and relevance of this questionnaire for ACs. Specifically, the structure and content of the questions do not adequately allow reflection of the multi-faceted membership of the ACs.

Over the years, the NWWAC has provided multiple submissions on the topic of the landing obligation. We presume these will be taken in consideration in this project. These submissions have been the result of extensive consultations with the AC members and reflect their broad spectrum of expertise and practical experience. Unfortunately, the format of the current questionnaire does not seem relevant nor targeted to capture the depth and breadth of the input ACs can provide.

We are hopeful that a more tailored approach will follow, which as part of this evaluation exercise will provide an opportunity for qualitative feedback. Such an approach would enable the NWWAC to offer more nuanced and detailed advice, considering regional specificities and the diversity of the fisheries under our remit. This would ultimately benefit the assessment and future policy formulation regarding the landing obligation.

We are, as always, ready and willing to provide further detailed input and to collaborate on creating more effective means of gathering the necessary information and relevant data.



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North Western Waters Advisory Council
c/o Bord Iascaigh Mhara
Crofton Road
Dun Laoghaire, Ireland

Tel: +353 1 2144 143
E-mail: info@nwwac.ie
Web: www.nwwac.org
Co. Reg. No: 403877



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Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response and to continued collaboration.

Best regards,

Emiel Brouckaert
NWWAC Chair



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Tel: +353 1 2144 143
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Web: www.nwwac.org
Co. Reg. No: 403877