



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels,
A2/EG/LM/D(2015)

North Western Waters AC
Bertie Armstrong
Chair of the Executive Committee
BIM, PO Box 12
Crofton Road,
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin
Ireland

Subject: Improved knowledge of undulate ray: request by fishing sector to authorising landings in 2015

Yr reference: Email from A. Rodriguez dated 21 November 2014

Dear Mr Armstrong,

Thank you for your letter on undulate ray dated 21 November 2014. I apologize for the delay in replying.

We took due consideration of your letter, since authorising landings of undulate ray has been a consistent request, especially from the French fishermen. My services met their representatives on several occasions and we are fully aware of the excellent work undertaken by the fishermen and the POs in close cooperation with the scientists, AGLIA, APECS and the French authorities within the framework of RAIMOUEST, RECOAM and Raie BECA. This close cooperation and its fruitful output is an excellent omen and foreshadowing of the regionalisation of the Common Fisheries Policy. These studies have provided very valuable data that already helped the scientist community get closer insight in the biology of this species. This effort must continue in the future so that scientists can have longer time series, an indispensable prerequisite for ICES to provide us with an analytical advice on undulate ray.

We have asked STECF to assess as a matter of priority the management measures presented by the French authorities in the margins of last Fisheries Council. We expect to receive the results during the first week of February and once the STECF Plenary has taken position on this report, we will be in a position to discuss the matter further.

Commission européenne/Europese Commissie, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË - Tel. +32 22991111
Office: J99-01/41 - Tel. direct line +32 229-50443

evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu

Thank you for your continued interest and constructive input. If you have any question on this reply, you can contact Evangelia Georgitsi, coordinator of the Advisory Councils (evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.295.04.43).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lowri Evans', with a stylized, cursive script.

Lowri Evans

CC. J. Verborgh, L. Markovic, E. Bianchi, E. Georgitsi (DG MARE)