



23/07/2007

Dear DG Fokion:

I am writing to you in relation to the EC consultation procedure on **Rights-Based Management tools in Fisheries** (RBM), and the request of Commission representatives to meet with the NWWRAC in September to discuss this issue.

At the time of the call for comments, the Secretariat circulated a request to the Members to ascertain whether the RAC should respond collectively, whether it should be left to individual Members to respond, or both. Because Members consider this to largely be a national matter, a clear majority expressed a preference to respond individually on behalf of the organizations they represent. The NWWRAC will therefore not be submitting an opinion on this issue.

Bearing this in mind, we now feel that we cannot honour the request from members of Unit E4 - DG FISH to put this item on the agenda of our forthcoming Executive Committee meeting in September. While we always welcome members from the Commission to our meetings, we feel that the NWWRAC are not in a position to discuss this issue in particular with the Commission at this time.

Finally, although the NWWRAC have decided not to develop a response on this issue we will continue to encourage our members to respond individually to the Commission on this matter before the deadline of the 30<sup>th</sup> of September.

I trust this is in order.

Yours truly,

Sam Lambourn  
NWWRAC Chairman

CC: Alberto Spagnoli  
Miriam García Ferrer