

25 February 2010

Subject: NWWRAC Response to Joint submission made by DCENR (Ireland) and DARD (Northern Ireland) regarding regulatory conservation and management measures for Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough

Dear Mr. Moore

Thank you for your letter dated 8 September and apologies for the delay in the provision of a response. This has primarily been due to the procedural requirements of the RAC and the need for Executive approval of Working Group decisions.

In response to your query, please find below an extract from the minutes detailing the decision taken at the Executive Committee meeting held in Paris on the 29th of January (under agenda item 2):

Regarding the Agenda item "Consultation with stakeholders on regulatory impact of management measures for Oyster Fishery in Foyle Area":

"The WG4 Chairman and the Secretariat briefed the members on the letter received in September 2009 from the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in Ireland and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland.

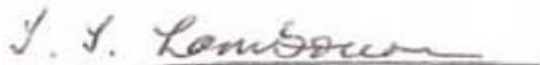
This consultation invited the NWWRAC to comment and consider the proposed conservation and management measures for the oyster fishery in the Foyle Area (cross-border areas of Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough), and to approve retrospectively the four regulations introduced in 2008.

In accordance with article 9 of Council Regulation (EC) No2371/2002, the NWWRAC must be consulted on any fisheries management proposal in North Western Waters (inshore or offshore) that might have an impact (even if small) on fishing activities and fleets belonging to two or more Member States (in this case, UK and Ireland)."

Members agreed that in this case, the submitted management regulations would have marginal inter-state effect given the nature of this fishery. No objections were made to the regulations presented and the request for approval was formally granted.

The Executive Committee also decided that the NWWRAC would consider future cases on an individual basis, and would not relinquish this responsibility by giving 'blanket approval', in advance".

Best regards,



Sam Lambourn - Chairman of the North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council