

# Omega Gauge Dutch Industry Research Project

Dear all,

Just before the season holidays began, the NSRAC Secretariat has sent you a proposal by the Dutch Industry regarding research into working practice of the Omega gauge.

This was informally discussed with several member states Industry representatives around December council in Brussels, with positive responses.

Dutch Industry has asked me to further contact you on this matter now.

The communication so far has resulted in the following proposals/questions:

- The Dutch Industry will now start the 'laboratory phase' of the research as described and present the findings during the NSRAC Demersal working group in Oostende on 17/18 February. Purpose for this study is to prove the statistical variation and deviation in measurements carried out by different people using the Omega Gauge. The cost of this phase of the project is € 20.000. The Dutch Industry will give the order for this research and will arrange the pre financing, but kindly invites other member states industries to financially support this phase, € 3.000 per Industry if the 7 industries participate. We look forward to your response.
- The Dutch industry will also initiate the second phase of the research on board vessels in port and invites other industries to take a similar initiative. We can then group these findings into one report 'under NSRAC flag' if possible, which can be used in discussions in Brussels and/or Vigo with the Commission and/or the Control Agency. This to be discussed during Dem WG meeting in Oostende, based on the initial report. Do you agree?
- We now see warning letters, threats of prosecution arriving at skippers' doormats. It is therefore important to communicate to the so called 'Scheveningen Group' of fisheries inspectorates in order to prevent escalation. Suggestion for the NSRAC group led by Mike Park to take an initiative. We look forward to your thoughts!

Your response early in the new year is greatly appreciated

With my very best wishes to you all and your families for the year 2010!!

Best regards,

**Pim Visser**

mob 06 53 146 220