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NR6 – Environment, Fisheries, Health

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Mr Hugo Andersson, Chairman
North Sea Regional Advisory Council
North Sea Regional Advisory Council Secretariat
Woodhill House
Westburn Road
Aberdeen AB16 5GB
SCOTLAND

Subject: Audit of EU measures to reduce overcapacity of EU fishing fleets

Dear Mr Andersson,

The Court of Auditors is currently auditing EU measures to reduce overcapacity of EU fishing fleets, with the intention of producing a Special Report on the issue in 2011. The audit is focused on measures funded by the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) to address overcapacity of Member States' fishing fleets, and on Member States' implementation and reporting of their efforts to balance fishing capacity with fishing opportunities.

Given the key role of the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) in providing advice to the Commission, as defined in Article 31 of Council Regulation 2371/2002, I am seeking the views of the North Sea RAC on issues related to overcapacity. Please refer to the attached Annex for the information sought.

Mr Colm Friel (colm.friel@eca.europa.eu; Tel. +352 4398 45023) from my unit is available to provide any further information and explanations you require.

Yours sincerely,


Jose de Mira Mendes
Head of Unit

Copy: Mr Emmanouil-Georgios Papaioannou, Head of Unit F2, DG MARE

Annex

Information sought from North Sea Regional Advisory Council (NSRAC) in connection with the audit by the Court of Auditors of EU measures to reduce overcapacity of EU fishing fleets.

Please provide any reports or opinions issued by the NSRAC which deal with EU measures to reduce overcapacity of EU fishing fleets. In particular, please provide any reports or opinions related to any of the following areas:

1. Definition of overcapacity.
2. Measures taken to manage any overcapacity in the North Sea region.
3. Council's multi-annual recovery and management plans under Articles 5 and 6 of Council Regulation 2371/2002, in particular those including limitations on fishing effort.
4. Member States' fishing effort adjustment plans (required by Article 22 of Council Regulation 1198/2006) to adjust fleet capacity to fishing opportunities.
5. The effectiveness and efficiency of vessel decommissioning schemes funded by the European Fisheries Fund in reducing fleet overcapacity.
6. Whether vessel modernisation projects funded by the European Fisheries Fund increase the ability to catch fish, notwithstanding Article 25.2 of Council Regulation 1198/2006.
7. Member States' implementation of fleet capacity restrictions of Chapter III of Council Regulation 2371/2002.
8. Member States' annual reporting of their efforts to balance capacity with fishing opportunities under Article 14 of Council Regulation 2371/2002.

In conclusion, please do not hesitate to forward your views on any other subject you may deem important for the purposes of the audit.

