

The North Sea Regional Advisory Council

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NSRAC

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Dear NAME

Nephrops Functional Units

The North Sea Regional Advisory Council (NSRAC) has established a Focus Group to develop a Long Term Management Plan (LTMP) for Nephrops. Extensive consultation with stakeholders has taken place and a strong message has been put forward that the fishing industry is strongly against the setting of individual Total Allowable Catches (TACs) for Nephrops Functional Units. In particular, there is a risk that setting individual TACs for the Units would affect the ability of fishers to redirect effort from one Unit to another and would have a particularly negative effect on local fishers who do not have the option of fishing elsewhere.

The NSRAC believes that it could also prove difficult to settle on TACs for some Units due to deficient data. While there is clearly a need to protect vulnerable Units, other methods than TACs should be explored. For example, NSRAC has pledged support for a project to develop a sustainable fishing plan for the Farne Deeps. Work is ongoing to finalise our proposal for a Nephrops LTMP and the NSRAC would urge the Commission to wait for the finalisation of this proposal before setting TACs for Nephrops Functional Units.

Yours sincerely,

Niels Wichmann
NSRAC Chairman

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