



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/C4/JAH

Dear Mr Ronelöv Olsson,

I would like to thank the North Sea Advisory Council (NSAC) for its advice on Data Sharing Guidelines of Spatial Restrictions Data through Onboard Navigation Systems (Ref. 06-2526).

I recognise the significant challenges highlighted in your advice, particularly the difficulties fishers face in navigating complex and overlapping spatial designations, ensuring compliance with evolving restrictions, and accessing accurate, consolidated, and up-to-date information.

Similar challenges have been highlighted by the Greater North Sea Basin Initiative (GNSBI) whose Work Programme 2025-2027 ⁽¹⁾ considers developing sharing platform and aligning data-sharing and workflow procedures between parties.

In addition, the revised Fisheries Control Regulation significantly broadens the scope of what constitutes a Fisheries Restricted Area (FRA). As of 10 January 2026 all Member States are required to publish the list of FRAs and their corresponding restrictions on their official websites. We have been informed that the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) intends to initiate discussions on a potential coordinated approach to Member States' obligations regarding the publication of FRAs.

My staff would be happy to engage in further dialogue with the NSAC to deepen our understanding of the practical and technical issues, as input into the aforementioned initiatives. To this end, we propose to organise a dedicated meeting with the aim to:

- Identify the existing information sources and the most critical gaps in information availability;
- Learn about the digital formats used by the diverse navigation systems.

⁽¹⁾ [GNSBI Antwerp Ministerial Declaration](#).

Mr Peter Ronelöv Olsson
Chairman
North Sea Advisory Council
ksf@dkfisk.dk
Louis Braillelaan 80
NL-2719 EK ZOETERMEER
THE NETHERLANDS

I kindly ask you to contact Ms Julia Rubeck, our Advisory Councils coordinator, via the functional mailbox MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu, and Johanna Af Heurlin (Johanna.Af-Heurlin@ec.europa.eu) from our data management unit to launch the preparation of such a meeting.

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

c.c.: Tamara TALEVSKA tamarat@nsrac.org, admin@nsrac.org,
Eckehard REUSSNER, Eva Maria CARBALLEIRA FERNANDEZ,
Jerome BROCHE, Jerome CHLADEK, Louise ROCHE, Edgars
GOLDMANIS