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Dear Ben

INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) 1954/2003

In accordance with Article 10 of Council Regulation 1954/2003 I am enclosing the following information in respect of the United Kingdom fishing fleet.

A. VESSEL LISTS

An excel workbook containing three lists is attached. The lists are:

1. A list of UK-registered vessels over 18 metres overall length authorised to fish in Western Waters. This highlights the changes that have been made since the last list was provided under Article 1 of Commission Regulation 2092/98;
2. A list of UK-registered vessels between 15 and 18 metres authorised to fish in Western Waters; and
3. A list of UK-registered vessels between 10 and 15 metres overall length authorised to fish in the biologically sensitive area referred to in Article 6.

B. ASSESSMENT OF EFFORT

Annex A of this letter contains a table setting out the UK's assessment of the annual average fishing effort exerted by relevant UK-registered fishing vessels across the reference period 1998 to 2002 by ICES Area, with a separate assessment of effort exerted in the biologically sensitive area. You will note that as stated during discussions at MANCOM on this data, that rather than adjust any data we have identified two problem areas. For effort data related to crabs and scallops fishing, the lack of complete log-book information in 1998 and 1999 has meant that the three-year average of effort for 2000-2002 is put forward as the best estimate of the average fishing effort for the whole

reference period. In addition, for Scallops effort in ICES Areas V and VI combined, the fishing activity in 2000 and 2001 were affected by bans on activity due to the incidence of Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning. As such a typical level of fishing effort can only be seen in 2002, hence that data is submitted as the best estimate of the average fishing effort for the whole reference period. For any combination of gear and fishing area other than those listed, UK effort in the reference period was zero. Annex B contains a short note on the methodology used to produce the effort data, as mentioned at the MANCOM meeting last week.

C. FISHING EFFORT REGULATION MEASURES

As with the current regime, UK Fisheries Departments will operate a system of regularly monitoring the uptake of fishing effort by UK vessels fishing in the areas covered by the regulation. This will make use of the log-book data on activity each vessel reports for each trip along with the additional data reported on dates and times when zone boundaries have been crossed. This allows allocation of fishing effort to the different categories of areas and fishing gear.

Reports on effort uptake will be produced on a monthly basis unless effort uptake for any area/gear combination is shown to be more than 80% or above the normal profile for uptake of fishing effort for the time of year. At this time Fisheries Departments will review the situation and consider what actions are needed to ensure that fishing effort is controlled appropriately. Decisions on the management actions to be taken will also include consideration of the level of uptake of fishing opportunities (e.g. quotas) in the areas. More frequent reporting of effort uptake will also be initiated.

Yours sincerely

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Annex A – Average Fishing Effort (Kw days) in the period 1998-2002

Table 1 – effort by vessels over 15m Overall Length

Gear Type	Area	KW/days
		Average effort (kwdays per annum)
Demersal	Area V, VI	24,017,229
	Area VII	25,086,340
	Area VIII	218,406
	Area X	11,200
	CECAF 34	--
Crabs	Area V, VI	702,292 ^(a)
	Area VII	543,366 ^(a)
	Area VIII	--
	Area X	--
	CECAF 34	--
Scallops	Area V, VI	1,974,425 ^(b)
	Area VII	3,315,619 ^(a)
	Area VIII	--
	Area X	--
	CECAF 34	--

Table 2 – Effort by vessels >10m in the biologically sensitive area

Gear Type	Area	KW/days
		Average
Demersal	Area VII (Hake Box) >10m	3,761,411
Crabs	Area VII (Hake Box) >10m	393 ^(a)
Scallops	Area VII (Hake Box) >10m	1,223 ^(a)

Notes

- No effort recorded
- (a) Due to the provision of logbook data not being compulsory, details held on UK Fisheries Departments systems for effort in 1998 and 1999 are incomplete. As such the average of effort in 2000-2002 is used as the best estimate of average fishing effort across the 1998-2002 reference period.
- (b) Fishing activity in Areas V and VI for Scallops in 2000 and 2001 was affected by bans on activity due to the presence of Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning. As such 2002 is the sole year which represents a true picture of fishing activity in the area, and is thus used as the best estimate of fishing activity

Annex B – Methodology used in producing the estimates of fishing effort

Data used

The data source is logbook catch and activity data stored on UK Fisheries Departmental systems, and the UK Vessel Register. A consultation exercise was carried out to try and obtain details of any scallop or crab data for 1998 and 1999 which may have been unrecorded due to the fact that non-quota species were not mandatory logbook entries in those years. In addition, data on scallop fishing by Isle of Man vessels was obtained from the Manx Department of Fisheries, and this together with the data obtained as a result of the consultation exercise, was used to produce the estimates of average annual effort given in Annex A

KWDays calculation

The days in any particular trip were calculated by assigning the total days at sea for that trip to areas weighted by the days fished in each area on that trip.

The engine power used in the calculation was the recorded engine power for each vessel at the date the trip took place.

The days at sea for a trip was calculated as the whole number of days difference between the date of departure and date of return plus one – this is the same calculation as carried out under the previous Western Waters regime and also in other effort control regimes. The total days at sea for each trip was then allocated to each area dependent on the level of fishing activity seen in the area as reported in the log-book information.

Trip definitions

Vessel trips were classified to Western Waters gear types as follows:

- Scallop trips were defined as all trips using dredges and catching any quantity of scallops, plus all trips using trawls where scallops were the main catch by weight.
- Crab trips were defined as all trips using pots and catching any quantity of crabs, plus all trips using trawls or other fixed gear where crabs were the main catch by weight.
- Demersal towed and fixed not fitting into the crab or scallop categories were defined by the gear used.

Hake box definition

The Hake box was defined as comprising all the statistical rectangles containing the box as defined in the regulation, and all activity in these rectangles was assigned to the box. No more precise information on the geographic location where fishing activity occurred is available. The only information available on activity in these rectangles is from Satellite surveillance position reports for vessels over 24m. These are not suitable to use to sub-divide the effort in the rectangles between whether or not the effort was within or out-with the box, hence the inclusion of effort as within the box.