



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

Resources

Brussels, 11.06.2009,

BSRAC, LDRAC, MEDRAC, NSRAC,
NWWRAC, PELRAC and SWWRAC
secretariats

Dear RACs,

The Commission is organising a one-day seminar on the state of fish stocks in European Seas with the participation of RACs, ACFA, ICES, STECF, GFCM, European Parliament, Member States and journalists. Presentations will be made by scientists representing the independent scientific agencies that advise the European Commission and Member States on the state of fish stocks. Prospects for fishing in 2010 will be discussed.

The purpose of the seminar is to look at the state of exploited stocks and to allow examination and questions about the scientific advice in an open forum that will include stakeholders, government of Member States, and NGOs. The meeting will focus on the latest scientific advice. You will find the draft agenda in Annex I.

The meeting will take place at the **Centre Albert Borschette**, rue Froissart, Brussels, Belgium on **23rd. July beginning at 09h30** and ending no later than 18h00. Depending on available resources, interpretation should be provided in FR-DE-EN-IT-ES. Substantial time will be allocated for questions and discussions.

You are cordially invited to propose the nomination of 3 experts per RACs. We would appreciate that you consider the representatives from the 'other interests group' when nominating who will represent each RAC.

Please note that the Commission will not reimburse travel and subsistence expenses to the participants.

In the interest of transparency and freedom of information, there will be no restriction on the dissemination of information provided at this meeting, which is therefore fully « on the record ».

Yours sincerely,

E. Papaioannou

(Signed)

ANNEX I

DRAFT AGENDA

(9h30 – 18h00)

1. Presentation of State of Stocks and Advice on Fisheries on a Regional Basis (ICES/STECF)
 - 1.1 Celtic Sea and English Channel
 - 1.2 Gaelic Sea and Irish Sea
 - 1.3 Iberian-Atlantic Seas and Bay of Biscay
 - 1.4 North Sea
 - 1.5 Baltic Sea
 - 1.6 Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea
2. Overview of the State of Fish Stocks around the European Community, with respect to international commitments on the precautionary approach and attaining maximum sustainable yield (ICES/STECF)
3. Overall policy concerning the fixing of fishing opportunities (Commission)
 - 3.1 Long-term plans
 - 3.2 Stocks not under long-term plans
 - 3.3 Stocks where a catch forecast advice is not available
4. Any Other business