

The North Sea Regional Advisory Council

NSRAC Secretariat
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Ms Lowri Evans
Director General – DG MARE
European Commission
B-1049
Brussels
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Copied to;
European Commission DG-ENV
Director of Fisheries, Denmark
Director of Fisheries, Sweden

23rd August, 2013

Dear Ms Evans,

DUMPING OF CONTAMINATED DREDGED MATERIAL WITHIN THE PROTECTED AREA IN KATTEGAT

The North Sea Regional Advisory Council (NSRAC) and its Working Group for Skagerrak and Kattegat have previously submitted comments on the Kattegat regime agreed to protect cod in the Kattegat with closed and protected areas for fishing. Those comments are, in our view, still valid and relevant.

We have noted, however, that a Swedish Court recently granted the municipality of Falkenberg exemption from the prohibition against dumping dredged material in the sea. The fact that the court allowed dumping of this contaminated material within the protected area in the Kattegat is, to say the least, very strange.

It is our opinion that an environmental policy that allows such dumping while at the same time establishing areas to protect cod is perverse and does not make sense. We consider the protection of cod, in an environmentally healthy, food-producing seabed to be of the greatest importance and should not be compromised.

The Swedish Court's permission allows the municipality of Falkenberg to dump 172 000 m³ of contaminated dredged material at a place where trawling with selective gears for nephrops is taking place. In the light of the fact that fishing for nephrops is very important in the Kattegat we also find this unacceptable.

We look forward to hearing your views on this matter and the specific points we have raised.

Kind regards,



Niels Wichmann
NSRAC Executive Committee Chairman