**Paper 9.1 For Information**

**NSAC Demersal Working Group**

**11th July 2018**

**Edinburgh**

**G Mato Request for Advice – Technical Measures, Mesh Sizes**

**Subject:** **Technical measures: ACs' opinion on targets and mesh sizes**

Dear Chairs of Advisory Councils,

I am writing you in my quality as rapporteur of the European Parliament on the draft regulation on the "conservation of fishery resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures", which is currently under negotiations between co-legislators.

During the next trilogue, to be held by mid-September, the main issues in the agenda will be: article 4 – "**targets**" and parts B of the regional annexes (V-XI) – "**mesh sizes**".

In view of this trilogue and in order for the European Parliament to take an informed decision on both issues, I would very much appreciate your opinion on the recent Commission alternative proposal on article 4 - targets, which was presented during the trilogue of 29 May, compared to the European Parliament's mandate on the same article.

As far as the "mesh sizes" is concerned, an alternative to percentages of catches of targeted fish proposed by the Council (and, in some cases, by the European Parliament) might be to delete them and to add the following general phrase at the beginning of part B: "When catches of cod and haddock exceed 10% of the total catch in kilograms of fish retained on board then a mesh size of 120mm shall be used. Vessels may opt to use smaller mesh sizes provided that selectivity modifications as approved by STECF that result in the same or better selectivity characteristics for cod and haddock as that of 120mm." (example, which could hypothetically be applied in the North Sea and to Western Waters).

I hope it would be possible to get your opinion by the 1st of September. I understand that the deadline is very tight, but, together with my colleagues shadow rapporteurs, we very much count on your input.

You will find both the Commission proposal and the European Parliament's one on targets below.

The Commission suggestion on" mesh sizes" is enclosed.

Thank you very much in advance.

Best regards,

Gabriel Mato

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