



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels
MARE.D.4/MMA/ah

Dear Members of the North Western Waters Advisory Council,

Thank you for your letter of 3 November 2025 concerning the consultation process on the implementation of the revised Fisheries Control Regulation. I would like to start by expressing my gratitude for your continued engagement and valuable input throughout this process.

The Commission fully recognises the important role of the Advisory Councils in shaping workable and effective rules and appreciates your readiness to assist in the quest for effective and efficient control and enforcement. While recognising that Member States are the Commission's primary interlocutors for the preparation and implementation of the Regulation and its secondary legislation, we trust that the communication channels are in place at Member State level allowing for continued and targeted engagement of the sector.

Since the entry into force of the revised control rules in January 2024, the Commission has been working in close cooperation with Member States to draft the implementing and delegated acts required for the application of the revised Regulation. Member States have been very active and engaged throughout this preparatory process.

Once the draft texts were consolidated, the Commission launched a consultation process with stakeholders to gather their input. Beyond being a formal and well-defined step, this consultation represents a valuable opportunity to hear directly from stakeholders after Member States have agreed on the text and ensured its legal alignment with the revised Regulation adopted by the co-legislators.

The Commission has carefully analysed all feedback received, ensuring that no comment was left unexamined and that every point was duly considered in the final text. In some cases, stakeholders raised issues relating to provisions of the revised Fisheries Control Regulation itself, which was agreed by the co-legislators and cannot be modified by the Commission.

North Western Waters Advisory Council
Bord Iascaigh Mhara
West Pier, Old Dunleary Road
Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
A96 A621
IRELAND
Email: info@nwwac.ie

Commission européenne/Europese Commissie, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË – Tel. +32 22991111
Office: J-99 05/014 – Tel. direct line +32 229-50483

Charlina.VITCHEVA@ec.europa.eu

Our objective has been to work closely with Member States to develop rules that are suitable, feasible, and realistic, while minimising administrative burden — in particular through digitalisation. We have prioritised the early adoption of a first set of horizontal acts to give both operators and Member States sufficient time to adapt before the rules enter into application from 10 January 2026.

The Commission is also aware of the forthcoming wave of secondary legislation that Member States and operators will require for the implementation of the revised Regulation. Since 2025, we have been applying the same cooperative and transparent approach with Member States, particularly regarding provisions on weighing and its potential derogations, which will form part of the implementing act.

It is essential that these secondary rules are adopted in a timely manner to allow all concerned stakeholders adequate time to prepare. The current derogation from the obligation to weigh all catches at landing will expire in January 2027. Accordingly, the Commission aims to adopt the relevant secondary rules during the third quarter of 2026, following a similar process of consultation and close cooperation with Member States. This approach has proven effective in ensuring that all Member States' feedback is carefully analysed and aligned with the requirements of the Fisheries Control Regulation. A comparable process will also be applied to the acts corresponding to provisions entering into force in January 2028.

The expertise and input of the Advisory Councils are particularly valuable, and we welcome your proposals to provide feedback and to organise targeted workshops. In this regard, we encourage you to share concrete ideas or experiences that could help address practical aspects such as timing, costs, and operational considerations — for instance, through a format similar to the multi-AC workshop held in February 2025, which proved both constructive and inclusive. We would be pleased to repeat that fruitful experience. For the sake of efficiency and the best use of resources, we encourage the organisation of joint workshops.

Finally, I would like to thank you again for your input. Your continued collaboration is key to achieving the Commission's goals in the implementation of the revised Control Regulation.

Should you have further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Julia RUBECK, our Advisory Councils coordinator, via the functional mailbox MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA