



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND MARKETS
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, LAW OF THE SEA AND REGIONAL FISHERIES
ORGANISATIONS

Brussels,
MARE/B1/HS/

Alexandre Rodríguez
Executive Secretary
Long Distance Fleet RAC
Calle del Doctor Fleming 7 2ºD
28036 Madrid
SPAIN

Subject: NAFO – Selectivity experiments with sorting grids in the Div. 3M cod fishery

Dear Mr Rodríguez,

At the 2015 NAFO Annual Meeting Contracting Parties were encouraged to carry out selectivity experiments with sorting grids in the NAFO Div. 3M cod fishery (see adopted recommendations of the Working Group on Bycatch, Discards and Selectivity - FC Doc. 15/22 Rev.)

The use of sorting grids was also subject to discussions with LDAC at a preparatory technical meeting with stakeholders the Commission hosted on 27 August 2015 and during the Annual Meeting. In both meetings industry representatives expressed their willingness to undertake such testing in 2016 which the EU reflected in its statements at the Annual Meeting. We therefore hope that such voluntary tests will actually be undertaken as announced.

Kindly note also that we have asked Member States to inform us until 29 February of their intentions regarding the experimental use of sorting grids in the NAFO 3M cod fishery by 29 February.

Should you have any questions or comments on this matter, please contact Manuel Carmona Yebra manuel.carmona-yebra@ec.europa.eu or Herbert Schuller herberts.schuller@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

Veronika VEITS
Head of Unit