



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels,  
A2/EG D(2013)

Mr Antonio Cabral  
President  
Long Distance Fleet RAC  
Calle del Doctor Fleming 7, 2º derecha  
28036 Madrid  
SPAIN

**Subject: LDRAC Recommendation for the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the NAFO Convention**

*Yr reference: R-07-13/WG2*

Dear Mr Cabral,

Thank you for the LDRAC recommendation for the 35<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the NAFO Convention. The comprehensive explanations and the background information provided on the nature of the fishery in the NAFO Convention Area are useful for our work and therefore we attach great importance to your advice. I would also like to thank the LDRAC for the useful discussions in the technical meeting of the 28 August and during the Annual Meeting.

The outcome of the NAFO Annual Meeting 2013 is satisfactory for the European Union. Decisions were taken on the total allowable catches (TACs) for a number of stocks based on scientific advice whilst further measures were adopted to protect Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs). Many decisions are in line with your recommendations and I trust that you are generally satisfied with the outcome of the meeting.

However, for redfish in Divisions 3M and 3LN however we could not follow your recommendations which were implying to set TACs at levels much higher than those recommended by scientific advice. Clarifications for these stocks were requested to the Scientific Council and a small increase in the TAC for redfish in division 3LN was possible.

Greater details on the outcome of this meeting will be delivered to the LDRAC in the meeting of its Working Group of 16 October 2013. You will also have the possibility to ask for further clarifications if need be.

2014 will be a busy year in NAFO with complex issues to be addressed such as improved control and compliance, catch figures discrepancy, discards and by-catches, protection of

VMEs with a review of the provisions of chapter II of the NAFO CEM, and the development of new risk-based management strategies. My services are looking forward to continuing the cooperation with the LDRAC to define the EU position in future NAFO meetings.

I thank you for your continued interest and constructive input. If you have any question on this reply, you can contact Ms Evangelia Georgitsi, coordinator of the Regional Advisory Councils ([evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu](mailto:evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu); +32.2.295.04.43).

Yours sincerely,



Lowri Evans

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