



Allington House
Allington
Chippenham
Wiltshire SN14 6LN
Tel. 01249 653972
Email. stephen.marinet@btinternet.com

16th July 2011.

For the attention of: Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission
99 rue Joseph II, B-1049 Brussels. Belgium

Dear Sir, Consultation on Fishing Opportunities : COM (2011) 298 final.

I write further to our submission dated 14th July 2011, where I advise that I am responding on behalf of MARINET, the Marine Network of Friends of the Earth, England Wales and Northern Ireland (FOE EWNI). We are licensed by FOE EWNI to represent them on marine matters, and we are a part of the voluntary arm of the organisation as opposed to its professional arm. In terms of the consultation on Fishing Opportunities COM (2011) 298 final, I advise that we are a non-registered organisation with respect to the Interest Representative Register.

One of our members has correctly pointed in our submission of 14th July to the important fact that marine aggregate dredging has a profoundly adverse, often permanent, effect on the seabed and that this deleterious effect harms considerably the spawning, nursery and feeding grounds of fish.

As a result, he has asked that in our section recording the changed nature of the marine environment over the past 130 years (1880 to 2010) that our submission be amended accordingly. His text changes are in blue. ***"However it must be also noted that environmental conditions have changed in the intervening 130 years from 1880 to 2010 due both to intensive fishing practices and such as the impact of intensive aggregate stripping and repeated trawling on the physical structure of the seabed, in particular the spawning, nursery and feeding grounds. Thus its ecological character, also due to other factors such as increased carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere which affect sea temperature and acidity levels"***.

I fully endorse these comments of our member. The granular and pebbly seabed material which is removed from these sites is a key ecological component of many fish spawning, nursery and feeding grounds. And, given that many aggregate dredging sites are located in fish spawning, nursery and feeding areas, it is therefore axiomatic that aggregate dredging is a very important additional component in assessing the changes that have occurred to the marine environment, particularly in more recent times. Thus the cessation of marine aggregate dredging would contribute greatly to the rebuilding of fish stocks.

Accordingly, I would be grateful if you would record this as an additional comment in our submission to this consultation.

Yours faithfully

S. D. Eades
On behalf of MARINET

