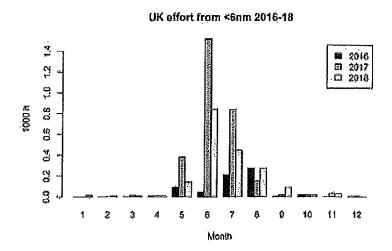




Thank you for your query. You raised issues relating to different fishing profile by UK vessels and Irish vessels in terms of catches and fishing season which we have carefully examined.

Based on the data available to us, there appears to be very little UK effort within 6nm of Rockall (where catches are almost entirely composed of squid) after July. In other words, it appears that the UK vessels simply do not target squid inside the 6nm zone after July whereas Irish vessels do. This difference in targeting behavior is likely to be sufficient to explain the differences in species composition of the landings between Irish and Scottish vessels. In the second half of the year many of our vessels do not target haddock at all and concentrate solely on squid.



The data reflected above may be incomplete as it is based on VMS available to Irish authorities only.

As you will have noted from *Table 3 Irish squid landings by Irish vessels in ICES division VIb by week and year since 2008* in the documents we provided, generally the Irish squid fishery is concentrated in June, July and August but this fluctuates considerably given the opportunistic nature of the fishery.

It is unsurprising that Irish catches in and around Rockall from June/July onwards would consist primarily of squid given the fact that our relatively small haddock quota is usually close to being exhausted by then. Scottish vessels of course have access to a far larger haddock quota which enables them target that species for a far longer period of time.

Overall, the indications to date are that catches and effort by Irish vessels in 2019 are more reflective of patterns in 2018 and other years excluding 2017 suggesting that another very large peak in squid landings is unlikely. (See also previous provided ICES data outlining the erratic nature of the squid fishery: International landings >1500t have only occurred in 1973 and 2017).

An Roinn Talmhalochta, Bla agus Mara
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Twww.agriculture.gov.ie

Designated Public Official under Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015

From: @gov.scot @gov.scot Sent: 16 July 2019 08:34

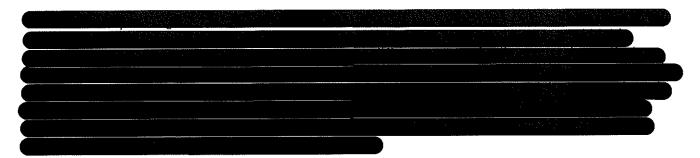
To: @gov.scot @dfa.ie; @gov.scot; @gov.scot Subject: RE: Rockall - Electronic versions
Importance: High

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As discussed I have now shared your updated figures with our control experts. You asked that if they had any questions we send them to yourselves as the conduit to your own control experts.

Like you stated these are facts and we are trying to use these to see if there is a reduced risk of high level of effort continuing after July given the Haddock quota uptake picture and smaller squid catches than in 2017, and we want to consider whether we could support such a view.

I attach a couple of tables for your info. On the back of these the following questions / observations arise: we would welcome any thoughts from your own control experts.



Given this unusually significant difference in catching profile any intelligence or views by way of explanation from your own experts would help us greatly.

As agreed at the meeting we will be in touch about a future meeting focused on different aspects of the squid fishery in relation to future conservation and marketing.

## Regards



## marine scotland: Fisheries Policy

Victoria Quay. Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ



From: @agriculture.gov.le>
Sent: 12 July 2019 09:54

To: @gov.scot>
Cc: @agriculture.gov.ie>; @agriculture.gov.le>; @agriculture.gov.le>; @dfa.le>

Subject: RE: Rockall - Electronic versions



Please see attached the two documents we discussed yesterday.

Regards

Colm



IRELAND



From: @gov.scot

@gov.scot]

Sent: 12 July 2019 08:38

To:

Subject: Rockall - Electronic versions

Importance: High

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## Morning

I wonder if you could send me through the electronic versions of the papers you distributed yesterday. If you copy in everybody I should reply with any questions our control guys may have, that would be great just to ensure I have correct email addresses.

Thanks again



marine scotland: Fisheries Policy

Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ



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An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

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