

Allan Gibb  
Scottish Government  
1B - South  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ  
T: +44 (0)131 244 6430 E: Allan.Gibb@gov.scot



To:

Member States of the North Sea, North Western Waters and South Western Waters regional groups;

The North Sea, North Western Waters, South Western Waters and Pelagic Advisory Councils; and

The European Commission



---

9 March 2016

To whom it may concern

On behalf of the UK I would like to invite you to a workshop on Access to Quota in Edinburgh on the 14 and 15 April. The aim of the workshop will be to:

- Consider the potential alternative solutions suggested to identified 'choke stocks';
- Evaluate the impacts, viability and risks of each of these approaches;
- Recommend an accepted 'toolbox' of measures which should be explored when seeking to address 'choke stock';
- Agree a timeline for the technical groups and advisory councils to apply the 'toolbox' to each 'choke stock' and present the results to the High Level Groups;
- Identify what if any scientific evidence is currently lacking that would be required to support the various measures; and
- Identify any further work that will need carried out by the High Level Groups.

The agenda for the workshop is attached at **Annex A** and information on the venue, including how to get there, is attached at **Annex B**. If a Member State or Advisory Council is interested in presenting at the workshop, then please contact Paul McCarthy at [Paul.McCarthy@gov.scot](mailto:Paul.McCarthy@gov.scot) **no later than Thursday 7 April**.

Space is limited to a maximum of 42 people so attendance will be limited to no more than two people per Member State and Advisory Council.

We would be very grateful if the names of attendees could be supplied to Paul McCarthy at [Paul.McCarthy@gov.scot](mailto:Paul.McCarthy@gov.scot) **no later than 7 April**.

Finally, in advance of the workshop, the UK has prepared a short template at **Annex C** for Member States to complete identifying the choke stocks they expect to struggle with, even after all other options (selectivity, avoidance, quota swapping, *de minimis* and high survivability exemptions and inter-species flexibility) have been exhausted. The results of this template will be used to help guide the individual working groups and we would be grateful if this could be returned to [Paul.McCarthy@gov.scot](mailto:Paul.McCarthy@gov.scot) **no later than 7 April**.

We look forward to seeing you there.

**Allan Gibb**  
**Head of Fisheries**

Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland)



## Annex A - Agenda

### Day 1 – Thursday 14 April 2015

Indicative timings	Agenda Item
13.00-13.20	Welcome from hosts & Chair
13.20-13.50	Context Setting – an overview of outputs from Danish Workshop on Quota Swapping & brief reflections on the preparatory work Member States completed in advance and the possible
13.50-14.20	Presentation 1 plus Q&A – North Sea Hake and Spurdog
14.20-14.50	Presentation 2 From Member State/AC plus Q&A
14.50-15.10	Tea & coffee break
15.10-15.40	Presentation 3 From Member State/AC plus Q&A
15.40-16.10	Presentation 4 From Member State/AC plus Q&A
16.10-16.30	Summing up of presentation themes & outline of workshop format/aims for Day 2 etc.
16.30	Close

### Day 2 – Friday 15 April 2016

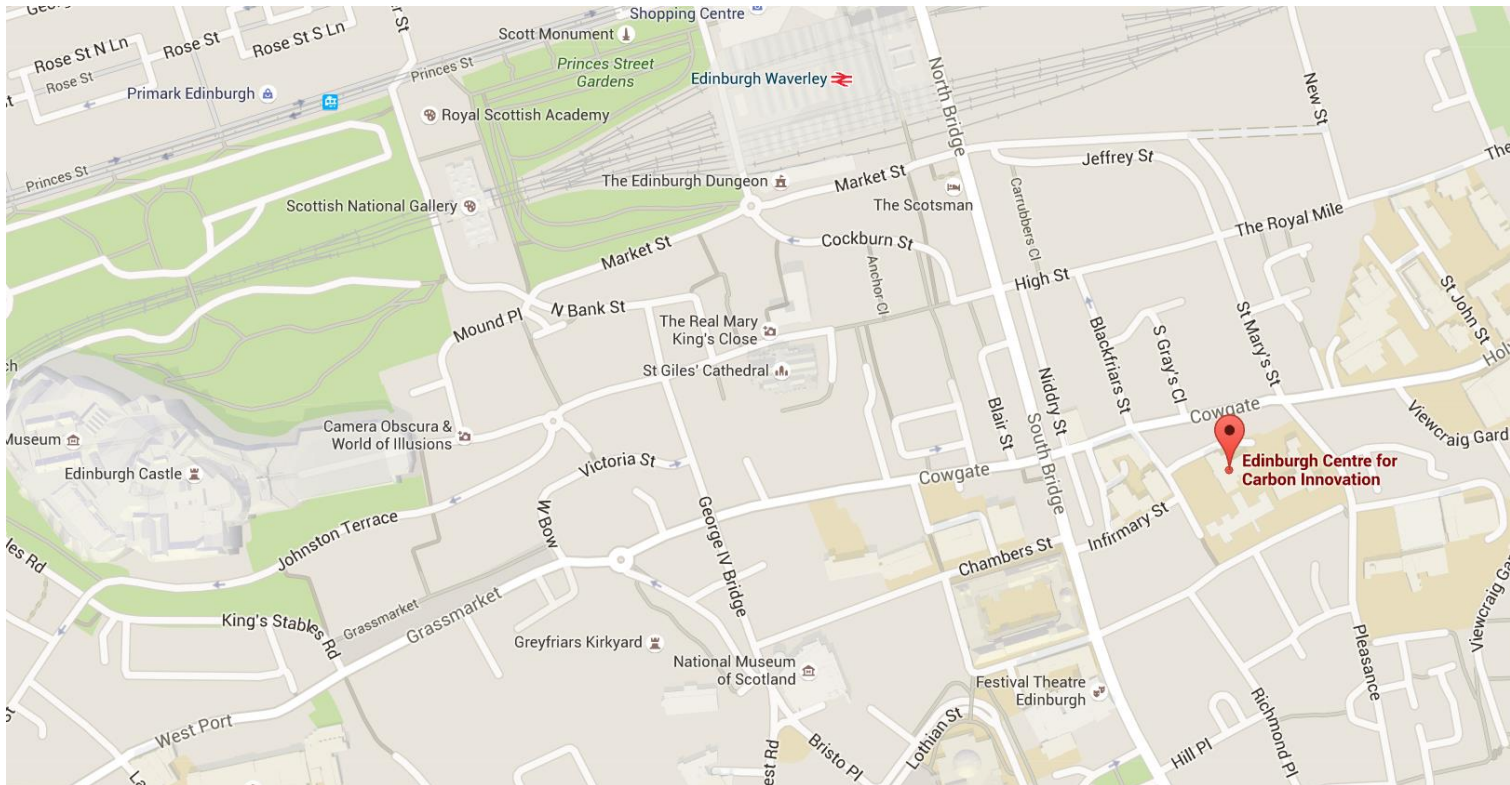
Indicative timings	Agenda Item
09.00	Tea & Coffee on arrival
09.00-09.10	Outline of workshop format, aims and objectives
09.10-10.50	Workshops
10.50-11.20	Feedback from workshop facilitators
11.20-11.30	Chair to outline purpose of next workshop sessions.
11.30-13.00	Workshops Reconvene
13.00-14.00	Networking Lunch
14.00-14.30	Reconvene & Workshop Feedback
14.30-14.50	Agreement of next steps and content of recommendations to HLG
14.50-15.00	Summing Up & Close

## Annex B – The Venue

The Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI, <http://edinburghcentre.org/>) is an award winning, green business venue in the heart of the city centre, only 10 minutes walk from Waverley Station. The ECCI is part of Edinburgh University's estate and is fully wheelchair accessible and induction loops are installed for the hard of hearing. The full address of the venue is:

Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation, High School Yards, Edinburgh EH1 1LZ

A full map of Edinburgh with the venue highlighted can be found here: <https://goo.gl/maps/FvQAWCywyk72>



Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland)



## Annex C – Homework Template

### Identifying Choke Species

1. That within the Sea basin (e.g. North Sea) there is enough quota to cover total catches but that some member states individually do not have enough. An issue that member states can resolve between themselves in a regional context.
2. Within the member state there is enough quota to cover catches however there is a region or fleet segment which does not have enough. The member state can resolve this issue itself.
3. 1 and 2 above do not apply and within the relevant sea basin there is not enough of the species allocated to cover present catches or catch levels that can be realistically reduced to resulting in a total cease to fishing for a member state.

Stock	Fishery	EU TAC 2016	Estimated average discards	Months fishing until choke	Comments	Type of Choke 1,2 or 3
NS Hake	Scottish Trawl Fisheries	3,492t	3,069t	4	Shift in distribution of stock has created significant difficulties.	3
WoS Cod	Scottish Trawl Fisheries	0	1,209t	0	Zero TAC stock in poor health	3