

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4054/03  
by Elspeth Attwooll (ELDR)  
to the Commission

Subject: National waters within the EU's EEZ

In response to Written Question P-3011/03<sup>1</sup>, Commissioner Fischler explained on 24 October 2003 that the Member States are responsible for defining their exclusive economic zones and the boundaries between sea areas where such a definition is necessary. The Commission gave the impression that it did not have the information requested readily available. In its Communication towards uniform and effective implementation of the CFP (COM(2003)130 final), however, it states on page 8 that more than half of the catches of northern hake are taken in 'Irish waters'. Furthermore, on page 10 it makes reference to 'the northern part of Dutch waters'.

In the light of these statements relating to national waters rather than to ICES zones, can the Commission confirm that it does in fact have the information requested in question P-3011/03 which concerned national boundaries within particular ICES zones, and can it now provide this information? If it does not have this information, can it on the other hand explain on what basis its assertions in COM (2003) 130 final were based?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C