RE: Joint Statement from ACRUNET1 Industry Partners2 Regarding Future Management of Atlantic Brown Crab Fisheries.

A major objective of the ACRUNET project was to bridge the gap between industry and policy makers facilitated by the scientific partners. In the view of industry in the Republic of Ireland (RoI) and the United Kingdom (UK), there were serious obstacles created by existing latent capacity and its potential impact on future sustainable economic development of the sector. The French industry did not have this difficulty due to its historic regional management system which strictly controls entry and exit from such fisheries but felt its position was being undermined by the lack of such management in other jurisdictions.

Once identified as a serious concern, the scientific partners, Marine Institute, Cefas and Marine Scotland Science, investigated and reported back on the extent of latent capacity in RoI and UK fleets. These results can be found on the project website (<http://www.acrunet.eu/acrunet-deliverables>). Unfortunately, there was insufficient time remaining for ACRUNET to make significant further progress but at the final ACRUNET partner meeting in June 2015, the industry partners from RoI and the UK, with the support of their French colleagues3, undertook to follow-up with their national regulatory authorities, the relevant Advisory Councils and industry bodies to endeavour to move forward on an agreed management plan for this transnational shared resource.

A substantial number of brown crab fisheries are located within the region of NWWAC and we would appreciate the opportunity to present the case being made by the brown crab industry representatives from the RoI and the UK to rationalise the management of brown crab fisheries to ensure both stock sustainability and economic viability for all sectors of this vitally important sector in the future.

Please see attached the signed joint statement from:

Killybegs Fishermen’s Organisation Ltd

Shellfish Association of Great Britain

National Federation of Fishermen’s Organisations

Scottish Fishermen’s Federation

**Norah M Parke,**

**For: ACRUNET Industry Partners**

