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International Council for the
Exploration of the Sea

Conseil International pour
l'Exploration de la Mer

General Secretary:
Anne Christine Brusendorff

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15 July 2015

Our Ref: L.27/ACB/sv_nh

Subject: Clarification to *Call for data: information on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME) in the North Atlantic from ICES member countries from 2004 to 2014* (published 10 June 2015¹)

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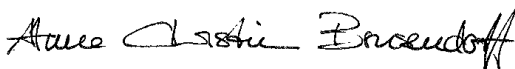
Dear Reader,

With respect to the above named ICES data call, the following point of clarification is made.

In the data call, there is a statement that "This database [ICES VME database] aims to store all known VME indicator records in the North Atlantic (covering deep water areas inside and outside national jurisdiction) for use by ICES and the wider marine community. In addition, the database also holds information on bona fide records of VME habitats". WGDEC focuses its work on VME in 'deep water areas', considered to be in **water depths of 200m and deeper**, thereby effectively excluding data from the following ICES areas: IVb, IVc, VIIa, VIId, VIIe, VIIf and VIIg.

In case of questions please contact WGDEC Chair Neil Golding (neil.golding@jncc.gov.uk) or the ICES Secretariat (accessions@ices.dk) for clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Christine Brusendorff".

¹ http://ices.dk/marine-data/Documents/Data_calls/20150610_VME_datacall_2015_2.pdf

Anne Christine Brusendorff
General Secretary

CC: Neil Golding (Chair of WGDEC)