

Brussels, 16. 12. 2013
MK/pb CAB (2013) 3938805

Dear Messrs MacSween, Olesen and O'Donoghue,

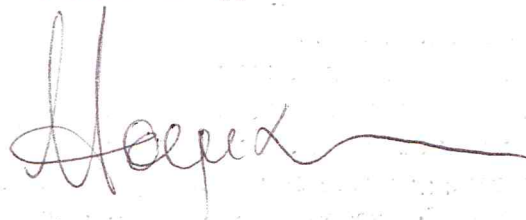
Thank you for your letter of 20 November on the landing obligation for pelagic species.

I take note of your call upon Member States in relation to the cooperation modalities on management of pelagic fisheries. I understand your concerns regarding the cooperation that Member States foresee for the preparation of joint recommendations for pelagic fisheries in the Atlantic and North Sea.

The new Common Fisheries Policy does not prescribe how regionalization should take form. Member States can choose to cooperate in a format that they see most fit to the situation. It is however clear that joint recommendations need to be agreed by all Member States having a direct management interest and that are affected by the measures. While this means that cooperation between different groups of Member States could be envisaged for different stocks, it implies that all Member States who have an interest consisting of either fishing opportunities or a fishery taking place in their exclusive economic zone will have to be part of the agreed joint recommendations. Under all circumstances, the cooperating Member States are obliged to consult the Advisory Council. This creates the opportunity for the Pelagic Advisory Council to point to the need of consistency throughout the Union waters when implementing the landing obligation. I would suggest that you continue your proactive approach and to provide useful input as early in the process as possible.

I would like to reiterate my appreciation for your efforts on the creation of a discard atlas and on your work in support of the discard plan that Member States have started to discuss.

Yours sincerely,



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