

European Association of Fish Producers Organisations
Association Européenne des Organisations de Producteurs dans le secteur de la pêche



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Zeebrugge, 16 December 2013

PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING ON AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES
16-17 DECEMBER 2013:

EAPO CALLS UPON COUNCIL TO ADDRESS THE UNJUSTIFIABLE TAC
REDUCTIONS IN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL AND TO AVOID
INCREASING REGULATORY DISCARDS

In advance of the December Fisheries Council 2013 EAPO has sent a position paper with general observations and relevant recommendations for about 25 stocks to the Council Members. EAPO is calling on the Council of Fisheries Ministers to address the unjustifiable reductions in the European Commission's proposal and most importantly to avoid increasing regulatory discards.

Sean O'Donoghue President EAPO said in advance of the Council: "I do not agree with a number of unjustifiable reductions in the Commission's proposals for fishing opportunities for key stocks in 2014, and I am calling on Council of Fisheries Ministers meeting today and tomorrow to find a workable and realistic solution to avoid the potentially devastating impacts, both biological and economic, such cuts will have on the European Fishing Industry. If these reductions are adopted it is inevitable that the outcome for a number of important fisheries in 2014 will be a large increase in regulatory discards. This is totally opposite to the newly adopted CFP which has a requirement to eradicate discards starting 2015".

He added: "The Council will also discuss the mackerel issue and I am very concerned that the Commission is prepared to give away totally unacceptable shares to both Iceland and Faroes which is rewarding their reckless and irresponsible behavior over the last number of years. I am calling on the Council to reject this offer and to instead support the realistic Norwegian proposal issued on Friday".

In the position paper sent to the ministers EAPO highlights a number of key concerns based on the Commission's TACs and Quotas Proposals: (1) the need for stability, (2) the unjustified advice to reduce the TACs of data limited stocks, (3) the TAC-setting for stocks with differential quota uptake levels and (4) the (effort) measures based on management plans that are not adapted to the actual circumstances. For each of the 25 stocks addressed in the position paper EAPO puts forward well founded specific recommendations for realistic solutions.

===== Ends =====

The EAPO represents 34 Producers Organisations from 10 EU Member States, with approximately 10,000 vessels, 3.5 million tonnes of landings and a first sale value of € 3 billion.

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