



Bundesministerium
für Ernährung
und Landwirtschaft

Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
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Translation

Dear Mr. President (m.p.),

Thank you very much indeed for your letter and the enclosed position paper on the catch opportunities for 2021. It contained helpful information for the December Council.

As you will surely know, the catch opportunities for stocks jointly managed with the United Kingdom could at that time only be fixed on a provisional basis due to the still ongoing Brexit negotiations. Therefore, the primary aim of the December Council was to avoid a cessation of fisheries for these important stocks, whilst ensuring a sustainable management on the basis of the maximum sustainable yield (MSY). I believe that we succeeded in doing so by fixing these stocks at the level of 25% of the EU catch levels adopted for 2020.

For some very important pelagic stocks such as mackerel, blue whiting and Atlantic horse mackerel, most or all of which were fished in highly seasonal fisheries in the first quarter, significantly higher catch levels of 65% could even be agreed. These rules apply on a provisional basis for the first quarter of 2021.

Furthermore, the Council adopted catch levels for specific deep-water species for 2021 and 2022, catch effort regimes for the Mediterranean Sea and total allowable catches for the Black Sea.

Given that it was possible to finalise the decision on a trade and partnership agreement with the United Kingdom in due time before the end of 2020, this agreement is currently being applied on a provisional basis. The negotiations between the EU, the United Kingdom and also Norway on the total allowable catches of the jointly managed stocks in the North Sea that are required for a final fixing of the catch opportunities have now also begun. Together with the other EU Member States and the European Commission we will work to ensure that these negotiations will be concluded speedily and successfully in the near future in order to ensure a smooth continuation of fisheries beyond 31 March 2021 and provide the fishing sector with the necessary planning certainty.

In conclusion, I would like to assure you that my Ministry and I personally as well will continue to lobby for a strong sustainable and far-sighted fisheries policy.

With kind regards,

Yours (m.p.)

signed: Julia Klöckner