

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



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PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING ON AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES 15-16 DECEMBER 2014:

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

In advance of the December Fisheries Council 2014 EAPO has sent its annual position paper with general observations and relevant recommendations for about 30 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.

Pim Visser, President of EAPO, says: "We do not agree with a number of unjustifiable reductions in the Commission's proposals for fishing opportunities for key stocks in 2015. I am calling on the Council of Fisheries Ministers 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 without any change, it is inevitable that the outcome for a number of important fisheries in 2015 will be a large increase in regulatory discards. This is totally opposite to the CFP which has a requirement to avoid discarding. A landings obligation will be in place starting the 1st of January of next year."

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 state of stocks in the Atlantic basin is generally improving,
- (2) automatically reducing the TACs of information limited stocks is unjustifiable,
- (3) there is a lack of consideration of the socio-economic consequences where possible within the commonly agreed objective of sustainable fisheries and
- (4) the fishermen are hampered to manage their fisheries in a sustainable way.

For each of the 30 stocks addressed in the position paper EAPO puts forward well founded specific recommendations for realistic solutions.

===== Ends =====

The EAPO represents 36 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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