



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 17 February 2021
(OR. en)

**Interinstitutional File:
2021/0036(NLE)**

**6232/21
ADD 3**

LIMITE

**PECHE 52
UK 50**

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

No. prev. doc.: ST 5136/21 + ADD 1 PECHE 5 UK 35

Subject: Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the consultations with the United Kingdom to agree on total allowable catches for 2021 and for certain deep sea stocks for 2021 and 2022

- Danish comments

Delegations will find attached written comments by [the Danish delegation](#) on the above-mentioned document.

Written comments from the Danish delegation on Commission proposal for a Council Decision concerning the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the consultations with the United Kingdom to agree on total allowable catches for 2021 and for certain deep sea stocks for 2021 and 2022, COM (2021) 68

The Danish Delegation in general welcomes the proposal.

Annex I

Article 1 - Principles

In general, the Danish delegation supports the principles, which are in line with the CFP. We understand that the Council Decision will apply also to TAC's to be set during the year for example for short-lived species and to possible TAC amendments during the year.

Article 2 - Orientations

(a), second bullet:

This bullet seems to contain too many elements that varies too much.

Regarding stocks with two different advices (for example lemon sole and witch), there is a need for a case-by-case approach where all elements are included, including the scientific advice, catches of the stocks respectively etc.

Regarding Norway lobster in the North Sea, the current approach with having one overall TACs, on the basis of several functional units is assessed to work both in terms of fisheries management and in relation to the sustainability of the stocks, therefore we at this point see no need to change the approach.

Sandeel is mentioned among stocks where **ICES advice does not match the management areas**. The fishing opportunities for sandeel are set exactly in line with the ICES management areas approach. We stress however the importance of continuing to group the sandeel management areas under one overall TAC. We do not think, that sandeel belongs to this category. Therefore, sandeel should be deleted from this bullet.

However, it is relevant to include a separate point on TAC setting for short-lived species, where it is relevant both that the time frame from the publication of the advice to the beginning of the fishery is very short, and that the fishing year does not follow the calendar year. We propose the following wording:

“aa: For sandeel, sprat and Norway Pout in the North Sea, where the fishing year does not follow the calendar year, the Union should ensure that TAC levels, in accordance with scientific advice, are fixed in time for the start of the fishing year.”

In this context it should be kept in mind that the scientific advice for sandeel is published 25 February this year and the fishery begins 1 April.

(b), second bullet, second subpoint on “remedial measures”

We question whether it is appropriate to refer exclusively to implementation of remedial measures through joint recommendations. Maybe other solutions could be relevant?

An example is the supplementary cod measures in the North Sea and Skagerrak fixed in the regulation on fishing opportunities. This has allowed for a swift implementation and a swift amendment compared to a delegated act through a joint recommendation. We are aware that these measures are not included in the bilateral discussions at stake here, but just an example.

(c), second bullet on low uptake

A TAC reduction where there is a low uptake should not be an objective in itself in a situation where changes in existing fishing patterns might occur.