

Traductions of the note 1189549 of the 15/03/18 of the European Commission.

Brussels, le 18/03/2015
MARE A2/EG/D(2015)

M. Aurelio Bilbao Barandica
CC SUD
6, rue Alphonse Rio
56100 Lorient
France

Subject: Proposed ban on driftnet fishing

Re: Opinion 89 of 10 July 2014

Dear Mr Bilbao,

Thank you for the SWW AC's opinion on the proposed ban on all driftnet fishing.

Regarding the socio-economic effects of the proposal and the impact of current driftnet fishing activities on protected species, an in-depth impact study was carried out during the preparation of the proposal. An extended public consultation was sent to all interested stakeholders and Member States. In addition, a good number of studies and analyses were carried out. The potential socio-economic effects of the ban and the impact of driftnet fishing activities on protected species were then analysed on the basis of data that was made available to the Commission. However, it would seem that not all stakeholders and all Member States were able to provide detailed information either on the use of driftnets and their impact on protected species, or on the potential socio-economic effects of a ban on fishing with driftnets at the time of the consultation.

Taking into account the above circumstances, the Commission is seeking additional information in order to gain a more comprehensive view of the situation. As the project is currently before the Council and Parliament, it is for these institutions to finalise the text. During this period, the Commission will facilitate discussion by providing co-legislators with all required elements, including the additional information received from the SWW AC. The questions raised by the different stakeholders will thus continue to be taken into account over the coming weeks, in parallel with the discussions that will take place in the European Parliament and Council.

I would like to thank you for your interest and constructive contribution. If you have any additional questions, I invite you to contact Mrs Evangelia Georgitsi, the coordinator of the Regional Advisory Councils (evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.295.04.43).

Yours sincerely,

Lowri Evans