



VIRGINIJUS SINKEVIČIUS
Commissioner for Environment
Oceans and Fisheries

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Aquaculture AC
Baltic Sea AC
Black Sea AC
Long Distance AC
Market AC
Mediterranean Sea AC
North Sea AC
North-western waters AC
CC Regions Ultra-Périphériques
Pelagic stocks AC
South-western waters AC

Dear Chairs and Vice Chairs of Advisory Councils,

Last year I had the pleasure to welcome you as representatives respectively of the industry and of other interest groups in Brussels ahead of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council for a roundtable discussion ahead of the decisions on the fishing opportunities for the following year.

I highly appreciated our exchange and your positive engagement and I would like us to gather again in the same format and look together at what science tells us about the state of the ocean and fish stocks, discuss the socio-economic situation of our fishers, and map the context in which the decisions for the 2024 fishing opportunities in the EU waters of the Atlantic Ocean, Kattegat and Skagerrak, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea will have to be taken.

As you will have seen, the Commission is proposing for the first time this year multi-annual TACs for the EU waters of the Atlantic Ocean, Kattegat and Skagerrak, which should improve predictability for the sector. There are also some good news with proposed increases in catch limits for stocks such as megrims, anglerfish, hake, horse mackerel in Iberian waters and plaice in Kattegat. At the same time, we need to continue safeguard measures for eels. Negotiations with the UK and Norway on jointly managed stocks are still ongoing.

For the Mediterranean and Black Sea, the Commission will integrate the excellent result of the GFCM annual session and for the implementation of the West Med MAP, the Commission proposes to use the holistic approach, making use of all tools, especially the compensation mechanism, based on the latest available scientific advice, promoting the continuous sustainable management of fisheries resources.

In this context, I would like to invite you – the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the respective Advisory Councils, for a roundtable discussion on 7 December 2023 at 10:30h, in the Commission's premises (Berlaymont Building, room WALTER HALLSTEIN.) I would welcome the opportunity to meet in person, but of course should that be difficult due to budgetary constraints on the part of either representative, the meeting can also be held in hybrid mode. You can send confirmation of attendance, specifying the possibility to attend in person, by 1st December, to Ms Hanna GREKULA, Hanna.GREKULA@ec.europa.eu .

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'V. Sinkevičius', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Virginijus Sinkevičius