



Members of the European Parliament
 60, rue Wiertz
 1047 Brussels
 Belgium

Brussels, 11 January 2018

Subject: Nature being undermined by Regulation that should sustainably manage fishing activities – Plenary vote on 16th January 2018

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

On 16th January, you will be voting on a regulation to conserve the marine environment through fisheries technical measures (*COM(2016)0134*). The position adopted by the Fisheries Committee in November 2017 would, however, dangerously undermine existing environmental standards.

This regulation is intended to merge and simplify 33 different pieces of legislation that establish how, when and where fishers must conduct their fishing activities. Members of the Fisheries Committee have, however, deleted and failed to adopt measures that would ensure coherence with other existing environmental laws, or to follow best scientific evidence. If adopted without drastic improvements, the current regulation would risk:

- Continuing to deplete from our seas iconic and protected species, including many thousands of seabirds, turtles, and marine mammals such as dolphins or harbour porpoises.
- Increasing the number of juveniles (baby fish) which are caught in the nets, with catastrophic impacts for the future of both fish stocks and fishing communities.
- Giving fishers free scope in using fishing gears that could cause damage to marine ecosystems, without scientific knowledge of the impacts, for example through electric pulse fishing.

The undersigned organisations urge the European Parliament not to adopt new legislation that will support the destruction of our oceans and is incoherent with existing EU environmental legislation.

We will share our voting recommendations prior to the vote in Plenary and call on you to drastically reverse this situation, or else reject the parliamentary position. Our marine environment depends on it.

Yours sincerely,

BirdLife Europe
Client Earth
Oceana
Seas at Risk
WWF European Policy Office
Association BIOM
Coalition Clean Baltic
CFFA-CAPE
Dreikönigsaktion, Hilfswerk der Katholischen Jungschar
Ecologistas en Acción
European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)
Fundació ENT
Fundacja Nasza Ziemia
Good Fish Foundation
Grupo de Estudos de Ordenamento do Território e Ambiente (GEOTA)
Humane Society International/Europe
Klub Gaja
Latvijas Ornitoloģijas Biedrība
Lega italiana protezione uccelli (Lipu)
Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO)
Marine Conservation Society
Marine Sciences and Cooperation Association (Sciaena)
Mediterranean Recovery Action (MedReAct)
NABU
Nederlandse Elasmobranchen Vereniging
Ocean Care
ÖKOBÜRO
Organisering af kystfiskeriet Levendehav
Pasuales Dabas Fonds
Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (OTOP)
Polish Ecological Club
Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA)
Quercus
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Spanish Ornithological Society
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC)