

Dutch Fishermen's Association and VisNed
Het Spijk 20
8302 WT URK
The Netherlands

Date: Urk, 27th March 2023

To all French fishers and fisheries organizations

Subject: Letter of support

Dear French colleagues,

With this letter we'd like to support you in your actions against the recent plans of the European Commission to ban bottom contact fisheries in Marine Protected Area's (MPA's). A ban on bottom fisheries in MPA's would have an enormous impact on our joint fisheries activities. It has not only impact on our fisheries and fishermen but also on their families, the viability of the coastal communities and related organizations like auctions, fishmongers and processors.

It is really important to show our joint position as EU-demersal fisheries and say **NO** to the plans of the European Commission. As fisheries organizations and representatives we do this already joint¹ in EU-fisheries umbrella organizations European Bottom Fisheries Alliance (EBFA), European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO) and Europeche. With your action in France the consequence of the plans of the European Commission become more visible for the society, policy makers and politicians.

Of course the entire Dutch demersal fleet oppose the plans of the European Commission, and we are trying our minister to support the group of ministers who already says NO to the plans and additional the Dutch fishermen who are active from French ports, like Boulogne sur Mer, active participating your work. Last week the Dutch demersal fleet has also active participated in an action of the German fishermen in Büsum.

We wish you from The Netherlands all the best and we'd like to keep in touch about this important topic. More information about this letter: Durk van Tuinen (tel. +316 42408572 / mail. dwvantuinen@vissersbond.nl).


Kind regards,

Dutch Fishermen's Association



Drs. Ing. J.K. Nooitgedagt
(Chairman)

VisNed



G. Meun
(Secretary/Director)

¹ <https://bottomfishingalliance.eu/newsletters/member-states-and-fishing-industry-meet-to-discuss-the-fisheries-package-and-the-future-of-bottom-fisheries/>