

## Ministry of Economic Affairs

> P.O. Box 20401 2500 EK Den Haag The Netherlands

To:  
Focus Group Pulse Fishing of the North Sea Advisory Council

Date 25/02/2015  
Re Dutch pulse derogation (in English)

On ... (*date*) you submitted an application for authorisation to fish with a pulse trawl. On 10 June 2011/5 August 2011 we notified you by letter that the processing of your application had been deferred and that you had been placed on the reserve list. According to the European Commission, the Netherlands has the opportunity to expand the use of the pulse trawl on the basis of Article 14 of the basic CFP regulation. In that context we now have the scope to grant further authorisations. On ..... (*date*) I received your reply in which you indicate that your original application is still valid.

Based on section four and five of Article 53, of the Sea Fisheries Implementing Regulation (*Uitvoeringsregeling zeevisserij*), I hereby grant you authorisation to use your vessel (*name*) to fish for flatfish with an electrical beam trawl (hereinafter pulse trawl) provided you do so within six months of the date postmarked on this letter. This authorisation ends on (*February 2019*).

### Permission requirements

The following provisions apply to this authorisation:

1. Fishing with pulse trawl is only allowed in the ICES divisions IVc and IVb south of a rhumb line joined by the following points, measured according to the WGS84 coordinate system:
  - A point on the east coast of the United Kingdom at latitude 55° N,
  - and a point on the west coast of Denmark at latitude 55° N.
2. Before fishing for flatfish the vessel must meet the following requirements:
  - a. maximum 1 kW per metre beam length or electric field width (electric capacity behind the ship's generator and in front of the power cables);
  - b. The field strength is a maximum of 0.25 Vrms per centimetre of electrode distance;
  - c. The electrode distance is a maximum of 40 cm;
  - d. The width of the electric field measured as a horizontal distance between the two outer electrodes, the perpendicular length between electrodes may not exceed the width of the net, to a maximum of 12 metres per pulse fishing gear.
  - e. The vessel is equipped with an automatic computer management system which records the maximum power used per beam and the effective voltage between electrodes for at least the last 100 tows. It

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**Your ref.**

**Encl.**

is not possible for non-authorised personnel to modify this automatic computer management system and

f. No tickler chains may be used in front of the footrope.

The requirements for the pulse trawl may be adjusted in the future.

3. A technical file (TF) must be kept on board during every fishing expedition. This TF must have been prepared by the supplier of the pulse fishing gear that was supplied to you and installed on your vessel, and this TF must contain a declaration from the supplier that the pulse fishing gear complies with the abovementioned requirements. The TF is part of the inspection of the pulse fishing gear. The Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate also requires a TF to be kept on board for fishing with a pulse trawl. The TF forms part of the regular certification of your vessel by the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate.
4. You are required to cooperate with the study into the effects of pulse fisheries carried out in collaboration between the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the fisheries sector and research institutes. This cooperation may involve contributing towards the costs of the programme. Article 14 of the basic regulation provides for the possibility, within the framework of the landing obligation, to carry out a pilot project to fully study all the viable methods of preventing, reducing and eliminating unwanted catches in fisheries. This authorisation to allow fishing with electrical pulse fishing gear is part of this pilot project. In order to monitor the results of this pilot project your participation in the monitoring programme is required. You will receive further information about participation in this study.
5. If you undertake a fishing voyage exclusively within the Dutch EEZ, you should use the following fishing gear codes when using the pulse trawl.

<b>Name of fishing gear</b>	<b>Code to be noted in logbook</b>
Pulse trawl	PUK
Pulse wing	PUL

It should be noted that if the abovementioned requirements are not met, the authorisation may be revoked.

For the sake of completeness, I would like to point out that on the basis of section seven, Article 53, of the Sea Fisheries Implementing Regulation, the requirements attached to this authorisation can change.

This authorisation for the use of a pulse trawl is valid for a period of 5 years. The objective of the pilot project is to arrive at a generic authorisation of the pulse trawl. If the pilot project is successful, specific authorisation will no longer be necessary. However, should the results of the pilot project be insufficient, and not result in the generic authorisation of the pulse trawl, then the restriction on the use of the pulse trawl will continue to apply fully. Further exemptions to the restriction cannot and shall not be permitted.

Finally, please inform me immediately in writing before actually fishing with the pulse trawl or when you decide to definitely stop using the pulse trawl.

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This exemption must be kept on board the vessel for the duration of the fisheries activities, and must be presented to the inspection official at first request.

You, or another party affected by this decision, may appeal against this decision to the Minister for Agriculture within six weeks of the date postmarked on this letter. Appeals accompanied by a copy of this letter should be sent to the following address:

Ministerie van Economische Zaken  
Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland  
Team Juridische Zaken  
Postbus 20401  
2500 EK Den Haag.

For the Minister for Agriculture,