



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/D3/KJ/Ares(2022)

Subject: NSAC Advice on Eel management in inland waters

Dear Mr Skau Fisher,

Thank you for submitting the NSAC advice related to the inland eel fisheries, environmental aspects, EMF(A)F elements (your Ref. 14-2122, our ref. Ares(2022)6311541) that complements the NWWAC/NSAC advice on the best way forward to implement the ICES zero-catch advice (your Ref. 09-2122).

We take note of your additional recommendations that serve as a valuable and timely input to the internal discussions in the Commission on the most suited measures for the conservation and management of European eel. Let me stress that we do recognise the need for a holistic and coordinated management approach, taking into account the socio-economic impacts.

This has also been highlighted by Commissioner Sinkevičius in his intervention in the AGRIFISH Council on 26 September. The Commissioner urged Member States to take further efforts and in particular to address the impacts of inland fisheries and non-fisheries factors in inland waters (such as from hydropower, pollution, contaminants, predation, climate change) to help the eel recover and safeguard the jobs depending on the eels. He also noted that the status quo is not an option, given the latest ICES advice. You may have already consulted the Commission services' information note¹ prepared for that Council meeting that will provide you with more details of our future thinking.

Hence, the current work on the conservation and management of European eel aims to tackle all anthropogenic pressures on the stock in a more holistic manner. For this to happen various Commission services are cooperating more closely. It is important to break the silos and strengthen the collaboration between the fisheries, environmental,

¹ The [COM background note](#) submitted to the AGRIFISH Council. To re-watch the interventions, check the [Council website here](#).

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energy national and regional administrations and other relevant stakeholders, including from the Advisory Councils.

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Pascale COLSON, coordinator of the Advisory Councils (Pascale.COLSON@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.295.62.73), who will forward them to relevant colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

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