

SECTION ANIMAL ECOLOGY AND SYSTEMATICS
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Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
Unit for Information and communication
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels

Fax +32 2 299 30 40 – 3 pages

OUR F
YOUR F
HEVER: E 2010-01-12

Re: consultation on Green Paper of Common Fisheries Reform – failed submission of FIE group of scientists - URGENT

Dear,

Herewith I consult you on how to submit our failed submission (attachment I). Attempts to submit online on 31 December 2009 failed (see copy of delivery status of email – attachment II). A back-up email sent to your service on Monday 4 January 2010 remained unanswered so far.

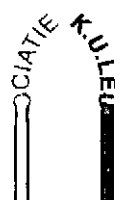
May I insist that our contribution is added as we attempted delivery in time and represent a group of 50 scientists with helpful scientific knowledge to the CFP. Could you please forward a suggestion on how to correct this situation? You can consult me by email or phone on the number below. Thanks a lot for your kind help.

Yours sincerely,

Filip Volckaert, PhD

Enclosures

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ATT. I

Commissioner Joe Borg
Commission of the European Union
Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries – MARE A
Jozef II Straat, 99
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

1 December 2009

Re: Consultation of the sector and public through a green paper on the “Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy”

Dear Commissioner Borg,

We appreciate very much your initiative for a community wide consultation on the *Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy* through a Green Paper (COM(2009)163 final). Given the current status of the many global fish stocks and fisheries this initiative is extremely timely.

The undersigned, members of a representative community of fisheries scientists studying the evolution of fish in European waters, volunteer their comments in regards to some issues on the biological resource: ecological sustainability (Par. 2, 4.2 and 5.1), climate change (Par. 2 and 5.5) and the ecosystem approach (Par. 4.2 and 5.5).

The undersigned argue that humanity has the potential to incur a major effect (Darwinian debt) on its fish stocks that will have to be repaid by future fishers and consumers. There are strong signs that such long-lasting impacts of fishing on natural stocks (Fisheries-induced Evolution) has to be considered in fisheries management. Without providing too much detail (see Jørgensen et al. (Science, 2007) and ICES Insight September 2009 p. 34-41), we present the following salient points:

- Fish stocks that become better adapted to fishing usually do so at the expense of becoming less well adapted to their “natural” environment
- Evolutionary damage usually happens much faster than it can be repaired.
- It would be wise for fisheries managers to adjust fishing selectivity in order to minimize fishery-induced evolution for traits that are considered important without sacrificing too much yield.

In our opinion, a precautionary approach complemented with “Darwinian” enlightened fishery management should benefit the resilience of the marine ecosystem (Par. 5.5). It should be implemented as soon as possible. We realize that this might conflict with economic profit in the short term, but we have evidence that it is the only viable strategy in the long term.

- 2 -

On: donderdag 31 december 2009 11:25
To: Filip Volckaert
Subject: Onbestelbaar: Contribution to the consultation - Registered - Fisheries Induced Evolution - 42418632917-43
Attachments: details.txt; Contribution to the consultation - Registered - Fisheries In... (903 KB)



details.txt (246 KB) Contribution to the
consultati...

This is an automatically generated Delivery Status Notification.

Delivery to the following recipients failed.

maria@fp-consultation@ec.europa.eu