

# The North Sea Regional Advisory Council



**NSRAC Secretariat**  
**Cammach Business Centre**  
**Greenbank Road, East Tullos**  
**Aberdeen AB12 3BN**  
**Scotland, UK**

Ms Lowri Evans  
Director General  
DG-MARE  
European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels  
Belgium

26<sup>th</sup> February, 2014

Dear Ms Evans,

## **Ongoing negotiations between EU and Norway**

On behalf of the Skagerrak and Kattegat Working Group of the North Sea Regional Advisory (NSRAC) we would like to express our thoughts on how the negotiations between the EU and Norway have been conducted this and previous years.

For our fishermen in the Skagerrak and the North Sea it is to say the least very unsatisfactory the way the negotiations have been handled and the non-agreement situation with Norway is extremely problematic. We are well aware of the importance of the pelagic sector and the mackerel issue, but the absence of a solution to the mackerel is now affecting many other fishermen really hard and it is just not acceptable.

The fact that it now seems like there will not be access to NEZ for our fishermen until after February is just not acceptable. The way the negotiations have been handled is now placing many fishermen and their families in a situation that is very difficult to manage financially.

This is the third time in four years that our fishermen have to wait for the negotiations to be finalized. It is very unsatisfactory and there must be a way preventing this from happening in coming years.

We urge you to find a way to allow our fishermen to fish in NEZ as they always have done even though the negotiations are still ongoing. We are aware of the fact that others are in the same situation, but that makes it even worse and more urgent in finding solutions. It cannot be so that politics is the main factor in our fishermen's work.

Chairman – **Niels Wichmann**, tel: +45 70 10 40 40, email: [nw@dkfisk.dk](mailto:nw@dkfisk.dk)  
Secretariat - tel: +44 77 02 75 58 21, email [admin@nsrac.org](mailto:admin@nsrac.org)  
NSRAC is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland No 273169  
Registered Office: Johnstone House, 52-54 Rose Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1HA



NSRAC is supported by the European Union

We find it extremely non-responsible from the EU placing our fishermen and their families in a situation such as the one we now have. The negotiations with Norway must be conducted in a much better way, not leading to a situation where many fishermen with families now are in a catastrophic economic situation.

Yours sincerely,



Niels Wichmann  
Chairman, Executive Committee

Chairman – **Niels Wichmann**, tel: +45 70 10 40 40, email: [nw@dkfisk.dk](mailto:nw@dkfisk.dk)  
Secretariat - tel: +44 77 02 75 58 21, email [admin@nsrac.org](mailto:admin@nsrac.org)  
NSRAC is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland No 273169  
Registered Office: Johnstone House, 52-54 Rose Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1HA



NSRAC is supported by the European Union