

# The North Sea Advisory Council



**NSRAC Secretariat  
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Mrs Lowri Evans  
Director General – DG MARE  
European Commission  
B-1049, Brussels  
Belgium

4 July, 2014

Dear Lowri,

## **Consultations between the EU and Norway on fishing arrangements for 2014**

The NSAC on behalf of the Skagerrak and Kattegat Working Group sent a letter to you on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014 regarding the consultations between the EU and Norway on fishing arrangements for 2014. In the letter we expressed the frustration and the impact to the fleet of not having access to traditional fishing waters. We received an answer from the Commission on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014 and we would like to thank you for that reply. According to the EU legislative order and the Treaty, it is the Commission that has the exclusive competence to negotiate in the field of the Common Fisheries Policy and therefore we would like to comment on the reply given as follows:

It is vital that the annual negotiations between the EU and Norway are conducted in a positive spirit with a constructive approach to achieve results. In the past four years there has been only one year where an agreement has been in place by the 1<sup>st</sup> January. This has been very problematic for the fishing industry. If possible, discussions ought to be initialised

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to set up some form of order to secure access to each of the parties' waters and to secure the traditional fisheries pattern in the beginning of the year.

We urge the Commission to find solutions in the future that do not risk the profitability and existence of the fleets that need to have access to Norwegian waters and allow them to be able to conduct their traditional fisheries in the first months of the years.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Niels Wichmann  
Chairman, Executive Committee

