



March 2018

Joint statement to the DK and NL Ministers and politicians

The Danish Fishermen's PO, Dutch VisNed and NL-Vissersbond held on February 27th 2018, a very constructive meeting in Taulov, Denmark regarding co-existence at sea, dialogue, co-operation with implementing the CFP, innovation and Brexit.

Gill Netters and beam trawlers must respect each other

Communication is the key to successful co-existence. A pro-active approach both from the Danish gillnetters as well as the Dutch beam trawl fisheries is required. To facilitate this, the organisations will set up a joint platform to inform about fisheries activities. Dutch Fishers are urged to engage pro-actively with their Danish colleagues, using all communications media. On the initiative of young fishers, a dedicated WhatsApp group will be set up. In case of incidents or conflict the organisations should be notified by fishers immediately, enabling them to sort the situation out at the shortest possible notice.

Compliance

Full compliance of fishers is essential, this includes full AIS coverage, as well as respecting boundaries of restricted areas. All fishers want level playing field. VisNed has repeated their declaration of 2017 that it is of utmost importance for Dutch fishers to behave as guests in Danish waters. Both VisNed and Vissersbond will take sanctions against their members who repeatedly show irresponsible behavior.

Skagerrak concerns

The Danish Fishermen expressed their concern regarding the fishing effort from the Dutch side in relation to the fishing opportunities. VisNed and Vissersbond have declared their willingness to consider swapping part of their TAC for Plaice in the Skagerrak for plaice and other stocks in the North Sea. A decision on this, needs internal consultation and alignment within the Dutch PO's.

CFP implementation and Brexit

Danish Fisherman's PO, Dutch VisNed and NVB are extremely worried about the next phase of implementing the Landing Obligation. The metaphor of 'the Perfect storm' which will hit the fishing industry early 2019 was used again. The parties urged the Scheveningen Group of EU member states around the North Sea to come up with a comprehensive plan enabling a smooth transition from landing based management to catch based management in 2019. For plaice, as well as other flatfish, research shows high survival rates when discarded. Flatfish such as plaice should therefore be exempted from the landing obligation. Parties agreed to share the outcome of their respective research projects.

As regard the technical conservation measures, parties expressed the need for innovation and a evidence based decision making process. Parties expressed their concern that the ongoing revision of the regulation for technical conservation measures would result in a new regulation less workable than the existing one, and thus resulting in a worse situation than the existing one.

As regards Brexit, the Danish and the Dutch organisations recognise their joint responsibilities in the post Brexit era, both regarding the future of the regional advisory councils, as well as creating a platform for cooperation between EU fishers and the non-EU fishers in the North Sea and other waters.

For further information:

Danmarks Fiskeri Forening Producent Organisation	Kenn Skau Fischer	ksf@dkfisk.dk	+45 51199537
VisNed	Pim Visser	wisser@visned.nl	+31 653146220
Nederlandse Vissersbond	Durk van Tuinen	dwantuinen@vissersbond.nl	+31 642408572