



Members of the European Parliament  
 60, rue Wiertz  
 1047 Brussels  
 Belgium

Brussels, 11 January 2018

**Subject: Nature being undermined by Regulation that should sustainably manage fishing activities – Plenary vote on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

On 16<sup>th</sup> January, you will be voting on a regulation to conserve the marine environment through fisheries technical measures (*COM(2016)0134*). The position adopted by the Fisheries Committee in November 2017 would, however, dangerously undermine existing environmental standards.

This regulation is intended to merge and simplify 33 different pieces of legislation that establish how, when and where fishers must conduct their fishing activities. Members of the Fisheries Committee have, however, deleted and failed to adopt measures that would ensure coherence with other existing environmental laws, or to follow best scientific evidence. If adopted without drastic improvements, the current regulation would risk:

- Continuing to deplete from our seas iconic and protected species, including many thousands of seabirds, turtles, and marine mammals such as dolphins or harbour porpoises.
- Increasing the number of juveniles (baby fish) which are caught in the nets, with catastrophic impacts for the future of both fish stocks and fishing communities.

- Giving fishers free scope in using fishing gears that could cause damage to marine ecosystems, without scientific knowledge of the impacts, for example through electric pulse fishing.

The undersigned organisations urge the European Parliament not to adopt new legislation that will support the destruction of our oceans and is incoherent with existing EU environmental legislation.

We will share our voting recommendations prior to the vote in Plenary and call on you to drastically reverse this situation, or else reject the parliamentary position. Our marine environment depends on it.

Yours sincerely,

BirdLife Europe  
Client Earth  
Oceana  
Seas at Risk  
WWF European Policy Office  
Association BIOM  
Coalition Clean Baltic  
CFFA-CAPE  
Ecologistas en Acción  
European Environmental Bureau (EEB)  
Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)  
Fundació ENT  
Fundacja Nasza Ziemia  
Good Fish Foundation  
Grupo de Estudos de Ordenamento do Território e Ambiente (GEOTA)  
Humane Society International/Europe  
Klub Gaja  
Latvijas Ornitoloģijas Biedrība  
Lega italiana protezione uccelli (Lipu)  
Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO)  
Marine Conservation Society  
Marine Sciences and Cooperation Association (Sciaena)  
Mediterranean Recovery Action (MedReAct)  
NABU  
Nederlandse Elasmobranchen Vereniging  
Ocean Care  
ÖKOBÜRO  
Organisering af kystfiskeriet Levendehav  
Pasuales Dabas Fonds  
Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (OTOP)  
Polish Ecological Club  
Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA)  
Quercus  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)  
Spanish Ornithological Society  
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation  
Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC)