

**European Association of fish Producers Organisations**  
**Association Européenne des Organisations de Producteurs dans le secteur de la pêche**



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Oostende, 9 December 2019

**PRESS RELEASE**

**EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING ON AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES 16-17 DECEMBER 2019:**

***EAPO CALLS UPON EU MEMBER STATE MINISTERS TO DECIDE ON TACs AND QUOTA 2020 TAKING A BALANCED APPROACH TO BOTH THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY.***

In preparation of the December Fisheries Council EAPO has sent a position paper with relevant recommendations for about 40 stocks to the Council Members, the European Commission and the regional fisheries management bodies. The paper also contains constructive observations about pursuing the CPF objectives and the Commission's approach to setting fishing opportunities. Specific attention is given to the difficulty in combining the Maximum Sustainable Yield objective with the Landing Obligation. EAPO sees sufficient elements to set TACs and quota at levels taking into account long term ecologic sustainability as enabling fishers to achieve economic, social and employment benefits, and contribute to the food supply.

Pim Visser, President of EAPO, says: *"We specifically address the management of stocks for which scientific advice is far from positive. Unfortunately this is the case for the cod stocks in the North Sea, the Celtic Sea and West of Scotland, where a lot of our membership's mixed fisheries activities are taking place. Because of this mixed character of the fisheries, we suggest a gradual and adaptive approach to management measures to reach the sustainability objectives."*

Only one week before the start of the December Agrifish council, for many stocks more information is required before a quantified proposal can be provided to the ministers. With the December Council Position Paper EAPO aims to contribute to the ministers having all the necessary data to agree the Council Regulation for fishing opportunities in 2020.

**===== Ends =====**

A copy of the position paper can be found on [www.eapo.com](http://www.eapo.com) or requested via [info@eapo.com](mailto:info@eapo.com).

EAPO represents 38 Producers Organisations from 10 EU Member States, with approximately 10,000 vessels, 3.5 million tonnes of landings and a first sale value of € 3 billion.

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