



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

BALTIC SEA, NORTH SEA AND LANDLOCKED MEMBER STATES

Brussels,
MARE E/E2/SJ D(2011)

Kalervo Aska
Chairman in Finland
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Subject: Letter of 12/01/2012 concerning the comments on salmon management plan (Ares(2012)34680)

Dear Mr Aska,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 12 January 2012 which was addressed to both Commissioner Damanaki and myself. We read your proposal with great interest and it was referred to during very constructive discussions we had with the representatives of the Regional Council of Lapland.

In reply to your first question regarding the application of the provisions of the Common Fisheries Policy and the Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), I would like to mention that, under the UNCLOS provisions, it is recognized that the State of origin has the primary interest and responsibility for anadromous, e.g. salmon, stocks. The States of origin upon accession to the European Union have transferred their competence in fisheries matters to the European Union. According to Article 3(1) of the Lisbon Treaty, such competence is an exclusive one, therefore only the Union may legislate and adopt legally binding acts.

In reply to your second question regarding the allocation of fishing opportunities of the salmon to the commercial fisheries at sea, I must say that such an allocation has been in place for years and is based on the relative stability principle established in the Basic Regulation.¹ With the proposed salmon management plan, the Commission seeks to establish the rule according to which fishery at sea would be reduced to the very low fishing mortality. This rule, as well as the remaining provisions of the salmon management plan were drafted after the scientists had provided their advice on all the elements of the plan.

Yours sincerely,


Carla MONTESI
Director

¹ Article 20(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 of 20 December 2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the Common Fisheries Policy (OJ L 358, 31.12.2002, p. 59)