



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

Fisheries Policy Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic and Outermost Regions  
The Director

Brussels  
MARE.C.1/AK/ms

Dear Sirs,

Commissioner Sinkevičius thanks you for your letter of 7 April 2024 in which you provide information about the Finnish quota system for salmon, the status of the Torneriver salmon population and your concerns about the scientific fishery envisaged by Finland. Your letter has retained the Commissioner's full attention and he has asked me to reply on his behalf.

We are aware of the concerns of many stakeholders about the fact that the return of spawners in 2023 was very low. I invite you to share the scientific elements and data at your disposal with the scientists of your national institute who participate in the preparation and adoption of the annual stock advice by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES).

A Finnish project for a scientific fishery on salmon was indeed notified to the Commission in February 2024. It covers ICES subdivisions 29 North and 30 where commercial salmon fisheries are not allowed in 2024. The project does however not cover ICES subdivision 31 where the Torneriver is located and where commercial fisheries can continue in 2024 under the same conditions as in 2022 and 2023, except that the TAC set by the EU was reduced; the distribution of each Member State's share in the TAC is a Member States' responsibility.

I understand that your association is worried about the notified scientific fishery. I notice that you don't mention as a concern the continued commercial fisheries in subdivision 31 which probably catch more salmon from the Torneriver than the notified scientific fishery. In any case, according to the applicable rules of article 25 of the Technical Measures Regulation (EU) 2019/1241, the Finnish project was recently assessed by the Commission's Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)<sup>(1)</sup>. It found that the extent of the fishery was not justified on scientific grounds. Finland will therefore have to amend its project accordingly.

I hope I could clarify this matter for you.

Fabrizio DONATELLA

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<sup>(1)</sup> STECF PLEN 24-01, p. 101-105 [https://stecf.ec.europa.eu/final-reports/plenary-reports\\_en](https://stecf.ec.europa.eu/final-reports/plenary-reports_en)

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