



# Political agreement on North Sea Multi-Annual Plan undermines CFP commitments

March 2018

On 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017 a political agreement on the European Commission’s proposal for a multi-annual Plan (MAP) for demersal fisheries in the North Sea was reached in trilogue. The text resulting from inter-institutional negotiations will be voted in the Fisheries Committee meeting of the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

**NGOs urge you to reject the text resulting from the inter-institutional negotiations, as it undermines key requirements of the CFP and contradicts the European Parliament’s position adopted in Plenary on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017.**

## **IT FAILS TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF ALL NORTH SEA DEMERSAL STOCKS.**

The CFP’s objective to restore harvested species to healthy levels applies to all fish stocks, as recognized by the Parliament in its plenary vote. The political agreement would only apply this objective to a limited number of North Sea ‘target’ stocks, and apply lower management targets to so-called ‘bycatch’ stocks.

## **IT ALLOWS FISHING ABOVE SUSTAINABLE LEVELS.**

In order to restore fish stocks, the CFP requires that fishing mortality be limited to sustainable levels. The political agreement contravenes the Parliament’s position, expressed in the plenary votes for both the Baltic and North Sea MAPs, that fishing limits should not exceed the  $F_{MSY}$  reference point.

## **IT FAILS TO DELIVER LONG-TERM, ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT FOR THE NORTH SEA.**

Multi-annual plans were intended to deliver the overarching objectives of the CFP under regionalized, long-term, ecosystem-based fisheries management. The political agreement merely enables the Council to set fishing limits above the levels required by the CFP, without adding measures to ensure the long-term sustainability of North Sea ecosystems.

**We look forward to supporting the European Parliament in adopting future multi-annual plans that are fully in line with the CFP, coherent with EU environmental legislation, and which secure environmentally and economically sustainable fisheries for EU fishermen.**

### **Contacts:**

Vera Coelho	<b>The Pew Charitable Trusts</b>	<a href="mailto:vcoelho@pewtrusts.org">vcoelho@pewtrusts.org</a>	+32 2 274 2863
Bruna Campos	<b>BirdLife Europe</b>	<a href="mailto:bruna.campos@birdlife.org">bruna.campos@birdlife.org</a>	+32 2 238 5099
Henrike Semmler Le	<b>Oceana</b>	<a href="mailto:hsemmler@oceana.org">hsemmler@oceana.org</a>	+45 3 165 5863
Björn Stockhausen	<b>Seas At Risk</b>	<a href="mailto:bstockhausen@seas-at-risk.org">bstockhausen@seas-at-risk.org</a>	+32 2 893 0968
Flaminia Tacconi	<b>ClientEarth</b>	<a href="mailto:ftacconi@clientearth.org">ftacconi@clientearth.org</a>	+32 2 808 4322
Ignacio Fresco Vanzini	<b>WWF EPO</b>	<a href="mailto:ivanzini@wwf.eu">ivanzini@wwf.eu</a>	+32 485464709