



**NSRAC**

Date: 30 April 2007

**Joint letter from the BS RAC and the NS RAC to the Commission, Council and European Parliament on a future Regulation establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel**

The two RACs share the objective the Commission has presented in the proposal, ie to create a common set of rules to protect and establish a sustainable use of the stock of European eel. The two RACs also underline that common rules on a European level must ensure the equal treatment of all community fishermen.

The NS RAC and the BS RAC have a few points to highlight and to be considered by the Commission and the Council in the ongoing negotiations on the proposal:

1. The elaborated regulation on eel must extend over all life stages of the European eel and the two RACs can thus support this element of the proposal as is presently suggested by the Council Presidency.
2. The National Eel Management Plans must, as is now proposed, be the core of the regulation and comprise, in all Member States, all of the measures specifically mentioned in the article on Management Plans. The possible reduction in effort is now proposed to be a secondary option. The two RACs can support this approach.
3. The two RACs also supports the wide range of measures suggested in the national management plans, ie, ranging from increasing the spawning stocks by restocking of eels, reducing and regulating fisheries, habitat measures, combating predators, such as seals and cormorants, improving on water quality, and temporary stops on hydro-electric power turbines, installations of fish/eel passes with regards to both old and new hydropower stations and closures of the most damaging hydro-power stations. Member States should also be reminded that the non-CFP-related measures can and should be implemented without awaiting a Council decision on the recovery plan itself.
4. The use of glass-eels shall, according to the view of the RACs, be ensured to a major part to be used for restocking purposes. The percentage of glass eel catches used for restocking purposes should not be less than 75% of the total catches of glass eel. A restriction in glass eel mortality is an obligate measure, and the yellow as well as the silver eel mortality should be recognized to ensure a sufficient rate of silver eel migrating to the spawning grounds. Restocking eels with a length up to

20cm and releasing yellow and silver eels for reproducing might be a good measure for this purpose.

5. In the proposed article on measures concerning Community maritime Waters it is pertinent that these Waters also may be part of the Member States Eel Management Plans to ensure the equal treatment in relation to management of eel and in relation different fisheries. The management plans should, according to the regulation, be approved by the Commission that can deem the proposed measures for the maritime waters aligned with other measures in the management plans.

**Signed by**



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