

October 4<sup>th</sup> 2019

Mr. Jari Leppä  
Minister of Forestry and Agriculture

**Letter to Ministers on Council TAC deliberations for 2020**

Dear Minister

The upcoming Agriculture and Fisheries Council deliberations on fishing limits for 2020 will take place in a very specific context: this Council represents the last opportunity for member states to meet the 2020 deadline to end overfishing in European waters as legally required by the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

We welcome the progress that has been made in increasing the number of catch limits set in line with scientific advice. Nevertheless, we remain very concerned that, according to the latest report from the EU's Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), more than **40%** of the North-East Atlantic stocks are still subject to overfishing. Furthermore, we note with serious concern that the rate of progress toward meeting the requirement to end overfishing has slowed in the last few years, making additional and urgent efforts necessary to restore stocks to healthy levels.

This year, we would welcome an unequivocal commitment from you that you will do your utmost to meet the Article 2(2) requirements of the CFP, taking a leading role regarding stocks that are important to Poland in particular. We urge you to strongly and openly oppose recommendations that do not follow the scientific advice of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the CFP Article 2(2) objectives.

A large number of Finnish and EU citizens followed and participated in the CFP reform process, supporting ministers and members of the European Parliament to agree requirements in 2013 to end overfishing. The decisions Finland must take on 2020 fishing limits can begin to address the harm caused by the delays in the CFP's implementation since 2014, put into effect policies that the public support, and protect our fish stocks and oceans.

We call on you to champion complete implementation of the policy without delay, lead the fight to end overfishing and meet the objectives of the CFP in this critical year.

Your sincerely,

Andrew Clayton  
Project Director, Ending Overfishing in Northwestern Europe, The Pew Charitable Trusts on behalf of the organisations listed below (logos attached).



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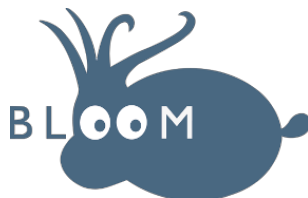


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