



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,  
MARE.C5/EL/vr/Ares(2021)

Mr Emiel Brouckaert  
Chairman Executive Committee  
NWW Advisory Council  
info@nwwac.ie

Dear Mr. Brouckaert,

Thank you for your letter of 14 January 2021.

Due to the late conclusion of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), the December Council agreed to set provisional TACs for the first three months of 2021. This decision was taken as a bridging solution to avoid any disruptions in the fishing activities for the EU fisheries sector.

As you rightly point out, the Commission made a statement committing to analysing whether some of the provisional TACs were in need of further adjustment due to the seasonal nature of the fishery. As a result, the Commission adopted a proposal with higher provisional TACs for a number of stocks on 25 January, which is currently under discussion at the Council Working Party. This process of adapting the provisional TACs will have no bearing on the ongoing consultations with the United Kingdom.

I agree with you that the setting of definitive TACs is one of the most pressing matters right now. For that reason, the EU seeks to make swift progress on the annual consultations with the UK in the coming weeks, based on the recently agreed TCA provisions and the guidance provided by the Council for these consultations. We think this is the best way to ensure certainty and stability for our fishermen and women going forward.

Let me in the end reassure you that my services and I will do everything we can to achieve a swift finalisation of the EU-UK consultation.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA