



**VIRGINIJUS SINKEVIČIUS**  
Commissioner for Environment  
Oceans and Fisheries

Brussels, 11/11/2022  
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Aquaculture Advisory Council  
Baltic Sea Advisory Council  
Black Sea Advisory Council  
Long Distance Advisory Council  
Market Advisory Council  
Mediterranean Advisory Council  
North Sea Advisory Council  
North Western Waters Advisory Council  
Conseil Consultatif pour les Régions Ultrapériphériques  
Pelagic Advisory Council  
South West Waters Advisory Council

Dear Chairs and Vice Chairs of Advisory Councils,

We are amidst preparations of the decisions on the fishing opportunities for next year for fish stocks in the EU waters of the Atlantic Ocean, Kattegat and Skagerrak, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. In that context, I am reaching out to you as representatives respectively of the industry and of other interest groups to invite you to a roundtable discussion ahead of the AGRIFISH Council meeting on 12-13 December later this year.

While the scientific assessment this year observes a positive trend for some stocks and as a result the Commission proposal of 28 October 2022 contains some good news for our fishermen and women, decisions this year will by no means be easier than previous years. Our fishermen have been facing a dire socio-economic situation, our oceans and the marine environment have been suffering the consequences of climate change and pollution, and while we have collectively contributed with responsible decisions and practices to the recovery of many fish stocks in the North East Atlantic, there are many stocks which are still ailing. This year, again, we need to rise up to the challenge of striking the right balance between the three pillars of sustainability of the Common Fisheries Policy – environmental, social and economic, and I want to engage in a genuine discussion with you on how to achieve that.

To that end, I would like to invite two representatives of each Advisory Council – the Chair as representing the industry and a Vice Chair representing other interest groups, for a roundtable discussion on 5 December 2022, 11:00h – 13:00h in the Commission's premises (Berlaymont Building, SALLE JEAN MONNET). I would welcome the opportunity to meet you in person,

but should that be difficult on the part of either representative, we could consider a hybrid format.

Please send a confirmation of your attendance by 28 November, to Ms. Monika Žebuolytė, [Monika.Zebuolyte@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Monika.Zebuolyte@ec.europa.eu) .

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'V. Sinkevičius', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Virginijus Sinkevičius