

EP(14)45

Brussels, 13th June 2014

Mrs. Maria DAMANAKI
Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
European Commission
1049 Brussels

Re: Recovery of Blue fin Tuna stocks for the season of 2014

Dear Commissioner Damanaki,

As you are aware, recent reports claim to have found a spectacular recovery of blue fin tuna in this year's fishing season of 2014 in European waters.

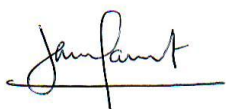
ICCAT has also confirmed this recovery which comes eight years after the implementation of the Recovery Plan in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean and which saw a reduction of over 50 percent of available quota levels in 2010. Stock levels of blue fin have been rapidly increasing over the past two years¹. The quota level is far from the actual status of the stock and the presence of adult tuna in European waters has been confirmed by ICCAT observers conducting the assessment survey².

Whilst we must celebrate this tremendous increase in the record levels of species biomass, its success must be reflected in the increase of quota for the coming year. It goes without saying that increased quotas must of course go hand in hand with equally high controls to ensure we do not undermine the success we have already achieved with this stock.

Europêche believes that such record levels of stock recovery must be consistent with quota allocation and expects the Commission to defend the aforementioned position at the next ICCAT meeting.

I look forward to hearing whether the Commission intends to endorse this approach.

Yours sincerely,



Javier Garat
President of Europêche

Copy: Lowri Evans, Stefaan Depypere, Carla Montesi and Fabrizio Donatella

¹ Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment in Spain, MAGRAMA
http://www.magrama.gob.es/ca/prensa/14.05.28%20Temporada%20pesca%20at%C3%BAn%20rojo_tcm8-330143_noticia.pdf who also note that the Spanish national quota of 2540 metric tonnes was exhausted in 48 hours according to the

² UNIMAR carried out the stock assessment survey during the summer of 2013. Data available in the UNIMAR activity report
http://www.iccat.int/GBYP/Documents/ASURVEY/PHASE%204/Aerial_Survey_AreasCDF_2013_Unimar.pdf