

Taulov, 8th March 2019

Joint statement to the Danish and Dutch Ministers and politicians

The Danish Fishermen's PO, Dutch VisNed and NL-Vissersbond held on March 8th, 2019, a very constructive meeting in Taulov, Denmark regarding co-existence at sea, dialogue between fishers at sea and improvement of reporting scheme.

The meeting was a follow-up of the meeting held in Taulov on February 27th, 2018 where the first steps were taken to improve the co-existence at sea.

The parties discussed lessons learned from 2018. Both parties agreed that the incidents at sea involving Dutch and Danish vessels have decreased since the fisheries organizations on both sides agreed to cooperate closely on communication and troubleshooting as from 2018.

However, it is not likely that all incidents can be avoided, but the aim and the ambition is to avoid as many as at all possible through improved communication and co-operation between the fishers involved.

Gill Netters and beam trawlers must respect each other

Communication is the key to successful co-existence. A pro-active approach both from the Danish gillnetters as well as the Dutch beam trawl fisheries is required. To facilitate this, the organizations have set up a joint platform to inform about fisheries activities. Dutch Fishers are urged to engage pro-actively with their Danish colleagues, using all communications media.

On the initiative of fishers, a dedicated WhatsApp group was set up prior to the season in 2018. In case of incidents or conflict the organisations should be notified by fishers immediately, enabling them to sort the situation out at the shortest possible notice.

This reporting scheme was evaluated. Both parties agreed that the system has proven efficient. Based on the lessons learned from 2018, further steps will be taken to improve and strengthen the system in the upcoming months.

Compliance

Full compliance of fishers is essential, this includes full AIS coverage, as well as respecting boundaries of restricted areas. All fishers want level playing field. VisNed has repeated their declaration of 2017 that it is of utmost importance for Dutch fishers to behave as guests in Danish waters. Both VisNed and Vissersbond will take sanctions against their members who repeatedly show irresponsible behavior.

Further discussions

The Danish and Dutch fisheries organizations engaged in the fisheries agreed to meet at least once a year in either The Netherlands or in Denmark to discuss lessons learned and elaborate further on how to improve communications between fishers.

Danish Fishermen PO

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