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1 April 2015

TO:  
**President**  
**Vice President**  
**Heads of Delegation**  
**All Contracting Parties**

**Reference: HOD 15/32**

**Proposed exploratory fisheries by the European Union – Notice of Intent**

With reference to Recommendation 19:2014, please find attached a letter from the EU regarding a proposal for exploratory bottom pot fishing in the NEAFC Regulatory Area (international waters of the Barents Sea), which I am sure you will find self-explanatory.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads 'Stefán Ásmundsson'.

Stefán Ásmundsson  
**Secretary**



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

ATLANTIC, OUTERMOST REGIONS AND ARCTIC  
ADVISER NORWAY AND NEAFC

Brussels,  
MARE C/AT

Mr Stefan Asmundsson  
Secretary  
North-East Atlantic Fisheries  
Commission  
22 Berners Street  
London  
W1T 3DY  
UNITED KINGDOM

**Subject: Proposed exploratory fisheries by the European Union  
– Notice of Intent**

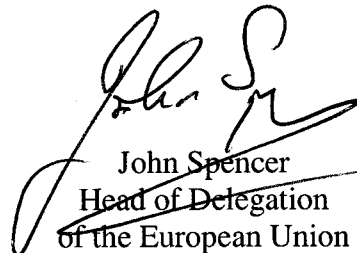
Dear Mr Asmundsson,

Please find enclosed a copy of an assessment report on a proposal for exploratory bottom pot fishing in the NEAFC Regulatory Area (international waters of the Barents Sea – Loophole).

This proposal is submitted in line with Articles 6 and 7 of Recommendation 19:2014 and should be submitted to Contracting Parties, as well as to PECMAS, for review. Following this assessment, and should the Commission approve the project, it is the intention that exploratory bottom fisheries would start later in 2015.

In view of the fact that no PECMAS meeting is foreseen to take place before October 2015, and in accordance with Article 7 (3) of the Recommendation, the Union would request that PECMAS should undertake its evaluation of the submitted documentation through correspondence. In any case, this evaluation by PECMAS should be carried out within three months of the submission of the Notice of Intent and the Commission should either give or withhold its approval within 30 days of the subsequent advice from PECMAS.

Please let me know if there is any need for further clarification.

  
John Spencer  
Head of Delegation  
of the European Union