

Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP

Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
DEFRA
Marsham Street
London

Marianne Sivertsen Næss

Minister of Fisheries and Ocean Policy
Kongens gate 8
Oslo

23 May 2024

Reference: North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) Coastal State fisheries negotiations – blue whiting stocks

Dear Ministers,

On behalf of the Global Salmon Initiative, and its 14 members representing over 40% of the global farmed salmon industry, this letter is to stress the importance of the blue whiting stock negotiations and the necessity to reach an agreement on quotas aligned to scientific advice at the earliest opportunity.

Blue whiting is a core component in salmon feed and is currently under a Fisheries Improvement Plan (FIP) as operated by the Marin Trust which is set to expire in October 2024. If this happens, there will be significant consequences not only for the surrounding farming regions, but on global supply chains.

In addition, our members have a commitment to achieve the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) Farm Standard, which requires compliant marine ingredients sourced from sustainable fisheries such as Marin Trust and Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). These certifications are essential to buyers, consumers and certification schemes to ensure the responsible sourcing and traceability of these key resources. If a resolution is not found for blue whiting, members will have to look to alternate fisheries, which will put pressure on other stocks and undoubtedly increase the carbon footprint of transporting resources across geographies. Inaction regarding FIP challenges poses significant risks to our supply chain. Potential disruptions could lead to increased feed costs due to shortages of certified ingredients and necessitate formula changes, impacting ASC feed certification maintenance. It's imperative to act collectively to mitigate these risks and ensure the stability of our operations.

GSI is in full support of the North Atlantic Pelagic Advisory Group (NAPA) urging coastal state negotiators to find a science-based approach to sustainable fishing practices. NAPA has recognized the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) scientific advice for an increase in the blue whiting Total Allowable Catch (TAC).

A pragmatic negotiated coastal state settlement is in the interest of the salmon farming, and wider aquaculture industry to ensure a sustainable and certified fishery can be productive in the future. We urge you and your governments to press for this outcome.

Yours Sincerely,



Sophie Ryan
Chief Executive Officer
Global Salmon Initiative

