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Draft consultative report: Installation of marine/offshore wind generators

The members of SWWAC are unanimously opposed to the occupation of the traditional European fishing zones where this activity has been taking place for centuries.

It is essential to prohibit the installation of marine wind generators or other facilities in the absence of a favourable official consultative report from the associations representing the traditional fishing zones. We cannot accept, or even imagine that companies could endanger the survival of the various fishing communities in a whole region in order to make a profit.

The members also demand that the definition of the Maritime Space Planning of each Member State should preserve the fishing zones which are registered on in the fishing registers and controlled by each Member State, whether these are electronic/energy performance registers or otherwise.

We would also point out that the concession of these zones by each Member state must take account of their enlargement without ever interfering with the fishing activities in any of these regions in the future.

Some zones have already been subject to concessions, such as Portugal, affecting three communities, those of Viana do Castelo, Povoia do Varzim and Vila do Conde, which have been engaged in duly authorised activities, with fixed nets, for several centuries. These communities of traditional fishermen, outraged and angry, refuse to remove their nets. Situations of this kind must not and cannot take place in the European fishing area.

SWWAC appeals unanimously to the European Commission and the European commissioner for maritime affairs and fishing, and recommends that they refuse all cooperation with these serious attacks on European fishing communities, by giving financial support to fixed maritime and other installation projects, detrimental to the survival of small fishing communities which are trying to protect themselves through community based initiatives. Commissioner, you will surely take this case into consideration, and it will be necessary to send a directive to all the Member States stating that there will be no community funding for attacks of this kind.

Commissioner, SWWAC would ask you to inform us of the studies that have surely been carried out on the radiation/consequences of electric cables that convey the energy to the shore, on the fauna and flora, which inevitably populate the fishing zones.

We look forward to hearing from you, and are sure that you will give your full support to traditional fishing.