



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

RECEIVED

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Mr. Hugo Andersson  
Chairman, North Sea Regional Advisory Council  
NSRAC Secretariat  
Woodhill House  
Westburn Road  
Aberdeen AB16 5 GB  
Scotland

Dear Mr. Andersson,

It is with great interest that I have read the letter that was sent to me by the Chair of the Spatial Planning Working Group of the NSRAC, presenting the North Sea RAC Framework Protocol for interactions between windfarms and fisheries.

As you may be aware, the European Commission is currently preparing a Communication on the subject of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), as a follow-up to the Blue Book on a Integrated European Maritime Policy adopted in October 2007. The subject of your document is very closely linked to one of the central issues the Commission will address in the Communication, namely, the issue of competing maritime activities making use of the same maritime space. The particular concerns of fisheries as a "mobile" activity with regard to space taken up by "immobile" activities such as windfarms is a case in point.

Following the adoption of the Communication on MSP, it is our intention to organise debate meetings where questions such as the above can be further developed. I would very much like to see active involvement of your organisation and indeed, other RACs, in this debate. You may be aware that the Baltic Sea RAC has already initiated its own debate on MSP.

I look forward to continuing the exchange on this important subject with your organisation, both directly, and in the context of a wider debate on MSP across Europe.

Yours sincerely,

Fokion Fotiadis

cc.: Mr. Euan Dunn, Chair, NSRAC Spatial Planning Working Group, NSRAC