



Herman Snijders
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy
P.O. Box 20401
2500 EK The Hague
The Netherlands

Paris, 25 October 2018

Subject: Information request regarding the equipment of Dutch trawls with electrodes

Dear Sir,

BLOOM is a non-profit organization founded in 2005 that works to preserve the marine environment and species from unnecessary destruction and to increase social benefits in the fishing sector. BLOOM wages awareness and advocacy campaigns in order to accelerate the adoption of concrete solutions for the ocean, humans and the climate. BLOOM carries out scientific research projects, independent studies and assessments that highlight crucial and unaddressed issues such as the financing mechanisms of the fishing sector or ecosystem impacts of destructive fishing gears.

As you may be aware, BLOOM is running a campaign with other NGOs and artisanal fishers on electric fishing in Europe. As part of this endeavor, we have been looking for information on the **dates upon which each Dutch electric trawler was first equipped with electrodes**. We note that these data form the basis of Figure 5.2.1 in the 2018 WGELECTRA report (enclosed).¹

If applicable, the dates upon which trawlers have switched back and forth between regular and electric beam trawls would also be useful.

We have so far been unsuccessful at accessing these data. Both VisNed's Pim Visser² and WUR's Dr. Adriaan Rijnsdorp³ have declined our requests, arguing that these data were either unavailable or confidential (which we strongly dispute). Following ICES recommendation,⁴ we now turn to you.

I would be grateful if you could forward these data to us.

I look forward to your prompt reply,

Warmest regards,

Dr. Frédéric Le Manach
BLOOM, Scientific Director

¹ ICES (2018) Report of the Working Group on Electric Trawling (WGELECTRA). IJmuiden, the Netherlands, 17-19 April 2018. ICES CM 2018/EOSG: 10.

² <http://www.bloomassociation.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/visned-response.pdf>.

³ <http://www.bloomassociation.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/imares-response-2.pdf>.

⁴ <http://www.bloomassociation.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/ices-response-2.pdf>.



Annex: Figure 5.2.1 in the 2018 WGELECTRA report

