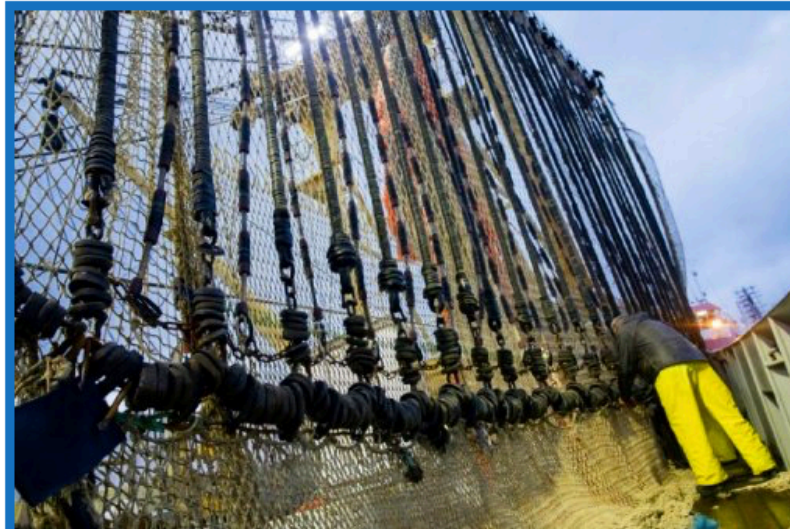


German EU Presidency criticised over reopening electric-pulse debate

by editor | Sep 8, 2020 | EU Fishing Industry, Featured News



The German EU Presidency has been heavily criticised for its intention to reopen the debate on electric-pulse fishing after it has been banned

Fileyeurs Hauts-de-France and the Bloom Association have sent a message to the European Commission and the German EU Presidency on electric-pulse fishing.

Fileyeurs Hauts-de-France tweeted "Enforce the regulations on electric fishing. 5% = 15 licenses. No sleight of hand to justify a fraud that has lasted for 10 years and that you confirm. Responsible artisanal fishermen are disappearing by your schemes.

"Shame on the Commission ... test of a Europe that does not work no longer."

At last Thursday's PECH Committee, German Minister Julia Klöckner announced that Germany, during its Presidency of the EU, would reopen the debate on electric-pulse fishing.

The announcement has been met with great dismay and hostility across the board with some scornful criticism from non-governmental organisations who campaigned against its legalisation in the EU.



It has been generally accepted globally that any form of electric is illegal but in 2010, the European Commission granted the Netherlands a derogation to test electric-pulse fishing for scientific research. In February 2019, the European Parliament voted to ban electric-pulse fishing with the Netherlands' derogation expiring in June 2021.

In their argument against pulse fishing, the Bloom Association claimed that the licences had been delivered illegally in 2010 as they were granted in order to carry out research that never took place.

On Friday, 4 September, Bloom reacted to the news from Klöckner that the German's were going to reexamine electric-pulse fishing based on scientific evidence which is presumed to be a scientific report compiled by ICES as requested by the government of the Netherlands, which finds in favour of legalising the method of fishing.

On their [website Bloom wrote](#):

"While [the European Commission has finally acknowledged](#) - almost [three years after our first complaint](#) - that the Netherlands has always been and continues to be in the most total illegality regarding their practice of electrofishing, Germany does not find anything better to do than to want to ["reopen the debate"](#). A position light years away from the exemplarity demanded by citizens from political decision-makers and yet advocated by Germany.

Made by Julia Klöckner, German Minister for Food and Agriculture at a meeting of the Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament on September 3, 2020, " this announcement is in fact hardly surprising, in view of the incestuous relationship that the German state has historically maintained and the Dutch industrial lobbies ", analyzes Frédéric Le Manach, scientific director of BLOOM. Last June, the NGO Corporate Europe Observatory had already revealed the extent of this problem in [its report entitled " Tainted Love "](#) ("tainted, corrupted love").

On their [website](#) Bloom wrote:

"While [the European Commission has finally acknowledged](#) - almost [three years after our first complaint](#) - that the Netherlands has always been and continues to be in the most total illegality regarding their practice of electrofishing, Germany does not find anything better to do than to want to ["reopen the debate"](#). A position light years away from the exemplarity demanded by citizens from political decision-makers and yet advocated by Germany.

Made by Julia Klöckner, German Minister for Food and Agriculture at a meeting of the Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament on September 3, 2020, " this announcement is in fact hardly surprising, in view of the incestuous relationship that the German state has historically maintained and the Dutch industrial lobbies ", analyzes Frédéric Le Manach, scientific director of BLOOM. Last June, the NGO Corporate Europe Observatory had already revealed the extent of this problem in [its report entitled " Tainted Love "](#) ("tainted, corrupted love").