



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,  
MARE/JA

Dear petitioner,

Thank you for your email to the European Commission expressing your concerns about pulse fishing.

The co-legislators, the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament, provisionally agreed to introduce a ban on the use of pulse fishing gear from 1 July 2021, ensuring a phasing-out period to allow the sector to adapt. The agreement also provides Member States with the possibility to immediately prohibit or restrict the use of pulse fishing within their coastal waters. The agreement foresees that in the case of electric pulse trawl, vessels conducting scientific research must follow a specific scientific protocol as part of a scientific research plan that has been reviewed or validated by ICES or STECF, as well as a system for monitoring, control and evaluation, and be limited in time. The Commission will continue to follow scientific developments closely.

The provisional agreement will now have to be adopted formally by both the European Parliament and the Council.

Yours faithfully,

  
João AGUIAR MACHADO