

# Dutch fisheries sector opposes ban on barbed hooks

We, representing a broad cross-section of the Dutch fisheries sector, are deeply concerned about the proposed statutory ban on the use of barbed hooks. A single amendment proposes a far-reaching change to the Fisheries Act, the consequences of which for day-to-day fishing practices and the fisheries supply chain are disproportionate and have not been sufficiently considered. We oppose a ban on barbed hooks and call on politicians not to support the amendment.

On 8 September, Member of Parliament Ines Kostić (Party for the Animals – PvdD) submitted an amendment that would introduce a statutory ban on the use of barbed hooks when fishing with a rod. If the amendment is adopted, this ban will be explicitly incorporated into the Fisheries Act.

A ban on barbed hooks would have a major impact on the entire fisheries sector. It would lead to reduced catches, lower fish consumption, loss of revenue for businesses and less freedom to choose the most appropriate fishing gear.

This would have direct practical consequences: without barbed hooks, certain types of bait could no longer be used, and handline fishing for sea bass would no longer be economically viable. It would also create uncertainty about the status of other fishing gear, such as longlines. Moreover, the Netherlands would become an isolated market, with fishing tackle requirements that apply nowhere else in the world.

State Secretary Erkens (LVVN) has advised against the amendment, and our appeal is fully in line with this position: Do not introduce a ban on barbed hooks and vote against the amendment. A statutory ban fails to take sufficient account of the realities of fishing practice and would have a major impact on commercial fishers, businesses and recreational anglers.

## SIGNED BY

