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Our ref.
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Date February 23 2011
Re Recreational cast net fishing in the Dutch coastal zone

Dear Mr V.,

In your letter of 24 January you call for continuation of the ban on the use of professional fishing gear for recreational fishing purposes in the Dutch coastal zone.

As you so rightfully pointed out in your letter, the ban caused great concern when it was first introduced. The issue was subjected to further study and on the basis of that outcome, I proposed legislation for a block exemption for recreational cast net fishing earlier this month. To reduce fishing pressure, however, the proposed exemption stipulates conditions which must be adhered to, including a maximum net length of 100 metres. Additional restrictions may be imposed by the relevant councils. The block exemption does not extend to the ban on eel traps which is still in place. Please also note that the obligation to release salmon or brown trout still applies.

With these measures in place sustainable fisheries is guaranteed, while justice is done to what I consider to be small-scale historic co-use.

I hope that this answers your questions.

Yours sincerely,

dr. Henk Bleker
The Minister of Agriculture and Foreign Trade