Europêche requested a meeting with MARE B3, worried about a risk of an increase of the current quota established at 35,000 tons. Europêche was also interested in the results of the study on ATQs and sustainability.

MARE B informed that we carried out the sustainability study and are still looking at the main findings. The study focuses on sustainability but does not address the issue of implementation of new requirements. An impact assessment is in the loop. ATQs apply erga omnes on a first come first served basis. Right now, we would rather extend what we currently have for a limited period of time before properly addressing sustainability. We also need to see whether the current quotas are still economically valid and look at the wider context of SFS and F2F and align with these policies.

Europêche observed that tuna loin ATQ benefits mostly unsustainable fleet from China, Taiwan, Indonesia, Vietnam etc. Initially the ATQs were there when there was not enough fishing by the EU fleet. The ATQ volumes increased considerably in the past 20 years. An example of plaice (flatfish) was raised for which there is an ATQ but the EU fishermen cannot use the whole TAC. The industry also raised that other factors should be taken into account such as access to waters (NO), the impact of Brexit and less opportunities for the EU fleet, the Covid, UA crisis and gasoil crisis. Otherwise the industry will not be able to compete with Asian fleets.

The industry also complained about the effect of dumping of prices in the EU due to the subsidies of foreign fleet and to the retail market price pressure. There is tuna fleet only in two Member States, but tuna consumption is everywhere in the EU and retailers and consumers want a cheap product, with which it is difficult to compete.

MARE B asked Europêche for a written position on all the quotas, not only tuna, so to facilitate further discussions in the Council. Europêche referred to the LDAC advice on tuna loins from 2 years ago after a complex discussion between the fishermen and processors and enquired also on the social dimension in the SFPAs.