



Ref.:80/COM

Rome, 27 March 2014

Transmission letter – Omnibus opinion

This covering letter accompanies the MEDAC opinion, approved by the ExCom members by written procedure with the observations expressed by the NGOs, in relation to the proposed European Parliament and Council regulation - COM(2013) 889 - known as “Omnibus”, on the issue of the landings obligation.

We take this opportunity to recall that MEDAC, in the opinion Prot.133/COM of 30th April 2013, expressed approval of exemption from the landings obligation for discards for the Mediterranean, the only abstention being that of OCEANA.

The most widespread concern is that a market will develop for undersized specimens, (see the attached article published in a Spanish fisheries magazine “Industrias Pesqueras” n. 2060 of 15th February 2013).

It should also be recalled that MEDAC has, on several occasions, expressed the hope that possible amendments to the Mediterranean regulation will be carefully examined.

Giampaolo Buonfiglio
President





Ref.: 81/AV

Rome, 27 March 2014

ADVICE ON THE OMNIBUS PROPOSAL COM (2013) 889

The MEDAC considers that the provisions included in the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding the landing obligation COM (2013) 889, constitutes a new heavy additional bureaucratic burden for shipowners with negative consequences in terms of additional work and high economic costs and a related profit reduction, instead of just bridging the gap for the smooth implementation of art.15 of the new CFP Reform regulation (Reg.(UE)1380/2013).

Major doubts raise from articles 3 and 7 and their subparagraphs.

- **Art 3**, relative to the modification of art. 15 of Mediterranean Regulation (Reg. (CE)1967/2006), should clearly indicate the possibility of selling minimum size species for uses as long as it is not used for human consumption;
- **Art 7.2**: MEDAC considers that the elimination of the 50kg limit for logbook recording of each species on board relative to each logbook establishes a heavy bureaucratic burden and associated increased worked hours on board;
- **Art 7.6**: MEDAC is very skeptical about regulations relating to art. 25bis on remote monitoring control, because of its management and installation costs and related legislative constraints and labor laws in some EU countries. Considering the existence of small and medium fishing vessels of more than 30,000 small artisanal vessels in the EU Mediterranean countries this measure does not seem realistic and its feasibility appears doubtful.
- **Art.7.8**: Separate stowage from product to be sold for human consumption for undersize product is equally unfeasible especially for small and medium fishing vessels for obvious reasons of operational space. Furthermore, it will only add work burden for fishermen on board to what is already stated in art. 49 quater. Also unclear is the provision that when catches of minimum conservation reference size species (anchovy, sardine, horse mackerel, mackerel) account for more than 80% an exemption from separate stowage is granted. The measures set out in Articles 7.2 and 7.8, will produce substantial adverse effects on wages and employment of workers on board as they increased the workload without an equivalent compensation.
- **Art 7.10**: Extending the obligation of traceability pursuant to ex art 58.5 of Control Regulation (Reg.(CE)1224/2009) for undersized product seems excessive since catches are destined for non-direct human consumption
- **Art 7.14** The provision referred to art. 73bis for MS to send on board observes might clearly stipulate that such costs will not be borne by shipowners.



- **Art 7.15/16:** Given the complexity in the application of the discard ban, MEDAC is greatly concerned about including discarding of species subject to the landing obligation as a serious infringement as for Control Regulation (EC) 1224/2009 and above all regarding the consequent application of the point-based system.

Last but not least, there are strong doubts about the obvious lack of scientific and statistic data on undersized by-catches which were illegal up to 2014. This lack of data might be a major obstacle to the calculation and subsequent approval of *de minimis* exemptions, as the Commission and STECF would be forced to take note of this. While it might be easy to find such data for other undersized species whose discards will be banned from 2019 (demersal) with monitoring studies in the coming years, it would be impossible for small pelagic species in only a few months. The WG1 considers that for the first three years the *de minimis* exemption should be awarded on a forfeit basis (% over total catch) subject to subsequent reconsideration, once scientific and statistic data becomes available.

This advice was adopted by majority of the ExCom members, however ALCP want to express their great concern about the use of discards as raw material for the fishing industry, and with some comments/observations expressed by WWF, OCEANA, EAA and IFSUA here below.

OCEANA and WWF share some of the views above but would like to point out the following discrepancies:

- An accurate register of data on all quantities is considered necessary.
- The potential use of on-board cameras should first be appraised by means of a feasibility study in the different sectors and areas.
- Separate stowage of undersized specimens from the fisheries product destined for human consumption, but not by species.
- Traceability of undersized fishery products is also considered necessary in order to allow consumers to make an informed choice when purchasing cosmetics, industrial or transformed products.
- Penalties should be proportionate to the infringement committed from when the regulations come into force.
- The concession of *de minimis* exemption should be clearly substantiated within the context of a management plan which aims to improve gear selectivity and reduce by-catch.

EAA and IFSUA support the views expressed by Oceana and WWF, and also consider:

- to paint the fish landed and not destined for human consumption if it is feasible (of course with non-poisonous colors).
- fishermen should be assisted and trained to understand how to comply with the discard ban in order to reduce any illegal action which could occur.”



El Reino Unido apunta hacia una "política pesquera más racional y efectiva"

La Federación Nacional de Organizaciones de Pescadores del Reino Unido (NFFO) valoró la votación como "un paso a delante hacia una política pesquera más racional y efectiva". Sin embargo, la organización se mostró preocupada ante la forma en la que estas propuestas se llevarán a la práctica, ya que "la historia de la PCP se ha asentado en medida bien intencionadas que han fallado debido a la escasa atención prestada". La organización recuerda que "para nosotros, la clave de una política pesquera más efectiva es la descentralización y la regionalización en la toma de decisiones, las medidas sólo pueden ser implantadas con la

implicación del sector a esta escala".

La NFFO asume la aprobación de la eliminación de los descartes, aunque muestra su preocupación sobre cómo se llevará a la práctica. ■

Descartes, ¿materia prima para la industria de la harina de pescado?

A través de un comunicado del que se hizo eco Ipac, la Organización Internacional de Harina y Aceite de Pescado (IFFO) -Organización de Ingredientes Marinos- puso de manifiesto su satisfacción por la prohibición de los descartes, ya que la obligación de desembarques podría ser una fuente de suministro para esta industria. El comunicado fue retirado posteriormente de la web de la organización.

En el IFFO explicaba que "el suministro actual de harina y aceite de pescado no está siendo suficiente para satisfacer la demanda y la materia prima que podría satisfacer esas necesidades está siendo desaprovechada". Así, "se hace necesario considerar determinadas fuentes de materia prima que se están malgastando, como es el caso de las capturas accidentales y descartes".

Para la organización "lo ideal sería reducir las capturas accidentales a través de la utilización de artes más selectivas o de una mejor planificación y gestión de la pesca, devolviendo siempre que sea posible los peces vivos al mar en caso de que esas capturas se den; pero que si la captura se hace inevitable y el pescado no sobrevive, nos hallamos ante una fuente de proteína y aceite muy valiosos que no se deben desperdiciar". ■

Esfuerzos para cumplir el programa de trabajo de Irlanda

El actual presidente del Consejo de Ministros de Pesca de la UE, el Irlandés Simon Coveney, también valoró de manera positiva el "importante paso" dado por el Parlamento en el proceso de reforma pesquera. El ministro apeló a todas las partes implicadas en la nueva fase -Parlamento y Comisión- a colaborar para lograr el objetivo de aprobar de manera definitiva la reforma en el plazo del mes de junio.

"Irlanda ha establecido un ambicioso programa de trabajo. Nuestro objetivo sólo se puede lograr si el Parlamento, el Consejo y la Comisión trabajan juntos en un programa de reformas acordado en beneficio de todos los ciudadanos de Europa". ■

SANTYMAR, S.A.
EFFECTOS NAVALES - REDES - CABLES

HAMPIÖJAN Distribuidores de redes "Gloria"
Injector Door Distribuidores de puertas de arrastre "Injector"

Polígono Industrial A Pasaxe • 36316 Vincios (Gondomar) • Pontevedra • España
Telf.: 34 986 467 080 • Fax: 34 986 467 823 • E-mail: santymar@santymar.com • www.santymar.com