



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES**

**THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

Brussels,  
MARE/B1/DV

Mr. Giampaolo Buonfiglio  
Chair MEDAC  
Via Nazionale 243  
00184 Roma, Italia

**By email**

[info@racmed.eu](mailto:info@racmed.eu)

**Subject: External dimension of landing obligation – consultation of stakeholders**

Dear Mr. Buonfiglio,

Thank you for your comments of 1 August (Ref. 204/CE), submitted in response to our letter of 16 July (Ref. Ares(2014)2367422) transmitting to you a consultation paper on the external dimension of landing obligation, and for the participation of MEDAC (via an audio-link) in the consultation meeting of 5 September.

In your reply you support our proposal to clarify that ICCAT rules (in particular ICCAT Recommendation 13-07) remain applicable to the EU vessels participating in the Eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery under the purview of ICCAT also after 1 January 2015 when the EU's first phase of the landing obligation enters into force. However, you note, that this should be subject to two conditions:

(i) bluefin tuna catches "*below 5% (by-catch), once declared and included in the national quota, may be marketed in compliance with applicable provisions of the law in force*", and

(ii) bluefin tuna catches above 5% (by-catch), once declared and included in the national quota should be confiscated.

You add that "*when undersized specimens are caught as a result of direct fishery activities, as by-catch or as a result of recreational fisheries, if these specimens are dead then they must be destined for uses other than human consumption*".

As discussed during the meeting, the objective of the proposed delegated act is to identify which RFMO rules are not in line with the EU's landing obligation coming into force on 1 January 2015 and to consequently clarify in which situations the RFMO rules would take precedence over the EU's landing obligation, in order to ensure the EU's compliance with RFMO rules.

You will therefore understand that this delegated act cannot alter existing ICCAT rules. We are however committed to project the standards and principles of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) on the international level and to explore ways of reducing, and preferably eliminating, discards in RFMOs, including ICCAT.

We hope that the above explanations helped to address your concerns. If you have any further questions/remarks, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Dovile VAIGAUŠKAITE, [dovile.vaigauskaite@ec.europa.eu](mailto:dovile.vaigauskaite@ec.europa.eu) and Mr. Stamatios VARSAMOS, [stamatios.varsamos@ec.europa.eu](mailto:stamatios.varsamos@ec.europa.eu).

Thank you once again for your valuable input and participation.

Yours sincerely,



Lowri EVANS

Cc: Ms Veits, Kordecka, Georgitsi, Vaigauskaite

Mr Depypere, Donatella, Peyronnet, Varsamos