



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director- General

Brussels,
MARE/D3 (2017)

Mr. Giampaolo Buonfiglio
Chairman
Mediterranean Advisory Council
Via Nazionale 243
00184 Roma
ITALY

Subject: MEDAC Opinion on the management of coastal stocks, with a focus on the main endangered inshore species in the Mediterranean Sea

References: Your ref.: 292/2017 of 17 November 2017

Dear Mr Buonfiglio,

I would like to thank you for the MEDAC opinion relating to a list of six species that you have identified as being endangered, and the full description of their ecology and threats. We have also taken note of your recommendation of including these species in the framework of Mediterranean Multiannual Management Plans.

For some of the species mentioned in your proposal we don't have clear knowledge of their status and of assessment of their stocks. In 2016, the STECF assessed the status of gilthead seabream (*Sparus aurata*) and European seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) in the Gulf of Lions (GSA 7) for first time. The results indicate that both stocks are exploited beyond sustainable levels (i.e. 2.63 and 3.40 times greater than the estimated proxy F_{MSY} , respectively for gilthead seabream and seabass)¹. Nevertheless, it is clear that further work needs to be done in this respect.

The information conveyed in your Opinion is very useful and will feed our reflections. For example, regarding the possibility to complement our preparatory work to establish a multi-annual plan (MAP) for the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the Western Mediterranean. In accordance with Article 2(2) of the CFP, we could reflect if certain species of your list could be managed on the basis of the precautionary approach and Regionalisation.

¹ [STECF-17-16](#). Mediterranean assessments 2016 – Part 2.

Please rest assured that we will keep you informed, through your regular Focus Groups, on the developments of our work to prepare a MAP for demersal stocks in the Western Mediterranean and how we will decide to address your important initiative.

Let me thank you again for this constructive contribution to the implementation of the CFP objectives in Mediterranean Sea. If you have any questions on this reply, you may contact Ms. Pascale Colson, coordinator of the Advisory Councils (pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu: +32 2 29 56273).

Yours sincerely,

João AGUIAR MACHADO

