



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels
MARE.D.1/CO

Subject: Reply to MedAC letter Ref. 73/2023

Dear Mr Marzoa Notlevsen,

I would like to thank you for your letter 73/2023 in relation to the GFCM Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation (WGMSE) on Adriatic small pelagics.

As you are well aware, the roadmap for the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for Adriatic small pelagics has been discussed and endorsed in WGMSE and in the GFCM Scientific Advisory committee June 2023 session. The objective of this MSE process is to define harvest control rules (HCR), that will comply with the requirements and the characteristics set out by GFCM/44/2021/20. The MEDAC involvement in the consultative steps of the mentioned MSE roadmap is welcome in the relevant meetings where stakeholders opinions and feedback are needed.

I take this opportunity to recall that Paragraphs 17-21 of GFCM/44/2021/20 have already fixed some key elements of the long term plan and of the HCR, for instance the fact that it is a single species HCR based on catch limit. Other key elements of the HCRs are to be chosen on the basis of criteria for which your opinion will be important.

Your point on the need of accounting for other factors, such as environmental changes, pollution and trophic dynamics is duly noted. I recall however that the current scientific advice stemming from GFCM for anchovy and sardines is single species, and does not incorporate explicitly environmental variables, which are partially accounted in the estimates of natural mortality. Population models incorporating trophic effects, pollution, or environmental factors, if available for these two Adriatic stocks, should be presented to GFCM Working Groups on Stock Assessment of Demersal Species (WGSAD) for evaluation in future benchmark assessments. On this basis, the MSE will be based on the GFCM official scientific advice while the GFCM Workshop on bioeconomic assessment of management (WKMSE) could attempt to incorporate some environmental variable.

Mr Antonio Marzoa Notlevsen
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I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation, with a view to achieving benefits for the marine environment and for the fishing communities who depend on it. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Julia RUBECK via the functional mailbox of the Advisory Councils MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

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