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Charlina Vitcheva
Director-General for
Maritime Affairs and
Fisheries
DG MARE
European Commission

Subject: MEDAC letter on EC Communication on the allocation of fishing opportunities by Member States - C/2025/6227

Dear Director General,

During the MEDAC FG on SSF, held in Naples on 25 February 2026, the MEDAC Secretariat presented the key information of the EC Communication on the allocation of fishing opportunities by Member States - C/2025/6227.

The debate focused on main points to be better clarified:

- referring to the sentence ***“In this sense, the Commission highlights the spirit of Article 17, reflected in Recital 33 of the CFP Regulation: Member States should promote responsible fishing by providing incentives to those operators who fish in the least environmentally damaging way and who provide the greatest benefits for society”*** it is needed more information on the meaning of ***“least environmentally damaging”***. It is referred to the impact on the stocks? (Burst stock? Juveniles? By catch? Protected species? Avoiding spawning period/areas?), or on the environment? (seabed? Energy consumption? Collecting marine litter? Using old engines polluting the area and the sea ?);
- referring to the sentence ***“Member States are invited to strengthen their information and communication tools, to provide proactively information to stakeholders on the methods used to allocate fishing opportunities (quotas and effort) and the rationale behind them”*** it is needed a clarification on the ***“fishing opportunities”***. To improve the transparency of the process the definition of this indicator should clarify if they are quotas of fishery efforts or product quantities.

The MEDAC takes this opportunity to thank the EC services in advance for the cooperation.

Sincerely,

Antonio Marzoo Notlevsen
MEDAC Chair



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