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European Commission
Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA
Fisheries conservation and control Mediterranean and Black Sea

MEDAC
MEDITERRANEAN
ADVISORY
COUNCIL
Prot. N° 39/2016
del 17/03/2016

Brussels,
MARE/D2/APP (2016)

Subject: Landing Obligation in the Mediterranean Sea

Dear Mr Buonfiglio,

Further to the Seminar on the Landing Obligation of 24 February held in Brussels and to your letter of 1st of March (Ref. Ares(2016)1174615), I am writing to you today with the intention of facilitating the work of the Mediterranean Advisory Council on the application of article 15, paragraphs 1 and 5, of the Common Fisheries Policy.

As you are aware, the landing obligation for the species which define the fisheries will enter into force as from 1 January 2017. For the Mediterranean Sea, the species that are subject to this provision are those with minimum conservation reference sizes as defined in Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 (the "Mediterranean Regulation"). Among the aforementioned species, MEDAC and Member States may identify which of them can be considered as defining or driving the fisheries and therefore subject to the landing obligation as from 1 January 2017. The recent work of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) on the landing obligation in the Mediterranean Sea[1] could serve as the basis for identifying and selecting species to include in the discard plans for 2017.

As from January 2019, the landing obligation will apply to all catches of (target and non-target) species in Annex III of the "Mediterranean Regulation", including the fisheries targeting species other than the ones defined in the abovementioned annex.

The STECF also examined whether disproportionate costs of handling unwanted catches may appear when implementing the landing obligation in the Mediterranean Sea. For this purpose, several indicators were identified and the profitability of certain fleet segments was modelled (see chapter "Identification of potential discard issues"[1]).

[1] Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) – Landing Obligation – Part 6 (Fisheries targeting demersal species in the Mediterranean Sea) (STECF-15-19) 2015. Report available at: https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/1241866/2015-11_STECF+15-19+-+MED+Landing+obligation+-+part+6_JRC98678.pdf

Giampaolo BUONFIGLIO
President of the Mediterranean Advisory Council
Via Nazionale 243
IT – 00184 Rome

This information is destined to provide technical background to support Member States and the MEDAC in preparing joint recommendations for the adoption of discard plans by the Commission as delegated acts.

The submitted joint recommendations will be transmitted to the STECF for further scrutiny at its expert working group EWG 16-06 "Evaluation of the landing obligation joint recommendation" planned for the week of 6 June 2016 in Brussels.

We trust you will take in consideration these elements for your proposal, which should be transmitted to the Commission no later than 13 May 2015.

Yours sincerely,

Hubert GAMBS
Director

Electronically signed on 08/03/2016 08:50 (UTC+01) in accordance with article 4.2 (Validity of electronic documents) of Commission Decision 2004/563