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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/D3/MM/mb/Ares (2020)

Mr Giampaolo Buonfiglio
Chairman Executive Committee
MEDAC
Via XX Settembre, 20
00187 Rome
Email: info@med-ac.eu

Subject: **MEDAC opinion for a Joint recommendation on the definition of "direct fishing"**

Dear Mr Buonfiglio;

Thank you for your letter regarding the MEDAC opinion for a Joint Recommendation on the definition of "direct fishing".

The measures that you are suggesting are indeed those that were applicable before the entry into force of the new Technical Measures regulation.

The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts based on Joint Recommendations submitted by Member States having a direct management interest. Therefore, I encourage you to work with the Regional Group of Member States to develop a definition of direct fishing, as well as to advance on other conservation issues, such as sensitive species or recreational fisheries.

In line with the provisions of Article 15 of the new Technical Measures regulation, any proposed new measure should lead to benefits for the conservation of marine biological resources that are **at least equivalent** to current measures. They should not lead to a deterioration in current standards. In addition, such proposals have to be supported with **scientific evidence** that will help STECF to assess the joint recommendation and its adequacy to meet the objectives and targets.

Regarding the limitations to the height of purse seines, this matter was discussed during the negotiations for the new Technical Measures regulation. It was concluded that the relevant provisions of the Mediterranean Regulation (EU 1967/2006) should not be amended.

Let me thank you for your commitment and our continued cooperation. Should you have any further question on this reply, I invite you to take contact with Ms. Pascale Colson (pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu; +32 2 29 56273), coordinator of the Advisory Councils.

Yours sincerely,

Bernhard FRIESS
Acting Director-General

Electronically signed on 27/04/2020 16:58 (UTC+02) in accordance with article 4.2 (Validity of electronic documents) of Commission Decision 2004/563