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Zagreb, 20 April 2018

MEDAC
Att: Mr. Giampaolo Buonfiglio

SUBJECT: **Preparatory activities prior to the full implementation of the landing obligation – joint proposal of the three Adriatic Member States – Italy, Slovenia and Croatia**

Dear Mr. Buonfiglio,

On behalf of the three Adriatic Member States – Italy, Slovenia and Croatia, let me first of all thank MEDAC for the work done during last year regarding the Landing Obligation on a Joint Recommendation for the Mediterranean Sea.

The Landing Obligation (LO) phasing-in has to continue this year with the introduction of the rest of the species, as by the 1st of January 2019, the total LO for all vessels, for all species with minimum conservation reference size (MRCS) from the Annex III of EU regulation 1967/2006, will enter into force.

In order to start working as soon as possible on the Joint Recommendation (JR) that will apply from the 1st of January 2019, we propose to work closely with MEDAC during the preparatory process.

First of all, we would like to have your views and recommendations regarding which exemptions for the species from Annex III (defined by GSA, gears, mesh sizes, etc.) would be needed, in order to support them with relevant scientific studies or evidences.

We would like to receive the MEDAC views as soon as possible to start drafting the JR. As the Adriatic Member States have a deadline to present the JR by 31st of May of 2018, the latest, to the European Commission, we need to quickly coordinate.

In awaiting your feedback on this initiative and hoping for your support,

Sincerely,

REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA 13 MINISTARSTVO POLJOPRIVREDE ZAGREB

ASSISTANT MINISTER

Ante Mišura