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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE-D3/

Mr Giampolo Buonfiglio
Chairman
MEDAC
c/o Ministero delle Politiche
Agricole, Alimentari, Forestali e del
Turismo
Via XX Settembre, 20
00187 Roma
ITALY

Subject: Reply to your letters on socioeconomic indicators, on MAP on demersal resources in the Adriatic Sea and on Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRA) in the Adriatic and Ligurian Seas

Your references: 152/2019, 153/2019, 163/2019 and 164/2019

Dear Mr Buonfiglio,

Thank you very much for your letters of 5 and 21 June 2019 where you inform the Commission and the GFCM about the MEDAC opinions regarding the technical elements for the management of demersal fisheries in the Adriatic Sea and the socio-economic indicators, as well as on the proposals to establish Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs) in the Bari Canyon in the Adriatic and the Malledetti Shoal in the Ligurian Sea. As you know, the GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) during its 21st session on 24-27 June provided advice on the FRA proposals and the management elements of the demersal fisheries in the Adriatic.

I appreciate the significant contributions of MEDAC to the Commission for our work within the GFCM. The valuable opinions and expertise expressed by MEDAC are important in developing the EU position on different matters related to fisheries management in the Mediterranean.

While I take note of the fact that MEDAC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the GFCM to improve cooperation, I wish to remind you that the CFP regulation is clear regarding Advisory Councils' tasks. Advisory Councils may submit recommendations and suggestions on matters relating to the management of fisheries and the socio-economic and conservation aspects of fisheries and aquaculture to the Commission and to the Member State concerned[1]. This does not apply to Regional Fisheries Management Organisations or any other entity.

[1] See Art. 44 of the CFP Regulation 1380/2013.

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Therefore, whilst we are grateful for your input on GFCM matters, your opinions should be submitted to the Commission and not the GFCM, to enable us to develop the EU position on specific issues.

Looking forward to our continued cooperation, I invite you to take contact with Ms Pascale Colson, coordinator of the ACs (Pascale.Colson@ec.europa.eu; +32 2 29 56273), should you have any question on this reply.

Yours sincerely,

João AGUIAR MACHADO

Electronically signed on 19/07/2019 16:46 (UTC+02) in accordance with article 4.2 (Validity of electronic documents) of Commission Decision 2004/563