MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA Y PESCA,
ALIMENTACIÓN Y MEDIO AMBIENTE

DIRECCION GENERAL DE
RECURSOS PESQUEROS Y
ACUICULTURA

January 20th, 2017

Dear Mr. Buonfiglio,

First of all, we would like to thank the MEDAC for the work done during last year regarding the Landing Obligation Joint Recommendation for the Mediterranean.

This year, the PESCAMED group of Member States will work under the Spanish Presidency so we would like to take the opportunity to share with you our proposal of planning for 2017.

The landing obligation phasing-in will continue this year with the introduction of new species. Next year, during 2018, we have to finish the process by introducing the rest of them, as by the 1st of January 2019 the total landing obligation for all vessels, for all species with minimum conservation reference size (MRCS) from the Annex III of the EU regulation 1967/2006 will enter in force.

In order to start working as soon as possible in the Joint Recommendation that will apply from the 1st of January 2018, we would like to work closely with the MEDAC and ask you for advice during the whole process.

First of all we would like to have your views and recommendations regarding which of the species from the Annex III (attached to the letter) and for which vessels (gears, thresholds) would you include the Landing obligation in 2018 in the Western Mediterranean Sea (GFCM Geographical sub-areas 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11). If any exemption like high survivability or de minimis is needed for any species or gears we would like to know as well your proposals as we would need to support them with scientific studies.

We would like to receive the MEDAC views **before the 20th of February** to start drafting the joint recommendation. As the regional group of Member States PESCAMED has the deadline to present the joint recommendation on the 31st of May of 2017, at the latest, to the Commission, we need to coordinate it from now on.

We have planned our first technical meeting at the beginning of March in Madrid. We would like to invite you to participate so you will receive the information of exact dates, agenda and logistics shortly.

Best regards,

DIRECTOR GENERAL DE RECURSOS PESQUEROS Y ACUICULTURA

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ANNEX III

Minimum conservation reference sizes

Scientific name	Common name	MCRS (TL = total length; CL = carapace length)
1. Fishes		
Dicentrarchus labrax	Sea bass	25 cm
Diplodus annularis	Annular sea bream	12 cm
Diplodus puntazzo	Sharpsnout sea bream	18 cm
Diplodus sargus	White sea bream	23 cm
Diplodus vulgaris	Two-banded sea bream	18 cm
Engraulis encrasicolus (1)	European anchovy	9 cm
Epinephelus spp.	Groupers	45 cm
Lithognathus mormyrus	Stripped sea bream	20 cm
Merluccius merluccius	Hake	20 cm
Mullus spp.	Red mullet	11 cm
Pagellus acarne	Spanish sea bream	17 cm
Pagellus bogaraveo	Red sea bream	33 cm
Pagellus erythrinus	Common pandora	15 cm
Pagrus pagrus	Common sea bream	18 cm
Polyprion americanus	Wreckfish	45 cm
Sardina pilchardus (2)	European sardine	11 cm
Scomber spp.	Mackerel	18 cm
Solea vulgaris	Common sole	20 cm
Sparus aurata	Gilt-head sea bream	20 cm
Trachurus spp.	Horse mackerel, scad	15 cm
2. Crustaceans		
Homarus gammarus	Lobster	300 mm TL105 mm CL
Nephrops norvegicus	Norway lobster	20 mm CL70 mm TL
Palinuridae	Crawfish	90 mm CL
Parapenaeus longirostris	Deep-water rose shrimp	20 mm CL
3. Mollusc bivalves		
Pecten jacobeus	Scallop	10 cm
Venerupis spp.	Carpet clams	25 mm
Venus spp.	Venus shells	25 mm

(1) Anchovy: Member States may convert the minimum conservation reference size into 110 specimens per kg;

(2) Sardine: Member States may convert the minimum conservation reference size into 55 specimens per kg;