MEDAC - Registered Office Via XX Settembre, 20 - c/o MIPAAF - 00187 Rome (Italy) - Tax identification number 97534810581 - Association registered with the Prefecture of Rome as a legal entity n.1224/2017

Ref.:60/2020 Rome, 28 February 2020

MEDAC opinion for a Joint recommendation on the definition of "direct fishing" pursuant to Article 15 and Article 27 paragraph 7 of Regulation (EU) 1241/2019

Regarding the opinion of the WG1, met in Rome on 18 February 2020

Whereas:

- Article 27 paragraph 7 of Regulation (EU) 1241/2019 empowers the European Commission to adopt delegated acts pursuant to Articles 15 and 29 of the same regulation "in order to further define the expression "direct fishing" as in Article 6, paragraph 1.3";

- Member States having a direct management interest in the fisheries concerned shall submit any Joint recommendations, by regionalization, for the first time not later than 15 August 2020;

- Annex IX, on the Mediterranean sea, in part B, paragraph 1 establishes special conditions regarding the mesh size for direct fishing for anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) and sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) with towed gear and in part C, paragraph 6 special conditions for direct fishing for red sea bream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) with gillnets, entangling nets or trammel nets;

- the aforementioned conditions were already provided in Regulation (EC) 1967/2006 (Mediterranean Regulation), in Article 9 paragraph 4, in Article 9, paragraph 6 letter b) and in Article 10, both deleted by Regulation (EU) 2019/1241

The MEDAC deems that:

- what was already provided in the Mediterranean regulation should be pursued and that therefore:

  1) For the purposes of the provisions of Annex IX, part B, paragraph 1, it is considered "direct fishing" of anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) and sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) when these species represent at least 80% of the catches in live weight measured after sorting

  2) For the purposes of the provisions of Annex IX, part C, paragraph 6, it is considered "direct fishing" for the red sea bream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*), when this species represents at least 20% of the catches in live weight.

Disclaimer - This opinion reflects only the MEDAC's view and the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information that it contains

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Moreover, MEDAC once again draws attention to the issue of limitations to the height of purse seines (see art.13.3, 2nd sentence of Reg.(CE) 1967/2006) that causes technical difficulties, particularly in certain low-depth areas (i.e. north Adriatic sea), considering also the studies clearly demonstrating the absence of environmental impact, as repeatedly reported in the MEDAC past positions. (MEDAC opinions n. 102/2017, 13/3/2017; 128/AV , 11/09/ 2015).

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