REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENT

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
AND MARINE RESEARCH

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4 March 2019

Mr. Giampaolo Buonfiglio
President
MEDAC c/o Ministero Politiche
Agricole Alimentari, Forestali
e del Turismo
Via XX Settembre 20
00187 Rome

Dear President Buonfiglio,

Subject: Implementation of the landing obligation – Sudestmed submission of amended joint recommendation and additional data

First of all, the SUDESTMED group, chaired this year by Cyprus, would like to thank the MEDAC for the work done during last year concerning the Joint Recommendations on Discards Management Plans for the species listed in Annex III of the Mediterranean Regulation.

The adopted *Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/2036 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/86 establishing a discard plan for certain demersal fisheries in the Mediterranean* provides for survivability and *de minimis* exemptions that expire by 31 December 2019, and the SUDESTMED group is to submit to the European Commission additional scientific data by 1 May 2019 for supporting these exemptions.

The SUDESTMED group plans furthermore to submit to the European Commission an amended Joint Recommendation, by 1 May 2019.

In this respect, we would like to ask for the MEDAC collaboration to give your views and contribution to the amended Joint Recommendation and the scientific data that we will submit to the European Commission.

Looking forward to your reply and our future collaboration,

Kind regards,

Marina Argyrou
Director