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

Ref.: 108/2024 Rome, 4 June 2024

MEDAC ADVICE ON THE NEXT STEPS OF THE MULTI-ANNUAL PLAN (MAP) ON WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN

During the MEDAC FG of West Med meeting held online on 10 April, the DG MARE delegation asked to the MEDAC a shared advice on the next steps for the Multi-annual plan on Western Mediterranean, especially on new management measures concerning fishing gears other than trawling according to EU Reg. 2019/1022.

First of all, MEDAC members highlighted that the socioeconomic analysis of the impact of the MAP was not provided, although this is one of the three pillars of the CFP. Moreover, considering the STECF results, the effects of the MAP enforcement will be available in 2027, so the MEDAC deems appropriate to wait the bio-ecological and socio-economic results before the adoption of new management decisions and suggests freezing the effort level to the 2024 data. In fact, the fishers already observed an improvement on the status of the marine resources, but it has not yet risen in the scientific results. On the other side, without an updated socio-economic analysis of the MAP effects it is not possible to understand if and how many fishing vessels will be able to take advantage of the predicted slow growth of the stocks.

Moreover, the effort reduction has mainly concerned trawling so far, but more attention should be paid to the effort reduction of other fishing gears that are continuously impacting on hake (*Merluccius merluccius*). About the monitoring of the catches of SSF the managers/experts should find a solution to collect the data considering that the logbook will become mandatory in the next years according to the revised EU Control Regulation.

In the next steps of the MAP more flexibility should be allowed in transferring the remaining quotas of effort in the following year, considering that some fishing days assigned to the MS become available in the last months of the year due to bureaucracy, when meteomarine conditions do not allow to use them. Some flexibility would permit to finish all the available effort allocated to the fleet and reduce the socio-economic impact of the West Med MAP.

Disclaimer - This advice 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

info@med-ac.eu
+39 06.46.65.21.12 T

med-ac.eu
Via XX Settembre, 20
00187 Roma (Italy)

Co-funded by the European Union