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. 129/2024

Rome, 28 June 2024

MEDAC preamble to the Questionnaire: Study supporting the evaluation of the landing obligation – Common Fisheries Policy

Referring to the questionnaire on the "Study supporting the evaluation of the landing obligation – Common Fisheries Policy", the MEDAC can only reiterate what has already been stated the past years.

Please find attached the MEDAC email (ref.21/2021) and the MEDAC letter sent on 2020 (ref.21/2020, 29 January 2020).

The MEDAC started from the beginning the collaboration with both MSs and DG MARE in finding adaptive solutions through the JRs, and this process contributed to the draft of the current Delegated Regulations. Please find attached the letter sent by MEDAC on 24 October 2018 (Ref. 262/2018) to the MSs and to the General Director of DG MARE on the entry into force of the landing obligation for all species, where the reasons of the Mediterranean constraints and difficulties related to the LO implementation have been provided. Furthermore, as confirmed by the delegated Reg. (EU) 2020/4, STECF concluded that "*due to the small quantities and the very large number of landing places [...], the evidence indicated that the collection costs would be disproportionate*" then "*in light of the above, it is appropriate to apply the de minimis exemptions [...] until 31 December 2021*". This situation has not yet changed. However, acknowledging the important results of the multiannual collaboration, the MEDAC tried to fulfil the survey as much as possible on the online platform (the results of the questionnaire are also available in the annex), because the exemptions recognized by now avoided the strong socio-economic impact of the measure.

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The MEDAC Chair

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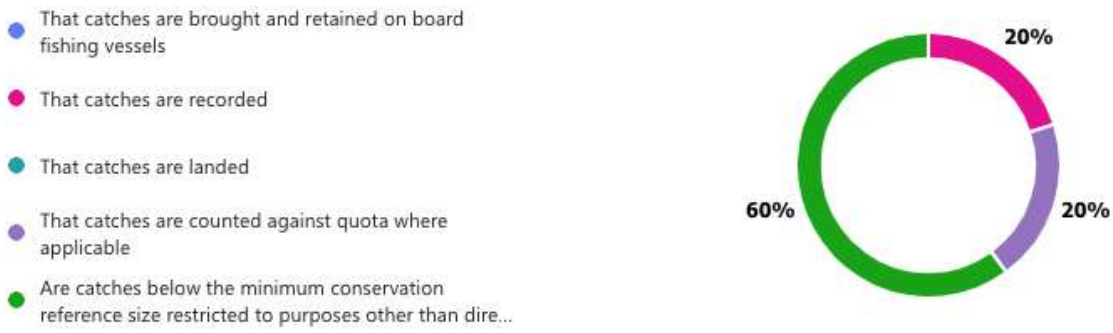
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ANNEX

Section 1: Current state of play

2. Please indicate what you believe are the levels of compliance with the following requirements of the landing obligation.



12. What challenges have you experienced in the implementation and in the control and enforcement of the landing obligation? - *Challenges related to control and enforcement*

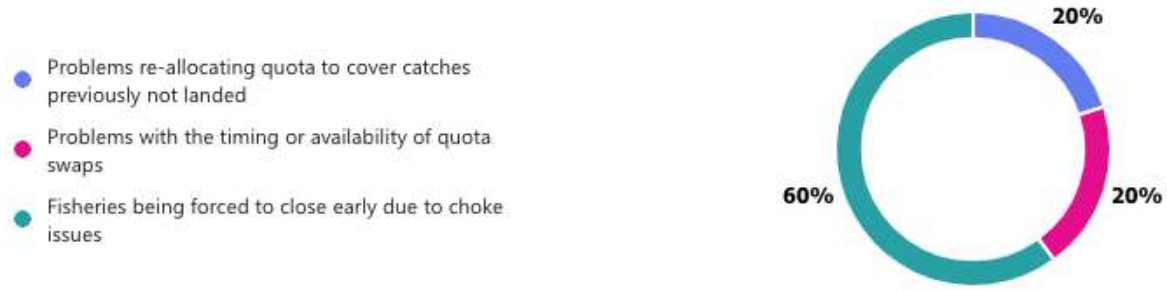


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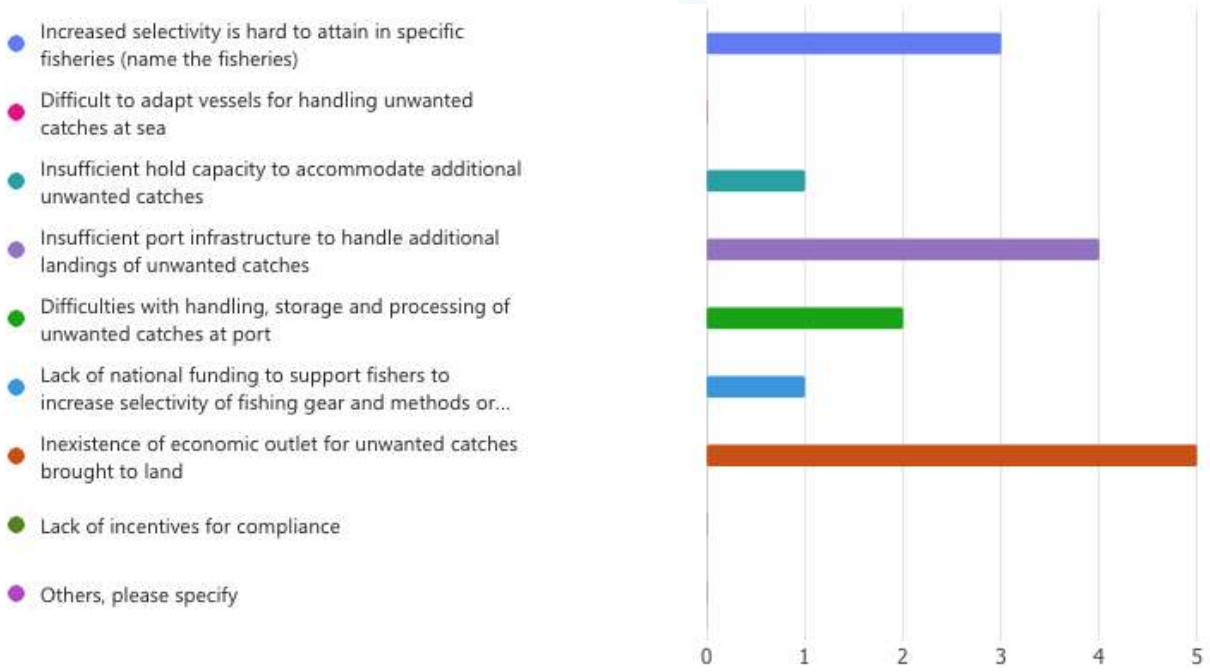
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12. What challenges have you experienced in the implementation and in the control and enforcement of the landing obligation? - *Challenges related to quota management*

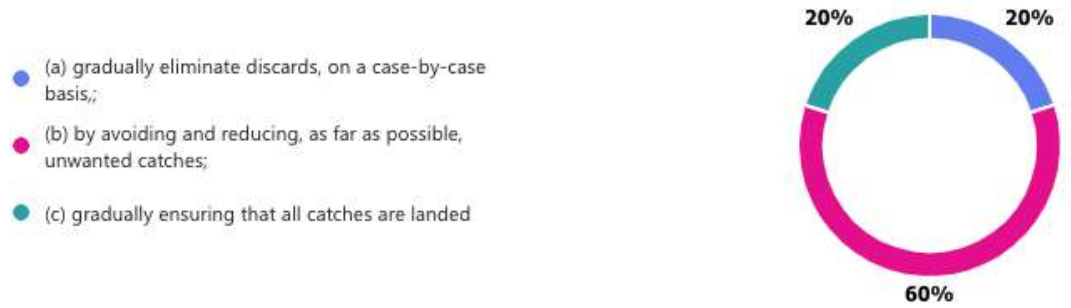


12. What challenges have you experienced in the implementation and in the control and enforcement of the landing obligation? - *Operational challenges*

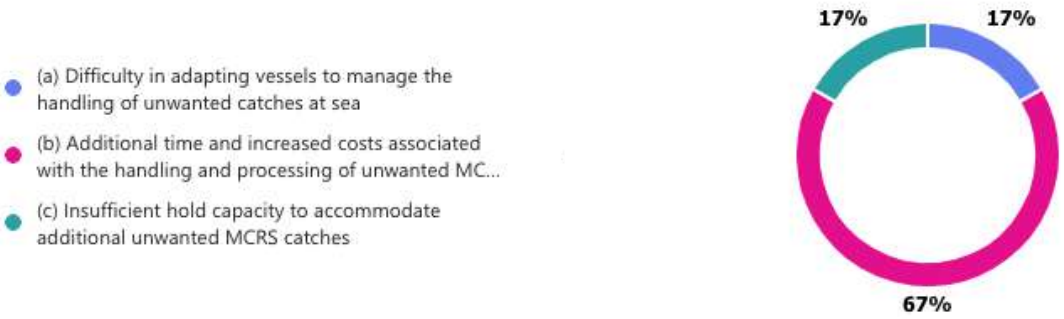


Section 2: Evaluation of Landing obligation

1. For the region(s), fleet segment(s) and fisheries in which you have an interest, to what extent would you estimate the landing obligation has contributed to the achievement of Article 2(5)(a))?I



10. What do you perceive to be the barriers and challenges encountered regarding the handling of unwanted MCRS catches onboard vessels?

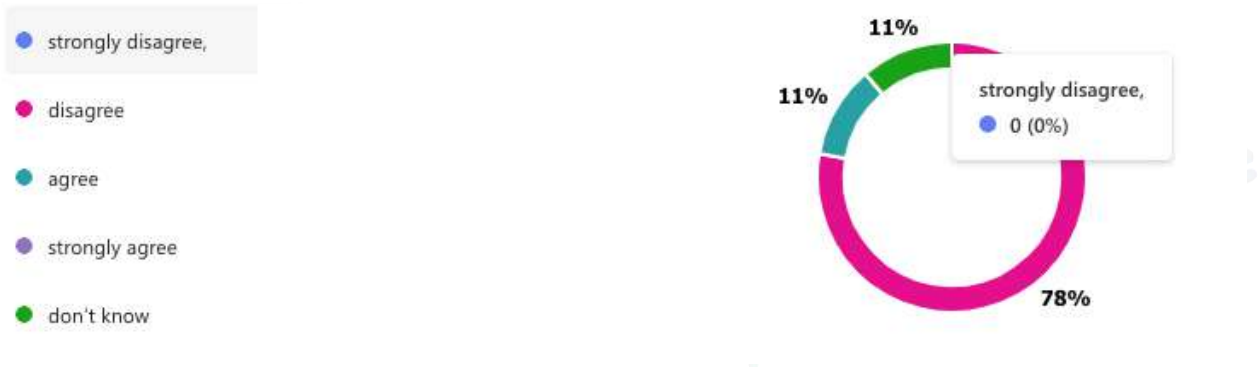


For the following statements indicate your opinion on one of the following responses (from **strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree and don't know**)

(a) The EU landing obligation to gradually eliminate all discards supported the national policies and initiatives that you listed above



(b) The EU landing obligation to reduce unwanted catches supported the national policies and initiatives that you listed above



(c) The EU landing obligation to ensure all catches are landed supported the national policies and initiatives that you listed above:



24. For the following statements indicate your opinion on one of the following responses (from **strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree and don't know**) [an EU intervention can be seen as any activities undertaken by the European Union (EU)],

(a) the landing obligation resulted in additional value, compared to what could be achieved by Member States at national and regional levels?



(b) the landing obligation helped in the achieving results



(c) the landing obligation provided additional results compared to the national and regional output and results in Member States



(d) the landing obligation responded to cope with crises:

i. Climate emergencies, ii. COVID-19, iii. Russian aggression in Ukraine



23. For the following statements indicate your opinion on one of the following responses (from **strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree and don't know**)

a. the objectives of the landing obligation help in protecting the marine environment (Marine Strategy Framework Directive),



b. The objectives of the landing obligation help in recovery of Biodiversity in the oceans (Biodiversity Strategy),



c. The objectives of the landing obligation help in maintaining and restoring the marine habitats to a favourable conservation status within the EU (Habitats Directive),



d. The objectives of the landing obligation help support fishers and improve productivity (Common Agricultural Policy)



e. The objectives of the landing obligation help tackle climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources (Common Agricultural Policy)



22. For the following statements indicate your opinion on one of the following responses (from **strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree and don't know**)

a. the landing obligation is relevant to the needs of your respective group as identified in the impact assessment of 2011 accompanying the Commission proposal



b. The landing obligation has improved the sustainable exploitation of marine resources



c. The landing obligation has a positive impact on the financial viability of fisheries



d. The landing obligation provides appropriate and proportionate exemptions in fishing quotas



e. The landing obligation has reduced overall discard



f. The landing obligation has increased the selectivity of fishing gear



g. The landing obligation has incentivised fishers to land all the catches



h. Discards should continue to be eliminated

