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.: 238/2024

Rome, 4 October 2024

To Charlina Vitcheva
Director General
DG MARE

Cc Iván López
Chair of the Long Distance
Advisory Council (LDAC)

Object: Letter of support of MEDAC to the LDAC advice "Recommendations for 2024 ICCAT Annual Meeting"- 24th Special Meeting of the ICCAT Commission Limassol (Cyprus), 11-18 Nov. 2024 (Ref. R-03-Ej.18(2024-2025)/WG1)

According to the Inter-AC cooperation agreement in ICCAT adopted by CCRUP-MEDAC-SWWAC-LDAC, the MEDAC supports this proposal of cooperation and acknowledges the valuable structure of the LDAC advice and the related topics adressed.

Referring to the LDAC advice, the MEDAC agrees to the paragraphs that affect the Mediterranean basin too, with exception of the following considerations:

- ***Fishing capacity***

The LDAC is concerned with the increase of fishing capacity in the ICCAT Convention Area in the last years.

This sentence is not relevant for the Mediterranean, although it is not expressed the concerned area.

- ***Regional Observer Scheme***

In the second paragraph we have to pay special attention to the Mediterranean observers coverage, considering that the majority of the fishing vessels is included on the SSF category.

- ***ICCAT and GFCM Cooperation***

The LDAC further encourages the EU to put forward initiatives like the joint Workshop between ICCAT and the GFCM aimed at fostering enhanced cooperation on the implementation of resolutions related to driftnet ban and usage.

Referring to this paragraph the MEDAC reminds that the GFCM already has a recommendation prohibiting the use of driftnets for fisheries of large pelagic species 'Recommendation GFCM/29/2005/3 prohibiting the use of driftnets for fisheries of large pelagic species', which is also referred to in the 2023 resolution. The MEDAC deems appropriate to be previoulsy consulted when another AC is dealing with the Mediterranean basin.

Antonio Marzoa Notlevsen

Chair

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