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MEDAC advice on the Marine Recreational Fishery (MRF)

During the WG4 meeting held on 28 February in Rome, the new management measures of the revised EU Fisheries Control Regulation (Reg. EU 2023/2842) related to the Marine Recreational Fisheries were analysed. Considering the comparison with the previous version of the control Regulation regarding the MRF, the MEDAC appreciates the progress done so far.

The MEDAC expresses its disappointment about the categorisation of "serious and not serious infringements" for the sale of MRF fishery products (Annex IV) because it should always be considered serious, without this decision being delegated to the Member States (MS).

The MEDAC deems appropriate that this matter will be harmonised at EU level and not left to the discretion of each Member State.

MEDAC recognizes the European Commission's efforts to enhance understanding of the impact of marine recreational fisheries on stocks. While acknowledging the inclusion of multispecies surveys agreed upon at the regional level in the Data Collection Framework, MEDAC proposes expanding catch collection efforts beyond the species already specified in the new Control Regulation. This expansion would encompass:

a) species/stocks with quotas and/or catch and bag limits from January 10, 2026;
b) species/stocks subject to Union-set fishing opportunities, covered by MAP, subject to LO, and having a significant impact on fishing mortality (based on scientific advice from STECF, ICES, etc.).

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

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