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Rome, 30 July 2014

**MEDAC Advice on
The proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down a
prohibition on driftnet fisheries – COM(2014) 265 final**

Regarding the proposed EC regulation that aims to enforce a total ban on the use of driftnets in European waters, MEDAC expresses deep concern at this measure as it is inconsistent with the MEDAC contribution that was approved unanimously during the EC consultation on Technical Measures.

MEDAC considers that the approach applied in this proposed regulation is in contradiction with the indications of the CFP reform, and with the consultation on Technical Measures, as it fails to take into account the principle of regionalization (Article 18 of the Basic Regulation), this principle should also be adopted for a possible ban on drift nets, taking into due consideration the specific nature and needs of each single region as over 1200 fishing enterprises are involved.

Moreover, in the MEDAC region, drift netting is a traditional, local fishery activity and therefore before proposing a total ban on the use of this gear, the socio-economic impact of such a ban should be carefully evaluated. Furthermore, an in-depth evaluation of the regulations currently in force and their degree of implementation should be carried out, particularly in the Mediterranean. MEDAC believes that these initiatives should follow a regionalised decision-making process, with the cooperation of the respective Advisory Councils.

In any case, MEDAC is in favour of the application and control of European and international law prohibiting the use of large driftnets by the fleet segment that targets highly migratory species.

The Executive Committee adopted this advice unanimously by written procedure¹.

¹ EAA supports the Commission's proposal to ban all driftnets in the Mediterranean Sea.

