



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF RURAL
DEVELOPMENT & FOOD
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR FISHERIES
DIRECTORATE OF MARINE FISHERIES

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Athens, 06 – 05 - 2014
Our ref.: 270/58452



Dear Mr. Buonfiglio,

With respect to the obligations under Regulation (EU) 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy - and in particular to the provisions of article 15 on landing obligation, multiannual plans for fisheries concerning discards need to be in place starting from January 1, 2015.

More specifically, the new provisions imply to store, retain and land all the catches for fisheries targeting stocks subject to catch limits, and small pelagic species for the Mediterranean (when subject to minimum size according to Regulation (EU) 1967/2006). To comply with these new obligations, Member States shall submit to the Commission before the 1 of July its multiannual plans, which should be implemented in coordination with other Member States having common interests on the same stocks.

In this regard, we are pleased to inform you that, in the spirit of cooperation between Fisheries Administrations of the Mediterranean Member States, it was agreed to set up an informal working groups among the various countries having geographical proximities in the Mediterranean and then with similar characteristics in implementing the landing obligation. This cooperation is also driven by the provisions of the Article 18 of the Regulation on regionalization, where in paragraph (2) it is clearly specified the need to consult the role of the relevant Advisory Council.

In coherence with this approach, we would stress the importance of the role that the Advisory Council plays, also in the framework of the new CFP, and we would like to take the opportunity to inform you that a next meeting among the Director generals of the Mediterranean MS will be announced.

Due to short timing and due to the difficulties of the exercise, it would be highly remarkable to clarify, from the AC perspective, the scope and the procedures of the implementation of the landing obligation for different small pelagic fisheries in the Mediterranean (sort of “discard atlas”) and mitigation of proposals that may be applied.

Thus, it will be necessary to prove justifiably conditions that allow the use of the exception “de minimis”, to be introduced in the future discard plan, to minimize the impact of the application of this new measure.

We are aware that the Med AC is already working on the issue taking into consideration both the countries which have common interest in fishing the same stocks in a GSA and the countries which do not have a common interest. Also on the basis of informal contacts, but we would very much appreciate if some elements can be submitted to relevant Member states, in order to finalize one or more “discard plan” proposals in due time

Best regards,

The Acting General Director of Fisheries,

Marina Petrou