



January 20th, 2017

Dear Mr. Buonfiglio,

First of all, we would like to thank the MEDAC for the work done during last year regarding the Landing Obligation Joint Recommendation for the Mediterranean.

This year, the PESCAMED group of Member States will work under the Spanish Presidency so we would like to take the opportunity to share with you our proposal of planning for 2017.

The landing obligation phasing-in will continue this year with the introduction of new species. Next year, during 2018, we have to finish the process by introducing the rest of them, as by the 1st of January 2019 the total landing obligation for all vessels, for all species with minimum conservation reference size (MRCS) from the Annex III of the EU regulation 1967/2006 will enter in force.

In order to start working as soon as possible in the Joint Recommendation that will apply from the 1st of January 2018, we would like to work closely with the MEDAC and ask you for advice during the whole process.

First of all we would like to have your views and recommendations regarding which of the species from the Annex III (attached to the letter) and for which vessels (gears, thresholds) would you include the Landing obligation in 2018 in the Western Mediterranean Sea (GFCM Geographical sub-areas 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11). If any exemption like high survivability or de minimis is needed for any species or gears we would like to know as well your proposals as we would need to support them with scientific studies.

We would like to receive the MEDAC views **before the 20th of February** to start drafting the joint recommendation. As the regional group of Member States PESCAMED has the deadline to present the joint recommendation on the 31st of May of 2017, at the latest, to the Commission, we need to coordinate it from now on.

We have planned our first technical meeting at the beginning of March in Madrid. We would like to invite you to participate so you will receive the information of exact dates, agenda and logistics shortly.

Best regards,

DIRECTOR GENERAL DE RECURSOS PESQUEROS Y ACUICULTURA

Jose Miguel Corvinos Lafuente

ANNEX III

Minimum conservation reference sizes

Scientific name	Common name	MCRS (TL = total length; CL = carapace length)
1. Fishes		
<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>	Sea bass	25 cm
<i>Diplodus annularis</i>	Annular sea bream	12 cm
<i>Diplodus puntazzo</i>	Sharpsnout sea bream	18 cm
<i>Diplodus sargus</i>	White sea bream	23 cm
<i>Diplodus vulgaris</i>	Two-banded sea bream	18 cm
<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i> ⁽¹⁾	European anchovy	9 cm
<i>Epinephelus</i> spp.	Groupers	45 cm
<i>Lithognathus mormyrus</i>	Stripped sea bream	20 cm
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Hake	20 cm
<i>Mullus</i> spp.	Red mullet	11 cm
<i>Pagellus acarne</i>	Spanish sea bream	17 cm
<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>	Red sea bream	33 cm
<i>Pagellus erythrinus</i>	Common pandora	15 cm
<i>Pagrus pagrus</i>	Common sea bream	18 cm
<i>Polyprion americanus</i>	Wreckfish	45 cm
<i>Sardina pilchardus</i> ⁽²⁾	European sardine	11 cm
<i>Scomber</i> spp.	Mackerel	18 cm
<i>Solea vulgaris</i>	Common sole	20 cm
<i>Sparus aurata</i>	Gilt-head sea bream	20 cm
<i>Trachurus</i> spp.	Horse mackerel, scad	15 cm
2. Crustaceans		
<i>Homarus gammarus</i>	Lobster	300 mm TL/105 mm CL
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	20 mm CL/70 mm TL
<i>Palinuridae</i>	Crawfish	90 mm CL
<i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i>	Deep-water rose shrimp	20 mm CL
3. Mollusc bivalves		
<i>Pecten jacobaeus</i>	Scallop	10 cm
<i>Venerupis</i> spp.	Carpet clams	25 mm
<i>Venus</i> spp.	Venus shells	25 mm

(¹) Anchovy: Member States may convert the minimum conservation reference size into 110 specimens per kg;

(²) Sardine: Member States may convert the minimum conservation reference size into 55 specimens per kg;