EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES The Director-General

Brussels MARE/D3/PCO/Ares (2020)

Mr Giampolo Buonfiglio Chairman MEDAC c/o Ministero delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari, Forestali e del Turismo Via XX Settembre, 20 00187 Roma ITALY

Subject: Reply to MEDAC's opinion on the list of relevant species issued by the Recreational Fisheries (WG4)1

Your references: 62/2020

Dear Mr Buonfiglio,

Thank you for your letter of 2 March 2020 expressing your opinion on the list of species considered significant for the recreational fisheries sector and/or for which conflict with professional fisheries in terms of gear used or catches is perceived.

As communicated in our letter to you on 16 December 2019 (ARES(2019)7716205), your contribution regarding the prioritization of species as well as the review of recreational fishing gears and Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes allowed in the Mediterranean Sea for recreational fisheries is highly welcome. Your opinion was received on time in order to contribute to the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Working Group on Recreational Fisheries, planned to take place 17-20 March in Algeria. However, due to the COVID-19 outbreak the workshop was postponed to a later date (yet unknown).

Your opinion will be taken into account in our discussions within the EU and with our partners on this relevant topic.

Let me thank you for your constructive input. Looking forward to our continued cooperation, I invite you to take contact with Ms Pascale Colson, coordinator of the ACs (Pascale.Colson@ec.europa.eu; +32 2 29 56273), should you have any question on this reply.

Yours sincerely,

Bernhard FRIESS Acting Director-General