



## 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: IUU fishing of Swordfish**

*Your references: 152/2020*

Dear Mr Buonfiglio,

Thank you for your letter of 2 July 2020 with documentation by the sector operators regarding the alleged use of illegal driftnets in the area of the Alboran Sea.

We very much welcome receiving any evidence of illegal or suspected fishing activities carried out by EU flagged vessels or by vessels flying the flag of Contracting Parties to ICCAT and GFCM, which allows us to follow-it up at the appropriate level.

In the case at hand, my services have analysed your letter and found that some information is incomplete and/or inconclusive, and therefore could not be used as clear-cut evidence to contest an infringement. However, I would like to reassure you that we will take up the matter with our international partners at the appropriate level.

We will also share the information provided with EFCA and the Member States in the context of the Mediterranean Joint Deployment Plan, with the objective to better target controls on the swordfish fishery and to step up the identification of any illegal fishing activities using driftnets.

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](mailto:Pascale.Colson@ec.europa.eu); +32 2 29 56273), should you have any question on this reply.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA  
Director-General