



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels,  
A2/EG D(2016)

**MEDAC**  
Mr Giampaolo Buonfiglio  
Chairperson  
Via Nazionale 243  
I - 00184 Rome  
Italy

**Subject: MEDAC Opinion on the Interactions between Recreational (RF) and Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) in the Mediterranean Waters**

*Yr reference: 262/2016*

Dear Mr Buonfiglio,

Thank you for sending us the MEDAC opinion highlighting the interacting interests of recreational and small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean. As you know, the Commission is taking initiatives through the GFCM to improve the role of SSF, but also to deal with the fundamental challenges of the recreational fisheries.

In general, recreational fisheries are largely unregulated and unreported fishing activities. Given their significant development over the last years, this may cause fundamental problems in stock assessment and consequently in fisheries management. There are also a number of other issues associated with recreational fisheries, namely the competition for space, the black market sales and the economic impact on commercial SSF, which are regulated. Sampling and reporting of catches is at low level with regard to SSF fleets and this can generate uncertainties in stock assessment, in particular in mixed, multi-fleet and multi-gear fisheries. My services are currently looking into these issues in close cooperation with scientists and your expertise and knowledge would be very useful.

Thank you again for your continuous interest and valuable input. If you have any questions on this reply, you may contact Ms Evangelia Georgitsi, coordinator of the Advisory Councils ([evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu](mailto:evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu); +32.2.295.04.43).

Yours sincerely,

João AGUIAR MACHADO

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