



The Director-General

Brussels,  
MARE-D3-D1/PCO-CO/mh

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 contribution to the socio-economic indicators related to the forthcoming draft MAP on demersal in Adriatic Sea.**

*Your references: 176/2019*

Dear Mr Buonfiglio,

Thank you very much for your letter of 22 July 2019 informing us about MEDAC's opinion regarding the technical elements for the management of demersal fisheries in the Adriatic Sea and the socio-economic indicators, in light of the results of the STECF EGW 19-02 and GFCM WKMSE<sup>1</sup> meetings.

I take note of the valuable work done to identify the status of the demersal stocks potentially affected by this management plan and to evaluate their trend in biomass. The overall poor status of these stocks strongly supports the adoption of a management plan in GFCM

The Scientific Advisory Committee of the GFCM (SAC) identified the need for expanding the analysis of economic dependency of different fleets. This concerns mostly the need for incorporating in the analysis third country information, which was not available at the time of the STECF EWG 19-02.

Concerning the socio-economic indicators that MEDAC considers important for evaluating the potential effects of the implementation of a demersal plan in the Adriatic, this is well noted. However, some of these indicators are not mandatory under the GFCM

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<sup>1</sup> Workshop on the assessment of management measures for small-pelagic and demersal species in the Adriatic Sea

Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF). In addition, in line with the conclusions of WKMSE for small pelagic indicators, some data for these indicators are not yet collected in Third Countries and/or are transmitted over very short time series starting in 2015-16, and some indicators are not monitored at all.

Given these limitations, we need to be realistic what kind of socio-economic simulation can be done in the short-term.


In this light, one way forward for the management plan could be to foresee a two-step approach with (1) a provisional fishing effort regime in the first two years, and (2) from 2021 a proposal for yearly fishing effort quotas on the basis of new scientific data and the evaluation of the state of the stock by the SAC. For the second phase, once more Third Countries' socio-economic data will be available, WKMSE could develop the necessary socio-economic analysis to complement and expand the work done by the STECF.

My services will be available to discuss the management plan in more detail at the forthcoming MEDAC meeting in October.

I would like to thank you very much for your valuable contribution. Be assured that MEDAC's opinions are an important contribution to our preparations for the GFCM Annual Meeting and our discussions with EU Member States and Third Countries.

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,

  
João AGUIAR MACHADO