

Ref.:239/2023

Rome, 31 October 2023

To Francesco Saverio Abate  
Director General for Sea  
Fisheries and Aquaculture  
MASAF  
CC Giovanni D'Onofrio

Subject: New request for advice on the updated documentation relevant for the approval of the management plan for sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) in GSA9 based on the STECF request (Ref. 0591201, 24 October 2023).

Dear Director General,

We kindly inform you that the MEDAC Secretariat sent to the ExCom members the updated documentation relevant for the approval of the management plan for sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) fry fishery with boat seines in Liguria (GSA9), on the basis of the STECF request to deepen some useful aspects to a greater safeguard of the stock in question, to evaluate the updated management plan for sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) fry fishery with boat seines in Liguria (GSA9), as asked by DG MARE.

It has been adopted by the members of the MEDAC<sup>1</sup>.

Kind regards,



Antonio Marzoa Notlevsen  
President

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<sup>1</sup> WWF contribution: "The plan, including the data set, is well structured. However, looking at the available data, while B/Bmsy of the stock is increasing and F is decreasing, we cannot overlook the fact that this positive trend overlaps with the closure of this fishery from 2010. We are concerned that reopening important landings of juveniles might jeopardize the improvements achieved so far. A possible compromise to further limit the impact could be to allow a limited number of boats among the eligible ones, rotating the access to this resource. We welcome the governance mechanism that is proposed in the plan; this model is very close to a co-management scheme including the participation of national and regional administrations, scientists, fishery associations. However, we would have appreciated the inclusion of environmental NGOs in this governance scheme. For the above reasons WWF is not in a position to support the plan and express a positive opinion within the MEDAC."



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Co-funded by the European Union

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