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MINUTES  
HLG PESCAMED meeting  
1st June 2018, Paris

The MEDAC delegation was composed by the President Giampaolo Buonfiglio and by myself and participated at the meeting for one hour and a half only (see attached the draft agenda of the meeting).

Buonfiglio explained and illustrated the JR on LO of the MEDAC, underlining the no feasibility conditions of handling station on land such as the difficulty in finding availability of areas around ports, the nonexistence of economic conditions, and the fact that the industry is asking for a certain amount and constant quality of this product during the year that is not possible to guarantee. So, he underlined that if it is not possible to realize an handling station it is impossible to land the undersize fish to be sold to industry that should be destroyed as a special waste with unsustainable cost that nobody can pay (disproportionate costs). This is the reason why MEDAC members decided to change the strategy, taking into account that the principle objective of the EC regulation is to avoid catching undersized species. So MEDAC concentrated its efforts trying to avoid undersize species and decided to propose the maximum level of the de minimis not on the basis of the scientific data, but on the economic points of view (art.15 par.5 letter c) ii), we have to avoid handling this undersized product. He concluded its intervention saying that the MEDAC proposed to MS to draft management plans to avoid the catch of undersized product and illustrated pages 15-16. Of the JR.

The President of Pescamed (French Director General) agreed that the main priority should be to avoid undersized catches and supported the MEDAC proposal in order to improve the selectivity of catches. He asked to Buonfiglio the reason why MEDAC JR proposed the maximum percentage of the minimis for all fishing gears.

Buonfiglio replied that the MEDAC proposal of the maximum percentage of the minimis is consistent with the approach proposed, taking into account that MEDAC members decided to focus on the economic aspects and not on the stock assessment. For this reason, we cannot justify other percentages, the problem is going away from the threshold, so the rationale of this proposal is just to avoid the danger to be obliged to land these undersized products.

Laurient Markovic (DGMARE) said that this percentage of 7 is not possible to use for all 3 years, but for the first one only and then the second year 6 and the third year 5.

The Italian Administration said that that the MEDAC approach is welcome based on socioeconomic evaluation, and that it is the case to take into account the stakeholder contribution.

The Spanish Administration supported too the MEDAC approach to avoid the undersized catches. She informed that Spain put in place different technical measures such as different gears (T90) to improve selectivity in order to avoid the problem for the beginning.



Laurent Markovic (DG MARE) understood the logic of the MEDAC in asking the maximum of the de minimis percentage. But he underlined that the STECF needs some scientific data, and one possible justification could be the level of undersized fish. Then he asked to MEDAC how to combine the MEDAC proposal in setting other management plans with the draft MAP on WMed and the national ones. He informed that EC sent to the STECF the JR of the MEDAC.

Buonfiglio replied saying that the management plans proposed to avoid LO are related to some species and can be a part of the general MAP for West Med. He informed that the disproportionate costs are the cost of special waste destruction and the amount is between 0,05-0,50 euro per kg. He concluded its intervention reminding that the MEDAC is not a scientific body and that MS should send scientific data and not the MEDAC.

The Italian Administration proposed to FR and SP to follow the MEDAC JR in the JR proposal of Pescamed clarifying that the approach is in line with art.15 parag.5 let. C ii, of the Basic Regulation. Moreover, he reminded that the first LO entered into force 3 years ago and now there are more info available on how to handle this undersized catch.

The President of Pescamed said that in Mediterranean the characteristics is that the fleet is composed by SSF, so the problems are related to the real quantities of undersized catch. Moreover, he underlined the problem of control at landing, so the MEDAC approach is welcome.

