


# MEDAC contribution on the state of play on the implementation of the landing obligation

EFCA - Seminar for monitoring Landing Obligation



Roskilde, DK 24 June 2015

## MEDAC Advice for a Joint Recommendation on Discards Management Plan

MEDAC advice for joint recommendations on discards management plan has been drafted thanks to the results of the ad hoc WG and it has been sent to each Mediterranean MS administration according to their GSAs.

1-2-5-6	7-8	9-10-11	15- 16	17	18-19-20	22-23
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Spain	France	Italy	Malta Italy	Slovenia Croatia Italy	Italy Greece	Greece

The MEDAC has been adopted by Member States as joint recommendations sent to the EC



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## MEDAC Advice for a Joint Recommendation Discards Management Plan

Due to the significant difficulty in applying the *de minimis* exemption in the Mediterranean as no scientific data on discards of under size fraction are available, MEDAC proposed to apply the *de minimis* rule on an adaptive approach base:

- in the first two years at a fixed rate (the first year for the collection of real data and the second for data processing),
- according to the real percentage of real undersize catches from the third year onwards



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## MEDAC Joint Recommendations for the application of the *de minimis* exemption:

GSA	Pelagic Trawl	Purse seine
1-2-5-6 (SPAIN)	0	7%
7 and 8 (FRANCE)	5%	2% (slipping exempted) 7% (slipping not exempted)
9 -10-11 (ITALY)	0	3%
15-16 (MALTA-ITALY)	7%	3%
17 (SLOVENIA-CROATIA-ITALY)	7%	7%
18-19-20 (ITALY-GREECE)	7%	3%
22 (GREECE)	0	5%



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## Critical Aspects encountered to reach MEDAC proposals

- Lack of specific official scientific available data;
- First time working within each MS through the election of a Country focal point (with no legal framework on the MEDAC functioning);
- First time acting with a new role as Advisory Council (from just giving advices to submitting technical and articulated indications)
- First time MEDAC worked directly with MS Fishery Administrations
- Lack of financial resources to organize additional regional meetings



With no coordination and cooperation with Member States, that has been very fruitful, MEDAC would have never been and would not be able to give a significant and effective contribution

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## Implementation of discards plan in Mediterranean in the first two years 2015-2016



IN A «DE MINIMIS» REGIME THE PROBLEM IS «ONLY» ADDITIONAL COMPILING AND RECORDING OF THE DISCARDS DATA IN THE FISHING LOGBOOK THROUGH SELECTION AND WEIGHT ESTIMATES OF UNDERSIZE PRODUCT

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## Difficulties in the implementation encountered by fishermen

➤ *Significant change in approach for fishermen – starting from January 1, 2015*



To pass from the requirement to discard undersize catches to a **ban** on discards



A different way of working in terms of compiling and recording data in the logbook



Different consideration of the undersize undesired part of the catch



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## Additional difficulties encountered by fishermen On board

- sorting undersize fraction among total unwanted catches from small pelagic catches, normally huge amount
- Increase of operational activities in terms of time to sort out the undersize catch, especially significant with adverse weather conditions
- Evaluation and survey of undersized catches



**Fishermen attitude to procrastinating these difficult tasks in consideration of the *de minimis* exemptions (especially in case of small quantities)**



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## Way forward

- To review the joint recommendation on small pelagic fishes in 2016 according to 2015 new scientific data;
  - To draft joint recommendation on discards for demersal and small scale fisheries;
  - To provide technical elements and inputs to concerned Member States and the EC
- in view of the draft of management plans



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## Thanks for your attention!



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