



Ref.:80/AV

Rome, 27 March 2012

RAC MED OPINION ON RECREATIONAL FISHERIES ACCORDING TO THE EC MEDITERRANEAN REGULATION

The Executive Committee held in Rome on March 27, adopted the opinion proposed by the Working Group on recreational fisheries (WG4), which met in Rome on 29th February 2012, who is collaborating with the Sub Committee for Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) with a special focus on the definition and legal frameworks which apply to the recreational fisheries activities in the Mediterranean. In this framework, the RAC MED considered it useful to inform the EC on the RAC MED position relative to the current European regulations in force in the Mediterranean basin. European Council Regulation 1967/2006 which concerns management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean Sea, states that:

- paragraph 1 *“The use of towed nets, surrounding nets, purse seines, boat dredges, mechanized dredges, gillnets, trammel nets and combined bottom-set nets shall be prohibited for leisure fisheries. The use of longlines for highly migratory species shall also be prohibited for leisure fisheries.*

The RAC MED believes that the ban on the use of nets should be extended gradually to passive gear, incorporating the clause that the Member states can authorize the use of traditional gear, in punctual situations.

- paragraph 3 *“Member States shall ensure that catches of marine organisms resulting from leisure fisheries are not marketed. Nevertheless, by way of exception, the marketing of species caught in sportive competitions may be authorized provided that the profits from their sale are used for charitable purposes”.*

The RAC MED proposes the amendment of paragraph 3, art. 17 in order to entirely abolish the authorization to market species captured during sports fisheries competitions, as this would be in conflict with commercial fisheries.

