



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL



Brussels,  
A2/EG D(2016)

**MEDAC**  
Mr Giampaolo Buonfiglio  
Chairperson  
Via Nazionale 243  
I - 00184 Rome  
Italy

**Subject: MEDAC Advice for small pelagics in GSA 17 (Northern Adriatic)**

*Yr reference: 94/2016*

Dear Mr Buonfiglio,

Thank you for the MEDAC advice regarding a multi-annual management plan for small pelagics in Northern Adriatic and for all your efforts over the last 2 years in preparing this advice.

We have submitted your advice to STECF for evaluation during their Plenary meeting of April 2016<sup>1</sup> and STECF welcomed your initiative. The traffic light approach presented by the MEDAC merges several management measures in a single management framework, which STECF considers appropriate to avoid multiple regulations. However, the STECF was unable to identify the scientific basis for the proposal and, as a result, it could not assess whether it will bring about fishing mortalities compatible at Maximum Sustainable Yield ( $F_{MSY}$ ) level by 2020.

STECF noted that the red zone in the MEDAC's proposed traffic light plot should extend to the whole area below  $B_{lim}$ , and not just the area where  $F$  is above  $F_{MSY}$  and  $SSB$  below  $B_{lim}$  as it is the case now in the traffic light plot. Additionally, on page 6,  $F_{MSY}$  is referred as the fishing mortality at  $SSB_{pa}$ , which needs verification, because usually  $F_{MSY}$  refers to the fishing mortality consistent with  $MSY$  ( $B_{MSY}$ ).

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<sup>1</sup> Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries – 51st Plenary Meeting Report (PLEN-16-01) Plenary Meeting, 11-15 April 2016, Brussels.  
[https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/1415547/2016-04\\_STECF+PLEN+16-01\\_JRCxxx.pdf](https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/1415547/2016-04_STECF+PLEN+16-01_JRCxxx.pdf)

STECF also attracted the attention that the management action foreseen in the red zone action, "Emergency measures adopted by the European Commission under Article 12 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013", might not be enough for the recovery of the stock. Setting new measures requires a process of negotiation which may take some time. Considering that the stock assessment is lagging behind the current fishing season by 2 to 3 years, the emergency measures should be clearly specified and immediately applied if needed.

Thank you very much for your continuous interest and constructive input. If you have any questions on this reply, you may contact Ms Evangelia Georgitsi, coordinator of the Advisory Councils ([evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu](mailto:evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu); +32.2.295.04.43).

Yours sincerely,

João AGUIAR MACHADO

