



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/D1/LR

Dear Mr Antonio Marzoa Notlevsen,

Dear members of the Mediterranean Advisory Council,

I would like to thank you for the MedAC advice on the state of the art – *Pagellus bogaraveo* in the GSAs 1, 2 and 3 (Ref.:94/2024) and for your valuable presentation during the MedAC Focus Group on the Western Mediterranean that took place in Rome on 10 April 2024.

As you know, the Subregional Committee of the Western Mediterranean of the GFCM met in Rome on 21-24 May 2024 and discussed the latest scientific and management information related to the blackspot seabream. The Committee has noted with deep concern the status of the blackspot seabream in the Alboran Sea. The recent benchmark assessment found the stock to be depleted and in overexploitation. The Committee has encouraged contracting and non-contracting parties to take urgent action and agreed on the need to adopt additional remedial measures to ensure the return of the stock to a level capable of producing maximum sustainable yield. In addition to any short-term measures, I would also like to mention that the Committee noted the need to develop a recovery plan for blackspot seabream based on a management strategy evaluation to be carried out before the next Subregional Committee of the Western Mediterranean Sea in 2025.

The European Commission has been working with Spain and other contracting parties on the harmonisation process of the management measures that require special attention. In this regard, it is important to mention that, recalling Recommendation GFCM 46/2023/15, the subregional Committee has remarked the need to harmonise the minimum conservation reference size between Morocco and EU-Spain and, based on the most recent information, advised towards the adoption of a 33 cm total length minimum conservation reference size for blackspot seabream by all contracting and non-contracting parties.

Mr Antonio Marzoa Notlevsen
MEDAC
presidente@med-ac.eu
c/o Ministero delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari, Forestali e del Turismo
Via XX Settembre, 20
00187 Roma
ITALY

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Julia Rubeck, our Advisory Councils coordinator, via the functional mailbox MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina Vitcheva

c.c.: Rosa Caggiano r.caggiano@med-ac.eu
segreteria@med-ac.eu; admin@med-ac.eu