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CCSUD
MR Jean-Marie Robert
6, rue Alphonse Rio
56100 Lorient
France

Subject: Request for further assessments for the development of a multiannual plan for the benthic and demersal species of the south-western waters

Your ref.: SWW AC recommendation n° 103

Dear Mr Robert,

Thank you for the SWW AC recommendation n° 103 as well as all your efforts in relation to management strategies for certain stocks, which have demonstrated the usefulness of partnerships between industry and scientists. The measures that you have recommended constitute a good basis for annual TAC targets for anchovies and sole in the Bay of Biscay.

When passing from single species management to multispecies management, we should be thinking about the best method for achieving the Common Fisheries Policy objectives. Last year, the Commission's public consultation in relation to the development of multiannual management plans for demersal species in the western waters enabled all the stakeholders, including the SWW AC, to contribute to the process of fisheries long term management. I would like to thank you for your participation in this consultation process.

As you have correctly indicated, the plan for the Baltic Sea opens the way for the new generation of multiannual plans. The Commission departments, relying on the progress achieved to date, are working on the development of multiannual plans in other zones subject to a higher degree of complexity, as a larger number of species and fisheries are involved.

I wish to reassure you that your recommendation will be taken into account throughout the implementation of multiannual plans. In addition, the multiannual plans will provide the possibility of developing specific measures at a future stage via regionalisation, under which the Advisory Councils must also be consulted.

Thank you again for this constructive contribution. If you have any additional questions, please contact Ms Evangelia Georgitsi, coordinator of the Advisory Councils (evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.295.04.43).

Yours sincerely,

Joao AGUIAR MACHADO