

Translation of the note 5744671 of the 2016/10/04 of the European Commission.

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CC SUD  
M. Jean-Marie Robert  
6, rue Alphonse Rio  
56100 Lorient  
France

**Subject: The deployment of the landing obligation in 2017**

Your ref.: SWWAC opinion no. 104

Dear Mr Robert,

I would like to thank you for SWWAC opinion no. 104 relating to the landing obligation in 2017. We are very much aware of the new practical challenges that the landing obligation presents for the fishermen who operate both in south western waters and in other basins where the European fleet is active, and we are monitoring the situation closely.

In this framework, DG MARE has already organised, in February in Brussels, a seminar to discuss the practical aspects of the landing obligation in an open and transparent way on the basis of an exchange of the experience acquired by the different stakeholders. On 15 June 2015, the Commission published the first report on the implementation of the landing obligation (COM(2016)396 final). As the landing obligation extends gradually to other fisheries, we will continue to monitor its implementation very closely to try to find practical solutions to the problems that fishermen may face.

Concerning the methodology applicable to "quota uplifts", we have made a series of useful publications, and particularly press releases, "questions-answers" and graphics. My personnel also attended your meetings to explain the calculation method to your members. I hope that this information helped you to understand this complex subject better; however we remain at your service so as to provide additional clarifications, if this is necessary.

It is certainly the case that inspections play a central role in the implementation of the landing obligation. DG MARE and EFCA are aware of the importance of putting in place appropriate measures to meet the new challenges and we are working with the national authorities to improve the effectiveness of the checks.

Concerning the operation of regionalisation, when the discard plans are being prepared, we try to encourage constructive dialogue between the Member States and the Advisory Councils. Based on past experience it should be said that SWWAC has generally made a significant contribution to the work of the Member States. We regret to learn that more recently the consultation of the SWWAC has not been satisfactory and have taken note of your concerns. We think that it is necessary to draw the attention of the Group of Member States in this regard, by putting forward concrete proposals to improve the operation of regionalisation.

For 2017, we have received common recommendations from the Group of Member States for the south western waters to implement the landing obligation for more species and in more fisheries. This is not only a consequence of our legal obligation under the CFP, but also represents a positive development giving fishermen the opportunity to adapt gradually to the landing obligation. It is in the fishermen's interest to identify the species and fisheries which should gradually be covered by the landing obligation. Concerning your request not to change the current provisions of the discard plan for the demersal fisheries in the south western waters, I can confirm that the Member States have sent additional information, which is a very encouraging sign for the future.

I thank you once again for your constructive contribution. If you have any further questions, I would ask you to contact Mrs Evangelia Georgitsi, coordinator of the Advisory Councils ([evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu](mailto:evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu); +32.2.295.04.43).

Yours faithfully,

Jao AGUIAR MACHADO