

Traductions of the note 3911562 of the 2019/06/19 of the European Commission.

Brussels, 19/06/2019
MARE/D3/PC/mbe/Ares (2019)

Aurelio Bilbao Barandica
Président du CC SUD
SWW RAC
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France

Subject: Your Advice 128 on the Landing Obligation 2019

Dear Mr. Bilbao,

Thank you for your contribution to the discard plan for certain demersal fisheries in South-Western waters.

Like you, I attach great importance to close coordination between Member States, the ICES and the Commission when preparing discard plans. For this reason, the South West Waters Advisory Council (SWWAC) is regularly invited to take part in the regional group of Member States and to provide useful information, and is kept regularly informed of progress in this regard.

In this particular case, the technical group met on 6 and 7 May for the last time and prepared the draft Joint Recommendation which was endorsed by the High-Level Group on 21 May. Member States provided the necessary information to justify an extension, which will be provisionally granted for one year only. The Joint Recommendation was submitted to the Commission on 31 May. The Commission was also informed that certain studies are still ongoing, including a study on the disproportionate costs of by-catches of certain species.

With regard to the advice provided by the ICES, I would like to point out that the specific advice on Bay of Biscay whiting and on boarfish are not linked to the Joint Recommendations for discard plans. The Commission will follow up this advice with the ICES, in accordance with the statements made to the Council in December 2018. Moreover, awareness of the volume of discards has not led to a proportionate increase in quotas for 2019 given the entry into force of the landing obligation for all species subject to catch limitations as from 1 January 2019.

We also take into consideration opinions from the sector on the one hand and NGOs on the other hand on the introduction of an exception concerning pathogen-related health risks. However, these conditions are not part of the discard plans.

I would like to thank the SWWAC for its involvement and the work it has accomplished and invite you to contact Mrs Pascale Colson, Coordinator of the Advisory Councils (pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu, +32.2.295.62.73) for any additional information on this answer.

Yours sincerely,

João AGUIAR MACHADO

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P. Colson