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SWW AC  
Mr Aurelio Bilbao  
6, rue Alphonse Rio  
56100 Lorient  
France

**Subject: Opinion 85: Electronic logbook and prior notification**

*Your ref.: E-mail from Jean-Marie Robert on 1 July 2014*

Dear Mr Bilbao,

Thank you for SWW AC's opinion dated 12 June concerning the electronic logbook. In this opinion SWW AC's traditional fishing working group recommended that the Inspection regulation should be amended to grant exemptions to boats shorter than 15 metres and making fishing trips of less than 24 hours from the obligation to register and transmit their fishing activity data electronically and from the notification of species subject to multi-year plans prior to landing.

These exemptions are already contained in Inspection regulation no. 1224/2009. The regulation specifies in article 15(4) that:

*"A Member State may grant exemptions to captains of EU fishing boats with an overall length of less than 15 metres flying its country's flag from the provisions of paragraph 1 [electronic registration and transmission of the information in the fishing logbook] if they:*

- a) are working only in the territorial waters of the Member State of the flag; or*
- b) never spend more than twenty-four hours at sea, calculated between the time of departure and the time of return to the port. "*

As regards notification prior to landing of species subject to multi-year plans referred to in article 17(1) of the Inspection Regulation, this obligation only applies to EU fishing boats with an overall length greater than 12 metres subject to the electronic fishing logbook and beyond a certain threshold of catches set in each plan.

It should be noted however that these exemptions apply without prejudice to the more restrictive measures imposed by Member States on boats flying its flag, by a multi-year or specific management plan or in the framework of a discard plan under article 15 of Regulation (IE) no. 1380/2013 relating to the Common Fisheries Policy.

Finally, for boats that would not be exempt under article 15(4), in accordance with article 17(6) of the Inspection regulation, by means of a duly justified request from a Member State, the Commission can grant exemptions to certain categories of fishing boats from the prior notification obligation for a limited and renewable period, or set another notification period taking account of various points including the type of fishing product, the distance between the fishing locations, the landing locations and the ports in which the boats in question are registered.

I thank you 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 sincerely

Lowri Evans