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CC SUD  
Jean-Marie Robert  
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56100 Lorient  
France

**Issue**            **Margin of tolerance for tuna catches**

Your ref.:        SWWAC opinion no. 97

Dear Mr Robert,

I would like to thank you for the SWWAC opinion requesting a modification of the margin of tolerance for tuna catches. I have taken note of the position of certain representatives of the sector who consider that this margin of tolerance should be raised for all fisheries, and of the opposing position of certain NGOs.

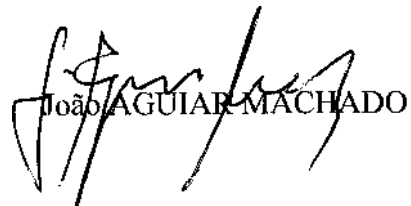
We are currently assessing the Inspection Regulation, and this will enable us to acquire an overview of the general or specific problems encountered by the Member States and by industry. To this end, a public consultation will be launched this month, in which we hope that SWWAC will take part using the online questionnaire.

Depending on the results of this assessment, the revision of the Inspection Regulation may begin next year. The margin of tolerance may also be reviewed at the same time.

In general, our objective is of maintain high and effective inspection standards, while taking account of the constraints relating to certain fisheries which may require a special regime. We hope to achieve an appropriate and realistic modernisation of the Inspection Regulation, which will enable us to ensure uniform and effective application of the inspection rules in European waters. All the stakeholders will of course be involved in this reflection and review process.

I would like to thank you for this constructive contribution. If you have an other questions, please 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



João AGUIAR MACHADO