



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels,
MARE/D(2010)

Subject: RACMED position on recreational fisheries and question related to the marketing of recreational fisheries catches.

Dear Mr Kahoul,

Thank you for the position on recreational fishing the RACMED and the clarifications on the marketing of recreational fisheries catches.

Recreational fishing plays an important role at social, economic and conservation level and we are pleased to see that the RACMED intends to address this item as well.

This complex of activities, which has been usually left in the remit of Member States, has also draw the EU attention in recent years. In this respect some EU legislations¹ already started to deal with aspects of the recreational fisheries and, most probably, considering the EU responsibility as far as the conservation, management and exploitation of living aquatic resources, they may deserve further attention at EU level in the future.

We understand that the RACMED share the views of the Subcommittee of Economic and social sciences (SCESS) of the GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the

¹ - Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 of 21 December 2006 concerning management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean Sea, amending Regulation (EEC) No 2847/93 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1626/94 (OJ L 36 of 8.2.2007)

- Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 of 25 February 2008 concerning the establishment of a Community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy. (OJ L 60 of 5.3.2008)

- Commission Decision (2010/93/EU) of 18 December 2009 adopting a multiannual Community programme for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector for the period 2011-2013 (*notified under document C(2009) 10121*)

- Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy, OJ L 343 of 22.12.2009.

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consequent work-programme on recreational fisheries proposed by the SAC and endorsed by the GFCM at the last 35th session.

We would like to underline that the definition of recreational fishing as supported by the RAC, even if not identical, is in line with definition for "leisure fisheries" and related measures as stipulated in EU Regulation No 1967/2006² and for that reason we had no objection on its inclusion in the glossary of the SAC; nonetheless it worth bearing in mind that the Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 establishing a Community control system introduces also the term "tourism" in the definition of "recreational fisheries"³.

As to the "pesca-turismo" concept we understand that you intend referring to "touristic" activities carried by commercial fishermen to diversify their activities and integrating their revenues provided that fishing activity is carried out on partial time basis. Though these activities may be eligible under different provisions of the European Fishery Fund and under the control and guidance of the national management authority, a specific definition to this regard does not exist in the EU fisheries legislation leaving the possibility to define on an ad-hoc basis what may be considered "pesca turismo" and thus allowing taking into account the specificities of each country to this regard.

Nonetheless we are open to evaluate possible future definitions of this activity that may be developed in the process of the CFP reform or proposed in the GFCM context, bearing in mind that the definition of "recreational fisheries" in the Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 already includes the term "tourism".

We are open to look into the activities planned by the GFCM with a view to develop a harmonised monitoring protocol for recreational fisheries, to design a data collection scheme for recreational fisheries indicators and to conduct a regional study on the possible implementation of licensing schemes for this sector.

We expect that the obligations for Member States, as stipulated by both the Control and Mediterranean Regulations and the Data Collection Framework, to record and ensure separate collection of data on catches resulting from recreational fisheries in respect of the sharks, eels and highly migratory species (e.g. bluefin tuna, swordfish, albacore, dolphinfish, etc.), will contribute to such a work to be developed by the GFCM.

Finally, in your letter of 5 May, you mention a question rose during the last RACMED Working group on the EU Mediterranean Regulation No 1967/2006. In this respect, we should recall that the Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 is of general application, while the EU Regulation No 1967/2006 is applicable to a specific region, the Mediterranean Sea. Therefore in this case, the provisions of the Mediterranean Regulation apply. In any case, Member States have the possibility to adopt any additional control measures which go beyond these minimum requirements, provided that they comply with EU fisheries legislation and are in conformity with the common fisheries policy.

² Article 2(8): "leisure fisheries" means fishing activities exploiting living aquatic resources for recreation or sport . Article 17(3) Member States shall ensure that catches of marine organisms resulting from leisure fisheries are not marketed.

³ Article 4(28): "recreational fisheries" means non-commercial fishing activities exploiting marine living aquatic resources for recreation, *tourism* or sport.

I thank you in advance for keeping me updated about the outcomes of your upcoming meetings and encourage you to maintain a close dialogue with the Commission services.

Yours sincerely,



Lowri EVANS