



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES
The Director-General

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Ms Rosa Caggiano
Executive Secretary
MEDAC c/o Ministero Politiche
Agricole Alimentari e Forestali
Via XX Settembre 20
00187 Rome
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Subject: Your opinion on the MAP for Small Pelagic resources in the Adriatic Sea

Your ref.:207/20

Dear Ms Caggiano,

Thank you for your letter of 4 September 2020 providing MEDAC's opinion on the Multiannual Plan (MAP) for Small Pelagic resources in the Adriatic Sea. I am grateful for your efforts to ensure the sustainable exploitation of the Adriatic small pelagics stocks. I am fully aware that these fish stocks are crucial for the economic sustainability of Adriatic fishermen and fisherwomen.

We note that you propose to manage the stocks with a global effort regime. It would be useful if you could describe in more detail the mechanisms for such a regime and how these could be implemented. In particular, we would like to know what would be the sustainability reference points and how the management of fishing mortality would be translated into control of fishing effort using annual scientific advice.

We fully share the need for a rapid and solid scientific advice as a basis for a management plan. It is key to finalise the GFCM benchmark for Adriatic small pelagics to have a clear understanding of the stock status and the effectiveness of the current management measures.

My services appreciated the discussion during the WKG1 - FG group Adriatic of 30 September, notably on the effects of climate change on small pelagic stocks. An important conclusion was the need for real time management due to the short life cycle of these species and the need for 'climate change proof' developing management measures.

I am looking forward to our continued cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA