



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
**THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY
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Mr Antonio Marzoa Notlevsen
Chairman of the MEDAC
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Number: 342-43/2013/44

Date: 31 March 2023

Subject: Preparation of discard plans for the Adriatic after 2023

Dear Mr Marzoa Notlevsen,

following Article 18 of the Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, the Fisheries Directors of the Croatian, Italian and Slovenian Administrations are cooperating within the ADRIATICA regional group in order to prepare joint recommendations regarding implementation of the landing obligation which applies to all catches of stocks listed in Annex III of the Mediterranean Regulation, including the relevant exemptions.

The de minimis exemptions regarding demersal fisheries from Commission delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2064 of 25 August 2021 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the establishment of a de minimis exemption to the landing obligation for certain demersal fisheries in the Adriatic and south-eastern Mediterranean Sea, as amended by the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2564 of 16 August 2022 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2064, apply until the end of 2023.

The de minimis exemptions for small pelagic fisheries from the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/161 establishing a de minimis exemption to the landing obligation for certain small pelagic fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea, and the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/2012 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/161, also apply until the end of 2023.

In order to provide for appropriate details regarding the implementation of the landing obligation in the Adriatic after 2023, including de minimis exemptions, the Slovenian Administration is coordinating the preparation of a joint recommendation regarding the landing obligation for demersal fisheries, and a joint letter to the Commission regarding the landing obligation for small pelagic fisheries. The Commission has asked for both of these to be submitted by 1 May 2023.

In this regard, we would like to kindly ask the MEDAC to collaborate, in order to carry out discard plans in the Adriatic Sea in relation to the landing obligation for demersal fisheries, as well as for small pelagic fisheries, to enter into force with January 2024.

We are aware that the MEDAC is already working on this issue. The Slovenian Administration is coordinating efforts within the ADRIATICA to have the drafts prepared and sent to the MEDAC by the second half of April this year. We would be very grateful if some elements can be submitted to the relevant Member States in order to finalize the draft discard plans in due time.

Should you need any other information regarding this process in the ADRIATICA, please let us know. Also, allow me to thank you again for your cooperation, so far and in the future.

Sincerely Yours,

Ana Le Marechal-Kolar
Director-General