



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,  
MARE/D4/JP/LC

Dear Mr Marzoa Notlevsen,

I would like to thank the Mediterranean Advisory Council (MEDAC) for the advice 65/2024 of 21 March on Marine Recreational Fisheries. We appreciate your thorough analysis and valuable feedback provided during the WG4 meeting held on February 28 in Rome.

The Commission **welcomes MEDAC's recognition of the progress made** in the revised Control Regulation (amended by Regulation (EU) 2023/2843) concerning monitoring and control of marine recreational fisheries. Your acknowledgement of our efforts to enhance the understanding of the impact of marine recreational fisheries on stocks is appreciated.

Regarding your disappointment with the **categorisation of "serious and not serious infringements" for the sale of marine recreational fisheries products** as outlined in Annex IV, we take note of your position that all infringements related to the sale of marine recreational fisheries products should be considered serious. We wish to underline that in the revised Control Regulation, the sale of fishery products remains prohibited. In addition, the new provisions on sanctions are an improvement compared to the current provisions. Under the current provisions, the sale of fishery products caught by recreational fishers is not qualified as a serious infringement. In the revised provisions, the sale of fishery products will be considered a serious infringement when certain criteria are met (e.g. a value equal to or greater than 50 euros). Finally, the revised Regulation sets the minimum sanction at EU level for serious infringements at twice the value of the fishery product obtained (see Article 91a).

In terms of **expanding the data collection efforts**, the Commission supports all initiatives that improve data collection on recreational fisheries. Accurate data help us understand the impact of recreational fishing, leading to more reliable stock assessments and better-informed management decisions. This data is valuable for scientific research,

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monitoring regulatory compliance and promoting sustainable practices. Additionally, enhanced data collection and transparency can raise public awareness about sustainable fishing practices and encourage fishers to participate in conservation efforts. The data to be collected and reported should meet these objectives.

It is important to note that the Control Regulation establishes minimum requirements at the EU level, resulting from an agreement between the European Parliament and the Council in 2023. Member States can adopt more stringent rules, including expanding data collection to other species, if they consider it necessary.

Moreover, as you are aware, the Commission is in the process of **building an electronic system and developing implementing rules** aimed at strengthening and standardising catch reporting throughout the Union. These initiatives are crucial for improving data accuracy, enhancing transparency, and ensuring consistency across Member States. In this process, **we highly value the expertise and input of MEDAC** and other relevant stakeholders. Your active and constructive contribution to this process is essential in shaping effective catch reporting of recreational fisheries, bringing experience and lessons learned from the realities of the Mediterranean.

I look forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Julia Rubeck, our Advisory Councils coordinator, via the functional mailbox [MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu](mailto:MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu).

Yours sincerely,

Kestutis SADAUSKAS  
On behalf of Charlina VITCHEVA

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