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Rome, 24 October 2014

**Report of the meeting organized by DG MARE with stakeholders in view of the ICCAT annual meeting
October 17, 2014 Brussels**

The Coordinator of WG2 on pelagic species, Mario Ferretti, represented the MEDAC.

The tone of the meeting was calm and there was no tension (the agenda is attached). An expert from the EC introduced the latest stock assessments, including BFT-E, SWO-MED, taking into account the results of the SCRS report, for each stock described, a discussion followed.

Most of the time was devoted to the eastern stock of Bluefin tuna, the discussion was useful, profitable and essentially proposed a gradual and moderate increase in the quota for the year 2015, as stated in the opinion prepared by the MEDAC WG2 and approved by ExCom. There was a brief presentation of the part of the opinion relating to Eastern Bluefin tuna.

The CNPMEM representative, Caroline Mangalo, requested that the Scientific Committee assess the possibility of reducing the minimum capture weight of Eastern Bluefin tuna to 25 kg.

Another stock which caused some discussion, although somewhat briefer than that on eastern Bluefin tuna, was the swordfish. As more stringent measures than those already introduced are not foreseen, the debate was rapid and there were no conflicting opinions. There was a presentation of the MEDAC opinion where swordfish was concerned too.

Very little time was dedicated to Western Bluefin tuna, skipjack and sharks because these species were of little interest to the participants, excluding the environmental groups who are more interested in the capture of sharks.

Mario Ferretti
WG2 Coordinator

