

Brussels, 06/10/2017  
ADV D3 (2017) 4891659

Comité Consultatif Sud  
Monsieur Aurelio Bilbao  
6, rue Alphonse Rio  
56100 Lorient  
France

**Subject:       Your opinion on recreational fishing**

*Your reference:       Opinion 112 of 30/05/2017- E-mail dated 1 August 2017*

Dear Mr Bilbao,

I would like to thank you for your opinion No 112 on the management of recreational fishing.

The Commission shares the opinion of SWWAC as regards the important effects that recreational fishing can have on the state of certain stocks and the necessity to take account of it in the overall management of resources. The collection of data concerning recreational fishing activities, as defined in the regulation establishing a European framework for data collection, should help improve our understanding of the roles and impacts of this type of fishing. The collection of sufficient reliable data is indeed essential for the Commission in order to develop the most effective management in this regard.

As regards the fishing inspection, the first revision of the system of fisheries inspection in the EU will certainly offer an opportunity to identify any shortcomings in this field.

On a practical note, the Commission is currently preparing Multi-Year Plans (PAP) as provided for in the Regulation on the CFP (Common Fisheries Policy), and hopes that in this framework, the impact of recreational fishing on the state of stocks will be fully taken into account. The multi-year plan concerning the North Sea is currently under discussion in the framework of the joint decision-making procedure while the proposal of the Commission for a multi-year plan for the southern waters, which concerns in particular the members of SWWAC, should be lodged before the end of the year.

In the meantime, we would encourage you to undertake comprehensive discussions on this opinion with the members of the SWWAC "other interests" group, whose opinion is essential to achieve the objectives set by the CFP.

We thank you kindly for your opinion and remain at your disposal to discuss this very important dimension of the CFP. For any question relating to this letter, we would ask you to contact Mrs Pascale Colson, the Advisory Councils coordinator ([pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu](mailto:pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu); +32.2.295.62.73).

Yours faithfully.

João AGUIAR MACHADO

c.c. Mrs Veits, Roller, Mrs Kirchner, Mrs Arena, Mrs Georgitsi, Mrs Colson, Mrs Musella, Mrs de Diego de la Vega  
Mr. Lindebo, MrGraham