

Brussels, 02/10/2017
ADV D3 (2017)

Comité Consultatif Sud
Monsieur Romain Lopez
6, rue Alphonse Rio
56100 Lorient
France

Subject: Your plan for the implementation of the landing obligation

Your Reference: Opinion 114 of 30/05/2017- E-mail of 22 September 2017

Dear Mr Lopez,

I would like to thank you for the opinion that you sent us and for the work carried out by the SWWAC on the landing obligation.

The services of the Commission are fully aware that the implementation of the landing obligation demands efforts both from the sector and from the national authorities. It is precisely for this reason that the basic regulation on the common fisheries policy (EU) 1380/2013 contains a series of measures intended to facilitate this implementation, including by means of discard plans, which allow the introduction of exemptions from the landing obligation, when the scientific opinion supports them.

On this basis, the Commission has introduced an emergency amendment to this Regulation aimed at allowing the adoption of discard plans for an additional period of three years in the absence of multi-year management plans. Every effort is being made to ensure that this amendment can come into effect as quickly as possible.

Furthermore, I would inform you that the Commission is organising a major seminar in Brussels on the landing obligation with the participation of the Member States, the Consultative Councils, and other stakeholders. This seminar will take place on 15 November next and I hope that many of you will be present to take this opportunity to reflect together on the best way of taking up the challenges of the landing obligation.

I thank you once again for your constructive contribution and invite you to contact Mrs Pascale Colson, coordinator of the Consultative Councils, (pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.295.62.73) for any further information you may require relating to this letter.

Yours faithfully

Joao AGUIAR MACHADO

c.c. : Mrs Veits, Mrs Roller, Mrs Kirchner, Mrs Georgitsi, Mrs Colson, Mrs de Diego de la Vega Mr. Lindebo,