



## **MAC ADVICE**

### **Annual Report on the Implementation in 2020 of the Landing Obligation**

Brussels, 8 March 2021

#### **1. Background**

In line with Article 15(14) of the Regulation on the Common Fisheries Policy, the Commission reports annually on the implementation of the landing obligation of the year prior to the report based on information transmitted by the Member States, the Advisory Councils and other relevant sources to the Commission.

On 17 December 2020, the European Commission sent a letter and a questionnaire to the Member States on the annual report on the implementation in 2020 of the landing obligation. Unlike the previous year, the Commission did not prepare a specific questionnaire for the ACs, but invited them to provide any additional information on the implementation of the landing obligation aside from the recommendations given in 2020.

#### **2. MAC's contribution**

The Market Advisory Council (MAC) welcomes the opportunity to provide a contribution to the annual implementation report. The MAC maintains the positions expressed in the MAC Advice on the European Commission's request on the Annual Report on the Implementation in 2019 of the Landing Obligation<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The mentioned advice was adopted on 15 April 2020. It is available on the MAC's website: <https://marketac.eu/en/mac-advice-european-commissions-request-on-the-annual-report-on-the-implementation-in-2019-of-the-landing-obligation/>



The MAC acknowledges the crucial importance of the questions to the Member States on the outlets for catches below the minimum conservation size of species subject to the landing obligation as well as the questions on the socioeconomic impact of the landing obligation.

In the view of the MAC, specific information, on a regional basis, on the effects of the implementation of the landing obligation in relation to catches below the minimum conservation reference sizes as well as other information pertinent to the market of fishery and aquaculture products is needed. Taking into account the landing obligation has only been in force for a limited period of time and that temporary exemptions have been put in place for a number of species, it is difficult to estimate the impact on the EU seafood market.

The MAC urges the Member States to provide all the necessary information and encourages the Commission to report on the abovementioned issues. The MAC remains at your disposal to assist in evaluating any data on the implementation of the landing obligation that is made available.