

MAC ADVICE

European Commission's request on the Annual Report on the Implementation in 2019 of the Landing Obligation

Brussels, 15 April 2020

The Market Advisory Council welcomes the opportunity to provide a contribution to the European Commission's questionnaire on the implementation of the landing obligation in 2019. Taking into consideration the precise deadline for contributions, MAC members were invited to submit individual contributions beyond a possible common one.

The MAC acknowledges the crucial importance of the questions on the use and outlets of catches below the minimum conservation reference size of a species subject to the landing obligation as well as of the questions on the socioeconomic impact of the landing obligation. However, a vast majority of questions are better directed at other Advisory Councils as these concern mainly fisheries activities. As such, the MAC encourages the Commission to, in future opportunities, consider the development of personalised questionnaires.

Following the due internal discussions, the MAC concluded that 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 size as well as other information pertinent to the market of fishery and aquaculture products is needed.

At present, considering that the landing obligation has only been in force for a limited period of time, this information is not available. Furthermore, temporary exemptions have been put in place for a number of species, which limits the estimation of the impact on the market. For example, in relation to flatfish in the North Sea, market operators have not noticed a significant impact of the landings due to these exemptions.

Therefore, the MAC concluded that, without the relevant data, the possibility of further analysis would be too limited. The MAC urges the Commission to, when possible, provide the above mentioned information. The MAC remains at your disposal to assist in evaluating any data on the implementation of the landing obligation that becomes available in the future.