

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-ORDINATION

Brussels,
MARE A2

Markets Advisory Council
Mr Guus Pastoor
Chairperson
EB CD
Rue de la Science 10
1000 Bruxelles
BELGIQUE

**Subject: Annual report on the implementation of the landing obligation
(Regulation (EU) 2015/812 amending Regulation (EU) 1380/2013,
Article 15.14)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Regulation (EU) No 2015/812 (the so-called Omnibus Regulation), introduced an obligation for the Commission to report on the implementation of the landing obligation. The Commission submitted its first report to the European Parliament and the Council in June 2016, covering implementation in 2015¹.

The report covering implementation in 2016 requires contributions from Member States and Advisory Councils. As discussed with Member States at the Expert Group on Fisheries and Aquaculture on 24 October 2016, for the 2017 report, the Commission has prepared a questionnaire for Member States to complete. The aim of the questionnaire is to improve and standardise reporting to support the evaluation of the implementation of the landing obligation year on year. As explained at the Expert Group meeting, the completion of the questionnaire is voluntary. However, completion and submission of the questionnaire is highly recommended following the experiences in the reporting process of last year where the lack of statistics and varying degrees of information received made it difficult to assess and/or detect trends in the implementation of the landing obligation. To reduce administrative burden a single contribution through the regional groups would be perfectly acceptable.

As a reminder of the information to be included in the contribution, in line with Article 9 of the Omnibus Regulation, which introduces a new paragraph 14 to Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 on the CFP, the report should include the following elements:

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council, COM/2016/0396 final and Commission Staff Working Document (2016) 199 final, 15.6.2016.

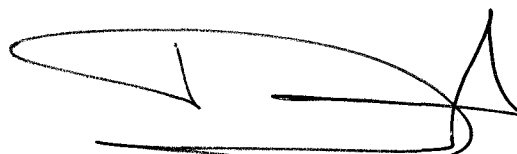
- steps taken by Member States and producer organisations to comply with the landing obligation;
- steps taken by Member States regarding control of compliance with the landing obligation;
- information on the socioeconomic impact of the landing obligation;
- information on the effect of the landing obligation on safety on board fishing vessels;
- information on the use and outlets of catches below the minimum conservation reference size of a species subject to the landing obligation;
- information on port infrastructures and of vessels' fitting with regard to the landing obligation;
- for each fishery concerned, information on the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the landing obligation and recommendations to address them.

Article 9 of the Omnibus Regulation clarifies that the report shall be based on information by, among others, the Member States and the Advisory Councils concerned.

In addition, we would like to request information on any projects financed by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund or other sources of funding, including industry-led initiatives on improving selectivity, management of data on discards and adaptation to the implementation of the landing obligation.

In this regard we would like to request submission of any relevant information, and where relevant supporting data, for the points listed above. This contribution could also include information from the relevant Advisory Councils, to allow us time to analyse and collate the information and draft the final report, I would appreciate receiving your contribution by **1 February 2017**.

Yours sincerely,



Fabrizio DONATELLA
Acting Director

Encl: Voluntary questionnaire on the implementation of the landing obligation

Cc: fisheries attachés