

## CONSULTATION ON FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2019 UNDER THE CFP

The Commission staff working document states that, regarding seabass management in North-Western Waters, due to decreases in the stock biomass, more restrictive measures on both commercial and recreational angling are needed.

IFSUA considers that not the Council, neither any other EU institution, has competences to regulate recreational fisheries (RF). This is a Member States' (MS) issue. We agree that the species is in a critical state and needs specific regulations. Nevertheless, the EU should focus on commercial fisheries, and regarding recreational fisheries, simply step aside and try to coordinate effective measures with MS.

Moreover, when coordinating measures with MS, they should guarantee that RF are not treated as a whole. As in commercial fisheries, there are several modalities within RF. In North-Western waters they have been identified and even assessed the impact of each of them on seabass (Rocklin et al., 2014<sup>1</sup>). Thus, management measures should be applied accordingly to the impact of each of them, as it has been done with commercial fisheries.

Finally, regarding the Mediterranean, we deeply regret that stock assessments have decreased from 47 in 2009 to 21 in 2016. We don't understand how, in a context like this, a proper management of the most overfished European sea is expected to be achieved. Moreover, taking into account that small-scale fisheries are, by far, the most common in the area and that the EU and the GFCM have agreed to promote them, we don't understand why not any coastal species are included in stock assessments. Those species are small-scale main targets and they might be overfished, also.

### REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup>Rocklin D, Levrel H, Drogou M, Herfaut J, Veron G (2014). Combining telephone surveys and fishing catches self-report: The French seabass recreational fishery assessment. PLoS ONE 9(1): e87271

Asociados:

