



**MINISTÈRE
DE L'AGRICULTURE
ET DE L'ALIMENTATION**

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**Direction
des pêches maritimes
et de l'aquaculture**

Paris, le 28 DEC. 2020

*The Director of Sea Fisheries and Aquaculture,
Chair of South Western Waters High Level Group*

To

*Pelagic AC
Louis Braillelaan 80
2719 EK Zoetermeer
The Netherlands*

Le directeur des pêches maritimes et de l'aquaculture,
Président du groupe de haut niveau « Eaux
occidentales australes »

à

Pelagic AC
Louis Braillelaan 80
2719 EK Zoetermeer
The Netherlands

016387

Subject: Release full report evaluation of compliance with the landing obligation mackerel in NS and NWW 2015-2017

Dear Chair of the Pelagic AC,

After the joint EFCA-PELAC workshop on monitoring, control and enforcement of the landing obligation on March 5th in The Hague, I received your letter concerning the publication of the executive summary of the evaluation of compliance with the landing obligation for the mackerel fishery on the EFCA website.

In this letter, you are mentioning that the findings in the summary suggest a low level of compliance of this fishery with the rules pertaining to the landing obligation and you urge the High Level Group Presidencies to release the report as a matter of urgency or remove the executive summary from the EFCA website.

We discussed this letter in the High level Group. After contacting the EFCA, the South Western Waters regional Group confirms his position taken in October 2019. Our position is that the full report should not be disclosed for the reasons detailed below and relating to the confidentiality of data.

EFCA, in cooperation with the concerned Member States, finalised and delivered the compliance evaluation report for MAC fisheries in NS and NWW for the period 2015-2017 with a focus on the LO. For this purpose, EFCA used a standard methodology for compliance evaluation with the LO agreed by the EFCA's Administrative Board and used for similar exercises in other regions.

The executive summary of this evaluation was drafted in order not to disclose sensitive inspection data and other confidential details contained in the full report not suitable for external publication. Following to this decision by the HLG, EFCA has replied in these terms to similar requests from other areas (i.e. NWWAC).

Finally, EFCA and the concerned CEGs have already, as you also mentioned in your letter, organised a dedicated workshop with the PELAC and other stakeholders to present the results of this evaluation, including a detailed explanation of the methodology, data used, and replied to questions on the outcome.

Yours faithfully,

Le Directeur
des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture

Eric BANEL