DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES

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

Dear Chair,

After the joint EFCA-PELAC workshop on monitoring, control and enforcement of the landing oblicagtion on March 5th in The Hague, I received your letter concerning the publication of the executive summery 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 Presedencies 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 Scheveningen regional Group confirms his position taken in oktober 2019. Our position is that the full report should not be disclosed.

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,

Dirk Van Guyze Chair of the Schecveningen HLG