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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing for 2022 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas - Comments by Spain

Delegations will find in the Annex comments by Spain.



**COMMENTS OF SPAIN ON PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION
FIXING FOR 2022 THE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CERTAIN FISH
STOCKS AND GROUPS OF FISH STOCKS APPLICABLE IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEAS (Document 14894/21)**

Spain would like to make the following comment to the proposal of regulation for 2022.

In relation with the annexes, in general but in particular in annex III, it is used the term "maximum catch limit" and "maximum level of catches" for blue and red shrimp and at the same time for that stock it's pointed that the TAC is no relevant. Nevertheless in the article 3, definitions, appear the one for TAC but no for "maximum catch limit" or "maximum level of catches". So we appreciate a lack of definition for those terms and we wonder in which Union law appear that definition.

In addition, Spain would like to propose the following statement for the evaluation of the implementation of the MAP

**On implementation of the EU multiannual plan for the demersal fishing
stocks in Western Mediterranean
(COM, Spain, ...)**

The Council and the Commission are committed with the sustainability of the demersal fishing stocks in the Western Mediterranean and the implementation of the Western Mediterranean multiannual plan (the WestMedMAP), also taking into account the social, economic and employment pillars of the Common Fisheries Policy.

From 2020 relevant and ambitious measures have been adopted, such as a very important decrease of fishing days at sea deployed by trawlers, -23,5%, under the fishing effort regime created, and closures to protect juveniles and spawners of the species under the plan along the areas. For next year 2022 exist the possibility of implement additional measures in relation to the mesh size used. Their effects have not been allowed enough time to demonstrate their effectiveness, and have not been properly assessed yet.

Therefore, not later than middle of 2022, and before adopting any new additional step on the implementation of the WestMedMAP, a complete evaluation will be presented by Commission of the state of play, including the assessment of the social, economic and employment impacts derived from the measures already adopted and potential future measures to be contemplated.

This compromise is set with the spirit of responsibility to preserve sustainability of the EU coastal communities in the Western Mediterranean living from fishing



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activities, their ports and auctions, and all the employment associated to the fishing industry, both at sea and land, under a balanced approach for consecution of the objectives of the WestMedMAP.

Madrid, 5 of January 2022