



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 21 January 2022
(OR. en)

5546/22

LIMITE

PECHE 17

Interinstitutional File:
2021/0292(NLE)

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	ST 14894/21 + ADD 1
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 – Statement by Spain

Delegations will find in the Annex a statement by Spain.

Statement of Spain on implementation of the EU multiannual plan for the demersal fishing stocks in Western Mediterranean

Spain is fully committed to the recovery of fisheries resources in the Mediterranean Sea, as shown by its strong support and strict application of the multi-annual plan for the Western Mediterranean.

In addition, Spain is committed to conciliate as much as possible another essential objective, the socioeconomic one, which materializes in a competitive fishing industry that provides, in addition to employment, innumerable benefits as one of the basis of the Mediterranean diet, fish, and the support of our fisheries communities that are part of our cultural heritage.

To achieve these objectives, alternative measures to the additional effort reductions have been proposed based on closures and selectivity, that have entailed exhaustive work by our scientific community and an important consensus with the industry to which they are addressed.

Spain has proposed the adoption of measures to improve selectivity based on the STECF reports, which indicate that it is more useful than fishing effort reductions itself, for the socioeconomically and biologically sustainable management of fishing resources. However, the compromise adopted in the Council has not established a sufficient incentive for fishermen to implement it.

Spain request, in the light of all the last scientific information that may be available, that a complete mid-term evaluation of the application of the multi-annual plan be made, given the enormous relevance and effects that it currently has, and is having for the future, on our fishing communities.
