

El Secretorio General de Pesca
Andrés Hermida Trostoy
Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente

Copy to Rafael Centenera Ulecia
Subdirector General de Acuerdos y Organizaciones Regionales de Pesca
Dirección General de Recursos Pesqueros y Acuicultura

Estimado Señor Hermida,

Reglamentación de la Pesquería de Atún Rojo en el Atlántico Oriental y Mediterráneo

On behalf of the Spanish Members of LIFE, the Low Impact Fishers of Europe Platform, I would like to thank you for including us in the consultation process on the draft Orden, and to send you my comments and observations on the same.

1. LIFE welcomes the process of consultation to be established by MAPAMA and would like to be involved in the stakeholder meetings in early 2017 referred to in your letter dated 15 December 2016.

2. LIFE regrets the absence of any reference to the historic rights and importance of fishers using “artes menores” in the draft order. This fleet segment has a centuries long history of fishing for BFT in a sustainable and responsible manner, with a relatively low impact on the tuna stocks and the marine environment. We also regret that the Administration will not consider making any substantial changes to the access conditions of the Bluefin Tuna fishery to allow access for this important segment of the fishing fleet until ICCAT declares the BFT stocks to be fully recovered. We consider that this is contrary to the spirit and letter of Regulation EU 2016/1627 on a Bluefin tuna recovery plan.

3. In this regard, we note the absence in the orden of any reference to, or provisions in line with the objectives of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627) on a Bluefin tuna recovery plan, especially as regards recital 4: “*promover las actividades de pesca costera y la utilización de artes y técnicas de pesca que sean selectivos y que tengan un impacto reducido en el medio ambiente, incluidos los artes y técnicas utilizados en la pesca tradicional y artesanal, contribuyendo así a un nivel de vida digno en las economías locales*”¹, and Article 8 especially regarding “*distribuir equitativamente las cuotas nacionales entre los distintos segmentos de flota teniendo en cuenta la pesca tradicional y artesanal*”².

4. In Article 3, “Censo específico de la flota autorizada para el ejercicio de la pesca de atún rojo” (Specific census of the fleet authorized for the fishing of bluefin tuna), we would like to see a gesture on behalf of MAPAMA to include mention of the “artes menores” fleet of the Mediterranean coast

¹ “Promote coastal fisheries activities and the use of selective gears and techniques, including traditional and artisanal ones, thus contributing to decent livelihoods for local economies.”

² “Ensure a fair quota allocation among the different fleet segments considering traditional and artisanal fisheries”

and the Canary Islands which have historically depended on BFT as part of seasonally diverse polyvalent fishery activities. Such a mention could be made, for example, in Article 3.1.c.

5. In Article 4: “Asignación de cuotas” (Quota allocation), in our view it is not correct to describe the catching of BfT by the artes menores fleet as “fortuita”. As noted above, Spanish “artes menores” fleets in the Mediterranean and Canary Islands have targeted BfT in a seasonal manner as part of a responsible polyvalent fishery. We feel that “captura estacional” is a more appropriate description.

6. Article 6: “Cesiones de Cuota” (Assignment of quota). We would question whether a ceiling on quota ownership of 30% is too high. We feel that individual companies should be restricted to owning up to 15% of the total quota, with groups of associated companies being allowed to own up to 20%. Otherwise, there is a danger that the artes menores sector will not be able to access sufficient quota.

7. Article 7 “Puertos autorizados” (Authorized ports). We are concerned that these provisions could discriminate against artes menores fishers based in remote locations, and would ask for this fleet segment to be given special treatment.