



The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/A1-D3 ARES(2019)

Mr Florin Luchian
Secretary General of Black Sea
Advisory Council
office@blsaceu.eu

Dear Mr Luchian,

Many thanks for your letter dated 9 April 2019 informing the Commission of the recommendations approved by the Executive Committee of the BISAC aiming to reduce waste from fisheries.

This is a welcome initiative. Your recommendations highlight the importance of preventing marine litter from fisheries entering our seas, bringing ashore passively fished waste (from the nets during the normal fishing operations) and having appropriate waste management and reception facilities in ports.

The Commission considers fishermen as important partners in fighting marine litter. In this respect, the Commission is actively encouraging Member States to use funds available under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) to tackle waste from fisheries.

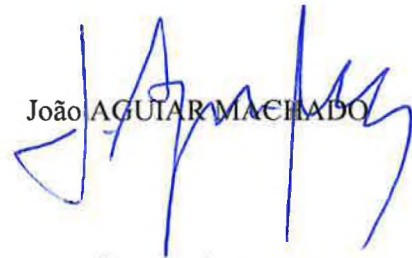
In particular, Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 (the EMFF Regulation), supports under Article 40 the collection of waste by fishermen from the sea through the removal of lost fishing gear and marine litter. Under Article 43, the EMFF can support investments improving the infrastructure of fishing ports, auctions halls, landing sites and shelters, including investments in facilities for waste and marine litter collection.

The support is provided via shared management under the national EMFF Operational Programme and it is at the discretion of each Member State's managing authority to decide on whether and how much is allocated to each of the expenditure types. I encourage you to take contact with your national authorities in order to know which projects are being developed and to share with them the priorities you have defined.

I thank you for your constructive input and invite you to contact Ms Pascale Colson, coordinator of the Advisory Councils (pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu; +32 2 29 56273), should you have any questions on this response.

Yours sincerely,

João AGUIAR MACHADO



c.c.: Andreea Strachinescu, Maris Stulgis, Iain Shepherd (DG MARE)
 Mr Gospodinov (BISAC)