



КОНСУЛТАТИВЕН СЪВЕТ ЗА ЧЕРНО  
МОРЕ /КСЧМ/  
CONSILIUL CONSULTATIV PENTRU MAREA  
NEAGRA

An association registered in the Register of Legal persons engaged in a non-profit making activity UCI 176964109

Domicile & Head Office:

No.24-26 Ohrid St., Floor 1, Varna

[office@blsaceu.eu](mailto:office@blsaceu.eu)

Asociatie, inregistrata in Registrul persoanelor juridice fara scop patrimonial al R Bulgaria, CUI 176964109

Sediu si adresa de conducere:

Mun. Varna, str. "Ohrid" N 24-26, etaj 1

[office@blsaceu.eu](mailto:office@blsaceu.eu)

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## MINUTES

**Of the meeting of Working Group 1 of BISAC, held on 26th June 2019**

**Main topic: Landing obligation, Plans for landing, Challenges.**

On 26.06.2019, in 'Trayan' Hall at the Ibis Hotel in Constanta, commencing at 10:30, a meeting of Working group 1 of BISAC was held in accordance with the following Agenda:

1. Landing obligation – review and current status.
2. Actual practices in the Black Sea;
3. Challenges facing Romania and Bulgaria;
4. Opinions of scientists and the administration;
5. Comments and discussion;
6. Expected results / Versions of recommendations and advice to GD MARE, GFCM, the ministries and institutions of the member-states/.

Aim of the Working group: To propose recommendations concerning the landing obligations.

In a presentation on: "Landing obligations – review and current status", Mrs. Michaela Candea, the Group leader, clearly explained to the participants in the Working group that the landing obligations are valid for species on which there are quotas imposed, for endangered or species the catches of which are prohibited, when they are incidental catch. Landing obligations have been in force for the Black Sea since 2017.

**Discussions and comments:**

Mr. Florin Luchian: For fishermen to comply with the landing obligations, in the first place, there should be designated and specially built landing ports, which are monitored and controlled, and there are no such ports in Romania. Incidental catches are not brought

ashore, as there is nowhere they could be landed, so incidental catches are thrown back in the sea. The regulation is not complied with because the state authorities have not done their job.

Mr. Yordan Gospodinov: A company called “Fish resources” was set up in Bulgaria, and it manages four ports where landing obligations are fulfilled. There are also several municipal ports and first sale centres. B

Mr. Florin Luchian: It does not make sense to land, report for statistical purposes and then take to the incinerator, which is a paid service, undersized fish is caught as incidental catch, and the fish is still alive. The logical thing to do is throw the fish back in the sea. What is more, veined rapa whelk fishing boats in Romania, for example, that have incidental catches, stay at sea for over 36 hours, but they are not equipped with refrigerators, so the fish is spoilt.

The members of the Working group propose that a focus group should be set up with representatives of EAFB Bulgaria and Romania, as well as representatives of the fisheries organizations; they have to be acquainted in detail with how the landing obligations should be fulfilled. Because at the moment, fishermen are afraid to report incidental catches as they believe they will be imposed fines for those catches.

Another important aspect is the control of small boats and the nets they are allowed to use at sea, which cannot be unlimited. It has to be known how many nets a boat uses, and those nets have to be properly marked, unlike the current situation in Romania where the number of nets used by a boat is unknown, and the nets are usually unmarked. Small boats, but with powerful engines, can even be seen far out at sea pretending to be small-scale fishermen, yet catching unlimited quantities of fish. It is of vital importance to define clearly what a small-scale fishery is, taking into account criteria such as:

- Length of the fishing vessel;
- Area of operation;
- Duration of fishing;
- Engine capacity;
- Crew;
- Turnover volume;
- Fishing gear that small-scale fisheries are allowed to use;
- Monitoring and surveillance equipment;
- Method of reporting – via a mobile application, text message, log, etc.;
- Control and monitoring of catches;
- Other.

Mr. Florin Luchian: It is not fair that big ships should be constantly monitored and controlled, while small fishing boats are not, even though in some cases their catches are

much bigger in quantity. Poachers mainly use small boats, which are not equipped with monitoring devices; and in his opinion, such boats are treated more favorably by the EC.

Discussions on the classification of the waters in the two countries follow, as well as comments that despite the assumed obligations under the respective regulation, the states have not carried out the required qualification tests. Fisheries associations in Romania have sent numerous letters to the government with regard to this problem, but they have received no reply yet.

Recommendations proposed by the Working group:

- 1) As regards incidental catches of turbot: when the incidentally caught fish is alive, it should be thrown back in the sea;
- 2) A meeting should be organized between EAFA Bulgaria and Romania with fishermen from the two countries for the purpose of clarifying the landing obligations and the consequences for the fishermen;
- 3) Appropriate infrastructure should be developed – landing ports in Romania and first-sale centers;
- 4) The member-states should fulfill their obligations under the regulation for classification of water. So far, no such qualification has been carried out in Bulgaria and Romania.

In the end, the meeting was declared closed.

Minutes prepared by: Mrs. Elena Peneva.....

Chairman of BISAC: Dr. Yordan Gospodinov:.....