



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels, 22 DEC. 2016
MARE A2/EG (2016) 7148089

Mr. Jan Kappel
Secretary General
European Anglers Alliance, EAA
Rue de la Loi 81^a, B-1040 Brussels
BELGIUM

Dear Mr. Kappel,

Thank you for your letter dated 8 December 2016 concerning the applicability of the landing obligation to recreational fisheries.

I can indeed confirm our interpretation that the provisions of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation (Regulation (EU) N° 1380/2013) on the landing obligation also apply to recreational fishing for species falling under the landing obligation in accordance with the terms of the said regulation.

We fully understand that the implementation of the landing obligation might be challenging. This is why the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation allows for the progressive phasing-in of the landing obligation. The CFP also provides for the establishment of discard plans in specified conditions, including high survivability exemptions and *de minimis* exemptions when this is supported by available scientific evidence.

Yours sincerely,

João Aguiar Machado *absent*
S. DEPY PERE