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PECHE 55

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 8 February 2017
To: Delegations

Subject: Working Party on Internal and External Fisheries Policy
I. ICCAT Med. Swordfish WG
II. Faroe Islands
III. External Fishing Fleets
IV. North Sea Plan
V. Technical measures

I. Meeting of the ICCAT Mediterranean Swordfish Working Group (Madrid, 20-22 February 2017)

– *Information from the Commission*

doc. 5934/17 PECHE 48

The Commission representative informed the Working Party of the meeting of the ICCAT Mediterranean Swordfish Working Group that will be held in Madrid on 20-22 February 2017.

In preparation of the mentioned meeting, the Commission services have produced a background paper (doc. 5934/17 PECHE 48) providing a general context and a suggested EU position.

The Commission representative advocated that the two main themes should be clarifying the implementation of the Recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish, including how to manage the TAC for 2017, and reaching an agreement regarding the allocation scheme for ICCAT.

The proposed position is based on TAC allocations reflecting the average annual catches for the period 2010-2014, focusing on the historical catches, with some considerations of the 2015 catches for Algeria and some flexibility on other issues. This would correspond to a share of approximately just under 75% of the TAC for the EU.

The delegations who intervened (ES, IT, FR, EL, CY, PL) were supportive of the proposed position. IT argued for the inclusion of 2015 on the reference period, taking in consideration possible future implications on the EU's distribution key, while EL opposed the inclusion of 2015. The Commission representative recalled that the inclusion of 2015 was highly improbable, taking in consideration third State's positions at the ICCAT annual meeting in November 2016.

The Presidency concluded that the proposed position had substantive support and encouraged the Commission to aim for the highest possible TAC for the EU.

The Presidency will ensure coordination on the spot.
