



LDRAC RECOMMENDATION ON

AN INCREASED BUDGET FOR DATA COLLECTION UNDER THE FUTURE EMFF

Status: approved by the Executive Committee

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Following the agreement on a 'full general approach' on the upcoming European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), the Long Distance RAC (LDRAC) kindly asks the EU Fisheries ministers and Members of the European Parliament to reconsider the proposal to reduce the amount earmarked for data collection (Art. 15.4).

The fisheries where European long-distance fleets are active often suffer from a lack of data that hampers a reliable scientific assessment of the status of the resources and impacts of fishing activities. As the EU fleet has to operate in a transparent way, it is advisable to reinforce the information on catches under Fisheries Partnership Agreements (FPAs). While we appreciate the efforts ICES has made to provide assessment and management advice for data-limited stocks in EU waters, these methods are often not applicable to EU activities outside EU waters.

Furthermore, in the context of the upcoming landing obligation, the need to acquire reliable data on discard levels in the various fisheries of the EU fleets operating outside EU waters is unmistakable.

Fishing industry organizations, fisheries managers and civil society organizations must combine efforts to ensure the environmental and socio-economic sustainability of the exploitation of marine resources in the long term. The LDRAC has made significant efforts to establish good relationships with non-EU stakeholders, in particular with COMHAFAT. Such cooperation would also profit from greater availability and accuracy of data to improve assessments of stock status and applicable management regimes by sharing available knowledge. In this respect, a reduced budget for data collection will be detrimental for the fisheries under the remit of the LDRAC.



The development of sustainable fishing practices by EU fleets, and possibly other fleets operating in the same areas, requires adequate knowledge of marine ecosystems, and fishing and other activities, which depends on a reliable and extensive data collection system in the EU.

- For all the reasons stated above, the LDRAC asks to withdraw the proposal to reduce the budget earmarked for data collection under article 15.4, compared to the initial proposal of the European Commission, and keep the budget at least at €360 Mio Euro.
- We further ask to consider increasing the amount for data collection above this budget of €360 mio, or to provide Member States with the opportunity to shift additional funding from measures under Article 15.2. to data collection activities.

Proposed recipients: Fisheries Ministers

Copy to:

- Member States administrations
- Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament
- Opinion committees to the EMFF (BUDG EMPL ENVI REGI, to all their member MEPs)
- European Commission, DG Mare