



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
**THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY
AND FOOD OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA**

FORESTRY, HUNTING AND FISHERIES DIRECTORATE

Dunajska cesta 22, 1000 Ljubljana

T: +386 1 478 91 44

F: +386 1 478 90 21

E: gp.mkgp@gov.si

www.mkgp.gov.si

Ms Veronika VEITS
Director
Directorate D Fisheries Policy Mediterranean and
Black Sea
Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
European Commission
1049 Brussels, Belgium

Number: 342-43/2013/31

Date: 30 January 2019

Subject: Annual report on the implementation of the landing obligation (Regulation (EU) 2015/812 amending Regulation 1380/2013) in Slovenia – for 2018

Dear Ms Veits,

on the basis of Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, as amended by Regulation (EU) No 2015/812, please find attached information regarding the implementation of the landing obligation in Slovenia in 2018.

In preparing it, we have endeavoured to take into account the Questionnaire to Member States on the implementation of the landing obligation, insofar as the questions in the Questionnaire were applicable to the situation in Slovenia.

Sincerely Yours,




Jošt Jakša
Acting Director-General

Encl.:

Information on the implementation of the landing obligation (Regulation (EU) 2015/812 amending Regulation 1380/2013) in Slovenia – 2018

Information on the implementation of the landing obligation (Regulation (EU) 2015/812 amending Regulation 1380/2013) in Slovenia – 2018

Steps taken to comply with the landing obligation

In 2018, in accordance with the provisions of Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, Slovenian fisheries have been subject to the following landing obligation:

- from 2015: landing obligation for small pelagic species in the Mediterranean, namely anchovy, sardine, mackerel and horse mackerel;
- from 2017: landing obligation for species which define the fisheries in the Mediterranean (Adriatic Sea).

With regard to the landing obligation for small pelagic species, in 2017, Slovenia, together with Croatia and Italy, submitted a joint recommendation to the Commission containing a request for the continuation of a de minimis exemption in Adriatic Sea for discarding up to 5 % of the total annual catches of species subject to minimum sizes in the small pelagic mid-water trawl and purse seine fisheries for anchovy, sardine, mackerel and horse mackerel, in line with advice from the Mediterranean Advisory Council – MEDAC. The de minimis exemption has originally been defined in the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1392/2014 establishing a discard plan for certain small pelagic fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea. It has been extended with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/161 establishing a de minimis exemption to the landing obligation for certain small pelagic fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea.

In 2016, Slovenia cooperated with Croatia and Italy so that a joint recommendation based on the advice by the MEDAC has been submitted to the Commission regarding implementation of the landing obligation for species which define the fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. This has been followed up in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/86 establishing a discard plan for certain demersal fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea. Based on this Commission Delegated Regulation, Slovenia informed the Commission in January 2017 that considering the criteria from the Annex to the Commission Delegated Regulation referring to Adriatic Sea, Slovenia does not have vessels in its fishing fleet to which the landing obligation would apply for species defining the fisheries.

The implementation of the landing obligation with regard to Slovenian fisheries has been based on data collected from fishing logbooks as recorded in the national fisheries database, as well as information from the Fisheries Research Institute of Slovenia.

The provisions of the discard plans particularly de minimis exemption have been of crucial importance for Slovenian fisheries due to short fishing trips of Slovenian fishing vessels on which small quantities of fish are caught with very small quantities of discards (up to a few kilograms per fishing trip). (More than 90 % of Slovenian fishing vessels are smaller than 12 meters of length.) Moreover, also in 2018, overall catches of Slovenian fishing vessels were about as low as in 2017 (the lowest in the history of Slovenian commercial marine fishing). Slovenian catches of small pelagic species in North Adriatic Sea have amounted to less than 0,1 % of total catches of these species in North Adriatic Sea, taking into account data from European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) Joint Deployment Plan (JDP) for fisheries exploiting stocks of bluefin tuna and sardine and anchovy in northern Adriatic Sea.

With the purpose of ensuring compliance with relevant discard plans, the relevant fishermen have been informed as well as Slovenian fisheries inspection. Pursuant to national legislation, Slovenian fishermen have to fill in fishing logbooks for all quantities and species of fish caught

and discarded, also for vessels below 10 meters of length. Data on landings and discards have been provided to EFCA under Joint Deployment Plan (JDP) for fisheries exploiting stocks of bluefin tuna and sardine and anchovy in northern Adriatic Sea. With regard to the applicable fisheries, the catches and discards have been very small and the proportion of discards has remained below applicable de minimis exemption.

With reference to Commission questions, Slovenian fishermen do not target any species that would be subject to catch limits on EU level in the form of annual total allowable catches or quotas.

Steps taken regarding control of compliance with the landing obligation

Control of compliance with the landing obligation and provisions on de minimis exemptions has proceeded in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Common Fisheries Policy, including Regulation (EU) 2015/812 amending Council Regulations (EC) No 850/98, (EC) No 2187/2005, (EC) No 1967/2006, (EC) No 1098/2007, (EC) No 254/2002, (EC) No 2347/2002 and (EC) No 1224/2009, and with Regulations (EU) No 1379/2013 and (EU) No 1380/2013, as regards the landing obligation. Moreover, control and monitoring of Slovenian fisheries as regards the landing obligation has proceeded in accordance with the provisions of Slovenian national legislation – among others, Decree on the monitoring of catches and sales of fisheries products (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia No 38/16) provides that a fishing logbook has to be filled in by masters of all fishing vessels (also for vessels below 10 meters of length) for all the quantities and species of fisheries products caught and discarded. The fishermen have been informed about the landing obligation and the de minimis exemption by the fisheries inspection as well as the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food.

Slovenian fisheries inspection has implemented control and monitoring of the landing obligation during the course of its regular inspection activities (at sea and on land), and in the framework of the Sampling plan for weighing of fisheries products in the Republic of Slovenia, as well as activities related to the Joint Deployment Plan (JDP) in the context of the Specific Control and Inspection Programme (SCIP) for fisheries exploiting stocks of bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, swordfish in the Mediterranean and for fisheries exploiting stocks of sardine and anchovy in the Northern Adriatic Sea (Commission Implementing Decision 2014/156/EU). This has included a risk-based approach. The Fisheries Research Institute of Slovenia has been performing a study of by-catches and discards.

All Slovenian fishing vessels using active fishing gears (purse seines and trawls) are equipped with Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). Compliance with provisions of EU Common Fisheries Policy on minimum sizes (Annex III of Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006) has been controlled in the course of fisheries inspection activities, including through control of landings of small pelagic fish in accordance with the Sampling plan for weighing of fisheries products in the Republic of Slovenia.

Information on the socioeconomic impact of the landing obligation

The de minimis exemption for small pelagic species in North Adriatic Sea on the basis of the relevant Commission Delegated Regulation has been crucial for Slovenian fisheries, as there were only 2 vessels using purse seines active in 2018 (i.e. in the sense that they had at least one fishing trip in 2018), and both of these vessels were less than 15 meters of length. Their catches were low, therefore an obligation for them to separately store and land a few kilograms

of discards, which would need to be taken care of, would represent a disproportionate burden, especially because landings of small pelagic species were also low in 2018.

With regard to the landing obligation for demersal species that entered into force with 2017, taking into account the criteria laid down in Annex I of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/86 establishing a discard plan for certain demersal fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea, there were no vessels in the Slovenian fishing fleet to which the landing obligation would apply. Namely, demersal catches of Slovenian fishermen include a large variety of different species besides hake, red mullet and common sole.

Information on the effect of the landing obligation on safety on board fishing vessels

Safety on board Slovenian fishing vessels was not an issue due to the de minimis exemption for small pelagic species in the Adriatic Sea as provided for in the relevant Commission Delegated Regulation; also, taking into account the criteria laid down in Annex I of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/86 establishing a discard plan for certain demersal fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea, there were no vessels in the Slovenian fishing fleet to which that landing obligation would apply. If there were no exemptions, safety on board fishing vessels might have been compromised, as Slovenian fishing vessels are predominantly old (more than 30 years on average) and most of them are smaller than 15 meters of length, and implementation of the landing obligation would demand additional storage space as well as additional labour.

Information on the use and outlets of catches below the minimum conservation reference size of a species subject to the landing obligation

There are no industries in Slovenia that could use the catches below minimum sizes (discards) because the quantities of discards in Slovenian fisheries are very small (a few kilograms per fishing trip), while the number of active fishing vessels in Slovenia is also low. The discards would have to be transported from the coast to central Slovenia i.e. to near Ljubljana for incineration as waste (distance 150 km). In this case, the administrative and financial burdens of disposal as waste would be disproportionately high in comparison to actual quantities of discards in Slovenian fisheries.

Information on port infrastructures and of vessels' fitting with regard to the landing obligation for each fishery concerned

The Operational programme for the implementation of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund in the Republic of Slovenia 2014-2020 (OP EMFF 2014-2020) provides that some funds within the measure from Article 43 of the EMFF Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund) – Fishing ports, landing sites, auction halls and shelters could be used for infrastructure in Slovenian fishing ports in relation to dealing with discards, if needed. Such investments would need to be cost-effective with regard to actual quantities of discards, but might be foreseen depending on the impact of the landing obligation on the work of Slovenian fishermen.

So far, there has not been a need for measures related to marketing and processing (Articles 68 and 69 of the EMFF Regulation), because of the application of the relevant exemption and criteria for the landing obligation.

Information on the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the landing obligation and recommendations to address them

There were no particular difficulties encountered in the implementation of the landing obligation in Slovenia in 2018; at the same time, the de minimis exemption with regard to discards of small pelagic species in North Adriatic Sea on the basis of the relevant Commission Delegated Regulation has been of crucial importance for purse seine fisheries due to the small quantities of catches and discards. Similarly, the applicable criteria for landing obligation from Annex I of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/86 establishing a discard plan for certain demersal fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea have been of importance for demersal fisheries.

All of these have been all the more crucial in 2018 as this has been the year with continued lowest recorded catches and landings so far in the history of Slovenian fisheries.

Questions regarding control and enforcement

Slovenia has been implementing control and enforcement of the landing obligation in accordance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy as implemented on the national level particularly via the national Decree on the monitoring of catches and sales of fisheries products (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, No 38/16).

No infringements related to the landing obligation were detected during the course of 2018.

