



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

General Affairs and Resources
Legal Affairs

Brussels,
MARE.E.4/KM/cd

Béatrice Gorez
CFFA Coordinator
cffa.cape@gmail.com

Subject: Your complaint CHAP(2019)00315 - request for clarifications/additional information

Dear Ms. Gorez,

I refer to the complaint CHAP(2019)00315 you have introduced on behalf of the Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements (CFFA), denouncing the failure by Italy to adopt measures to monitor its vessels operating in the waters of the Sierra Leone and, where relevant, to sanction these vessels when illegal fishing operations were conducted in contravention of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). I would like to thank you for your interest in better implementation of the CFP. The Commission shares the view that a rigorous implementation and enforcement of the rules of the CFP by the Member States is of paramount importance, especially for the EU external fleet. Thus, we consider that your complaint raises important issues that retain all our attention.

In this context, we would be very grateful if you could provide us with additional clarifications on the facts presented in your complaint and, as far as possible, the supporting evidence for the claims.

In particular:

1. Referring to the reported vessels incursions in prohibited areas and non-authorized transshipments at-sea, we would be very grateful if you could share with us more information and in particular the following elements:
 - a. If possible, the name of the vessels concerned by the alleged illegal incursions in prohibited areas and for each of the vessels the period (*i.e.* date and time) when they occurred, together with the routing/geographical coordinates. Also we would like to receive all elements that lead to the suspicions that fishing activities were conducted;
 - b. If possible, the name of the vessels suspected of illegal transshipment at sea and for each of the vessels the date, time and geographical position of when and where the alleged illegal activities happened. Also it would be useful to receive the evidence that sea transshipments were conducted.

2. Regarding the claims of alleged wrongdoing by Italy in the management of fishing authorisations and of fishing activities by Italian vessels operating in Sierra Leone without a valid fishing authorisation, following clarifications/ additional information would be useful for the analysis of the complaint:
 - a. If possible, the name of the vessels that operated without a fishing authorisation and for which year/period;
 - b. The evidence leading to the allegation that the vessels did operate without a “fishing authorisation”;
 - c. where you refer to “fishing authorisations” in relation to Regulation (EU) 2017/2403 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 on the sustainable management of external fishing fleets (SMEFF), do you refer to the authorisation to conduct fishing operations outside EU waters, or to the direct authorisations to operate in Sierra Leone (private licenses)?
3. Regarding the lack of response by Italy to Sierra Leone requests, it would be important for us to understand to which requests you are referring to (if possible we would be grateful if you could indicate the sender and type of data requested) and the relevant year/period.

We would be grateful if you could come back to us on the different points by sending an email to MARE-CHAP@ec.europa.eu, at your earliest convenience and at the latest within four weeks of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Valérie TANKINK
Head of Unit