



Strasbourg, 25 January 2023

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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

43<sup>rd</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 28 November - 1 December 2023

**Complaint on stand-by: 2014/08**

**Presumed large-scale exploitation and marketing of protected  
marine shelled molluscs  
(Greece)**

**- GOVERNMENT REPORT -**

*Document prepared by  
the Ministry of Environment & Energy, Greece*

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**Ministry of Environment & Energy  
General Directorate of Environmental Policy  
Directorate of Natural Environment Management & Biodiversity  
Department of Biodiversity**

Athens, 23 January 2023

**To the Secretary of the Bern Convention**

Dear Ms Sticker,

**Subject:** Complaint No. 2014/8: Complaint on stand-by: Greece: Presumed large-scale exploitation and marketing of protected marine-shelled molluscs

In response to the Secretariat's letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022, Greece would like to provide the following updated information to the attention of the upcoming Bureau Meeting concerning the complaint on stand-by entitled 'Presumed large-scale exploitation and marketing of protected marine shelled molluscs'.

Pursuant to the latest information submitted by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy (The Headquarters of the Hellenic Coastguard/ Directorate of Fisheries Control) to the Directorate-General of Fisheries of the Ministry of Rural Development & Food, during the controls carried out within the jurisdiction of the Hellenic Coastguard throughout 2022:

- Three violations regarding the illegal fishing of the species *Lithophaga lithophaga* were recorded and sanctions (fines, withdrawal of fishing permits and confiscation of products) were imposed
- No violations regarding the illegal fishing of the species *Pinna nobilis* were recorded

Furthermore, during the afore-mentioned period of time the Directorate-General of Fisheries of the Ministry of Rural Development & Food did not impose any sanctions on traffic and illegal trade of protected marine shelled molluscs in the areas under its jurisdiction. The same Directorate-General also finalized the reformulation of the existing sanctioning system in order to both align with the requirements of the relevant EU provisions on the Common Market Organization (CMO) for fisheries and aquaculture products and to reinforce the effectiveness of the controls carried out over the implementation of the national and EU fisheries legislation for combating traffic and illegal trade of protected species. The implementation of the related legislation and the upgraded control mechanism against traffic and illegal trade, including the catering sector, is scheduled to begin in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of 2023.

Last but not least, the Department of Biodiversity of the Ministry of Environment & Energy recently contacted the complainant<sup>1</sup> to discuss on potential measures for the better protection of *Pinna nobilis*. In this regard, both parties agreed on participating in a teleconference to be hosted soon by the Department of Biodiversity involving also and other national stakeholders<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Mr Stelios Katsanevakis, University of Aegean

<sup>2</sup> Directorate-General of Fisheries of the Ministry of Rural Development & Food, Natural Environment and Climate Change Organization (NECCA/OFYPECA), Headquarters of the Hellenic Coastguard/Fisheries Control Directorate, Contractors drafting the Special Environmental Studies for the Natura-2000 network of Greece