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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

41st meeting
Strasbourg, 30 November – 3 December 2021

Complaint on stand-by: 2014/8

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

- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -

*Document prepared by
the General Directorate of Fisheries of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food of Greece*

File 2014/8: Greece: Presumed large-scale exploitation and marketing of protected marine shelled molluscs

Greece would like to provide the following information concerning File 2014/8 to the attention of the Bureau of the Bern Convention, as it has been compiled by the General Directorate of Fisheries of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food.

According to the data submitted to the General Directorate of Fisheries of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food by the Ministry of Shipping and Island Policy, and particularly by the Directorate of Fisheries Control that operates under the Hellenic Coast Guard Headquarters, there have been 17 cases where administrative sanctions have been imposed on non-professionals for illegal fishing of protected molluscs, between 30/6/2018 and 12/4/2021. The prescribed fines have been imposed by the Port Authorities as presented in the following Table.

<u>Port Authority</u>	<u>Penalty in €</u>
Itea	600
Preveza	1200
Igoumenitsa	500
Igoumenitsa	800
Igoumenitsa	500
Igoumenitsa	500
Halkida	300
Corinth	1200
Igoumenitsa	500
Halkida	600
Halkida	400
Preveza	600
Preveza	600
Preveza	600
Preveza	1000
Preveza	1000
Preveza	1000

No infringements were confirmed in the marketing and distribution sector during the above period. Particularly, it has been noted that inspections on open markets and distribution chains do not seem to address the issue sufficiently, owing to the fact that protected molluscs are very rarely sold through these avenues. The current legislation facilitates the inspections that are carried out on that level, but is otherwise cumbersome and restrictive when it comes to inspections on the level of small businesses, like local restaurants, where it is found that most of the illegal selling of protected molluscs actually happens.

As a result, and in order to enhance the effectiveness of the controls carried out for the observance of the provisions of the national and union fisheries legislation, including the provisions for the suppression of the illegal trafficking and trade of protected species, a reform of the existing national sanctioning framework has been initiated. The new legislative framework that is currently under development, will prioritize the effective implementation of the European Union provisions regarding the Common Market Organization in fishery and aquaculture products.

The Secretariat of the Bern Convention will be informed when the new legislation is put into force.