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From: Silvia Patricia González Díaz, PhD
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Subject: support to Association Vida Pelágica (AVP) about keeping recreational fishing for pelagic fishes in the Condor bank, Azores, in the modality of catch and release, allowing only take of record specimens.

Distinguished colleagues:

I have been involved in marine research and management for almost 30 years in Cuba and internationally. During that time, I have published around 80 peer-reviewed scientific papers. Those scientific results have been included in marine management plans.

Recreational fisheries in general and for pelagic fishes in particular, including billfishes, produce benefits to people and the economies. Globally, up to 700 million people participate in recreational fishing each year, generating almost US\$50 billion in expenditure.

Currently, most of the recreational fishing is catch and release and in the case of billfish is the most common practice. There is an overwhelm scientific evidence that catch and release has a negligible impact on billfishes.

Azores is a leading destination in the world for billfishes catch and release since late XX century due to the effort of many. Among them, Association Vida Pelágica (AVP) distinguished due to its commitment for billfish conservation, research and sustainable use. I support AVP vision of recreational billfish fishing in Azores.

Having said all these, I kindly suggest keeping recreational fishing for pelagic fishes in the Condor bank, Azores, catch and release, allowing only take of record specimens.

If you need to contact me, do not hesitate to do so via email at patrig75@yahoo.es or by phone at 5352647999.

Cordially,



Patricia Gonzalez Diaz, PhD