

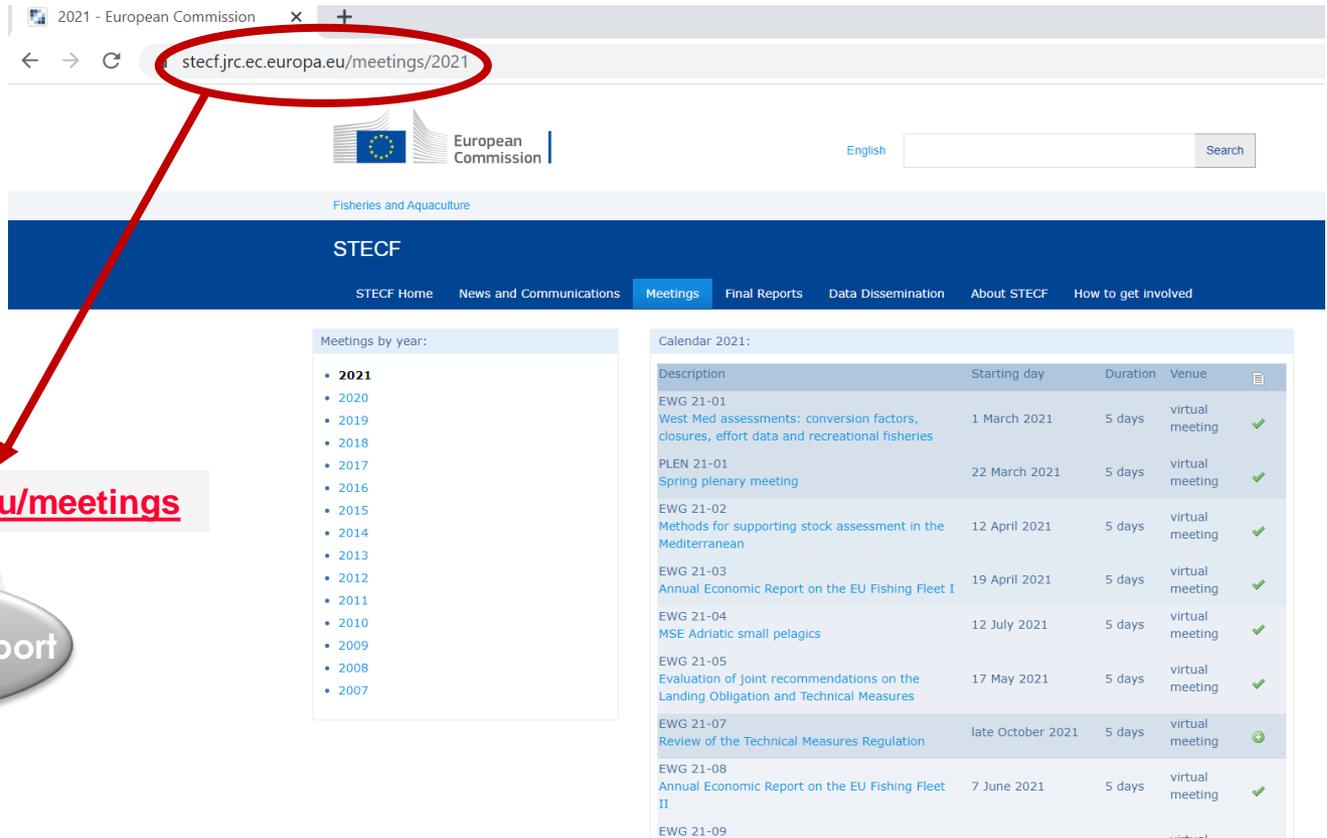


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***Report of the STECF
66th PLENARY MEETING
REPORT (PLEN-21-01)
22-26 March 2021,
Virtual meeting***



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Meetings by year:

- 2021
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Calendar 2021:

Description	Starting day	Duration	Venue	
EWG 21-01 West Med assessments: conversion factors, closures, effort data and recreational fisheries	1 March 2021	5 days	virtual meeting	✓
PLEN 21-01 Spring plenary meeting	22 March 2021	5 days	virtual meeting	✓
EWG 21-02 Methods for supporting stock assessment in the Mediterranean	12 April 2021	5 days	virtual meeting	✓
EWG 21-03 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet I	19 April 2021	5 days	virtual meeting	✓
EWG 21-04 MSE Adriatic small pelagics	12 July 2021	5 days	virtual meeting	✓
EWG 21-05 Evaluation of joint recommendations on the Landing Obligation and Technical Measures	17 May 2021	5 days	virtual meeting	✓
EWG 21-07 Review of the Technical Measures Regulation	late October 2021	5 days	virtual meeting	📅
EWG 21-08 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet II	7 June 2021	5 days	virtual meeting	✓
EWG 21-09			virtual	

<https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/meetings>

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Link to the Full Plenary Report

This summary includes some relevant contents of the 66^o Plenary meeting report

- ✓ Related to Mediterranean Sea
- ✓ Of interest for the MEDAC's members



Terms of Reference (ToR) 1 of The Expert Working Group (EWG)

Based on new data (e.g. e-logbook and VMS) to review the datasets on the **trawl fleets** exploiting demersal stocks in the west Med Sea

- to estimate the **conversion factors** between fleet segments that will ensure that **effort swaps** will not lead to an undesirable increase in fishing mortality.
- to assess the **scientific robustness** of the provisional **conversion factors adopted in 2020**.



Although the lack of data complicated the estimation of the conversion factors, STECF concluded that trawl type affects significantly the catching power of fishing vessels.



Larger vessels are more efficient than small vessels

STECF concludes that the **conversion factors** between fleet segments **adopted in 2020** by Member States should be evaluated based on **information at the fishing trip level from VMS and logbooks. More detailed data are needed by MS.**



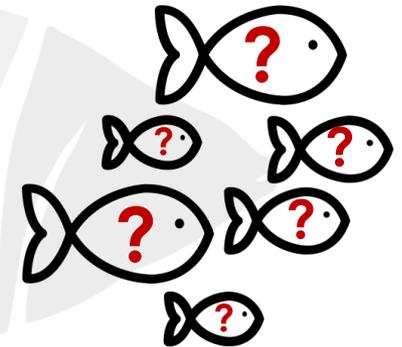
Data to be specifically provided by Member States for the analysis to be performed accurately.

Click here
Link to the Full Report
On West Med Assessment

Terms of Reference (ToR) 2 of The Expert Working Group (EWG)

To review the **existing closures** and the proposed additional closures, to estimate their efficiency to protect juveniles and spawning aggregations of species covered by the West Med MAP. To **comment on possible fishing effort displacement** arising from the proposed additional closures.

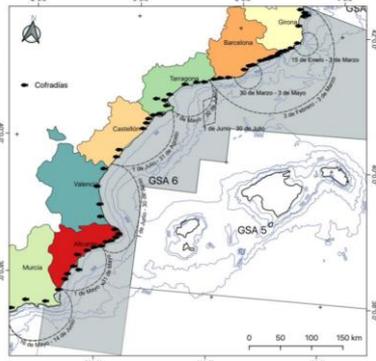
Art.11 of the West Med MAP is the most difficult in the implementation, however the closures should be adopted by the 3 MS by July.
In particular, some uncertainties were related to the target species of the additional closures.



STECF observes that the objective of additional closures has changed as stipulated the joint statement by France and Spain in December 2020 (European Council, statement 5415/1/21 Rev1):

“The additional closures should result in a reduction of between 15% and 25% in the by catch of juveniles and spawners of each stock covered by the WMMAP”. The term “by catch” used in the literal sentence from the joint statement, was interpreted as catch in the analysis carried out in this ToR.

Terms of Reference (ToR) 2 of The Expert Working Group (EWG)



Note that: In the four Spanish documents, **the closure areas were selected in agreement with the fishing sector**, but only the proposal for **GSA 6** by ICM-CSIC included an **analysis of the short-term economic impact** of the closure areas in terms of immediate lost revenues (and **not considering the medium-term benefits of stock recovery**).

The EWG did not address the part of ToR2 involving the exploration of new, not predefined scenarios for designing alternative closures (not enough time)

STECF recalls that **defining scenarios** is best placed in an iterative and interactive process **involving decision-makers and stakeholders ahead of the working group**.



STECF concludes that **none of the proposed scenarios of additional closures achieved the objective of reduction of between 15% and 25%** in the catch of juveniles and spawners of each stock covered by the WMMAP.

Achieving this by means of closures alone would require more ambitious scenarios, adapted to the areas, fisheries and species concerned. **Alternatively, the combination of closure areas with effort reductions and technical measures may contribute to achieve these levels of reduction.**

General remark of the EWG on the ToRs: the improvement of scientific results of the expert working group depends on the data provided by MS both related to effort and to socio-economic aspects.

Terms of Reference (ToR) 3 of The Expert Working Group (EWG)

To evaluate how much **gears other than bottom otter trawls**, such as gillnets and longlines contribute to demersal stocks **fishing mortality** and especially F for mature hake.

↪ Around 90% of the total catches of the 6 species included in the MAP is caught by bottom trawlers. Only European hake and red mullet are caught by fishing gears **other than trawl**.

**NETS
AND
LINES**

STECF concludes that **spawners of hake and red mullet can be protected** through **management measures** that ensure the reduction of the fishing mortality attributable to **GNS, GTR and LLS during the spawning seasons**.

Terms of Reference (ToR) 4 of The Expert Working Group (EWG) To assess the impact of recreational fisheries

STECF concludes that the recreational fishery in the West Med has a negligible or a null impact on the six species target in the WMMAP.



More info
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References for pictures: The noun project – Made by made

