



MedAC

- 1) Results 46th GFCM Annual session
- 2) FO 2023
- 3) Inspection campaign/control
- 4) Priorities 2024

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February 2024, Med AC

1. Decisions of 46th GFCM annual session

State of play: 2023 GFCM recommendations to be implemented in 2024

- Adoption of 34 GFCM decisions
- Adoption of all the 28 EU proposals and the carry-over of the EU turbot quota

Summary of the 46th session

Management measures

- Adoption of a new common dolphinfish MAP
- Adoption of minimum reference conservation reference size for deep-water shrimps and blackspot seabream
- Adoption of the first phase of the Cabliers fishing restricted area (FRA) in Western Med
- Consolidation of the measures for European eel
- Extension by one year the transitional management measures for red coral
- In the Adriatic, continuation of the implementation of the demersal MAP and the small pelagics MAP with further decreases in catches compared to 2023 levels.
- Establishment of a regional fishing capacity management plan
- For the Black Sea, roll-over existing measures and carry-over the unused fishing opportunities for 2024.

Summary of the 46th session

Control measures

- Adoption on a permanent basis of two international inspection schemes for common dolphinfish and the Adriatic Sea
- Improving the sighting procedures
- Adoption of two catch documentation schemes for red coral and turbot
- Establishment of a list of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU
- Consolidation of the work of the GFCM Compliance Committee

Summary of the 46th session

Protection of sensitive species and marine habitats

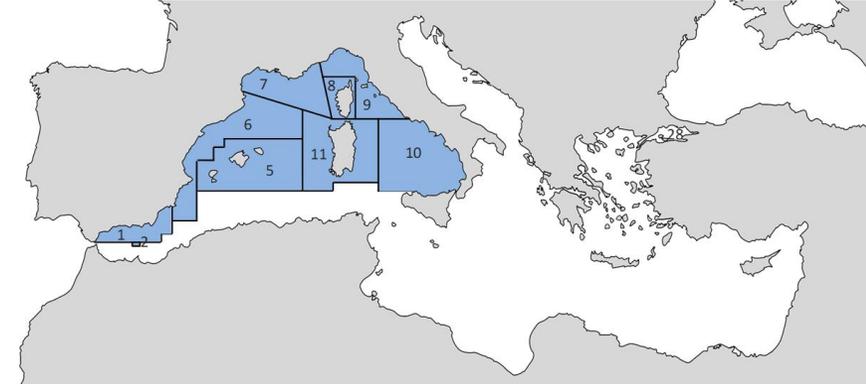
- Adoption of a Regional plan of action for vulnerable species
- Consolidation of the FRA in the Gulf of Lion and found agreement to launch pilot projects for the potential revision of the deepwater FRA towards 800m.
- EU, Morocco and Algeria agreed to implement a FRA in the Cabliers Mound.
- GFCM agreed to operationalize the observatory for non-indigenous species and to continue the relevant research programs (especially for blue crab).
- Set up of a permanent working group for decarbonization (roadmap short, medium and long term).

2. Fishing opportunities 2024

- State of play of management measures in 2024

Western Mediterranean Multi-annual Management Plan EU Regulation 2019/1022

- 1st EU MAP in the Mediterranean Sea
- **Only EU MAP postponing MSY by January 2025**
- Vessels from Spain, France and Italy
over 4000 full-time jobs on 1400 trawlers
- 6 main target species:



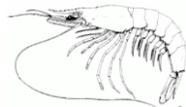
European hake



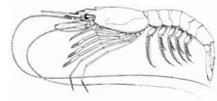
Red mullet



Norway lobster



Deepwater rose shrimp



Blue and red shrimp



Giant red shrimp

transparent monthly monitoring
of trawling activities

Beginning of implementation in 2020

🕒 5-year transition to achieve MSY by 2025

€ use of EU funds for permanent cessations

✂ various management tools

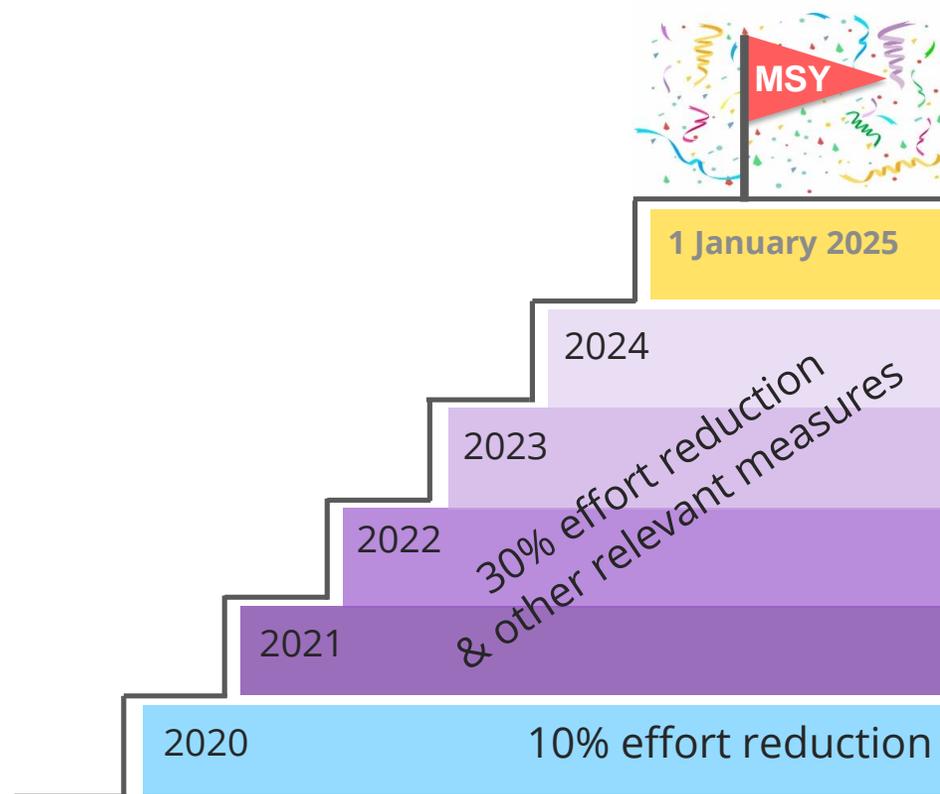
- Effort regime for trawlers and other gears
- Closure areas
- Technical measures (e.g. increase of selectivity)
- Temporary and permanent cessations
- Recreational fishing (no significant impact, STECF 2021)

📖 Article 7.3.b: “for the second to the fifth year of the implementation of the plan, the maximum allowable fishing effort shall be reduced by a maximum of 30 % during that period. The fishing effort decrease **may be supplemented with any relevant technical or other conservation measures adopted in accordance with Union law, in order to achieve the FMSY by 1 January 2025.**”

📖 Article 7.5: “Where the best available scientific advice shows significant catches of a particular stock **with fishing gear other than trawls**, maximum allowable fishing effort may be set for such particular gear on the basis of such scientific advice.”

2024 – final year of MAP implementation

Last year until end of transitional period



To apply as from
1/01/2025:

- Ranges of F_{MSY}
- Reference point “ B_{PA} ”

B. Implementation of 2024 fishing opportunities

1. Adopted fishing opportunities for 2024
2. FO 2024: compensation mechanism

1. Measures adopted FO 2024

Trawling effort: **-9,5%** reduction

Compensation mechanism (used by all MS since 2023): **+4,5%, +5% or +6% depending on the number of fulfilled conditions**

Freezing of **longliner** effort

Catch limits for **deep-water shrimps**

-5% for blue&red shrimp in GSAs 1-2-5-6-7

-3% for blue&red shrimp in GSAs 8-9-10-11

-3% for giant red shrimp in GSAs 8-9-10-11

FO 2024 published 11st January 2024

- *MS sent list of vessels and criteria in January 2024*
- *Start of reporting 15 Feb 2024*
- *Summary of use of compensation mechanism in Oct 2024*

2. FO 2024: Compensation Mechanism

Article 7

Compensation mechanism

1. For the fleet segment concerned, a Member State may grant, in 2024, to vessels flying its flag an additional allocation of fishing days of 4,5%, calculated in accordance with paragraph 4, provided that a vessel fulfils one of the following conditions:
 - (a) the vessel uses a trawl net with 45 mm square-mesh codend in order to reduce by at least 25 % catches of the juveniles of hake;
 - (b) the vessel uses a trawl net with a 50 mm square-mesh codend for deep-water fisheries in order to reduce by at least 25 % catches of blue and red shrimps with a carapace length (CL) of less than 25 mm in geographical subareas 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 and to reduce by at least 25 % catches of giant red shrimps with a CL of less than 35 mm in the geographical subareas 8, 9, 10 and 11;
 - (c) the vessel uses a regulated highly selective gear, the technical specifications of which result in, according to the scientific study by STECF, a reduction of at least 25 % of catches of juveniles of all demersal species or at least 20 % of catches of spawners of
 - (d) all demersal species compared to 2020, such as a sorting grid of at least 20 mm spacing;
 - (e) the Member State concerned has established temporary closure areas in order to reduce by at least 25 % catches of juveniles of all demersal species or by at least 20 % catches of spawners of all demersal species;
 - (f) the Member State concerned has adopted a new minimum conservation reference size for hake of at least 26 cm, and has secured the enforcement of appropriate technical measures to comply with this minimum conservation reference size, in order to progressively reach the length at first maturity and improve hake stocks status;

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- (f) the Member State concerned has adopted a new minimum conservation reference size for blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) of at least 25 mm CL and for giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) of at least 35 mm CL, and has secured the enforcement of appropriate technical measures to comply with those minimum conservation reference sizes, in order to progressively reach the length at first maturity and improve stocks status;
 - (g) the Member State concerned has set a closure of at least 4 continuous weeks for fishing activities with trawlers in the areas and periods recognised as important, on the basis of the best available scientific advice, for the protection of spawners of hake stocks. Such areas shall also account for spatial patterns of spawners' distribution, including depths from 150 m to 500 m. The periods of the temporary fishing closure shall be from February to March and from October to November.
 - (h) the Member State concerned has set a closure for fishing activities using twin trawlers;
 - (i) the Member State concerned has set a closure for fishing activity with trawlers at a depth higher than 800m;
 - (j) the Member State concerned has established permanent closure areas in order to reduce by at least 25 % catches of juveniles of all demersal species or by at least 20 % catches of spawners of all demersal species;
 - (k) the vessel uses a trawl with flying or mid-waters doors or other doors which reduces the contact of the doors and the gear with the seabed, to preserve the essential fish habitats of the demersal species;
 - (l) the Member State concerned has set a closure of at least 4 continuous weeks for fishing activities with trawlers in the areas and periods recognised as important, on the basis of the best available scientific advice, for the protection of blue and red shrimp and/or giant red shrimp.
2. If a vessel fulfils two of the conditions set out in paragraph 1, a Member State may increase the additional allocation of fishing days to 5 %, calculated in accordance with paragraph 4.

3. If a vessel fulfils at least three of the conditions set out in paragraph 1, a Member State may increase the additional allocation of fishing days to 6 %, calculated in accordance with paragraph 4.
4. The additional allocation of fishing days shall be calculated from the maximum effort allowed in the baseline between 2015 and 2017 for the relevant fleet segment of the Member State concerned as from 1 January 2024.
5. The Member State concerned shall notify to the Commission the list of fishing vessels concerned by such an additional allocation of fishing days, as well as the related number of additional fishing days.
6. The Member State concerned shall also separately notify every month to the Commission the effort deployed to be counted against the additional allocation referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 by using the specific reporting codes for that allocation.
7. The Member State concerned shall submit to the Commission, by 15 October at the latest, all available information related to the implementation of the measures referred to in paragraph 1, points (a) to (l).

FO 2024 published end of January

- MS sent list of vessels and criteria in January
- Start of reporting 15 Feb 2024
- Summary of use of compensation mechanism in Oct 2024

3. FO 2024: compensation mechanism

	total days + Comp Mech (4.5%)/vessel in 2024	total days + Comp Mech (5%)/vessel in 2024	total days + Comp Mech (6%)/vessel in 2024	Additional days CM 2024 4.5%	Additional days CM 2024 5%	Additional days CM 2024 6%
total days ES/vessel	138	139	142	5504	6116	7951
Number vessels	571	571	571			
Total days FR/vessel	184	186	190	643	714	929
Total vessels FR	50	50	50			
Total days IT/vessel	100	100	103	4623	5137	6678
Number vessels	640	640	640			

4. Next steps implementation WestMed MAP

Next steps:

- **Commission Report to Council and European Parliament on the implementation of the WestMed MAP**
- **Calendar STECF advice in 2024**

2024 – Commission Report to Council and European Parliament

Due by 17 July 2024

First discussions in November 2022

Consultation of the MS regional group and ACs

Opinion from STECF Plenary in March Spring 2024

Report based on:

- STECF permanent evaluation since 2018
- Latest state of the stocks
- Targeted stakeholders consultation
(EU survey launched in March 2023)

2024 calendar of scientific advice

4-8 March: STECF EWG Fishing effort regime for demersal fisheries in West Med – advancement to a unified bio-economic model

8-12 April: EWG Methodologies for Mediterranean stock assessments and the estimation of reference points

2-8 September: STECF EWG stock assessments in the Western Mediterranean Sea 2024

30 Sept – 4 October: STECF EWG Fishing effort regime for demersal fisheries in West Med

17/18th October: STECF mini plenary on stock assessment advice

End of October: publication of STECF report

4-8 November: 47th GFCM annual session

November: STECF Plenary

End of November: publication of STECF advice

Meetings are open to observers (national administration, MedAC etc.)

Terms of reference are online on the STECF website

Reports of Plenary are online 2 weeks after the STECF meeting

3. Inspection campaign/control issues

State of play - control

- **Fight against IUU:**
 - permanent deployment of a patrol vessel in the region
 - Adoption of two international joint inspection schemes in the Adriatic and for common dolphinfish
- **Need to strengthen the culture of compliance**
 - Ensure true level-playing field
 - EU will continue its efforts to strengthen the Compliance Committee of the GFCM in 2024-2025

4. Priorities for 2024

- 1) GFCM 2024 Priorities
- 2) Legislative acts
 - FO 2025
 - Delegated act
 - Derogations
- 3) Marine Action Plan

1. GFCM 2024 Priorities (1)

Western Mediterranean

- **Establishment of a FRA in the Cabliers coral mounds in the Alboran Sea**
 - FRA shall be divided in Zone A (core area) and Zone B (buffer zone)
 - Ongoing scientific campaign to monitor the core area and to determine the exact delimitation of the future buffer area, while continuing the scientific and socioeconomic analysis of fishing activities adjacent to the core area.
- **Definition of a minimum conservation reference size for giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp in the Western waters**
 - Objective to protect giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp by strengthening the conservation measures of the multiannual management plan by ensuring the MCRS
- **Implementation of measures in longliner fisheries in the Western Mediterranean for the mitigation of bycatch of Balearic shearwater**
 - EU suggests the GFCM and its CPCs to adopt a set of more concrete measures to encourage the specific mitigation of the bycatch of Balearic Shearwaters in the Western Med.

1. GFCM 2024 Priorities (2)

Adriatic Sea

- **Implementation of the Adriatic small pelagic MAP in 2025**
 - Objective is to move to the long-term management plan with the adoption, on the basis of the Harvest Control Rules endorsed by SAC in 2024 with a clear definition, of separate catch limits for sardine and anchovies but also to define CPC allocation keys for sardine and anchovy.
- **Implementation of the Adriatic demersal MAP in 2025**
 - Continuing the approach taken in 2021, 2022 and 2023 and implementing the 4th year of the fishing effort regime in GFCM/43/2019/5 with a linear reduction of fishing mortality, to ensure all key stocks will be fished at a sustainable level by 2026.
- **Implementation of measures for the mitigation and where possible, the elimination of the incidental bycatch of Sea Turtles in the Adriatic (GSA 17 & 18)**
 - Adoption of a set of more concrete measures to encourage the specific mitigation of the bycatch of Sea Turtles in the Adriatic.
 - To be fished at a sustainable level by 2026.
- **Establishment of a FRA in the Otranto Strait in the Southern Adriatic Sea (GSA 18)**
 - FRA proposed should be divided in zone A and zone B defined on the basis of the outcomes of the roadmap. CPCs shall establish a register of the fishing vessels authorized to fish in zone B.
 - The recommendation is intended to be applied until 31 December 2030.

1. GFCM 2024 Priorities (3)

Horizontal issues

- **European eels**
 - Adoption of a long-term management measures for the period 2025-2029 and terms of reference establishing the activities of the Research Programme on European eel for the same period
 - Further measures regarding the glass eel fishery with either a full ban as of 2025 or a gradual phasing out
 - Consolidation of the current closure periods
- **Long-term measures for red coral**
 - Adopt long-term measures for the management of red coral
 - Adoption of long-term harvest and effort limits
 - Possible strengthening of existing measures (e.g. minimum size, minimum depths, requirements for observers on board, crop rotation)

1. GFCM 2024 Priorities (4)

Control issues

- **Data exchange**
 - Define exchange format and protocol allowing for the exchange of VMS data between CPCs, the GFCM Secretariat and the patrol vessels ultimately improving the efficiency of the international joint inspection schemes.

2. Legislative acts – FO 2025 Timeline (TBC)

- **Traditionally published in June:** Annual communication/policy statement (D3) and discussed in AGRIFISH
- **June – September 2024:** European Commission internal procedures for the adoption of FO 2025. Adoption end of September/October
- **End of November 2024:** FO 2025 non-paper
- **9-10 December 2024:** AGRIFISH Council FO 2025

2. Legislative acts – MedReg Derogations

- Boat seines fishing gobies in Balearic Islands (ES) – IA will be published soon.
- Boat seines fishing sand eel in Catalonia (ES) – the derogation expires on 02.07.2024. NEW IA expected to be prepared.
- Gangui in PACA (FR) – the derogation expires on 11.05.2024. FR already sent all documents and were assessed very positively by STECF. NEW IA expected to be prepared.
- Shore seines in PACA, Occitanie (FR) – the derogation expires on 25.08.2024. NEW IA expected to be prepared.
- Boat seines fishing transparent goby in Liguria and Tuscany (IT) – the derogation expires on 31.03.2024. NEW IA expected to be prepared.
- Boat seines fishing transparent goby in Manfredonia (IT) – the derogation expires on 31.05.2024. NEW IA expected to be prepared.

2. Legislative acts – Delegated Acts (1)

1. delegated act for 3 high survivability exemptions (Western Mediterranean): Venus shells caught with mechanised dredges, Norway lobster caught with bottom trawls and Norway lobster caught with trap and pots. These are extension of existing exemptions.
2. Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... of 18 XXXX on the implementation of the Union's international obligations, as referred to in Article 15(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (this is linked to the species in GFCM)

2. Legislative acts – Delegated Acts (2)

Timeline:

- 1 May 2024 – deadline to submit Joint Recommendations
- 13 - 17 May 2024 - STECF EWG 24-04 Evaluation on the Joint Recommendations exemptions landing obligation
- 19 June 2024 - Final STECF advice delivered
- 27 June 2024 - Final JRs to be transmitted to COM based on outcome COMs final decision
- 3 – 14 July 2024 - Expert Group for Fisheries and Aquaculture
- After Expert Group and by 20 August - Adoption by the Commission
- 21 - 23 August 2024 - Transmission to EP and Council
- 2+2 months scrutiny EP + Council
- 22.12.2024 - Publication in OJ

2. Legislative acts – Marine Action Plan

State of play (1)

- **Balearic Sheawater:**
 - Ongoing Spanish legislative work: identification of Natura 2000 sites and ZEPAS (areas for special protection of birds)
 - ES in process of setting up the management measures to those areas
- **Follow-up of the implementation of various GFCM Rec. regarding cetaceans, elasmobranchs, seabirds and turtles:**
 - GFCM recommendations foresee pilot projects and the adoption of mitigation measures
 - Questionnaire sent to MS where they indicate which mitigation measures they intend to implement/have implemented
 - DG MARE requested the GFCM Secretariat to provide detailed information on the pilot projects for the protection of cetaceans, elasmobranchs, sea birds and sea turtles
 - Adoption of Resolution GFCM/46/2023/4 on a regional plan of action to monitor and mitigate interactions between fisheries and vulnerable species in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

2. Legislative acts – Marine Action Plan

State of play (2)

- **Seabed:**
 - **Discussion at GFCM level:** adoption of a Resolution GFCM/46/2023/1 on the launch of pilot projects for the revision of the deep-water fisheries restricted area in the Mediterranean Sea towards the adoption of adequate protection and management measures.
 - **Discussions on the identification process for fisheries other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) in the Mediterranean**, including the possibility of a future full assessment of GFCM FRAs against OECM criteria
 - **State of play measures adopted by Member States:**
 - Cyprus indicated that they already implement a ban of bottom trawling in MPAs;
 - Bulgaria indicated that out of 15 N2000 MPAs, 14 prohibit bottom trawling and dredges;
 - FR provided some information (N2000 where BT is partially banned);
 - Slovenia indicated that dredges are prohibited in national legislation;
 - ES/IT/HR reiterated their position as in Agrifish (case-by-case analysis);
 - Greece indicated that there is already some closure/restrictions/prohibitions in N2000 and that it is a work in progress;

Thank you



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