MEDAC - Registered Office Via XX Settembre, 20 - c/o MASAF - 00187 Rome (Italy) - Tax identification number 97534810581 - Association registered with the Prefecture of Rome as a legal entity n.1224/2017

Ref.:20/2025

Rome, 31 January 2025

Mr Costas Kadis
Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans
Rue de la Loi 200,
1049 Brussels

Subject: Introduction to the MEDAC activities.

Dear Commissioner Kadis,
The MEDAC would congratulate with you on your assignment as Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans and we are looking forward to working together and collaborating to manage the fishing activities in a sustainable way for the marine species and the coastal communities of the Mediterranean basin. The MEDAC members always recall the fundamental value of a management based on a balanced attention to the three CFP pillars: ecological, social and economic. In this sense, the MEDAC recalls the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union[1], in particular the art. 39-40 of title III including in the list of the objectives of the common agricultural/fishery policy:
"(a) to increase agricultural productivity by promoting technical progress and by ensuring the rational development of agricultural production and the optimum utilisation of the factors of production, in particular labour;
(b) thus to ensure a fair standard of living for the agricultural community, in particular by increasing the individual earnings of persons engaged in agriculture; […]
(d) to assure the availability of supplies;"

The role of MEDAC includes the preparation of advice on fisheries management and socio-economic aspects in support of the fisheries sector in the Mediterranean, to be submitted to the Member States and the European institutions in order to facilitate the achievement of the objectives of the CFP (please find in Annex I more detailed information on each topic):

- **Multi-annual plans (EU and GFCM):** considering the huge efforts made by the EU fleets in the framework of the current MAPs a special attention to the **socioeconomic monitoring** aimed to provide the most updated information on the EU coastal communities must be paid (Ref. 182/2024).

- **Technical Measures**: the MEDAC members highlighted the need to be involved on technical measures to be tested in the Mediterranean Sea (Ref. 251/2024) in a MEDAC Advice providing technical information on fishing gears improvement.

- **Environmental aspects - Ecosystem approach- Alien species - climate change**

[1] CONSOLIDATED VERSIONS OF THE TREATY ON EUROPEAN UNION AND THE TREATY ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (2016/C 202/01) EN 7.6.2016 Official Journal of the European Union C 202/1 Article 39 (ex Article 33 TEC)

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As stated in the Commission Staff Working Document (CSWD), in the advice Ref. 148/2024, the MEDAC strongly ***supports the approach of involving stakeholders in the scientific process would help build support, confidence and trust in the decision-making process.***

- **Common Fishery Policy evaluation**: the MEDAC sent its contribution to the EC consultation providing the aspects of paramount importance for the forthcoming CFP evaluation according to the most updated advice of the Advisory Council (Ref.148/2024). In this advice the MEDAC supported several statements and considerations reported in the most updated working document (CSWD)[2] available on the CFP to cover all the relevant topics already addressed in the previous advice and contributions of the Advisory Council.

- **Control regulation – implementation**
  The MEDAC together with other ACs asked for a ad hoc workshop for a more detailed exchange on the new control regulation that will be held on 5 February (LINK to the multi-AC invitation to DG MARE). Moreover, the MEDAC asked DG MARE to organize a workshop with MEDAC only to better analyse the new control regulation on some specific aspect relevant for the Mediterranean Sea.

- **Stakeholders' involvement at the EU and GFCM level**
  At the EU level, "*the MEDAC agrees* (Ref. 148/2024) *on the following points of improvement emerging from regionalization (CSWD): - The CFP Regulation recognises that dialogue with stakeholders has proven to be essential to achieve the CFP objectives - while regionalisation is seen as an improvement to the system used before 2004, stakeholders agree that more work is needed to apply regionalisation in practice: […]*
  Furthermore, the MEDAC deems appropriate (Ref. 148/2024) the efforts in reaching a level playing field in the Mediterranean in collaboration with the GFCM (Ref. 74/2024). Moreover, also in this context the continuous stakeholder's involvement is needed. The MEDAC is actively collaborating and presenting the agreed contributions throughout the years to the GFCM working groups and sub-regional committees.

- **Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)**
  The MEDAC letter (Ref.113/2024) and the consultation on the MSP completely support the considerations of the CSWD: "*Coastal communities must be involved in the process and it should also factor in sea interactions. Maritime spatial planning should take an ecosystem-based approach, as referred to in Article 1(3) of the Marine strategy framework directive (2008/56/EC), with the aim of ensuring that the collective pressure of all activities is kept within levels compatible with the achievement of good environmental status.*

- **Ecological transition - decarbonization (ETP-Energy Transition Partnership)**
  The MEDAC advice Ref. 111/2024 on Request for a Balanced Ecological Transition Under the European Green Deal states: "*The European Green Deal presents a transformative vision for a sustainable future, aiming to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.*

[2] SWD(2023) 103 final COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Common Fisheries Policy - State of play.

While MEDAC supports this ambitious goal, the members stress that the transition must be implemented in a manner that harmonizes the three essential pillars of the CFP of sustainability: social, economic, and environmental.

The MEDAC would mention some successful results during the last years of the fruitful collaboration with decisions makers reached so far (please find more detailed info and additional examples in the Annex II):
- Since 2014, following the annual contribution of the MEDAC to the Joint Recommendations coming from the 3 Mediterranean High-level groups (PESCAMED, ADRIATICA, SUDESTMED) the disproportionate costs of the landing obligation have been recognized in the delegated acts provided by the EC reporting the *de minimis* exemptions.
- During the GFCM Sub-regional committees the MEDAC provided technical contributions including key points for the improvement of an effective stakeholder's engagement and the report of the 47th GFCM Plenary Session 2024 clearly recognised the importance of the aspects raised up by the MEDAC.
- During the GFCM Sub-regional committees in 2024 the MEDAC provided a technical contribution (Ref.59/2024) on the new generation of fishers. Then, the Report of the 25th Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) annual meeting recognised the key points of the training courses for the new generation suggested also by the MEDAC.

Finally, the MEDAC actively participated to the Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fishers in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea adopted in 2018. The plan recognises interactions between Small-Scale and recreational Fishing activities, encourages good cooperation, calls for strengthening the knowledge on their interactions and for improving monitoring and surveillance to avoid Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing. Moreover, the MEDAC contributed to the section related to gender balance in the fishery sector considering all the debates occurred during the MEDAC Focus Group on Equal Opportunities that agreed on the advice Ref. 262/2023. The plan is a political commitment setting out an ambitious roadmap until 2028.

The MEDAC will continue to work on the implementation and evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy, the European Oceans Pact, the Marine Spatial Planning research and innovation, and the Climate Adaptation Plan, among many other priorities. The MEDAC looks forward to working with you on the EU's fisheries, and other related policies.

Let us take this opportunity to inform you that forthcoming MEDAC General Assembly will be held in Rome on 25-26 February, and we are honoured to invite you to attend in person or online.

Yours sincerely,

The Chair
Antonio Marzoa Notlevsen

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Annex I - Introduction to the main topics of interest for the MEDAC

- **Multi-annual plans (EU and GFCM):** *The MEDAC (Ref. 108/2024) deems appropriate to wait the bio-ecological and socio-economic results before the adoption of new management decisions. Although, fishers already observed an improvement on the status of the marine resources, several key stocks remain heavily overfished. On the other side, without an updated socio-economic analysis of the MAP effects it is not possible to understand if and how many fishing vessels will be able to take advantage of the predicted slow growth of the stocks. […] In the next steps of the MAP more flexibility should be allowed in transferring the remaining quotas of effort when fish stock that have reached sustainable level in the following year, considering that some fishing days assigned to the MS become available in the last months of the year due to bureaucracy, when meteomarine conditions do not allow to use them. Some flexibility would permit to finish all the available effort allocated to the fleet and reduce the socio-economic impact of the West Med MAP.*
  The other MAPs implemented in the Mediterranean are agreed in the framework of the GFCM without a clear procedure for the stakeholder's involvement and inclusion of their contribution in the decision-making process. In fact, in the Report of the 47th session of the GFCM (Rome 4-8 November 2024) "Stakeholders engagement" – par. 15, it is stated that "*The Commission emphasized the importance of effectively engaging with stakeholders – including fishers, value chain actors and NGOs – incorporating their views, knowledge and technical insights into the fisheries advisory process. It agreed to further reflect on better institutionalizing, in a clear and transparent way, the stakeholder engagement process within GFCM decision-making, including by involving CPCs in identifying relevant stakeholders, also taking into account the mapping exercise foreseen*". In particular, the MEDAC effectively collaborated in the years during the GFCM meetings on the MAPs, and its role and the collaboration of other international organizations from third countries should be recognized throughout the process.

- **Technical Measures**: In "Relative Catch Performance of Two Gear Modifications Used to Reduce Bycatch of Undersized Fish and Shrimp in Mediterranean Bottom Trawl Fisheries"[1] Francesc Maynou, Alfredo G. García-de-Vinuesa, Pedro Martínez-Baños, Pilar Sánchez, Montserrat Demestre stress that "Therefore, social and economic measures to facilitate the adoption of more selective fishing gear must accompany the strictly technical work. In this sense, technical solutions originating from a dialogue between the fishing industry and

[1] Maynou, F., García de Vinuesa, A. G., Martínez-Baños, P., Sánchez, P., and Demestres, M. (2021). Relative catch performance of two gear modifications used to reduce bycatch of undersized fish and shrimp in Mediterranean bottom trawl fisheries. Mar. Coast. Fisheries: Dynamics Management Ecosystem Sci. 13, 529–544. doi: 10.1002/mcf2.10178

fisheries technologists and tested in commercial conditions (O'Neill et al. 2019[2]; Veiga-Malta et al. 2019[3]) are advantageous."

- **Environmental aspects - Ecosystem approach- Alien species - climate change**

  Working together to develop a common research agenda should deepen the conversation between stakeholders, scientists and managers, and provide an opportunity to set up feedback mechanisms ensuring relationships are based on genuine and effective dialogue (and not parallel monologues).

  In 2021, the Mediterranean Advisory Council also produced an opinion (Ref.70/2021) on the impact of climate change in the Mediterranean Sea basin, which was timely input into the discussions on the GFCM 2030 Strategy. The MEDAC fully supports the flexible and adaptive fisheries management framework to build resilience to climate change reported in the CWSD: "To tackle the uncertainties and the challenges that climate change will bring, it is essential to build up the resilience of marine ecosystems and of the fishing sector to enable both mitigation and adaptation. Moving towards a flexible and adaptive fisheries management framework can contribute to this objective, and it must be guided by a solid scientific and evidence base. […] Since fish populations do not evolve in isolation and are part of an ecosystem that must also be resilient, it is necessary to further integrate climate and ecosystem indicators in stock assessments, following the ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management. This means factoring in the need to anticipate and detect climate shocks and vulnerabilities along different trophic interactions. The targeted stakeholder consultation provided many clear solutions for adapting to a changing environment.

  About the Non Indigenous species (NIS), *the MEDAC suggests (Ref. 69/2023) a review of the current EU legislation in general, that provides obstacles to the utilisation, trade, removal methods and control measures is needed against the proliferation of the Non-Indigenous species (NIS). This should include a solid stakeholders' consultation. In light of the problem with the invasive lionfish in the Eastern Mediterranean, and following the example of the United States of America (and other countries of the American continent, that have an Atlantic border and the lionfish invasion problem), MEDAC suggests[4] a derogation in the case of the removal for the control of invasive species, such as lionfish, to Annex IX Part C, paragraph 7, of the Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the EP and of the Council of 20 June 201, that prohibits "to fish with spear guns if used in conjunction with underwater breathing apparatus (aqualung) or at night from sunset to dawn", providing that in order to limit the expansion of NIS species, such fishing activities may be authorised under the following exclusive conditions: 1) scientific research defining species, ranges and catch ceilings; 2)*

[2] O'Neill, F. G., J. Feekings, R. J. Fryer, L. Fauconnet, and P. Afonso. 2019. Discard avoidance by improving fishing gear selectivity; helping the fishing industry help itself. Pages 279–296 in S. S. Uhlmann, C. Ulrich, and S. J. Kennelly, editors. The European Landing Obligation. Springer-Verlag, New York.

[3] Veiga-Malta, T., J. Feekings, B. Herrmann, and L. A. Krag. 2019. Industry-led fishing gear development: can it facilitate the process? Ocean and Coastal Management 177: 148–155.

[4] WWF and MedReAct cannot support the proposal to derogate such a regulation, exposing to an unacceptable risk of opening loopholes to the system. WWF and MedReAct would instead support any pilot or research on adaptations of conventional fishing gears to increase inter-species selectivity to target NIS. There might be a more efficient way to catch Lionfish for example, instead of targeting one at the time.

fishing activity carried out under strict control of the competent authorities; 3) presence of licence fishing authorisation.

- **Common Fishery Policy evaluation**:
  "*The MEDAC agrees with the Study on regionalisation of the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. This study sets the current approach to regionalisation and to stakeholder involvement against the achievement of the CFP objectives to implement an ecosystem-based approach and precautionary approach. The study concludes that the contribution of these two approaches to support the achievement of the CFP objectives depends on the success in achieving both approaches in practice. The advisory councils comprise stakeholders with different knowledge domains and different interests which ultimately need to be balanced. Many stakeholders underlined the importance of including an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and decision-making. Any ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management requires a more holistic fisheries governance framework that tackles the trade-offs between ecological, social (including cultural and institutional) and economic sustainability criteria*".
  About the economic dimension the members of MEDAC deems that the EMFAF should provide more financial funds in attract the young fishers, for "scrapping" the fishing vessel and to support the ecological transition towards low-impact fishing. It is clear that the management measures adopted so far were mainly impacting on the fishing sector because only fishing mortality was considered, without a holistic view.
  Moreover, on the social dimension the MEDAC supports the CWSD explanation of the reasons behind the paramount importance of the fishery sector, especially in the Med: "The CFP Regulation provides that the socioeconomic impact of fisheries management should be assessed along with environmental considerations when taking decisions. In the EU's blue economy, fishing is considered a relatively small economic sector, especially compared with coastal tourism and maritime transport. However, in several EU coastal communities and regions, the social importance of the fisheries sector outweighs its direct economic importance."

- **Control regulation – implementation**
  During the Inter-AC meeting held last February 2024, the DG MARE representative presented the New Control Regulation and the MEDAC asked for some clarifications on the objective indicators there will be to flag up high risk of non-compliance with the LO. Furthermore, about sanctions, there was an ECA call for greater harmonisation of sanctions. MEDAC does wonder whether, in the case of serious offenses, this will lead to differences in the sanction's regime, which is quite the opposite of what has been called for. Finally, MEDAC is trying to do a monitoring of sanctions systems existing, with a view to harmonisation, and does wonder about their reading of two kinds of serious offenses and about the co-legislators choices (i.e tampering with a motor).

- **Stakeholders involvement at the EU and GFCM level**

  At the EU level (Ref. 148/2024), "*Regionalisation could be achieved by strengthening their capacity and improving engagement protocols, especially between Advisory Councils and Member States regional groups […] - The direct and close cooperation among different institutions (European Commission, Advisory Councils, scientists, Member States regional groups) is also seen as an advantage of regionalisation - The range of joint recommendations already put forward demonstrates that regionalisation can be effective in and suitable for providing targeted and tailor-made technical measures. The MEDAC agrees on the fact that dissatisfaction raised up by some of the stakeholders on the regionalization can be reduced by "consolidating the role of the Advisory Councils and setting up regional groups participating in the structure governing the regionalisation (process) and the management measures taken have influenced the attainment of the CFP policy objectives listed in Article 2 of the CFP Regulation since 2013" (CSWD). The CFP Regulation has recognised the importance of regionalisation, however the implementation of regionalisation is carried out based on the laws unified for the whole of the EU, instead of adopting a regional approach".)*
  Furthermore, the MEDAC deems appropriate (Ref. 148/2024) the efforts in reaching a level playing field in the Mediterranean in collaboration with the GFCM (Ref. 74/2024). The MEDAC is actively collaborating and presenting the agreed contributions throughout the years to the GFCM working groups and sub-regional committees. Among the others, in the last years meetings the MEDAC highlighted the key steps for an effective stakeholder involvement: the use of all the relevant languages of the area interested by the meeting, the timely notification of the agenda to participants (at least 10 days before the meeting), the need of clarity of the scientific information and the request done to stakeholders, and the best possible attendance and participation of all the groups with and interest on the topic.

- **Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)**

  The MEDAC letter (Ref.113/2024) and the consultation on the MSP completely support the considerations of the CSWD: "*The stakeholder consultation process (Annex 1) showed that many stakeholders were concerned about the interaction between fisheries and other activities at sea. Maintaining a level playing field and creating synergies between activities are essential challenges to tackle in future discussions. Structured dialogues will be needed in this process in order to reach the set objectives. The study on regionalisation highlighted that the current structure for stakeholder participation developed under the common fisheries policy works well in many regards. This structure can be used by organisations participating in the tasks of the Advisory Councils as defined in Article 44 of the CFP Regulation for transboundary cooperation and regional stakeholder involvement in maritime spatial planning, which can be improved in this regard. The increased use made of areas of regional seas by other users than fishers (such as marine protected areas and renewable energy) demand a greater degree of regional alignment in maritime spatial planning, which currently is mostly carried out at Member State level. Considering the above, the MEDAC deems appropriate a systematic involvement of the AC in the MSP process*".
  Concerning the Mission 'Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030" objective in the framework of the European Green Deal "protecting 30% of the EU's sea area" the MEDAC stressed one

more the following "considering the statutory mandate of Advisory Councils and recognizing the importance of ensuring a solid stakeholder engagement from the early stages of the process, the MEDAC candidates to be a hosting forum for the presentation and discussion to provide input to any new proposal to establish spatial measures in the Mediterranean that is of relevance to the EU fleet" (Ref. 103/2023). By protecting the 30% of the sea surface to the fisheries, of which 10% with strict protection measures, it is extremely necessary to reduce the fleet capacity and eliminate overfishing in the countries and areas where this is needed; in order to get to the fisheries sector that can actually attract the young by making it possible for them to earn enough for a dignified living.

- **Ecological transition - decarbonization (ETP)**

  The MEDAC advice Ref. 111/2024 on Request for a Balanced Ecological Transition Under the European Green Deal states: "*The Mediterranean region's fishing communities and economy have deep cultural and social roots that span throughout generations. Mediterranean communities rely heavily on fishing not only as a means of livelihood but also as a way of life. Policies stemming from the European Green Deal must consider the social impact on these communities and workforce, ensuring that their traditions, knowledge, and social fabric are preserved. Social sustainability means providing support systems, educational opportunities, and alternative livelihoods to ensure that fishing communities remain resilient. The health of the Mediterranean marine ecosystem is crucial for the long-term sustainability of the fishing sector. Environmental sustainability must be at the heart of the ecological transition, promoting practices that protect and restore marine biodiversity, reduce pollution, and mitigate the impacts of climate change. This involves implementing science-based management plans, fostering cooperation among Mediterranean countries, and encouraging the adoption of environmentally friendly fishing technologies. However, MEDAC expressed concerns to the actual volatility of making business in the fishery sector, as demonstrated by the continuously raising of costs to perform fisheries, the lack of innovation, limited to selectivity, and the limited availability of funds, which have also to be looked for outside the framework of EMFAF, as suggested by DGMare. For the implementation of the Green Deal, socioeconomic assessments should be made and have to include the impact of gear modifications (done by experienced fishing technology experts who would evaluate in particular all costs related to gear modification). In conclusion, the ecological transition envisaged by the European Green Deal presents both a challenge and an opportunity. MEDAC urges policymakers to adopt a holistic approach that balances social, economic, and environmental sustainability, so as to ensure a just and equitable transition that benefits not only the environment but also the people and economies that depend on it".*

Date transposition of the MEDAC advice	TOPIC	MEDAC ADVICE	MANAGEMENT RESULTS	Report
4-7 November 2024	Stakeholders involvement	MEDAC contribution to each GFCM Sub-Regional Committee including key points for the improvement of an effective stakeholders engagement	In the report of the 47th GFCM Plenary Session 2024 it is stated "*The Commission emphasized the importance of effectively engaging with stakeholders – including fishers, value chain actors and NGOs – incorporating their views, knowledge and technical insights into the fisheries advisory process. It agreed to further reflect on better institutionalizing, in a clear and transparent way, the stakeholder engagement process within GFCM decision-making, including by involving CPCs in identifying relevant stakeholders, also taking into account the mapping exercise foreseen* ."	GFCM 47th Report
24-27 June 2024	Generational turnover	MEDAC advice on the new generation of fishers "The MEDAC supports the urgent need of shared standards for training courses for fishers involving the relevant stakeholders to tailor the new fisher in the Mediterranean."	*SAC 25th Report "the SSF Forum programme for 2023–2024 and advance in defining the SSF Forum programme from 2025 onwards, including trainings to support the next generation and women in SSF, as well as the exchange of experiences on topics of interest (e.g. decarbonization of SSF)."*	SAC Report
2023	MEDAC Stakeholders involvement in the GFCM Sub-Regional Groups	At each GFCM Sub-Regional Committees (SRCs) the MEDAC contribution in 2023 was included at the beginning of the day, as follows: *"4. Status of central Mediterranean fisheries* *• Status of central Mediterranean stocks, including assessments emanating from plenary and relevant benchmark sessions of the Working Groups on Stock Assessment (GFCM Secretariat)* *• MEDAC contribution on the current management measures in the area (MEDAC)"*		SRC Central Med SRC West MED SRC East Med SRC Adriatic
21 June 2023 (SAC)	European eel	MEDAC advice on the European eel Ref. 40/2022: "The MEDAC recalls that any additional management measure on fishing, in addition to being inefficient in the absence of other measures on the other mortality factors, would have significant socio-economic implications for the European fishing and aquaculture sector."	**SAC:** the current management measures will be in place one more year before the long term management plan to better understand the impact of the current management measures before to take new decisions and to have a truly pragmatic research, also improving the socioeconomic information.	
21 June 2023 (SAC)	Red Coral	MEDAC advice on Red coral Ref. 78/2023: Special attention was paid to the need of data collection and traceability in the entire value chain.; The MEDAC members raised up the need to collect harmonized data in the whole GFCM competence Area; - this common legislative framework will become the tool for the data collection, the programmes of the observers and the needed traceability of the Red coral in the market.; […]The MEDAC deems appropriate that the Regional Research Programme of the GFCM should be devoted to a real stakeholders' involvement in the management decisions, considering the socioeconomic aspects and the related consequences.	**SAC: […]**- Ensure the regular and systematic presence of observers on board (or at landing sites) as the only source of trusted information on the size structure composition of catches and weight of red coral stocks → comprising fundamental data also for the update of stock assessments […] - Pending the conclusions or the research programme, extend the current transitional management measures for an extra year (to 2024); - Ensure stakeholder engagement in every step of the management process including through the GFCM Research programme on red coral.	
21 June 2023 (SAC)	West MED	MEDAC Advice Ref. 318/2022 – […] The MEDAC suggests a wider use of Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRA) as a complementary measure to improve selectivity. This management measure has been already suggested in the previous MEDAC advice and FRAs can effectively support fish stock recovery, when well designed and implemented, as the Jabuka/Pomo FRA shows. […] Therefore, the conclusion of the study carried out by the IEO was that the losses generated by the use of 52 mm square mesh codend are unsustainable, making its use unviable, unless economic aid were available to compensate for the significant losses that are generated.	**SAC: -** Despite the poor status of most demersal stocks, some signs of recovery were evident in particular for some stocks of European hake and blue and red shrimp. The SAC is invited to: Agree to continue working towards the improvement of selectivity through the implementation of pilot projects in conjunction with the concurrent exploration of other measures such as MCRS and spatial closures (FRAs), also including the exploration of future compensation schemes triggered by fisher good-practice and an analysis of socioeconomic repercussions	

21 June 2023 (SAC)	New establishment of FRA - Marti and Sète FRA	MEDAC Advice Ref.49/2023 - In the EU Western Mediterranean, the current multiannual plan (MAP) is already reducing the fishing days, improving selectivity, closing additional areas and the red shrimp catches are already limited.	**SAC: -** A revised proposal for a FRA to protect assemblages of VME indicator species in the Marti and Séte canyons of the Gulf of Lion (GSA 7), also according to the newly adopted GFCM minimum standards for FRAs (proposal available in GFCM:SAC24/2023/5), was presented at the WGVME-EFH 2023 and the SRC-WM 2023: […] - Nevertheless, several contrasting arguments were raised by the WGVME-EFH and the SRC-WM: - the need for additional stakeholder consultations in 2023 including Spanish fisheries, the need for a reflection on the social acceptability and the implementability of an additional closure in the Gulf of Lion given the existing spatial measures already in place and under definition, towards a more rational and holistic technical appraisal of all measures foreseen for the Gulf of Lion area, - the fact that the Gulf of Lion was part of a regionalization process of the protection of biodiversity and vulnerable species, including social and economic analyses
21 June 2023 (SAC)	SRC-Central-eastern Med	Ref. 49/2023 - The enforcement of many management measures does not allow to understand what the most effective management measure is to achieve the desired objectives. - Ref. 48/2023 - The following concepts and conclusive suggestions to improve fishery management in the SoS have been shared by MEDAC members as valuable ways to be taken into consideration for the improvement of the stock status based on the available scientific knowledge: […] 2) Protect areas where critical phases of the life cycles of fishery resources (recruitment and reproduction) and protected and/or species indicator of sensitive habitats are concentrated.	**SAC:** The SAC agreed to perform a socio-economic analysis of the fleet, towards addressing the needs of the existing multiannual management plans and their socioeconomic impacts. **SAC:** Agree to continue the work for the identification of areas of priority for spatial management, towards the establishment of new FRAs, as well as towards defining fishing grounds and adequate temporal closures.
21 June 2023 (SAC)	EAF approach	Ref. 66/2023 - It is the MEDAC's view that: […] 4. henceforth, the implementation of the ecosystem approach is indispensable and urgent, introducing information into the modelling that takes into account the impact of climate change and changes in nutrient availability;	**SAC** agreed to carry out a review of existing good practices in the application of holistic and participatory management approaches for SSF (i.e. the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, co-management, etc.), with a view to identifying select fisheries in the eastern Mediterranean subregion that could be candidates for dedicated EAF case studies.
29 May 2023 and 21 June 2023 (SAC)	MSE process for small pelagics and SRC-AS small pelagics	Ref. 73/2023 - It is important that the process will be based on a continuous consultation in collaboration regularly throughout the process and by organizing as soon as possible informal webinars to collect the opinions from a heterogeneous platform of stakeholders with particular attention to the working languages and the simplification of the scientific information to collect informed feedback. Ref.66/2023 - It is the MEDAC's view that: 1. any decision regarding resource management in the Adriatic should be taken after a socioeconomic impact study has been carried out with reference to the foreseen measures; 2. where the management measures adopted to date have led to positive results, these should be maintained so as not to create further disruption to the sector and to the balance achieved with difficulty; 3. the different predictive models used for the assessments should provide stable, consistent results;	**SAC:** the timefraime of the stakeholders consultation for the MSE process will be from july to october 2023 (first consultation) and then from november to february. (Source: workplan for MSE) - **SAC:** Agree on the extension of the transitional period foreseen by Recommendation GFCM/44/2021/20 by one year with the objective of adopting long-term management measures in 2024 (for implementation in 2025), under the same conditions (i.e. further decrease in the catch limits in accordance with existing reductions) and prolong the whole package required for the transition towards the implementation of the long-term measures (i.e. the finalization of the sardine benchmark, the MSE and the determination of an allocation key) by one year: Endorse the implementation of the roadmap for the finalization of the benchmark of sardine and quantitative MSE, including a data call for disaggregated acoustic survey data in June 2023, and performing stakeholder consultations.
29 March 2023	FRA 1000 m	Advice Ref.49/2023 - First of all, the average depth of the catches of red shrimp in the Mediterranean Sea is between 640 and 780 m, therefore the extension of the FRA would cause the closure of this fishing activity and would concentrate the fishing effort on smaller and shallower areas, with a considerably higher and more intense exploitation. With the related socioeconomic consequences on the whole EU Mediterranean fleet	**SAC** Discussed and agreed to carry out pilot projects in selected areas of the western, eastern and central Mediterranean and the Adriatic Sea to specifically assess the extension of the 1000 m trawling ban to 800 m in terms of the impacts on stock status, of the potential displacement of fishing effort and on socioeconomic indicators → including the way forward towards identifying specific areas and the methodologies to be used (terms of reference)then the GFCM pilot study was modified excluding the possible closure of the area between 600 and 800 m.
11 November 2022	Recreational fishery	MEDAC advice Ref. 62/2020 provided the list of the relevant species for Recreational Fishery	The GFCM Rec.45/2022/12 considered the main indications provided by the MEDAC advice Ref. 62/2020 including the list of the relevant species.
7 July 2021	EMFAF - Insurance System	MEDAC advice on climate change - Ref.:70/2021 The MEDAC Invites: "The Commission and the Member States to provide for appropriate support measures, such as insurance regimes and social protection systems for the groups that are the most exposed to climate change."	REGULATION (EU) 2021/1139 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 7 July 2021 establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 - Consideranda 32

30 March 2021	Alien Species Observatory	MEDAC Ref.238/2020 "1. Constituting and developing an international coordination centre and a Mediterranean warning network to detect, monitor and manage invasions. The centre should be based or have monitoring centres close to the entry points of invasive species, such as Strait of Gibraltar or the Suez Canal" and Ref.70/2021	GFCM SAC Report 2022 "Monitoring programmes […] •Continue supporting key regional activities including: […] - monitoring NIS across the Mediterranean, including through the establishment of the Observatory.
20 October 2016	Landing obligation demersal species	Ref. 190/2016 "Due to the low and irregular and seasonal volumes of discards registered throughout the Mediterranean and the lack of already existing infrastructures and industries located in proximity of the landing sites, which are widely spread throughout the coast of all Mediterranean member States (i.e. more than 800 in Italy, and close to 1000 in Croatia) it seems that disproportionate cost of handling cost of unwanted catches can be claimed for the Mediterranean (as you can see from the examples below). […] Disproportionate costs of handling unwanted catches are also a major argument for trawlers to benefit from de minimis exemption authorizing limited discards.	Commission delegated Regulation EU No 2017/86 referring to the establishment for the discard plan for certain demersal fisheries (de minimis exemption). The MEDAC advice 190/2016 became the legal basis for the exemptions provided in the Med from 2014 onwards in the JRs.
20 October 2014	Landing obligation small pelagics	The MEDAC advice Ref. 159/2014 The disproportionate costs reported in the MEDAC advice became the legal basis for the exemptions provided in the Med from 2014 onwards in the JRs. In addition, the critical aspects of handling are highlighted (all operations that are a consequence of having to deal with undersized fisheries products on board and on land, such as the problems of separate stowage on board, refrigeration at sea and on land etc.). Lastly the requested de minimis percentage is defined, considering the conditions for access to this exemption and therefore the reasons for which increased gear selectivity is not possible (in this case a scientific study would be required) or the evidence of disproportionate handling costs compared to the very limited quantities that should be landed using the gear in question.	Commission delegated Regulations EU No 1392/2014 referring to the establishment for the discard plan for certain small pelagic fisheries (de minimis exemption). The MEDAC advice159/2014 became the legal basis for the exemptions provided in the Med from 2014 onwards in the JRs.