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MEDAC ADVICE

Give your feedback on: Sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2024

The MEDAC acknowledges the fact that the fisheries sector needs to be steered towards the criteria which would ensure achievement of full sustainability, without delay. An ecosystem-based approach shall allow managers to take into account multiple factors, including those independent from fisheries, and provide tools to mitigate the impact that management measures adopted for target species have on other stocks, especially when considering mixed fisheries. […] Whatever the approach in managing mixed fisheries is adopted, managers should deeply evaluate the socio-economic impacts, when proposing management scenarios to stakeholders. (Ref.:115/2021 - http://med-ac.eu/files/documentazione_pareri_lettere/2021/05/115_medac_discussion_paper_msy_management_decisions.pdf).
It is necessary to postpone the date for reaching the MSY of the WestMed MAP to 1st January 2030 to avoid the closure and irremediable loss of the productive sector of commercial fisheries. (Ref. 338/2022 - http://med-ac.eu/files/documentazione_pareri_lettere/2022/12/338_medac_advice_non-paper_fos_2023.pdf).
The compensation mechanism through the additional allocation of fishing days up to 2% (Annex III of Reg (EU) 2022/110) can in no way compensate for the losses that would be generated with the use of the 52 mm square mesh, as recognised by the studies carried out by the scientific teams (IEO). […] It is necessary to compensate for the significant losses that may occur, and, in this sense, the mechanism should provide for a higher percentage (10%) and the days should be an extraordinary additional allocation to the MS, so they are not subtracted from the original allocation. Moreover, the unexploited fishing days in 2022 should be recovered in 2023 by each fishing vessel. […] The MEDAC suggests a wider use of FRAs as a complementary measure to improve selectivity. (Ref. 318/2022 - http://med-ac.eu/files/documentazione_pareri_lettere/2022/11/318_medac_advice_compensation_selectivity_wmed.pdf).
The MEDAC advice in view of the GFCM WG on Management Strategy Evaluation (WGMSE) on Adriatic small pelagics states that "[…] bottom-up approach and collaboration of stakeholders should be the basis in defining the future Harvest Control Rules (HCR) taking into account their interests and their experience as well as the typology of the fleet, improving the continuous exchange of information with the ACs […]. (Ref.:73/2023 - http://med-ac.eu/files/documentazione_pareri_lettere/2023/05/73_medac_advice_mse_small_pelagics.pdf).
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; […] the different predictive models used for the assessments should provide stable, consistent results; henceforth, the implementation of the ecosystem approach is indispensable and urgent, introducing information into the modelling that takes into

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account the impact of climate change and changes in nutrient availability; […]. (Ref.66/2023 - http://med-ac.eu/files/documentazione_pareri_lettere/2023/04/66_medac_advice_implementation_ecosystem_approach_adriatic_sea.pdf).
On the basis of the data provided by the MS and by processing information on the number of vessels, days at sea, turnover and the quantity of product landed, an overall decline could be observed in socioeconomic terms […]; Given the situation faced by the EU fleet and specifically by the Med fleet, urgent action is needed to reverse this dramatic trend. The main objective is to establish a balance between employment and fish stocks […]. It is necessary that any initiative introduced to protect one of the two factors in question: employment and resources, be preceded by specific studies highlighting all the possible negative effects and considering possible remedies. (Ref. 13/2023 - http://med-ac.eu/files/documentazione_pareri_lettere/2023/01/13_advice_indicators_available_assessing_socioeconomic_impact_med_maps.pdf).