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.:49/2023 Rome, 27 March 2023

MEDAC advice on the new proposals of FRA in the Mediterranean Sea

Concerning the proposal of the extension of 1000 m FRA to shallower waters, the MEDAC highlights the following issues to be considered:

- 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.

- Therefore, the extension from 1000m to 600m depth FRA could cause direct impacts on the economic performance of the fleet (VMS data).

- 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.

-The simulations of the socioeconomic impact due to this measure in some areas of the Mediterranean Sea shown significant reduction in the available working days (at least by 15%). For example, in GSA6, the impact is even greater when considering that red shrimp is the main resource of the fleet (over 35%) and the cascade effect due to the closure of the micro-enterprises, then the Cofradias, Producer Organizations, Associations, Cooperatives etc. This simulation has quantified a loss of a total amount over 12.320.000 euro per year for the 11 Catalan ports considered in the exercise. The extension of 1000 m FRA to 600 m would cause a catches reduction of red shrimp of 96%.

- The average depth of the catches of red shrimp also in the Balearic Islands (GSA5) is between 640 and 780 m, therefore the extension of the FRA would cause the closure of this fishing activity. With the related socioeconomic consequences.

- The enforcement of many management measures does not allow to understand what the most effective management measure is to achieve the desired objectives.

- The crisis of the fishery sector began with the Covid-19 Pandemic, and it is still affected by the fuel crisis related to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This difficult period is additionally exacerbated by the triple crisis not due to fishing impacts, but to the Climate Change, the loss of Biodiversity and the Pollution, as recognized by EC. So, although the objective of the improvement of the stock status would be observed, the negative socioeconomic effects are already significant.

Disclaimer - This advice reflects only the MEDAC's view and the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information that it contains

info@med-ac.eu
+39 06.46.65.21.12 T

med-ac.eu
Via XX Settembre, 20
00187 Roma (Italy)

Co-funded by the European Union