

MEDAC WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2019

PRIORITIES

Based on some years of experience of the MEDAC and considered the difficulties to better interact with STECF scientific experts, a permanent course of action needs to be developed to ensure a sharp reversal of the dire situation identified in the evaluation of the state of the stocks.

Scientific experts of STECF or involved in relevant scientific research and project will continue to be invited in participating to MEDAC meetings and contribute towards the development of opinions and joint recommendations related to MAPs.

Considering the itinerary set off by the High-Level Seminar held in Catania in February 2016, together with the Malta MedFish4Ever Ministerial Declaration, MEDAC will continue to include in its debates the results and the conclusions carried out by the Scientific Advisory Committee of GFCM.

In this framework multi-annual management plans (MAPs) are expected for some demersal species in the Adriatic Sea. While referring to the MAP for small pelagic species in the Adriatic Sea and some demersal species in the Western Mediterranean MEDAC will follow the debate at the triologue. Moreover, the recommendation of the GFCM establishing the FRA in Jabuka/Pomo Pit in the Adriatic Sea, will be monitored. New measures are expected from ICCAT, both for bluefin tuna, for swordfish and albacore.

The support for sustainable SSF, the development of marine protected areas, greater attention to socio-economic aspects, enhancing the value of fisheries products, the development of good practices and innovation along the supply chain, the intensification of cooperation between fishers and the scientific community: these are all key elements that make up a comprehensive strategy to be implemented with the joint effort of the institutions and the stakeholders.

In this context, MEDAC will act to be a forum for dialogue and discussion, mediation and facilitation between the various stakeholders, as well as providing a setting in which to elaborate and propose ways to facilitate regionalisation and cooperation between Member States, while continuing to work with them and the EC institutions on the various issues central to current discussion in the sector. The SSF platform in cooperation with GFCM and WWF, officially starting in September 2018, is one of the relevant examples of MEDAC contribution to the regionalisation in the Mediterranean.

Finally, MEDAC is one of the partners of the Interreg Italy-Croatia project named SEAFAIR "Enhance the framework conditions for innovation in the relevant sectors of the blue economy within the cooperation area", that will start in January 2019.

The priorities of MEDAC for 2019 will therefore be the following:

CFP: MEDAC will continue to review and analyze the challenges ahead in the light of the implementation of the CFP, working closely with the Member States and the European Commission responding actively to all consultations. Moreover, the MEDAC will follow and try to give its contribution to the dossiers in progress such as the reform of the technical measures' framework, the control regulation, and the post-EMFF. Finally, the MEDAC will start to analyse the

effects of the ongoing CFP in order to be provide its contribution on the contents and topics to be included in the future CFP.

Landing Obligation: the work of the WG 1 on discards will continue to be updated on the results of the scientific studies on small pelagics and demersal species and review its joint recommendation on discards management plan in cooperation with MS and according to the new indications provided in view of the entry into force from January 2019.

Multiannual Management Plans, discards management plans and regionalization: MEDAC will continue to act as facilitator and coordinator focusing its activities on multiannual management plans through the specific Focus Groups: a) Western Mediterranean demersal fisheries, b) Strait of Sicily demersal fisheries; c) Adriatic Sea demersal fisheries and the ad hoc WG on Jabuka/Pomo Pit. The focus groups shall cover stocks commonly exploited by several MS.

Collaboration with the GFCM and the regional projects: the close cooperation between these two organizations will surely facilitate the collection of relevant information and examples of good management practices from stakeholders, including administrations and scientists.

Analysis of the future configuration of the structural Fund (2020): in view of the end of the current programming period, the key issue of the need and the role of financial support to the primary sector, which absorbs a large part of the EC budget, will soon be discussed again within the context of co-decision. Although such a far-reaching topic may not appear to fall within the competence of the Advisory Councils, their composition and the capacity to compare, summarise and formalize opinions and positions could be a useful resource in the debate, providing valuable insights and assessment.

Therefore, the MEDAC work plan for 2019 will be focused on the following topics:

- **CFP (WG1):**

- **Discard Management Plans:** the general principle guiding the draft of the discard's management plans was the adaptive approach and the ad hoc Focus groups will follow the same methodology to study case by case the expiring exemptions included in the delegated acts and the reviewed edition of the joint recommendations
- **Multi-annual Management Plans and regionalization:** MEDAC will try to give its contribution on possible technical elements to use at a regionalised level.
- **Evaluation of the control regulation**
- **A proposal for the reform of technical measures** (including Med. Reg. if necessary)
- **The future EMFF**
- **The future CFP**

- **Highly Migratory Stocks/Species (WG 2):** (BFT-E–SWO-MED - ALB and ICCAT related issues) (WG2): MEDAC will continue to pay particular attention to pelagic and migratory species (BFT-E, SWO-MED - ALB), the most commercially important species. MEDAC will discuss the outcome of the scientific assessment on the basis of new scientific data by the ICCAT scientific committee (SCRS) and the knowledge coming from the sector.

- **Recreational fisheries (WG4):** The WG4 will compile existing papers on Recreational Fisheries (Mediterranean or marine related), identify scientists working on RF, identify existing platforms for knowledge exchange and classify type of information about papers compiled and assess validity (currently useful, flaws...). Finally, the WG4 will identify research needs for the Mediterranean RF.

- **SSF and Socio-economic analysis (WG5):** WG5 will try to update the MEDAC opinion on the socioeconomic situation of the fisheries sector in the Mediterranean Sea. The WG5 will gather information from Member States on the programming and use of EARP resources to help support socio-economic problems, diversification of activities and training. Moreover, MEDAC will follow and try to contribute to the implementation of the RPOA on SSF.

MEDAC 2019- PROVISIONAL PLANNING

Title of the meeting	Date	Place	Issue to be discussed
WG1- future EMFF, TM & Revision of the Control Regulation	20 February	Venezia- IT	The MEDAC will continue to contribute to the future EMFF, TM and the revision of the Control Regulation.
FG West Med/ FG Adriatic (Jabuka/Pomo Pit)	21 February	Venezia- IT	The FG WMed will analyse the point on the MAP. The Adriatic FG will provide contributions for the draft of a MAP for demersal stocks commonly exploited by HR, IT and SI and a session will be dedicated to the Jabuka/Pomo Pit.
General Assembly	21 February	Venezia - IT	2018 Final activity report and budget approval. Presentation of 2019 draft budget. Update on the list of members and 2019 quotas received. Overview of new membership applications and 2019 fees.
SEAFAIR – 1st Stakeholder meeting	22 February	Venezia- IT	The meeting will be organised in cooperation of the other partners of the project to present priorities and sensitive issues raised by stakeholders will be discussed.
WG5-socioeconomic analysis and SSF	23 April	Malaga	The WG5 will try to update the MEDAC opinion on the socioeconomic situation of the fisheries sector in the Mediterranean Sea. Moreover, MEDAC will follow and try to contribute to the implementation of the RPOA on SSF.
Focus Group Strait of Sicily/Demersal Species	23 April	Malaga	This FG will provide contributions for the draft of a MAP for demersal stocks commonly exploited by IT and MT
Focus Group Adriatic Sea + (Jabuka/Pomo Pit)	24 April	Malaga	The Adriatic FG will provide contributions for the draft of a MAP for demersal stocks commonly exploited by HR, IT and SI and a session will be dedicated to the Jabuka/Pomo Pit.
Executive Committee	June	Athens?	Adoption of eventual advices, new members validation.
Focus Group Strait of Sicily/Demersal Species	June	Athens?	This FG will provide contributions for the draft of a MAP for demersal stocks commonly exploited by IT and MT
WG1 – new EMFF & new CFP + LO	June	Athens?	The WG will compare, summarise and formalize opinions and positions could on the future configuration of the EMFF. The MEDAC will continue to gather information on the level of discards for demersal

Focus Group Adriatic Sea + (Jabuka/Pomo Pit)	June	Athens?	The Adriatic FG will provide contributions for the draft of a MAP for demersal stocks commonly exploited by HR, IT and SI and a session will be dedicated to the Jabuka/Pomo Pit.
WG 2 Highly Migratory Species (BFT/SWO/ALB)	October	Izola (?)	Define a position on the basis of new scientific data available. Update data on BFT-E, SWO-MED and ALB following the results of the SCRS.
WG4 Recreational fisheries	October	Izola (?)	Compilation of existing papers on Recreational Fisheries.
Executive Committee	6 November	Rome	Closing of budget 2019, and final activity report 2019. Estimated budget 2020 and Work Programme 2020, overview of MEDAC membership. Advices to be adopted, overview of received membership application and 2019 fees.