



MEDAC - WG1
22 November 2022

DOSSIER PRESENTATION



Brussels, 14.10.2022
COM(2022) 525 final
2022/0325 (NLE)

**Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION
on fixing for 2023 the fishing opportunities for certain stocks and
groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas
and amending Council Regulation (EU) 2022/110 as regards the fixing
of fishing opportunities for 2022 applicable in the Mediterranean and
the Black Seas**

Objectives of the Proposal

The objective of this proposal is to **fix the fishing opportunities for certain stocks and groups of stocks in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas.**

The proposal proposes to:

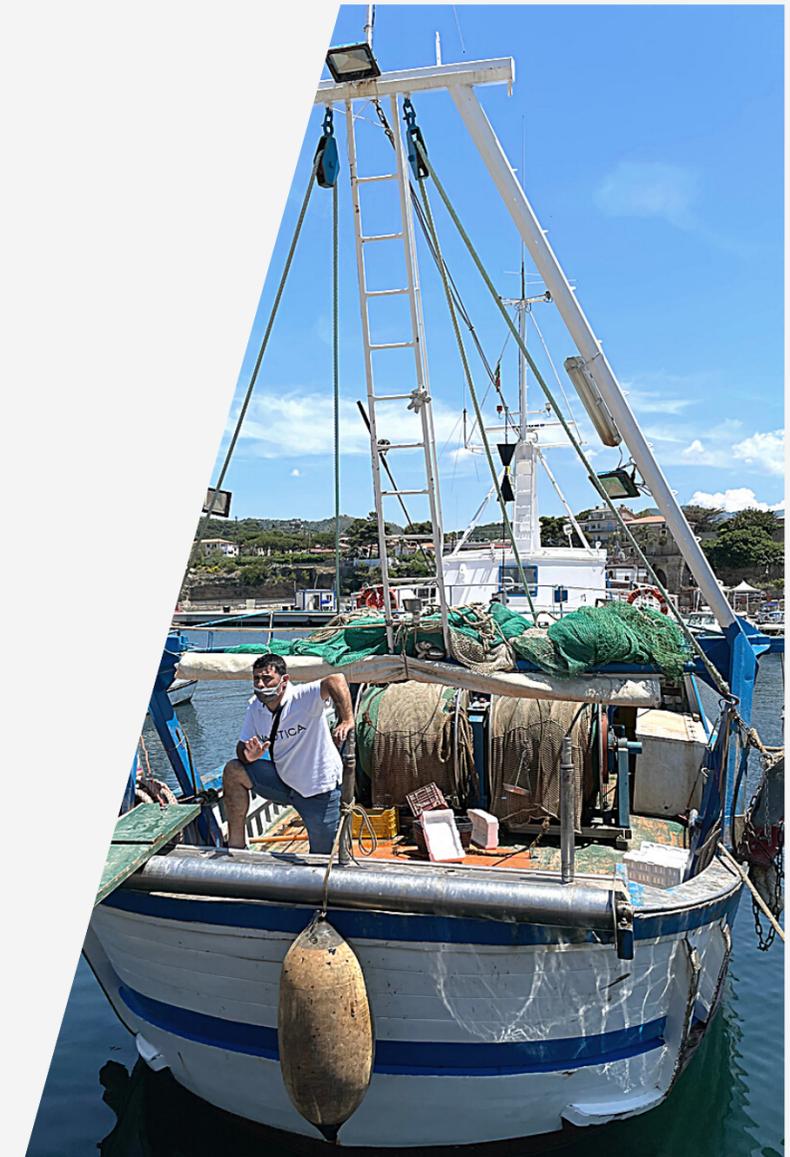
- **fix fishing opportunities**, expressed in terms of maximum allowable fishing effort and maximum catch limits for shrimps, for the Member States concerned (Spain, France and Italy), in line with the **MAP for demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean.**
- **fix fishing opportunities** pursuant to **agreements reached in the framework of the GFCM.**
- **fix an autonomous quota for Black Sea sprat** in order not to increase the current level of fishing mortality. It also proposes to implement into Union law the **TAC and quotas for turbot** as established by the GFCM.
- **achieve and maintain stock levels that can deliver MSY** (by 2025 for MAP for demersal stocks in the Western Mediterranean; by 2026 for MAP for demersal stocks in Adriatic Sea).

Stakeholder consultations

Interested parties were consulted by means of the Commission's Communication to the European Parliament and the Council *"Towards more sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2023"*

Collection and use of expertise

The assessment of the state of stocks in the Mediterranean and Black Seas is **based on the most recent work by the STECF and the GFCM SAC on Fisheries.**



A. Implementation of the western Mediterranean MAP

- Council is to set a maximum allowable fishing effort for trawl vessels exploiting demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean, for each fishing effort group, by Member State and for the stock groups in Annex I to the plan.

2021 SCIENTIFIC ADVICE FROM BOTH THE STECF AND THE GFCM SAC:

- in order to **attain MSY** for demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean, swift action ought to be undertaken and real **reductions in fishing mortality** be adopted.
- the stocks of **hake and deep-water shrimps highly overexploited**.
- As advised by STECF and GFCM SAC, Commission proposes to **continue implementing the holistic approach in 2023** to reduce urgently fishing mortality.

Maximum allowable fishing effort in fishing days has still to be added in Commission Proposal, following the STECF scientific advice.

A. Implementation of the western Mediterranean MAP

COMPENSATION MECHANISM

- In order to **promote the use of the selectivity of the gears** and to **establish efficient closure areas to protect juveniles and spawners**, the 2022 Fishing Opportunities Regulation established a **compensation mechanism** in relation to the effort regime for trawlers and the **Commission proposes to continue the implementation of this mechanism in 2023.**
- **The Commission also proposes to allocate pm% of fishing days in accordance with the scientific advice for 2023. In 2022, it was allocated 2% of fishing days.**
- **The Commission considers it necessary to clarify how the mechanism should be implemented retroactively for 2022.**

B. GFCM measures applicable in the Mediterranean Sea

1. Fishing harvest limits and limits on the number of fishing authorisations for red coral in the entire Mediterranean Sea (GSAs 1 to 27) [SAME AS IN 2022]

Table 1. Maximum number of fishing authorisations¹

Member States	Red coral COL
Greece	12
Spain	0 ⁽²⁾
France	32
Croatia	28
Italy	40

¹ Representing number of vessels and/or divers, or a pair of one diver with one vessel, authorised to harvest red coral.

² According to the temporal ban for red coral fisheries established in Spanish waters.

Table 2. Maximum level of harvested quantities expressed in tonnes live weight

Species:	Red coral	Zone:	Union waters in the Mediterranean Sea-GSA 1-27
	<i>Corallium rubrum</i>	COL/GF1-27	
Greece	1,844	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply. Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.	
Spain	0 ⁽²⁾		
France	1,400		
Croatia	1,226		
Italy	1,378		
Union	5,848		
TAC	Not relevant /Not agreed		

B. GFCM measures applicable in the Mediterranean Sea

2. Limits on the number of fishing authorisations for common dolphinfish in the entire Mediterranean Sea (GSAs 1 to 27) [SAME AS IN 2022]

Maximum number of fishing authorisations for vessels operating in international waters(*)

Member State	Common dolphinfish DOL
Italy	797
Malta	130

(*)This quota may be fished only between 15 august and 31 December 2023 in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1343/2011.

B. GFCM measures applicable in the Mediterranean Sea

3. Measures for small pelagic stocks under the GFCM Multiannual management plan for small pelagic species adopted in 2021 in the Adriatic Sea (GSAs 17 and 18)

2023 is the second year of the transitional period and the Commission proposes to continue the implementation of the catch limits with the transitional internal share between Italy and Croatia and the transitional reserve for Slovenia, as well as the fleet capacity ceiling for purse seiners and pelagic trawlers targeting small pelagic stocks.

This capacity ceiling should be the same as in the 2022 Fishing Opportunities Regulation and based on the capacity reported to GFCM in 2014.

B. GFCM measures applicable in the Mediterranean Sea

3. Measures for small pelagic stocks under the GFCM Multiannual management plan for small pelagic species adopted in 2021 in the Adriatic Sea (GSAs 17 and 18) [DECREASE FROM 2022]

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2022

1. Small pelagic stocks – GSAs 17 and 18

Maximum level of catches expressed in tonnes live weight

Species:	Small pelagic species (anchovy and sardine) <i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i> and <i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	Zone:	Union and International waters of GFCM-GSAs 17 and 18 (SP1/GF1718)
Italy	35 394 ⁽¹⁾	Maximum level of catches	
Croatia	56 304	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
TAC	Not relevant		

⁽¹⁾ Concerning Slovenia, the quantities are based on the level of catches exerted in 2014, up to an amount that should not exceed 300 tonnes.

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2023

1. Small pelagic stocks – GSAs 17 and 18

Maximum level of catches expressed in tonnes live weight

Species:	Small pelagic species (anchovy and sardine) <i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i> and <i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	Zone:	Union and International waters of GFCM-GSAs 17 and 18 (SP1/GF1718)
Italy	32941 ^(*)	Maximum level of catches	
Croatia	51735	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
TAC	Not relevant	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	

^(*) Concerning Slovenia, the quantities are based on the level of catches exerted in 2014, up to an amount that should not exceed 300 tonnes.

Annual reduction of 5% for anchovy and 8% for sardine in 2022

Annual reduction of 5% for anchovy and 9% for sardine in 2023

B. GFCM measures applicable in the Mediterranean Sea

3. Measures for small pelagic stocks under the GFCM MAP for small pelagic species adopted in 2021 in the Adriatic Sea (GSAs 17 and 18)

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2022

Maximum fleet capacity of trawlers and purse seiners actively fishing for small pelagics

Member State	Gear	Number of vessels	kW	GT
Croatia	PS	249	77 145,52	18 537,72
Italy	PTM-OTM-PS	685	134 556,7	25 852
Slovenia ⁽¹⁾	PS	4	433,7	38,5

⁽¹⁾ The provision under paragraph 28 of GFCM/44/2020/20 shall not apply to the national fleets of less than ten purse seiners and/or pelagic trawlers actively fishing for small pelagic stocks, as recorded both in national and GFCM register in 2014. In such case, the capacity of the active fleet may increase by not more than 50 percent in number of vessels and in terms of gross tonnage (GT) and/or gross registered tonnage (GRT) and kW.

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2023

Maximum fleet capacity of trawlers and purse seiners actively fishing for small pelagics

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B. GFCM measures applicable in the Mediterranean Sea

4. Measures for demersal stocks under the MAP in the Adriatic Sea (GSAs 17 and 18)

The Commission proposal includes a series of **placeholders**, for stocks where the **GFCM transitional measures are expiring at the end of 2022** and for which the **GFCM has adopted new recommendations** at its 45th annual session to **reduce for 2023 the fishing effort for otter-trawlers (OTB) and for beam-trawlers (TBB)**.

The **proposal will be updated** by way of a non-paper with the levels of the reduction, after the GFCM annual session.

The **maximum fleet capacity** from the 2022 Fishing Opportunities Regulation **should remain in place for 2023**.

B. GFCM measures applicable in the Mediterranean Sea

The Proposal will later be supplemented with the new measures adopted at GFCM Annual Meeting:

5. Measures for the management of giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp in the Strait of Sicily (GSAs 12 to 16), the Ionian Sea (GSAs 19 to 21) and the Levant Sea (GSAs 24 to 27).

6. Measures for blackspot seabream in the Alboran Sea (GSAs 1 to 3).

C. GFCM measures applicable in the Black Sea

- **An autonomous quota for sprat**, based on scientific advice.
- The **TAC and quota allocation for turbot** under the GFCM multiannual management plan for turbot fisheries, implementing Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/3 (GSA 29).
- Regarding the levels of the **TAC and quotas for turbot**, the Commission proposal will be updated after the 45th GFCM annual session.

C. GFCM measures applicable in the Black Sea

TACs and quotas expressed in tonnes live weight by stock

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2022

Species:	Sprat <i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	Zone:	Union waters in the Black Sea – GSA 29 (SPR/F3742C)
Bulgaria	8 032,50	Analytical quota	
Romania	3 442,50	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply. Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Union	11 475		
TAC	Not relevant/Not agreed		

Species:	Turbot <i>Scophthalmus maximus</i>	Zone:	Union waters in the Black Sea – GSA 29 (TUR/F3742C)
Bulgaria	75	Analytical TAC	
Romania	75	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply. Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Union	150 (*)		
TAC	857		

(*) No fishing activity, including transshipment, retaining on board, landing and first sale shall be permitted from 15 April to 15 June 2022.

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2023

Species:	Sprat <i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	Zone:	Union waters in the Black Sea – GSA 29 (SPR/F3742C)
Bulgaria	8 032,50	Analytical quota	
Romania	3 442,50	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply. Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Union	11 475		
TAC	Not relevant/Not agreed		

Species:	Turbot <i>Scophthalmus maximus</i>	Zone:	Union waters in the Black Sea – GSA 29 (TUR/F3742C)
Bulgaria	<i>pm</i>	Analytical TAC	
Romania	<i>pm</i>	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply. Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Union	<i>pm</i> (*)		
TAC	<i>pm</i>		

(*) No fishing activity, including transshipment, retaining on board, landing and first sale shall be permitted from 15 April to 15 June 2022.

Draft MEDAC contribution on preparations of the decisions on the fishing opportunities for next year for fish stocks in the EU Mediterranean waters

On the aforementioned Proposal, the MEDAC reiterates the following advice:

Considering new crisis due to the increasing of fuel prices, and the catch limits as a new management tool just implemented in the Mediterranean, the MEDAC deems appropriate that the quantities not caught in total catch limit assigned in a year to a MS can be transferred to the following year.

Draft MEDAC contribution on preparations of the decisions on the fishing opportunities for next year for fish stocks in the EU Mediterranean waters

CONSIDERING:

- Ref.182/2022 Rome, 26 July 2022 MEDAC recommendation on the COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL "Towards more sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2023" [LINK](#)
- Ref. 318/2022 Rome, 03 November 2022 **MEDAC advice on the selectivity improvement and compensation mechanism** in the West Med (If the MEDAC members agree to expand it to the entire European Mediterranean).

Draft MEDAC contribution on preparations of the decisions on the fishing opportunities for next year for fish stocks in the EU Mediterranean waters

Results of the STECF EWG for the **Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet II** (STECF EWG 22-06) highlighted that “In 2020, the regional fishing fleet’s economic performance worsened with decreased gross profit and net profit even if variation across Member States can be observed (France, Croatia and Slovenia showed an improving pattern in the net profit over the period). The overall negative trend was driven by the Italian, Greek, Maltese and Spanish fleet.

Results for 2020 are driven by COVID-19 pandemic; apart from Slovenia, the outbreak has had a direct impact on:

- fishing effort;
- first sale price;
- crew wages and salaries.

In addition, the implementation of management plans for DTS and PS segments in Western Mediterranean and Adriatic Sea lead to a **further reduction in days at sea;** the **fishing effort regimes** and the **introduction of new spatio-temporal closures** are a major source of concern for professional fishers for the period beyond 2020.



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22.11.2022