



MEDAC meeting

27th June 23

GL1 & GL3

**Hotel Radisson Blu- Atlantidon, 2
Larnaca, Cipro**

Gian Ludovico Ceccaroni (GL1)
Marco Costantini (GL3)

- 1) Adozione dell'ordine del giorno
- 2) Adozione del verbale della riunione del GL3 tenutasi a Montpellier/ibrida (19 aprile 2023)
- 3) Proposte di implementazione delle 3 raccomandazioni CGPM relative alla riduzione del by-catch di specie vulnerabili e possibili soluzioni sulla base di progetti pilota o simili esistenti

- Recommendation GFCM/44/2021/16 on additional mitigation measures for the conservation of elasmobranchs in the Mediterranean Sea
- Recommendation GFCM/44/2021/13 on the mitigation of fisheries impacts for the conservation of seabirds in the Mediterranean Sea
- Recommendation GFCM/44/2021/15 on the mitigation of fisheries impacts for the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea

Link to download: <https://www.fao.org/gfcm/decisions/en/>

Recommendation
GFCM/44/2021/16
on additional
mitigation measures
for the conservation
of elasmobranchs in
the Mediterranean
Sea

5. The CPCs are invited to adopt mitigation measures to minimize and eliminate, where possible, the incidental catch of elasmobranchs during fishing operations in fisheries with a high risk of bycatch identified by the SAC and, where possible, in fisheries with a low risk of bycatch. Such measures shall be accompanied by an appropriate monitoring to establish the efficacy of the actions and may include, *inter alia*:

- fishing gear modifications and alternative fishing gear types;
- improvements in fishing gear marking and detection;
- time-area fishing restrictions or closures, if appropriate;
- implementation of maximum potential bycatch thresholds; and
- use of magnetic deterrent devices, when based on scientific studies and after a cost-benefit evaluation.

6. The CPCs may also consider, on a voluntary basis, other types of management such as incentive-based management, which rewards low impact operators while simultaneously driving poorly performing operators to adopt better practices or leave the industry, or market-based incentive management, which includes for example elasmobranch-safe and elasmobranch-friendly labelling in medium to high-risk fisheries.

7. The CPCs shall require fishing vessels catching sharks species as bycatch or incidental catch to limit the bycatch of sharks listed in Annex III to the SPA/BD Protocol to a maximum percentage of the total catch in weight by fishing trip or to no more than three specimens. In 2023, the SAC shall assess the most up-to-date catch and composition data by species. Based on SAC scientific advice, the GFCM will agree, at its forty-sixth session, on a limit of a maximum percentage of catch, expressed in weight.

Recommendation
GFCM/44/2021/1
3 on the
mitigation of
fisheries impacts
for the
conservation of
seabirds in the
Mediterranean
Sea

PART II
Specific objectives

5. This recommendation shall contribute to the objectives mentioned in Article 2 of the GFCM Agreement and align with the principles listed in Article 5 therein.
6. In particular, the recommendation shall aim to:
 - a) improve the scientific, technical and socio-economic knowledge of fisheries where the bycatch of seabirds occurs by applying the measures provided for in Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/3;
 - b) evaluate and develop mitigation measures for areas with high incidental catch of Balearic shearwater in order to ensure that these are recorded and monitored and solutions are developed to keep it at the lowest possible level;
 - c) develop, if necessary and upon the SAC advice, a protocol for the collection of data and the reporting of the incidental bycatch of seabirds during fishing activities;
 - d) develop transitional mitigation measures for areas with high incidental catch to ensure that bycatch events are recorded and monitored and solutions are developed to keep such incidental catch at the lowest possible level; and
 - e) develop pilot projects for seabird species with impaired conservation status in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, such as the critically endangered Balearic shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*), the vulnerable Yelkouan shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*), the vulnerable Audouin's gull (*Larus audouinii*) and Scopoli's shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*).

Recommendation
GFCM/44/2021/1
5 on the
mitigation of
fisheries impacts
for the
conservation of
cetaceans in the
Mediterranean
Sea

PART I
General objectives

1. Contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties (CPCs) shall encourage further actions to improve the conservation status of cetacean species and make every effort to support global and regional actions to investigate on the most appropriate measures to mitigate bycatch and depredation and implement them, as necessary, in close collaboration with the fishing communities and other relevant stakeholders.
2. The CPCs shall further enhance the collection and monitoring of data and the reporting of information on the incidental catch rates of cetaceans, in line with the FAO technical manual on *Monitoring incidental catch of vulnerable species in the Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries: methodology for data collection* and the Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF), with the aim to support regional monitoring programmes.

PART II
Conservation and management measures

3. The CPCs are invited to expand bycatch mitigation measures to minimize and eliminate, where possible, the incidental catch of cetaceans during fishing operations in fisheries with a high risk of bycatch identified by the SAC. Such mitigation measures shall be accompanied by an appropriate monitoring to establish the efficacy of the actions and may include, *inter alia*:
 - fishing gear modifications and alternative fishing gear types;
 - improvements in fishing gear marking and detection;
 - time-area fishing restrictions or closures, if appropriate;
 - implementation of maximum potential bycatch thresholds;
 - use of acoustic deterrent devices; and
 - modifications in fishing behaviour and strategies.



- **Proposte di implementazione delle 3 raccomandazioni CGPM relative alla riduzione del by-catch di specie vulnerabili e possibili soluzioni sulla base di progetti pilota o simili esistenti**
- Contributo al Piano d’Azione: criteri per la valutazione delle aree già precluse allo strascico, al fine della loro istituzione quale OECM (ad es. le 3 mn o altri EFH (Essential Fish Habitats) già preclusi allo strascico)
- Proposte di tematiche prioritarie in vista della Conferenza MedFish4Ever a Malta per eventuale side event del MEDAC- a cura dei coordinatori