



***Report of the STECF
57th Plenary meeting
9-13 April 2018, Brussels***



Contents of the 57^o Plenary meeting report

- Mediterranean Sea
- Of interest for the MEDAC's members

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Meetings by year:

- [2018](#)
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- [2010](#)
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2018 meetings [Print](#)

Description	Starting day	Duration	Venue	
EWG 18-01 Data gaps and Biomass Escapement Strategy for Adriatic anchovy and sardine	26 Feb 2018	5 days	JRC-Ispra	✘
EWG 18-02 Technical Measures	05 March 2018	5 days	Dublin	✘
EWG 18-03 Economic fleet data of check to support economic analysis in 2017 and draft AER 2018 national chapters	09 April 2018	5 days	JRC-Ispra	✘
PLEN 18-01 Spring plenary meeting	09 April 2018	5 days	Brussels	✘
EWG 18-04				

The scientific output expressed in the Plenary meeting Report does not imply a policy position of the European Commission



STECF EWG 17-15

***Stock assessments in the Med Sea
Part II***



Summary of advice

GSA 17 - 18 Demersal stock assessments

Species	Catch 2016	Catch 2018	Change in catch	Biomass (status)
Hake (SS3)	5144	2875	-44%	Declining
Hake (a4a)	5267	2042	-61%	Declining
Red mullet	6188	7706	25%	Increasing
Norway lobster	1022	441	-57%	0.33 Bmsy
Common pandora	232	222	-4%	Increasing
Deep-water rose shrimp (GSA 17-18-19)	3559	3225	-9%	Increasing
Thornback ray (GSA 17)				Depleted
Common cuttlefish			No advice	
Spottail mantis shrimp	4360	4028	-8%	Increasing

Summary of advice GSA 17 and 19 Demersal stock assessments

Species	Catch 2016	Catch 2018	Change in catch	Biomass (status)
Sole (GSA17 - SS3 R1)	2093	1140	-46%	Increasing
Sole (GSA17 – a4a)	2105	666	-68%	Increasing
Sole (GSA17 - SS3 R7)	2093	963	-54%	Increasing
Hake (GSA 19)	802	178	-78%	Declining
Red mullet (GSA 19)	257	253	-2%	Increasing

NO ADVICE

Species	GSA	ISSUE	Biomass (status)
Hake	GSA 20	Conflicting results	
Red mullet	GSA 20	Conflicting results	
Hake	GSA 22	Close to MSY	Increasing
Red mullet	GSA 22	Under exploited	Increasing
Deep-water rose shrimp	GSA 22 - 23	No conclusion	
Hake	GSA 23	Over exploited	Declining
Red mullet	GSA 23	No conclusion	

MAPs – Juveniles/Adults/Spawners

Persistence of species and life stages based on MEDITS trawl survey data (1994 – 2010)

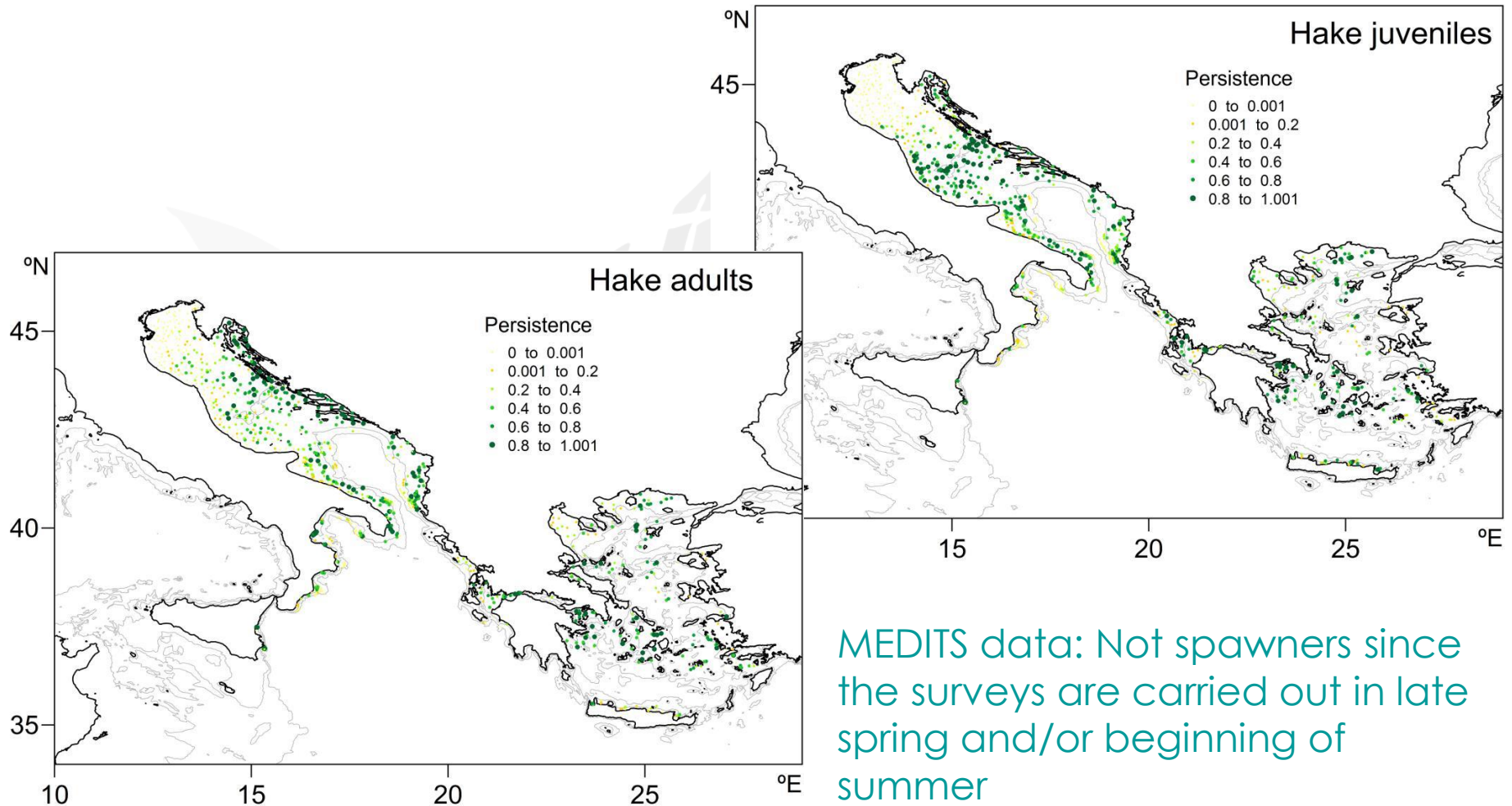
MAPs can be used to inform selection of suitable areas to protect juveniles or adults



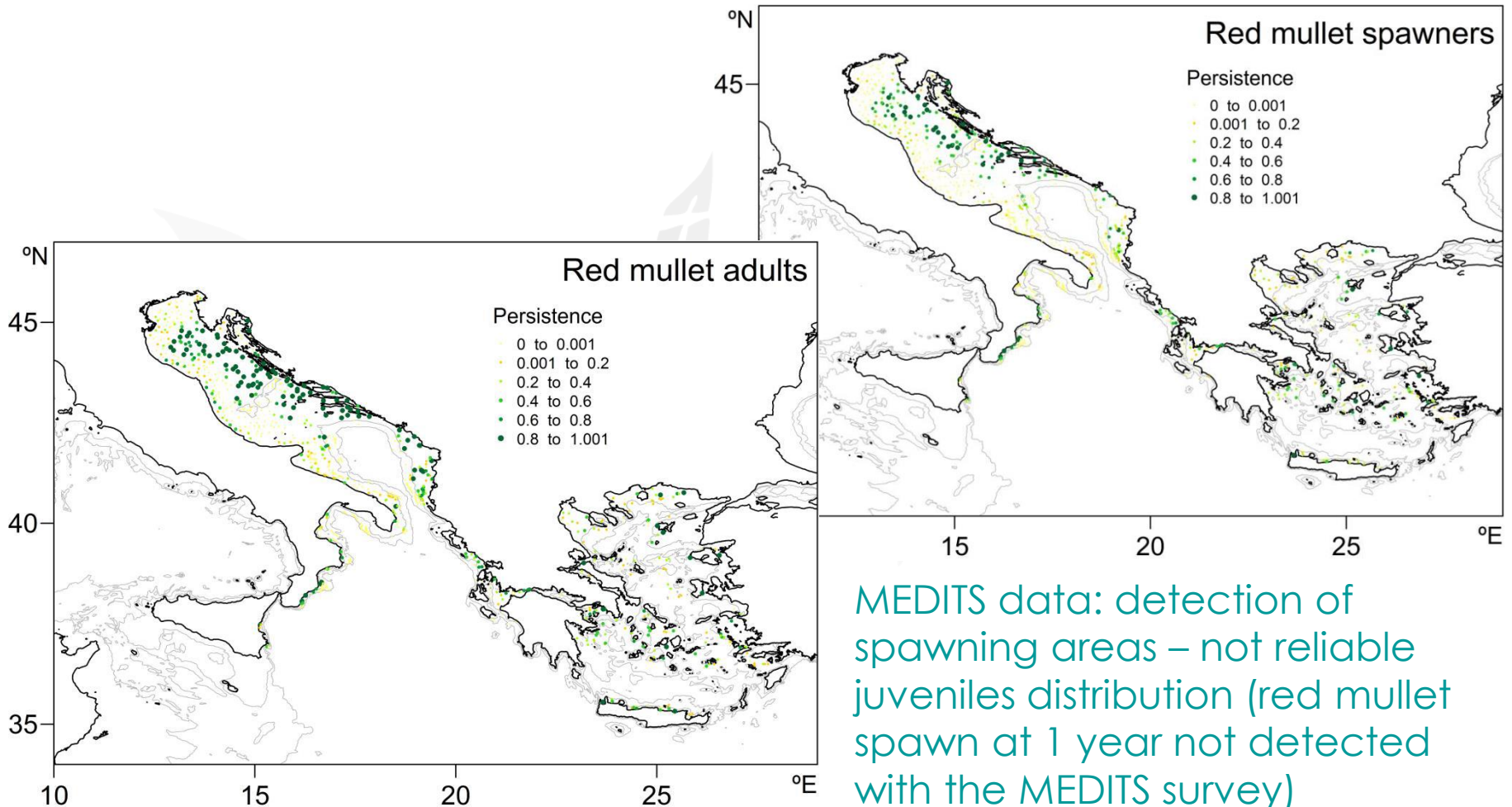
✓ For **spatial management**: further step involving the definition of explicit boundaries is required

✓ Final step: managers will be required to make decisions on the **proportion** of the area of persistence to be **closed for fishing**.

HAKE - GSAs 17-23 update of MEDISEH results

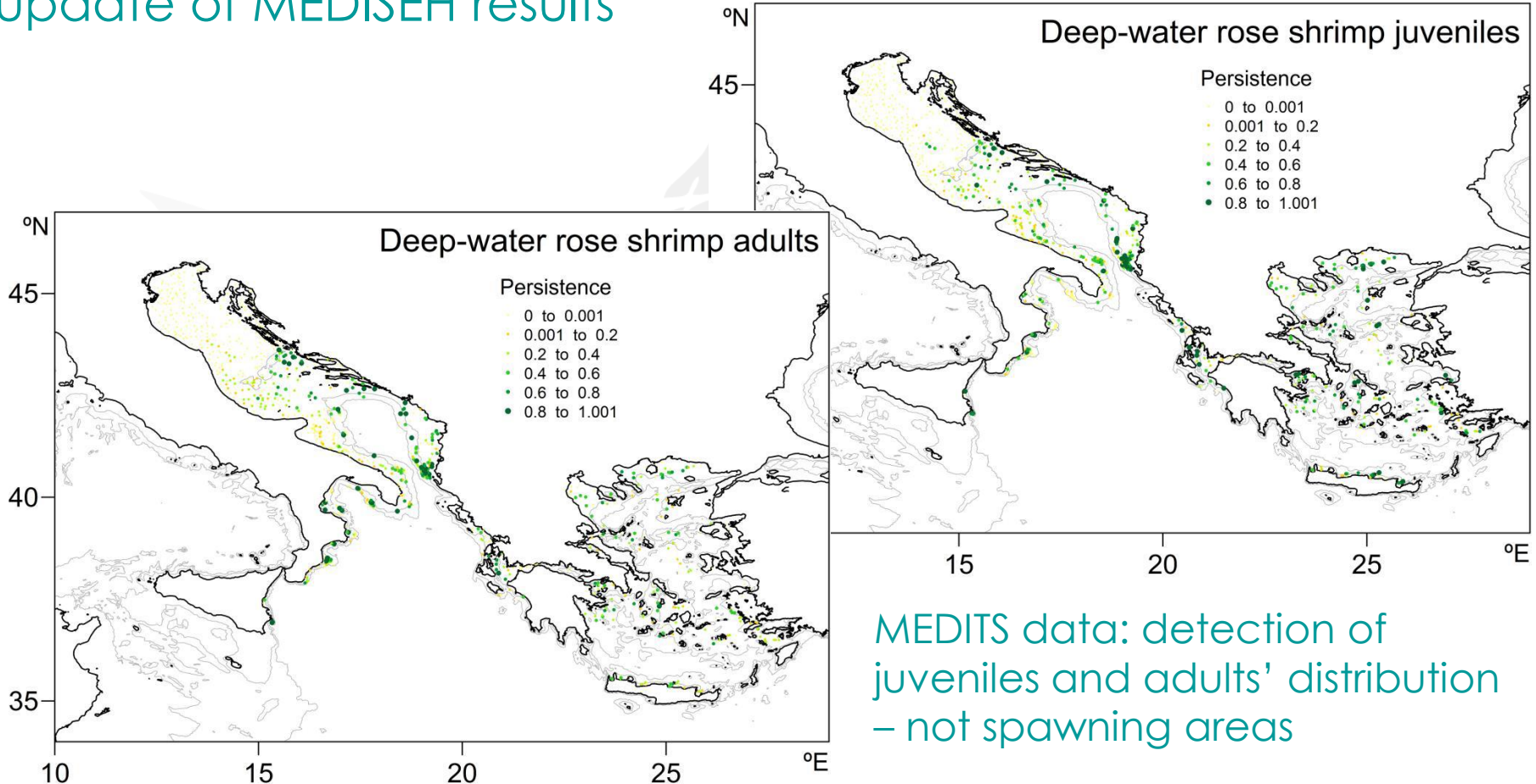


RED MULLET - GSAs 17-23 update of MEDISEH results



Deep-water rose shrimp - GSAs 17-23

update of MEDISEH results



MEDITS data: detection of juveniles and adults' distribution – not spawning areas



CFP MONITORING

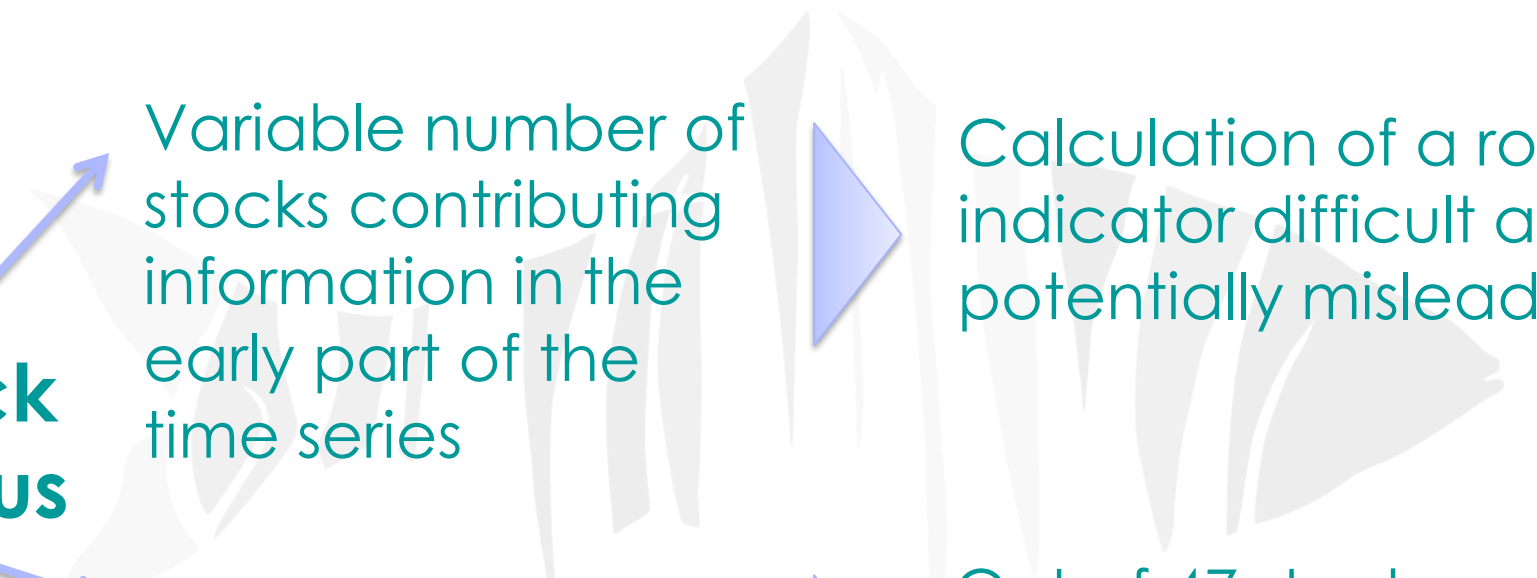
*ADDITIONAL REQUESTS SUBMITTED
TO THE STECF PLENARY BY THE
COMMISSION*



CFP MONITORING

Report on progress in achieving MSY objectives in line with the Common Fisheries Policy

Stock Status



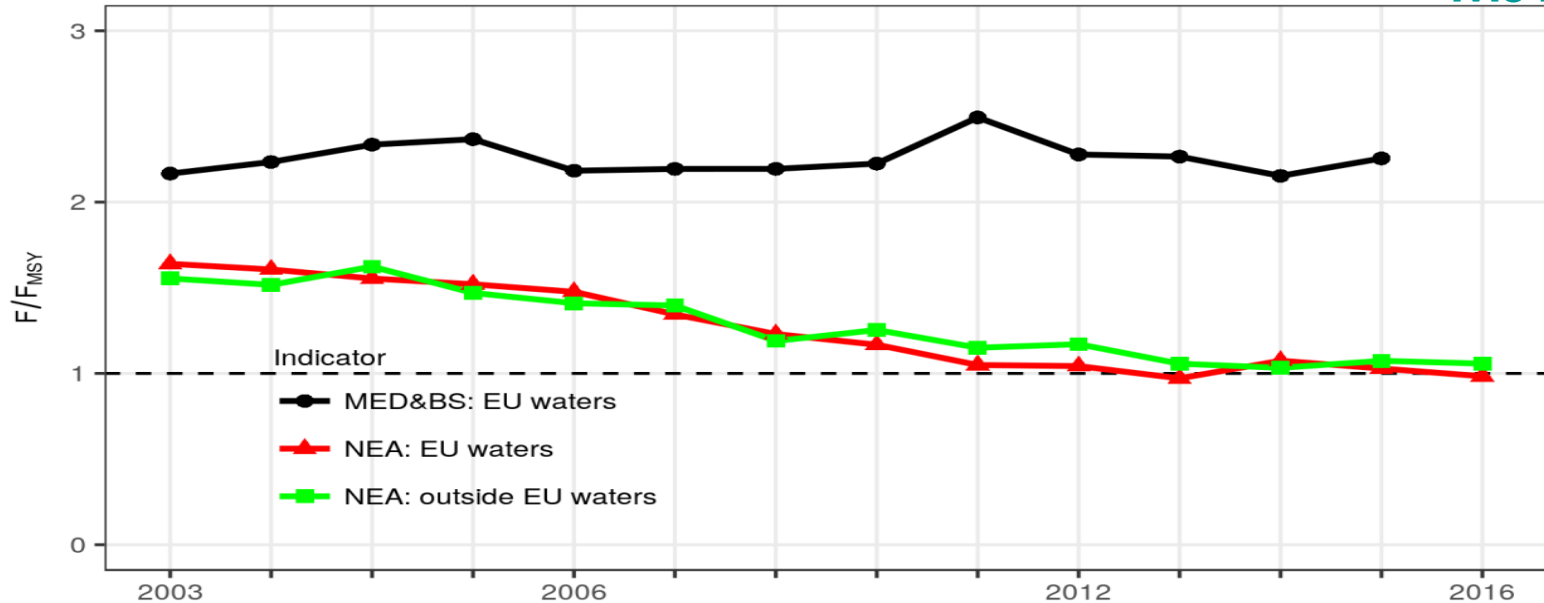
Variable number of stocks contributing information in the early part of the time series

2015 MED stock assessment (F status)

Calculation of a robust indicator difficult and potentially misleading

Out of 47 stocks, only around 13% (6 stocks) are not overfished, the majority are overfished

Trends in the fishing pressure (Ratio of F/F_{MSY})



Value of F/F_{MSY} varies around 2.3: stocks exploited on average at rates well above the F_{MSY} CFP objective

Trends in Biomass



In the Med Sea uncertainty associated with this indicator makes it difficult to conclude anything about trend

Coverage of biological stocks by the CFP monitoring

In the MED region, the EG selected **230 stocks (Species/GSA)** in the sampling frame of which **47** have been covered by a **stock assessment** in recent years



Stocks status and trends can be monitored only for a **minority of stocks**

STECF conclusions on CFP monitoring

- ✓ Methodological challenges especially in MED

Annual variability in the number and categories of stocks assessed



Large variations in trends across stocks

- ✓ Stocks in the MED Sea: very poor situation, no change apparent in terms of fishing pressure or stock biomass.
- ✓ Need to develop CFP monitoring process to cover wider ecosystem and socioeconomic aspects



MONITORING THE LANDING OBLIGATION

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS SUBMITTED TO THE STECF PLENARY BY THE COMMISSION



MONITORING THE LANDING OBLIGATION

Reg. (EU) No 2015/812

Obligation for the Commission to report annually on the implementation of the LO



Information transmitted by MS, ACs and other relevant sources

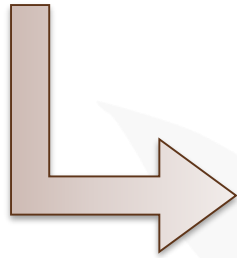
MS	Q	Steps taken to comply with landing obligation															Control and compliance steps							Safety						Use of ports and vessels				Problems							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34						
Belgium																																									
Bulgaria																																									
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Portugal																																									
Romania																																									
Slovenia																																									
Spain																																									
Sweden																																									

Questionnaires on a voluntary basis - Commission did not receive 2017 reports from eight MS: Croatia, France, Italy (...)

Indicators list of socio-economic impacts should be provided by the Commission

✓ 2016 MS reports related to LO for small pelagic

- Little impact on fishing activities
- Few difficulties in implementation
- Maintenance of de minimis exemptions



Studies on spatio-temporal closures and selective gears to protect juveniles

For 2017 a new closed area was introduced to protect hake in the eastern Mediterranean

LO may exacerbate the problem with illegal sales of fish below MCRS

STECF conclusions

✓ MS reports
qualitative statements



No fulfil Commission's reporting
obligations (Omnibus)

- ✓ **No** evidence of significant **changes in fishing practices**
- ✓ **No** data on assessment of the **socio-economic impacts**
- ✓ No identification of discard rates reduction
- ✓ Not judgement on the impact of the specific actions in assisting the introduction of LO and its effectiveness by MS

STECF conclusions

- ✓ Many MS report few **problems** in LO implementation:
 - lack of engagement by the industry
 - MS are unable to point to significant changes in fishing practices
- ✓ Need of **reliable quantitative information** on:
 - fish discarded under exemptions
 - discards of fish currently not subject to the LO
 - catches of fish below MCRS.
- ✓ **Monitoring at sea** would need to be increased significantly.



Preparation of EWG 18-09
on an **effort regime for
demersal fisheries in the
WEST MED**

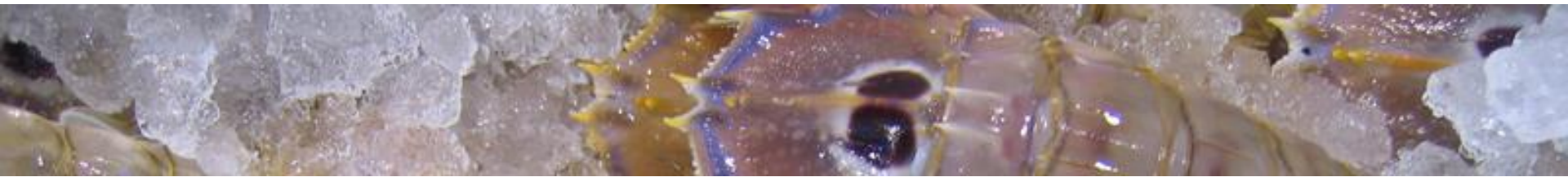


STECF conclusions on ToR

1. Lessons learned from the use of effort management regimes:
 - scientific-technical perspective
 - shortcomings of such regimes
 - recommendations to avoid similar issues
 - strengths and how new effort regimes could benefit from it
 - investigation on monitoring and documentation of the actual effort levels already in place in the West MED Sea

2. Main characteristics of the trawl fishing fleet including socio-economic data:
 - DCF,
 - Available data by National Work Plans,
 - Request to National Correspondents (if needed),
 - Studies review and research projects.

The relationship between effort and fishing mortality should be further investigated before the meeting



Reflection on identification of
**future research and
innovation priorities** in
fisheries science



Preparation of FP9: what knowledge will be necessary by 2030 ?

Sustainable EU's fisheries management



Improvement of performance - EU fishing

Background document
internal MARE note (DG MARE CFP Units) on possible FP9 priorities and consultation on post-2020 fisheries research and innovation (R&I) strategy

Reflection on identification of future research and innovation priorities in fisheries science

Before discussing the main topics of future research,
Several data and methodological gaps



Difficult or impossible the assessment of some stocks
Some more example:
-insufficient data for a great number of coastal species
- lack of social data, in particular for SSF



These deficiencies should be considered
alongside the new topics of future research.

CHALLENGES IN FP9

Enhancing food security and food sovereignty in a context of a growing human Earth population

Consolidating the governance of the Ocean

Strengthening the resilience of marine ecosystems



Thanks for your
attention!

info@med-ac.eu
marzia_piron@hotmail.it