



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



General Fisheries Commission
for the Mediterranean
Commission générale des pêches
pour la Méditerranée



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
ARTISANAL FISHERIES
AND AQUACULTURE
2022



Ref. 319/2022

Rome, 3 November 2022

Consultation on the main issues related to the sustainable development of the SSF sector, socio-economic indicators in relation to SSF and the RPOA-SSF in the Mediterranean and Black Sea

The Consultation process managed by the MEDAC in Rome on 30th of June 2022, in collaboration with GFCM, and contributing to the celebration of the International Year for Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022 (IYAFA) in the framework of the SSF Forum, acknowledged the social, environmental and cultural role of the Small-Scale Fishery in the European coastal communities and approved the MEDAC work on this topic because, from the beginning of its functioning, it has always paid attention to the characteristics and specificities of SSF in the Mediterranean basin.

The Consultation process involved the MEDAC members and representatives of the Maghreb Platform for Fisheries (PMPA) and the Tunisian Association for the Development of Artisanal Fishing, hereby called **“the group”**.

Referring to the SSF the MEDAC already agreed on the considerations listed below (Ref. 312/2019):

“The MEDAC applies the “open door” policy, as reported in the Statute Art. 3.1. “European and national organizations representing the fisheries sector and any other stakeholder groups involved with the Common Fisheries Policy in the zone of interest may request to become members of the MEDAC”. Moreover, in the Statute this concept is reiterated in the Art. 4.3 “The 60-40 proportions shall be fully maintained for the Executive Committee, while for the General Assembly they are to be considered the goal to be achieved, while not excluding any organization that wishes to apply for MEDAC membership”.

Furthermore, the Art. 5.7 of the MEDAC Statute states that *“The Executive Committee is made up of 25 members, maintaining the proportions of 60% and 40%”* and *“After consultation with the EC, the General Assembly (GA) may decide, at the Chairman’s proposal, to appoint an Executive Committee of up to 30 members to ensure adequate representation of small-scale fisheries”*. The General Assembly didn’t decide to appoint an ExCom up to 30 members because the associations participating in the Executive Committee already assure a clear prevalence of the SSF representation. This is confirmed by the percentage of associations representing also the SSF on the total MEDAC members, because it already achieves the 74%. This percentage reaches 92% considering the level of the organizations representing the SSF on the total of fishing sector members. [...]

The balanced and wide representation of all stakeholders is ensured by the deliberations of the organization bodies, according to the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU)2015/242. Moreover, as reported by the MEDAC members contributing at the GFCM High Level Conference on SSF (Malta, September 2018), the EU Mediterranean SSF organizations are all represented by the MEDAC members in Spain (Cofradías de Pescadores), Croatia (Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts), France (CNPMEM and CRPMEMs PACA, Occitanie and Corse), Malta (Għaqda Koperattiva tas-Sajd), Cyprus (Pancypriot Association of Professional Fisherman) and Italy (Italian cooperatives and shipowners' organizations). The Slovenian organization is the only one from Slovenia in the MEDAC and it has been confirmed by its Member States. Referring to Greece, up to now, no organizations are widely representing SSF in the country. Therefore, in the General Assembly and in the Executive Committee the SSF is widely represented.”

About the future measures presented by the GFCM Secretariat representative during the meeting held in Rome on 30th June 2022 in the IYAFA/SSF forum context, **the group** agreed on the following opinions related to the SSF Regional instruments, especially considering the future measures for SSF in the Mediterranean Sea:

- DATA COLLECTION: Socio-economic data covering SSF characteristics

- Trend of total number of vessels
- Trend of active vessels per Med sub-region
- Trend of active vessels per country
- Percentage of inactive vessels on the total per country (%)
- Average age of vessels (years)
- Number of old vessels
- Trend of fishing days in the MED Sea (days)
- Trend of fishing days per country
- Trend of catches per unit of effort (Kg)
- Trend of landings value in the Med Sea (€)
- Landings value per country
- Employee costs
- Trend of the crew and FTE in the Med Sea (n. of people and average age)
- Trend of number of FTE (Full Time Equivalent)
- Trend of the crew per country

- SSF AND RF INTERACTIONS

The group agreed on the following list of main species targeted in the Recreational Fishery activities:

Main species targeted by modality in EU Mediterranean Waters		
Coast	Boat	Spearfishing
<i>Argyrosomus regius</i>	<i>Argyrosomus regius</i>	<i>Argyrosomus regius</i>
<i>Belone belone</i>	<i>Auxis thazard</i>	<i>Balistes capriscus</i>
<i>Conger conger</i>	<i>Balistes capriscus</i>	<i>Conger conger</i>
<i>Coriphaena hippurus</i>	<i>Belone belone</i>	<i>Dentex dentex</i>
<i>Dentex dentex</i>	<i>Conger conger</i>	<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>
<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>	<i>Coriphaena hippurus</i>	<i>Diplodus spp</i>
<i>Diplodus spp</i>	<i>Dentex dentex</i>	<i>Diplodus cervinus</i>
<i>Epinephelus aeneus</i>	<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>	<i>Diplodus puntazzo</i>
<i>Epinephelus costae</i>	<i>Diplodus spp</i>	<i>Diplodus sargus</i>
<i>Euthynnus alletteratus</i>	<i>Epinephelus aeneus</i>	<i>Epinephelus aeneus</i>
<i>Labrus merula</i>	<i>Epinephelus costae</i>	<i>Epinephelus costae</i>
<i>Labrus viridis</i>	<i>Epinephelus marginatus</i>	<i>Epinephelus marginatus</i>
<i>Lichia ama</i>	<i>Euthynnus alletteratus</i>	<i>Labrus merula</i>
<i>Lithognathus mormyrus</i>	<i>Labrus merula</i>	<i>Labrus viridis</i>
<i>Loligo vulgaris</i>	<i>Labrus viridis</i>	<i>Lichia ama</i>
<i>Mugilidae spp</i>	<i>Lichia ama</i>	<i>Lithognathus mormyrus</i>
<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>	<i>Lithognathus mormyrus</i>	<i>Loligo vulgaris</i>
<i>Oblada melanura</i>	<i>Loligo vulgaris</i>	<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>
<i>Oblada melanura</i>	<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>	<i>Mugilidae sp</i>
<i>Octopus vulgaris</i>	<i>Mugilidae sp</i>	<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>
<i>Pagrus auriga</i>	<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>	<i>Muraena helena</i>
<i>Phycis phycis</i>	<i>Mycteroperca rubra</i>	<i>Mycteroperca rubra</i>
<i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i>	<i>Mycteroperca rubra</i>	<i>Octopus vulgaris</i>
<i>Psetta maxima</i>	<i>Naucrates ductor</i>	<i>Pagrus auriga</i>
<i>Sarda sarda</i>	<i>Oblada melanura</i>	
<i>Sarpa salpa</i>	<i>Octopus vulgaris</i>	
<i>Sciaena umbra</i>	<i>Pagellus acarne</i>	

<i>Scomber spp</i> <i>Scorpaena porcus</i> <i>Seriola dumerili</i> <i>Serranus scriba</i> <i>Sparus aurata</i> <i>Sphyraena sphyraena</i> <i>Sphyraena viridiensis</i> <i>Symphodus tinca</i> <i>Todarodes sagittatus</i> <i>Trachinotus ovatus</i> <i>Trachurus spp</i> <i>Umbrina cirrosa</i>	<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i> <i>Pagellus erythrinus</i> <i>Pagrus auriga</i> <i>Pagrus pagrus</i> <i>Phycis phycis</i> <i>Plectorhinchus mediterraneus</i> <i>Polyprion americanus</i> <i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i> <i>Sarda sarda</i> <i>Sarpa salpa</i> <i>Sciaena umbra</i> <i>Scomber spp</i> <i>Scorpaena porcus</i> <i>Scorpaena scrofa</i> <i>Sepia officinalis</i> <i>Seriola dumerili</i> <i>Serranus scriba</i> <i>Sparisoma cretense</i> <i>Sparus aurata</i> <i>Sphyraena sphyraena</i> <i>Sphyraena viridiensis</i> <i>Spondylosoma cantharus</i> <i>Symphodus tinca</i> <i>Tetrapturus belone</i>	<i>Phycis phycis</i> <i>Plectorhinchus mediterraneus</i> <i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i> <i>Sarda sarda</i> <i>Sarpa salpa</i> <i>Sciaena umbra</i> <i>Scorpaena porcus</i> <i>Scorpaena scrofa</i> <i>Sepia officinalis</i> <i>Seriola dumerili</i> <i>Serranus scriba</i> <i>Sparisoma cretense</i> <i>Sparus aurata</i> <i>Sphyraena viridiensis</i> <i>Spondylosoma cantharus</i> <i>Symphodus tinca</i>
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Considering the need to focus on some of the above listed species, **the group** agreed on identifying the following list of species¹ that, according to stakeholders' opinion, in addition of being of recreational fishing interest, might be endangered:

- *Sparus aurata*
- *Dicentrarchus labrax*
- *Dentex dentex*
- *Epinephelus marginatus*
- *Sciaena umbra*
- *Umbrina cirrosa*

For which the group agreed and recommended:

- The stock assessment in order to reach an agreement on indications related to management options;
- The inclusion in the framework of Mediterranean Multiannual plans, taking into account the ecology of each species [...].

Moreover, about the possible future GFCM measures related to SSF/RF the main issues related to the interaction, **the group** agreed on the following opinions:

- **Recreational fishing** means *non-commercial fishing exploiting marine biological resources for recreation, tourism or sports, and self consumption*² Recreational fishing gear and methods include *line, spear, nets, traps, pots, and set-lines*;

¹ PEPMA highlights that the list cannot be exhaustive and binding, but an adaptive management considering the Mediterranean great variety of marine environments, fishing methods, target species and management priorities has to be implemented. PEPMA suggests as initial list of priority species: *Epinephelus spp*, *Diplodus sargus*, *Dentex dentex*, *Diplodus vulgaris*, *Pagellus erythrinus* and *Dicentrarchus labrax*.

² FAOPE underlines that "self-consumption" should not be included in the concept of recreational fishing. Instead, according to EAA and IFSUA the concept of self-consumption (or personal consumption) is very relevant and appropriate to appear in the definition of recreational fishing, and this is reflected in the WGRFS of ICES in its definition of 2013 and in "EIFAC CODE OF PRACTICE FOR RECREATIONAL FISHERIES" (2007): www.fao.org/3/i0363e/i0363e.pdf



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Conservation measures³

Prohibitions

It shall be prohibited to:

- *engage in recreational fishing (all modalities) without a valid fishing license or registration [...]*

Gears and practices allowed in recreational fisheries (the impact of gears and practices should be assessed) [...]

- *rods, hand lines and trolling lines, utilized without electromechanical aids⁴ exceeding a power limit of 800 W⁵;*
- *CPCs, on the basis of stock assessment and impact assessment⁶, may limit the number of gears and accessories (e.g. number of longlines and hooks for each, number of traps and pots, lures)⁷ authorized per fisher, and may define further specific regulation for passive⁸ gears⁹.*
- *CPCs, on the basis of the most recent scientific advice, may adopt additional measures to regulate recreational fisheries, such as landing limits spatial and temporal closures (e.g. on mapped spawning areas, spawning periods, spawning and juvenile aggregations).*

- RPOA-SSF IMPLEMENTATION

The group would like to take the opportunity to draw attention on the following items in no particular order:

- Value chain: Encourage the first processing of landings by the fishers themselves, their cooperatives or their Producer Organizations in order to expand the shelf life of products;
- Capacity building: Encourage professional training opportunities for fishers on land and at sea, aiming to facilitate the generational turnover. Protect and preserve the traditional and cultural aspects of SSF: sustainable fisheries techniques and local products based on species of low commercial value;
- Decent work: Promote decent work, the improvement of working conditions, including safety (safety and first aid) and occupational health (hygiene of fishermen, boats and catches), as well as social protection for all small-scale fisheries workers. To promote the effective participation of fishing populations, especially women and young people, in communities and local development processes.
- Role of women: Women should have equal opportunities and rights in the sector and should be recognized their role throughout the entire chain;

³ FAOPE suggests to add a par. 9 on the « Species authorized for recreational fishing : CPCs may establish limitations on the list of species, as well as number of specimens or the weight of the catches.»

⁴ CIPS, FIPSAS do not agree with the limitation of this tool because no scientific indication of the impact of the electromechanical aids is provided and the socio-economic value of this recreational fishing activity is not taken into account. EAA agrees and adds to that, that some disabled people would lose their hobby if all electromechanical help should be forbidden.

⁵ WWF suggests deleting « exceeding a power limit of 800 W »

⁶ CIPS, FIPSAS deleted « on the basis of stock assessment and impact assessment ». Reference to stock assessment and impact assessment would appear too vague since these are the criteria for decisions on a specific stock rather than for a specific gear. Therefore, CIPS and FIPSAS propose a slightly revised formulation of paragraph 7 to make it more consistent, while leaving the possibility for CPCs to introduce more detailed regulations for gears and accessories where appropriate.

⁷ CIPS and FIPSAS suggest to delete the content in brackets.

⁸ CIPS, FIPSAS don't agree on « passive » and suggest « certain ».

⁹ WWF deleted : « (e.g. number of longlines and hooks for each, number of traps and pots, lures)» and “and may define further specific regulation for passive gears”.



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- Climate and environment: Assist and support small-scale fisheries communities affected by climate change or natural and human-induced disasters: to address the spread of invasive species and the impact of pollution on stocks and the quality of species that can be exploited. In particular take into account and manage consequences of marine litter with the direct involvement of fishermen.
- Strengthen the technical and institutional capacities of small-scale fisheries organisations in North Africa and support the exchange of experience with regional, continental and international organisations;
- To promote the rational and sustainable exploitation of fishery resources, particularly at the level of fisheries resources;
- Increase and diversify the incomes of the most vulnerable groups of the small-scale fishing population, in particular by facilitating access to markets and financial services;
- Support concrete experiences of co-management and participatory governance of fisheries in the Arab Maghreb and Mediterranean countries.