

# EWG STECF 1-5 March 2021



## TERMS OF REFERENCE

1) Review of all the official datasets on the trawl fleets exploiting demersal stocks in the W-Med in order to **estimate the conversion factors** between fleet segments that will ensure that effort swaps will **not lead to an undesirable increase in fishing mortality**.

↳ The EWG should **assess the scientific robustness of the provisional conversion factors** adopted in 2020 and, in case these were not adequate, should propose alternative conversion factors for the fleet segments for ES, IT and FR.

*Observer: the main issue was related to the lack of the data needed for the analysis and the timing of the data requests to the MS for the provision of the latest available data. Conversion factors have been processed considering fleet segments/Member States, not GSAs, and CPUE instead of F.*

2) EWG **reviewed the existing closures and the additional closures proposed by MS:**

- to estimate their efficiency to protect juveniles and spawning aggregations of the demersal species covered by the West Med MAP
- To comment on possible fishing effort displacement arising from the proposed additional closures

↳ *The additional closures should result in a reduction of **between 15% and 25%** in the bycatch of juveniles and spawners of each stock covered by the MAP*

In case the closures proposed by Member States are not meeting this criterion, **the EWG is requested to propose recommendations for designing alternative closures**

*Observer: Italy did not propose additional closures. Although Spain and France sent the proposals, their areas did not meet the criterion: the EWG had to focus on new areas to be proposed. Priority to spawners or to juveniles had to be decided. In addition to hake, other species were considered. And the consequent effort displacement had to be estimated. Moreover, additional closures have to be adopted by July.*

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3) The EWG evaluated how much gears, other than bottom otter trawls, contribute to demersal stocks fishing mortality and especially for mature hake.

LONGLINES?  
GILLNETS?

The EWG was requested to propose possible additional management measures for these gears, **Where fishing mortality for hake or other species covered by the MAP by such gears is significant**

*Observer: Crustaceans are caught mainly by bottom gears. Some more catches of some species included in the MAP can occur in some GSA by longlines, although the trend of quantities is declining.*

4) STECF was requested to:

- assess the impact of recreational fisheries on the stocks covered by the MAP
- evaluate for each stock whether recreational fisheries contributes to the demersal stock's total catches and if yes to which amount.

*Observer: Only France sent a MEDAC opinion on RF (2016), however the species managed by the MAP do not overlap with the data reported in the MEDAC opinion. The data available from other sources didn't reveal an impact of RF on species interested by the MAP.*

*Final Remark by the observer: during the meeting the reply to the question on the need of Socioeconomic data processing stated that it can be carried out if the data will be made available by Member States.*

The **official report** of the meeting will be available  
**after the STECF Plenary - Middle of April**

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