



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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

Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC)

Subregional Committee for the Central Mediterranean (SRC-CM)

ONLINE
11 – 14 April 2022

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

Monday 11 APRIL 2022

Morning, 09.30 – 13.00 hours (CET)

Afternoon, 14.30 – 17.30 hours

1. Opening and arrangements of the meeting

- Welcome addresses and introduction of participants
- Adoption of the agenda and appointment of the chairperson and rapporteurs
- Introduction of SRC-CM objectives and expected outputs (GFCM Secretariat)

2. Review of main topics of relevance for the SRC-CM

- Newly adopted recommendations and decisions stemming from the forty-fourth session of the GFCM relevant to the central Mediterranean subregion and introduction of the GFCM 2030 strategy (GFCM Secretariat)
- Follow-up on strategic initiatives of the GFCM of interest to the subregion (GFCM Secretariat)

3. Outcomes of technical activities relevant for the management of fisheries in the central Mediterranean

- Data quality (GFCM Secretariat)
- Status of central Mediterranean fisheries, including assessments emanating from plenary and relevant benchmark sessions of the Working Groups on Stock Assessment (GFCM Secretariat)
- Small scale fisheries and recreational fisheries (GFCM Secretariat)
- Spatial management
 - WGVME-EFH outcomes (GFCM Secretariat)
 - Preliminary analysis of bottom trawling fishing effort and abundance of HKE and DPS inside and outside the East of Adventure Bank FRA (MARSAGLIA, FIORENTINO, GAROFALO et al.)
 - The Mammellone Bank: a key candidate for a fisheries restricted area in the Strait of Sicily (MEDREACT)

- OECMs
 - Identifying a road map for OECMs in the Mediterranean (HIMES-CORNELL et al.)
 - Recap of the Strait of Sicily FRA case study discussions from the Expert meeting of fisheries OECMs (GFCM Secretariat)
- Deepwater red shrimp fisheries in the eastern-central Mediterranean
 - Recap (GFCM Secretariat)
 - Deep water red shrimp biological population units in the eastern-central Mediterranean (SPEDICATO et al.)
- European eel (GFCM Secretariat)
- Red coral (GFCM Secretariat)
- Pilot project on trawl gear selectivity in the Strait of Sicily (GFCM Secretariat)
- Monitoring programmes
 - Understanding Mediterranean multi-taxa bycatch of vulnerable species and testing mitigation – MedBycatch Projects (Tunisia, GSA12 & GSA13) (BEN AMOR et al.)
 - Overview of Medbycatch project activities carried out in GSA 14 with particular emphasis on the application of mitigation measures (ENAJJAR et al.)
- Other
 - Pilot case of Implementation of Ecosystemic Approach in the El Bibane lagoon Fishery (South-East Tunisia) (DJABOU et al.)

Tuesday 12 APRIL 2022

Morning, 09.30 – 13.00 hours (CET)

Afternoon, 14.30 – 17.30 hours

- 3. Outcomes of relevant technical activities for the management of fisheries in the central Mediterranean (cont'd)**
- 4. WGMSE session on demersal and deep-water red shrimp fisheries (details in the concept note provided in Annex 1)**
 - Introduction to the WGMSE session
 - Demersal fisheries in the Strait of Sicily
 - Summary of information received by the GFCM Secretariat in response to the requests of relevant GFCM decisions and management measures in place (GFCM Secretariat)
 - Analysis of the trends of indicators related to the fishery and timeline of important events relevant for the fishery in question (GFCM Secretariat)
 - Introduction of existing management measures and appraisal and discussion of current management measures and identification of additional potential management measures; identification of gaps
 - Detailed roadmap and way forward
 - Deep water red shrimp fisheries in the Strait of Sicily and the Ionian Sea
 - Summary of information received by the GFCM Secretariat in response to the requests of relevant GFCM decisions and management measures in place (GFCM Secretariat)
 - Analysis of the trends of indicators related to the fishery and timeline of important events relevant for the fishery in question (GFCM Secretariat)

- Introduction of existing management measures and appraisal and discussion of current management measures and identification of additional potential management measures; identification of gaps
- Detailed roadmap and way forward

Wednesday 13 APRIL 2022

Morning, 09.30 – 13.00 hours (CET)

Afternoon, 14.30 – 17.30 hours

- 4. WGMSE session on demersal and deep-water red shrimp fisheries (details in the concept note provided in Annex 1) (cont'd)**
- 5. Introduction to MedSea4Fish: addressing the subregional approach in line with the GFCM 2030 strategy (GFCM Secretariat)**

Thursday 14 APRIL 2022

Morning, 09.30 – 13.00 hours (CET)

Afternoon, 14.30 – 17.30 hours

- 6. SRC-CM work plan and discussion on subregional priorities and follow-up activities**
- 7. Conclusions, recommendations and scientific advice**
- 8. Any other matter**
- 9. Closure of the meeting**

Concept note guiding GFCM work on the assessment of management measures and the evaluation of the effectiveness of management plans in 2022: an operational framework

Objective

WGMSE sessions will be held during the 2022 SRCs (see Table 1) with the general aim of responding to a number of requests stemming from the 2021 meetings of the SAC and the Commission, as well as from existing recommendations.

They aim to create and test a common operational framework to advance on identifying and evaluating current and potential management measures while contributing towards monitoring the effectiveness of existing management plans as well as providing technical advice for the update of current or drafting of future management plans.

The framework foresees stakeholder involvement and will provide a solid starting basis for additional work to be performed towards advancing in the assessment of the biological, economic and social implications of implementing several management scenarios with the objective of restoring and maintaining exploited living resources above levels which can produce the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) – a requirement common to all established or incipient management plans adopted under the hat of the GFCM.

Operational framework

The framework, which is nothing more than a stepwise approach to analysing the evolution of a fishery and its response to management, will be applied to all fisheries currently under management plans or covered by recommendations foreseeing management measures, as summarised in Table 1.

It comprises five common steps (Steps 1-4 and 6) plus an additional, optional, one (Step 5) depending on the fishery.

Step 1

Collation of all old and new management measures implemented by country: this will be done in advance of the meeting and the measures collected/collated will be analysed and categorised in the most appropriate manner as to best feed subsequent steps.

Step 2

Analysis of the trends of indicators related to the fishery: data will be requested in advance of the meetings and an initial analysis will be performed and presented at the meetings: further analyses could take place during the meeting should additional data emerge. Data considered in these analyses include:

- Effort
- Catch
- CPUE (if available)
- Discards (if available)
- Fishing mortality (if available)
- SSB (if available)
- Survey indices (if available)
- Socioeconomic indicators (to be identified; if available)

Step 3

Compilation of a timeline of important events relevant for the fishery in question, including the introduction of management measures and specific regulations, any incentives that may have

determined a change in the fishery or the fleet (e.g. buyback programmes, incentives to change gear) and any changes related to the environment that may have affected the fishery.

This exercise will be done in advance of the meeting both at a country level and for the fishery overall when the targeted resource is shared by more than one country.

Step 4

Appraisal and discussion of current management measures and identification of additional potential management measures; identification of gaps

Step 5 (optional)

Assessment of alternative management measures.

Should this kind of work have been done in another forum, the results of this work should be presented here. Including both qualitative assessments (e.g. ranking) and quantitative assessments (e.g. short - term forecasts and/or MSE)

Step 6

Based on the information provided by Steps 1-5, a detailed roadmap – including deadlines – will be drafted towards advancing on the formal evaluation/assessment of alternative management measures in a qualitative or quantitative framework depending on the information available for the fishery. This will be done giving due consideration to the *Terms of Reference for the assessment of alternative management measures for select fisheries covered by GFCM decisions in the Mediterranean and Black Sea* endorsed by the 44th annual session of the GFCM (reproduced here as Appendix 1).

Participation

Participation in the session will include scientific experts (e.g. fisheries scientists, including socioeconomists) and administration experts as well as other stakeholders including fishers and fisher associations

The role of the SRC/WGBS/WGMEASURES

Based on the outcomes of the WGMSE sessions, the SRC/WGBS/WGMEASURES will be able, if needed and possible, to draft new or updated technical elements for management or make a plan forward for more detailed analyses especially in case of the need of quantitative methods including management strategy evaluation.-

Table 1: Fisheries to be addressed in the different sessions of WGMSE to be planned in 2022

Meeting	Fisheries to be addressed in the WGMSE sessions	Notes	Date
SRC-CM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strait of Sicily demersal • Deep-water red shrimp fisheries in the Strait of Sicily and the Ionian Sea 	<p>The basic steps of qualitative appraisal of existing and potential management measures will be covered in these sessions.</p>	11-14 April 2022
SRC-WM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small pelagics in the Alboran sea • Blackspot seabream in the Strait of Gibraltar • Common dolphinfish fisheries 		19-22 April 2022
SRC-EM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round sardinella in the eastern Mediterranean • Deep-water red shrimp fisheries in the Levant Sea 	<p>The session will be dedicated to data-limited MSE inviting experts to present/demonstrate different possible methodologies to make a plan on data-limited MSE to present to the SAC as a sort of package/guidelines to be applicable widely</p>	10-13 May 2022
SRC-AS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small pelagic • Demersal fisheries 	<p>The basic steps of qualitative appraisal of existing and potential management measures will be covered in this session along with updates of any quantitative work done</p>	17-20 May 2022

Terms of Reference for the assessment of alternative management measures for select fisheries covered by GFCM decisions in the Mediterranean

In order to provide support to the SAC the WGBS and towards the provision of advice on the impacts of alternative measures for select fisheries covered by GFCM decisions in the Mediterranean (namely common dolphinfish in the Mediterranean, European hake in the central Mediterranean and deep water red shrimp [*Aristaeomorpha foliacea* and *Aristeus antennatus*] in the Strait of Sicily and the Ionian Sea, small pelagic fisheries in the Adriatic Sea, demersal fisheries in the Adriatic Sea, demersal fisheries in the Strait of Sicily, round sardinella and deepwater red shrimp in the Levant Sea) and the Black Sea (namely European sprat, turbot and piked dogfish), an assessment of said management measures shall be performed, according to the following general terms of reference:

1. Make use of all available data (catches, effort, socio-economics, etc.) in all countries
2. Review all existing and potential management measures
3. Perform an assessment of the alternative outcomes of different management measures. The methodology used will depend on the existence or lack of a validated assessment of stock status providing quantitative advice, as follows:
 - In the presence of a validated quantitative stock assessment, under the hat of the GFCM Working Group on the Assessment of Alternative Management Measures (WGMSE), based on the management scenarios and reference points agreed in the context of the GFCM WGSAs, assess the potential effects on stocks and fleets of the implementation of alternative scenarios, including:
 - the identification of biological, stock assessment, pressure and socio-economic data (time series) and parameters needed to run the model;
 - the identification of components of the simulation model for which a sensitivity analysis coherent with the model assumptions should be run and review of the characteristics and the assumptions related to the different components of the simulation models used for the assessment of potential effects of management scenarios (e.g. biological, pressure and socio-economic);
 - run the simulation scenarios and providing comparative tables of the expected status of stocks and fleet indicators (e.g. catch, socio-economic indicators, etc.) in comparison with agreed reference points.
 - In the absence of a validated quantitative stock assessment, under the hat of the GFCM Workshops on the implementation of management measures in selected case studies in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (WKMEASURES), qualitatively assess the potential effectiveness of existing and potential management measures on stocks and fleets based on data-limited methodologies, including through the use of raking methods where the effect of each management measure under a given scenario is given a qualitative score based on technical experience towards producing aggregated scores contributing to an overall assessment of the different scenarios

The presence of fisheries and technical experts, including external experts, is required, as is a thorough and comprehensive consultation with relevant stakeholders in each step of the process.