



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

Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC)

**Working Group on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems and Essential Fish Habitats
(WGVME-EFH)**

Online (Zoom), 22 – 24 March 2022

DRAFT AGENDA

TUESDAY 22 MARCH

Morning Session, 9:30-13:00

1. Opening and arrangements of the meeting

- Welcome addresses and introduction of participants
- Adoption of the agenda and appointment of the Chairs
- Overview of meeting objectives and expected outputs and recall of relevant decisions from the last session of the GFCM

2. Spatial management measures in the Mediterranean and Black Sea

- 2.1. Overview of GFCM Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs), including conservation measures and scientific monitoring plans (GFCM Secretariat)
- 2.2. The new GFCM database on national closures to fisheries (GFCM Secretariat)
- 2.3. Spatial management in the Black Sea
 - Eco-System Based Coastal Management for Developing a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Black Sea (Lyudmil Ikonov)
 - Bulgarian Natura 2000 MPAs in the Black Sea (Emma Gileva)
 - The Romanian Natura 2000 MPA network - Scientific background for future FRAs designation study (Victor Niță)
 - Fishing Regulations in Turkey with special focus on vulnerable ecosystems, essential habitats and FRAs (Onur Hasaltuntas)

Afternoon Session, 14:30-17:00

3. Identification of biodiversity priority areas and proposals for potential new FRAs

- 3.1. Identifying Priorities for the Protection of Deep Mediterranean Sea Ecosystems Through an Integrated Approach (Emanuela Fanelli)
- 3.2. FRA proposal: Physical characterization and VMEs in Cabliers Cold Water Coral reefs (GSA 03 and 04) (Claudio Lo Iacono)
- 3.3. FRA proposal: The Marti and Sète canyons (GSA 07) (Azzurra Bastari)

WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH

Morning Session, 9:30-13:00

4. VMEs and the GFCM database on sensitive benthic habitats and species

- 4.1. The GFCM database on sensitive benthic habitats and species: features, functionalities, and available data (GFCM Secretariat)

- 4.2. Preliminary appraisal on *Isidella elongata* hotspots (Giovanni Chimienti et al.,)
- 4.3. Modelling and mapping the habitat suitability of the endangered bamboo coral *Isidella elongata* to aid conservation of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems at Mediterranean scale (Sandrine Vaz)

5. Identification of VMEs and EFHs in the southern Adriatic Sea (geographical subarea 18)

- 5.1. Biology and ecology of *Isidella elongata* (Pierluigi Carbonara)
- 5.2. Overlapping of deep-sea fisheries and *Isidella* facies in GSA 18 (Anna Nora Tassetti)
- 5.3. Concept note for a pilot study on the biology, ecology and distribution of *Isidella elongata* in the southern Adriatic, including insights into the overlap between *Isidella* and the bottom trawl fishing footprint (Pierluigi Carbonara)

6. Advances towards the identification of overlapping fishing grounds and potential VME

- 6.1. ICES spatial conservation and management of the seafloor (Sebastian Valanko)
- 6.2. Implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive in the Mediterranean and collaboration across projects and institutions (Sasa Raicevich)
- 6.3. Deep water red shrimp fishing effort and *Isidella* facies in the Mediterranean Sea (Anna Nora Tassetti)
- 6.4. Discussion on a draft roadmap to map deep water red shrimps fishing grounds (GFCM Secretariat)

Afternoon Session, 14:30-17:00

7. Work towards the establishment of a network of Essential Fish Habitats (EFH) in the GFCM area of application

- 7.1. Summary of the outcomes of the WGVME 2018 and WGMPA 2019 regarding EFH (GFCM Secretariat)
- 7.2. Spatial management and fishing effort displacement effect: Exploring the cost-effectiveness of protecting EFH using bio-economic modelling (Irida Maina)
- 7.3. The role of seascape connectivity in the management of fishery resources and benthic ecosystems in the Strait of Sicily (Fabio Fiorentino)
- 7.4. GFCM surveys and related activities to obtain data on EFH (GFCM Secretariat)

THURSDAY 24 MARCH

Morning Session, 9:30-13:00

8. OECMs and the 1000 m FRA

- 8.1. Identifying OECMs in the Mediterranean (Amber Himes-Cornell, FAO)
- 8.2. Roadmap to assess the 1000 m FRA as potential OECM (GFCM Secretariat)

9. Any other matter

- 9.1. IUCN Deep-sea Atlas of the Eastern Mediterranean Sea (Maria del Mar Otero)

Afternoon Session, 14:30-17:00

10. Formulation of conclusions and recommendations

11. Closure of the meeting