



Pilot project for reinforcing integrated MCS measures in the Strait of Sicily and ongoing cooperation 2017-8

**MEDAC, Rome
11 October 2018**



Pilot project Overview – Why?



GFCM Rec. GFCM/40/2016/4 required by 2018 the establishment of an inspection and control programme to ensure compliance with the adopted conservation and measures in the strait of Sicily, including *inter alia*:

- High seas inspection,
- Procedures for effective follow-up on infringements, including in addition associated procedures for serious infringements,
- Port inspections,
- Catches and landing monitoring, and;
- Boarding, inspections and observer programmes.



Pilot project and ongoing cooperation



A Pilot project was implemented and coordinated by EFCA in 2017 on behalf of EU with Algeria, Egypt, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco and Tunisia to promote regional cooperation and integrated control measures:

1. Best practice and common implementation of GFCM control rules
2. Inspector training and capacity building
3. Joint inspection and regional at-sea controls based on a risk assessment approach and the testing/exploring new control technologies

This was followed up with continued cooperation in 2018



Operational scope of activities



Provisions and scope refer to:

- European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*)
- Deep-water rose shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*)
- Bottom trawlers above 10 metres in length
- When catches of those species represents at least 25 % of the catch in live weight or value

Hence priority for all operational activities focused on bottom trawlers (OTBs) based on a risk assessment approach in GSA 12-16



Some results - fleet encountered



- A range of flags of trawlers were observed and inspected
- Confirms presence of fishing vessels concerned by the GFCM Rec. for different flags in international waters.
- Typology of fishing vessels was consistent with national characteristics:
 - average length 15-20 metres
 - made from wood, steel or fibreglass
 - range of markings consistent with national requirements.

Fleet typology



Egyptian



Fleet typology



- All trawlers encountered during inspections were typical of those targeting demersal species including hake and deep water rose shrimp
- Inspections were targeted, where possible, to be at the time of hauling.
- Images of typical trawling operations taken throughout the GFCM PP with cod-end and catch of rose shrimp and hake include

Fishing typology



Demersal trawl



Cod end



Catch of hake and shrimp



EFCA operated means 2017-8





No. of inspections/non compliance 2017



TYPE	OTB	LL	Other	TOTAL
Sightings	150	39	17	206
Inspections	44	20	5	69
TOTAL	194	59	22	275
Inspection with >1 PNC*	28	2	2	32

* PNC Potential non-compliance with GFCM C&M measures

FRONTEX Operation TRITON 154 sightings in 2017 and 54 in 2018



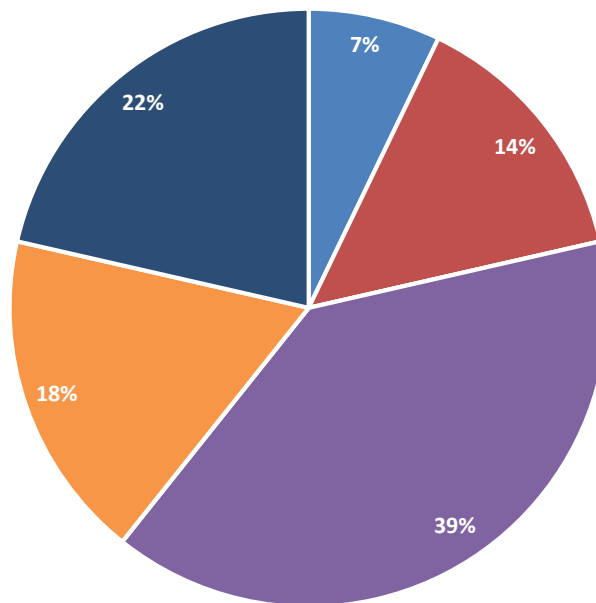
No. of inspections/non compliance 2018



TYPE	OTB	LL	Other	Total	OTB in FRA1	OTB in FRA2	OTB in FRA3	OTB in Gsa 14	TOTAL
Sightings	116	59	38	213	16	0	1	0	17
Inspections	23	24	10	57	3	0	1	0	4
TOTAL	139	83	48	270	19	0	2	0	21
Inspection with 1> PNC*	18	9		30	3	0	1	0	4

* PNC Potential non-compliance with GFCM C&M measures

2018



- Non Authorised Vessel (par. 8 Rec. GFCM39/2015/2)
- Restricted Area (Part III Rec. GFCM40/2016/4)
- Transhipment or Landing in not designated port (par. 20 Rec. GFCM 40/2016/4)
- Gear not Compliance (Rec.GFCM 33/2009/2)
- Minimum size (par. 3 Rec. GFCM 39/2015/2)
- VMS (Rec.GFCM 33/2009/7)



Assessment of fishing activities



- Based on sightings, inspections and satellite detections, trawlers operate throughout GSA 12-16 areas
- Operations are predominantly concentrated in shallower areas in less than 200 metres (Gulf of Gabes July-September closure)
- Trawlers inspected predominantly had hake/rose shrimp on board suggesting contraventions of GFCM recommendations



International Inspection scheme



- Testing of real operational activities:
 - Undertake boarding and inspections
 - Exchange of information/intelligence and fisheries assessment
 - Cooperate and actively contribute in the fight against IUU
- Strengthening the GFCMs capacity to adopt effective conservation and management measures

**Provide GFCM elements for an
International Inspection Scheme..**



International Inspection scheme



- **General scope/objective:**
 - To conduct/follow-up inspection and surveillance activities outside jurisdictional waters within GFCM area of competence
 - **Voluntary programme** built on cooperation, reciprocity and common responsibilities

- **Summary of participating CPC obligations:**
 - Appointing and notifying the inspectors
 - Allocating and notifying the assets (ships, aircraft) tasked for inspection and surveillance activities and identifying such assets when engaged in such activities
 - Notifying to the provisional plan of deployment inspectors and assets assigned to the Scheme



Components of scheme



- **Code of conduct**, including prior announcement of inspection, identification of means, minimized interferences with fishing activities
- Clear **operational procedures and obligations** for inspection party and obligations for inspected flag state and follow-up
- **Common templates and identification** (inspection reports, ID cards, pennants)
- **Identification of infringements**, for which specific follow-up obligations would apply
- Role and responsibilities **of the RFMO Secretariat and EFCA**



International Inspection Scheme



GFCM/41/2017/8

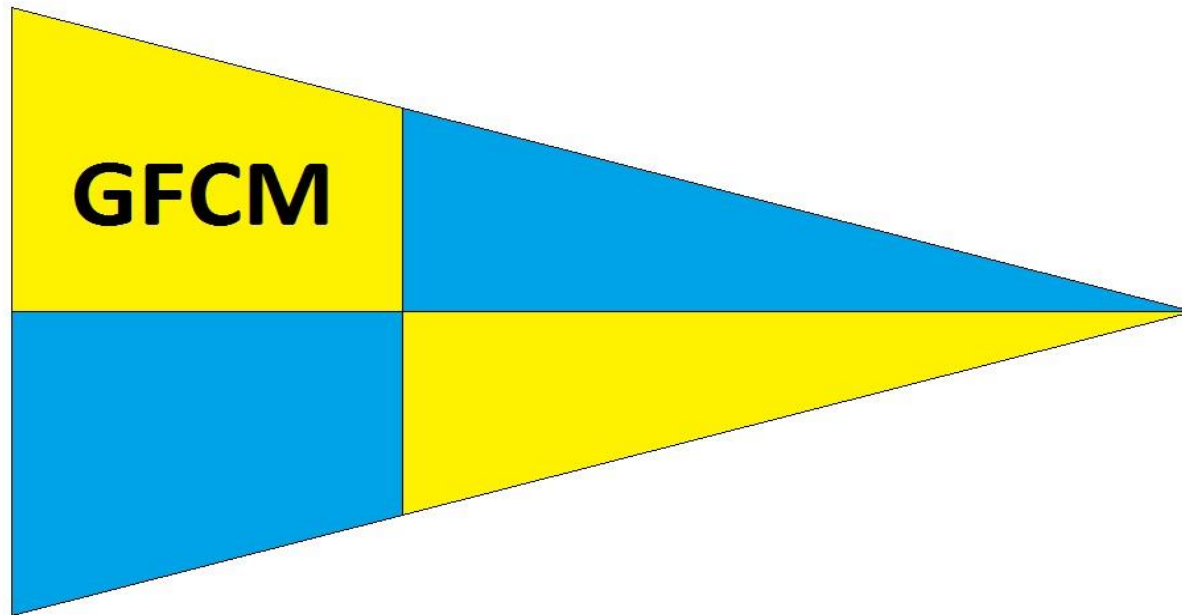
General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean			GFCM
	GFCM		<p>The holder of this inspector identity card is a GFCM inspector duly appointed under the terms of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme and has the power to act under the provisions of GFCM rules.</p>
INSPECTOR IDENTITY CARD			
Photograph	Contracting Party:		<p>..... Issuing Authority</p> <p>..... Inspector</p>
	Inspector Name:		
	Card n°		
	Issue date:	Valid for five years	

Inspector ID card



International Inspection Scheme

GFCM/41/2017/8



Vessel Inspection pennant



Conclusions



- Cooperation and our ongoing dialogue has been extremely fruitful in the implementation of current and the development of emerging GFCM provisions
- Our continued cooperation has served to discuss the main typology of fishing activities observed and potential strengths and weaknesses of current GFCM control and inspection measures
- The recent establishment of GFCM/41/2017/8 ensures that boarding's and inspections follow a common approach to fight potential IUU activities without hindrance to legitimate fishing operators
- A level playing field is vital to ensure the full implementation of the GFCM joint inspection scheme and broader GFCM conservation and management measures



Cooperation for 2018-9



- Ongoing activities foreseen in late 2018 (capacity building + trainings)
- Promotion of ongoing dialogue and cooperation to fully implement GFCM Recommendations
- Outputs of cooperation fully supports GFCM Technical Working Groups
- Cooperation integrated into EFCA's forthcoming work programmes

