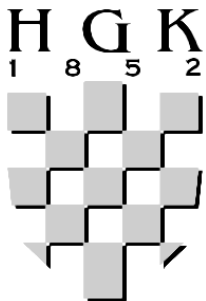




**Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC)
Fourth meeting of the Subregional Committee for the Adriatic Sea
(SRC-AS)
Split, Croatia, 23–24 May 2019**

Thessaloniki, 04.06.2019.

Krstina Mišlov Jelavić



Summary

The SRC-AS in 2019 addressed specific issues related to the management of fisheries in the subregion, including:

- i) the management of small pelagic and demersal fisheries in the Adriatic Sea, including in relation to Rec. GFCM/42/2018/8 on emergency measures for small pelagic fisheries in the Adriatic Sea
- ii) ii) the implementation of Rec. GFCM/41/2017/2 on the establishment of a Fisheries Restricted Area in the Jabuka/Pomo Pit, Res. GFCM/41/2017/5 on a network of essential fish habitats, and Rec. GFCM/41/2017/6 on the submission of data on fishing activities
- iii) the identification of subregional priorities, such as issues related to the provision of advice, priority species and the mid-term strategy.

Summary

The SRC-AS formulated a draft advice based on the results of the benchmark session for sardine and anchovy and on the workshop for the assessment of management scenarios, and compiled relevant information in reply to Rec. GFCM/42/2018/8 so to enable the SAC to provide elements for the update of the technical contents of the original management plan for small pelagics (Recommendation GFCM/40/2016/3).

The SRC-AS discussed the urgent need to advance on the management of demersal fisheries due to their dire state in the Adriatic and agreed to submit technical elements for their management to the attention of the SAC.

SRC-AS examined and made technical comments to FRA proposals in the South Adriatic and in the Bari Canyon and agreed to present the latter proposal to the SAC for final validation and potential submission to the Commission.

The preliminary results of the monitoring of the Jabuka/Pomo pit FRA were analysed, recognising the effectiveness of such area-based management measures and agreeing to conduct work following this example to establish other FRAs.


SRC-AS revised priority actions for the region, especially in relation to small-scale fisheries, and agreed on a proposed workplan, to be submitted to the consideration of the SAC.

Status of small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea

Despite data being provided by all countries to 2018, the time available to perform basic analyses was limited and final combined data sets could not be produced during the data preparation.

Experts requested more time to conclude the benchmark, through a follow-up meeting, and agreed to perform updated assessments to provide advice on the status of both stocks.

These updated assessments were carried out with two extra years (2017 and 2018) of data compared to the previous assessment, hence based on year-1 rather than year-2, for the very first time within the GFCM.



In relation to the benchmark assessment for sardine and anchovy, the SRC-AS commented on the quality of data used, which varied along the time series of observations. In this context, the SRC-AS requested the benchmark session to carefully evaluate the implications of using different time series (e.g. from 1975 or from 2001 as tested in the benchmark) and report accordingly.

Also, the SRC-AS highlighted the importance of addressing the issues identified in the benchmark, in particular towards ensuring the quality of input data.

In this context, the SRC-AS requested that efforts be made to consolidate a good quality advice in time to address the requests of Recommendation GFCM/42/2018/8 and provide the Commission with the scientific evidence to revise the management plan for these resources, as expected for 2021.

Advice on the status of the small pelagic fish stocks assessed in the Adriatic Sea, including WGSASP comments and recommendations

GSA	Species	Method	F _{curr}	E _{curr}	E/0.4	SSB (t)	SSBlim (t)	SSBpa (t)	Status	Advice
17-18	Sardina pilchardus	SAM	1.529	0.68	1.71	157 251	125 318	250 636	Overexpl. In overexpl.	Reduce fishing mortality
17-18	Engraulis encrasicolus	SAM	1.075	0.53	1.32	119 454	45 936	91 872	In overexpl.	Reduce fishing mortality

The SRC-AS recognized the efforts deployed during the intersession to produce benchmark assessments (for hake, sardine and anchovy in GSAs 17 and 18) in order to have consolidated and more robust advice to be kept stable for around 4 years and better support stakeholders in the implementation of agreed measures. The SRC-AS concurred that, for benchmark sessions that hadn't been finalized due to lack of time or other such factors (namely sardine and anchovy), efforts would keep on being made to conclude the work, **whilst advice would be formulated based on updated assessments and the precautionary approach, and management decisions would be taken accordingly.**

The management of demersal resources

In addressing the request from the 42nd session of the GFCM, and building upon the provisions of the GFCM guidelines for multiannual management plans and the established practice within the GFCM, the SRC-AS discussed and agreed upon technical elements towards a management plan for the consideration of the SAC

The SRC-AS acknowledged that the monitoring programme for the Jabuka/Pomopit was advancing in line with the proposed activities and appraised the work done by scientists and administrations, as well as the support provided by the AdriaMed Project. It was noted that first results coming from the analysis of winter surveys, MEDITS surveys as well as from commercial catches showed that for many priority species the abundance and size inside the FRA were higher and larger than outside, and that some signs of increasing biomass for species like hake, both inside the FRA and in general in GSA 17, were observed.

The management of demersal resources

The SRC-AS highlighted that the establishment of the Jabuka/Pomo Pit FRA should be considered as an example of best practice, taking into account the consensus achieved among the stakeholders for its implementation as well as the perception from Italian and Croatian fishers after its establishment.

It was also noted that preliminary results on the effect of the FRA for particular priority species were promising and the SRC-AS agreed on the need to continue monitoring the progress of this FRA and promote the approach leading to its establishment within the GFCM

The SRC-AS reviewed the updated proposal for the establishment of a FRA in the Otranto channel. It agreed on the need to implement FRAs to address the status of priority stocks and protect VMEs in the area, in line with Resolution GFCM/41/2017/5 on a network of essential fish habitats and the conclusions of the WGMPA. It was decided not to submit the Otranto channel proposal to the attention of the SAC 21st, as its contents, and especially the analysis of socio-economic impacts, needed to be further refined.

The management of demersal resources

The SRC-AS revised the updated proposal for the establishment of a FRA in the Bari Canyon. It acknowledged and praised the consultation process with a number of key players as well as the socio-economic analysis undertaken, as requested, to reinforce the proposal.

Nevertheless, the SRC-AS also noted that the socio-economic analysis should be carefully reviewed and that an estimated assessment of social (e.g. on number of employees potentially affected) and economic impact (e.g. potential losses versus future benefits) should be attempted based on the analyses already carried out. It was agreed to submit this FRA proposal to the attention of the SAC in 2019.

Draft elements for the management of demersal resources in the Adriatic Sea (GSA 17 and 18)

Potential fisheries management measures

The existing (*in italics*) and potential fisheries management measures applicable to demersal fisheries in the Adriatic Sea include:

Fishing effort regime

FRA to protect EFH

Jabuka/Pomo pit (Rec. GFCM 41/2017/3)

Depth restrictions

Other spatial restrictions

Distance from the coast

Temporal closures

Authorized number of fishing days

Temporal closures

Gear restrictions

Authorized/prohibited gear types

Gear characteristics including *mesh size*

Management of the fleet capacity

Fleet registry

Number of vessels/fleet capacity

Minimum conservation reference size

Control measures

VMS and electronic logbook

pilot project for joint inspection

schemes

MEDAC comments

The relevance of officially and timely submitting input data for assessment was recognized, reason for which it was important that each country established a thorough system of submission of such data without compromising the independent role of scientists.

It was clarified that in case data **were not submitted** the options were to

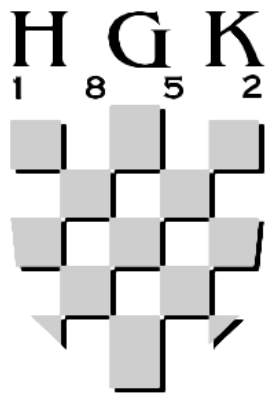
- i) not produce advice;
- ii) produce advice based on existing information (estimations);
- iii) formulate a precautionary advice – although MEDAC underlined that the latter option would have more consequences on fishers rather than on the administration responsible for not submitting the data in time.

MEDAC comments

FLEET capacity –

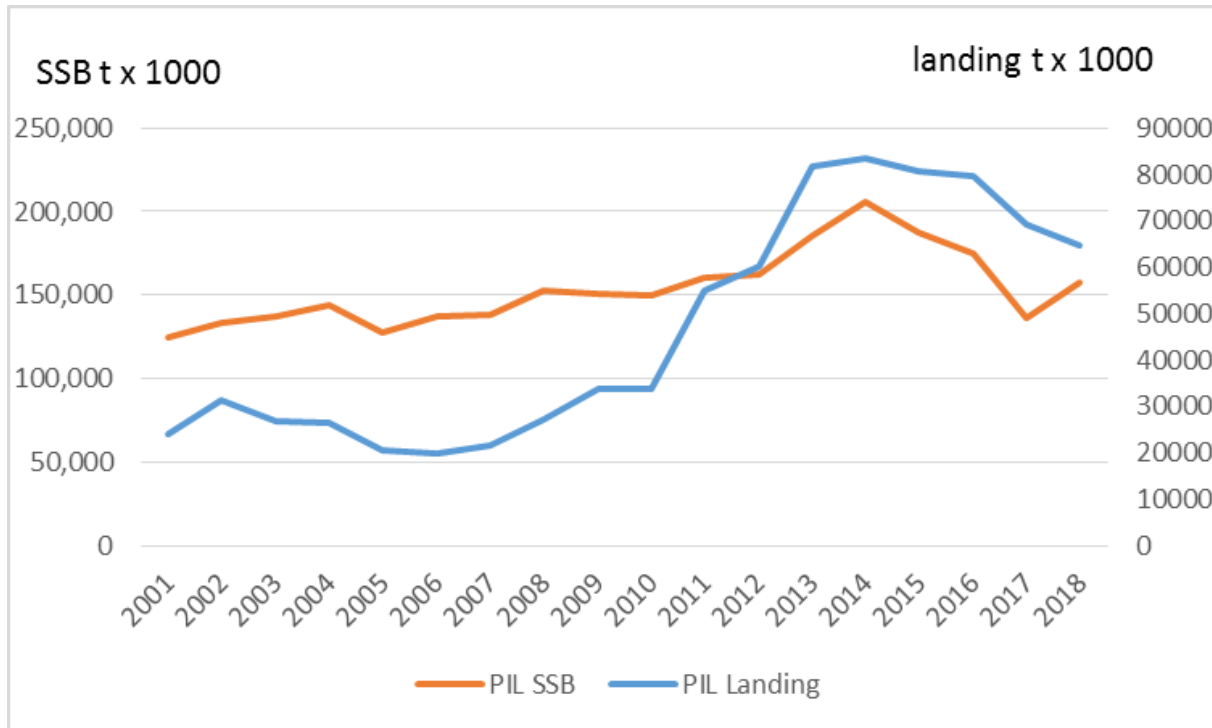
Based on a comment by MEDAC, it was also noted that for each alternative management measure fleet capacity should also be taken into account, to make sure the number of vessels that are sustainable after the implementation of a given measure are known.

Thank you!

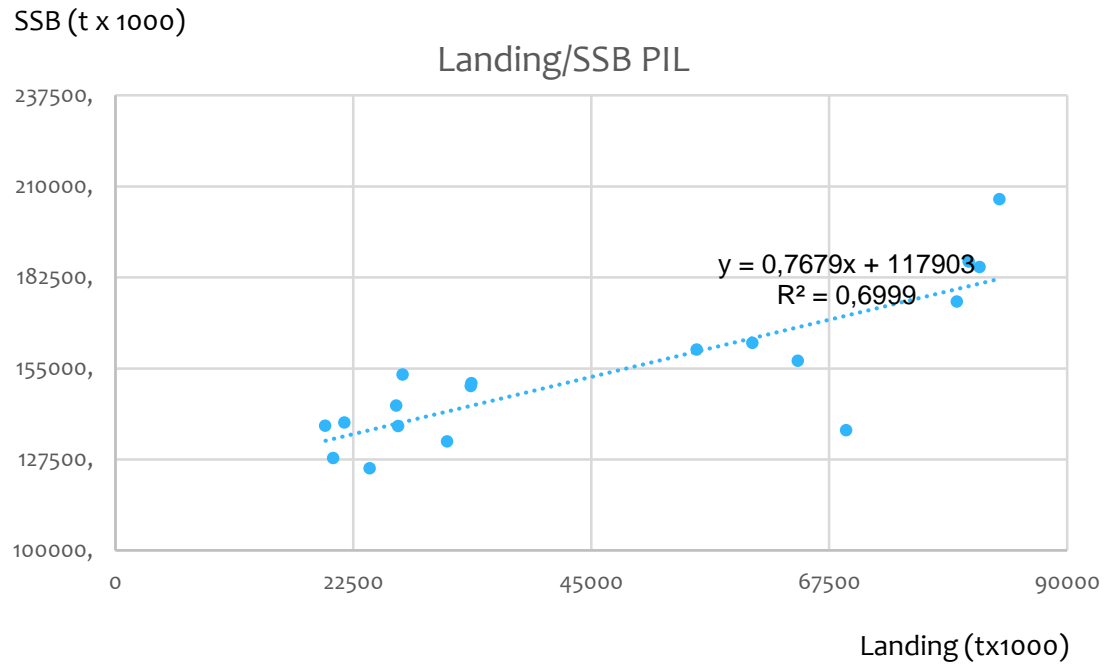


CROATIAN CHAMBER OF ECONOMY
Fishing affiliation

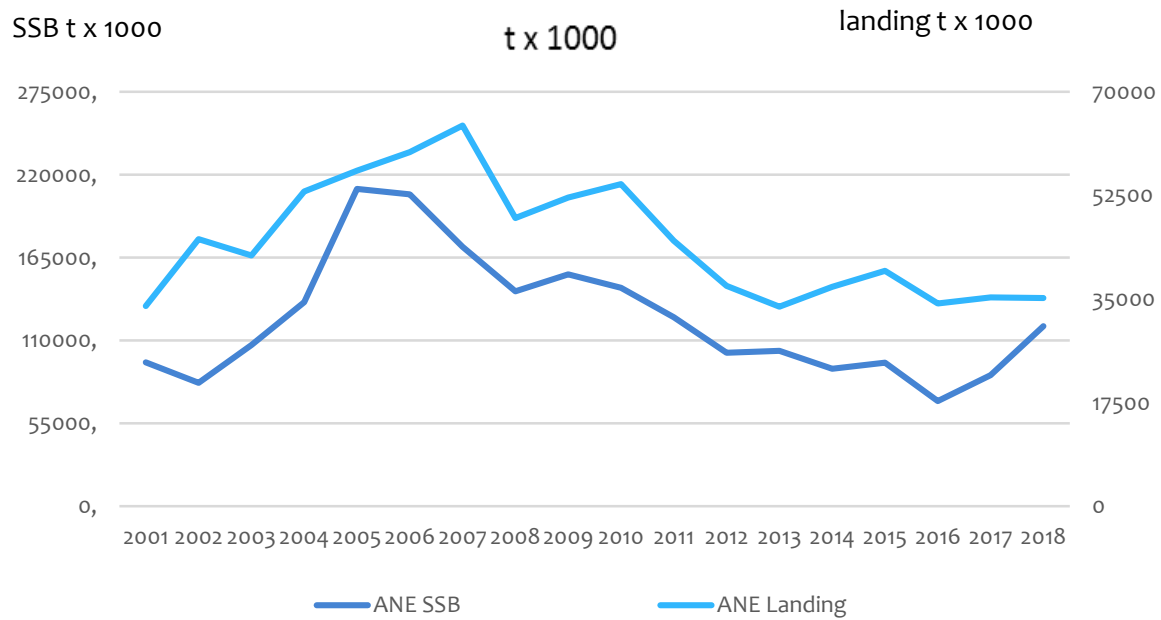
SARDINES SSB - LANDING



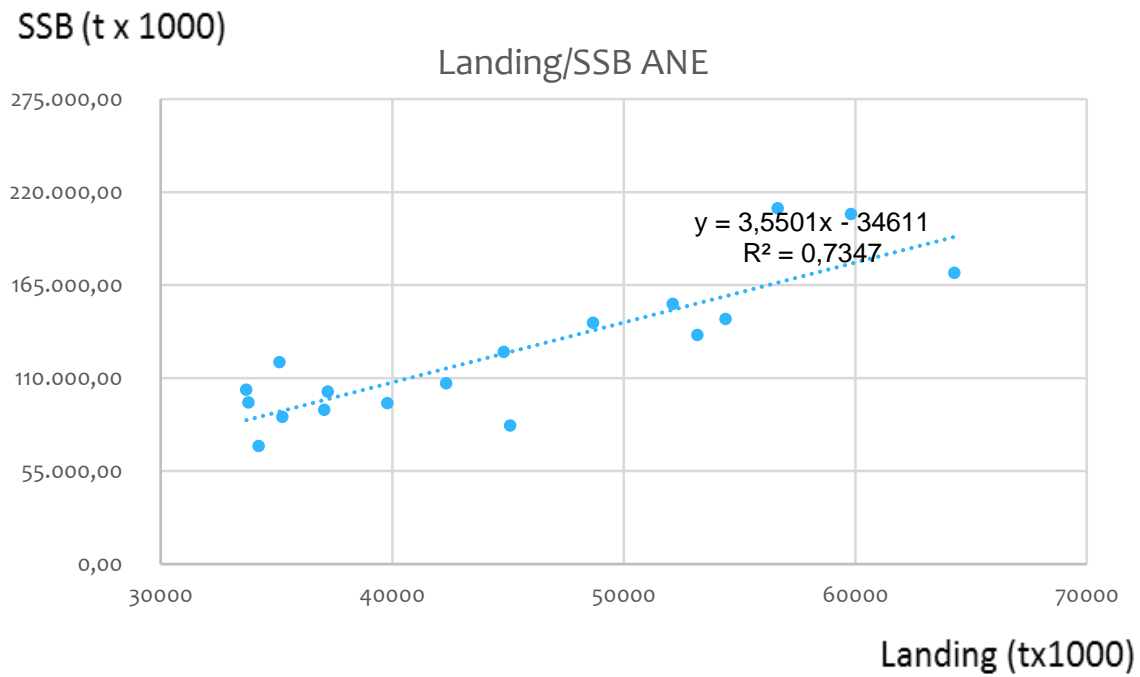
SARDINES SSB - LANDING



ANCHOVY SSB - LANDING



ANCHOVY SSB - LANDING



Thank you



“Small pelagic fish like sardine and anchovy undergo large natural fluctuations even in the absence of fishing. You can have the best harvest controls in the world but you’re not going to prevent the population from declining when ocean conditions change in an unfavorable way.”

NOOA 2015