

Regulations already in force in Adriatic sea

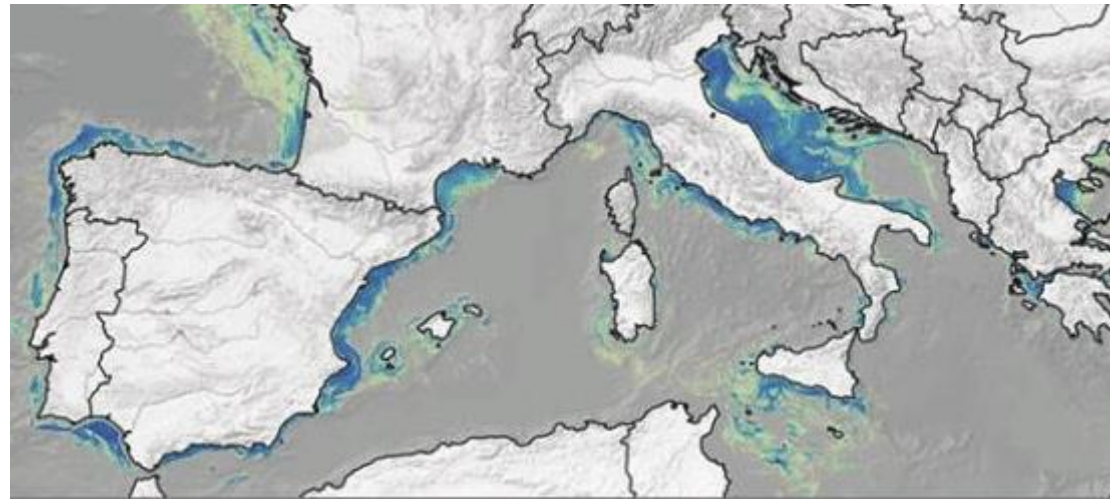
Multiannual Plan for demersals



MEDAC
MEDITERRANEAN
A D V I S O R Y
C O U N C I L



Co-founded by the
European Union



Alessandrini, Alfredo & Alvarez, Marlene & Greidanus, H & Gammieri, V & Fernandez Arguedas, Virginia & Mazzarella, Fabio & Santamaria, C & Stasolla, M & Tarchi, D. & Vespe, Michele. (2016). Anomaly detection and knowledge discovery using Vessel Tracking Data.

CROATIAN FISHING AREAS

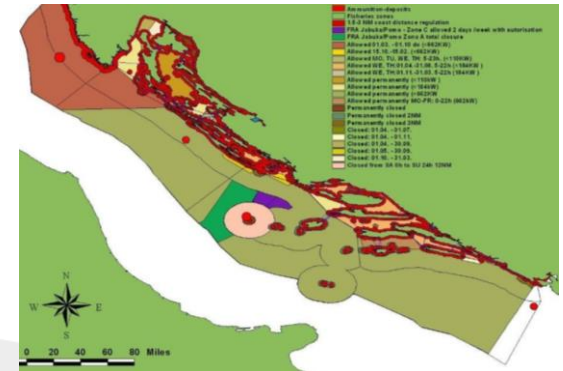


Most important regulations

Temporal and spatial trawl fishing restrictions

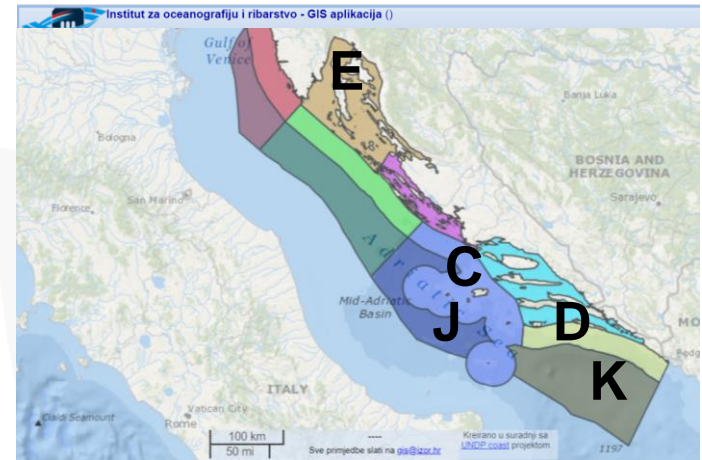
Trawl fishing is permanently prohibited within

- 1.5 NM from mainland and island coast,
- 2 NM around outer islands
- 3 NM in the most part of northern Adriatic (western Istrian coast) and in some channel area of central Adriatic (depth < 50 m)
- 3 NM around Blitvica and Jabuka islands
- numerous bays and channels
- in sensitive habitats (seagrass, coralligenous etc.)



Temporal prohibitions of bottom trawl fishing

- in the most part of the **channel area** in central Adriatic is totally prohibited **6 months/year** during spring summer period (in aut./win. open only 2 days/week during day light).
- on Saturday and Sunday 12 NM **around Jabuka/Pomo** island
- temporal trawl fishing ban of **30 days** was introduced during September and October **in fishing zones C, D, E, J and K.**



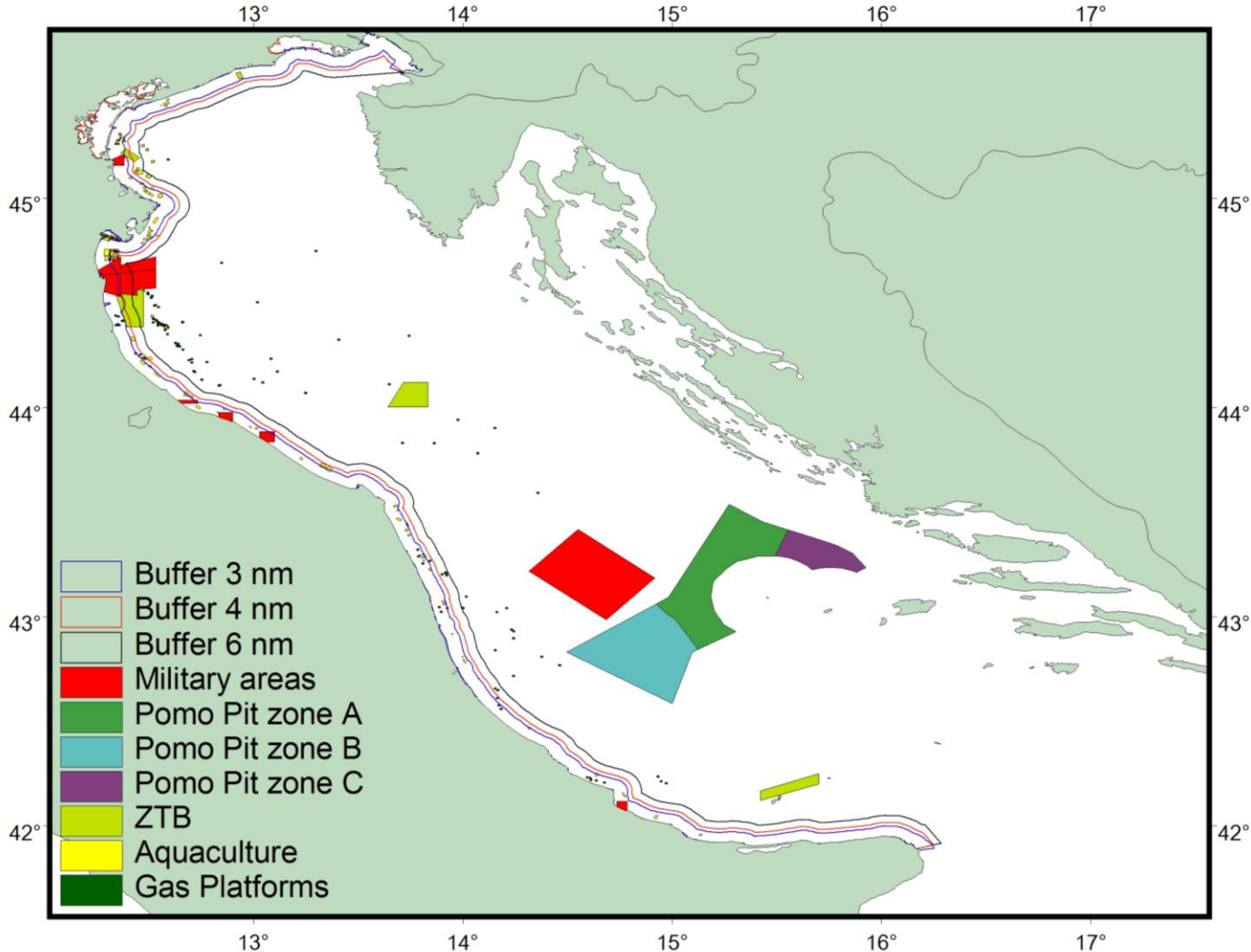
According to the existing regulations

Trawl fishing is permanently prohibited in approximately
30% of the territorial sea of Croatia,
with additional **around 10%** is prohibited
between 100 and 300 days annually.

Trawl fishing in Croatia is dominantly performed
up to 350-400 m depths

considering technical characteristics of vessels and
geomorphological configuration of the bottom of the Adriatic Sea

ITALIAN FISHING AREAS



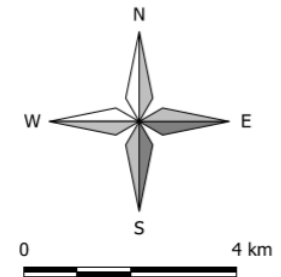
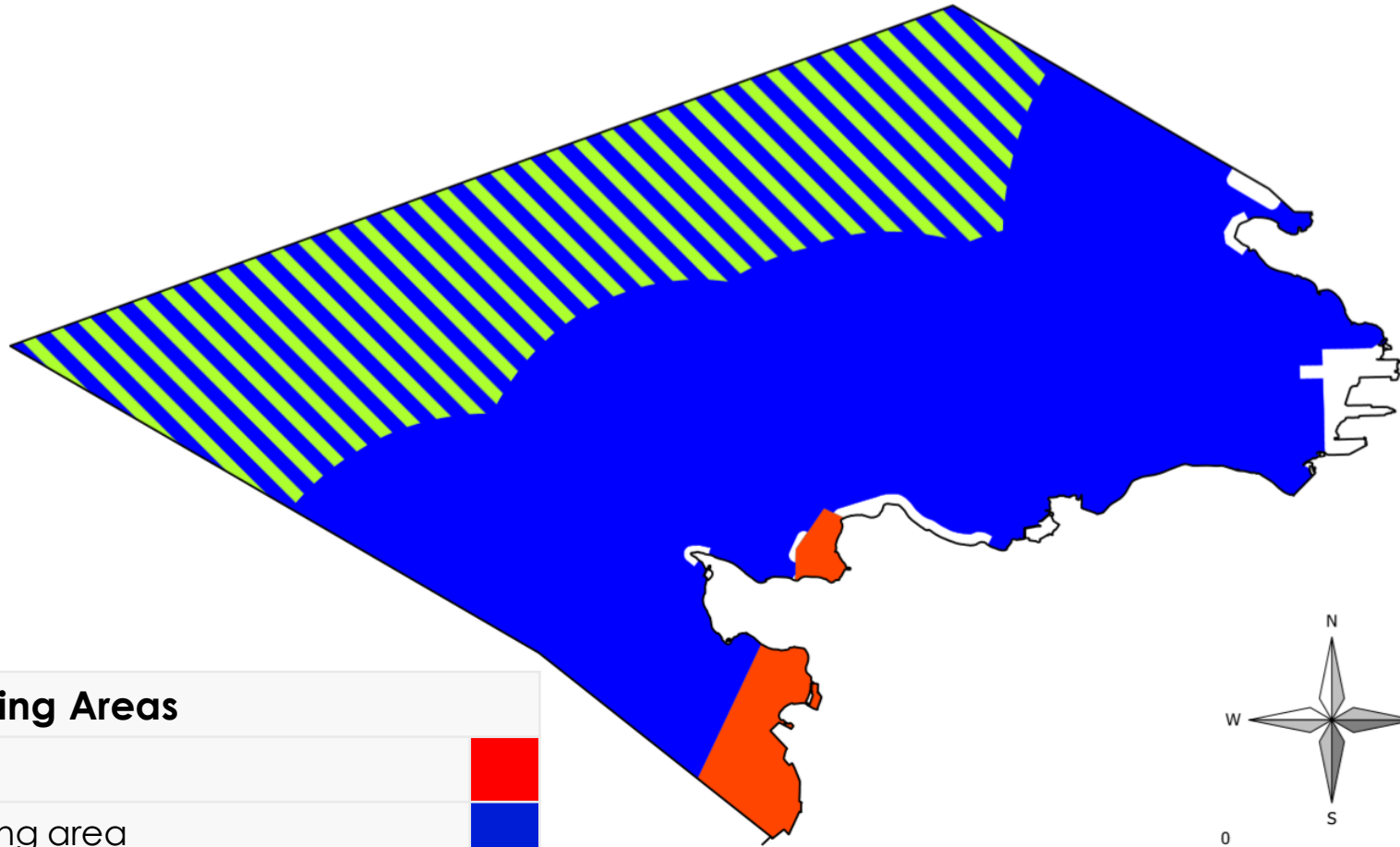
Source F. Grati (CNR-ISMAR) update of the map in the STECF 19-02 - Annex 5

Spatio-temporal restrictions – Bottom trawlers

- Within **3 nautical miles** of the shoreline or 50 m depth (Article 13 of EU Council Regulation 1967/2006)
- Annual temporary closure - 30 days during July-August
- GSA 17, vessels enabled to **coastal fishery** (<6 nm from the coast) or having **LOA <15 m** cannot operate **inside the 4 nm** from the beginning of the temporary closure **until 31th October**;
- GSA 17, vessels having **LOA >15 m** cannot operate **inside the 6 nm** from the beginning of the temporary closure **until 31th October**.

(maritime departements of Monfalcone and Trieste are not included in the ban within the 4 and 6 nm)

SLOVENIAN FISHING AREAS

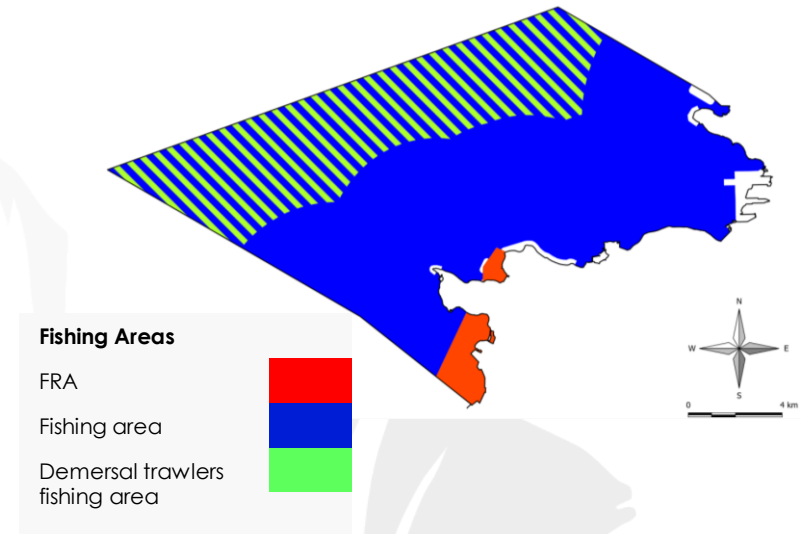


Fishing Areas	
FRA	
Fishing area	
Demersal trawlers fishing area	

Source - Flander-Putrlje, V., M. Grego, Milijan Šiško in J. Francé (2019): Možnosti za povečanje potenciala lokacij za marikulturo na obali in v slovenskem morju. 2. **Pregled razpoložljivih podatkov. Zaključno poročilo o izvedenem delu**, junij 2019. Poročila **180**. Morska biološka postaja, Nacionalni inštitut za biologijo, Piran, 23 str.

Spatial restriction

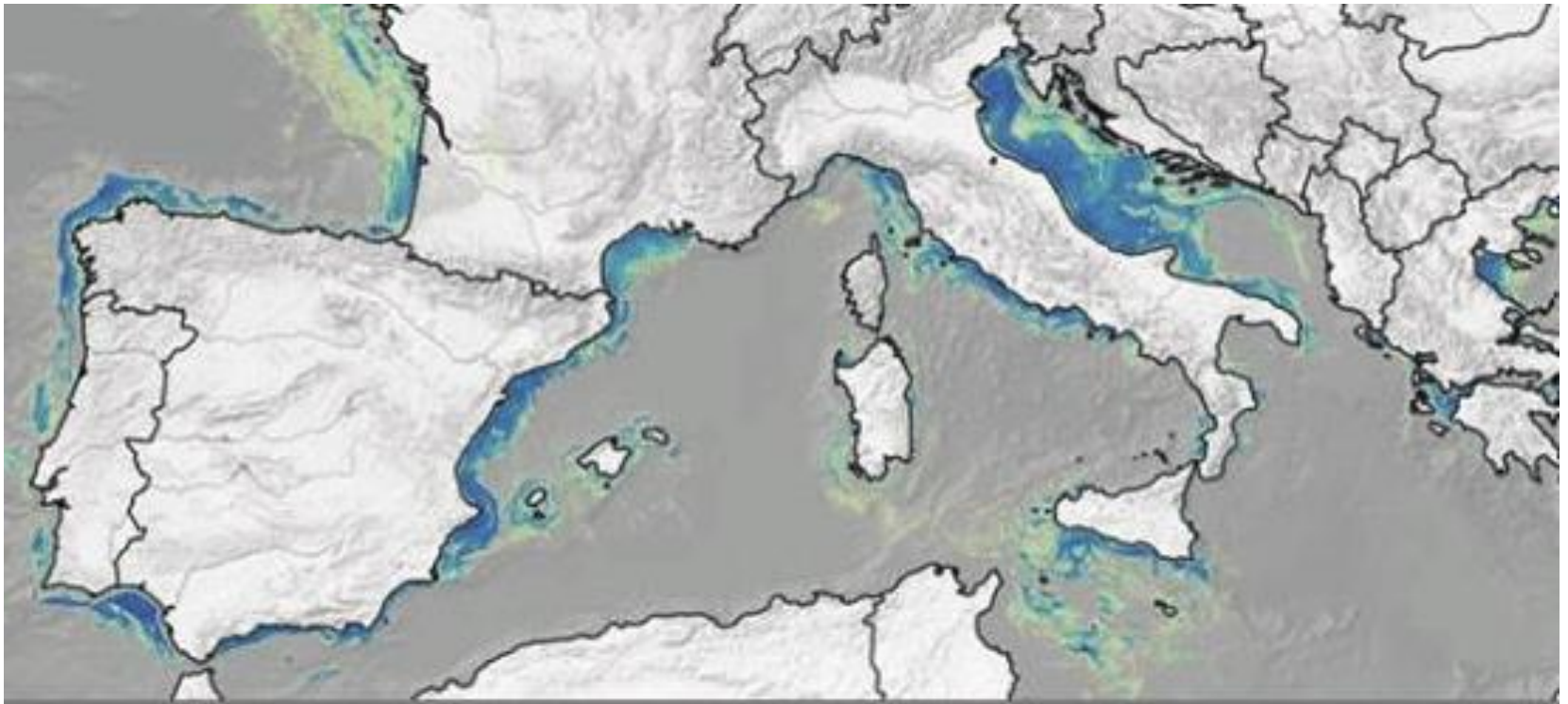
- 2 FRA full fishing closure
- The area of industrial port of Koper
- Due to the safety and international rules, a common routing system and traffic separation scheme was established in the Northern Adriatic



Already existent **derogation for Demersal trawlers**, which allows fishing **up to 1.5 nautical miles** distance from the coast

(Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/2383)

AIS 2014-2015 TRAWLERS > 15m



Fishing intensity by EU trawlers with length greater than 15 m using one-year AIS data archive (2014-2015).

MEDAC opinion on Draft MAP

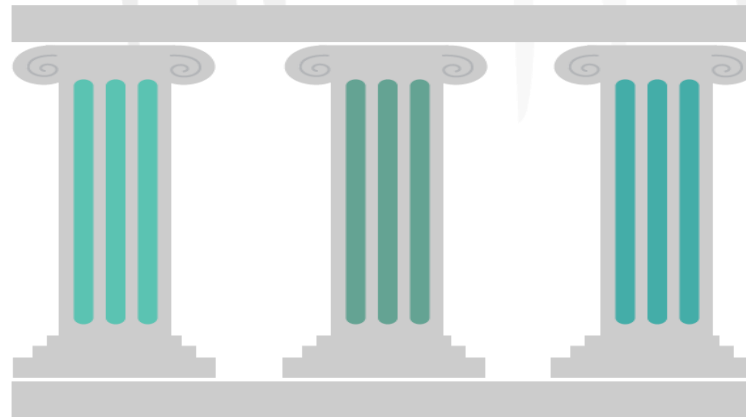
Member States having a direct management interest affected by the measures referred to conservation, such as MAPs, shall also consult the relevant Advisory Councils



MEDAC should play a key role in providing advice reflecting the views of its members

Account shall be taken of possible impacts of the plan:

ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL

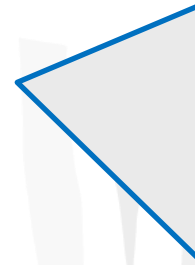


based on best available data

Two relevant opinions on MAP for demersal in Adriatic Sea has been already sent



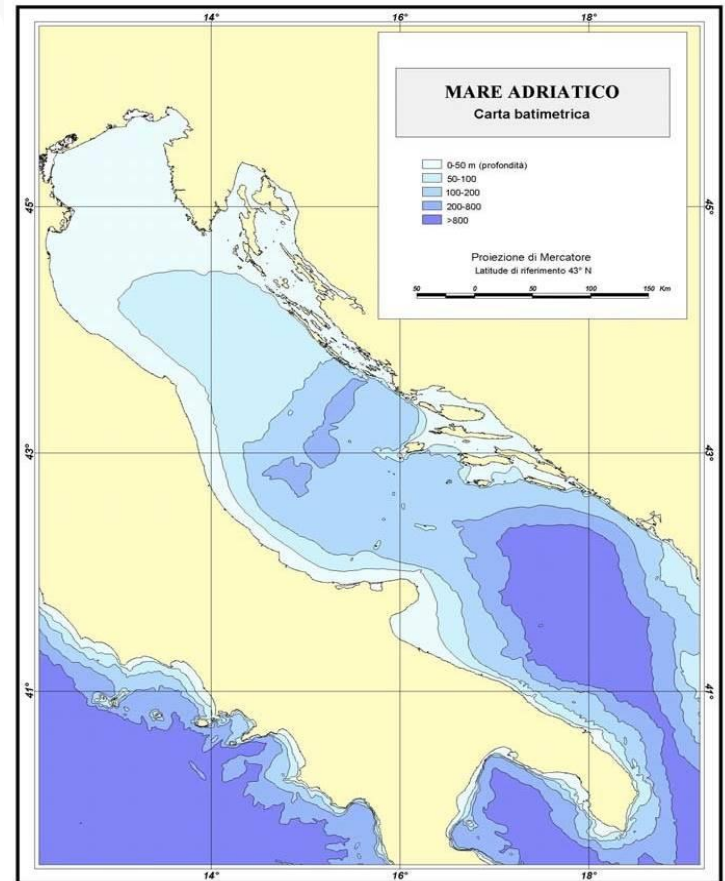
Letter on the Multiannual management plan for demersal resources in the Adriatic Sea
(Ref. 163/2019)



MEDAC Letter on socioeconomic indicators
(Ref.164/2019) on 21 June 2019

Deep concern by the majority of MEDAC members that the same approach of MAP in WestMED would be applied, without considering the **unique geomorphological characteristics** of the Adriatic basin that would make the **same restrictions** completely **unfeasible**.

Other members support the introduction of **spatial measures**, particularly to protect Essential Fish Habitats and sensitive habitats.



“Values of **dependency and contribution** can be good indicators about **how management measures will affect vessel groups** in terms of their economy and what effect these will have on managed stocks.”

Nevertheless these indicators
are complementary



High dependency on
only few species and
very low or negligible
impact to overall landing
of target species

Very low dependency
on only few species
and high impact to
overall landing of
target species

FLEETS' CONTRIBUTION TO THE TOTAL LANDINGS (2014-2016 data)

- ✓ ITALIAN DEMERSAL TRAWL AND DEMERSAL SEINER segments have the highest overall contribution to all species in the MAP of landing per species
- ✓ Common sole *Solea solea* dominated by Italian TBB (BEAM TRAWL) 18-24 m (29%) and PGP (POLYVALENT PASSIVE GEARS) 06 – 12 m (17%) segments.

ECONOMIC FLEET DEPENDENCY

Dependency is computed as the share in percentage of all MAP's stocks combined in the total value of each fleets' landing.

Both Italian and Croatian DEMERSAL TRAWL AND DEMERSAL SEINER segments have dependencies on the six key species of 45% or more

- Fleet segments operating farther from the shore show larger dependency on Deep-water rose shrimp, Hake and Norway lobster;
- While ITA DTS 06-12 m and 12-18 m in GSA 17 dominantly depend on Mantis shrimp (*Squilla mantis*).

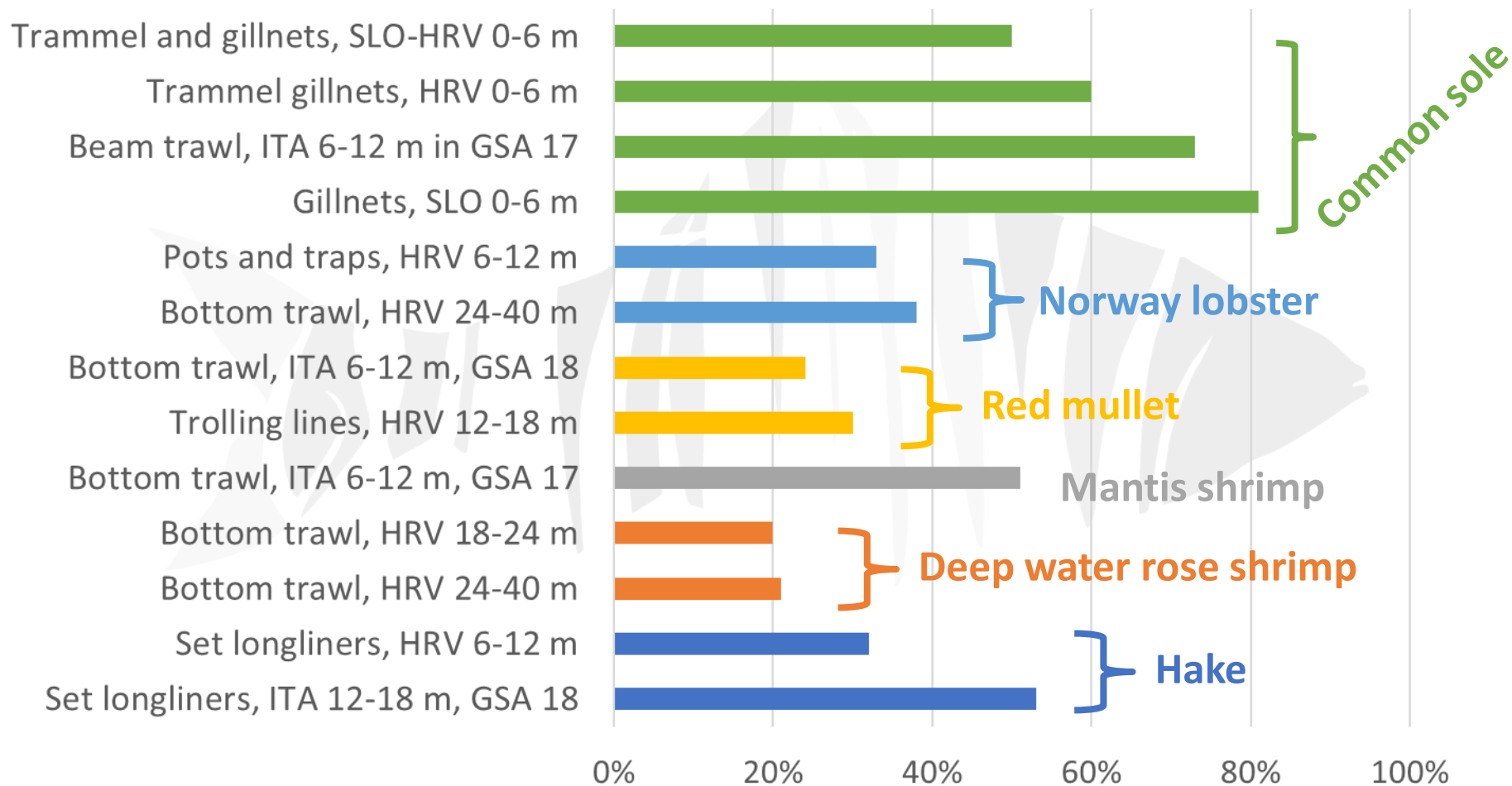
ECONOMIC FLEET DEPENDENCY

- ✓ All Bottom trawl vessels showed high dependency on Hake, Norway lobster and Deep-water rose shrimp.

Beside demersal trawl and demersal seiner segments, some other have high dependency on only one or two species depending on the area they operate

...some example on the highest economic fleet dependency in Adriatic...

Few examples of ECONOMIC FLEET DEPENDENCY



"It needs to be stressed that in some cases estimates at the gear level can be based on a small number of vessels." STECF 19-02

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON **FISHING EFFORT REGIME**



MEDAC members relevant notes:

- **WWF** supports the linear reduction scenario. In particular for *M. merluccius* and *N. norvegicus*.
- **MEDREACT** Fishing effort reduction should be based on 2019 effort level in order to be BELOW F_{msy} at the latest by 2024.
- **MEDREACT, Croatian Trawlers Ass. and HOK** Fishing effort should be allocated proportionally (impact reduction of the largest fishing fleets).
- **MEDREACT** Fishing effort reduction shall be based on a linear roadmap before the deadline. [...] A “remote” deadline (2020) without intermediate roadmap does not work.

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON **FISHING EFFORT REGIME**

MEDAC members relevant notes:



AGCI Agrital, Legacoop, Federcoopesca and Federpesca:

- The fishing effort regime is a valid management solution especially referring to the fishing days (necessary socio-economic support through EMFF to face the economical unsustainability)
- The diversified and not linear reduction of the effort between MS is not acceptable, considering the same reasons of the principle of relative stability.
- **Federpesca** believes that a change of philosophy is necessary in order to identify and regulate the number of days in which is authorized to fish and not vice versa

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON FRA to protect EFH (Essential Fish Habitat): Jabuka/Pomo pit (Rec. GFCM 41/2017/3)



MEDAC members relevant notes:

- **MEDAC Ref. 163/2019** acknowledged the results of the spatial measures that were implemented in the Jabuka/Pomo pit.
- **WWF, MEDREACT, Croatian Trawlers Ass., HOK, AGCI Agrital, Legacoop and Federcoopescas** hope that [...] further FRAs will be established in GSA 17 and 18.
- **WWF, AGCI Agrital, Legacoop, Federcoopescas and Federpesca**: any further FRA should be established according to the participatory process.
- **MEDREACT**: MEDAC opinion Ref 122/2019 (May 2019) supports [...] further develop FRA and MPA ensuring an effective protection of at least 10% of the Mediterranean Sea by 2020

DISAGREEMENT ON **SOLE SANCTUARY**

MEDAC members relevant notes:

- **WWF, MEDREACT, Croatian Trawlers Ass. and HOK** strongly support the establishment of the Sole Sanctuary according to the process developed when Jabuka Pit FRA was established, i.e. through participatory/bottom up approaches with all stakeholders.
- **MEDREACT** supports the 6nm closure with effort reduction too.
- **AGCI Agrital, Legacoop, Federcoopescas and Federpesca:** Sole Sanctuary is not necessary because the species showed large fluctuations in the quantity caught in the years. The forthcoming management measures for demersals will allow to calibrate further specific restrictions for common sole.



GENERAL AGREEMENT ON **OTHER RESTICTIONS**

MEDAC members relevant notes:



- **MEDAC Ref. 163/2019** The average depth of the Adriatic basin is 252 m (in GSA17 it rarely exceeds 100 m) and there are already several spatial constraints and restrictions. However, **MEDAC** supports the establishment of a FRA in the South Adriatic (Bari Canyon FRA).
- **WWF, Croatian Trawlers Ass., HOK and AGCI Agrital, Legacoop, Federcoopescas and Federpesca** support the identification and implementation (with the full involvement of stakeholders) of additional FRAs as a tool to reduce fishing mortality based on scientific results.
- **AGCI Agrital, Legacoop, Federcoopescas and Federpesca** recommend the need of socio-economic support for the enterprises impacted by the restrictions.

DISAGREEMENT ON DEPTH RESTRICTIONS

MEDAC members relevant notes:



- **MEDAC Ref. 163/2019** The average depth of the Adriatic basin is 252 m (in GSA17 it rarely exceeds 100 m) and there are already several spatial constraints and restrictions. **WWF** Nevertheless inshore trawling along Italian coasts should be strongly limited, both for demersals and small pelagics (beam trawls are able to catch juveniles within the Po river front).
- **MEDREACT, Croatian Trawlers and HOK** Additional depth restriction should be considered, in order to protect EFH in coastal waters, such as a closure to trawling below 500 meters depths.
- **AGCI Agrital, Legacoop, Federcoopesca and Federpesca** absolutely disagree with new depth restrictions, while they approve the already existent limitation foreseen in the art. 13 of Med Regulation (to 50 m depth) and the ban over 1000 m depth.

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON **DISTANCE FROM THE COAST**

MEDAC members relevant notes:



- **WWF** recommends considering recommendations of EU-funded sub regional projects (i.e. MANTIS) to identify suitable areas where management scenarios have been tested by scientists.
- **WWF and MEDREACT** Support the 6nm closure to towed gear combined with effort reduction
- **Birdlife** Spatial restrictions should take breeding, foraging, migration and wintering cycles of protected seabird species into account.
- **AGCI Agrital, Legacoop, Federcoopescas and Federpesca** don't fully disagree with the 6 nm closure, especially considering the objective of the modulation of effort reduction in terms of fishing days. However, the closure should be adapted according to the local marine morphology and it should include only the vessels over 15 m LOA.

DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW ON TEMPORAL CLOSURES

MEDAC members relevant notes:

- **WWF** recommends considering recommendations of EU-funded sub regional projects (i.e. MANTIS) to identify suitable areas where management scenarios have been tested by scientists.
- **WWF and MEDREACT** Support the 6nm closure to towed gear combined with effort reduction
- **MEDREACT** supports the linear reduction scenario tested by the SAC
- **Birdlife** Spatial restrictions should take breeding, foraging, migration and wintering cycles of protected seabird species into account.
- **Federpesca** The limitation of fishing days is acceptable if shared with the other countries facing the Adriatic and if supported by socio-economic measures for supplementing incomes (EMFF compensations).





GENERAL AGREEMENT ON GEAR RESTRICTIONS

MEDAC members relevant notes:

- **WWF** suggests taking into consideration the results of Minouw project (grids, lights, guarding nets) adopted on a temporal base or included as management measures to allow fisheries in FRAs buffer zones
- **MEDREACT:** A precautionary moratorium on rapido trawlers should be considered
- **Birdlife:** For longliners, which are the main potential threat, the following measures should be considered in the first instance: tori lines, changes to line weights, hook shielding, and night-setting
- **Croatian Trawlers Association and HOK** support the enforcement of the already existing regulations on mesh size.

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON **MANAGEMENT OF FLEET CAPACITY**

MEDAC members relevant notes:



- **MEDAC Ref. 163/2019** MEDAC pointed out that for each alternative management measure fleet capacity should also be taken into account, to make sure the number of vessels that would be sustainable after the implementation of a given measure is known
- **WWF, Croatian Trawlers Association, HOK, AGCI Agrital, Legacoop and Federcoopesca:** Fishing capacity shouldn't be increased. Croatian Trawlers Association, HOK, AGCI Agrital, Legacoop and Federcoopesca support the fund provision for scrapping
- **Federpesca** reiterates the need to always use data updated to 2018 (post scrapping)
- **MEDREACT** Supports the introduction of an authorized list of vessels (ban from the area for repeated infringements). Provisions on transfer of fishing rights must also be included in the MAP.



DISAGREEMENT ON MINIMUM CONSERVATION REFERENCE SIZE

MEDAC members relevant notes:

- **WWF** recommends adding MCRS for the species listed in the table “Stocks and gears”. In particular those missing from the EU Reg. 1967/06 (*P.kerathurus*, *Squilla mantis*, *Sepia officinalis*)
- **Croatian Trawlers Association, HOK, MEDREACT and Federpesca:** MCRS should be based on best scientific advice.
- **AGCI Agrital, Legacoop and Federcoopescas** disagree with the revision of MCRS.



GENERAL AGREEMENT ON **VMS AND ELECTRONIC LOGBOOK**

MEDAC members relevant notes:

- **WWF, MEDREACT, Croatian Trawlers Association and HOK:** All fishing vessels must have VMS and electronic logbook
- **Birdlife** recommends monitoring and reporting bycatch (seabirds included)
- **AGCI Agrital, Legacoop, Federcoopesca and Federpesca:** the electronic monitoring of trawlers should not require additional burden for the enterprises, and it should be based on the already existent technologies almost at zero costs. The electronic record of catches should be taken into consideration also for small vessels.

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON PILOT PROJECT FOR JOINT INSPECTION SCHEMES



MEDAC members relevant notes:

- **WWF and Federpesca** Pilot project for joint inspection schemes should be identified both in Croatia and Italy, but also in Montenegro and Albania (within a GFCM data collection framework).
- **Croatian Trawlers Association, HOK, MEDREACT, AGCI Agrital, Legacoop, Federcoopescas and Federpesca** support joint inspection schemes.

OTHER MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Before the implementation of technical/management measures in the Multiannual plan of demersals:

- A socio-economic analysis should be carried out and
- The stakeholder's consultation in evaluating the socio-economic implications is needed (Source MEDAC Ref. 164/2019).



MEDAC MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS:

MEDREACT - Any analysis should be based on best available data; pursuant to the definition of the precautionary principle, the lack of scientific evidences should not be used as a pretext to delay recovery measures.