



Cooperation for reinforcing integrated MCS measures in the Strait of Sicily 2017 - 2020

MEDAC, Rome
19 February 2020



Overview of cooperation 2017-20



- 2016** - **GFCM Rec. GFCM/40/2016/4** adopted requiring by 2018 the establishment of inspection and control programme
 - Pilot Project launched
- 2017** - **GFCM Rec. GFCM/41/2017/8 (JSIS)** adopted
 - Permanent cooperation with GFCM CPCs developed
- 2018** - Permanent cooperation with GFCM CPCs maintained
- 2019** - Integrated into EU JDP + cooperation maintained



Background - 2017 Pilot Project



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



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.

This created groundwork for ongoing cooperation on the basis of:

- 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**



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



2018 - 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
- 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**



General findings from 2017-2020



- 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

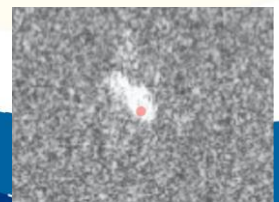
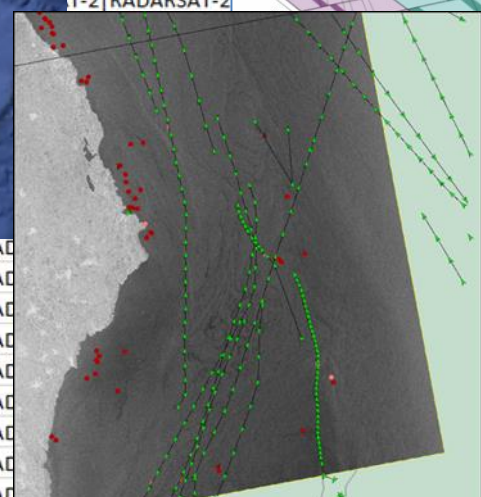
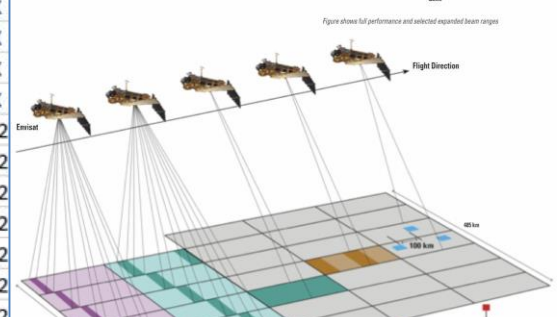
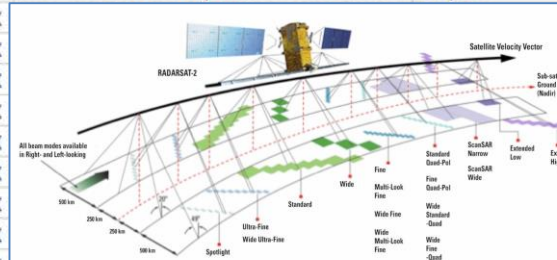
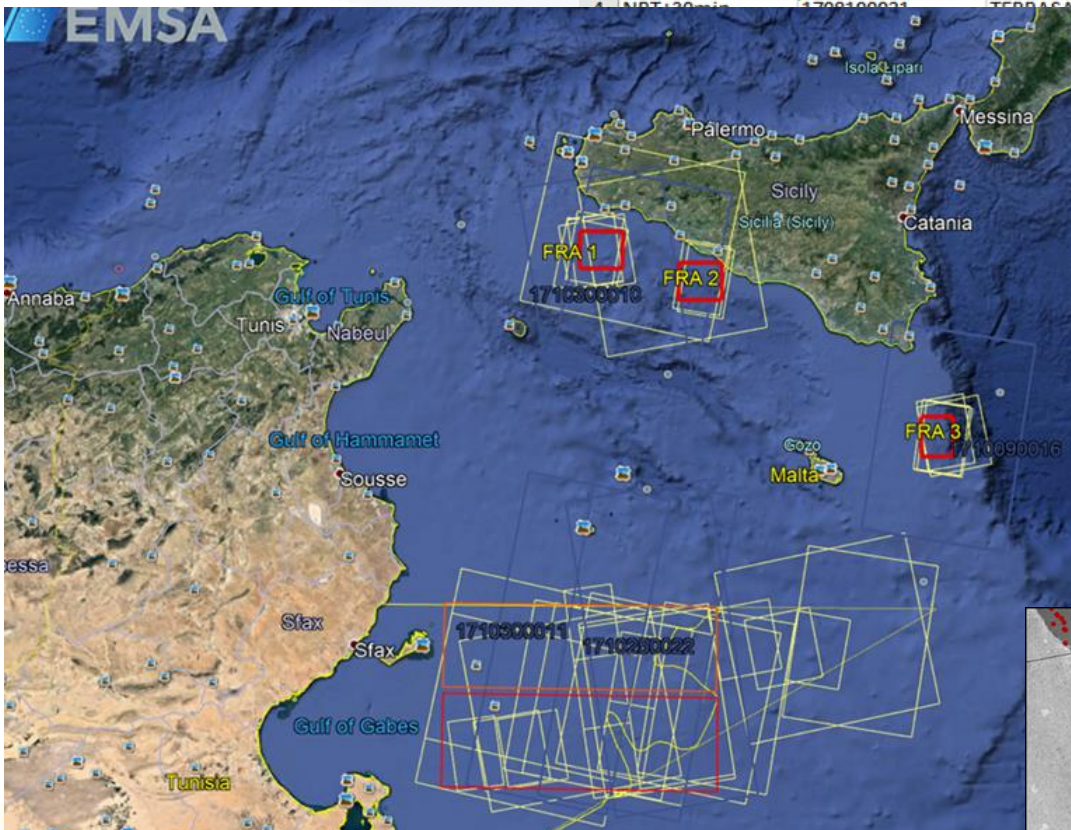


EFCA operated means



Satellite acquisition planning

1	Service Type	Service Identifie	Satellite	Acquisition start time	Sensor Mode	AREA
2	NRT+90min	1708090019	TERRASAR-X TERRASAR-X	2017-08-09 05:11:55 2017-08-09 05:11:55	SM SM	FRA03
3	NRT+90min	1708090018	TERRASAR-X TERRASAR-X	2017-08-09 05:12:32 2017-08-09 05:12:32	SM SM	GSA
4	NRT+90min	1708100031	TERRASAR-X TERRASAR-X	2017-08-10 17:04:49 2017-08-10 17:04:49	SM SM	GSA



31	NRT	1708230015	RADARSAT-2			
32	NRT	1708230016	RADARSAT-2			
33	NRT	1708230017	RADARSAT-2			
34	NRT	1708250016	RADARSAT-2			
35	NRT	1708250017	RADARSAT-2			
36	NRT	1708270017	RADARSAT-2			
37	NRT	1708270018	RADARSAT-2			
38	NRT	1708280009	RADARSAT-2			
39	NRT	1708290012	RADARSAT-2			

08-20 05:02:22	U20W2 U20W2	FRA02
08-20 05:02:34	U7W2 U7W2	FRA03
08-20 05:03:01	U18W2 U18W2	GSA
08-22 16:59:22	U12W2 U12W2	FRA03
08-23 05:14:49	U6W2 U6W2	FRA01
08-23 05:15:34	U5W2 U5W2	GSA
08-23 05:15:42	U5W2 U5W2	GSA
08-25 17:11:21	XF0W3 XF0W3	GSA
08-25 17:12:11	U22W2 U22W2	FRA02
08-27 04:58:13	U27W2 U27W2	FRA02
08-27 04:59:01	U25W2 U25W2	GSA
08-28 17:23:52	U26W2 U26W2	GSA
08-29 16:55:13	U5W2 U5W2	FRA03



No. inspections/non-compliance 2017-20



TYPE	2017	2018	2019
Sightings	206	213	201
Inspections	69	57	48
TOTAL	275	270	249
Inspection with >1 PNC*	32	30	25

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

FRONTEX flights - 154 sightings in 2017, 54 in 2018 and 156 in 2019*

*provisional

EFCA operations - 2019



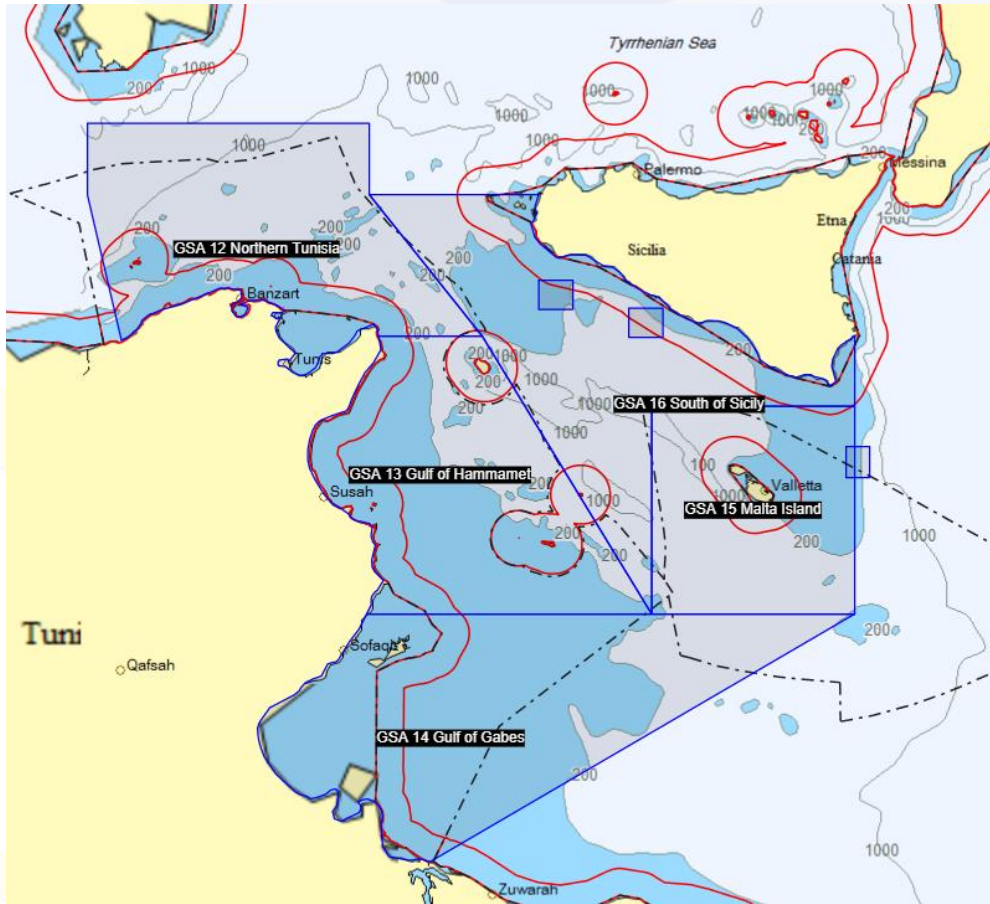
Campaign	EU inspectors OPV	TC* Inspectors OPV	EU Participants EFCA CC**	TC Participants EFCA CC**	Nr of IR	IR with PNC	Nr of PNC	Sightings
Strait of Sicily	CYP, GRC, HRV, ITA, MLT	DZA, LBY, TUN	ITA, MLT	DZA, LBY, TUN	48	25	42	45

TC* - Third countries

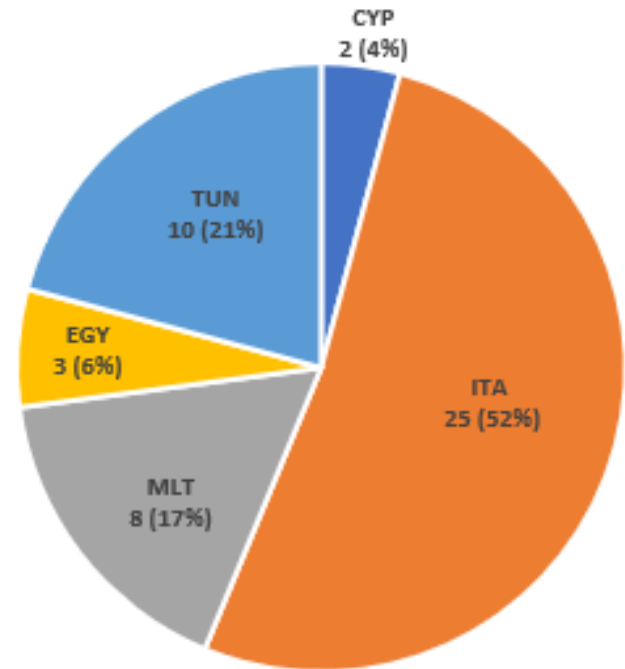
EFCA CC** - EFCA Coordination Center in Vigo

IR – Inspection Report

Strait of Sicily - 2019



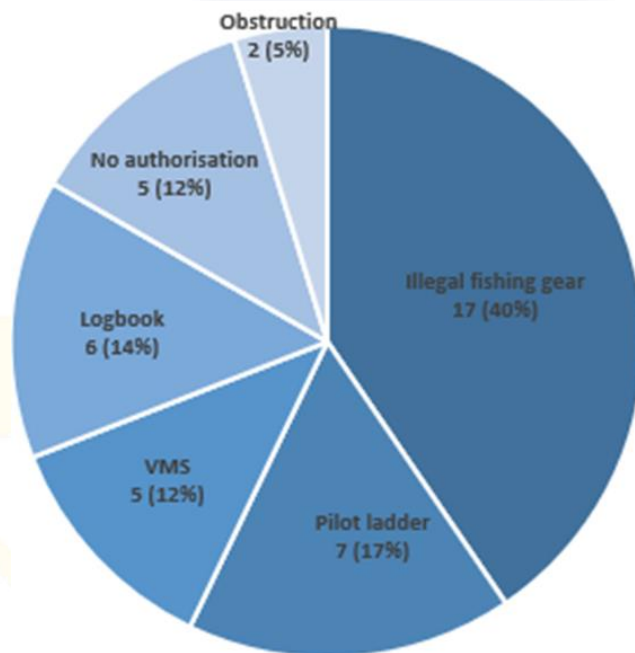
TOTAL NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS 48



Inspections split by Flag State of the FV

Strait of Sicily - 2019

TOTAL NUMBER OF PNCs 42



PNCs split by type



General assessment of fishing activities



- Based on sightings, inspections and satellite detections, trawlers operate throughout GSA 12-16 areas (vessels from 3rd countries where non-authorised vessels continue to operate)
- 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



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 illustrate the main typology of fishing activities observed and potential strengths and weaknesses of current GFCM control and inspection measures
- The establishment of GFCM/41/2017/8 ensures that boarding's and inspections follow a common approach to fight 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 effectiveness of new and existing GFCM conservation and management measures



Cooperation for 2020



- Activities foreseen in 2020 (capacity building + sea/air operations)
- Promotion of ongoing dialogue and cooperation to fully implement GFCM Recommendations
- Outputs fully support GFCM Technical Working Groups and generally strengthens GFCM adoption of effective measures
- Cooperation integrated into EFCA's forthcoming work programmes
- Level playing field is key between EU and neighboring CPCs and will be promoted

