



TOWARDS A MAP FOR SMALL PELAGICS IN THE ADRIATIC SEA

Previous MEDAC OPINIONS AND CONTRIBUTION



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MEDAC ADVICE ON LTMP FOR SMALL PELAGICS in GSA 17

In the Advice Ref. 94/2016,

- based on several meetings held in 2014-2015,
- involving scientific experts and representatives of the fishery sector,

the MEDAC suggested the **traffic light approach**



Nevertheless, the STECF spring Plenary in 2016 was unable to identify the scientific basis of the proposal and it could not assess whether it would bring about fishing mortalities compatible at Maximum Sustainable Yield level by 2020.

(DG MARE Ref. Ares (2016)2611324 – 06/06/2016)

Advice Ref. 94/2016 – Socio-economic aspects

Moreover, in the Advice Ref. 94/2016 the suggestions related to the socio-economic aspects state that:

“Before the adoption of the management plan (Considering Art. 2 of the Reg. 1380/2013) the MEDAC finds important to obtain evaluation of impacts of the possible management measures on food availability and socio-economic aspects on the fishing enterprises”

A minimum 3-year plan duration, or more, will allow fishing enterprises to plan their investments on the basis of a reasonable timeframe

About the draft EU Regulation on Small Pelagics MAP in Adriatic, the main issues raised up during the meeting included:

- The **shortcoming in the available data** caused uncertainties on the measures included in the draft Reg;
- **Environmental fluctuations** should be considered as a factor influencing the recruitment of small pelagics as well as the spawning biomass;
- **No socioeconomical analysis** has been carried out. In particular should be focused on social impact on the local communities;
- **The management measures can be effective only if shared with fishers:** a TAC system could impact on the cooperation between Italian and Croatian fishers and can be ineffective in the Med.

Croatian fishery sector observations on draft MAP:

- In 2018, the **observations at sea by the fishermen** shown an improvement of the stock status (whereas the stock assessment results shown a worsening stock status) probably due to the measures already adopted.
- Some doubts on the **quality of available data** and the consequent reliability of MSY and biomass/recruitment evaluation have been explained.
- The management of small pelagics should be based on an updated resource status and predictions should be for a period of few years.
- The **time required by STECF for the revision of measures** implemented in the MAP should be the shortest possible.

Croatian fishery sector observations on STECF EWG 18-01
“Data gaps and Biomass Escapement Strategy for Adriatic anchovy and sardine”:

- Some **doubts about the eco-survey data**: the biomass escapement strategy is applied in other countries where a «real time monitoring» is carried out and the fishing vessels are surveyed in real time by scientists.
- In GSAs 17 and 18 no data on biomass exists and this value is estimated considering landings only. Moreover, some doubts raised up on data available in estimating the natural mortality.
- A **greater involvement of stakeholders** impacted by the new management measures is expected

The main concerns raised up during the FG Adriatic held on June 2019:

- *The available data series of small pelagics from 1970 to 2000 are not really robust;*
- *It is important the evaluation of the socio-economic aspects;*
- *Due to the management measures adopted by GFCM, the effort notably decreased in the last years. Nevertheless, no encouraging results have been noted.*

About the results carried out by the GFCM SRC-AS meeting 2019, the main issues raised up concerned:

- *The benchmark of sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) and anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) was not yet been concluded due to some inconsistencies in the historical data series;*



Need of precautionary approach with the consequent socio-economic impact on the fishing sector.

The coordinator of the Adriatic FG suggested the improvement of the previous MEDAC advice on MAP of small pelagics (Ref. 94/2016), as a starting point of the MEDAC opinion on the new MAP.

WKMSE – Workshop on the Assessment of management measures for small-pelagic and demersal species in the Adriatic Sea



At the meeting an unforeseen discussion on socioeconomic component through consultations between the scientific experts, administration experts and stakeholders has been held



Towards the identification of the social and economic data required to advance towards the assessment of the potential socio-economic impact of alternative measures.

MEDAC contribution to the GFCM - WKMSE

Croatian, Italian and Slovenian MEDAC members suggested the evaluation of the following indicators:

- ✓ Number of enterprises and workers,
- ✓ Profitability of enterprises by fishery,
- ✓ Fleet composition,
- ✓ Other activities depending on fishery (i.e. processing sector) and
- ✓ the Impact on certain traditional activities

Segmentation by:

- Country;
- GSA;
- Gear;
- Target species

As comment, the Adriatic MEDAC members of the fishery sector reported the **socioeconomic difficulties faced by fishers in the current implementation** of the measures and limitations, and requested to avoid tighter emergency measures.

The socioeconomic analysis of management measures currently in place and of the management options for the 2021 MAP in the Adriatic Sea, should take into consideration the impact:

- On the traditional fleet
- Through case studies at local level



Some suggestion about a Scientific expert in Adriatic on this topic by MEDAC members?