



Ref.: 158/REL

Rome, 10 June 2011

MED RAC – REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON SHARED STOCKS

ROME, 19 APRIL 2011

1. The Working group on shared stocks met in Rome on 19 April 2011 with the aim to update and identify the fishing activities and zones where the management of resources with fisheries is to be shared with non-EU countries.
2. The MED RAC Executive Secretary opened the meeting and thanked the participants for their attendance. She informed them on the aim of the working group, on the rules of procedure established for MED RAC working groups and on the dual role of the coordinator who deals with the coordination of the group and informing the Executive Committee on the group's results. The meeting agenda was then approved and Corrado Piccinetti, professor from the University of Bologna was appointed coordinator, and Mario Ferretti of Federcoopesca, his substitute.
3. Piccinetti took the floor and introduced item 4 on the Agenda, giving examples of the species shared by EU and non-EU countries, such as, Malta, Tunisia and Italy, which all fish in the Strait of Sicily. It was proposed to use as a working paper the list of shared stocks approved by the GFCM (SAC) Scientific Committee in 2006. The role of the RAC could be of that to examine the state of the fish resources, taking into account both the species and the gear to work out possible management plans to better monitor the resource.
4. Pepma pointed out that, in this list, there were no shared stocks mentioned for the Eastern Mediterranean. Moreover, she underlined, that Greece, having many stocks shared with Turkey, and having to comply with EU legislation, had to compete with Turkey that fished with larger boats, allowing for continual fishing and taking advantage of the 6 nautical miles in fishing the same species - anchovies, mullet, hake and prawns. She concluded, saying that the Turkish fishing should be considered as IUU fishing and, therefore, prohibited. It is hoped that appropriate coordination plans will be set up so as to standardize the real-time closure fishing, also in non-EU countries.
5. Coordinator Piccinetti recalled that non-EU countries were not obliged to comply with EU rules but a more rational and agreed on plan would be helpful to establish common rules.
6. Ferretti then recalled that the objective of this working group was to identify the shared stocks, then after it would be up to the EC to negotiate bilateral agreements with non-EU countries (such as, for example, Turkey).



7. The representative from the Italian ministry spoke stressing that it was of the utmost importance and urgency to implement management plans with non-EU countries, especially in view of the reform of the CFP and its following new regulation. Italy is one of the countries that has suffered the most, as, like Greece, it only operated in the Mediterranean. She reminded all that it would be fundamental that the EC focused on standardizing the European regulations with those in force in non-EU countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea. This opinion was shared by all, also the Spanish member.
8. Oceana agreed and underlined how important it was to standardize the common technical measures, especially for safeguarding the habitats, considering that there was still very little information available on some species.
9. After an exchange of views on the different shared stocks in the Mediterranean basin, it was decided to tackle the issue more pragmatically, lacking a complete vision regarding the stocks being fished, also by non-EU countries. Fiorentino, representing CNR on behalf of Mazzara del Vallo, gave the example of the pink prawn from the Strait of Sicily which, by volume and fishing typology, was a priority shared stock of Italy, Malta and Tunisia. Due to a continual decline in the Italian fishing catch, the level of the stocks, for the Italian part, was improving, while the Tunisian stocks were more exploited.
10. The WWF pointed out that it was unthinkable in the short term to draw up a management plan for the pink prawn that would also include Tunisia.
11. IVEAEMPA intervened suggesting to not only talk about management plans with non-EU countries, but to also take into consideration other socio-economic and geo-political aspects within the framework of an integrated maritime policy, as, for example, in the case of Spanish-Moroccan relations.
12. The representative from the Spanish ministry presented the example of the Alboran Sea, where both Spain and Morocco fish, and underlined how it was hoped that the measures adopted by Spain were also shared by Morocco. The coordinator confirmed that this could happen either within the GFCM or through a management plan that would be discussed, drawn up and approved by Spain, Morocco and the EU.
13. Concerning the Upper Adriatic, the coordinator mentioned that it would be preferable if the collaborative project to develop coordinated and common fishery rules among the Italian Adriatic regions, Slovenia and Croatia were completed. The representative from KGZS mentioned that Slovenia was developing management plans, and thanks also to the help of AdriaMed it was filling in the gaps on the state of the fish resources, and that, therefore, it was too early to think about a coordination with other countries.
14. Costantini from WWF pointed out that the countries of the Upper Adriatic not only shared the fish resources but also the zones (see Natura 2000), and it would be better to avoid an overlapping between these two paths.
15. Ferretti proposed to begin to identify the shared species. The coordinator agreed and recalled how important it was, once the shared stocks were identified, to individuate the gear.
16. The work continued after the lunch break, coordinated by Ferretti who proposed to subdivide the list of shared stocks (approved by SAC 2006) based on importance – primary and secondary.



17. Pepma mentioned that the list was not complete, regarding only the Western Mediterranean, and would send an official declaration for the complete information.
18. Ferretti responded affirming that even if the list had been presented in a COPEMED paper, it had, however, been studied and adopted by the GFCM Scientific Committee, and therefore, included the entire Mediterranean basin. After a long debate the shared stocks were identified, as listed below:

MEDRAC Shared Stock List (19/04/2011) - based on SAC's Rome 2006

English common name	Scientific name	Area	Countries	MED RAC 's Species List by priority
Dolphin fish	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	Western Mediterranean.	Italy, Malta, Spain and Tunisia	Secondary
Horned octopus	<i>Eledone cirrhosa</i>	Adriatic Sea	Albania, Croatia, Italy and SerbiaMontenegro	Primary
Musky octopus	<i>Eledone moschata</i>	Adriatic Sea	Albania, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia and Serbia-Montenegro	Primary
Anchovy	<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	Adriatic Sea	Albania, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia and Serbia-Montenegro	Primary
Anchovy	<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	Aegean Sea	Greece and Turkey	Primary
Anchovy	<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	Gulf of Lions	France and Spain	Primary
Shortfin mako	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	All Mediterranean	All countries	Excluded by Consensus*
Porbeagle	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	All Mediterranean	All countries	
European squid	<i>Loligo vulgaris</i>	Adriatic Sea	Albania, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia and Serbia-Montenegro	Primary
Blackbellied angler	<i>Lophius budegassa</i>	Adriatic Sea	Albania, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia and Serbia-Montenegro	Secondary
Monkfish or angler	<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>	Adriatic Sea	Albania, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia and Serbia-Montenegro	Secondary
Hake	<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Adriatic Sea	Albania, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia and Serbia-Montenegro	Primary
Hake	<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Gulf of Lions	France and Spain	Primary
Hake	<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	North Tyrrhenian and Corsica	Italy and France	Primary
Hake	<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Sicily Channel	Italy, Tunisia, Libya and Malta	Primary



Blue whiting	<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	Adriatic Sea	Albania, Croatia, Italy and Serbia-Montenegro	Secondary
Blue whiting	<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	North Tyrrhenian and Corsica	Italy and France	Secondary
Red mullet	<i>Mullus barbatus</i>	Western Mediterranean	Corsica and Sardinia	Primary
Red mullet	<i>Mullus barbatus</i>	Adriatic Sea	Albania, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia and Serbia-Montenegro	Primary
Striped red mullet	<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>	Western Mediterranean	Corsica and Sardinia	Primary
Norway lobster	<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Adriatic Sea	Albania, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia and Serbia-Montenegro	Primary
Norway lobster	<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	North Tyrrhenian and Corsica	Italy and France	Primary
Black spot seabream	<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>	Alboran Sea and the Straits of Gibraltar	Spain and Morocco	Primary
Common pandora	<i>Pagellus erythrinus</i>	Adriatic Sea	Albania, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia and Serbia-Montenegro	Secondary
Common spiny lobster	<i>Palinurus elephas</i>	Western Mediterranean	Corsica and Sardinia	Primary
Common spiny lobster	<i>Palinurus elephas</i>	Sicily channel	Tunisia and Italy	Primary
Pink spiny lobster	<i>Palinurus mauritanicus</i>	Sicily channel	Tunisia and Italy	Primary
Deepwater rose shrimp	<i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i>	Adriatic Sea	Albania, Croatia, Italy and Serbia-Montenegro	Primary
Blue shark	<i>Prionace glauca</i>	All Mediterranean	All countries	Excluded by Consensus*
Sardine	<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	Adriatic Sea	Albania, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia and Serbia-Montenegro	Primary
Sardine	<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	Aegean Sea	Greece and Turkey	Primary
Atlantic mackerel	<i>Scomber scomber</i>	Adriatic Sea	Albania, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia and Serbia-Montenegro	Secondary
Common cuttlefish	<i>Sepia officinalis</i>	Adriatic Sea	Albania, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia and Serbia-Montenegro	Primary
Common sole	<i>Solea vulgaris</i>	Adriatic Sea	Albania, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia and Serbia-Montenegro	Primary



Sprat	<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	Adriatic Sea	Croatia, Italy, Slovenia	Secondary
Albacore	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	All Mediterranean	All countries	Primary
Bluefin tuna	<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	All Mediterranean	All countries	Primary
Swordfish	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	All Mediterranean	All countries	Primary
Whiting	<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Adriatic Sea	Slovenia, Italy and Croatia	Primary**
Scabbardfish	<i>Lepidopus Caudatus</i>	All Mediterranean	All countries	Secondary**

*The group decided to exclude these species because they were not important from a commercial point of view, and were generally only an accessory catch. In fact, WWF believed there was a confusion in the terminology between the action plan for sharks, adopted by FAO, and the list of shared species.

** The group added these two species to those listed by SAC because whiting was considered important for the Upper Adriatic and scabbard-fish had been recently fished a lot using long lines.

19. The list was approved by all participants, with the proviso of Pepma who requested to be able to send the additions afterwards. The Executive Secretary closed the meeting reminding all that any comments had to be sent to the Secretariat by Friday 29 April.

