



European
Commission



An EU strategy for sustainable fisheries in the Mediterranean

Monique PARIAT

Director for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and
Fisheries – European Commission

Structure

- Implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy in the EU
- International cooperation & promotion of level playing field in the Mediterranean
- Compliance, monitoring and control policy
- The role of the MedRAC



Implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy in the Mediterranean



Mediterranean Regulation (1967/2006)

Main obligations for Member States

- Adoption **management plans** for trawlers, boat seines, shore seines, surrounding nets & dredges **by end 2007**
- Comply with **gear specifications** (in part. minimum mesh sizes); transitional period until **31 May 2010**
- Comply with **minimum catching sizes of marine organisms**
- To identify and map **protected habitats** and to establish **Fishing Protected Areas (FPAs)**



Mediterranean Regulation (1967/2006)

State of Play

- **Management plans:** progress in preparation and adoption in the last 2 years - efforts still needed to complete them
- **Minimum mesh sizes:** not fully implemented, particularly for trawlers – frequent irregularities found during verification mission
- **Minimum catching size:** frequent irregularities found during verification missions
- **Protected habitats:** only partial mapping by some Member States

State of play of the Mediterranean Management Plans by fishing gear

Member State	Adopted by MS	In process of adoption	Missing
CYPRUS	Bottom trawlers (1 MP)		
FRANCE			All fisheries
GREECE	Purse seiners exploiting small pelagic (1 MP)		Bottom trawlers (1 MP) & boat seines (1 MP)
ITALY	Purse seines and Bottom trawlers (2 MP *) and Boat seines (only GSA 9)		Dredges (in all the areas)
MALTA			All fisheries
SLOVENIA			All fisheries
SPAIN		Boat seines (2 MP) Purse seines & trawlers (1 MP)	Boat seines (1 MP), dredges (3 MP)
CROATIA			Purse seines, bottom trawlers, and shore seines (3 MP)

(*) Purse seines : five GSAs + Sicily, Bottom trawlers: seven GSAs + Sicily

Mediterranean Regulation (1967/2006)

State of Play (FPAs)

- FPAs have been established by most Member States
- Complete overview of FPAs in Member States is being prepared by the COM

Member State	Approved	In preparation	Unknown
CROATIA	---	---	x
CYPRUS	1	2	
FRANCE	---	---	x
GREECE	4	2	
ITALY	---	---	x
MALTA	13	2	
SLOVENIA	2	---	
SPAIN	20	2	



Mediterranean Regulation (1967/2006)

In 2013, the Commission will

- **Monitor very closely** the completion of Management Plans
- Carry out **verifications to verify** the implementation of minimum mesh size and minimum catching size
- Complete a **study** which will compile all available information to map protected habitats and spawning areas
- Take **full stock of mapping** of habitats already produced by Member States



A new MS on 1 July 2013 : **Croatia**

Sign Accession Treaty 9 December 2011

66% of Croatian voters in referendum wish to join the EU

Process of ratification of Agreement by Member States:
ratification pending for 3 Member States

Subject to ratification by all EU countries and Croatia, the country
will become **EU member** on **1 July 2013**



Croatia and the Common fisheries Policy

- **Increased efforts needed** in the areas of **fleet & resource management, inspection & control** and **structural policy**
- Croatia has already submitted **3 draft management plans** (bottom trawl, purse seines and shore seines)
- Need to ensure the phasing-out of the specific category of "non-commercial fisheries"
- Completion of the **satellite based vessel monitoring system** due by March 2013



Stakeholders group in Croatia

- Industry is represented through 2 main **umbrella institutions** ("Croatian Chamber of Economy", "Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts") and **18 fishery cooperatives** recognized by the Ministry of Agriculture. Some of them will have the **possibility to outgrow into producer organizations**, as recognized by EU legislation
- There are **several environment and consumer protection NGOs** active in fisheries sector and a wide **network of recreational and sports** fishing associations
- **Research institutions**: Institute for Oceanography and Fisheries Split and Institute Ruđer Bošković Zagreb



International cooperation and the promotion of level playing field in the Mediterranean

- GFCM
- ICCAT
- Other cooperation activities & enlargement process

GFCM

Outcome of the GFCM 36th session (Marrakech, 2012)

- Adoption of **3 new recommendations** based on EU proposals (Red coral, cetacean by-catch & shark conservation)
- Resolution on **Allocated Zones for Aquaculture**
- Adoption of **EU proposed Guidelines** for a **methodological framework for multiannual management plans** (GFCM area) and promotion of the **sub-regional approach** through the **GFCM Task Force**
- Signature of **MoUs** to intensify cooperation, including with **UNEP/MAP and ICES**

GFCM

Actions launched in 2012

- EU Grant Agreements signed with FAO/GFCM in 2012.
Main objectives:
 - To improve **data collection & assessment** in the GFCM area
 - To promote the **adoption of multiannual management plans** (MMPs), starting with the Adriatic and the Black Sea

GFCM

Main issues currently on the agenda

- **Making the GFCM a modern and more efficient RFMO**
(quality of scientific advice, GFCM working methods, and level of compliance)
- **Reinforcing** the GFCM **data collection and assessment** frameworks
- **Promoting** work at sub-regional level through the adoption of multiannual management plans (Adriatics, Black Sea,)

ICCAT – Bluefin tuna

Reinforced recovery plan:

- **Amended on the basis of:**

Strengthened **management & control** measures, eradication of **previous loopholes** and weaknesses and **incorporation** of **scientific advice**

- **In particular:**

New protocols for **improved data collection & traceability** (farming sector), enhanced system for the **management of fishing & farming capacity, shifting of open fishing seasons** for purse seine and bait-boat sectors. No stock assessment in 2013 (but foreseen for 2014)



ICCAT – Priorities for 2013

- Implementation of new measures for control and traceability in farming / trap sectors
- Management of bycatch and catch reporting measures
- Control of transfers and towing vessels at sea
- Enforcement of the closed fishing seasons
- SCRS working group meetings foreseen in 2013 on biological parameters and stock assessment methods
- On-going development of eBCD system and participation (before March 2014 obligation)
- Importance of enhanced coordination with 3rd countries



ICCAT – Priorities for 2013

- First full year of implementation of the Mediterranean Swordfish management measures (Recommendation [11-03]):
- Stock assessment foreseen this year
- Priority is the respect of the technical measures in particular closure periods, and;
- Importance of enhanced coordination with 3rd countries



Other cooperation activities

Regional projects contribute to the improvement of scientific advice in the Mediterranean by:

Enhancing the capacity of involved countries to develop national measures and to participate actively in the relevant regional frameworks for sustainable fisheries management

And therefore....

Improving the provision and sharing of scientific work and data among EU and non-EU partner countries

Other cooperation activities

Regional Projects

- **Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea, **ADRIAMED****: Albania, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia and Montenegro
- **Coordination to Support Fisheries Management in the Western and Central Mediterranean, **COPEMED****: Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia
- **Scientific and Institutional Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Eastern Mediterranean, **EASTMED****: Cyprus, Egypt, Gaza Strip and West Bank, Greece, Italy, Lebanon and Turkey
- **Assessment and Monitoring of the Fishery Resources and the Ecosystems in the Straits of Sicily, **MEDSUDMED****: Italy, Libya, Malta and Tunisia



Enlargement and bilateral cooperation

EU- **Turkey** Fisheries Dialogue

- After the visit of the Commissioner to Turkey (in 2010), DG MARE and Turkey developed **fisheries technical cooperation (EU-Turkey Dialogue Working Group)**
- Examples of concrete cooperation activities: 2011 and 2012 Bluefin tuna campaign and discussions on topics of common interest to be developed in the framework of GFCM
- It is foreseen to enlarge the Working Group competences by including Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) issues

Other bilateral cooperation

- **Egypt ?**
- **Libya ?**
- **Tunisia ?**



Compliance, monitoring and control policy



Verification, inspection and audit programme (anticipated problems)

- Systematic deficiencies regarding monitoring, control and inspection issues
- Poor implementation of control regulation and implementing measures
- Poor implementation of Mediterranean regulation regarding technical measures
- Compliance with the BFT recovery plan and impact on the stock assessment



Verification, inspection and audit programme (main objectives)

- Audit and verification missions as follow-up of:
 - The infringement procedures
 - The Actions Plans adopted by the Commission and MS
- Verifications mission regarding implementation of the Mediterranean Regulation
- Verification of the control, monitoring and compliance with the BFT recovery plan and the management measures for Med swordfish



The role of the MedRAC: present and future

How can MedRAC help at present ?

Implementation of the CFP in the EU

- **Assisting in definition/adoption of management plans** (feedback on state of the stocks, gears selectivity, species' life-cycle, characteristics of artisanal fisheries...)
- **Co-operating with scientists** (sharing knowledge on stocks and habitats)
- Helping in the **definition/consistent application** of some technical measures (e.g. justification for using 50 diamond mesh in trawl nets)

How can MedRAC help at present?

Implementation of the CFP in the EU

- Eliminating catches of undersized fish (by **improving selectivity**)
- Identifying **possible FPAs, best practices** for their management and by creating of **FPAs networks**
- Ensuring efficient **participation** of **Croatian** representatives in the Rac as quickly as possible

How can MedRAC help at present?

International cooperation and level playing field in the Mediterranean:

- Providing **input** regarding: **the GFCM reform**, the setting-up of **GFCM Multi-annual Management Plans** (e.g.: for the Adriatic, etc.)
- Helping to **improve the quality of available data**
- Issuing **advices supported on liable scientific advice** (e.g.: from FAO's regional projects)
- **Promoting compliance** (ICCAT, GFCM rules)



How can MedRAC help at present?

Compliance, monitoring and control policy

- **Cooperation with national authorities** when these perform controls
- **Information** on possible deficiencies in the system
- **Reporting** the national authorities and the Commission on lack of Compliance

How can MedRac help for the (near) future ?

- **The discussion on the future** role, composition and functioning of the future **Advisory Councils is still undergoing** (Inter-Rac meeting scheduled for 1 March 2013, Brussels). MedRAC will be expected to continue providing the kind of input mentioned before, and will additionally be involved in the preparation of new technical and conservation measures linked to the CFP Reform
- On **Discards / landing obligations and plans** : The landing obligation will trigger in automatically by effect of the basic regulation at the foreseen dates. This will concern all **EU fisheries and quota species**, as well as species in the **Mediterranean** subject to minimum catching sizes.
- MedRAC can contribute to the **identification of technical considerations** to implement this obligation in the Med.
 - **When** : by 1 January 2014 and all other Med fisheries between 2016-2019 (to be confirmed)
 - **How** : Recommendations to the MS for discard plans at the regional level (based on initiatives have already been taken in the North Sea, the Baltic and the Atlantic).

Main key dates in 2013

- GFCM - Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) - 15th Session, 8-11 April 2013, Cairo, Egypt
- RACMED WG 3: GFCM Related Issues, 17 April 2013, Algeria
- GFCM annual session 2013: 13-17 May 2013, Split, Croatia
- Agreement on the reform ?
- Croatia's accession: 1 July 2013
- ICCAT 23rd Annual Meeting of the Commission: 18-25 November 2013, Cape Town, South Africa