



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**General Fisheries Commission  
for the Mediterranean**

# Sub-regional multiannual management plans at the **GFCM**

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**MEDAC WORKING GROUP ON GFCM RELATED ISSUES**  
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# The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

- **1949** Constitutive **Agreement under FAO Article XIV**

- Competence over the **Mediterranean and Black Sea**

- **24 Members**: 19 Med, 3 BS, Japan and UE. Cooperation with non-member riparian states and with other organizations through Memoranda of Understanding

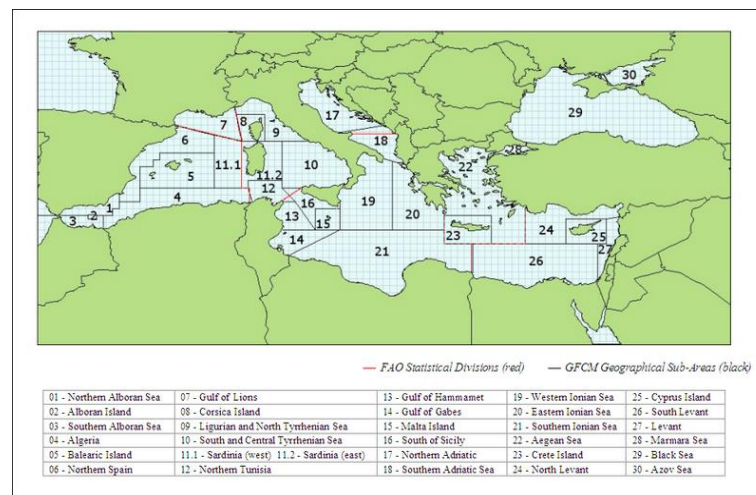
- Power to adopt annually **binding recommendations**

- Since 2004 has a **dedicated Secretariat** and an **autonomous budget** paid by Members

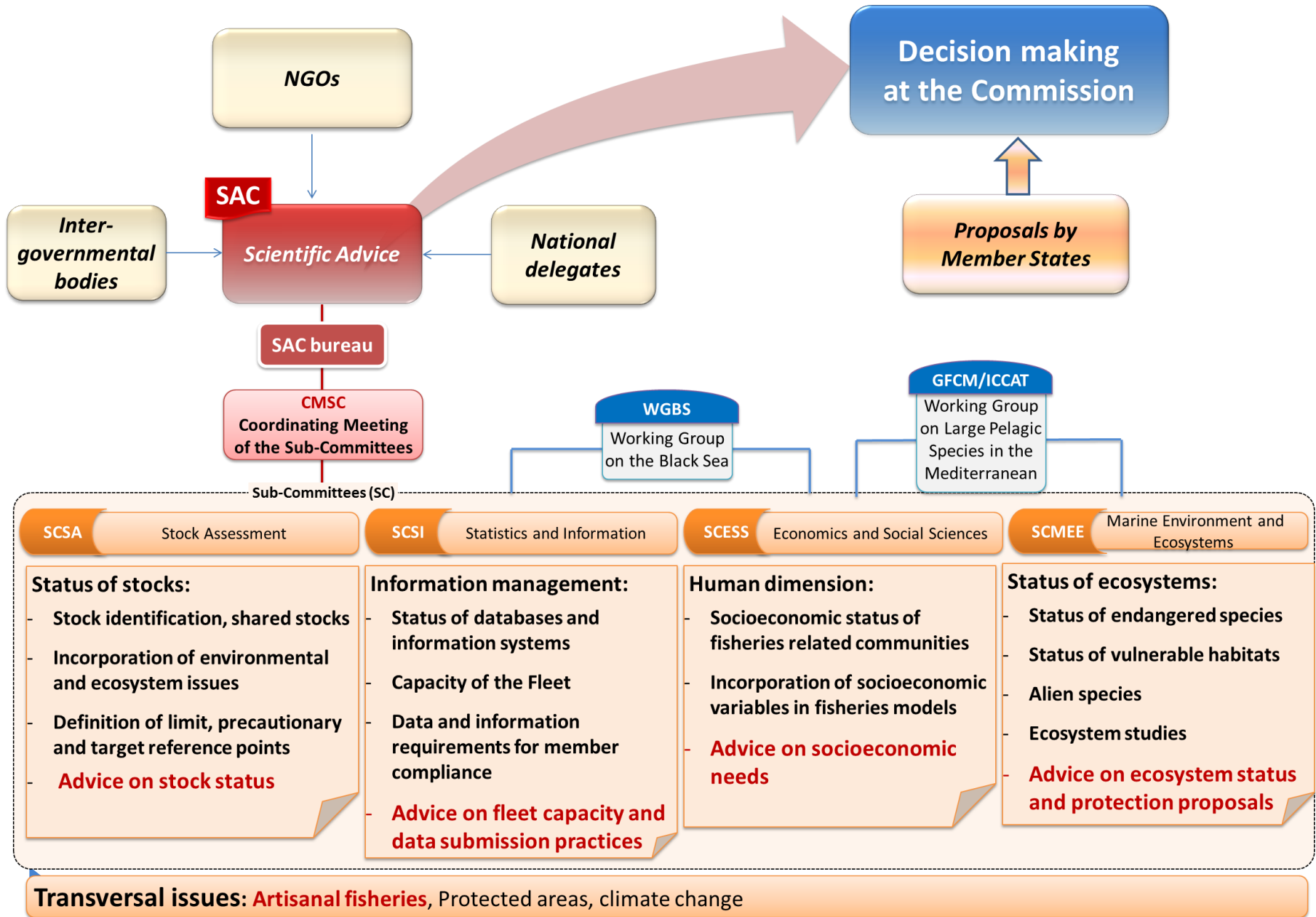
- **Agreement amended in 2014** to incorporate new elements such as focus on **sub-regional aspects** and **multiannual management plans**

## Objectives:

Ensure long term sustainability of living marine resources, sustainable development of aquaculture and protection of sensitive habitats.



# Implementation of fisheries decisions in the GFCM



# Case studies towards the implementation of management plans

## Adriatic Sea

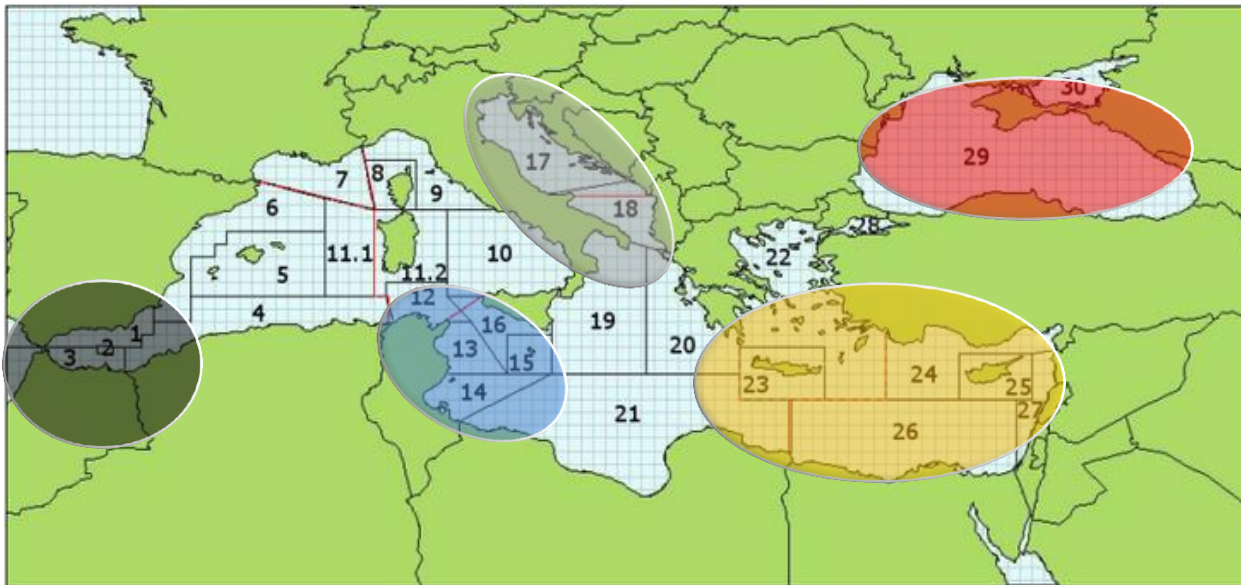
- Small pelagic fish (sardine/anchovy)

## Mediterranean basin

- *Anguilla anguilla*
- *Corallium rubrum*

## Black Sea

- *Psetta maxima*



## Western Mediterranean

- Small pelagic fish (sardine/anchovy)

## Central Mediterranean

- *P. longirostris* and *M. merluccius*.

## Eastern - Central Mediterranean

- *Aristeus antennatus*
- *Aristaomorpha foliacea*

# Summary of directly management related GFCM recommendations

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- ▶ The Commission started taking decisions on management plans in 2011-2012
    - ▶ GFCM Recommendation 35/2011/2 on the exploitation of red coral in the GFCM Competence Area and GFCM Recommendation 36/2012/1 on further measures for the exploitation of red coral
    - ▶ GFCM guidelines on Management plans (GFCM/36/2012), capacity control (GFCM/37/2013/2) and precautionary conservation measures.
    - ▶ Recommendation GFCM/37/2013/1 on a multiannual management plan for fisheries on small pelagic stocks
    - ▶ Recommendation GFCM/37/2013/2 on the establishment of a set of minimum standards for bottom-set gillnet fisheries for turbot and conservation of cetaceans in the Black Sea
    - ▶ Recommendation GFCM/38/2014/1 amending Recommendation GFCM/37/2013/1 and on precautionary and emergency measures for 2015 on small pelagic stocks in the GFCM-GSA 17
    - ▶ Two proposals on the management of Strait of Sicily and Gulf of Gabès demersal fisheries, and one proposal on the management of Turbot
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# GFCM activities carried out in the 2014-2015 intersession

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- ▶ **Turbot fisheries in the Black Sea:**
  - ▶ Sub Regional Group on Stock Assessment for the Black Sea (SGSABS)
  - ▶ Working Group on the Black Sea ad-hoc meeting on turbot fisheries
- ▶ **Small pelagic fisheries in the Adriatic Sea**
  - ▶ WG on Stock Assessment of Small Pelagics (WGSASP)
  - ▶ SAC intersessional workshop on the management of small pelagics in the Adriatic Sea
- ▶ **Demersal fisheries in the Strait of Sicily**
  - ▶ WG on Stock Assessment of Demersals (WGSAD)
  - ▶ Workshop on elasmobranchs conservation in the Mediterranean and Black Sea
- ▶ **Eel:**
  - ▶ EIFAAC/ICES/GFCM Working Group on Eel (WGEEL)
  - ▶ Proposal for a roadmap on stock assessment of eel in the Mediterranean
- ▶ **Coral**
  - ▶ WG on Stock Assessment of Demersals (WGSAD)
  - ▶ Concept note for a research programme
- ▶ **All case studies in the Med: Follow up workshop on management plans in the Mediterranean**



# Advice from the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the SAC in relation to small pelagics in the Adriatic Sea

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- ▶ **Anchovy in GSA 17:** in overfishing, with an exploitation rate  $E_c=0.50$  higher than the reference point ( $E_{ref}=0.4$ ), and with a low biomass ( $SSB=146, 127.50$ ; about 30<sup>th</sup> percentile of the time series)
- ▶ **Advice:** immediate reduction of fishing mortality
- ▶ **Comments:**
  - ▶ Full revision of input data and a benchmark assessment to be done in 2015;
  - ▶ A comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness and consequences of the harvest control rules (HCRs) included in the existing management plan under Recommendation GFCM/36/2013/1 as well as potential alternatives should be carried out
- ▶ **Sardine in GSA 17:** in overfishing, with an exploitation rate of  $E_c=0.53$  higher than the reference point ( $E_{ref}=0.4$ ).
- ▶ **Advice:** reduction of fishing mortality
- ▶ **Comments:** as for anchovy in GSA 17



## Advice from the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the SAC in relation to demersal fisheries in the Strait of Sicily

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- ▶ **Hake in GSAs 12-16:** in overfishing, with current fishing mortality  $F_c=0.55$  higher than the reference point ( $F_{01}=0.14$ )
- ▶ **Advice:** reduce fishing mortality.
- ▶ **Deep-water rose shrimp in GSAs 12-16:** in overfishing, with current fishing mortality  $F_c=0.88$  higher than the reference point ( $F_{01}=0.70$ ).
- ▶ **Advice:** reduce fishing mortality.





## Advice from the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the SAC in relation to other stocks/fisheries

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- ▶ **Sardine in GSA 07:** unbalanced, with almost no recruitment detected from the acoustic survey
- ▶ **Advice:** Fishing mortality should not be allowed to increase and monitoring of changes in the fishing effort/gears is required
- ▶ Hake and shrimps stocks in the Mediterranean were subject to high fishing mortality therefore calling for immediate action to reduce fishing mortality



## General advice from the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the SAC in relation to management plans (I/II)

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- ▶ For fisheries that generate bycatch of elasmobranchs, to incorporate the following management measures into future management plans:
  - ▶ Minimum and/or maximum landing sizes for those elasmobranchs species that can be commercialized;
  - ▶ Gear restrictions, including i) the prohibition of wire leaders, chemical light sticks and the obligation to use corrodible hooks in longline fisheries, and ii) the reduction of soak time of set nets;
  - ▶ Requirements to use hook removers and appropriate tools to release alive sharks;
  - ▶ Extension of the protection level already given to species listed in Annex II of the Barcelona Convention under Recommendation GFCM/36/2012/3 on the conservation of sharks and rays to the nine species included in Annex III of the same Convention.



## General advice from the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the SAC in relation to management plans (II/II)

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- ▶ When measures to limit or restrict fishing capacity are to be applied, they should be defined taking into account the **different pressures exerted by the different fleets targeting the same stock.**
- ▶ In addition, **temporal, spatial and gear restrictions on the one hand, and restrictions on fleet capacity on the other,** should be considered when a reduction of the overall fishing mortality is needed.
- ▶ To ensure that such measures are implemented, **adequate monitoring control and surveillance (MCS) should also be enforced.**



## Other advice emanating from the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the SAC

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- ▶ SAC validated the technical contents of a proposal made by Oceana to establish **three FRAs in the Strait of Sicily**, therefore the proposal is submitted to the Commission for review and possible adoption
- ▶ Use the following indicators of GES in the Mediterranean Sea :
  - ▶ Spawning stock biomass;
  - ▶ Total landings;
  - ▶ Fishing mortality;
  - ▶ Fishing effort;
  - ▶ Bycatch of vulnerable and non-target species;
  - ▶ Landings per Unit Effort (LPUE).
- ▶ Adopt DCRF and evaluate the possibility to amend existing recommendations to harmonize data requirements
- ▶ Publish first Biennial Report on the Status of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries during 2015.



## Proposed workplan for 2015 – 2016 emanating from the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the SAC in relation to management plans

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- ▶ Perform in 2015 a full revision of input data as well as a benchmark assessment for sardine and anchovy in GSA17 and 18;
- ▶ Carry out a comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness and consequences of harvest control rules (HCRs) included in the existing management plan for Adriatic Sea small pelagic fisheries under Recommendation GFCM/36/2013/1 as well as potential alternatives, following indications provided by the SAC;
- ▶ Carry on investigations on methods for data limited stocks (DLS), in particular for vulnerable species like elasmobranchs and red coral, as well as for the assessment of stocks targeted by small-scale fisheries;
- ▶ Implement a pilot plan of action for the assessment of European eel.



# Proposed list of meetings for 2015 – 2016 emanating from the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the SAC

Meeting	Place/Date
Working Group on Stock Assessment of Demersal Species [5 days including sessions on data-limited stocks for red coral and elasmobranchs]	Rome, TBC October 2015
Working Group on Stock Assessment of Small Pelagic Species [5 days including sessions on benchmark assessment for small pelagics in Adriatic Sea]	Rome, TBC October 2015
EIFAAC/ICES/GFCM Working Group on Eels [8 days including one day back-to-back for the preparation of Mediterranean data]	Turkey, TBC November 2015
Sessions of the SAC Subcommittees / SRWGs [4 days]	Rome, TBC January/February 2016
Workshop on the use of simulation and forecast bioeconomic models for the assessment of management measures [3 days]. Possibly back-to-back with Subcommittees or SRWGs	Rome, TBC January/February 2016
Meeting of DCRF national focal points for data submission in the Mediterranean [3 days]	TBD February 2016
Regional Conference on Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea [4 days]	Algeria February/March 2016
Fifth meeting of the Working Group on the Black Sea [3 days]	Kiev/Constanta TBC March 2016
Eighteenth session of the Scientific Advisory Committee [4 days]	TBD March 2016
Workshop on age reading of small pelagic species [3 days]	TBD
Workshop for estimating growth and maturity parameters of <i>Mullus barbatus</i> [3 days]	TBD



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**Thank you for your attention**