

Annex I:

"Towards long term management plans in the Mediterranean"

Tuesday 9 September 2014, Brussels

Main conclusions of the meeting and roadmap for the way forward

- During the meeting Member States (MS) and the Mediterranean Advisory Council (MEDAC) expressed a general consensus on the need to start working towards the development of long term management plans for some stocks, as a matter of priority.
- The areas where we should focus our efforts in the shorter term are the Adriatic and the Western Mediterranean (Gulf of Lions and Tyrrhenian Sea).
- In terms of stocks, we should build on the experience we have collected with small pelagic (GFCM plan and joint recommendations for discard plan, on the basis of MEDAC advice) but we should also endeavour to enlarge the scope to some demersal stocks (especially the most important from a commercial perspective).
- Cooperation with third countries is a critical issue for the effective management of some stocks jointly exploited and for the creation of a level playing field in the entire Mediterranean basin. We agreed on the need to fully integrate the international dimension in the process which will lead to the development of multiannual plans with non-EU countries.
- To this end, it was agreed to decide on the strategy for the upcoming GFCM annual session by the end of 2014, in order to be in a position to propose a long term management plan at international level in the Strait of Sicily.
- As far as the next practical steps are concerned, we took note of the intention of the MEDAC to dedicate a session within their working group on regionalisation to the development of EU long term management plans. This meeting is already foreseen for the 8 October 2014. The MEDAC will also take into consideration the priorities agreed for the preparation of their 2015 working programme.
- A technical seminar with Member States administrations will be organised by DG MARE in Brussels on 17 October 2014. The seminar will be devoted to the assessment of the existing national management plans, with a particular focus on their compliance with the objectives introduced by the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The second part of the seminar will be focused on the identification of stocks commonly exploited by EU MS and also by third countries.

- The priorities in terms of stocks and areas concerned by EU (and/or GFCM) multiannual plans and a tentative timetable can be summarised in the following table:

Area	Priority Stocks	Countries involved	Focal point	Timing (MP content ready by)
Adriatic	Small pelagic (anchovy and sardine) + tentatively demersal	IT-CRO-SLO	(IT)	February 2015
Gulf of Lions	Small pelagic (anchovy and sardine)	FR-ES	(FR)	May 2015
Tyrrhenian Sea	Small pelagic (anchovy and sardine)	FR-IT	(IT)	May 2015
Strait of Sicily	Demersal	IT-MT(+ Libya, Tunisia)	(MT/IT)	Ready for adoption by GFCM at 2015 annual session
Ionian + Aegean	Demersal Small pelagic	GR – CY +IT? + third countries?	(GR)	2016