

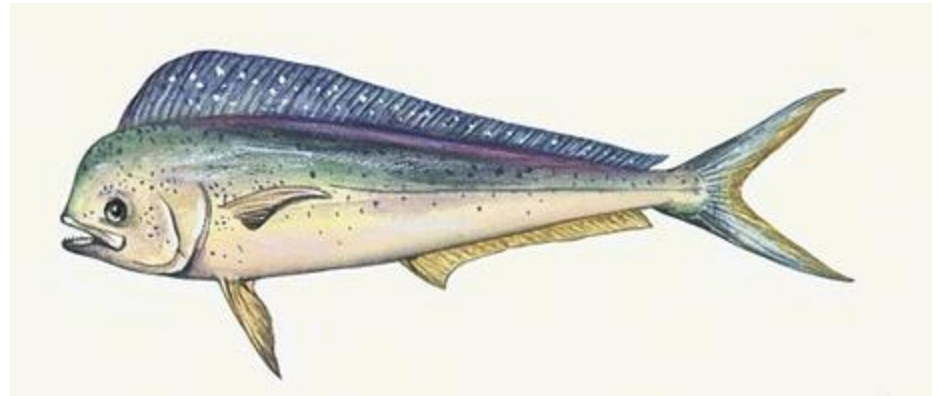


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Update on the next steps for the future management plan of the dolphin fish

In view of the GFCM SRC W-Med and C-Med



Report 44th GFCM

Noting that common dolphinfish is a **priority species** in both the **western and central Mediterranean**, targeted by a specific **small-scale fishery assisted by fish aggregating devices (FADs)** and covered by a management plan as per Rec. GFCM/43/2019/1, the Commission adopted Rec. GFCM/44/2021/11, which extends **current management measures until 2022.**"

Objectives of the management measures

1. **Improve knowledge on the characteristics of FADs**, buoys, FAD fishing and their related impacts on common dolphinfish and on associated and non-targeted species
2. **Manage the deployment and recovery of FADs** and their potential loss;
3. **Reduce and limit the impacts of FADs and FAD fishing on the ecosystem** including by acting on the different components of F (e.g. by limiting the number of FADs deployed)



Transitional measures applicable to international waters in 2020 and 2021

- ✓ **Fishing effort** shall be maintained at the **current level**
- ✓ CPCs considering starting a new fishery targeting common dolphinfish using FADs shall submit to the **GFCM their national measures** adopted for the SAC to examine
- ✓ CPCs shall establish a **code of conduct prior to the start of the fishing season** in order to ensure the implementation of the provisions of this recommendation
- ✓ **FAD measures:** valid fishing authorization (31 July), composition, location, maintenance and replacement; FADs identification and marking; recording of activities
- ✓ A **GFCM WG** and a research programme shall be established in [2020] in order to develop a multiannual management plan for common dolphinfish fisheries that comprises measures for the management of FADs and assesses the status of the stock
- ✓ **On the basis of the results of the Research Programme and SAC advice, the GFCM shall, at its 46th Session [expected 2023] at the latest, adopt a long-term multiannual management plan.**

Transitional measures – applicable to international waters in 2020 and 2021

 Research programme and scientific monitoring

The **research programme shall be finalized [by 2022]** and include the assessment of the stock and of the fishing effort exerted by the fisheries concerned. It shall also aim at **developing conservation measures, including the minimum depth of deployment of FADs and their number**, taking into account the characteristics of different areas

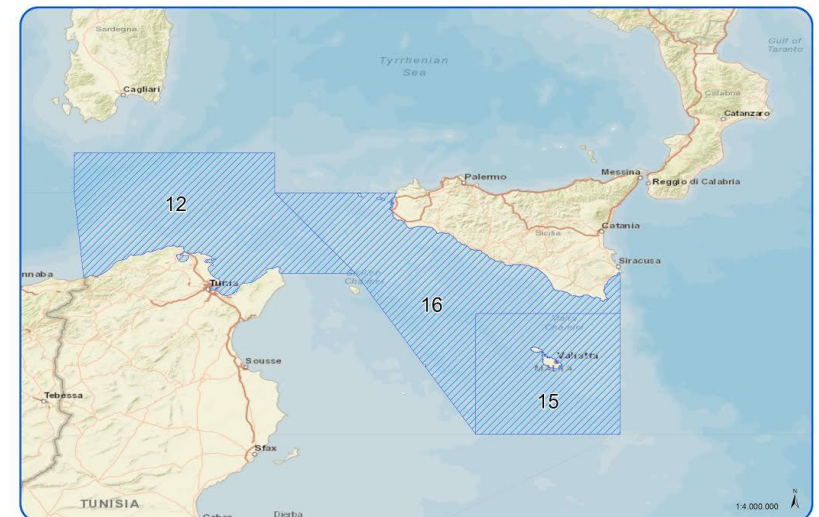
Additional precautionary measures to be considered:

- Output management (catch quotas)
- Technical gear measures (e.g. minimum mesh size and twine width of the surrounding net) including additional FAD characteristics
- Minimum landing size
- Revision of the fishing season
- Maximum number and depth of FAD deployment

Report 44 GFCM

“In line with Rec.GFCM/43/2019/1, the Commission was informed of the administrative arrangement **between the European Union and Tunisia** for the establishment of a **code of conduct** for the sustainable exploitation of dolphinfish fisheries, which foresaw strict compliance by the parties with management measures related to:

- the **authorized vessel list**,
- the **use and the marking of FADs in dolphinfish fisheries**
- the **respect of a distance of 0.1 nautical miles between vessels**
- **FADs set by other parties.**”





Amending Rec. GFCM/43/2019/1

The objective of the **transitional management measures** is: *to prepare for future management measures while reducing the risk that, in the absence of relevant scientific assessment, the biomass level of the common dolphinfish stock would drop below biologically sustainable levels, with negative consequences also on the socio-economic viability of the fisheries concerned. The transitional measures shall apply in international waters in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.*

A **GFCM working group shall be established in 2022 in order to develop a multiannual management plan** for common dolphinfish fisheries that comprises measures for the management of FADs, **taking into consideration socio-economic elements** as well as efforts made by CPCs in managing relevant fisheries and in applying, in some cases, stricter rules than those defined in this recommendation.

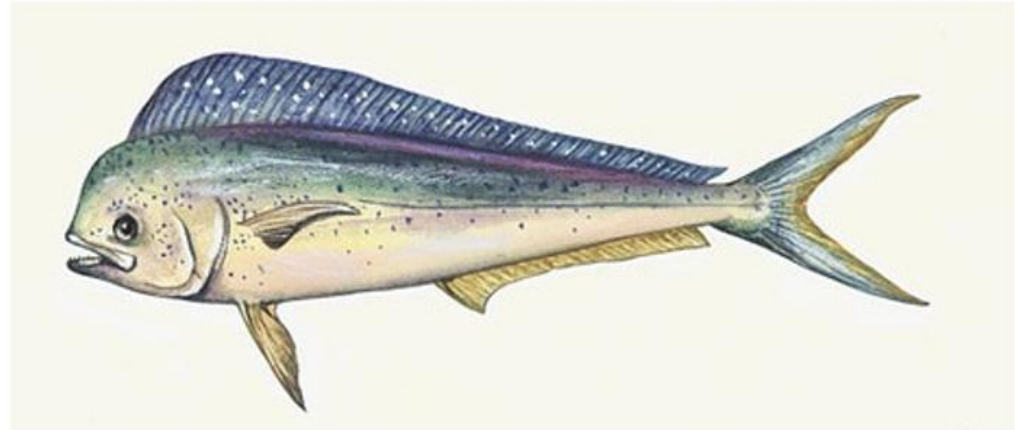


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Further information
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