

# Study on ecosystem-based approaches applied to fisheries management under the Common Fisheries Policy for Mediterranean and the Black Seas (EASME/2020/OP/0012)

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(on behalf of the Task 5&6 team)



# outline

1. Brief presentation of the project overall goals
  2. Focusing on relevant Case Studies
  3. Getting feedback from MEDAC members
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# Rules and follow up

- **Chatham house rules** – we or other participants can use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, are allowed to be revealed
  - The results will inform our report to the European Commission
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# Objectives of this Focus Group - WK

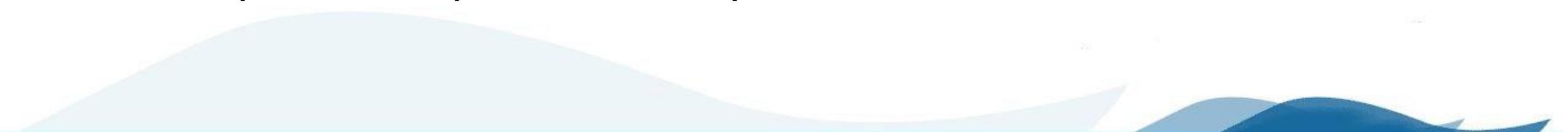
- **Project starting point:** EAFM is an objective of the CFP, the implementation so far is not that successful although elements are being implemented
- Project analysed challenges for fisheries management, fisheries management measures and case studies to look at experiences with the implementation of EAFM
- **Main workshop objective:**
  - „did we draw the right conclusions from the case studies regarding best practice?“

# Brief presentation of the project overall goals

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# Context

- The EU is committed to an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management (EAFM);
  - Current management largely focused on single species;
  - Complexity of challenge needs a generic methodology on how to implement the EAFM across all marine areas in the EU. This has not yet been developed;
  - A clear state-of-play is needed to make progress, to learn from the local examples and to identify where data or knowledge gaps hamper development and implementation of EAFM;
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# Context

This project intends to provide a clear state-of-play to support progress, to learn from the local examples and to identify where data or knowledge gaps hamper development and implementation of EAFM.

# Overview of relevant tasks

- Task 1: Identify the legal setting for EAFM
- Task 2: Identify the relevant fisheries
- Task 3: Identify and describe the ecosystem challenges addressed by an EAFM
- Task 4: Identify and describe the EAFM measure
- Task 5: Analyze the scientific underpinning of the EAFM measures
- Task 6: Identify best practices in EAFM
- Task 7: Classify and categorize the management measures
- Task 8: Expert workshop

# Overview of tasks 5&6

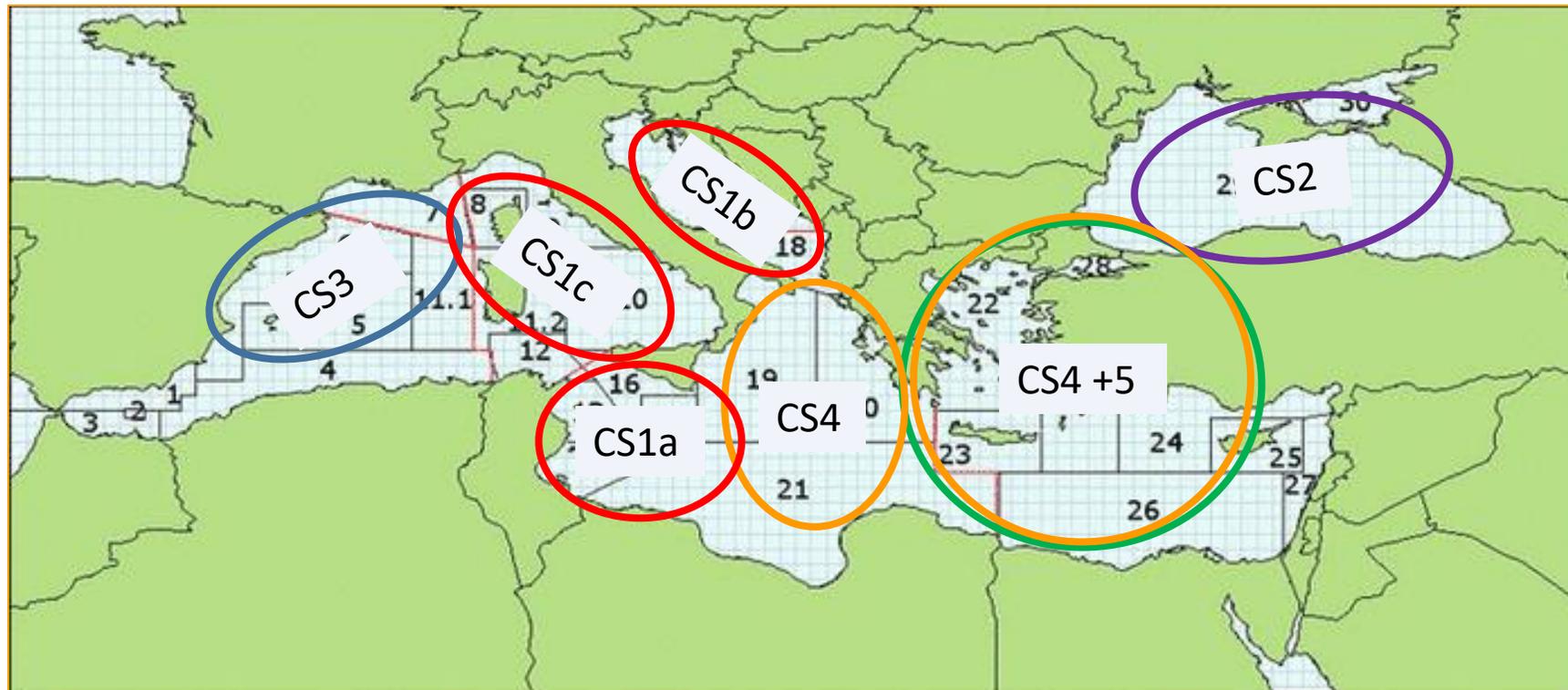
- Categorisation of fisheries management measures (from task 4)
  - Selected case-studies (CS) for the analysis of the scientific underpinning cover those three categories;
  - Best practice analysis based on CS.
  - The final goal of this work will be to provide some general guidelines for addressing ecosystem challenges related to the three key elements (scientific evidence, decision-making, and compliance) that may facilitate the implementation of EAFM and potential obstacles that may prevent its success.
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# List of selected Case Studies

Case Study		Geographical Area
1	FRAs in the MED	Strait of Sicily Jabuca-Pomo Pit Western Med
2	Turbot MAP in Black Sea	Black Sea
3	SSF and the Western Med MAP	Western Med
4	Artificial Reefs in the Aegean	Greece
5	Mitigating impact of invasive species	Cyprus

# List of selected CS

Case Study		Geographical Area
1	FRAs in the MED*	a. Strait of Sicily
		b. Jabuca-Pomo Pit
		c. Western Med
2	Turbot MAP in Black Sea	Black Sea
3	SSF and the Western Med MAP	Western Med
4	Artificial Reefs in the Aegean	Greece
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# Definition of Best Practices

*“Practices that create positive outcomes in a given system (in this case a fishery system) and that relate to the three pillars of successful management: evidence, decision-making and compliance.”*

# Best Practices for EAFM

## THREE PILLARS FOR SUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT

Scientific evidence

Decision-making

Compliance

## CRITERIA TO IDENTIFY GOOD PRACTICES

Transparency and credibility

Clear objectives and guidelines

Consideration of all evidence

Regionalization

Stakeholder involvement

# Some preliminary results on BP

CASE STUDIES			Criteria for Best Practices								
			Evidence				Decision making				Follow-up
			Quality	Trust	Type	Use fisher's knowledge	Evidence-based	Transparency	Stakh. Involvement	Regionalization	Monitoring
1	FRAs in the Med	Strait of Sicily	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow
		Jabuca-Pomo Pit	Green	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow
		Western Med	Green	Green	Red	Red	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow
2	Turbot MAP in Black Sea	Black Sea	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Red
3	SSF and the Western Med MAP	Western Med	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green
4	Artificial Reefs in the Aegean	Greece	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red
5	Mitigating impact of invasive species	Cyprus	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Red

# Some preliminary results on BP

✓ CS are doing quite well in:

- Quality and trust
- High degree of transdisciplinarity
- Evidence-base decision making

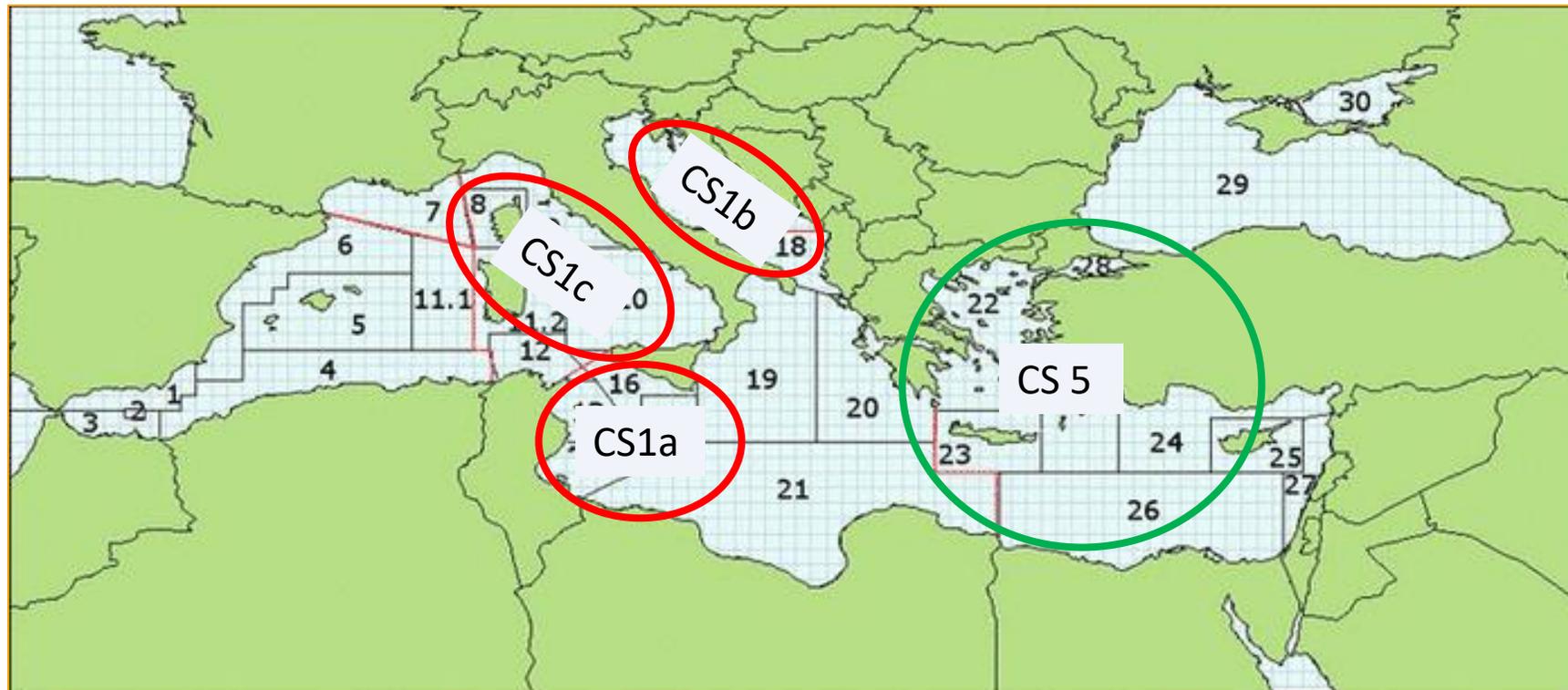
✓ Main improvements need to focus on:

- Increasing transparency
- Use of Fisher's knowledge
- Use of transdisciplinary evidences
- Regionalization
- Monitoring

CASE STUDIES			Criteria for Best Practices								
			Evidence				Decision making			Follow-up	
			Quality	Trust	Type	Use fisher's knowledge	Evidence-based	Transparency	Stakh. Involvement	Regionalization	Monitoring
1	FRAs in the Med	Strait of Sicily	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow
		Jabuca-Pomo PIT	Green	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow
		Western Med	Green	Green	Red	Red	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow
2	Turbot MAP in Black Sea	Black Sea	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Red
3	SSF and the Western Med MAP	Western Med	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green
4	Artificial Reefs in the Aegean	Greece	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red
5	Mitigating impact of invasive species	Cyprus	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Red

# List of selected CS for this WK

Case Study		Geographical Area
1	FRAs in the MED*	a. Strait of Sicily
		b. Jabuca-Pomo Pit
		c. Western Med
5	Mitigating impact of invasive species	Cyprus



## CS 1a. FRAs in the Strait of Sicily (GSA 12-16) - With reference to EU and non-EU fleet interactions

- GFCM/42/2018/5; bottom trawlers above 10m length targeting European hake and deep-water rose shrimp (*outlined in blue*).
- SAC Multi Annual Management Plan implemented these FRAs in 2016 to **reduce fishing mortality** and **recover stocks to MSY**, in line with CFP.
- 1nm buffer zone where catch must be above minimum conservation reference size.
- VMS and landings data from Maltese, Italian and Tunisian fleets used as monitoring tools by SAC.

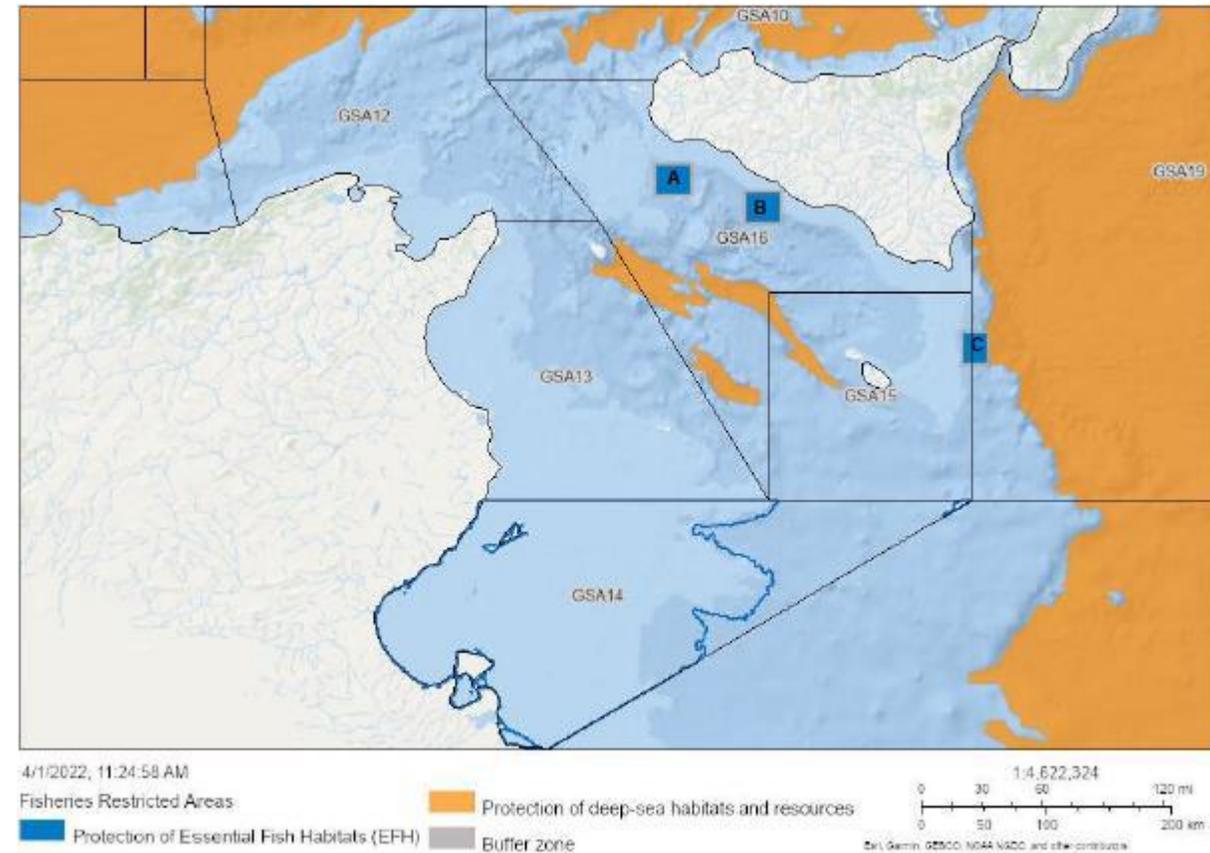


Figure 1: FRA Boundaries (A) East of Adventure Bank, (B) West of Gela Basin, (C) East of Malta Bank. Blue outline within GSA14 is a temporal closure site.

# CS 1a. FRAs in the Strait of Sicily (GSA 12-16) - With reference to EU and non-EU fleet interactions

## Scientific:

- To date, these FRAs are functioning properly; stocks have recovered.
- Decline in incidental catches of cetaceans, seaturtles and elasmobranchs.
- Protection of nursery habitats
- Difficult to assess effectiveness of FRAs; especially juvenile capture.
- Effective monitoring, control and surveillance challenging in international waters.

## Socio-economic:

### Tunisia

- Profits increased
- Growing industry with a Young work force

### Italy

- Fishers located close to FRAs are showing increased competition for fishing grounds amongst themselves
- A result of single-gear mentality

### Malta

- Mutually agreed to have FRA implemented for the Benefit of stocks
- No negative impact; Maltese fleet use multiple gears throughout the year

# CS 1a. FRAs in the Strait of Sicily (GSA 12-16) - With reference to EU and non-EU fleet interactions

## Good and bads in terms of good practices

CS	Management measure	Evidence			Decision-Making			Follow-up		
		Quality (low, medium, high)	Trust (low, medium, high)	Type (monodisciplinary, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary)	Fishers' knowledge used (low, medium, high)	Evidence-based with clear objectives (low, medium, high)	Transparency (low, medium, high)		Stakeholders' involvement (low, medium, high)	Regionalization (low, medium, high)
FRAs in the Mediterranean (Strait of Sicily) with reference to EU and non-EU fleet interactions	Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs) to safeguard essential fish habitats and nurseries of European hake and deep-water shrimp	<b>High.</b> The scientific underpinning was published in peer-reviewed journals, GFCM reports, and research has been ongoing for more than two decades.	<b>High.</b> All relevant research and data have been reviewed by GFCM and SAC.	<b>Transdisciplinary.</b> Multiple stakeholders were included in the decision-making process such as the technical GFCM and SAC, and non-scientific NGOs, fishermen and local authorities.	<b>High.</b> Fishers' knowledge has helped scientists confirm the location of nursery sites and essential habitats.	<b>High.</b> The objective was clear: to protect nursery areas from overfishing.	<b>Medium.</b> Decisions are backed up by a scientific process. Results were discussed with stakeholders, however communication between fishers and their representatives needs improvement.	<b>High.</b> Fishers and NGOs were consulted with regularity during the decision-making process. Involvement is still ongoing even post-implementation.	<b>High.</b> The case study was addressing regional challenges and measures. regional data is available and used.	<b>Low-medium.</b> The stocks are monitored at a regional level by the EU, however, Good detailed studies to assess the effectiveness of these FRAs are needed. Study must compare abundance and demography of these stocks inside and outside the FRAs.

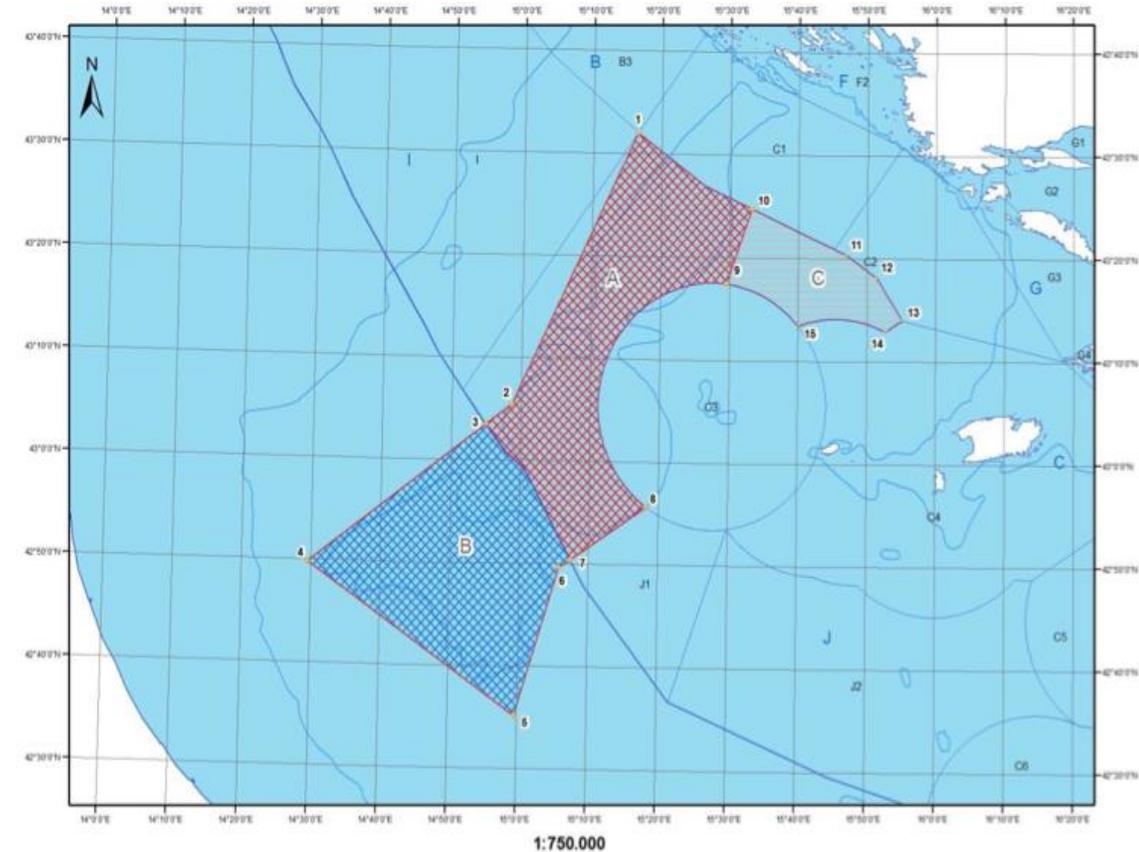
# CS 1a. FRAs in the Strait of Sicily (GSA 12-16) - With reference to EU and non-EU fleet interactions

## Good and bads in terms of good practices

CASE STUDIES			Criteria for Best Practices							
			Evidence				Decision making			Follow-up
			Quality	Trust	Type	Use fisher's knowledge	Evidence-based	Transparency	Stakh. Involvement	Regionalization
1	FRAs in the Med	Strait of Sicily								

## CS 1b. Jabuka-Pomo Pit Fishery Restricted Area (FRA)

- ✓ On 17 October 2017 GFCM adopted the EU proposal for the establishment of a FRA banning demersal fisheries on ca. 2,700 km<sup>2</sup>, in the central Adriatic, shared between Italy and Croatia
- ✓ three zones: **Zone A** (recreational and professional fishing activity with bottom-set nets, bottom trawls, set longlines and traps is prohibited), **Zone B** (fishing activities are prohibited from 1 September to 31 October each year, only vessels with specific authorizations and demonstrated historical fishing activities in zone B) and **Zone C** (the same of zone B for all fishing activities but bottom trawls shall be entitled to fish only on specific days and hours)



## CS 1b. Jabuka-Pomo Pit Fishery Restricted Area (FRA)

The area has been clearly identified as

- (1) a site of unique physical features influencing the dynamics of waters circulation in the whole Mediterranean basin;
- (2) one of the most important EFHs for European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) and others valuable species such as horned octopus (*Eledone cirrhosa*), monkfish (*Lophius budegassa*) and Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*);
- (3) a key area for cetaceans, sea turtles and sea birds
- (4) an area containing VMEs that are significantly impacted by bottom trawling.



# CS 1b. Jabuka-Pomo Pit Fishery Restricted Area (FRA)

## Good and bad in terms of good practices

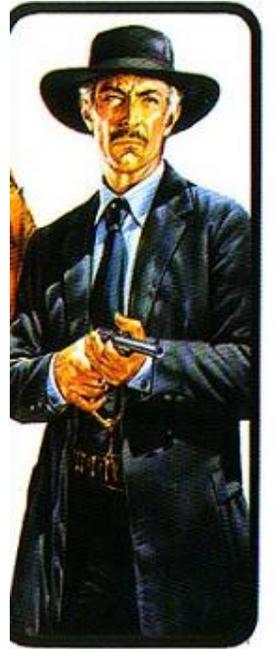


### The good

- ✓ High quality of the scientific undepinning (both FDD and FID);
- ✓ High trustness of the scientific information;
- ✓ The objective of the FRA was clear (to protect nursery areas from fishing activities);
- ✓ The process was fully transparent
- ✓ The level of stakeholders involvement was high (fishers and NGOs);
- ✓ Good regional data available and used
- ✓ Existence of different monitoring activities (EU DCF and GFCM DCRF, MEDITS in spring, UW TV survey, VMS, AIS raw data and Log-book data)

### The bad

- ✓ Type of knowledge was essentially monodisciplinary (biological-ecological information), any socio-economic analysis was carried out;
- ✓ Fishers' knowledge come mainly from the Croatian side;
- ✓ There is any monitoring program for benthic communities



# CS 1b. Jabuka-Pomo Pit Fishery Restricted Area (FRA)

## Good and bad in terms of good practices

CS	Management measure	Evidence			Decision-Making				Follow-up	
		Quality (low, medium, high)	Trust (low, medium, high)	Type (monodisciplinary, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary)	Fishers' knowledge used (low, medium, high)	Evidence-based with clear objectives (low, medium, high)	Transparency (low, medium, high)	Stakeholders involvement (low, medium, high)	Regionalization (low, medium, high)	Monitoring (low, medium, high)
Pomo/Jabuka FRA	Protection of hake and rose shrimp nursery areas	<b>High.</b> The scientific underpinning was provided by different surveys carried out in the area (MEDITS).	<b>High.</b> The MEDITS program have some hauls in the area and it is carried out one a year (May-June), so the spatial and temporal coverage of the scientific information is not fully appropriate.	<b>Monodisciplinary.</b> Research was led by biologists. Decisions were based on scientific outputs. Socioeconomic analysis was not employed to assess the impact of the measure.	<b>Medium.</b> Existing fisheries (expert) knowledge used in the CS. Fisheries expert knowledge come mainly from the Croatian side.	<b>High.</b> The objective was clear: protect nursery activities.	<b>High.</b> Decisions were baked up by a scientific process. Results were discussed with stakeholders.	<b>High.</b> Fishers and NGOs were involved in the process of setting protected area.	<b>High.</b> The Case study was addressing regional challenges and measures. Good data available and used.	<b>Medium.</b> The stock is monitored, and its state assessed by GFCM, but there is not a specific monitoring plan for the benthic habitats. Monitoring activities currently in place 1. EU DCF and GFCM DCFR: Biological sampling of catches and discards of Nephrops and Merluccius Landings, catches and discards for major species by gear in the area 3. MEDITS bottom trawl surveys 4. Under Water TV surveys of whole Jabuka/Pomo area every spring linked with experimental bottom trawling with specific experimental a Nephrops net (CNR-IRBIM and IOF funded by MIPAAF) 5. Bottom trawling on Western Jabuka/Pomo area every autumn with a Nephrops net (funded by MIPAAF) 6. VMS, AIS raw data and Log-book data for all fishing fleet segments exploiting demersal resources 7. Economic data for all fishing fleet segments exploiting demersal resources (EU DCF and the GFCM DCFR)

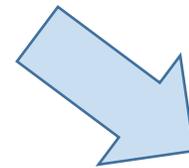
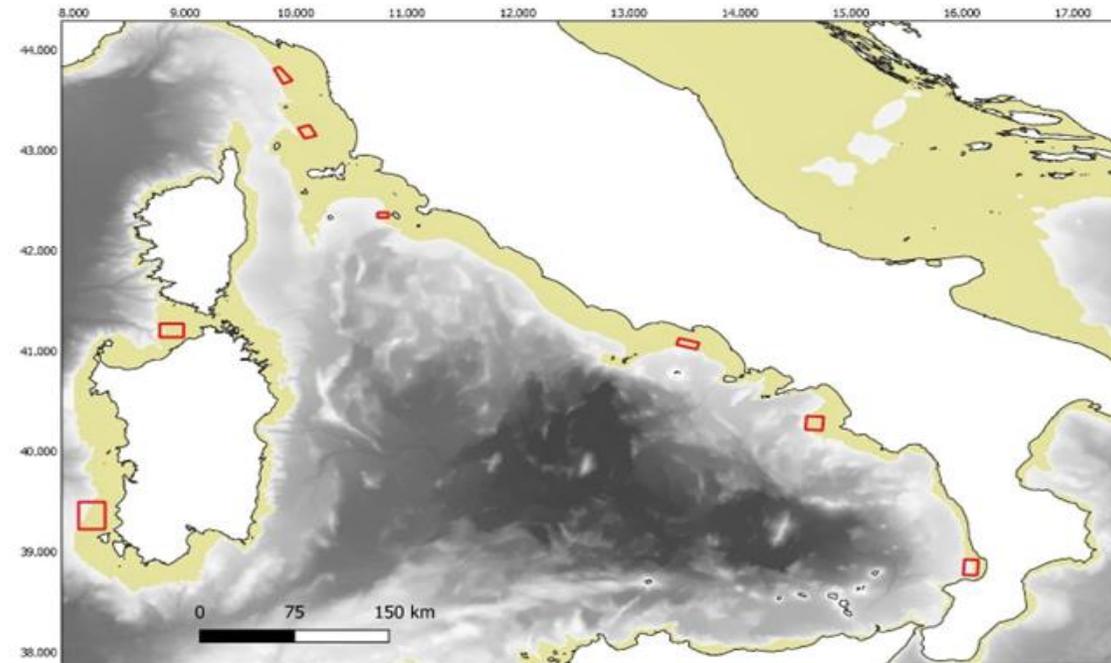
# CS 1b. Jabuka-Pomo Pit Fishery Restricted Area (FRA)

Good and bad in terms of good practices

CASE STUDIES			Criteria for Best Practices								
			Evidence				Decision making				Follow-up
			Quality	Trust	Type	Use fisher's knowledge	Evidence-based	Transparency	Stakh. Involvement	Regionalization	Monitoring
1	FRAs in the Med	Jabuca-Pomo Pit									

## CS 1c. FISHERIES RESTRICTED AREAS IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA: ITALY

- Art. 11 West Med MAP also support the implementation of closure areas to achieve a reduction of at least 20 % of catches of juvenile hake
- In 2020, with the Directorial decree n. 9045689, 6/8/2020 the Italian Ministry of Agricultural Policy (MIPAAF) established 8 FRAs in GSAs 9-10-11 where fishing with towed gears is not allowed
- The FRAs network has the main purpose to protect nursery grounds of hake from bottom trawling thus helping in reduce fishing mortality on juveniles.
- FRAs identification was based on the best scientific knowledge about the spatio-temporal distribution of hake juveniles



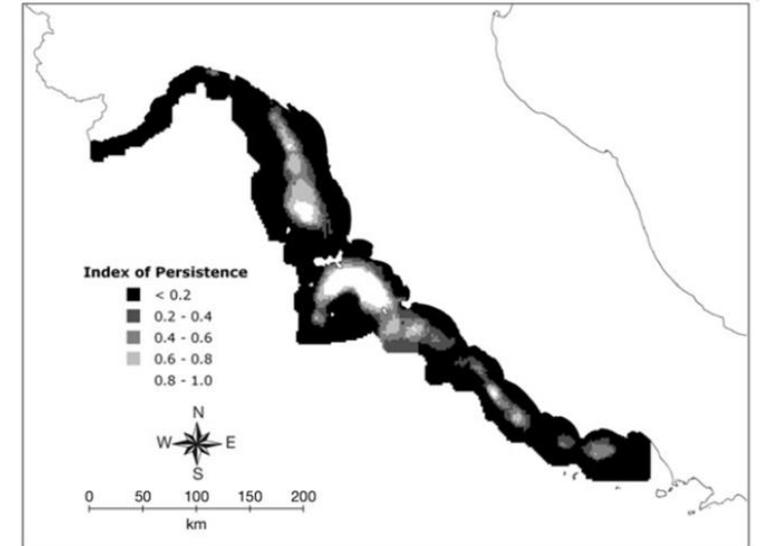
Additional FRAs may be needed in the coming years to achieve the 20% reduction of juvenile hake catch objective and contribute to get the MSY target for hake stocks

# CS 1c. FISHERIES RESTRICTED AREAS IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA: ITALY

## Scientific underpinning

Confidence level- Expert opinion: **Low**  
Confidence level-Peer reviewed lit.: **High**  
Confidence level - Regional data: **Very high**

Analysis of time-series of survey data in the Italian Seas has shown a **high spatio-temporal stability of the main hake nurseries** (Colloca et al., 2019; 2015)



The measure seems to be partially implemented because, according to the WestMed MAP, additional closure areas should be introduced to include the protection of juveniles and spawners of all demersal species covered by the MAP.

This was also highlighted by STECF-21-13 running a series of simulations of different management scenarios and concluded that almost all simulated scenarios indicate that Fmsy will not be achieved for all stocks by 2025.

As part of the survey conducted in the project "Social economic impacts of management measures introduced by EU Regulation (EU) 2019/1022" (Nisea, 2021), it is highlighted that the majority of respondents (approximately 78%) believe that there has not been a correct passage of information between the national Administration and the sector regarding the contents of the Management Plans, including also area closures.

# Cs 1c.FISHERIES RESTRICTED AREAS IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA: ITALY

## Good and bads in terms of good practices

CS	Management measure	Evidence				Decision-Making				Follow-up
		Quality (low, medium, high)	Trust (low, medium, high)	Type (monodisciplinary, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary)	Fishers' knowledge used (low, medium, high)	Evidence-based with clear objectives (low, medium, high)	Transparency (low, medium, high)	Stakeholders involvement (low, medium, high)	Regionalization (low, medium, high)	Monitoring (low, medium, high)
FISHERIES RESTRICTED AREAS IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA: ITALY	Protection of nursery grounds	<b>High.</b>	<b>Medium-high.</b>	<b>Monodisciplinary</b>	<b>Low.</b>	<b>High.</b>	<b>Medium.</b>	<b>Medium.</b>	<b>Low.</b>	<b>Low-medium.</b>
		<p>The scientific underpinning was provided by research institutions using data collected and research conducted in the area.</p>	<p>The justification of the measure was discussed by STECF and adopted by Italian Ministry of Agricultural Policy. Measures relating to space-time closures are perceived by fishers as more suitable than other measures proposed (in particular those relating to the reduction of fishing days).</p>	<p>Research was led by fisheries scientists. Decisions were based on scientific outputs. Socioeconomic analysis was carried out to assess the impact of the measure but only after its implementation.</p>	<p>Existing fisheries (expert) knowledge poorly used in the CS.</p>	<p>The objective was clear: to protect the main nursery areas of hake from bottom trawling.</p>	<p>Decisions are baked up by a scientific process. Results were discussed with stakeholders even if the level of acceptance of the measures is low in some areas.</p>	<p>Fishers and NGOs were involved in the process of setting the protected areas but the final identification of FRAs was taken by the national administration on the basis of internal judgment and scientific evidence</p>	<p>The FRAs of this CS were identified and enforced within the context of the EU WestMedP Map but they only refer to the Italian demersal fleet</p>	<p>Commercial stocks are assessed by STECF and GFCM/SAC. The measure is however recent to have clear results on its impact in relation to the objectives underlying its implementation.</p>

# Cs 1c.FISHERIES RESTRICTED AREAS IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA: ITALY

## Good and bads in terms of good practices

CASE STUDIES			Criteria for Best Practices								
			Evidence				Decision making				Follow-up
			Quality	Trust	Type	Use fisher's knowledge	Evidence-based	Transparency	Stakh. Involvement	Regionalization	Monitoring
1	FRA in the Med	Western Med									



## CS 5. Mitigating the impact of the invasive fish *Lagocephalus sceleratus* in Cyprus

- Lessepsian invader, very abundant in E Med
- high predator, significant negative impact on SSF
- paralytic neurotoxin tetrodotoxin (TTX)
- marketing and consumption are banned (Reg. 854/2004/EC)
- Management plan in Cyprus for impact mitigation
  - strong lobbying by fishers and the public
  - population control through targeted fishing
  - mitigate impacts on fisheries and ecosystem
  - financing collective groups of fishers (Operational Program), 2012-now
  - fixed price of 3 €/kg – fish delivered for incineration





## CS 5. Mitigating the impact of the invasive fish *Lagocephalus sceleratus* in Cyprus

### Before

- research program by the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research of Cyprus, 2009-2010 (Michailidis 2011)
- distribution, growth, reproduction, diet, favourable conditions, possible solutions
- extensive sampling (>60,000 ind.), lab work (sizes, maturity, stomachic contents)
- damage to fishing gear
- potential solutions: exporting for 'fugu', population control, change fishing practices

### After

- fishers' empirical knowledge – effectiveness of the measure, reduced damages
- no targeted research to assess effectiveness (remaining gap)
- Ecopath model (Michailidis et al. 2019, 2022) – zero F → 50% biomass increase



## CS 5. Mitigating the impact of the invasive fish *Lagocephalus sceleratus* in Cyprus

### Good and bad in terms of good practices

#### Good

- Use of fishers empirical knowledge – participation in implementation
- Participation of stakeholders in decision-making
- Scientific underpinning of the decision making
- Clear objectives

#### Bad

- Medium trust – limited targeted research to assess effectiveness
- No targeted monitoring
- Medium transparency – scientific recommendations not fully followed



Photo: HSR-HCMR; Katsanevakis et al. 2020



# CS 5. Mitigating the impact of the invasive fish *Lagocephalus sceleratus* in Cyprus

## Good and bad in terms of good practices

CS	Management measure	Evidence				Decision-Making				Follow-up
		Quality (low, medium, high)	Trust (low, medium, high)	Type (monodisciplinary, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary)	Fishers' knowledge use (low, medium, high)	Evidence-based with clear objectives (low, medium, high)	Transparency (low, medium, high)	Stakeholders involvement (low, medium, high)	Regionalization (low, medium, high)	
Lagocephalus sceleratus in Cyprus	Reimbursement of fishers for <i>L. sceleratus</i> catches	<b>High.</b> The scientific underpinning is based on data collected and research conducted in the area. The effectiveness of the measure was assessed through ecosystem modelling.	<b>Medium.</b> No targeted research to assess the effectiveness of the measure has been undertaken, and some scientists and officials are sceptic. The recent (yet unpublished) assessment through ecosystem modelling may increase trust on its effectiveness. Fishers are largely convinced on its effectiveness.	<b>Transdisciplinary.</b> There was no multidisciplinary research but participated in data collection and the implementation of the measure; they were also very supportive of the measure and drove through decision-making.	<b>High:</b> Fishers' knowledge and observations were used in the Program that supported the measure. They participated through extensive specimen collection.	<b>High.</b> The objective was very clear: to reduce the invasive species and mitigate its impact on coastal fisheries. There was supporting scientific evidence through dedicated Research Program with extensive sampling and fieldwork.	<b>Medium.</b> Decisions were backed up by the scientific process and a dedicated measure. Nevertheless, the scientific recommendations were not fully followed, as decision-making was affected by lobbying from fishers and was to some extent a political decision to offer socio-economic benefits to coastal fishers.	<b>High.</b> Fishers were highly involved in study and actually this measure was promoted by their association.	<b>High.</b> The study addressing regional challenges and regional measures. Good regional data available and used.	<b>Low.</b> There is no targeted monitoring of the stock of <i>L. sceleratus</i> , which prevents accurate assessment of the effectiveness of the measure.



# CS 5. Mitigating the impact of the invasive fish *Lagocephalus sceleratus* in Cyprus

Good and bad in terms of good practices

CASE STUDIES			Criteria for Best Practices								
			Evidence				Decision making				Follow-up
			Quality	Trust	Type	Use fisher's knowledge	Evidence-based	Transparency	Stakh. Involvement	Regionalization	Monitoring
5	Mitigating impact of invasive species	Cyprus	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Red

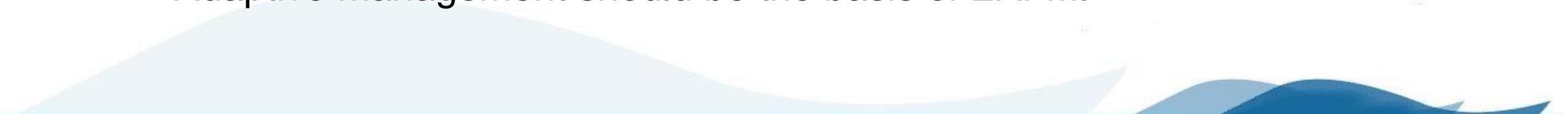
# Good and bad in terms of good practices from the 4 selected CS

CASE STUDIES			Criteria for Best Practices								
			Evidence				Decision making				Follow-up
			Quality	Trust	Type	Use fisher's knowledge	Evidence-based	Transparency	Stakh. Involvement	Regionalization	Monitoring
1	FRAs in the Med	Strait of Sicily	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow
		Jabuca-Pomo Pit	Green	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow
		Western Med	Green	Green	Red	Red	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow
5	Mitigating impact of invasive species	Cyprus	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Red

# First lessons learnt from CS

- Evidence is used for implementation of measures while:
  - Sometimes lack of complete trust
  - Transdisciplinarity is not always the used approach
  - Use of fisher's knowledge might be limited
- Context is of great importance for the implementation of the measures but:
  - Transparency is not always ensured
  - Stakeholder involvement might be limited
  - Regionalization does not always happen
- Monitoring is not a well implemented practice in general

# Some general conclusions

- ✓ Evidence-based decision-making process would be a good practice, though best available knowledge is not always used;
  - ✓ Stakeholders' participation and transparent decision-making process are key;
  - ✓ Translation of high-level objectives to the local context (regionalization) is needed and not always accomplished;
  - ✓ Context is of great importance in the implementation of a management measure;
  - ✓ Adaptive management should be the basis of EAFM.
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# Getting feedback from MEDAC members

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# Key points

- Despite strong scientific underpinning management measures are not always implemented; and vice versa (i.e., despite weak scientific underpinning, measures are implemented)
  - Involvement of interested bodies in development of measures is an important factor for success (some measures fully depend on voluntary implementation)
  - Governance context is of great importance for the implementation of management measures (who is responsible, on which level of the administration (i.e. EU, local, etc.))
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# Key questions

- ✓ Are there important aspects related to the successful implementation of EAFM measures that were missed in the analysis?
- ✓ Would the conclusions regarding the relevance of context valid for you?
- ✓ Which would be the right place/fora to start the process of implementing new management measures?
- ✓ Which would be the key skills required to be able to successfully improve the implementation of EAFM measures?