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Overview of the MEDAC Advice in the Management process



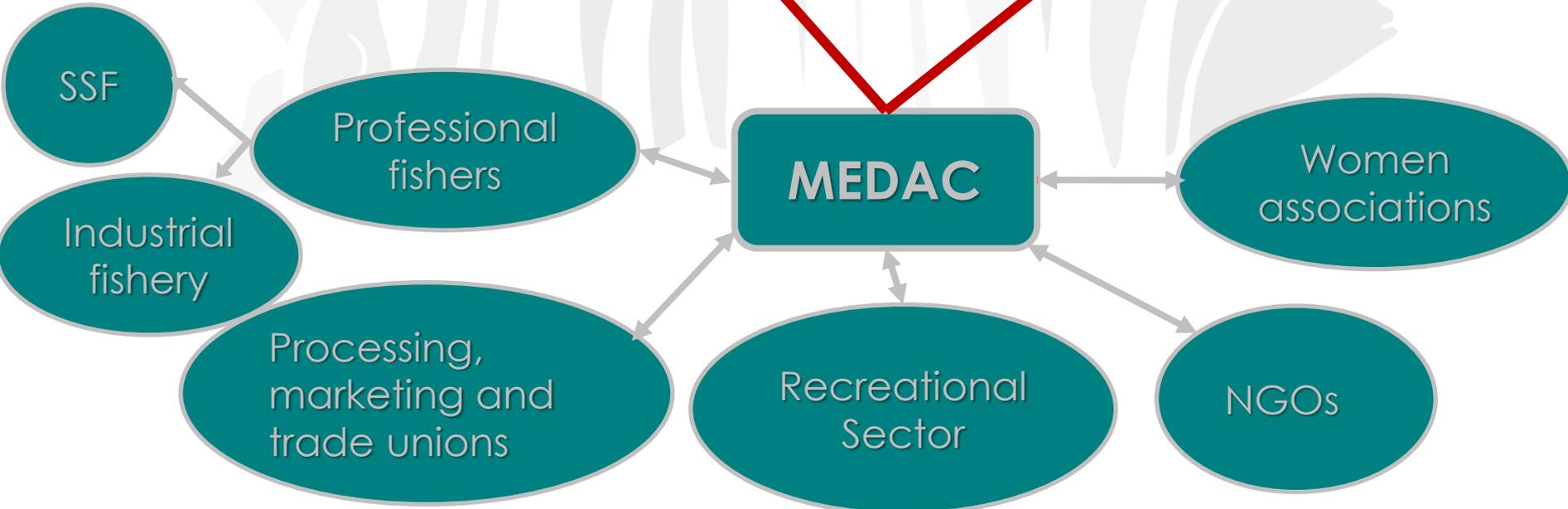
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From the MEDAC to the Management process



European Commission
(DG MARE –
DG ENVI)

GFCM
General Fisheries
Commission for the
Mediterranean



The MEDAC advice at the GFCM

en.med-ac.eu/pareri_lettere.php



2023
advice and letters



-  MEDAC advice on the Action Plan to protect and restore marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries 
-  DG MARE reply letter to MEDAC advice on the indicators available for the purpose of assessing the socioeconomic impact of the management plans 
-  Joint AC letter on EC support for promotion of ACs' role 
-  MEDAC advice on the indicators available for the purpose of assessing the socioeconomic impact of the Med MAPs 
-  Annex_MEDAC advice on the indicators available for the purpose of assessing the socioeconomic impact of the Med MAPs 
-  DG MARE reply to MEDAC advice on Fishing Opportunities 2023 



Medac advice on red coral
fishery management



MEDAC contribution on the
current management
measures in the Central
Mediterranean



MEDAC contribution on the
current management
measures in the Western
Mediterranean



GFCM SRC-EM, May 10 - May 12, Athens, Greece (hybrid)
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to be made of the information that it contains



MEDAC contribution on the
current management
measures in the Eastern

GFCM WG MSE on Adriatic Sea small pelagics, May 29, Split, Croatia (hybrid)



MEDAC advice on Management
Strategy Evaluation (WGMSE) on
Adriatic small pelagics
Session 1: preparatory meeting on methods



MEDAC Stakeholders involvement in the GFCM Sub-Regional Groups

Subregional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean (SRC-EM)



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



General Fisheries
Commission for
the Mediterranean

Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC)

Subregional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean (SRC-EM)

4. Status of eastern Mediterranean fisheries

- Status of eastern Mediterranean stocks, including assessments emanating from plenary and relevant benchmark sessions of the Working Groups on Stock Assessment (GFCM Secretariat)
- MEDAC contribution on the current management measures in the area (MEDAC)



Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC)

21 June 2023 (SAC)

European eel

Ref. 40/2022: "The MEDAC recalls that any **additional management measure** on fishing, in addition to being inefficient in the absence of other measures on the other mortality factors, would have significant **socio-economic implications** for the European fishing and aquaculture sector."



SAC: the current management measures will be in place one more year before the long-term management plan **to better understand the impact of the current management measures** before to take new decisions and to have a truly pragmatic research, also **improving the socioeconomic information.**

21 June 2023 (SAC)

Red Coral

Ref. 78/2023: Special attention was paid to the need of data collection and traceability in the entire value chain.;

The MEDAC members raised up the need [...] – of a common legislative framework as the tool for the data collection, the **programmes of the observers** and the needed **traceability** of the Red coral in the market.;

[...] The MEDAC deems appropriate that the Regional Research Programme of the GFCM should be devoted to **a real stakeholders' involvement** in the management decisions, considering the socioeconomic aspects and the related consequences.

SAC: [...] - Ensure the **regular and systematic presence of observers** on board (or at landing sites) [...] comprising fundamental data also for the update of stock assessments [...]

- **Ensure stakeholder engagement in every step of the management process** including through the GFCM Research programme on red coral.



21 June 2023 (SAC)

West MED

MEDAC Advice Ref. 318/2022

– [...] The MEDAC suggests a wider use of **Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRA) as a complementary measure to improve selectivity**. This management measure has been already suggested in the previous MEDAC advice and FRAs can effectively support fish stock recovery, when well designed and implemented, as the Jabuka/Pomo FRA shows. [...] Therefore, the conclusion of the study carried out by the IEO was that the losses generated by the use of 52 mm square mesh codend are unsustainable, making its use unviable, unless **economic aid were available to compensate** for the losses that are generated.

SAC: [...] The SAC agreed to continue working towards the **improvement of selectivity** through the implementation of pilot projects in conjunction with the concurrent exploration of other measures such as MCRS and **spatial closures (FRAs)**, also including the exploration of **future compensation schemes** triggered by fisher good-practice and an analysis of socioeconomic repercussions.



21 June 2023 (SAC)

New establishment of FRA - Marti and Sète FRA



MEDAC Advice Ref.49/2023

In the EU Western Mediterranean, the **current multiannual plan (MAP) is already reducing the fishing days, improving selectivity, closing additional areas and the red shrimp catches are already limited.**

SAC: [...] several contrasting arguments were raised by the WGVME-EFH and the SRC-WM:

- the need for additional stakeholder consultations in 2023 including Spanish fisheries,
- the need for a reflection on the social acceptability and the implementability of an additional closure in the **Gulf of Lion given the existing spatial measures already in place and under definition**, towards a more rational and holistic technical appraisal of all measures foreseen for the Gulf of Lion area,

21 June 2023 (SAC)

EAF (Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries)

MEDAC Advice Ref. 66/2023

It is the MEDAC's view that: [...] 4. henceforth, the **implementation of the ecosystem approach is indispensable and urgent**, introducing information into the modelling that takes into account the impact of climate change and changes in nutrient availability; [...]

SAC agreed to carry out a review of existing good practices in the application of holistic and participatory management approaches for SSF (i.e. the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, co-management, etc.), with a view to identifying **select fisheries in the eastern Mediterranean subregion** that could be **candidates for dedicated EAF case studies**.



MEDAC Advice on the need of the ecosystem approach implementation in the Adriatic Sea



29 May 2023 and 21 June 2023 (SAC)

MSE process for small pelagics and SRC-AS small pelagics

Ref. 73/2023 - It is important that the process will be based on a **continuous consultation** in collaboration regularly throughout the process and by organizing as soon as possible informal webinars to collect the opinions from a **heterogeneous platform of stakeholders** with particular attention to the working languages and the simplification of the scientific information to collect informed feedback.

Ref.66/2023 - It is the MEDAC's view that:

1. **any decision** regarding resource management in the Adriatic should be taken **after a socioeconomic impact study** has been carried out with reference to the foreseen measures;
2. where the **management measures** adopted to date have led to **positive results**, these **should be maintained** so as not to create further disruption to the sector and to the balance achieved with difficulty;
3. the different **predictive models** used for the assessments should **provide stable, consistent results**.



GFCM SRC-AS, May 30 – June 2, Split, Croatia (hybrid)



MEDAC Advice on the need of the ecosystem approach implementation in the Adriatic Sea



www.med-ac.eu

29 May 2023 and 21 June 2023 (SAC)

MSE process for small pelagics and SRC-AS small pelagics

SAC: the timeframe of the stakeholder's consultation for the MSE process will be **from July to October 2023** (first consultation) and then from **november to february**. (Source: workplan for MSE)

The **SAC** agreed on the **extension of the transitional period** foreseen by Rec. GFCM/44/2021/20 by one year with the objective of adopting long-term management measures in 2024 (for **implementation in 2025**), **under the same conditions** (i.e. further decrease in the catch limits in accordance with existing reductions)...

and **prolong the whole package** required for the transition towards the implementation of the long-term measures (i.e. the finalization of the sardine benchmark, the MSE and the determination of an allocation key) by one year: **Endorse the implementation of the roadmap for the finalization of the benchmark of sardine and quantitative MSE, including a data call for disaggregated acoustic survey data in June 2023, and performing stakeholder consultations.**



29 March 2023

FRA 1000 m

Ref.49/2023 - First of all, the average depth of the catches of **red shrimp in the Med Sea is between 640 and 780 m**, therefore the extension of the FRA would cause the closure of this fishing activity and would concentrate the fishing effort on smaller and shallower areas, with a considerably higher and more intense exploitation. **With the related socioeconomic consequences on the whole EU Med fleet.**

SAC discussed and agreed to carry out pilot projects in selected areas of the western, eastern and central Mediterranean and the Adriatic Sea **to specifically assess the extension of the 1000 m trawling ban to 800 m in terms of the impacts on stock status**, of the potential displacement of fishing effort and on socioeconomic indicators → including the way forward towards identifying specific areas and the methodologies to be used (terms of reference) then the GFCM pilot study was modified excluding the possible closure of the area between 600 and 800 m.



11 November 2022

Recreational fishery

MEDAC Advice
on EU proposal for a GFCM Rec. on minimum rules for
sustainable recreational fishing activities



www.med-ac.eu

The GFCM Rec.45/2022/12 considered the main indications provided by the MEDAC advice Ref. 62/2020 including the list of the relevant species.



SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES (SAC)

Twenty-fourth session

Online, 20–23 June 2023

**Draft concept note for a research programme on recreational fisheries in the
Mediterranean and Black Sea**

30 March 2021

Alien Species Observatory



MEDAC Ref.238/2020 "1. **Constituting and developing an international coordination centre** and a Mediterranean warning network to detect, monitor and manage invasions. The centre should be based or have monitoring centres close to the entry points of invasive species, such as Strait of Gibraltar or the Suez Canal" and Ref.70/2021"



GFCM SAC Report 2022 "Monitoring programmes [...]"

- Continue supporting key regional activities including: [...]
- **monitoring NIS across the Mediterranean, including through the establishment of the Observatory.**

7 July 2021

EMFAF - Insurance System



MEDAC advice on **climate change** - Ref.:70/2021 The MEDAC Invites: “The Commission and the Member States to provide for appropriate support measures, such as **insurance regimes and social protection systems** for the groups that are the most exposed to climate change.”



REGULATION (EU) 2021/1139 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 7 July 2021 establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 -
Consideranda 32

20 October 2016

Landing obligation demersal species



Ref. 190/2016 "Due to the low and irregular and seasonal volumes of discards registered throughout the Med and the lack of already existing infrastructures and industries located in proximity of the landing sites, which are widely spread throughout the coast of all Med member States (i.e. more than 800 in Italy, and close to 1000 in Croatia) it seems that **disproportionate cost of handling cost of unwanted catches can be claimed** for the Mediterranean. [...] Disproportionate costs of handling unwanted catches are also a major argument for trawlers to benefit from de minimis exemption authorizing limited discards.



Commission delegated Reg. EU No 2017/86 referring to the establishment for the discard plan for certain demersal fisheries (de minimis exemption).

The MEDAC advice 190/2016 became the legal basis for the exemptions provided in the Med from 2014 onwards in the JRs.

20 October 2014

Landing obligation small pelagics



Ref. 159/2014 “the critical aspects of handling are highlighted (such as the problems of separate stowage on board, refrigeration at sea and on land etc.). Lastly the requested de minimis percentage is defined, considering the **conditions for access to this exemption** and therefore the reasons for which increased gear selectivity is not possible [...] or the **evidence of disproportionate handling costs** compared to the very limited quantities that should be landed using the gear in question.



Commission delegated Regulations EU No 1392/2014 referring to the establishment for the discard plan for certain small pelagic fisheries (de minimis exemption).

The MEDAC advice 159/2014 became the legal basis for the exemptions provided in the Med from 2014 onwards in the JRs.



MEDAC
MEDITERRANEAN
A D V I S O R Y
C O U N C I L



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European Union

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Caggiano R., Procida, 2016

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