

The role of the MedRAC: present and future

How can MedRAC help at present ?

Implementation of the CFP in the EU

- **Assisting in definition/adoption of management plans** (feedback on state of the stocks, gears selectivity, species' life-cycle, characteristics of artisanal fisheries...)
- **Co-operating with scientists** (sharing knowledge on stocks and habitats)
- Helping in the **definition/consistent application** of some technical measures (e.g. justification for using 50 diamond mesh in trawl nets)

How can MedRAC help at present?

Implementation of the CFP in the EU

- Eliminating catches of undersized fish (by **improving selectivity**)
- Identifying **possible FPAs, best practices** for their management and by creating of **FPAs networks**
- Ensuring efficient **participation** of **Croatian** representatives in the Rac as quickly as possible

How can MedRAC help at present?

International cooperation and level playing field in the Mediterranean:

- Providing **input** regarding: **the GFCM reform**, the setting-up of **GFCM Multi-annual Management Plans** (e.g.: for the Adriatic, etc.)
- Helping to **improve the quality of available data**
- Issuing **advices supported on liable scientific advice** (e.g.: from FAO's regional projects)
- **Promoting compliance** (ICCAT, GFCM rules)

How can MedRAC help at present?

Compliance, monitoring and control policy

- **Cooperation with national authorities** when these perform controls
- **Information** on possible deficiencies in the system
- **Reporting** the national authorities and the Commission on lack of Compliance

How can MedRac help for the (near) future ?

- **The discussion on the future** role, composition and functioning of the future **Advisory Councils is still undergoing** (Inter-Rac meeting scheduled for 1 March 2013, Brussels). MedRAC will be expected to continue providing the kind of input mentioned before, and will additionally be involved in the preparation of new technical and conservation measures linked to the CFP Reform
- On **Discards / landing obligations and plans** : The landing obligation will trigger in automatically by effect of the basic regulation at the foreseen dates. This will concern all **EU fisheries and quota species**, as well as species in the **Mediterranean** subject to minimum catching sizes.
- MedRAC can contribute to the **identification of technical considerations** to implement this obligation in the Med.
 - **When** : by 1 January 2014 and all other Med fisheries between 2016-2019 (to be confirmed)
 - **How** : Recommendations to the MS for discard plans at the regional level (based on initiatives have already been taken in the North Sea, the Baltic and the Atlantic).