

GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

MARES2020

Hotel Admiral, Golden Sands Resort, BULGARIA, 17 – 20 September 2013



The Role of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean in the management of Black Sea and Mediterranean marine living resources

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Executive Secretary of the GFCM

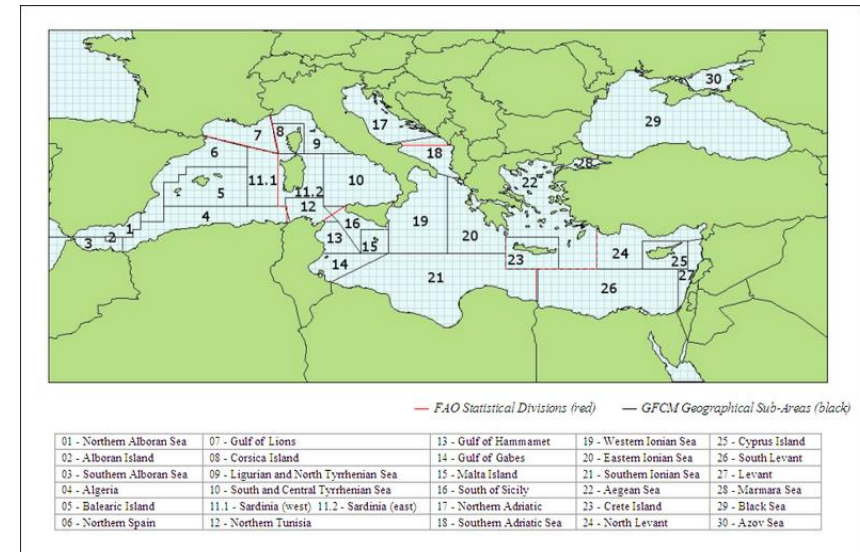


General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

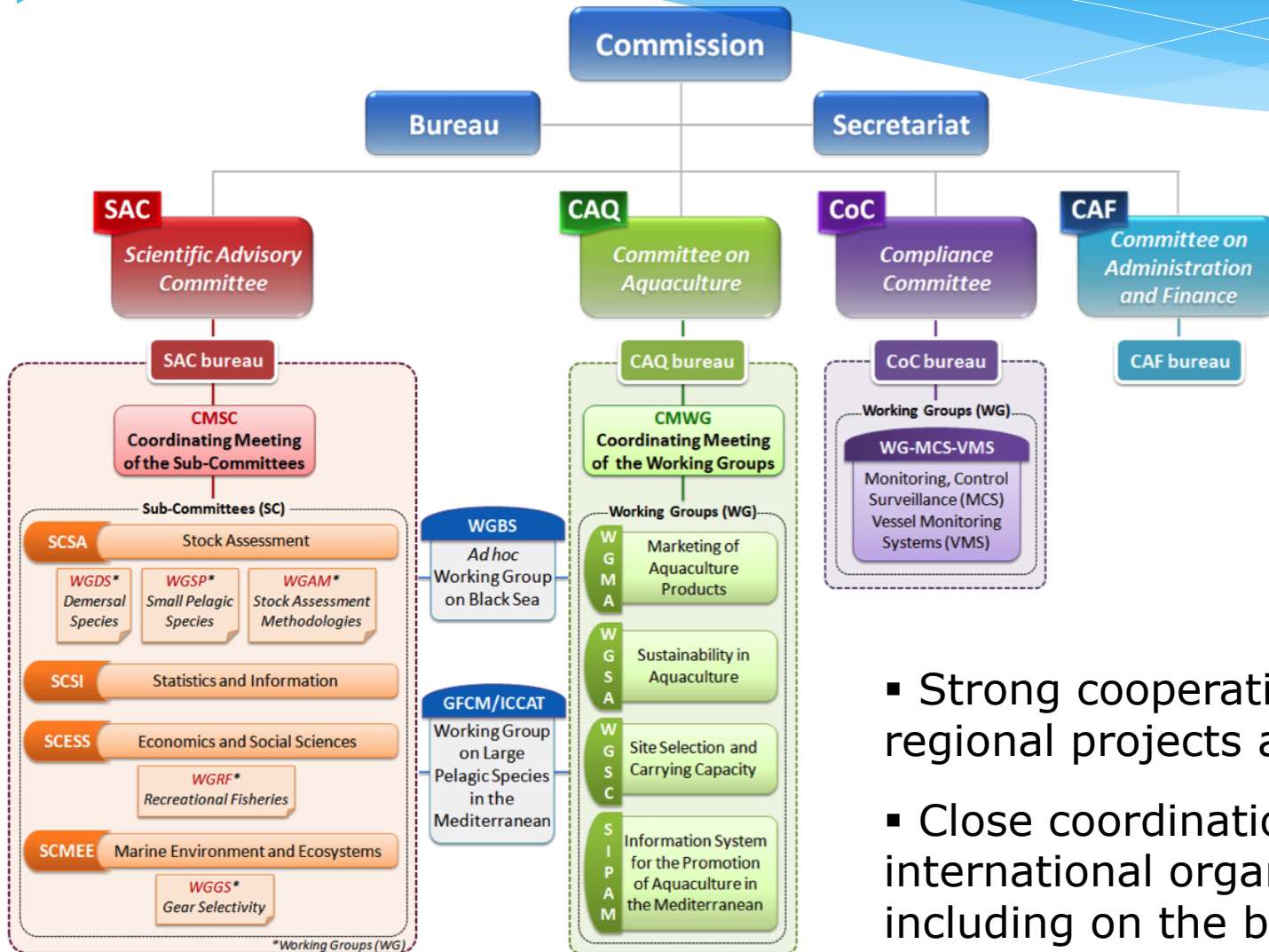
- 1949 Constitutive Agreement under FAO Article XIV
- Competence over the Mediterranean and Black Sea and connecting waters
- 24 Members: 19 Med, 3 BS, Japan and UE
- Power to adopt binding recommendations
- Steering provided by a Bureau composed of a Chairperson and 2 Vice-Chairpersons
- Annual session, intersessional work done by subsidiary bodies and coordinated by Secretariat

Objectives:

Ensure long-term sustainability of living marine resources, sustainable development of aquaculture and protection of marine habitats



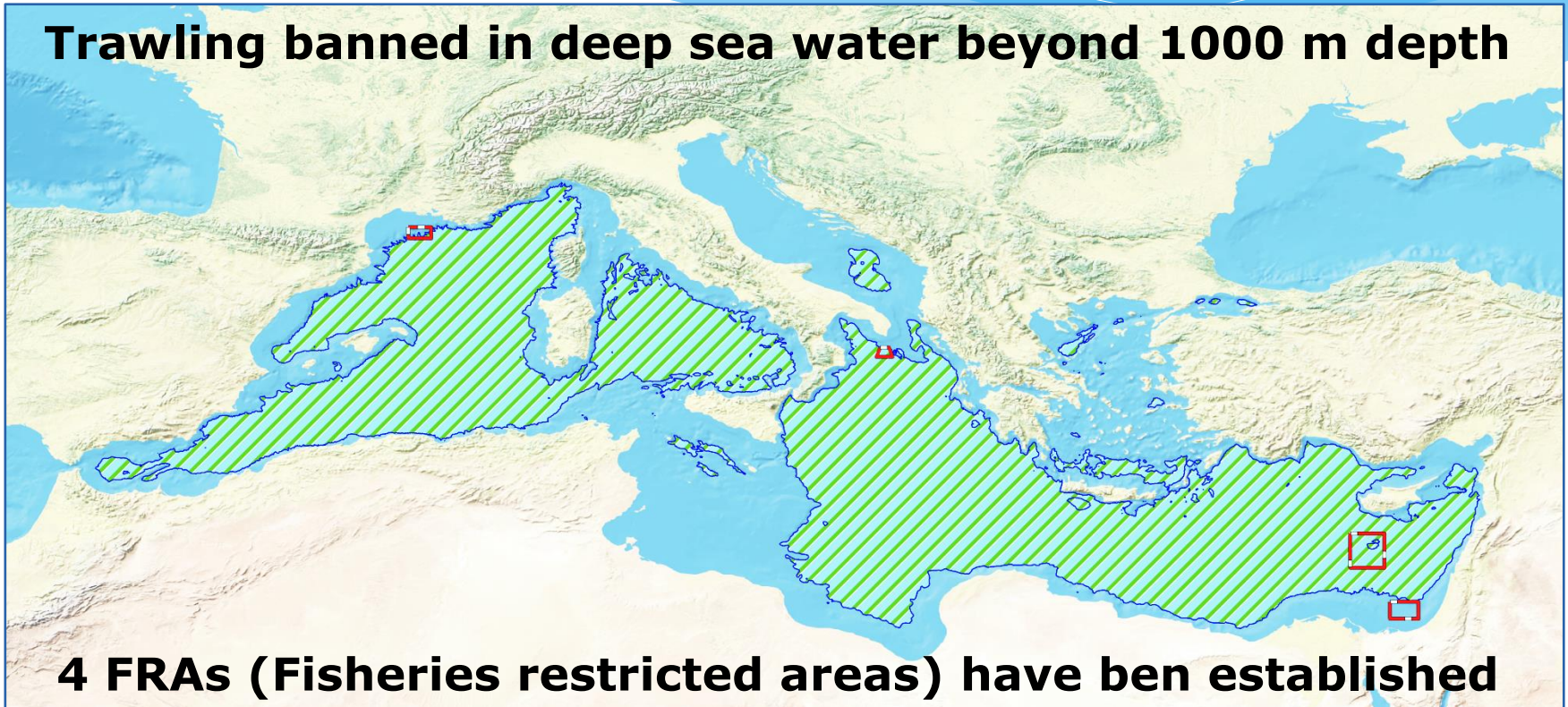
GFCM functioning



- Strong cooperation with FAO regional projects and FAO FI
- Close coordination with relevant international organizations, including on the basis of several MoUs

Area based management

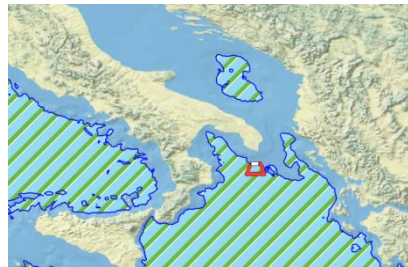
Trawling banned in deep sea water beyond 1000 m depth



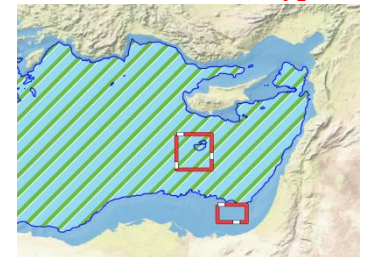
4 FRAs (Fisheries restricted areas) have been established



Spawning areas Gulf of lions, France



Lophelia reefs Capo Santa Maria di Leuca, Italy



Cold hydrocarbon seeps, Egypt

Eratosthenes Seamount, Cyprus

Conservation measures: binding recommendations

- **Recommendation GFCM/37/2013/2** on the establishment of a set of minimum standards for bottom-set gillnet fisheries for turbot and conservation of cetaceans in the Black Sea
- **Reducing incidental by-catch** in fisheries in the GFCM competence area:

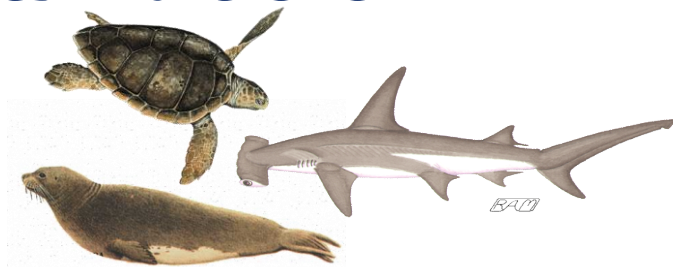
Seabirds (REC. GFCM/35/2011/3 and REC. GFCM/35/2011/7)

Sea turtles (REC. GFCM/35/2011/4)

Sharks and rays (REC. GFCM/34/2010/4(C), REC. GFCM/35/2011/7 and REC. GFCM/35/2011/7(C))

Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) (REC. GFCM/35/2011/5)

Cetaceans (REC. GFCM/36/2012/2)



- **Improving gear selectivity**
(minimum mesh size) (REC. GFCM/31/2007/1, RES. GFCM/37/2007/3)



- **Measures to protect red coral**
Fishing gear, minimum depth, minimum landing size (REC. GFCM/35/2011/2, REC. GFCM/36/2012/1)

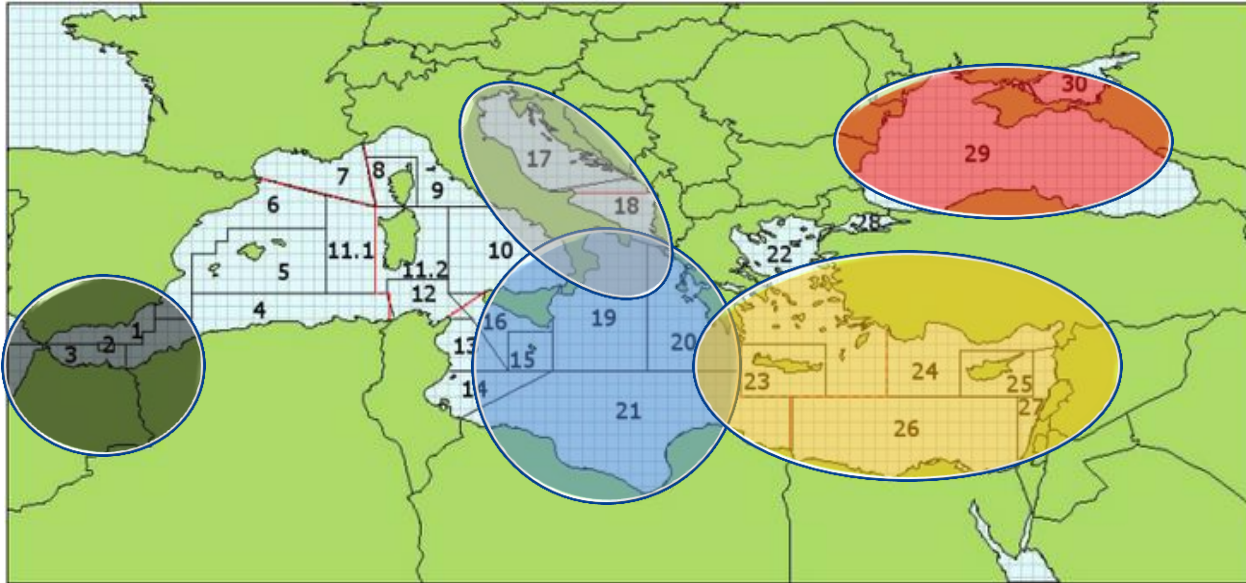


Toward fisheries management based on multiannual plans

Adriatic Sea

- Small pelagic fish (sardine/anchovy)

Case studies for the implementation of management plans



- 2012 GFCM guidelines for management plans
- **First plan adopted in 2013:** small pelagic fishery in the Adriatic
- **Transitory measures** toward management plans adopted in 2013
- **Harmonized measures** for turbot in the Black Sea approved in 2013
- Proposed plan for **red coral**

Western Mediterranean

- *P. bogaraveo*
- Small pelagic fish (sardine/anchovy)
- *P. longirostris*

Central Mediterranean

- *P. longirostris* and *M. merluccius*.
- *M. surmuletus* and *M. barbatus*

Eastern - Central Mediterranean

- *Aristeus antennatus*
- *Aristaomorpha foliacea*

Black Sea

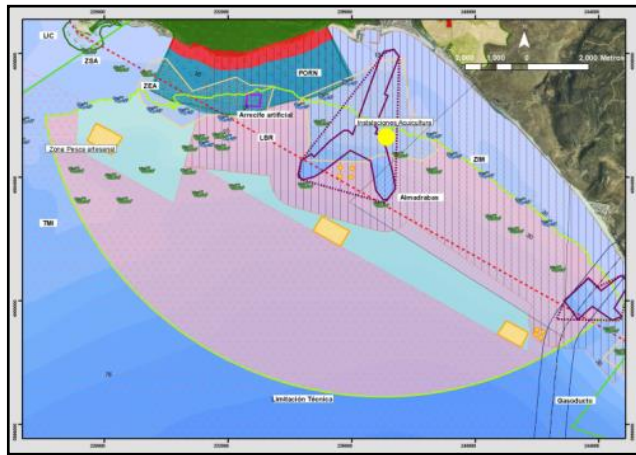
- *Psetta maxima*
- Small pelagics

Aquaculture main priorities and issues currently addressed by GFCM

- **Allocation of space for aquaculture** (need for integration of aquaculture activities within coastal zone management)
- **Environmental concerns** (need for better environmental quality standards and harmonisation of aquaculture legislations)
- **Assessment and monitoring of aquaculture sustainability** (need to improve assessment and communication - use of indicators)
- **Market issues and competition** (need for improving market and species diversification and farmers organisations involvement)

Promoting sustainable aquaculture

Aquaculture site selection and carrying capacity



- Developing site selection and criteria for the integration of aquaculture within coastal areas
- Identifying and establishing Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (technical support and national capacity-building)

- Harmonized environmental monitoring programme (EMP)
- Definition of environmental quality standards (EQS)
- *Resolution GFCM/36/2012/1 on "Guidelines on allocated zones for aquaculture (AZA)"*



GFCM actions in the Black Sea: WGBS

- The 35th Session of GFCM approved the establishment of the **Ad-Hoc Working Group for the Black Sea (WGBS)**
- The First Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group for the Black Sea (WGBS) took place in January 2012 in Constanta (Romania)
- The Second Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group for the Black Sea (WGBS) took place in April 2013 in Varna (Bulgaria)
- Achievements of the of WGBS:
 - Identified the deficiencies and needs in Black Sea Fisheries and Aquaculture
 - Established the Priority Actions for Medium Term Program
 - Adopted a roadmap to fight IUU fishing
- The activities of the WGBS are carried out according to the GFCM regular programme and the GFCM Framework Programme

GFCM actions in the Black Sea: Stock status

- Two small pelagic stocks and three demersal stocks from the Black Sea were presented to the 2012 GFCM Assessment WGs
- All demersal stocks are considered in overfishing while some doubts on the status of the pelagic stocks were raised
- Some differences between the analysis carried out by GFCM and STECF Groups were detected
- In 2013, the first meeting of the **Sub-regional Group on Stock Assessment for the Black Sea** will be carried out, with the objective to review the state of stocks in the area
- Increased coordination with other stock assessments carried out in the Black Sea

GFCM actions in the Black Sea: IUU

- Significant incidence of IUU fishing in the GFCM Area, including the Black Sea (problem initially recognized by the Council early in the 1990s)
- GFCM measures to fight IUU fishing: criteria to grant cooperating status to non-Members known to fish in the GFCM Area, port State measures, IUU list, VMS
- GFCM Regional Workshop on IUU fishing in the Black Sea held on February 2013 in Istanbul
- 37th session of the Commission endorsed the **Roadmap against IUU in the Black Sea** which was adopted in Istanbul
- Work ongoing to implement selected activities in the Roadmap

GFCM actions in the Black Sea: Management

- Recommendation GFCM37/2013/2 on a set of minimum standards for bottom-set gillnet fisheries for turbot and conservation of cetaceans in the Black Sea approved in 2013
- Two different actions on data collection and management plans in the Black Sea were launched within the first phase of the GFCM Framework Programme.
 - A meeting on Data Collection took place in Varna, April 2013 and results are being incorporated in the proposal for the new GFCM Data Collection Regulation Framework
 - A meeting on Management plans is expected by the end of 2013, to define further management measures for the protection of Black Sea fisheries

First Regional Symposium on Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (Malta, Hilton Hotel, 27-30/11/2013)

- * The Symposium will provide a platform where the **main recurring issues of small scale fisheries** can be duly examined, and relevant regional stakeholders can bring to the fore their opinions,
- * The GFCM organizes it in collaboration with FAO Fisheries Department, FAO Regional Projects, WWF, MedPan and CIHEAM, and it is supported by a number of Donors
- * The Symposium will lead to the elaboration of a **declaration for sustainable small scale fisheries** taking into consideration the FAO International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries
- * Expected participations ~ 160: <http://www.ssfsymposium.org/>

**Thank you for your
attention !**

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