

# Expert Meeting on fisheries-related other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean

16-17 February 2021 (Online)

## BACKGROUND

This Expert Meeting is organised following the successful **Webinar on marine OECMs in the Mediterranean Region** organized by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with the GFCM Secretariat, on 14 December 2021.

Given the current circumstances of the pandemic evolution, this expert meeting will be carried online via Zoom on 16 and 17 February 2022. The work initiated during these two days will be followed up and linked to the GFCM technical meetings including of its Subregional Committees (SRCs), culminating into a discussion during the meeting GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee for fisheries in 2022.

The main objective of the Expert Meeting is to set the way forward towards the identification of fisheries-related OECMs in the Mediterranean. The main points to be covered will include:

- Initial application of CBD criteria for OECMs to the case studies and fisheries related measures (see below) already identified during the above mentioned webinar;
- Compilation and discussion of main challenges related to the application of the criteria with initial recommendations on how to address them;
- Agreement on next steps to undertake a more in-depth evaluation of the case studies for discussions by GFCM technical meetings in 2022 (see below);
- Assess the implications, opportunities and potential difficulties, that arise from identifying fishery-related OECMs in the Mediterranean.

During the webinar, participants identified a number of potential areas that could benefit from an assessment against OECM criteria to enable clarifying certain aspects of the application of the criteria and consider a diversity of cases and measures. The identified case studies are the following:

- The 1000 m GFCM FRA
- Central Mediterranean case studies
- Eastern Mediterranean case studies
- Adriatic Sea case studies

The information needed to undertake an initial evaluation of these measures or areas will be at disposal of the meeting. The discussions undertaken will guide the development of a fuller assessment of these areas against the full set of the CBD criteria for these cases to be presented during specific sessions of four GFCM meetings, as follows:

- Working Group on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems and Essential Fish Habitats (WGVME-EFH) (22-24 March 2022): 1000 m deepwater FRA
- Subregional Committee for the Central Med (SRC-CM) (11-14 April 2022): central Mediterranean case studies
- Subregional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean (SRC-EM) (10-13 May 2022): Eastern Mediterranean case studies
- Subregional Committee for the Adriatic Sea (SRC-AS)(17-20 May 2022): Adriatic sea case studies

A final workshop will be organised to bring together the conclusions stemming from the whole process in preparation for the GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee for fisheries where fisheries-related OECEM will be discussed.

#### **Target participants**

The expert-workshop will require participants to commit the time to participate for the entire two days. Participants will include **GFCM stakeholders and partners**, though **especially designed for experts from national administrations and environment and fishery managers from GFCM CPCs, as well as experts from organizations and research institutions** active in area-based management. Participants will be required to be able to contribute actively to the assessment of at least one of the identified case studies.

#### **Zoom link**

Topic: Expert meeting on fisheries-related OECEMs

Time: Feb 16, 2022 09:30 AM Rome

Feb 17, 2022 09:30 AM Rome

<https://fao.zoom.us/j/94868508097>

Meeting ID: 948 6850 8097

Passcode: 92059567

**DRAFT AGENDA**  
**Expert Meeting on fisheries-related other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)**  
**in the Mediterranean**

**16-17 February 2021 (Online)**

**9.30-17.00 (CET)**

<b>DAY 1 – 16 February 2022</b>	
09.30-09.45	<b>Opening of the meeting</b>
09.45-11.00	<b>OECM background (refresher)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why identify fisheries related OECMs in the Mediterranean? (GFCM)</li> <li>• Understanding the CBD OECM Criteria (FAO)</li> <li>• Draft of the FAO Guidelines for identifying fisheries-related OECMs (FAO)</li> </ul>
11.00-13.00	<b>Group discussion on the CBD Criteria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of two examples of the fisheries-related OECMs and how they have applied the CBD Criteria (FAO): Examples discussed in the joint ICES/IUCN-CEM FEG Workshop on Testing OECM Practices and Strategies (WKTOPS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lophelia Coral Conservation Area (Canada)</li> <li>○ NEAFC Rockall Haddock Box</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Introduction to using Miro white board</li> <li>• Group discussion on the CBD Criteria for OECMs– which criteria are clear and which are not ? Which criteria would be challenging to apply in fisheries-related areas in the Mediterranean and why ?</li> </ul>
13.00-14.30	<b>Lunch Break</b>
14.30-15.30	Discussion and synthesis of common challenges, and areas that may require additional guidance or clarifications
15.45-17.00	<b>GFCM 1000m FRA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of 1000m GFCM FRA (GFCM)</li> <li>• Initial assessment of the case study</li> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul>
<b>DAY 2 – 17 February 2022</b>	
09.30-13.00	Participants will be divided into working groups, each undertaking an initial assessment of a case study against selected CBD Criteria. The groups will address the case studies below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Mediterranean case studies: Strait of Sicily FRA(s)</li> <li>• Eastern Mediterranean case study: example(s) from Lebanon</li> <li>• Adriatic sea case studies: Velebit channel (Croatia) and Jabuka/Pomo pit (TBC)</li> </ul>
13.00-14.30	<b>Lunch Break</b>
14.30-16.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting from groups</li> <li>• Discussion of cases that are more likely to meet OECM criteria</li> <li>• Final conclusions</li> </ul>
16.30-17.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreement on next steps on how to finalise evaluation and discussion in subsequent GFCM meetings</li> <li>• Closure of the meeting</li> </ul>