

MEDAC Professional Merit Award

The aim of this proposal is to set up a MEDAC Professional Merit Award in recognition of excellence demonstrated by key actors that have made an outstanding contribution to fisheries management in any area - be it professional representation, research, activities carried out by those defined as "Other Interest Groups", etc. - in relation to the achievement of the CFP goals, i.e., conservation of fish stocks, protection of the marine environment, safeguarding the economic viability of EU fleets, supplying quality food to consumers, and so forth.

Equally, a further merit to be assessed is that of achieving improvements with regard to the adaptation of the CFP to the specific social, economic and environmental context of the Mediterranean Sea.

One single award is to be granted on an annual basis.

The award is granted without the potential beneficiary submitting an application.

The **call for nominations** and the **granting of the award** are subject to compliance with the principles of public accountability, transparency, objectivity, equality and non-discrimination.

The **Jury** members will be as follows:

- the Chair's Office (Chair and vice-Chairs)
- the Secretariat
- the Coordinators of the Working Groups and Focus Groups
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Nominations must be duly reasoned and accompanied by a report describing the merits and circumstances of the candidate, whether this is a natural person, legal entity or group.

The MEDAC Secretariat may, on a case-by-case basis, request any further reports deemed appropriate and necessary.

The MEDAC Chair is responsible for presenting the candidate that is nominated for the award to the General Assembly.

The criteria for conferring the award

The assessment will be based on the achievements of the natural person, legal entity or interest group that is nominated, with regard to activities carried out in the defence and for the achievement of the goals of the CFP, and accordingly their merits in relation to promoting the interests of fisheries in terms of environmental, economic and, above all, social sustainability, together with their track record over the years.

Conferral, disclosure and presentation

Once a decision has been made on the winning candidate and this has been duly approved, the MEDAC Award will be presented at the first possible session of the General Assembly.

Status and rights of award winners

This an honorary award, valid for life.

Records of the MEDAC Professional Fishery Merit Award

The Secretariat shall keep a record on the award containing the following information:

- the date on which proceedings commence
- details identifying the person or group nominated
- notice of conferral of the award with the date
- the date on which the award is presented
- any further information deemed necessary and relevant.