

# GFCM FWP activities concerning the development of multi-annual management plans

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## OUTLINE

- Fishery management plan
- GFCM guidelines on management plans
- Implementation of the Guidelines
  - Roadmap Adriatic case study
  - Sub-regional Workshop on Management Plans for Western, Central and Eastern Mediterranean (Tunis, June, 2013)



# Fisheries management plan

“An instrument that provides clear vision for a fishery, realistic and measurable management objectives, and a roadmap for moving the fishery forward on an agreed schedule of shared responsibilities among the fisheries administration and stakeholders” (FAO)

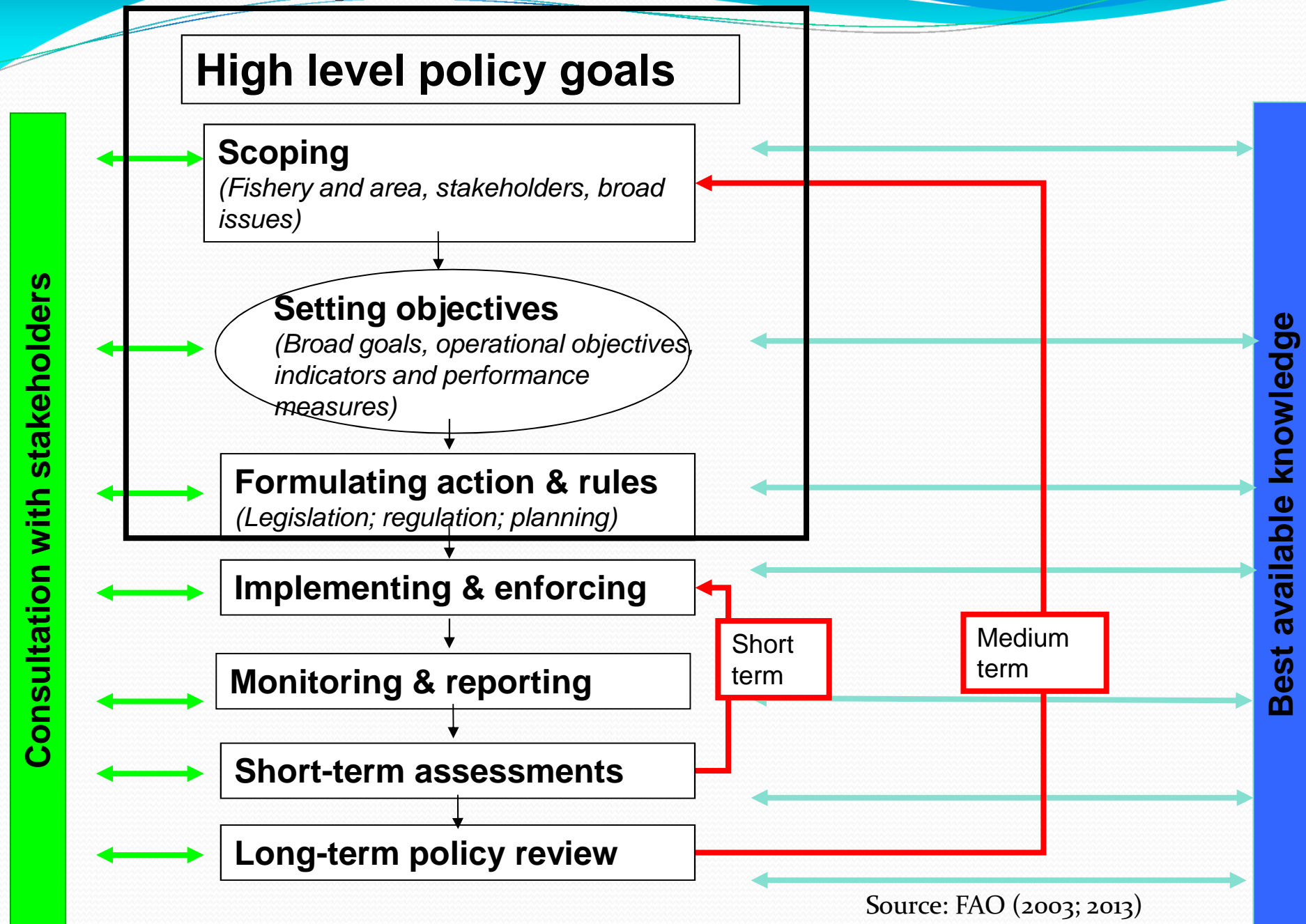
- *Sub-regional*: when dealing with more than one country (shared resources)
- *Multi-annual*: with expected outputs in the medium- and long-term
- Key tool for the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries



# Benefits

- Guide the implementation of agreed management measures and their adaptation in face of changing conditions;
- Practical tool for a precautionary/adaptive management;
- Decreases uncertainty for stakeholders;
- Prevents short-term influences from management decisions;
- Avoids unnecessary short-term reviews and amendments of management measures to accommodate for changes in the status of resources and fisheries.

# Implementation framework



Source: FAO (2003; 2013)



# GFCM guidelines

“Guidelines on a general management framework and presentation of scientific information for multiannual management plans for sustainable fisheries in the GFCM area”  
36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission (Morocco, 2012)

# Context

- “GFCM may develop and adopt multi-annual management plans for fisheries exploiting demersal and small pelagic stocks, in particular when shared among GFCM Members, and operating in one or more adjacent GSAs”
- “This should not affect the possibility of countries developing their own national management plans, provided that the objective and measures in the national plans are not less strict or in contradiction with GFCM measures”.



# Objectives

- “to counteract and prevent overfishing while providing high long-term yields and maintaining, to the extent possible, the stocks size of harvested species at levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield and with a low risk of stocks falling outside safe biological limits”.
- “coherent with the precautionary and/or ecosystem approach and minimize the impact of fishing on sensitive habitats”.



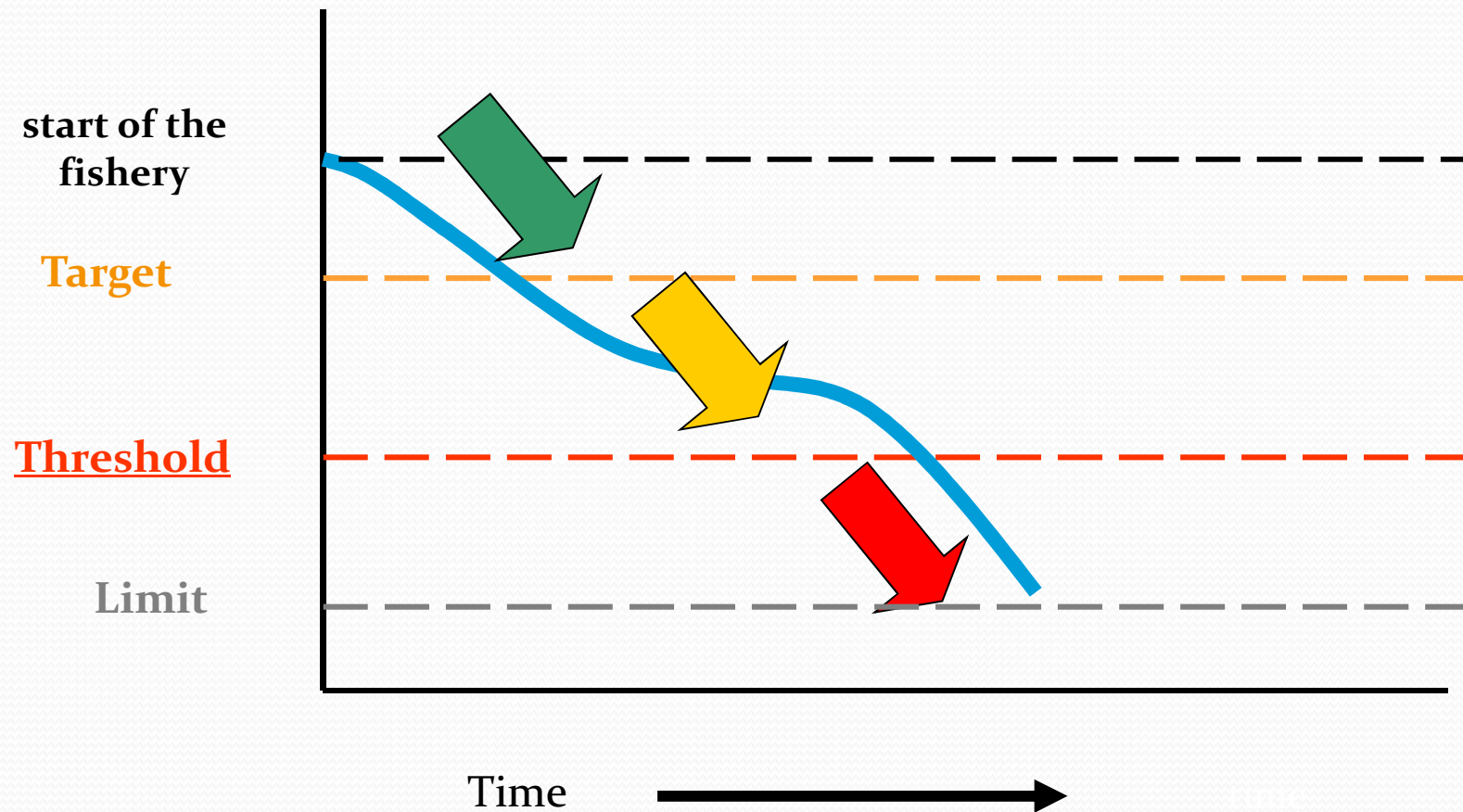
# Reference points

- “GFCM multiannual management plans may include where relevant:
  - Target reference point: a state of a fishing and/or biological resource which is considered to be desirable.
  - Threshold reference point: a state of a fishing and/or biological resource between the limit and target reference points. **Red flag**. Trigger particular management actions designed to reduce fishing pressure and mortality.
  - Limit reference point: a state of a fishing and/or biological resource which is considered to be undesirable and which management actions should avoid with high probability.

# Indicators

## Example of indicators:

- Biomass
- Catch rates (CPUEs)
- Income/fisherman





# Management measures

- Effort regulation
- Gear selectivity
- Spatio-temporal closures
- Time frame for application/recovery
- Socio-economic impact



# Practical issues concerning the implementation of the Guidelines



- Technical feasibility:

- Defining the scope of fisheries for shared resources.
- Working together and effectively towards a common management plan.
- Defining common issues to be addressed at the sub-regional level.
- Agreeing on the contents of a management plan, including general and operational objectives, indicators and reference points.
- Agreeing on the scientific basis for the management plan, including dealing with poor or lack of data.



- Other issues:

- Defining appropriate arenas for decision making and monitoring of the plan at sub-regional level.
- Ensuring adequate stakeholder involvement.
- Addressing non-compliance with the plan, especially in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- Etc.



# Roadmap for testing the technical feasibility of GFCM guidelines



## FIRST PHASE

- Preparation of methodology and related protocols.
- Identification of potential target case study fishery in the Adriatic Sea.
- Technical workshop on management plan in the Adriatic

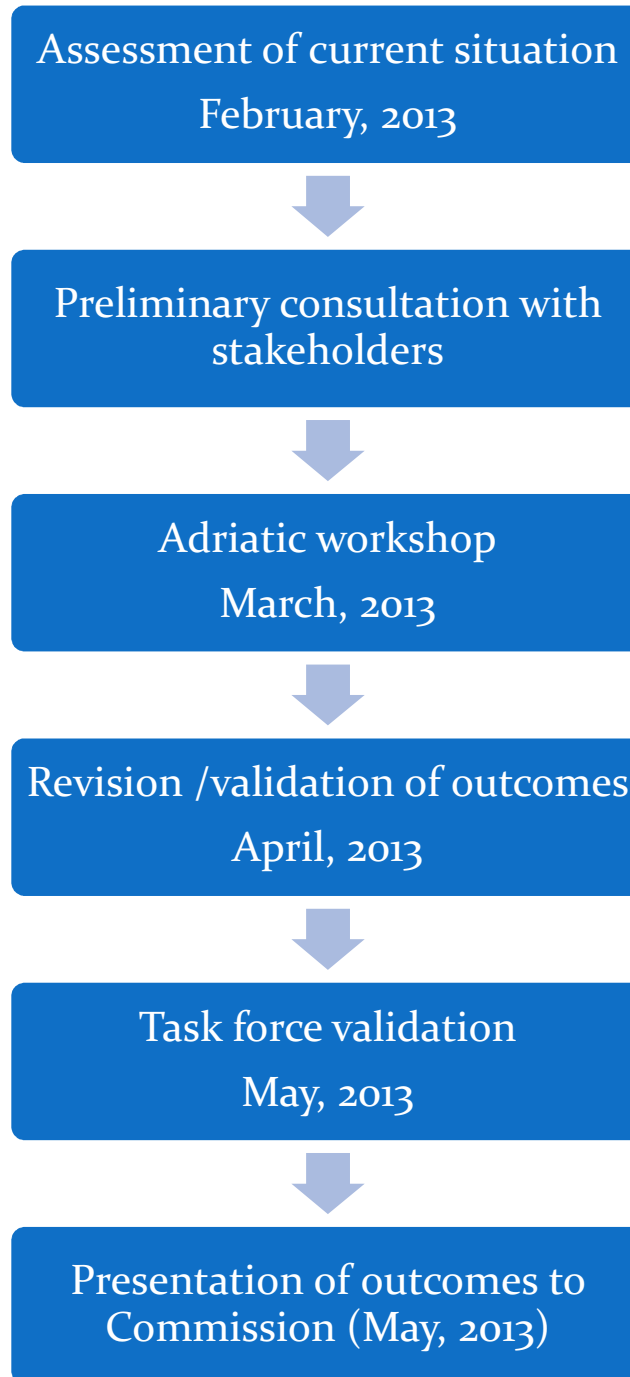




Methodology to start the action approved at the preparatory meeting, held in GFCM HQ, Rome, Italy, 6-7 December 2012:

- Target fishery for Adriatic Sea: small pelagics (GSA 17 and 18)
- Roadmap for testing the feasibility of GFCM guidelines for the above case study.

- Questionnaire focal points
- Review available information



# Adriatic Workshop (Split, 20-22 March)

## Outcomes:

- Agreement on emerging issues and priorities for the management of small pelagic fisheries in the Adriatic Sea (GSA 17 and 18).
- Technical views concerning objectives, reference points, management options and research needs
- Agreement on a strategy towards the development of a management plan:
  - Preparation of a *Background Technical Document in Support of the Management Plan* to be submitted to countries for revision and then to Task Force for Validation.
  - Continuous communication GFCM – countries – AdriaMed
  - Establishment of a working group within AdriaMed to discuss issues concerning management plans in the Adriatic Sea.

# **Background Technical Document in support of a Management Plan for small pelagics in the Adriatic Sea**

## **Table of Contents (*Draft*)**

### **1. Background information**

- 1.1. Environmental and geographical settings
- 1.2. Fisheries resources
- 1.3. Fishing activities
- 1.4. Market situation
- 1.5. Fisheries governance and management frameworks
- 1.6. Description of the process leading to the plan
- 1.7. Management priorities and issues

### **2. Objectives**

- 2.1. General objectives
- 2.2. Operational objectives

### **3. Indicators and reference points**

### **4. Technical views on fisheries management requirements**

- 4.1. Scientific basis for decision rules
- 4.2. Scientific monitoring
- 4.3. Views in relation to fisheries monitoring

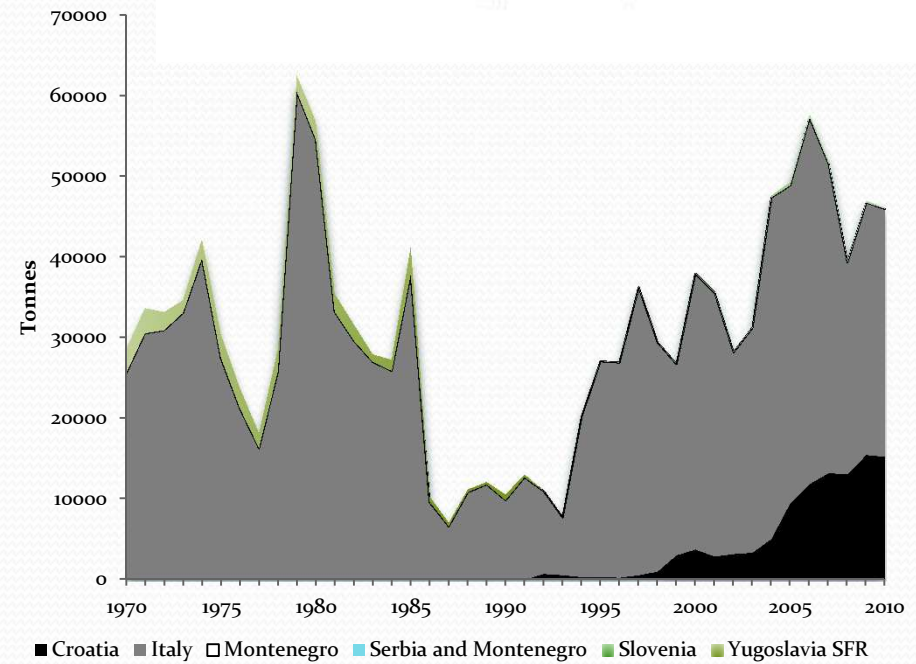
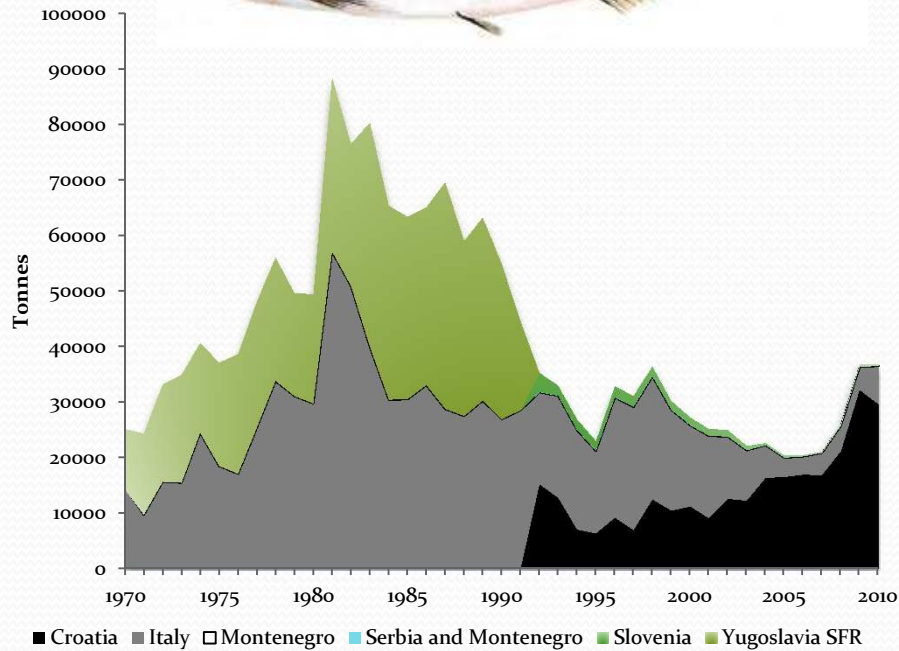
### **5. Suggestions regarding the review of a management plan for the fishery**

# Small pelagic fisheries in the Adriatic Sea



- 5 countries (Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro and Albania)
- 2 GSAs (17 and 18)
- Multi-species (sardine and anchovy the most important)
- Multi-fleet:
  - Purse seiners (307)
  - Mid-water trawlers (132)
  - Others, incl. small-scale beach seiners (>32)
- Multiple uses:
  - Domestic consumption
  - Export (\$)
  - Tuna farming feed

# Catches

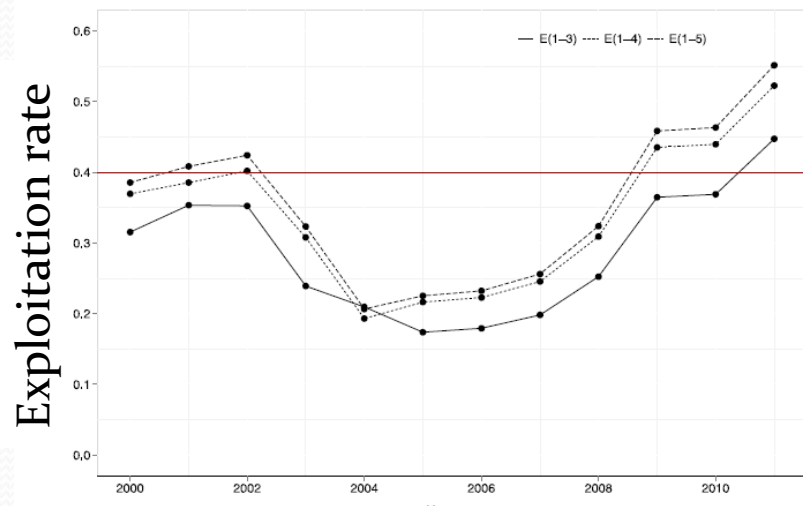
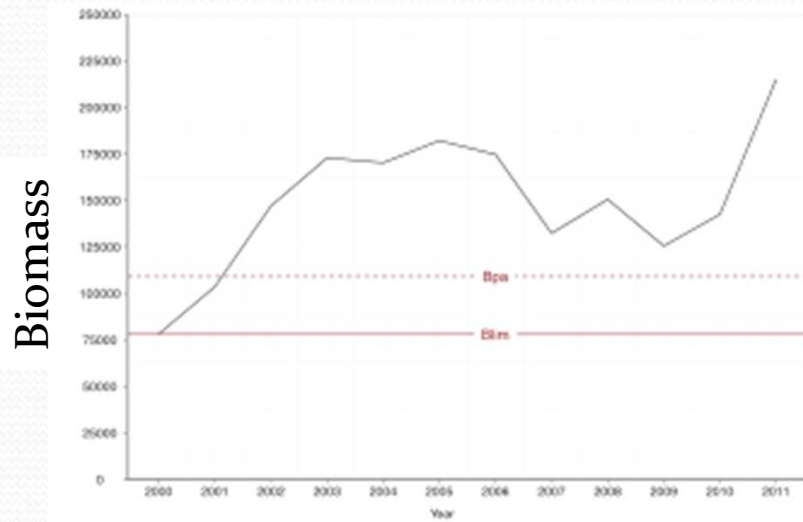


Albania: ~ 800 tonnes/year (small pelagics)

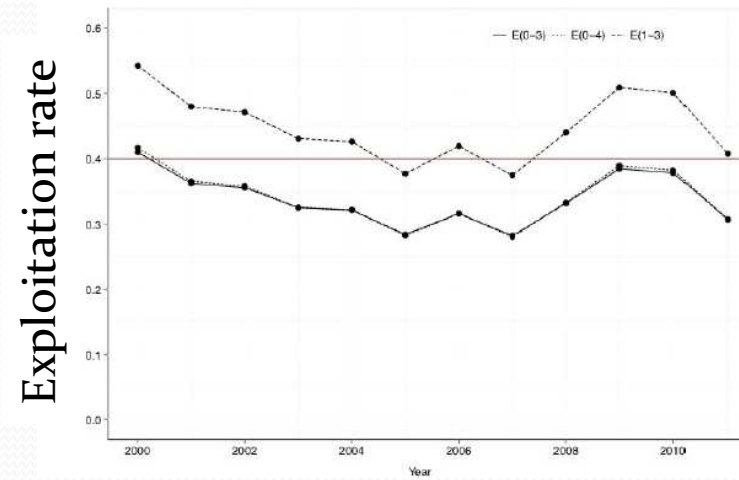
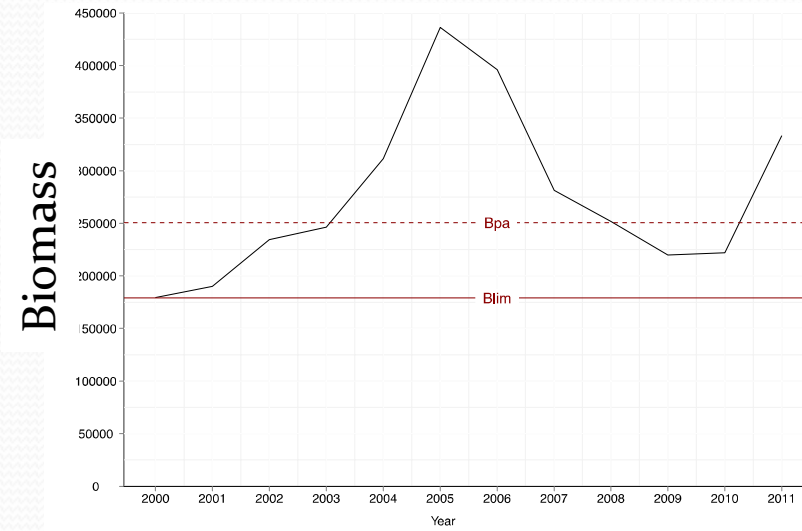
Source: FAO FishStat

# GSA 17

## Sardine



## Anchovy



Source: Carpi et al. 2012

# GSA 17

## Sardine

*Bidimensional stock advice summary; Exploitation rate and Stock Abundance.*

Exploitation rate		Stock Abundance	
[2000-2011]		[2000-2011]	
	No fishing mortality		Virgin
	Low fishing mortality		High abundance
	Sustainable Fishing Mortality	<b>X</b>	Intermediate abundance
<b>X</b>	High fishing mortality		Low abundance
	Uncertain/Not assessed		Depleted
			Uncertain / Not assessed

## Anchovy

*Bidimensional stock advice summary; Exploitation rate and Stock Abundance.*

Exploitation rate		Stock Abundance	
[2000-2011]		[2000-2011]	
	No fishing mortality		Virgin
	Low fishing mortality		High abundance
<b>X</b>	Sustainable Fishing Mortality	<b>X</b>	Intermediate abundance
	High fishing mortality		Low abundance
	Uncertain/Not assessed		Depleted
			Uncertain / Not assessed

Source:  
SAC-SCSA 2013



## GSA 18

- An approved formal assessment not yet ready
- However, surveys are being carried out, and preliminary assessment have been presented.
- Last year GFCM assessment WG recommend to include catches from GSA 18 in order to have a complete assessment.

## Emerging issues at the sub-regional level

- Sustainability of the resources, addressing the following aspects:
  - precautionary system to ensure good status of stocks, including ecosystem considerations.
  - evaluate the sustainability of current fishing practices
  - regional limit of fishing capacity
  - rules for partitioning of the exploitation of the resources
- External risks that should be accounted for:
  - marketing conditions affecting the profitability of the fisheries.
  - the impacts and implications of natural fluctuations in stock size and productivity.

# Next steps

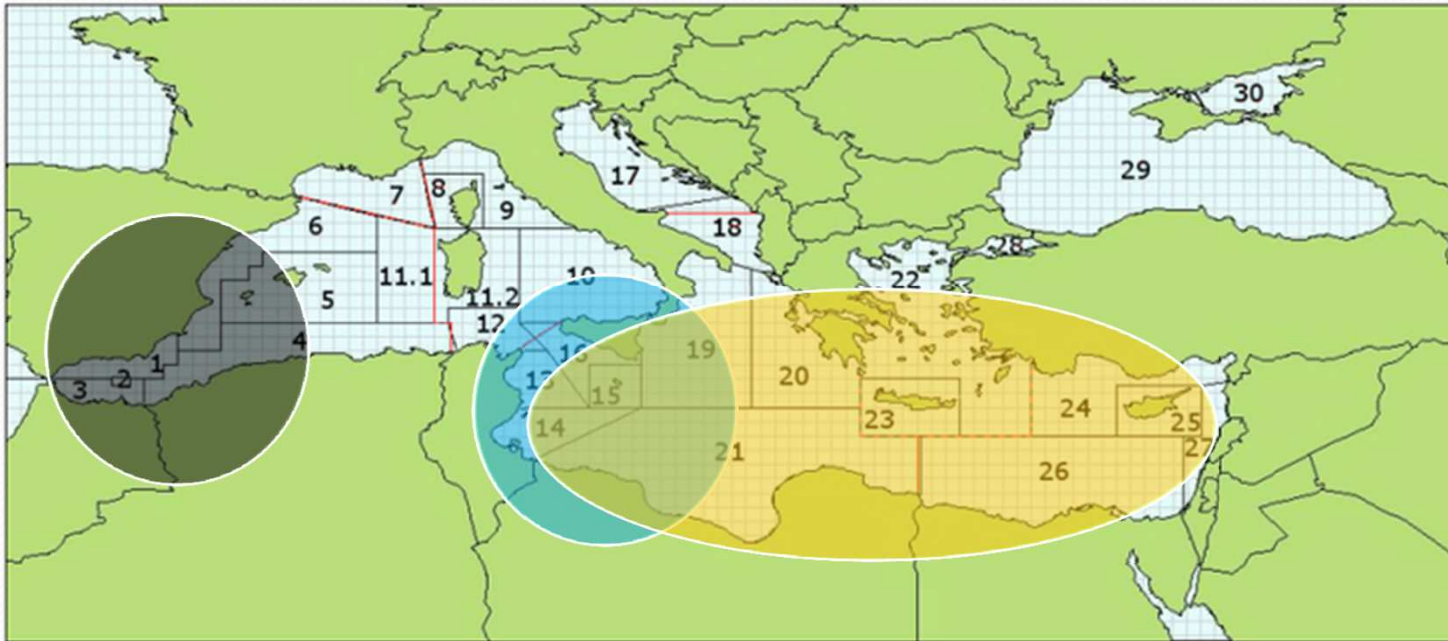
- Background Technical Document being revised by countries.
- BTD validated by GFCM Task Force and presented to the Commission (May, 2013)
- *Appropriate consultations to define technical measures of the plan (full involvement of stakeholders)*
- *Proposition, by concerned countries, of the final detailed management plan to the GFCM.*



## SECOND PHASE

- Extension of the case studies to test the technical feasibility of the GFCM guidelines in all Mediterranean sub-regions (West, Central and East).
- Technical workshop on Management plans for the Western, Central and Eastern Mediterranean (Tunis, June 2013).
- Comprehensive action in the Black sea, including a case study to test the technical feasibility of the GFCM guidelines for the turbot fishery.

# Candidate case studies in Mediterranean sub-regions



## Western Mediterranean

- *P. bogaraveo* (GSA 3 and Gibraltar Strait)
- Small pelagic fish (sardine/anchovy) (GSA 1 - 4)
- *P. longirostris* (GSA 1 - 4)

## Central Mediterranean

- *P. longirostris* and *M. merluccius* (GSA 12 - 16, 21).
- *M. surmuletus* and *M. barbatus* (GSA 12 - 16, 21).

## Eastern - Central Mediterranean

- *Aristeus antennatus* and *Aristaomorpha foliacea* (GSA 13 - 16, 19 - 27).

# **Workshop on Management Plans for the Western, Central and Eastern Mediterranean**

Tunis, Tunisia, June 2013 (dates TBC)

## **Objectives:**

- to reach a common understanding of the role of management plans as a tool for sustainable fisheries and of the steps necessary for its development;
- to identify the main issues that would need to be addressed in a management plan for the case study fisheries; and
- to advance in the preparation of technical documents in support of a management plan for the case study fisheries and discuss on strategies to implement the management plans.



Thank you!