



High level Seminar on the status of the stocks in the Mediterranean Sea Catania, 9-10 February 2016

**Implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy
in the Mediterranean Sea**

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Establish the diagnostic

The status of the main commercial stocks in the Mediterranean Sea is really worrying → STECF, GFCM, MEDAC, NGO's agree on that diagnosis

The first objective of this Seminar is therefore to acknowledge this common diagnosis

The second objective is to agree on a roadmap on what to do from now on, considering the full implementation of the CFP

Preventive measures already in place

National management plans are already in place; Fleet reductions and measures to protect the environment have been already implemented

MEDREG anticipated the integration of the protection of the environment and a series of technical measures

GFCM adopted some recommendations to move forward in a better management of fishery resources

*Unfortunately all these measures together have not been successful in improving the situation of stocks or flotillas, and sometimes were counterproductive → **we must react now***

Two levels of urgency

Short term (2016-7)

Mid-Term (2018-9)

At EU level

Articles 9 and 10 of the CFP Management Plans

Article 12 Commission Measures in case of a serious threat to marine biological resources.

Article 15 of the CFP landing obligation.

Article 16 of the CFP Fishing opportunities.

At international level

We must build alliances with riparian countries to advance in the management of shared stocks and habitats

We must move forward the proposed measures for the central region of the Mediterranean

We must take action against undeclared catches (which prevents scientists to deliver reliable advice) and implement the collection of data.

At Member States level

Some Articles of the Basic Regulation of the Common Fisheries Policy require MSs initiatives

Article 8 (2), 11, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 27 and 36-39

Mediterranean Regulation

Article 19 on National management plans

Apply the CFP to the Mediterranean

Pragmatic/proportionate approach (need to respect the objectives of the CFP)

Concentrate on species that define fisheries trying to bring them as soon as possible to MSY levels

We need a serious effort on reducing non-commercial by-catches

We need a great effort to declare and record all catches

Hake and associated demersal species (I)

National level

Spatio-temporal closures, real-time closure, Progressive reduction of fishing effort, Report catches from the first Kg; Enforcement of MCS measures; Emergency measures in case of a serious threat to marine biological resources (under the CFP, Article 13);

EU level

Increase the minimum conservation reference size, improve selectivity of fishing gears; Improve scientific process, to establish a multi-annual plan for demersal fisheries

International level

Set a minimum conservation reference size for the whole Mediterranean basin at the GFCM;

Progressive reduction of fishing effort

Spatio-temporal closures or Fisheries Restricted Areas

to improve the selectivity of the bottom trawls

Mediterranean Swordfish

National level

Enforcement of MCS measures;

International level (ICCAT)

The obligation to land in designated ports to facilitate controls and pre-notifications;

The introduction of a tagging program to guarantee the origin of the catches;

The implementation of an observer program to gather the information on discards levels (address the concerns of high bycatches)

Red sea bream/Alboran Sea

National level

Enforcement of MCS measures, including imports of under-sized red-sea bream from Morocco (those catches are subject to the provision of the minimum size under the MEDREG);

EU level

Set a common minimum conservation reference size for the Atlantic and Mediterranean waters around the strait of Gibraltar;

Set a TAC/quota for ES and PT on the basis of a joint stock assessment (i.e. covering the Atlantic and Mediterranean waters around the strait of Gibraltar);

International level

Set a common minimum conservation reference size;

Set common temporal closures (e.g. Feb-Mar);

Improve the scientific knowledge, in particular the collection of biological and socio-economic data;

Small pelagic species/Adriatic

National level

TAC/quota system or other type of output restrictions, for example, a maximum catch per day and vessel, differentiated by length categories;

Progressive reduction of fishing effort, based on scientific information and CFP targets (e.g. F_{MSY}). Fishing effort could be reduced by permanent cessations or by reducing the total No of fishing days per vessel;

Spatio-temporal closures (temporary cessations) tailored to protect spawning areas and periods (this measure could also be adopted in other areas than the Adriatic Sea);

Enforcement of MCS measures;

Now, we need to discuss and to define a roadmap

Discuss on the typology of actions

Define a roadmap identifying who, when and how we are going to act to reverse this situation