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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION on fixing for 2023 the fishing opportunities for certain stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas and amending Council Regulation (EU) 2022/110 as regards the fixing of fishing opportunities for 2022 applicable in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas

- Commission services non-paper

Delegations will find in the Annex a non-paper on the above-mentioned subject, as received from the European Commission services.

COMMISSION SERVICES NON-PAPER

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This document serves as a basis for discussion at the Working Party on Fisheries Policy. It cannot in any circumstances be regarded as the official position of the Commission. It is intended solely for those to whom it is addressed.

Updates to Commission Proposal COM (2022)525 final for a Council Regulation fixing for 2023 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas and amending Council regulation (EU) 2022/110 as regards the fixing of fishing opportunities for 2022 applicable in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

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Explanatory Note

A. Implementation of the western Mediterranean multiannual management plan (West Med MAP)

Article 7(3)(b) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022¹ ('West Med MAP') provides that the fishing effort decrease may be supplemented with any relevant technical and other conservation measures adopted in accordance with Union law, in order to achieve Fmsy by 1 January 2025. There are only two years left to achieve the MSY objective.

As in previous years, both stock assessments on the West Med MAP from STECF² and the Scientific Advisory Committee³ of the GFCM in 2022 advised that, in order to attain the MSY targets for demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean, swift action is needed and reductions in fishing mortality are necessary.

In comparison with 2020 and 2021, there has been progress in reducing the fishing mortality of the majority of the stocks under the West Med MAP. This is an indication that the implementation of the West Med MAP is starting to deliver and that effort must continue to bring these stocks at MSY. There are nevertheless some stocks that have not yet seen a significant reduction in fishing mortality. The stocks of hake, Norway lobster and deep-water shrimps are overexploited and present low levels of biomass.

As in 2021, STECF assessed in 2022 the impact of a combination of management measures in the form of effort reductions for trawlers and other fishing gears as well as maximum catch limits, fleet reduction and conservation measures. In particular, STECF advised for 2023 that a holistic approach, combining effort and catch limits measures, is needed to reduce urgently fishing mortality, in particular for hake and deep-water shrimp stocks. For the stocks with low biomass, STECF advises the adoption of additional measures, in particular additional temporal closures for the protection of spawners.

- Effort reduction of trawlers

Trawling remains the main source of fishing mortality for demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean and STECF advises both to continue the effort reduction in 2023 and that a 7,5% reduction for trawlers effort, combined with other management measures such as catch limits for deep water shrimps and fishing effort for the longliners, would be the most performing scenario.

Considering the implementation of other management measures in the proposal, an effort reduction in 2023 of 7,5% is proposed.

In addition, in order to improve the management of the stocks, to promote the use of more selective gear, such as sorting grid and increased mesh size in cod-end, and to establish efficient closure areas protecting juveniles and spawners, it is proposed to continue the implementation of the

¹ OJ L 172, 26.6.2019, p. 1.

² STECF advice November 2022 - <https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ewg2209>

³ [Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries \(SAC\) - 23rd session | General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean \(GFCM\) | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(fao.org\)](#)

compensation mechanism allocating 3% of additional days to trawlers eligible under the specific conditions listed in Article 8(4) of the Commission's proposal.

- Effort management of longliners

As in 2021, STECF advised in 2022 that fishing mortality from fishing gear other than trawlers is significant for hake spawners⁴, which are key for the stocks to recover, as catches of spawners (fish old enough to reproduce) have a greater impact on the stock biomass than other catches.

It is therefore proposed to maintain a freeze of the effort of longliners (in fishing days) at the 2022 level as provided for in Article 7(5) of the West Med MAP, in order to prevent any increase of hake spawners' fishing mortality.

- Maximum catch limits for deep-water shrimps

For the fisheries targeting deep-water shrimps (blue and red shrimp and giant red shrimp in GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8, 9, 10, 11), STECF⁵ advised that there is still a high level of overfishing and the state of the stocks has not sufficiently changed to achieve the MSY objective for the last three years, meaning that the reduction of the fishing effort for trawlers is insufficient to tackle the overfishing and needs to be complemented with additional measures as allowed under Article 7(3)(b) of the West Med MAP.

In this context, it is proposed to reduce the fishing mortality by combining the continued reduction in trawling effort with catch limits as complementary measures relevant for the most overfished stocks, as foreseen under Article 7(3)(b) of the West Med MAP.

STECF advised that the implementation of maximum catch limits would allow for the increase in stock sizes and, when combined with effort reductions and technical measures, would bring an improvement in stock sizes without additional negative socio-economic consequences.

In view of the above, and since Article 7(3)(b) of the West Med MAP constitutes a derogation from Article 3(1) of the West Med MAP and Article 2(2) of the CFP Regulation delaying the achievement of FMSY only by 1 January 2025, an immediate action is required to implement the necessary measures.

In addition to the effort reductions, it is therefore proposed to adopt three maximum catch limits to secure a rapid reduction in fishing mortality for deep-water shrimp species:

o A maximum catch limit for blue and red shrimp in western waters (GSAs 1-2-5-6-7) where, for this fishery, only Spanish vessels operate. Considering the implementation of other management measures in the proposal, it is proposed to follow the STECF advice on the adoption of maximum catch levels for a transition to MSY with a gradual reduction in 2023 of 7% in comparison with 2022 maximum catch limits.

o A maximum catch limit for blue and red shrimp in French and Italian waters (GSAs 8-9-10-11) where, for this fishery, French and Italian vessels operate. Considering the implementation of other management measures in the proposal, it is proposed to follow the STECF advice on the adoption of maximum catch levels for a transition to MSY with a gradual reduction in 2023 of 7% in comparison with 2022 maximum catch limits.

⁴ STECF advice October 2022 – <https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ewg2211>

⁵ STECF advice November 2022, link to be added upon publication

o A maximum catch limit for giant red shrimp in French and Italian waters (GSAs 8-9-10-11) where, for this fishery, French and Italian vessels operate. Considering the implementation of other management measures in the proposal, it is proposed to follow the STECF advice on the adoption of maximum catch levels for a transition to MSY with a gradual reduction in 2023 of 7% in comparison with 2022 maximum catch limits.

- Functionally linked additional measures for hake stocks with low biomass

Measures functionally linked to the fishing opportunities, such as spawning closures, are proposed, as without such closure periods, the fishing opportunities could not be established at the same level. The extent of the closure period and other measures may vary, depending on the state of the hake stocks as assessed by best available scientific advice. For hake in GSAs 1-2-5-6-7, the stock size estimated by STECF has been stable for the last 3 years at a low estimated biomass level. In 2021, recruitment has increased for the first time since 2007 but remains still in the range of historically low values. For Hake in GSAs 8-9-10-11, the stock size estimated by STECF has seen a slight increase in biomass in 2021 but remains at a low level. In 2021, recruitment has increased for the first time since 2005 but remains still in the range of historically low values. In 2022, the GFCM scientific advisory committee confirmed the bad state of hake stocks. As only ambitious management scenarios would allow the biomass of both hake stocks to recover in the near future, STECF advises to combine effort reduction with other management measures, including other fishing gears, in order to reduce fishing mortality. Given the low stock sizes and STECF's advice, additional measures functionally linked to the fishing opportunities are proposed in the form of: (i) a spawning closure for static gears (gillnets and longlines) targeting hake spawners and covering the peak spawning periods, the depths where spawners occur and the potential spawning and nursery areas and (ii) the increase of the minimum conservation reference size to at least 26cm.

B. Implementation of GFCM decisions from the 45th annual session

The non-paper proposes to implement into EU law the fishing opportunities-related recommendations adopted by GFCM at its 45th annual session, namely new measures for the Adriatic Sea, the Strait of Sicily, the Ionian Sea and the Levant Sea, as well as the Alboran Sea. It also proposes to roll-over measures for the Black Sea and carry over fishing opportunities for 2022.

- Adriatic Sea - demersal multiannual management plan (MAP)

The GFCM has adopted a new recommendation reducing for 2023 the fishing effort by 5.2% for otter-trawlers (OTB) and 3% for beam-trawlers (TBB). As in 2022, the recommendation also includes a segmentation by vessel length. It is proposed to implement into EU law the same effort reduction and segmentation as in the GFCM recommendation. The share among the Member States would follow the 2022 share and in addition, would be split by fleet segment, based on fishing effort reported by the Member States. As provided by the 2022 Fishing Opportunities Regulation, Slovenia would not exceed the effort limit of 3 000 fishing days per year. The maximum fleet capacity from the 2022 Fishing Opportunities Regulation would remain in place for 2023.

- Strait of Sicily – demersal stocks multiannual management plan (MAP)

The GFCM has adopted a new recommendation introducing: (i) a fishing effort limit by fleet segment for OTB fishing for European hake, based on the level of 2021; and (ii) a catch limit for deep water rose shrimp reducing the catch level by 3% compared to the 2021 level. It is proposed to

implement into EU law the same effort reduction and segmentation and the same catch limit reduction as in the GFCM recommendation. The share among the Member States would follow the 2021 share and in addition, would be split by fleet segment, based on fishing effort reported by the Member States. The maximum fleet capacity from the 2022 Fishing Opportunities Regulation would remain in place for 2023.

- Strait of Sicily – deep-water shrimps multiannual management plan (MAP)

The GFCM has adopted a new recommendation introducing a catch limit for the deep-water shrimps, based on the level of 2021, reducing the catch level by 3% compared to the 2021 level. It is proposed to implement into EU law the same catch limit share among the Member States, which would follow the 2021 share. The maximum fleet capacity from the 2022 Fishing Opportunities Regulation would remain in place for 2023.

- Ionian Sea - deep-water shrimps multiannual management plan (MAP)

The GFCM has adopted a new recommendation introducing a catch limit for the deep-water shrimps, based on the level of 2021, reducing the catch level by 3% compared to the 2021 level. It is proposed to implement into EU law the same catch limit share among the Member States, which would follow the 2021 share. The maximum fleet capacity would be established for 2023, based on the fleet capacity declared in 2019 to the GFCM.

- Levant Sea - deep-water shrimps multiannual management plan (MAP)

The GFCM has adopted a new recommendation introducing a catch limit for the deep-water shrimps, based on the level of 2021, reducing the catch level by 3% compared to the 2021 level. It is proposed to implement into EU law the same catch limit share among the Member States, which follows the 2021 national share. The maximum fleet capacity from the 2022 Fishing Opportunities Regulation would remain in place for 2023.

- Alboran Sea – blackspot seabream multiannual management plan (MAP)

The GFCM has adopted a new recommendation reducing for 2023 the maximum catch limits for blackspot seabream by 7% compared to levels reported during the reference period 2018-2021. The recommendation also updates the maximum number of longlines and handlines authorised to fish for blackspot seabream in the Alboran Sea (GSAs 1-2-3). It is proposed to implement those measures into EU law.

- Measures for turbot in the Black Sea

The GFCM has adopted a recommendation in order to prolong for 2023 the existing transitional TAC and quotas for turbot. In addition, the GFCM has also approved the EU request to carry-over the unused EU turbot quota of 22,5 tonnes from 2021 to 2023, as provided for in Recommendation GFCM/41/2017/4 and as amended by Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/3 establishing the turbot multi-annual management plan.

Therefore, it is proposed to implement these two recommendations into EU law. The distribution of the fishing opportunities arising from this unused EU quota should be carried out on the basis of the respective contribution of each Member State towards the unused quota, without modifying the

allocation key corresponding to 50% of the Union turbot quotas in the Black Sea per Member State, as established by Regulation (EU) 2022/110.

Finally, it is proposed to correct some clerical errors in Article 3.

The Commission Proposal COM (2022) 525 final is amended as follows (**the changes are marked in bold underline**):

1. Fishing opportunities for the demersal stocks in the Western Mediterranean Sea

1.1 Recital (8) of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

“STECF advised⁶ that, in order to attain the MSY targets for all the western Mediterranean fish stocks, further actions are needed and significant reductions of fishing mortality are necessary for trawlers. Based on such advice, for 2023, the maximum allowable fishing effort of trawlers in the Western Mediterranean Sea, in accordance with Article 7(3)(b) of the plan, should therefore be reduced by **7,5 %** compared to the baseline between 2015 and 2017, to be deducted from the maximum allowable fishing effort set for 2022 by Council Regulation (EU) 2022/110.”

1.2 Recital (10) of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

“STECF advised⁷ that, in order to attain the MSY targets for the western Mediterranean fish stocks (Geographical Sub-Areas (GSAs) 1-5-6-7 and GSAs 8-9-10-11), actions are needed, in particular to continue managing the fishing mortality for demersal longliners. Based on such advice, for 2023, the maximum allowable fishing effort of longliners should **be maintained at the levels set for 2022 by Council Regulation (EU) 2022/110 in accordance with Article 7(5) of the plan.** This maximum allowable fishing effort for longliners, **in fishing days,** should not prejudice the maximum allowable fishing effort to be established for 2024.”

1.3 Recital (12) of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

“In 2021, STECF advised that the fishing mortality of blue and red shrimp in Geographical Sub-Areas (GSAs) 1-5-6-7 and GSAs 8-9-10-11 would need to decrease significantly to achieve MSY by 2025 at the latest. In 2022, STECF⁸ advised that the fishing mortality of this species remains far from sustainable levels and further management measures are thus required. Given the scientific advice and the unchanged stocks situation, in accordance with Article 7(3)(b) of the plan, it is appropriate to complement the trawling effort regime with maximum catch limits. For 2023, the maximum catch limits for blue and red shrimp in GSAs 1-2-5-6-7 should therefore be **reduced by 7%** and the maximum catch limits for blue and red shrimp in GSAs 8-9-10-11 therefore should be **reduced by 7% to be deducted from the fishing opportunities set for 2022 by Council Regulation (EU) 2022/110.**”

⁶ STECF advice November 2022, page 11-13, link to be added upon publication

⁷ On the basis of STECF EWG 2021-01 page 64 and confirmed in 2022 with STECF EWG 22-11 page 120-121

⁸ STECF advice November 2022, page 11-13, link to be added upon publication

1.4 Recital (14) of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

“In 2021, STECF advised that the fishing mortality of giant red shrimp in Geographical Sub-Areas (GSAs) 8-9-10-11 would need to decrease significantly to achieve MSY by 2025 at the latest. In 2022, STECF advised that the biomass of this species is declining and the fishing mortality remains far from sustainable levels so that further management measures are required. Given the scientific advice and the unchanged stock situation, in accordance with Article 7(3)(b) of the plan, it is appropriate to complement the trawling effort regime with maximum catch limits. For 2023, the maximum catch limits for giant red shrimp in GSAs 8-9-10-11 should therefore be reduced by 7% to be deducted from the fishing opportunities set for 2022 by Council Regulation (EU) 2022/110.”

1.5 Recital 14(a)new is introduced in the Commission proposal:

“In 2022, STECF advice estimated that the biomass of blue and red shrimp in GSAs 1-2, hake in GSAs 1-5-6-7 and hake in GSAs 8-9-10-11 have low spawning stock biomasses indicating that their reproductive capacities might be reduced. Therefore, STECF advised to combine trawling effort reduction with other management measures in order to significantly reduce fishing mortality. Given the STECF advice and the unchanged stocks situation, it is appropriate to set the level of fishing opportunities in accordance with Articles 7(3)(b) and 7(5) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022 and to adopt functionally linked additional measures in the form of temporal closures during spawning peak periods for hake stocks in GSAs 1-2-5-6-7 and GSAs 8-9-10-11.”

1.6 Recital (31) of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

“In order to promote the use of the selectivity of **fishing** gears and to establish efficient closure areas to protect juveniles and spawners, Council Regulation (EU) 2022/110 established a compensation mechanism in relation to the effort regime for **trawlers. Based on the experience of the first year of application, in order to ensure the full efficiency of the compensation system, the Commission considers it necessary to clarify how the mechanism should be implemented retroactively from 1 January 2022, when Regulation (EU) 2022/110 entered into force. Regulation (EU) 2022/110 should therefore be amended accordingly. In addition, as** scientific advice continues to recommend the further improvement of selectivity and of efficient closure areas to protect juvenile fish, that mechanism should continue in 2023. Based on scientific advice for 2023, it is necessary to allocate **3%** of fishing days.”

1.7 In Article 3 of the Commission proposal, errors of clerical nature have been detected therefore the following amendments are proposed:

- point (5) is replaced by point (a);
- point (6) is replaced by point (b);
- point (7) is replaced by point (5);

- point (8) is replaced by point (6);
- point (9) is replaced by point (7);
- point (10) is replaced by point (8);
- point (11) is replaced by point (9).

1.8 In Article 8 of the Commission proposal, paragraph (1) is replaced by the following:

“For the fleet segment concerned, a Member State may grant **in 2023** to vessels flying its flag an additional allocation of fishing days within an overall **3%** of the fishing effort for trawlers of that Member State as set out in Annex III.”

1.9 In Article 8 of the Commission proposal, paragraph (3) is replaced by the following:

“The overall **3%** of the fishing effort shall be calculated from the maximum allowed effort allocation of the concerned fleet segment of the concerned Member State, as from 1 January 2023.”

1.10 In Article 8 of the Commission proposal, paragraph (4)(c) is replaced by the following:

“(c) those vessels use a regulated highly selective gear, the technical specifications of which result in, according to the scientific study by STECF, at least a reduction of 25% of juveniles or at least 20% of catches of spawners of all demersal species compared to 2020, **such as a sorting grid with 20mm spacing; or**”

1.11 In Article 8(4) of the Commission proposal, points (e) and (f) are added:

“(e) the Member State concerned has adopted a new minimum conservation reference size for hake of at least 26cm, in order to progressively reach the length at first maturity; or

“(f) the Member States concerned has set a closure of at least four continuous weeks for fishing activities with trawlers in the areas and periods recognised as important, on the basis of the best available scientific advice, for the protection of spawners of hake stocks. Such areas shall also account for migration routes and spatial patterns of spawners’ distribution. The periods of the temporal fishing closure shall be chosen between the periods set out in table 3 of Annex III.”

1.12 In Article 8 of the Commission proposal, paragraph (6) is replaced by the following:

“The Member State concerned shall submit to the Commission, at the latest by 15 October, all available information related to the implementation of the measures referred to in points **4(a), 4 (b), 4 (c) or 4 (d) of the present article.**”

1.13 In the Commission proposal, Article 8(a) new is inserted:

“Additional measures

(1) Member States shall set a closure of at least four continuous weeks for fishing activities with longlines and nets irrespective of their overall length in the areas and periods recognised as important, on the basis of the best available scientific advice, for the protection of spawners of hake stocks. Such areas shall also account for migration routes and spatial patterns of spawners distribution.

(2) The periods of the temporal fishing closure shall be chosen between the periods set out in Annex III.”

1.14 In Annex III of the Commission proposal, the following table is added:

“Table 3. Additional measures

Temporal closures shall be implemented for trawlers, gillnets and longlines targeting European hake during 4 weeks of the spawning seasons.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Main spawning seasons</u>	<u>Depths</u>
<u>European hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>) in GSAs 1-5-6-7 and 8-9-10-11</u>	<u>February-March and October-November</u>	<u>150m to 500m</u>

“

1.15 In Annex III of the Commission proposal, the first paragraph is replaced by the following:

“The tables in this Annex set out the maximum allowable fishing effort (in fishing days) by stock groups, as defined in Article 1 of Regulation (EU) No 2019/1022, maximum catch limits and overall length of vessels for all types of trawls and demersal longliners fishing demersal stocks **as well as additional measures for hake stocks** in the western Mediterranean Sea”.

1.16 In Annex III of the Commission proposal, table 1(a) is replaced by the following:

“(a) Trawlers in Alboran Sea, Balearic Islands, Northern Spain and Gulf of Lion (GSAs 1-2-5-6-7)

Stock group	Overall length of vessels	Spain	France	Italy	Fishing effort group code	Additional allocation code
Red mullet in GSAs 1, 5, 6 and 7; Hake in GSAs 1, 5, 6 and 7; Deep-water rose shrimp in GSAs 1, 5 and 6; Norway lobster in GSAs 5 and 6.	< 12 m	<u>1733</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	EFF1/MED1_TR1	EFF1/MED1_TR1_AA
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	<u>18617</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	EFF1/MED1_TR2	EFF1/MED1_TR2_AA
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	<u>34931</u>	<u>3943</u>	<u>0</u>	EFF1/MED1_TR3	EFF1/MED1_TR3_AA
	≥ 24 m	<u>12303</u>	<u>4799</u>	<u>0</u>	EFF1/MED1_TR4	EFF1/MED1_TR4_AA

Stock group	Overall length of vessels	Spain	France	Italy	Fishing effort group code	Additional allocation code
Blue and red shrimp in GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7.	< 12 m	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	EFF2/MED1_TR1	EFF2/MED1_TR1_AA
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	<u>873</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	EFF2/MED1_TR2	EFF2/MED1_TR2_AA
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	<u>8844</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	EFF2/MED1_TR3	EFF2/MED1_TR3_AA
	≥ 24 m	<u>7099</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	EFF2/MED1_TR4	EFF2/MED1_TR4_AA

“

1.17 In Annex III of the Commission proposal, table 1(b) is replaced by the following:

“(b) Trawlers in Corsica Island, Ligurian Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea and Sardinia Island (GSAs 8-9-10-11)

Stock group	Overall length of vessels	Spain	France	Italy	Fishing effort group code	Additional allocation code
Red mullet in GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11; Hake in GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11	< 12 m	<u>0</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>2277</u>	EFF1/MED2_TR1	EFF1/MED2_TR1_AA
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	<u>0</u>	<u>640</u>	<u>34248</u>	EFF1/MED2_TR2	EFF1/MED2_TR2_AA

10 and 11; Deep-water rose shrimp in GSAs 9, 10 and 11; Norway lobster in GSAs 9 and 10.	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	<u>0</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>23032</u>	EFF1/MED2_TR3	EFF1/MED2_TR3_AA
	≥ 24 m	<u>0</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>3074</u>	EFF1/MED2_TR4	EFF1/MED2_TR4_AA

Stock group	Overall length of vessels	Spain	France	Italy	Fishing effort group code	Additional allocation code
Giant red shrimp in GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11.	< 12 m	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>376</u>	EFF2/MED2_TR1	EFF2/MED2_TR1_AA
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2778</u>	EFF2/MED2_TR2	EFF2/MED2_TR2_AA
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2237</u>	EFF2/MED2_TR3	EFF2/MED2_TR3_AA
	≥ 24 m	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>299</u>	EFF2/MED2_TR4	EFF2/MED2_TR4_AA

“.

1.18 In Annex III of the Commission proposal, table 1(c) is replaced by the following table:

“(c) **Number of fishing days for** Demersal longliners in Alboran Sea, Balearic Islands, Northern Spain and Gulf of Lion (GSAs 1-2-5-6-7)

Stock group	Overall length of vessels	Spain	France	Italy	Fishing effort group code
Hake in GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7	< 12 m	<u>9433</u>	<u>6432</u>	<u>0</u>	EFF1/MED1_LL1
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	<u>2148</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>0</u>	EFF1/MED1_LL2
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	<u>74</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	EFF1/MED1_LL3
	≥ 24 m	<u>29</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	EFF1/MED1_LL4

”.

1.19 In Annex III of the Commission proposal, table 1(d) is replaced by the following table:

“(d) **Number of fishing days for** Demersal longliners in Corsica Island, Ligurian Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea and Sardinia Island (GSAs 8-9-10-11)

Stock group	Overall length of vessels	Spain	France	Italy	Fishing effort group code
Hake in GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11	< 12 m	<u>0</u>	<u>1650</u>	<u>33187</u>	EFF1/MED2_LL1
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	<u>0</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>4748</u>	EFF1/MED2_LL2
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>26</u>	EFF1/MED2_LL3
	≥ 24 m	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	EFF1/MED2_LL4

”.

1.20 In Annex III of the Commission proposal, the title of table 2 is replaced by the following:

“Table 2. Maximum catch **limits for deep-water shrimps**”.

1.21 In Annex III of the Commission proposal, table 2 (e) is replaced by the following:

“(a) Fishing opportunities for blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Alboran Sea, Balearic Islands, Northern Spain and Gulf of Lion (GSAs 1-2-5-6-7) expressed as maximum level of catches in tonnes live weight

Species:	Blue and red shrimp (<i>Aristeus antennatus</i>)	Zone:	GSA 1-2-5-6-7 (ARA/GF1-7)
Spain	<u>811</u>		
France	<u>52</u>		
Italy	<u>0</u>		
Union	<u>863</u>		
TAC	Not relevant	Maximum level of catches	

”.

1.22 In Annex III of the Commission proposal, table 2 (f) is replaced by the following

“(b) Fishing opportunities for blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) and giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) in Corsica Island, Ligurian Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea and Sardinia Island (GSAs 8-9-10-11) expressed as maximum level of catches in tonnes live weight

Species:	Blue and red shrimp (<i>Aristeus antennatus</i>)	Zone:	GSA 8-9-10-11 (ARA/GF8-11)
Spain	<u>0</u>		
France	<u>8</u>		
Italy	<u>233</u>		
Union	<u>241</u>		
TAC	Not relevant	Maximum level of catches	

Species:	Giant red shrimp (<i>Aristaeomorpha foliacea</i>)	Zone:	GSA 8-9-10-11 (ARS/GF8-11)
Spain	<u>0</u>		
France	<u>5</u>		
Italy	<u>339</u>		
Union	<u>344</u>		
TAC	Not relevant	Maximum level of catches	

“.

2. Fishing opportunities for the demersal stocks in the Adriatic Sea

2.1 In the Commission proposal, recital 16(a) new is inserted:

“At its 45th annual meeting in 2022, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/8 on the implementation of a fishing effort regime for key demersal stocks in the Adriatic Sea in 2023 (geographical subareas 17 and 18), stemming from Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/5, which introduced a fishing effort regime. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.”

2.2 In Annex IV of the Commission proposal the first part of table 2, regarding demersal stocks in GSAs 17 and 18 is replaced by the following:

“Maximum allowable fishing effort (in fishing days) by types of trawls and fleet segment fishing for demersal stocks in GSAs 17 and 18 (Adriatic Sea).

Gear type	Geographical area	Stocks concerned	Overall length of vessels	Effort group code	Fishing Days 2023		
					ITALY	CROATIA	SLOVENIA_
Trawls (OTB)	GFCM sub-areas 17-18	Red mullet; Hake; Deep-water rose shrimp, and Norway lobster	< 12 m	EFF/MED3_OTB_TR1	<u>13372</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(*)</u>
			≥ 12 m and < 24 m	EFF/MED3_OTB_TR2	<u>97124</u>	<u>16015</u>	<u>(*)</u>
			≥ 24 m	EFF/MED3_OTB_TR3	<u>8561</u>	<u>5711</u>	<u>(*)</u>
Beam trawls (TBB)	GFCM sub-area 17	Common sole	< 12 m	EFF/MED3_TBB_TR1	<u>194</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
			≥ 12 m and < 24 m	EFF/MED3_TBB_TR2	<u>3635</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
			≥ 24 m	EFF/MED3_TBB_TR3	<u>3614</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

(*) Slovenia shall not exceed the effort limit of 3 000 fishing days per year in accordance with paragraph 13 of GFCM/43/2019/5.

“

3. Fishing opportunities for demersal stocks in the Strait of Sicily

3.1 The placeholder in Recital (21) of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

“At its 45th annual meeting in 2022, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/4 on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of demersal stocks in the Strait of Sicily (geographical subareas 12 to 16), repealing Recommendations GFCM/44/2021/12 and GFCM/42/2018/5. This Recommendation introduced an effort regime for the hake and catch limits for the deep-water pink shrimps as well as a fishing capacity freeze. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.”

3.2 In the Commission proposal, recital 21(a)new is inserted:

“At its 45th annual meeting in 2022, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/5 on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp stocks in the Strait of Sicily (geographical subareas 12 to 16), repealing Recommendations GFCM/44/2021/7 and GFCM/43/2019/6. This Recommendation introduced a catch limits and a fishing capacity freeze. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.”

3.3 In the Commission proposal, the title of Chapter IV is replaced by the following:

“CHAPTER IV - Strait of Sicily”

3.4 The placeholder in Article 13 of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

“Article 13 - Demersal stocks

1. This Article applies to all activities by Union fishing vessels and other Union fishing activities catching European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) and deep-water rose shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*) in the Strait of Sicily.

2. The maximum level of catches of deep-water pink shrimp shall not exceed the levels set out in Annex V.

3. The maximum allowable fishing effort for hake and the maximum fleet capacity expressed in number of vessels, kW and GT of bottom trawl vessels authorised to fish for demersal stocks within the scope of this Article are set out in Annex V.

4. Member States shall manage the maximum allowable effort in accordance with Articles 26 to 35 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.”

3.5 In the Commission proposal, Article 13(a)new is inserted in Chapter IV:

“Article 13(a) – Deep water shrimps

1. This Article applies to all activities by Union fishing vessels and other Union fishing activities catching giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) and blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Strait of Sicily.

2. The maximum fleet capacity expressed in number of vessels, kW and GT of bottom trawl vessels authorised to fish for demersal stocks is set out in Annex V.

3. The maximum level of catches shall not exceed the levels set out in Annex V.”

3.6 In the Commission proposal, Article 13(b)new is inserted in Chapter IV:

“Article 13(b) - Data transmission

When, pursuant to Articles 33 and 34 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, Member States submit to the Commission data relating to landings of quantities of stocks caught, they shall use the stock codes set out in Annex V.”

3.7 The title of Annex V of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

“FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNION FISHING VESSELS IN THE STRAIT OF SICILY”

3.8 The placeholder in Annex V of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

“The tables in this Annex set out the fishing opportunities by stock or vessels effort groups and the conditions functionally linked thereto, where appropriate, including the maximum number of Union fishing vessels authorised to fish demersal species and deep-water shrimps.

All fishing opportunities set out in this Annex shall be subject to the rules set out in Articles 26 to 35 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.

The reference to fishing zones are references to GFCM GSAs.

For the purposes of this Annex, the following comparative table of Latin names and common names is provided:

<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>Alpha-3 code</u>	<u>Common name</u>
<u><i>Merluccius merluccius</i></u>	<u>HKE</u>	<u>European hake</u>
<u><i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i></u>	<u>DPS</u>	<u>Deep-water rose shrimp</u>
<u><i>Aristaeomorpha foliacea</i></u>	<u>ARS</u>	<u>Giant red shrimp</u>
<u><i>Aristeus antennatus</i></u>	<u>ARA</u>	<u>Blue and red shrimp</u>

1. Demersal Stocks

(a) Maximum fleet capacity expressed in number of vessels, kW and GT of bottom trawl vessels authorised to fish demersal fish stocks in Strait of Sicily (GSAs 12-13-14-15-16)

<u>Member State</u>	<u>Gear</u>	<u>Number of vessels</u>	<u>kW</u>	<u>GT</u>
<u>Cyprus</u>	<u>OTB</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>265</u>	<u>105</u>
<u>Spain</u>	<u>OTB</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>118</u>
<u>Italy</u>	<u>OTB</u>	<u>592</u>	<u>144175</u>	<u>36856</u>
<u>Malta</u>	<u>OTB</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>5562</u>	<u>2007</u>

<u>Member State</u>	<u>Gear</u>	<u>Vessel Length</u>	<u>Effort group code</u>	<u>Fishing Days 2023</u>
CYP	OTB	T-12		51
ITA	OTB	T-07		90
ITA	OTB	T-10		188
ITA	OTB	T-11		19366
ITA	OTB	T-12		3654
ITA	OTB	T-25		3
MLT	OTB	T-11		338
MLT	OTB	T-12		165

(b) Maximum level of catches of deep-water rose shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*) in the Strait of Sicily (GSAs 12-13-14-15-16) expressed in tonnes live weight

<u>Species</u>	<u>Deep-water rose shrimp (<i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i>)</u>	<u>Zone: GSAs 12-13-14-15-16 (DPS/xxx)</u>
<u>Italy</u>	<u>2147</u>	
<u>Cyprus</u>	<u>1</u>	
<u>Malta</u>	<u>6</u>	

<u>Union</u>	<u>2154</u>	
<u>TAC</u>	<u>Not relevant</u>	<u>Maximum level of catches</u>

2. Deep-water shrimps

(a) Maximum fleet capacity expressed in number of vessels, kW and GT of bottom trawlers vessels authorised for fishing deep water shrimps stocks in the Strait of Sicily (GSAs 12-13-14-15-16)

<u>Member State</u>	<u>Gear</u>	<u>Number of vessels</u>	<u>kW</u>	<u>GT</u>
<u>Cyprus</u>	<u>OTB</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>265</u>
<u>Spain</u>	<u>OTB</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>341</u>	<u>101</u>
<u>Italy</u>	<u>OTB</u>	<u>239</u>	<u>22672</u>	<u>76232</u>
<u>Malta</u>	<u>OTB</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>5562</u>

(b) Maximum level of catches of giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) in the Strait of Sicily (GSAs 12-13-14-15-16) expressed in tonnes live weight

<u>Species</u>	<u>Giant red shrimp</u> <u>(<i>Aristaeomorpha foliacea</i>)</u>	<u>Zone: GSAs 12-13-14-15-16</u> <u>(ARS----</u>
<u>Spain</u>	<u>1</u>	
<u>Italy</u>	<u>101</u>	
<u>Cyprus</u>	<u>0</u>	
<u>Malta</u>	<u>2</u>	
<u>Union</u>	<u>104</u>	
<u>TAC</u>	<u>Not relevant</u>	<u>Maximum level of catches</u>

(c) Maximum level of catches of blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Strait of Sicily (GSAs 12-13-14-15-16) expressed in tonnes live weight

<u>Species</u>	<u>Blue and red shrimp</u> <u><i>Aristeus antennatus</i></u>	<u>Zone: GSAs 12-13-14-15-16</u> <u>(ARA----</u>
<u>Spain</u>	<u>1</u>	

<u>Italy</u>	<u>101</u>	
<u>Cyprus</u>	<u>0</u>	
<u>Malta</u>	<u>2</u>	
<u>Union</u>	<u>104</u>	
<u>TAC</u>	<u>Not relevant</u>	<u>Maximum level of catches</u>

.”

4. Fishing opportunities for the Ionian Sea and the Levant Sea

4.1 The placeholder in recital (22) of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

“At its 45th annual meeting in 2022, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/6 on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp stocks in the Ionian Sea (GSAs 19 to 21), repealing Recommendations GFCM/44/2021/8 and GFCM/42/2018/4. This Recommendation introduced a catch limit and a fishing capacity freeze. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.”

4.2 The placeholder in recital (23) of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

“At its 45th annual meeting in 2022, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/7 on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp stocks in the Levant Sea (GSAs 24 to 27), repealing Recommendations GFCM/44/2021/8 and GFCM/42/2018/4. This Recommendation introduced a catch limit and a fishing capacity freeze. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.”

4.3 In the Commission proposal, Chapter IV(a)new is inserted:

“CHAPTER IV(a)new - Ionian Sea and Levant Sea”

4.4 In the Commission proposal, Article 13(c)new is inserted in Chapter IV(a)new:

“Article 13(c)

“1. This Article applies to all activities by Union fishing vessels and other Union fishing activities catching giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) and blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Ionian Sea and in the Levant Sea.

2. The maximum fleet capacity expressed in number of vessels, kW and GT of bottom trawl vessels authorised to fish for demersal stocks is set out in Annex V(a)new.

3. The maximum level of catches shall not exceed the levels set out in Annex V(a)new.”

4.5 In the Commission proposal, Annex V(a)new is inserted:

“FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNION FISHING VESSELS IN THE IONIAN SEA AND THE LEVANT SEA

The tables in this Annex set out the maximum number of Union fishing vessels authorised to fish for demersal stocks in the Ionian Sea and the Levant Sea.

The reference to fishing zones are references to GFCM GSAs.

For the purposes of this Annex, the following comparative table of Latin names and common names of fish stocks is provided:

<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>Alpha-3 code</u>	<u>Common name</u>
<u><i>Aristaeomorpha foliacea</i></u>	<u>ARS</u>	<u>Giant red shrimp</u>
<u><i>Aristeus antennatus</i></u>	<u>ARA</u>	<u>Blue and red shrimp</u>

1. Ionian Sea

(a) Maximum fleet capacity expressed in number of vessels, kW and GT of bottom trawlers vessels authorised for fishing deep water shrimps stocks in the Ionian Sea (GSAs 19, 20 and 21)

<u>Member State</u>	<u>Gear</u>	<u>Number of vessels</u>	<u>kW</u>	<u>GT</u>
<u>Greece</u>	<u>OTB</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>69281</u>	<u>23101</u>
<u>Italy</u>	<u>OTB</u>	<u>289</u>	<u>72384</u>	<u>16853</u>
<u>Malta</u>	<u>OTB</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>5562</u>	<u>2007</u>

(b) Maximum level of catches of giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) in the Ionian Sea (GSAs 19, 20 and 21) expressed in tonnes live weight

<u>Species</u>	<u>Giant red shrimp (<i>Aristaeomorpha foliacea</i>)</u>	<u>Zone: GSAs 19-20-21 (ARS----</u>
<u>Greece</u>	<u>34</u>	
<u>Italy</u>	<u>313</u>	
<u>Malta</u>	<u>46</u>	
<u>Union</u>	<u>393</u>	
<u>TAC</u>	<u>Not relevant</u>	<u>Maximum level of catches</u>

(c) Maximum level of catches of blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Ionian Sea (GSAs 19, 20 and 21) expressed in tonnes live weight

<u>Species</u>	<u>Blue abd red shrimp</u> <u>(<i>Aristeus antennatus</i>)</u>	<u>Zone: GSAs 19-20-21</u> <u>(ARA----</u>
<u>Greece</u>	<u>15</u>	
<u>Italy</u>	<u>250</u>	
<u>Malta</u>	<u>0</u>	
<u>Union</u>	<u>265</u>	
<u>TAC</u>	<u>Not relevant</u>	<u>Maximum level of catches</u>

2. Levant Sea

(a) Maximum fleet capacity expressed in number of vessels, kW and GT of bottom trawlers vessels authorised for fishing deep water shrimps stocks in the Levant Sea (GSAs 24, 25, 26 and 27)

<u>Member State</u>	<u>Gear</u>	<u>Number of vessels</u>	<u>kW</u>	<u>GT</u>
<u>Cyprus</u>	<u>OTB</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2048</u>	<u>618</u>
<u>Italy</u>	<u>OTB</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>15346</u>	<u>5542</u>

(b) Maximum level of catches of giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) in the Levant Sea (GSAs 24, 25, 26 and 27) expressed in tonnes live weight

<u>Species</u>	<u>Giant red shrimp</u> <u>(<i>Aristaeomorpha foliacea</i>)</u>	<u>Zone: GSAs 24, 25, 26, 27</u> <u>(ARS----</u>
<u>Italy</u>	<u>48</u>	
<u>Cyprus</u>	<u>12</u>	
<u>Union</u>	<u>60</u>	
<u>TAC</u>	<u>Not relevant</u>	<u>Maximum level of catches</u>

(c) Maximum level of catches of blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Levant Sea (GSA 24, 25, 26 and 27) expressed in tonnes live weight

<u>Species</u>	<u>Blue and red shrimp (<i>Aristeus antennatus</i>)</u>	<u>Zone: GSAs 24, 25, 26, 27 (ARA----</u>
<u>Italy</u>	<u>10</u>	
<u>Cyprus</u>	<u>6</u>	
<u>Union</u>	<u>16</u>	
<u>TAC</u>	<u>Not relevant</u>	<u>Maximum level of catches</u>

5. Fishing opportunities for Union fishing vessels in the Alboran Sea

5.1 The placeholder in recital (24) of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

“At its 45th annual meeting in 2022, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/3 on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of the blackspot seabream in the Alboran Sea (geographical subareas 1 to 3), repealing Recommendations GFCM/44/2021/4, GFCM/43/2019/2 and GFCM/41/2017/2. This Recommendation introduced maximum levels of catches for 2023, 2024 and 2025, a maximum number of longlines and handlines authorised and new measures for recreational fisheries. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.”

5.2 The placeholder in Article 14 of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

“Article 14

1. This Article applies to commercial and recreational fishing with longlines and handlines by Union fishing vessels catching blackspot seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) in the Alboran Sea.

2. The maximum level of catches shall not exceed the levels set out in Annex VI.

3. The maximum number of longlines and handlines authorised to fish for blackspot seabream is set out in Annex VI.

3. For recreational fishing activities, the maximum number of catches shall be limited to one fish per fisher per day. The minimum conservation reference size of 40cm for blackspot seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) shall apply to recreational fisheries in the Alboran Sea. Recreational fishing for this species shall be prohibited during the closure period of commercial fisheries set at national level.”

5.3 The placeholder in Annex VI of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

“FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNION FISHING VESSELS IN THE ALBORAN SEA

(a) Maximum level of catches carried out by longlines and handlines expressed in tonnes live weight

<u>Species</u>	<u>Blackspot seabream (<i>Pagellus boraraveo</i>)</u>	<u>Zone: Union waters in the Alboran Sea - GSAs 1-2-3 (SBR/GF1-3)</u>
<u>Spain</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>Maximum level of catches</u>
<u>Union</u>	<u>32</u>	
<u>TAC</u>	<u>Not relevant</u>	

(b) Maximum number of longlines and handlines authorised to fish in Alboran Sea (GSAs 1-2-3)

<u>Member State</u>	<u>Blackspot seabream in GSAs 1-2-3</u>
<u>Spain</u>	<u>82</u>

”

6. Fishing opportunities for Union fishing vessels in the Black Sea

6.1 The placeholder in recital (26) of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

“At its 45th annual meeting in 2022, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/9 on a multiannual management plan for turbot fisheries in the Black Sea (geographical subarea 29), amending Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/3. That Recommendation prolonged the existing TAC for one year. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.”

6.2 The placeholder in recital (27) of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

“At its 45th annual meeting in 2022, the GFCM adopted a decision observing that during the year 2021, the Union had underexploited its quota for turbot and approving a carry-over of the unused quota in view of the exceptional situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic. That GFCM decision should be implemented in Union law. The distribution of the fishing opportunities arising from the under-utilisation should be carried out on the basis of the

respective contribution of each Member State towards the under-utilisation, without modifying the distribution key established in Regulation (EU) 2022/110 concerning the annual allocation of total allowable catches.”

6.3 The second table in annex VII of the Commission proposal, concerning the fishing opportunities for turbot, is replaced by the following:

“

Species:	Turbot <i>Scophthalmus maximus</i>		Zone:	Union waters in the Black Sea – GSA 29 (TUR/F3742C)
Bulgaria	92,143		Analytical TAC Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply. Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Romania	80,357			
Union	172,5	(*)		
TAC	857			

(*) No fishing activity, including transshipment, retaining on board, landing and first sale shall be permitted from 15 April to 15 June 2023.

”