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Delegations will find attached a non-paper as received from the 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 itis addressed.

Updates to Commission proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas for 2024 [COM (2023)578 final]

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Explanatory Note

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

Article 7(3)(b) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022[1] ('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.

As in 2022, stock assessments on the West Med MAP in 2023 from the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)[2] and the Scientific Advisory Committee of the GFCM[3] both advised that, in order to attain the MSY targets for demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean, further reductions in fishing mortality (F) in 2024 are needed.

In comparison with 2021 and 2022, there has been progress in reducing the fishing mortality of the majority of the stocks under the West Med MAP. STECF advised that five stocks[4] are being fished close or at Fmsy and three[5] are approaching Fmsy faster than with a linear transition. There are nevertheless other stocks[6] that have not yet seen a significant reduction in fishing mortality. In addition, STECF advised that seven[7] out of the twenty stocks are below B_{PA}[8]. Of these seven stocks, three are below B_{LIM}[9], namely the two hake stocks (in geographical subareas (GSAs) 1-5-6-7 and GSAs 8-9-10-11) and Norway lobster in GSA 6. These three stocks will require significant reductions in fishing mortality in 2024.

As in 2022, STECF also assessed in 2023 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 that, for 2024, 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

[1] Regulation (EU) 2019/1022 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 establishing a multiannual plan for the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean Sea and amending Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 (OJ L 172, 26.6.2019, p. 1–17)

[2] Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) - Stock assessments in the Western Mediterranean Sea (STECF 23-09), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2023

Twenty-fourth session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) FAO headquarters, Italy, 20-23 June 2023 https://gfcm.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/SAC/ET1w7eNHZHRKr641oFJH31EB27gFaBXWtqYYTLCPYV4fXw

[4] Deep-water rose shrimps in GSAs 1, 5-6-7, red mullet in GSAs 7 and 9, Norway lobster in GSA 9.

[5] Hake in GSAs 8-9-10-11, Norway lobster in GSA 9 and blue and red shrimp in GSA 5.

[6] Hake in GSA 1-5-6-7, red mullet in GSA 1, 6, Norway lobster in GSA 6, deep-water rose shrimp in GSAs 8-9-10-11, blue and red shrimp in GSAs 6-7 and giant red shrimp in GSAs 8-9-10-11.

[7] Hake in GSAs 1-5-6-7, 8-9-10-11, red mullet in GSAs 1, 6, Norway lobster in GSA 6 and blue and red shrimp in GSA 5, 6-7.

[8] Article 2(11) of the West Med MAP provides that 'B_{PA}' means the precautionary reference point, expressed as spawning stock biomass and provided for in the best available scientific advice, in particular by STECF, or a similar independent scientific body recognised at Union or international level, which ensures that the spawning stock biomass has less than 5 % probability of being below B_{LIM}.

[9] Article 2(10) of the West Med MAP provides that 'B_{LIM}' means the limit reference point, expressed as spawning stock biomass and provided for in the best available scientific advice, in particular by STECF, or a similar independent scientific body recognised at Union or international level, below which there may be reduced reproductive capacity.

biomass[10], STECF advised that additional measures, in particular additional temporal closures for the protection of spawners, should be adopted.

- Effort reduction of trawlers

Trawling remains the main source of fishing mortality for demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean and STECF advises in 2024 both to continue the effort reduction and that a 9,5% reduction for trawlers effort, combined with other management measures such as maximum catch limits for deep water shrimps and the freezing of the fishing effort for the longliners at 2023 levels, should be adopted [11].

Considering the implementation of other management measures in the proposal, such as effort regime for longliners, catch limits for deep-water shrimp and additional spatial temporal closures, an effort reduction in 2024 of 9,5% is therefore proposed.

In addition, in order to improve the management of the key 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 compensation mechanism allocating 4% of additional days to trawlers eligible under the specific conditions listed in Article 7(4) of the proposal.

- Effort management of longliners

As for 2023, STECF advised that, in 2024, fishing mortality from fishing gear other than trawlers will be significant for hake spawners, 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 the same fishing effort of longliners (in fishing days) at the 2023 level, based on 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), STECF advised that there is still a high level of overfishing and the state of those stocks has not sufficiently changed to achieve the MSY objective, meaning that the previous reductions of the fishing effort for trawlers have been insufficient to tackle the overfishing, and that therefore such reductions need to be complemented with additional measures.

It is therefore proposed to combine the continued reduction in trawling effort with catch limits as complementary measures relevant for the most overfished stocks, based on Article 7(3)(b) of the West Med MAP.

STECF further 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,

10 Hake in GSAs 1-5-6-7 and 8-9-10-11.

11 Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) - Evaluation of fishing effort and catch regime for demersal fisheries in the Western Mediterranean sea (PART XI) (STECF-23-11). Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2023, doi:XXXXXXXX, JRCXXXXXXX.
https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/67501382/STECF+23-11+-+Eval+fish+effort+West+Med+XI.pdf/47f875d6-d058-43c5-ba59-0ac03a985485

would bring an improvement in stock sizes without additional negative socio-economic consequences.

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, e.g. fishing effort reduction, it is proposed to adopt maximum catch levels with a reduction in 2024 of 9% in comparison with 2023 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, e.g. fishing effort reduction, it is proposed to adopt maximum catch levels with a reduction in 2024 of 7% in comparison with 2023 maximum catch limits.

- 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, e.g. fishing effort reduction, it is proposed to adopt maximum catch levels with a reduction in 2024 of 7% in comparison with 2023 maximum catch limits.

- Functionally linked additional measures for hake stocks with low biomass

STECF advised that:

(1) for hake in GSAs 1-2-5-6-7, catches and spawning stock biomass (SSB) show a decreasing trend from 2009 to 2020, with some oscillations in the time series and seems to slightly increase in 2022. SSB in 2022 is estimated to be below $B_{PA}$and below B_{LIM}. The assessment shows a general long term declining trend in the number of recruits but with an increase in the last year reaching in 2021 the same values as 2012, though the 2022 value is decreasing again. Fishing mortality shows oscillations across the trend with increasing values until 2019, it then decreased up to 2022 where it reached a value of 1.32; and

(2) for Hake in GSAs 8-9-10-11, catches show a decline in the whole time series, with a very slight increase in 2022. SSB declined in the first part of the time series, reaching the lowest value in 2017, and slightly increased in the last four years. SSB in 2022 is estimated to be below B_{MSY}, below B_{PA} and below B_{LIM}. The assessment shows a decreasing trend in the number of recruits with the minimum value reached in 2019 and a peak in 2021. Fishing mortality shows a fluctuating pattern with a slightly declining trend, with the lowest value reached in 2022.

Similarly, the GFCM scientific advisory committee confirmed the high level of overexploitation of the hake stocks in the Western Mediterranean.

As only ambitious management scenarios would allow the biomass of both hake stocks to recover in the near future, e.g. fishing effort reduction up to 60% to 80% in one or two years

depending on fleets, STECF advises to combine effort reduction with other management measures, including other fishing gears, in order to reduce fishing mortality.

Measures functionally linked to fishing opportunities are therefore proposed in the form of: (i) improved otter trawl selectivity to reduce hake juveniles catches, (ii) improved selectivity of otter trawlers to reduce the catch of undersized blue and red shrimp as well as giant red shrimps, (iii) highly selective gear to reduce the catch of demersal species juveniles, (iv) temporary closures to reduce catches of demersal species juveniles, (v) new minimum conservation reference sizes for hake (26 cm Total Length (TL)), giant red shrimp (35 mm Carapax Length (CL)) and blue and red shrimp (25 mm CL), and (vi) at least 4 weeks continuous temporal closures for the protection of hake spawners.

Without such measures, fishing opportunities would need to be established at a lower level.

B. Implementation of GFCM recommendations adopted at the 46th annual session

It is proposed to implement into EU law the fishing opportunities-related recommendations adopted by GFCM at its 46th annual session, notably the new measures for the management of common dolphinfish in the Mediterranean Sea, while continuing the implementation of the GFCM multiannual management plans (MAP) for red coral in the Mediterranean Sea, as well as small pelagic and demersal species in the Adriatic Sea. It is also proposed to roll-over measures for the Black Sea and carry-over the unused fishing opportunities for 2024, as decided by the GFCM.

- Red coral

The GFCM adopted a recommendation, extending by one year the transitional management measures for red coral, introduced with the GFCM MAP, namely the maximum number of fishing authorisations and the maximum level of harvested quantities of red coral in the Mediterranean Sea.

- Common dolphinfish multiannual management plan (MAP)

The GFCM adopted a new multiannual management plan for sustainable pelagic fishing activities in the Mediterranean (geographical subareas 1 to 27) targeting common dolphinfish by means of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) and recreational fishing. For the transitional period 2024-2026, the new multiannual management plan introduces a transitional fishing regime for pelagic fisheries targeting common dolphinfish by means of FADs which includes: (a) a fleet capacity ceiling expressed in number of vessels, kW and GT, (b) the freeze of FADs capacity (maximum number of FADs/vessel), (c) a catch limit and (d) a temporal closure for the protection of juveniles. For recreational fisheries, a daily bag limit should be observed as well as the prohibition period for commercial fisheries.

- Adriatic Sea - demersal multiannual management plan (MAP)

The GFCM adopted a recommendation reducing for 2024 the fishing effort by 4% for otter-trawlers (OTB) and maintaining the 2023 effort level for beam-trawlers (TBB). As in 2023,

the recommendation also includes a segmentation by vessel length. It is therefore proposed to implement the same effort reduction and segmentation as in the GFCM recommendation into EU law. The share among the Member States would follow the 2023 share and in addition, would be split by fleet segment, based on fishing effort reported by the Member States. As provided by the 2023 Fishing Opportunities Regulation[12], it is proposed that the fishing effort for Slovenia would not exceed the effort limit of 3 000 fishing days per year. The maximum fleet capacity from the 2023 Fishing Opportunities Regulation would also remain in place for 2024.

- Adriatic Sea – small pelagics MAP

The GFCM adopted a recommendation extending the initial two years of the transitional period and implementing a third transitional year of the MAP for small pelagics, with further decreases in catches compared to 2023 levels, with a 5% reduction for anchovy and a 9% reduction for sardines. As provided by the 2023 Fishing Opportunities Regulation, it is proposed that Slovenia would not exceed the catch limit of 300 tonnes. The maximum fleet capacity from the 2023 Fishing Opportunities Regulation would also remain in place for 2024.

- Measures for turbot in the Black Sea

The GFCM adopted a recommendation extending, for 2024, the existing transitional TAC and quotas for turbot. In addition, the GFCM approved the EU request to carry-over the unused EU turbot quota of 20 tonnes from 2022 to 2024, 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. It is therefore proposed to implement these measures 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 EU turbot quotas in the Black Sea per Member State, as established by Regulation (EU) 2023/195.

12 Council Regulation (EU) 2023/195 of 30 January 2023 fixing for 2023 the fishing opportunities for certain stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/110 as regards the fishing opportunities for 2022 applicable in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas (OJ L 28, 31.1.2023, p. 220–248)

The Commission Proposal COM (2023) 578 final is updated as follows (**the changes are marked in bold underline**):

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

1.1 Recital (6) of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

"**STECF advised**[13] **that, in order to attain the MSY targets in 2025 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 2024, the maximum allowable fishing effort of trawlers in the western Mediterranean Sea should therefore be reduced by **9,5%** compared to the baseline between 2015 and 2017, to be deducted from the maximum allowable fishing effort set for 2023 by Council Regulation (EU) 2023/195."

1.2 Recital (7) of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

"In 2023, STECF14 advised that longlines have an impact on spawners given that, in GSA 1-2-5-6-7, contribute to 7% of the hake landings and that, in GSA 10, they contribute to 13% of the total landings in this GSA[15] and 6% of the GSA 8-9-10-11. In 2023, STECF also advised that the spawning stock biomass of hake in GSAs 1-5-6-7 and hake in GSAs 8-9-10-11 is still below the conservation limit reference point (B_{LIM}), within the meaning of Article 2(10) of the plan, and that catches should be reduced by at least 89 % in GSAs 1-5-6-7 and 40 % in GSAs 8-9-10-11, in order to reach F_{MSY} in 2024. It is therefore appropriate to maintain, for 2024, the maximum allowable fishing effort of longliners at the same levels set for 2023 by Regulation (EU) 2023/195, on the basis of Article 7(5) of the plan."

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

" In 2023, STECF[8] **advised that the fishing mortality of blue and red shrimps in GSAs 1-2-5-6-7 remains far from sustainable levels and further management measures are thus required. In particular, STECF advised that, in order to reach F_{MSY} by 2024, catches should be reduced on average by 58 % (56% in GSAs 1-2, 59% in GSA 5 and 61% in GSAs 6-7). In accordance with Article 7(3)(b) of the plan, it is therefore appropriate to reduce the** maximum catch limits for blue and red shrimp in GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 **by 9% compared to the fishing opportunities set for 2023 by Council Regulation (EU) 2023/195."**

13 STECF 23-11 page 15-16
14 STECF 23-11 page 83
15 STECF 23-09 page 450

1.4 Recital (9) of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

"In 2023, STECF[8] advised that further management measures for blue and red shrimp in GSAs 8-9-10-11 are required and advised to decrease the total catch by 39%. It is therefore appropriate to reduce the maximum catch limits for blue and red shrimp in GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 **by 7% compared to the fishing opportunities set for 2023 by Council Regulation (EU) 2023/195."**

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

"**In 2023 STECF advised that further management measures for giant red shrimp in GSAs 8-9-10-11 are required and advised to decrease the total catch by 31%. It is therefore appropriate to reduce** the maximum catch limits giant red shrimp in GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 **by 7% compared to the fishing opportunities set for 2023 by Council Regulation (EU) 2023/195."**

1.6 In Article 7 of the Commission proposal, paragraph (1) is replaced by the following:

"For the fleet segment concerned, a Member State may grant, in 2024, to vessels flying its flag an additional allocation of fishing days of **4%** calculated from the baseline between 2015 and 2017 of that Member State as set out in paragraph 4."

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

"(a) Number of fishing days for trawlers in Alboran Sea, Balearic Islands, Northern Spain and Gulf of Lion (GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 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	**1507**	0	0	EFF1/MED1_TR1	EFF1/MED1_TR1_AA
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	**16189**	0	0	EFF1/MED1_TR2	EFF1/MED1_TR2_AA
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	**30375**	**3429**	0	EFF1/MED1_TR3	EFF1/MED1_TR3_AA
	≥ 24 m	**10698**	**4173**	0	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	**0**	**0**	**0**	EFF2/MED1_TR1	EFF2/MED1_TR1_AA
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	**759**	**0**	**0**	EFF2/MED1_TR2	EFF2/MED1_TR2_AA
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	**7690**	**0**	**0**	EFF2/MED1_TR3	EFF2/MED1_TR3_AA
	≥ 24 m	**6173**	**0**	**0**	EFF2/MED1_TR4	EFF2/MED1_TR4_AA

."

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

“

(b) Number of fishing days for trawlers in Corsica Island, Ligurian Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea and Sardinia Island (GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 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; deep-water rose shrimp in GSAs 9, 10 and 11; Norway lobster in GSAs 9 and 10	< 12 m	**0**	**139**	**1969**	EFF1/MED2_TR1	EFF1/MED2_TR1_AA
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	**0**	**556**	**29613**	EFF1/MED2_TR2	EFF1/MED2_TR2_AA
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	**0**	**139**	**19915**	EFF1/MED2_TR3	EFF1/MED2_TR3_AA
	≥ 24 m	**0**	**139**	**2658**	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	**0**	**0**	**326**	EFF2/MED2_TR1	EFF2/MED2_TR1_AA
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	**0**	**0**	**2402**	EFF2/MED2_TR2	EFF2/MED2_TR2_AA
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	**0**	**0**	**1934**	EFF2/MED2_TR3	EFF2/MED2_TR3_AA
	≥ 24 m	**0**	**0**	**259**	EFF2/MED2_TR4	EFF2/MED2_TR4_AA

“.

1.9 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 and 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	**9433**	**6432**	**0**	EFF1/MED1_LL1
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	**2148**	**93**	**0**	EFF1/MED1_LL2
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	**74**	**0**	**0**	EFF1/MED1_LL3
	≥ 24 m	**29**	**0**	**0**	EFF1/MED1_LL4

.”

1.10 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 and 11)

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

”.

1.11 In Annex III of the Commission proposal, table 2(a) 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 and 7), expressed as maximum level of catches in tonnes live weight

Species:	Blue and red shrimp *Aristeus antennatus*	Zone:	GSA 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 (ARA/GF1-7)
Spain	**49**		
France	**754**		
Italy	**0**		
Union	**803**		
TAC	Not relevant	Maximum level of catches	

".

1.12 In Annex III of the Commission proposal, table 2 (b) 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 and 11), expressed as maximum level of catches in tonnes live weight

Species:	Blue and red shrimp *Aristeus antennatus*	Zone:	GSA 8, 9, 10 and 11 (ARA/GF8-11)
Spain	**0**		
France	**9**		
Italy	**226**		
Union	**235**		
TAC	Not relevant	Maximum level of catches	

Species:	Giant red shrimp *Aristaeomorpha foliacea*	Zone:	GSA 8, 9, 10 and 11 (ARS/GF8-11)
Spain	**0**		
France	**5**		
Italy	**330**		
Union	**335**		
TAC	Not relevant	Maximum level of catches	

."

2. Fishing opportunities for red coral in the Mediterranean Sea

2.1 The placeholder in recital (16) of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

"**At its 46th annual meeting in 2023, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/46/2023/13 on a management plan for the sustainable exploitation of red coral in the Mediterranean Sea (geographical subareas 1 to 27), which extending by one year the provisions of Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/4 that introduced a freezing of fishing effort expressed as a maximum number of fishing authorisations, and harvest limits for red coral. Those measures should be implemented in Union law."**

3. Fishing opportunities for common dolphinfish in the Mediterranean Sea

3.1 The placeholder in recital (17) on the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

"**At its 46th annual meeting in 2023, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/46/2023/14 on a management plan for the sustainable exploitation of common dolphinfish in the Mediterranean Sea (geographical subareas 1 to 27), which introduced for the transitional period of 2024 to 2026, a fleet capacity ceiling, a freeze of FADs capacity per vessel, a catch limit and a temporal closure. For recreational fisheries, Recommendation GFCM/46/2023/14 further provides that a daily bag limit should be observed as well as a prohibition period for commercial fisheries. Those measures should be implemented in Union law."**

3.2 In the Commission proposal, Article 5 is replaced by the following:

" **Article 5**

Common dolphinfish

1. **This Article applies to all commercial pelagic fishing activities by Union fishing vessels targeting common dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) by using fish aggregating devices (FADs) in the Mediterranean Sea. It also applies to recreational fisheries of common dolphinfish in the Mediterranean Sea.**
2. **The maximum fleet capacity, expressed in number of vessels, kW and GT, of Union fishing vessels authorised to fish for common dolphinfish, is set out in Annex II.**
3. **The maximum number of FADs per vessel authorised to fish for common dolphinfish is set out in Annex II.**

4. **The maximum level of catches of common dolphinfish shall not exceed the levels set out in Annex II.**
5. **For recreational fisheries, the maximum number of catches shall be limited to 10 Kg or 5 fish of any size per person per day, and during the period 15 August to 31 December.“**

3.3 The placeholder in Annex II of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

“**FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNION FISHING VESSELS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MANAGEMENT OF COMMON DOLPHINFISH IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

The tables in this Annex sets out the maximum number, kw and GT of Union fishing vessels authorised to fish for common dolphinfish in the Mediterranean Sea by using FADs and the maximum level of catches.

References 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:

Scientific name	Alpha-3 code	Common name
Coryphaena hippurus	DOL	Common dolphinfish

(a) Maximum fleet capacity of vessels targeting common dolphinfish by using FADs in the Mediterranean Sea (GSAs 1-27)

Member State	Number of vessels	kW	GT
Italy	797	67925,37	7203
Malta	122	16079,47	1168,86
Spain	45	2105,73	153,34

(b) Maximum number of FADs per vessel authorised to target common dolphinfish in the Mediterranean Sea (GSAs 1-27)

Member State	Number of FADs per vessel
Italy	100
Malta	200
Spain	53

(c) Maximum level of catches in tonnes live weight caught in the Mediterranean Sea (GSAs 1-27) (*)

Species:	**Common dolphinfish (Coryphaena hippurus)**		**Zone:**	**Union and International waters of GFCM-GSAs 1-27 (DOL/MED)**
Italy	**1174**		**Maximum level of catches**	
Malta	**517**			
Spain	**127**			
Union	**1818**	**(*)**		
TAC	**Not relevant**			

(*) This quota may be fished only between 15 August and 31 December 2024 in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2023/2124.

“

4. Fishing opportunities for the Adriatic Sea

4.1 The placeholder in Recital (12) of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:
“At its 46th annual meeting in 2023, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/46/2023/6 on the implementation of a fishing effort regime for key demersal stocks in the Adriatic Sea in 2024 (GSAs 17 and 18), stemming from Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/5. Recommendation GFCM/46/2023/6 provides for a reduction of the fishing effort regime for otter-trawlers by 4% and roll-over of the 2023 effort levels for beam-trawlers. In order to implement those measures into Union law, 4% should therefore be deducted from the maximum allowable fishing effort for otter-trawlers set for 2023 by Council regulation (EU) 2023/195 and the maximum allowable fishing effort for beam-trawlers should be kept at 2023 levels.”

4.2 The placeholder in Recital (14) of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

“At its 46th annual meeting in 2023, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/46/2023/5 on the extension of the transitional fishing regime and the establishment of a catch limit for 2024 for small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea (GSAs 17 and 18), stemming from Recommendation

GFCM/44/2021/20. Recommendation GFCM/46/2023/5 provides for a reduction of the catches for small pelagics with 5% for anchovy and 9% for sardines compared to 2023 levels. In order to implement those measures into Union law, 5% for sardines and 9% for anchovy should therefore be deducted from the maximum level of catches set for 2023 by Council regulation (EU) 2023/195."

4.3 In Annex IV of the Commission proposal, table 1 is replaced by the following:

"1. Small pelagic stocks – GSAs 17 and 18

Maximum level of catches expressed in tonnes live weight

Species:	Small pelagic species (anchovy and sardine) *Engraulis encrasicolus* and *Sardina pilchardus*		Zone:	Union and International waters of GFCM-GSAs 17 and 18 (SP1/GF1718)
Italy	**30672**	(*)	Maximum level of catches	
Croatia	**47139**			
TAC	Not relevant			

(*) Concerning Slovenia, the quantities are based on the level of catches made in 2014, up to an amount that should not exceed 300 tonnes. "

4.4 In Annex IV of the Commission proposal, table 2 is replaced by the following:

"2. Demersal stocks – GSAs 17 and 18

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).

					Fishing Days 2024		
Gear type	Geographical area	Stocks concerned	Overall length of vessels	Effort group code	ITALY	CROATIA	SLOVENIA (*)
Trawls (OTB)	GFCM sub-areas 17 and 18	Red mullet; hake; deep-water rose shrimp; and Norway lobster	< 12 m	EFF/MED3_OTB_TR1	3098	9864	
			≥ 12 m and < 24 m	EFF/MED3_OTB_TR2	69625	22981	
			≥ 24 m	EFF/MED3_OTB_TR3	6100	2063	
Beam	GFCM sub-	Common	< 12 m	EFF/MED3_TBB_	**194**	**0**	0

trawls (TBB)	area 17	sole		TR1			
			≥ 12 m and < 24 m	EFF/MED3_TBB_TR2	**3635**	**0**	0
			≥ 24 m	EFF/MED3_TBB_TR3	**3614**	**0**	0

(*) Slovenia shall not exceed the effort limit of 3000 fishing days per year in accordance with paragraph 13 of GFCM/43/2019/5."

5. Fishing opportunities for turbot in the Black Sea

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

"At its 46th annual meeting in 2023, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/46/2023/7 on a multiannual management plan for turbot fisheries in the Black Sea (geographical subarea 29), amending Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/3. That Recommendation maintained the existing TAC until 31 December 2024. Those measures should be implemented in Union law."

5.2 The placeholder in Recital (25) of the Commission proposal is replaced by the following:

"At its 46th annual meeting in 2023, the GFCM approved a carry-over of the unused Union quota for turbot in 2022, in view of the exceptional situation created by the regional context in the Black Sea. That measure 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) 2023/195 concerning the annual allocation of total allowable catches."

5.3 The second table in Annex VIII of the Commission proposal, concerning the fishing opportunities for turbot, is replaced by the following:

Species:	Turbot *Scophthalmus maximus*		Zone:	Union waters in the Black Sea – GSA 29 (TUR/F3742C)
Bulgaria	**95**		Analytical TAC Article 3(2) and 3(3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply. Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.	
Romania	**75**			
Union	**170**	(*[1])		
TAC	**857**			

([1]) No fishing activity, including transhipment, retaining on board, landing and first sale, shall be permitted from 15 April to 15 June 2024. "