



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR
THE MEDITERRANEAN



SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems

Advice on fisheries management and research

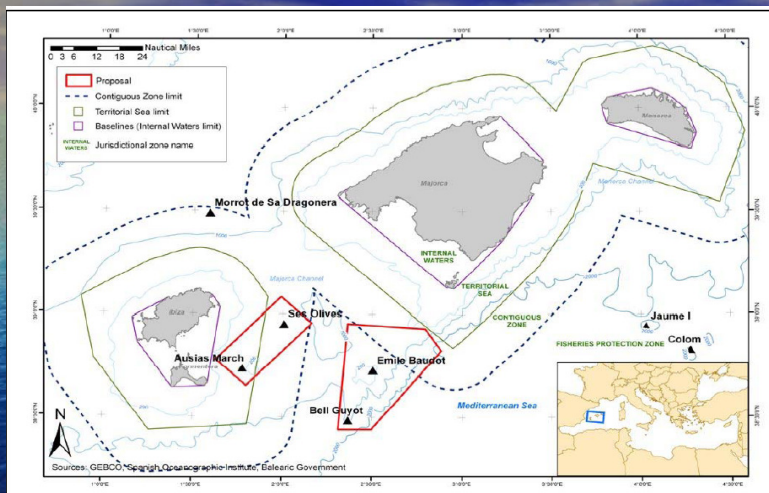
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Recommendations on management for Red Coral

- To set up a **minimum size of 10 mm of basal diameter** with 20% tolerance. Stricter measures already in place should be maintained and adaptive approach should be considered.
- To **prohibit the harvesting of the shallow water** populations at depths of less than 50 m. Stricter measures already in place should be maintained and adaptive approach should be considered.
- To establish a **daily and/or seasonal quota system** based on number of licenses issued to control fishing effort. Define an Operational Unit, reporting system according Task 1 format and an appropriate monitoring system for landings.
- To set up a system of **permanent or temporary** (in a rotational fashion) **no-take zones** for red coral.

Recommendation on a new FRA in seamounts of Balearic islands



Depth range: 80-2750 m
Surface: 2820 Km²

Recommendations on management to reduce by-catch (I)

The restriction and limitation of static nets settings to eliminate the **impact of fishing on monk seal**. A minimum distance of 5 nm. radius around the location of monk seal caves along autumn and winter, extended to 10 nm. around breeding caves.



Recommendations on management to reduce by-catch (II)

- Use of de-hooking devices to release unharmed **sea turtles** which are incidentally caught by long lines
- To reduce **sea birds** by-catch, implement the following mitigation measures:
 - Night-setting for long-liners
 - Bird-scaring lines and warp scaring for longlines and trolling respectively
 - Integrated and external line weights for longlines
 - Bait conditioned for longlines



Recommendations on research (I)

Promote a **medium-term project on red coral** in the Mediterranean taken into account:

Stock distribution: large and small-scale bathymetric surveys and mapping of Mediterranean red coral populations through standardized methodologies.

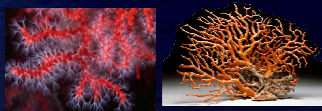
Oceanographic data collection: abiotic and biotic variables

Population data, genetics and stock assessment

Stock recovery and restoration

Development of alternative deep harvesting

Evaluation on the impact of the application of Remote Operating Vehicle (ROV) and submersible harvesting.



Recommendations on research (II)

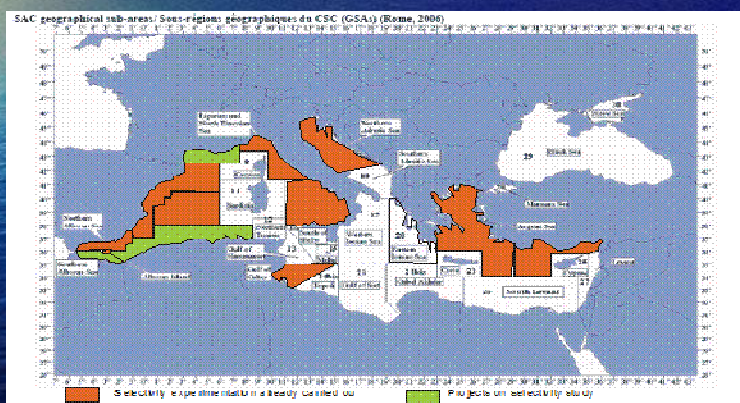
Promote **medium-term, multidisciplinary integrated research, on jellyfish and algal blooms** covering:

- Biology/ecology/biogeography/biotechnological applications of blooming and outbreak-forming species (both indigenous and non-indigenous taxa)
- Fish-jellyfish interactions
- Early warning signals/environmental conditions fostering blooms
- Recommendations on management measures (for fisheries)



Recommendations on research (III)

Pilot studies on **selectivity and by-catch reductions** should be carried out to cover all the region.



Recommendations on research (IV)

Launch pilot studies on measures **to reduce by-catch of Elasmobranches**. Fishing gears, fishing strategies adaptation and/or fishing areas exclusion should be considered.

A series of SGA's are proposed for the development of these experiences:

- Alboran Sea (SGA's 1, 2, 3)
- Balearic Islands (GSA 5)
- North Tyrrhenian Sea (GSA 9)
- Sardinia (GSA 11)
- Gulf of Gabès (GSA 14)
- Malta (GSA15)
- Aegean Sea (GSA 22)

Other recommendations

- Data on **by-catch on Elasmobranches and gelatinous species** (algae and invertebrates) should be recorded through **Task 1 format**. The reporting should be done by species for each Operational Unit and by gear and period.
- Promoting the marketing of catches with the more selective gears through **eco-labelling**, as a potential increase of fisheries incomes.
- Preparation by TECHNOMED of an updated version of the **protocol on selectivity**, including socio-economical indicators, as a standard and reference document for the whole region.
- SCMEE noted with concern the absence of information and mechanisms that could allow the SAC to **assess the effects of current regulations on the FRA's**, particularly in the Gulf of Lions.
- Importance given to research on **submarine canyons**.
- Inclusion of **fry fisheries areas** in the category of sensitive habitats.

