



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR
THE MEDITERRANEAN
COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES
POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE



SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

Fifteenth Session

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Research activities in Member Countries

INTRODUCTION

1. This document provides a synthesis of the information contained in 20 national reports received by the Secretariat up to 5th April 2013. It covers a general description of the current situation of national fisheries, progress made in the field of scientific research and data collection, as well as management measures implemented during the intersessional period. Special focus has been put on actions regarding the recent recommendations on red coral, cetaceans, sharks and rays. The information received has been summarized in tabular format by the Secretariat in Appendix A which contains parts of text as submitted by the countries. Comparisons among countries remain difficult because of the inconsistency of reference year data.

2. This document, together with all respective national reports (Appendix XX of the SAC 15th Report), is intended to help Members identify opportunities for regional cooperation in research activities and management processes.

GENERAL COMMENTS

3. The number of Reports received – 20 – has improved compared to the 14 received in 2012. The following points summarize principal observations deduced from the analysis of the information contained in the National Reports.

- Small variations in fleet sizes have been noted with exception of Montenegro fleet which has decreased (112 in 2012 vs 218 vessels in 2011).
- Fishery production remains constant or slightly smaller in some countries with the exception of Slovenia which in 2012 reported half the catches than in 2011.
- Stock assessments continue to be carried out by the majority of countries, although in some cases the results were not reported to the GFCM WGs and therefore have not been validated by the SAC and cannot be used for management advice. The number of shared stocks assessed jointly by more than one country has increased with the support of FAO Regional Projects.
- European Union countries have continued to develop their fisheries data collection programme in line with the EU Data Collection Framework.
- A significant number of counties (mostly from EU) conduct trawl surveys as well as acoustics surveys at sea, with MEDITS and MEDIAS being the most common projects.

- All countries indicated the responsible institutions for national data collection and briefly describe their statistical programmes. Several countries have underlined the efforts being made to implement new web based and electronic information systems.
- With regards to the mandate of reporting incidental catches of sharks, rays and cetaceans in consistency with recommendations REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 and GFCM/36/2012/3 only 3 countries submitted some information with just one country specifying species and figures.
- Implementation of 11 new fisheries management measures adopted by law is reported by 7 countries, mostly addressing effort control by temporal or area closures, limiting landing size and modifying gear selectivity.
- Regarding research projects on fisheries most countries reported several initiatives which are being funded through different donors and mostly focusing on fish population dynamics, stock assessment, identification of nursery and spawning areas, fishing gear selectivity, bio-economic modeling, by-catch and discards.
- All countries carry out socio-economic studies, some of which address specifically small scale fisheries. The support of FAO Regional Projects on this issue is widely acknowledged.
- A wide variety of marine environment research activities have been reported, which include studies on alien species, habitat identification, marine ecology, eutrophication, oceanography, endangered species, marine protected areas, ecosystem-based governance, marine conservation, reduction of by-catch of non-commercial species and marine pollution.
- Suggestions for future research put forward by the reporting countries include subjects related to EAF, fishing gear technology, monitoring of specific fisheries resources, socio-economic studies, coastal zone management, population dynamics, genetics, stock-recruitment interactions, essential fish habitats, artisanal fisheries, climate change and other environmental impacts on fisheries, bio-economic modeling, indicators and reference points
- According to the GFCM Recommendations issued in 2011 and 2012 some additional information should be provided to GFCM Secretariat through annual National Reports: i) management plans in force and studies carried out for the exploitation of red coral in case that derogation of exploiting coral at less than 50 m. is being requested, ii) any event of incidental taking of sea turtles (with details of gear, area, target species, discarded death or released alive, iii) any event of incidental taking of sea birds iv) any event of incidental taking of cetaceans (with details of gear, area, time and location and species caught) and v) catches and incidental taking, release and/or discarding event for shark species listed either in Annex II or III of the SPA/BD protocol. To this purpose, current template is being progressively modified.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE

4. SAC is invited to review the progress of the national research activities and to identify areas of cooperation among interested Members. Furthermore, gaps in scientific monitoring and research may be identified along with the requirements for specific external support in some countries, including from sub-regional projects and other regional initiatives.

Appendix A
Summary tables of National Reports 2013

Description of the fisheries

<i>FLEET</i>	597 vessels (2012)
<i>PRODUCTION</i>	6 950 t (2012)
<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	GSA 18

Status of stocks of priority species

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Statistics and Information Systems

<i>FISHERIES AND VESSELS DATA</i>	Fisheries Directorate increased its administrative capacity for data collection and data processing
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National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

<i>ON FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE</i>	The first law "On Fisheries" approved by Council of Ministers and by Albanian Parliament, (Law Nr. 64, of date 31.05.2012 "On fisheries"), new law "On Aquaculture" prepared with the assistance of IPA 2008 Project "Establishing and Strengthening of the System for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) in Albanian Fisheries" (Europe aid/128433/C/SER/AL)
<i>REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL</i>	This kind of fishing has been (in former law) and is (new actual law) forbidden
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS</i>	Fishing of this species is forbidden by the Law no. 64/2012 date 31/5/2012. The implementation regulation is under preparation by the Directorate.
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS</i>	Fishing of this species is forbidden by the Law no. 64/2012 date 31/5/2012

Other research projects in progress

<i>FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES</i>	Scientific fishery survey Acoustic, DEPM, Medits, Biological sampling (starting from April 2013) Laboratory of Fisheries and Aquaculture uses ATRIS (AdriaMed Trawl Survey Information System) data base with trawl fishery survey data
<i>MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES</i>	Environmental studies and monitoring are carried up through the National Programme of Environment Monitoring
<i>SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES</i>	Social and economical aspect studies on marine fisheries have just started by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Institute "HYDRA", with the support of FAO AdriaMed project

Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

<i>AdriaMed</i>	Achieve homogeneous level of knowledge that would allow undertaking ecosystem-oriented activities and setting-up common tools at sub regional level for the sustainable management of fisheries operating on shared stocks
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	Fishery and Aquaculture Laboratory was directly involved in the monitoring of fisheries resources in several scientific surveys
	Albanian experts participated in the AdriaMed Working Groups on Fisheries Resources (Demersal and Small Pelagics) for the joint analysis and stock assessment of shared stocks with Montenegro and Italy experts

Proposal for future research programmes

To continue in demersal and pelagic stock evaluation in a way of having real knowledge of that stocks by the purpose of compiling the proper policies and management measures to guaranty a responsible and sustainable exploiting of the main marine resources

To be further supporting the Albanian legal and sublegal acts preparation of fishery and aquaculture field

To further train the Albanian specialists on mathematical processing of data that have resulted from above mentioned evaluations

Re-evaluation of Small Scale /Artisanal Fisheries as a further evaluation made on 2005 in a way of having knowledge about the trendy of developments of this part of marine fisheries which has high economical, biological, environmental and social value

Description of the fisheries

<i>FLEET</i>	4 316 vessels (2011); 4 191 (2010)
<i>PRODUCTION</i>	104 008 t (2011); 95 167 t (2010)
<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	GSA 04

Status of stocks of priority species

<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	Optimal rate of exploitation
<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	Uncertain
<i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i>	In overfishing status

Statistics and Information Systems

<i>FISHERIES DATA</i>	National statistical scheme covers landing sites for marine fisheries. Catch and effort data
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National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

<i>REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS</i>	

Other research projects in progress

<i>FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES</i>	
<i>ALPEL</i> Acoustic Survey	
Centre National pour le Développement de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture (CNRDPA) a mis en place un programme d'évaluation des stocks halieutiques des côtes algériennes (2025)	
Demersal trawl survey	
<i>MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES</i>	
Assessment of pollution on coastal water	
<i>SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES</i>	

Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

<i>FAO COPEMED</i>	Training in fishing technologies
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Proposal for future research programmes

Socio-economic studies on artisanal fishery

Biology of small pelagics

Ichthyoplankton

Red microalgae identification

Biology of swordfish and small tunas

Description of the fisheries

<i>FLEET</i>	2 366 vessels (31/12/2012); 2 366 (31/12/2011)
<i>PRODUCTION</i>	7 974 t (2012); 8 130 t (2011)
<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	GSA 29

Status of stocks of priority species (2011)

<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	In overfishing status
<i>Psetta maxima</i>	Severely depleted
<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	In overfishing status
<i>Merlangius merlangus euxinus</i>	In overfishing status

Statistics and Information Systems

<i>FISHERIES AND VESSELS DATA</i>	Information-statistics system (ISS) of National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture based on the EU legislation
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National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

<i>REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL</i>	Not applicable for the Black Sea
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS</i>	No information available
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS</i>	Not applicable for the Black Sea

Other research projects in progress

<i>FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES</i>	
Data collection program (DCR 199/2008 EC) in Bulgarian and Romanian part of Black Sea – scientific cruises for estimation of abundance and biomass of turbot (swept area method)	
Strengthening the regional capacity to support the sustainable management of the Black Sea Fisheries (SRCSSMBSF)	
Assessing and predicting the combined effects of natural and human-made pressures in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea in view of their better governance (fisheries and non-indigenous species)	
Assessments on Black Sea stocks	
<i>COMFISH</i> Strengthening the impact of fisheries related research through dissemination, communication and technology transfer	
<i>MESMA</i> Monitoring and Evaluation of Spatially Managed Areas	
<i>CREAM</i> Coordinating research in support to application of EAF (Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries) and management advice in the Mediterranean and Black Seas	
<i>KNOWSEAS</i> Knowledge-based Sustainable Management for Europe's Seas	

Project on the Studies for carrying out the Common Fisheries Policy: Adverse Fisheries Impacts on Cetacean Populations in the Black Sea

MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Enlargement of the ecological network NATURA 2000 in Bulgarian Black Sea territorial waters to overcome the mid incompleteness regarding marine habitats

Monitoring of fish biodiversity and cetaceans

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES

Bulgaria-Japan Research Collaboration for Sustainable Development with the purpose to promote Basic and Applied Sciences as well as Humanities and Social Sciences

Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

FAO BlackSeaFish

Proposal for future research programmes

Description of the fisheries

FLEET	4 232 vessels (2011); 4 091 (2010)
PRODUCTION	69 700 t (2011); 51 438 t (2010)
ACTIVITIES	GSA 17 and 18

Status of stocks of priority species

<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i> (GSA 17)	Fully exploited
<i>Sardina pilchardus</i> (GSA 17)	Fully exploited
<i>Solea solea</i> (GSA 17)	In overfishing status

Statistics and Information Systems

VESSELS REGISTER AND ACTIVITIES	Web-based Croatian Fishing Fleet Register
CATCH AND LANDINGS	Fishing vessels equal to or longer than 10 m submit the logbook reporting data on catch and landings
VMS	Croatia has in 2011 embarked on installation of electronic logbooks on all its vessels over 15 m in length (since 1 Jan 2012 the system is operational on all vessels over 18 m LoA)

National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

ON LARGE PELAGIC FISHERIES	All recommendations on bluefin tuna and swordfish in Mediterranean Sea as adopted by ICCAT and GFCM are fully incorporated in Croatian legislation and have been implemented in the inter-sessional period
REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL	Croatia is in an advanced stage of preparing a legal act, which will fully incorporate the provisions of GFCM into national legislation. Traditional areas for collecting red coral are in the territorial waters of the Croatian open fishing sea mostly in central and southern parts at depths greater than 50 m
REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS	By-catch rates of cetaceans (according to Paragraph 3. of the Recommendation): <i>see below</i>
REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS	Ban on use bottom-set nets to catch certain species of sharks including: <i>Hexanchus griseus</i> , <i>Cetorhinus maximus</i> and all species of the families Alopiidae, Carcharhinidae, Sphyrnidae and Lamnidae, is in force since 2010 Catch/incidental taking of sharks species listed in Annex II or III of the SPA/BD Protocol (according to Paragraph 9. of the Recommendation): <i>see below</i>

Other research projects in progress

FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES	
PELMON	Monitoring of small pelagic stock by acoustic survey
PERIMON	Collection of biological and fisheries related data as needed for fishery dependent assessments (i.e. VPA)

<i>DEMMON</i> Evaluation of demersal resources in the Croatian fishing sea. Fisheries and biological data collection includes on board sampling and laboratory analysis, sampling on the landing ports and gathering basic socio-economic data
<i>PRIMO</i> Monitoring of coastal fisheries and biological sampling on most important fishing gears (trammel and gill nets, long lines and traps)
<i>MEDITS</i> Biomass estimation of demersal resources (since 1996)
<i>SOLEMON</i> Evaluation of <i>Solea solea</i> and other flatfish stocks in the Adriatic Sea and estimation of the impact of different gear in the framework of AdriaMed
<i>DEEP SEA</i> Project on investigation of distribution and status of biological resources in deep south Adriatic in the framework of AdriaMed (started in 2008)
<i>UWTV Survey</i> Alternative assessment of biomass stock of Norway lobster using underwater camera in the framework of AdriaMed

MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Systematic exploration of the Adriatic Sea as basis for sustainable resources management, monitoring of parameters relevant to the marine environmental and renewable resources

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES

Studies are currently being developed within the definition of the national data collection program fully in line with the EU DCF rules

Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

<i>AdriaMed</i>	Fully involved in all activities
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Proposal for future research programmes

It is deemed necessary to continue with the activities in the framework of FAO AdriaMed Project

Consideration should be given to international monitoring of demersal resources in Jabuka Pit. Jabuka/Pommo Pit is a principal fishing ground in the Adriatic Sea for Croatian and Italian bottom trawl fisheries fleet

Concerning small pelagic fish species, particularly sardine and anchovy, determination of spawning grounds as well as nursery area is necessary; hence those studies should be conducted

Information submitted to the Secretariat according to GFCM RECOMMENDATIONS

By-catch rates according to Paragraph 3. REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS

YEAR	No by-catches of cetaceans were recorded in 2012
SPECIES	/
FISHERIES AND GEAR	/
TIME AND LOCATION (GSA/STATISTICAL GRID)	/

Information on fishing activities, catch data, incidental taking, release and/or discarding events for sharks species listed either in Annex II or III of the SPA/BD Protocol according to Paragraph 9. REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS

YEAR	There were no recorded by-catches of Annex II or III shark species
SPECIES	/
FISHERIES AND GEAR	/
TIME AND LOCATION (GSA/STATISTICAL GRID)	/

Description of the fisheries

<i>FLEET</i>	488 vessels (2012); 542 vessels (2011)
<i>PRODUCTION</i>	
<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	GSA 25 and 14, 15 and 21 (international waters)

Status of stocks of priority species

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Statistics and Information Systems

<i>FISHERIES DATA</i>	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR) of the Ministry of Agriculture
<i>FISHING FLEET REGISTER</i>	Cyprus National Database

National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

<i>ON FISHING EFFORT</i>	Restrictive access to fisheries, restrictions on the use of fishing gears, Fishing Protected Areas, Regulation of fishing capacity, Minimum sizes of marine organisms, minimum mesh sizes, Seasonal and area closures
<i>ON LARGE PELAGIC FISHERIES</i>	During the intersessional period the ICCAT recommendations on the management of Mediterranean swordfish, the multiannual recovery plan for bluefin tuna and the conservation of thresher sharks, endorsed by GFCM, were implemented
<i>REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL</i>	There is no exploitation of red coral by the Cyprus Fleet
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS</i>	By-catch rates of cetaceans (according to Paragraph 3. of the Recommendation): <i>see below</i>
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS</i>	Data based on the recommendation are collected by the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research and the recommendations have been included in the fishing license rules

Other research projects in progress

<i>FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES</i>	National Fisheries Data Collection Programme (annually)
<i>MEDITS</i>	Biomass estimation of demersal resources
	EU Oceanographic research projects, research projects of aquaculture
<i>MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES</i>	Research on marine ecology with a particular emphasis on marine biodiversity
	Effects on the marine ecosystem from various anthropogenic activities, such as aquaculture, desalination, breakwaters, sewage, etc

Monitoring studies on the appearance and expansion of invasive alien species in the marine environment of Cyprus
Monitoring of eutrophication events by nuisance macroalgae
Programs for the conservation of sea turtles, monk seal, Posidonia seagrass meadows, etc
Studies in the framework of the establishment of marine protected areas, including the development of artificial reefs
Monitoring of marine ecological and environmental parameters, as well as estimation of pollutants in marine organisms
Assessment of the Ecological Quality Status of coastal waters, under the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC
Study of the ecology and monitoring of the environmental parameters of the Larnaca Salt Lake complex and Akrotiri wetlands

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES

Surveys and interviews by the DFMR

Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

<i>EastMed</i>	The DFMR participates in the regional project and activities
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Proposal for future research programmes

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Information submitted to the Secretariat according to GFCM RECOMMENDATIONS

By-catch rates according to Paragraph 3. REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS

<i>YEAR</i>	No information on by-catch of cetaceans was reported or recorded by the DFMR within GSA 25 for 2012
<i>SPECIES</i>	/
<i>FISHERIES AND GEAR</i>	/
<i>TIME AND LOCATION (GSA/STATISTICAL GRID)</i>	/

Description of the fisheries

<i>FLEET</i>	4 529 vessels (3 082 with engine - 1 444 sail boats) (2011); 4 633 (3 092 with engine - 1 541 sail boats) (2010)
<i>PRODUCTION</i>	77 799 t (2011); 77 388 (2010)
<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	GSA 26

Status of stocks of priority species

<i>Sardinella aurata</i>	Stock is in balanced position
<i>Saurida undosquamis</i>	Overexploited

Statistics and Information Systems

<i>CATCH/EFFORT MONITORING</i>	General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD) operators
<i>DATABASE</i>	Samac.Net: monthly statistical reports involving system referential data, catch/effort estimates, statistical diagnostics on the accuracy of sampling operations, etc
<i>VESSEL REGISTER</i>	A vessel information spreadsheet according to GFCM requirements has been designed. All Mediterranean harbors are covered and an ongoing fleet register updated annually

National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

<i>ON FISHING EFFORT</i>	Specific management regulations are limited to freeze on the issue of additional fishing boats licenses and a closed season for all fishing activities from 1 May to 30 June each year in the Mediterranean Sea
<i>REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS</i>	

Other research projects in progress

<i>FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES</i>	<p>Sampling of biological data for the most commercial pelagic and demersal species (started in 2011) under the framework of EastMed</p> <p>Investigation of geographical distribution, relative abundance and biological parameters of the pelagic and demersal species (2012-2013)</p>
<i>MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES</i>	Pilot study on Implementation of the 40 mm square mesh size to the Egyptian trawl fleet will be developed under the framework of EastMed

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES

Sampling programme developed, with the support of EastMed to estimate all the socio-economic variables for fleet segments according to the GFCM Task 1 fleet segmentation and to provide a preliminary assessment of socio economic situation of the Egyptian fisheries fleet through an interview based survey

Mohamed Zyton (2012) studied the occupational safety and health in the Egyptian fishing industry: many hazardous work conditions and practices that result in high morbidity and mortality rates, and high injury rates

Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

EastMed

Proposal for future research programmes

Mapping of the most important spawning and nursery grounds for the establishment of marine protected areas to be used as an effective fisheries management tool is needed

The whole life cycle of the different species should be studied to describe their population dynamics and consequently applying the fishery management models

Strong need for the appropriate measures of stock biomass and stock abundance, of the commercial species which would provide real stock information upon which management strategy could be developed

Description of the fisheries

<i>FLEET</i>	1 325 vessels (2011); 1 348 vessels (2010)
<i>PRODUCTION</i>	
<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	GSA 07 and 08

Status of stocks of priority species

<i>Merluccius merluccius</i> (GSA 07)	In overfishing status
<i>Mullus barbatus</i> (GSA 07)	In overfishing status
<i>Sardina pilchardus</i> (GSA 07)	Low biomass level
<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i> (GSA 07)	Low biomass level
<i>Thunnus thynnus</i> (GSA 07)	Reduction in catches coherent with the recovery plan set by ICCAT

Statistics and Information Systems

<i>FISHERIES DATA</i>	Système d'Information Halieutique (SIH) managed by IFREMER is carried out within the framework of the Data Collection framework of the EU. Catch and effort surveys and biological sampling carried out for small scale fisheries <12 m LOA
<i>OBSERVERS PROGRAMS</i>	Catches, marine mammal by-catch, bluefin tuna aerial surveys

National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

<i>REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS</i>	

Other research projects in progress

<i>FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES</i>
Bluefin tuna research
<i>RECOPESCA</i> Geolocalization of fishing effort in vessels not equipped with VMS
<i>HACOUSMED</i> Harmonisation des données ACOustiques en MEDiterranée
<i>MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES</i>
<i>ECOPELGOL</i> Study of the pelagic ecosystem dynamics in the Gulf of Lion

AMPED Marine Protected Areas for highly migratory species

IPEP Impact of fisheries on protected species

AMPED Marine Protected Areas for highly migratory species

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES

RP3 National project to assess revenues by reducing fuel consumption and reducing environmental impact

Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

Proposal for future research programmes

Description of the fisheries

FLEET	16 696 vessels (31/12/2012); 17 164 (21/12/2011)
PRODUCTION	60 349 t (2011, provisional data); 74 885 t (2010)
ACTIVITIES	GSA 20, 22, 23

Status of stocks of priority species

<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i> (GSA 22)	Fully exploited with no expected room for expansion
<i>Sardina pilchardus</i> (GSA 22)	Overexploited
<i>Mullus barbatus</i> (GSA 22-23)	Fully exploited
<i>M. surmuletus</i> (GSA 22-23)	Fully exploited
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i> (GSA 22-23)	Overexploited
<i>Parapeneus longirostris</i> (GSA 22-23)	Overexploited

Statistics and Information Systems

VESSELS WITH MOTOR > 19 HP	The Hellenic Statistical Authority (EL.STAT)
OTHER DATA	Directorate General for Fisheries supervised by the Ministry of Rural Development, and Food

National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

ON LARGE PELAGIC FISHERIES	Recommendations on blue fin tuna and swordfish in the Mediterranean Sea as adopted by ICCAT and GFCM were fully implemented during the intersessional period
ON SMALL PELAGIC FISHERIES	A national management plan for the small pelagic fish stocks of <i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i> (anchovy) and <i>Sardina pilchardus</i> (sardine) exploited by purse seine fishery has been implemented in 2012
ON EEL	Measures targeting to the direct reduction of fishing and natural mortality, the establishment of an efficient recording system and the improvement of the efficiency of eel migrations
REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL	The coral fishing is regulated by national legislation which is in force since 1994. According to this, fishing authorisations are issued and the fishery is managed by regulating the allowable fishing depth, the harvesting areas and the permitted fishing gear. National legislation will be updated according to Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/2
REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS	Cetaceans are not targeted in any fishery in Greece. Regarding to incidents of dead cetaceans special care is provided for data collection since 2000. The use of monofilament nets is forbidden in the Greek waters since 1997
REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS	Sharks and rays are not targeted species for any fishery in Greece, however their catch is monitored by the National Fisheries Data Collection Programme. National legislation on swordfish fishery was harmonized with the REC. GFCM/36/2012/3

Other research projects in progress

FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES

Data collection programme on biology and landings of silver and yellow eel
<i>MEDIAS</i> Data collection to provide fisheries independent information for the assessment of small pelagic species
Estimation of biological parameters and transversal variables relating to fishing activity of drifting long lines
<i>FISHPOPTRACE</i> Structure of Fish Populations and Traceability of Fish and Fish Products
<i>ALBAMONTE</i> Rapid assessment of alien marine species in the Albanian and Montenegrin coast
<i>ARCHIMEDES</i> Estimation of maximum net length of trammel nets, gillnets and combined bottom set nets by using the volume or the mass of the net
<i>BADMINTON</i> Bycatch and Discards: Management indicators, trends and location
<i>DEEPFISHMAN</i> Management and Monitoring Of Deep-sea Fisheries and Stocks
<i>FISHINMED</i> Mediterranean Network of sustainable small-scale fishing communities
<i>MAREA</i> Mediterranean Marine Resources Evaluation and Advice
<i>MESMA</i> Monitoring and Evaluation of Spatially Managed Areas
<i>MET-SMA-FISH</i> Métiers in Small Scale Fisheries
<i>MIAS</i> Updating the inventory of Marine Invasive Alien Species across European Seas
Assessing the causes and developing measures to prevent the escape of fish from sea-cage aquaculture
Socio economic effects of management measures of the future CFP
<i>SUSY</i> Surfacing System for Ship Recovery
<i>TRAWLPLAN</i> Management plan for the demersal trawl fisheries in the Greek seas
<i>MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES</i>
<i>ARCHITECTURE</i> Architecture and roadmap to manage multiple pressures on lagoons
<i>ConShagAudMIBAGR</i> Concrete Conservation Actions for the Mediterranean Shag and Audouin's Gull in Greece, including the Inventory of Relevant Marine IBAs
<i>CORAL FISH</i> Assessment of the interactions between corals, fish and fisheries, in order to develop monitoring and predictive modelling tools for ecosystem based management in the deep waters
<i>CREAM</i> Coordinating research in support to application of EAF (Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries) and management advice in the Mediterranean and Black Seas
<i>EFH-GIS</i> The identification and mapping of Essential Fish Habitats using Geographic Information Systems
<i>KOUPONIA</i> Collection of environmental, ecological, oceanographic and fishery data for the Argolikos gulf
<i>MADE</i> Mitigating adverse ecological impacts of open ocean fisheries
<i>MEDISEH</i> Mediterranean Sensitive Habitats
<i>MYFISH</i> Maximising yield of fisheries while balancing ecosystem, economic and social concerns
<i>NETMED</i> Planning a network of marine protected areas for the Mediterranean Sea
<i>ODEMM</i> Options for Delivering Ecosystem-based marine management
<i>PEGASO</i> People for Ecosystem-based Governance in Assessing Sustainable Development of Ocean and coast
<i>SMPE</i> Elaboration of the Strategic Study of Environmental Impact of aquaculture within the frame of the National Cadastral Design and Sustainable Development plan for aquaculture
<i>WISER</i> Water body in Europe: integrative system to assess ecological status and recovery

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES

BEMTOOL Bio-Economic Modelling TOOLS

JAKEFISH Judgment and Knowledge in Fisheries Involving StakeHolders

Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

EastMed

Researchers and fisheries officers from the administration took part in several activities concerning the objectives of the project and based on the work plan

Proposal for future research programmes

No data provided

Description of the fisheries

<i>FLEET</i>	
<i>PRODUCTION</i>	
<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	

Status of stocks of priority species

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Statistics and Information Systems

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National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

<i>REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS</i>	

Other research projects in progress

<i>FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES</i>	
<i>MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES</i>	
<i>SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES</i>	

Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

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Proposal for future research programmes

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Description of the fisheries

FLEET	13 078 (2011); 13 301 (2010)
PRODUCTION	210 324 t (2011); 223 000 t (2010)
ACTIVITIES	GSA 09, 10, 11, 16, 15, 19, 17 and 18

Status of stocks of priority species

<i>Merluccius merluccius</i> (all GSAs)	In overfishing status
<i>Mullus brabatus</i> (all GSAs)	In overfishing status
<i>Solea vulgaris</i> (GSA 17)	In overfishing status
<i>Pagellus erythrinus</i> (GSAs 09, 15, 16)	In overfishing status
<i>M. surmuletus</i> (GSA 09)	In overfishing status
<i>Lophius budegassa</i> (GSAs 15, 16)	In overfishing status
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i> (GSA 09)	In overfishing status
<i>Squilla mantis</i> (GSAs 09, 17)	In overfishing status
<i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i> (GSA 09)	Sustainable exploitation
<i>P. longirostris</i> (GSAs 10, 16, 18)	In overfishing status
<i>Aristaeomorpha antennatus</i> (GSA 09)	In overfishing status
<i>A. foliacea</i> (GSAs 09, 11, 16)	In overfishing status
<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i> (GSA 16)	In overfishing status
<i>E. encrasicolus</i> (GSA 17)	Sustainable exploitation
<i>Sardina pilchardus</i> (GSA 17)	Fully exploited with no expected room for expansion
<i>S. pilchardus</i> (GSA 16)	Low biomass level

Statistics and Information Systems

FISHERIES DATA	IREPA on behalf of the Ministry of agriculture and forestry policies (MiPAAF)
DATABASE	European Regulation on Data Collection (EU reg. n. 199/2008): centralized database has been developed to store fishery statistics, economic data of the fleet, biological data, etc

National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL	According to our best updated knowledge, validated scientific studies providing new information on Italian coral populations at depth less than 50 m are not available. Therefore, derogation of paragraph 4 is not currently applicable at the Italian level
REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS	Details on annual bycatch rates in pelagic/mid-water trawlers and total estimates of bottlenose dolphins (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) for GSA 17 are regularly reported through the Annual Reports on the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) 812/2004
REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS	Details on annual bycatch rates in pelagic/mid-water trawlers and total estimates of elasmobranch species (including, <i>Alopias vulpinus</i> , <i>Pteromylaeus bovinus</i> , <i>Pteroplatytrygon violacea</i> , <i>Myliobatis aquila</i> , <i>Mustelus</i> sp., <i>Squalus</i> sp.) for GSA 17 through the Annual Reports on the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) 812/2004

Other research projects in progress

FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES

Fisheries data collected within the Italian National Data Collection Program 2012 (The General Directorate for Fisheries and Aquaculture - MIPAAF)

ITAFISHNET Development of a net for the exchange of information between national researchers

Development of the System GIS-PESCA on the entire coastline

Assessment of bycatch of protected species in the pelagic trawl

Nutritional and safety aspects of fish species from fishery and aquaculture

Assessment of *Anguilla anguilla* in the framework of UE Reg. 1100/2007

Preliminary assessment of the main species of Elasmobranchs

Assessment of the red coral in the Italian seas

Diffusion of *Anisakis* sp and potential risks

Species identification of fishery products

Guidelines and technical measures for the management of Fishery Restricted Areas

Spatio-temporal identification of nursery area in the Italian seas

MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Fishery and marine pollution: studies on the effects of pollutants on marine fishery

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES

Bio-economic models

Cooperation development in the Mediterranean fishery sector – the labor context, the producers associations, training

Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

<i>AdriaMed</i>	Involvement in trainer and/or trainees activities on the collection, storing and processing of fishery related data, technical meetings, stock assessment activities
<i>MedSudMed</i>	Involvement in trainer and/or trainees activities on the collection, storing and processing of fishery related data, technical meetings, stock assessment activities
<i>EastMed</i>	Activities on the collection of fisheries data and training on artisanal fisheries monitoring in Eastern Mediterranean countries are being co-funded

Proposal for future research programmes

Evaluating optimal exploitation strategies and adequate indicators and reference points for multispecies fisheries

Studying stock-recruitment relationships

Improving knowledge on population biology and to identify the population units (stock boundaries)

Revising borders of some GSAs on the basis of available information

Assessing impact of fishing on communities and ecosystems

Evaluating spatial management measures (no take zones, fishery restricted areas, marine protected areas)

Investigating effect of climate change on stock dynamics

Improving knowledge on the effect of fishery at ecosystem level, performing specific studies on discards and impact on the sea bottoms

Developing the assessments by bio-economic models

Mapping spawning grounds and other essential fish habitats

In special areas such as the Strait of Sicily and the Adriatic Sea, where straddling and trans boundary stocks are shared by fisheries of several countries, it is considered relevant:

- improving knowledge on population biology and the identification of population units, including genetic approaches, to clarify relationships and connectivity among populations;*
- supporting a common collection of data on stocks and fisheries, based on both fishery independent and dependent approaches, within the framework of an international program;*
- assisting the develop of a common geo referred data base reporting both bathymetric, substratum features, biocenoses, and fishing grounds at regional level.*

Description of the fisheries

<i>FLEET</i>	273 vessels (0 active)
<i>PRODUCTION</i>	0 t (since 2010)
<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	No Japanese vessels have operated in the Mediterranean since 2010

Status of stocks of priority species

<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	Stocks managed by ICCAT
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Statistics and Information Systems

<i>FISHERIES DATA</i>	Catch reports to Fisheries Agency of Japan and analyzed by National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries of the Fisheries Research Agency (NRIFSF)
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National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

<i>ON LARGE PELAGIC FISHERIES</i>	Japan has been implementing the ICCAT and GFCM recommendations related to fishing activities in the Mediterranean. But Japanese fishing vessels have not operated in the Mediterranean recently
<i>REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL</i>	No Japanese vessels have operated in the Mediterranean since 2010
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS</i>	No Japanese vessels have operated since 2010 in the Mediterranean. Thus, we do not have any information about it
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAY</i>	No Japanese vessels have operated since 2010 in the Mediterranean. Thus, we don't have any information about it

Other research projects in progress

<i>FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES</i>	The biological and stock assessment researches on Atlantic tunas and billfishes have been carried out by the NRIFSF. These researches are not focused on the Mediterranean because no Japanese vessels have operated there recently and we cannot collect the data
<i>MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES</i>	The Fisheries Agency of Japan and the NRIFSF have been conducting various programs and studies. However, there is no program or studies focused on the Mediterranean area because of no fishing data
<i>SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES</i>	There is no social science study on the Japanese tuna fisheries in the Mediterranean provided to the Fisheries Agency because of no fishing data

Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

There is no activities of FAO Regional Projects in which Japan is involved in the Mediterranean

Proposal for future research programmes

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Description of the fisheries

<i>FLEET</i>	2 662 vessels (2004)
<i>PRODUCTION</i>	4 540 t (2012) (North Lebanon only)
<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	GSA 27

Status of stocks of priority species

<i>Boops boops</i>	Overexploited
<i>Diplodus sargus sargus</i>	Fully exploited

Statistics and Information Systems

<i>CATCH ASSESSMENT</i>	Since 2005, commercial fisheries data (North Lebanon only) collected by Marine Resources and Coastal Zone Management program (MRCZM), University of Balamand (UOB)
<i>DATA ENTRY</i>	FLOUCA (Lebanese term for fishing boat and stands for Fish Landing Operational Utility for Catch Assessment) software and standard statistical methodology provided by FAO

National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

<i>ON GEAR</i>	Minister Decision 8/1 (4/1/2012) regarding the organizing and defining some marine fishing gear 'Fyke nets'
<i>ON CONTROL</i>	Acquiring and commissioning of four fisheries patrol boats to help in monitoring and control activities
<i>REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS</i>	

Other research projects in progress

<i>FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES</i>
Pilot survey on fisheries dependent data collection in Lebanon including training
Historical Catch Reconstruction for fisheries in Lebanon
<i>PESCA LIBANO PROJECT</i> Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture for fishery development (CIHEAM-MAI Bari, the Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare, Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture and the Lebanese National Council for Scientific research)
<i>CANA PROJECT</i> Establishing Monitoring and Sustainable Development of the Lebanese Sea (by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and run by the Lebanese National Council for Scientific research)
<i>MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES</i>
<i>PEGASO</i> People for Ecosystem-based Governance in Assessing Sustainable Development of Ocean and Coast

Evaluation of coastal risk on the Chekka El Heri beach through the assessment of the physical oceanographic parameters

Deployment of an artificial reef in front of Aabdeh (North Lebanon)

UNEP - Environmental Resources Monitoring Project

UNDP - Early recovery of NBC surrounding municipalities' project

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES

First country-wide pilot socio-economic survey of fishing communities conducted by FAO EastMed Project

Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

EastMed Project

Fishing Licensing System; Catch assessment pilot study; New fishing vessels design and/or new vessel building materials; Pilot country-wide socio-economic survey

Proposal for future research programmes

Promote and integrate fisheries research as part of Ecosystem Based Management

Develop a sustainable national "information system" for artisanal fisheries in collaboration with the different research centers in Lebanon and the region (East-Mediterranean Basin)

Assess stocks of commercial fish species in Lebanon

Identify and assess common stocks in the East-Mediterranean Basin

Monitor invasive species in Lebanese waters and their population dynamics

*Research the impact of invasive species on commercial stocks in particular and the coastal marine ecosystem in general with a special emphasis on *L. sceleratus**

Update on a yearly basis the list of coastal marine biodiversity richness in Lebanese territorial waters

Monitor marine food chains and webs in the perspective of climate change with a special emphasis on primary producers

Monitor marine macro-algae in the perspective of climate change

Description of the fisheries

<i>FLEET</i>	The number of our fleet was changed due to Libyan revolution
<i>PRODUCTION</i>	No accurate total landings in 2012 due to difficulties in collecting production data
<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	No fishing activity in 2011 due to Libyan revolution

Status of stocks of priority species

No stock assessment and no species evaluated during the intersessional period

Statistics and Information Systems

No major improvement/change occurred on the national fishery statistics during the intersessional period

National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

<i>REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL</i>	No exploitation of red coral exist in Libya, although there was a record of its occurrence in the eastern coastal waters
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS</i>	No relevant information available
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS</i>	MBRC has issued an identification manual on cartilaginous fishes as first step towards the process of conservation of sharks and rays

Other research projects in progress

FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES

MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES

Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

<i>MedSudMed</i>	Analysis of the biomass of small pelagic of 2010 survey, analysis of the distribution of egg and larvae and some environmental factors in the eastern part of Libya on 2010
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Proposal for future research programmes

Description of the fisheries

<i>FLEET</i>	2 989 vessels (2012); 3 039 (2011)
<i>PRODUCTION</i>	1 527 t (2012); 1 835 t (2011)
<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	GSA 15

Status of stocks of priority species (assessments conducted in 2012, reference year 2010)

<i>Lophius budegassa</i>	Overexploited
<i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i>	Overexploited
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Overexploited
<i>Aristaeomorpha foliacea</i>	Overexploited
<i>Mullus barbatus</i>	Overexploited
<i>Pagellus erythrinus</i>	Overexploited

Statistics and Information Systems

<i>CATCH AND EFFORT</i>	Data collected in line with the EU Data Collection Framework (DCF) EC 199/2008, EC 949/2008, EC 93/2010
<i>FISHERIES INFORMATION SYSTEM</i>	The FIS under development will be an integrated system whereby the databases related to the fleet register, catch assessment survey, logbooks, biological sampling, biological surveys and economic surveys will be consolidated

National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

<i>REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL</i>	In Malta red coral is a strictly protected species listed in Schedule VI – Animals and Plant Species of National Interest in need of Strict Protection – of the Legal Notice 311 of 2006 (as amended) – Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006. Thus recommendation GFCM/35/2011/2 does not apply for Malta
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS</i>	The Fisheries Control Directorate conducts onboard observations on Drifting longlines and FAD. Catches of cetaceans are being monitored through this source
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS</i>	Data on shark catches are recorded at the fish market and during onboard observations

Other research projects in progress

<i>FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES</i>	
	Determination of growth parameters for dolphin fish (<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>) and collection of samples for genetic analysis for the determination of stock boundaries within the Mediterranean
	Genetic analysis and tissue samples of <i>Octopus vulgaris</i> from Tunisian, Maltese and Sicilian waters (GSAs 12-16)
	<i>MESMA</i> Monitoring and evaluating spatially managed marine areas
	<i>CREAM</i> Coordinating research in support to application of EAF (Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries) and management advice in the Mediterranean and Black Seas

GAP Bridging the gap between fisheries scientists and fishers, through identification of nursery and spawning ground of commercially important demersal species

MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Identification and mapping of the spatial distribution of sediment types and biocenoses, including the spatial distribution of sensitive habitats such as maerl beds

Researching the biology of prawns (*Palaemon* and *Processa* spp.) targeted by artisanal beam trawls traditionally used on *Posidonia oceanica* meadows

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES

Socio-economic data collected on an annual basis to fulfil the requirements of the Data Collection Framework (DCF) in line with Council Regulation EC 199/2008, Commission Decisions 2008/949/EC and 2010/93/EU, and the GFCM Task 1.3

Collection of fish-processing economic data based on Maltese business directory and processed fisheries products (postal questionnaires and interviews)

Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

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Proposal for future research programmes

Currently Malta is focusing on its Data Collection Framework, in view of the changes being proposed at EU level with regards to the Common Fisheries Policy

No data provided

Description of the fisheries

<i>FLEET</i>	
<i>PRODUCTION</i>	
<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	

Status of stocks of priority species

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Statistics and Information Systems

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National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

<i>REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS</i>	

Other research projects in progress

<i>FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES</i>	

<i>MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES</i>	

<i>SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES</i>	

Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

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Proposal for future research programmes

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Description of the fisheries

<i>FLEET</i>	112 vessels (2012); 218 vessels (2011)
<i>PRODUCTION</i>	
<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	GSA 18

Status of stocks of priority species

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Statistics and Information Systems

<i>FISHERIES DATA COLLECTION</i>	Fisheries Information System
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National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

<i>REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL</i>	Red coral is protected and not exploited in Montenegro it is protected by the "Resolution on protection on certain plant and animal species" (Official Gazette of Montenegro 76/06)
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS</i>	"Resolution on protection on certain plant and animal species" (Official Gazette of Montenegro 76/06) of the Environmental Protection Act (O.G, 51/2008) protect cetacean species (<i>Delphinus delphis</i> , <i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i> , <i>Stenella frontalis</i> , <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> , <i>Grampus griseus</i> and <i>Balaena physalis</i>)
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS</i>	Under consideration for integration of the legal acts in Montenegro

Other research projects in progress

<i>FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES</i>	
Samples of eighteen economically important species were taken from vessels in three fishing ports (2011-2012)	
<i>MEDIAS</i> Biomass estimation of small pelagic species in GSA 18 using DEPM and Acoustic method	
<i>MEDITS</i> Biomass estimation of demersal resources in GSA 18	
<i>MORM-MONT</i> Monitoring of coastal fisheries and fish fry composition along the Montenegrin coast, with the aim of conservation and sustainable management of marine fisheries	
<i>MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES</i>	
Katić MPA establishment. Pilot project (2 phases) to be considered as an operational model for the development of a national system of MPAs in Montenegro	
<i>CAMP</i> Coastal Area Management Programme	
<i>PPPOP</i> Special Plan for the Coastal Area of Montenegro	
<i>SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES</i>	
In 2011 the Pilot project on collecting socio-economic data in marine fishery has not developed. Further elaboration and continuation of this project is expected in the next period	

Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

AdriaMed

Several activities within the project framework

Proposal for future research programmes

Description of the fisheries

<i>FLEET</i>	3 403 vessels (2011)
<i>PRODUCTION</i>	31 711 t (2011)
<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	GSA 02 and 03

Status of stocks of priority species

<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	In overfishing status
<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>	In overfishing status
<i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i>	In overfishing status

Statistics and Information Systems

<i>FISHERIES AND ECONOMIC DATA</i>	Institut National de Recherche Halieutique (INRH) in collaboration with Département des pêches maritimes (DPM) and l'Office National des Pêches (ONP)
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National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

<i>REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS</i>	

Other research projects in progress

<i>FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES</i>	
Stock assessment of shared stocks with Spain and Algeria	
<i>MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES</i>	
Assessment of Interactions of fisheries on the environment	
Monitoring sea turtles and cetaceans straddlings in the area Tangiers- Jebha	
<i>SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES</i>	
Socio-economic study of sardine fisheries	
Socio-economic study of artisanal fisheries sector	

Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

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Proposal for future research programmes

Marine Protected Areas

Monitoring Artisanal Fisheries activities in Al Hoceima National Park

Interactions between fisheries activities and marine mammals

Description of the fisheries

<i>FLEET</i>	488 vessels (200 active) (2011); 476 vessels (206 active) (2010)
<i>PRODUCTION</i>	568 t (2011); 258 t (2010)
<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	GSA 29

Status of stocks of priority species

<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	60 000 t (2011); 59 627 t (2010)
<i>Psetta maxima</i>	1 495 t (2011); 1 148 (2011)
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	26 171 t (2011); 20 948 t (2010)
<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	1 619 t (2011); 13 051 (2010)

Statistics and Information Systems

<i>FISHERIES DATA</i>	National Institute for Marine Research and Development (NIMRD) database
<i>VESSELS DATA</i>	National Agency of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NAFA) data collection

National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

<i>REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS</i>	<p>“Adverse Fisheries Impacts on Cetacean Populations in the Black Sea” project to provide an analysis of the historical and current status of cetacean populations in the Black Sea and qualitative and quantitative assessments of their by-catch in Black Sea fisheries by fishery and fishing gear (Romania, Turkey and Ukraine). The scientific information and advice are sought to promote possible management actions at international level, based on sound scientific knowledge shared among the Black Sea riparian countries</p> <p>National level: “Reducing the impact of marine bioresources exploitation by developing eco-efficient solutions” Ministry of Education funded some activities related to assessment of the actual state of cetaceans populations at Romanian littoral and establish the methods for determining conservation status of the dolphins</p> <p>By-catch rates of cetaceans (according to Paragraph 3. of the Recommendation): <i>see below</i></p>
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS</i>	Romania signed the MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) on migratory sharks, with the occasion of the tenth meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, in 2011 with objective of migratory sharks conservation, based on the latest scientific information available, given the socio-economic value of these species

Other research projects in progress

FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES

Reducing the impact of marine bioresources exploitation by developing eco-efficient solutions

NAFA/EC-DG MARE National Data Collection Program

Investigation and applied studies of the ecosystem approach to fishery in the Ionian Sea (Greece) and Black Sea (Romania)

Quality Intelligent Sensing and Information Processing technology for fish product during cold chain management Romania-China

Strengthening the regional capacity to support the sustainable management of the Black Sea Fisheries

CREAM Coordinating research in support to application of EAF (Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries) and management advice in the Mediterranean and Black Seas

MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Obtaining the updated information to expand the European ecological network Natura 2000 (Special Areas of Conservation) in the Romanian marine areas

Water Framework Directives and Marine Strategy Implementation: influence of river contribution on the chemical composition and trophic status of Romanian transitional and coastal waters

RACE Radiation background of Black Sea coastal environment

ECOMAGIS Implementation of a GIS for Ecosystem-based Management, through integrated assessment of the biocoenosis status and evolution trends in the changing environment

NATO Bio-optical characteristics of the Black Sea

ODEMM Options for Delivering Ecosystem-based of marine management

OCEAN COLOUR Application for the Western Black Sea

SEADATANET II European infrastructure for Ocean and Marine Data Management

MY OCEAN II Development and pre-operational validation of upgraded GMES Marine Care Services and capabilities

PERSEUS Policy oriented Marine Environmental Research for the Southern European Seas

COCONET A Coast to Coast NETWORK of protected areas: from the shore to the deep sea

MISIS Guiding Improvements in the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring System

Characterization of the benthic and planktonic communities on the Romanian continental shelf

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES

SymNET Industrial Symbiosis Network for Environment Protection and Sustainable Development in the Black Sea Basin

Obtaining the updated information to expand the European ecological network Natura 2000 (Special Areas of Conservation) in the Romanian marine

Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

So far, FAO has not developed any Black Sea Regional Project

Proposal for future research programmes

Research regarding distribution and abundance of the two main species in the Black Sea: turbot and dogfish

Information submitted to the Secretariat according to GFCM RECOMMENDATIONS**By-catch rates according to Paragraph 3. REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS**

YEAR	2011
SPECIES	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (n=54)
FISHERIES AND GEAR	/
TIME AND LOCATION (GSA/STATISTICAL GRID)	29 (Romanian littoral)

YEAR	2010
SPECIES	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (n=15); <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (n=2)
FISHERIES AND GEAR	/
TIME AND LOCATION (GSA/STATISTICAL GRID)	29 (Romanian littoral)

Description of the fisheries

<i>FLEET</i>	175 vessels (01/01/2013); 186 vessels (01/01/2012)
<i>PRODUCTION</i>	329 t (2012); 719 7 (2011)
<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	GSA 17

Status of stocks of priority species

<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	Fully exploited with no room for further expansion
<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	Sustainably exploited

Statistics and Information Systems

<i>FISHERY DATA</i>	Centralized information system (InfoRIB)
<i>VMS</i>	VMS data
<i>CONTROL AND MONITORING</i>	Inspection information system (AQUASPEC)

National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

<i>ON FISHING CAPACITY AND OPPORTUNITIES</i>	Temporary suspension of the granting of commercial fishing licences (measures to be implemented in 2012–2013); Review of commercial fishing licences (measures to be implemented in 2013)
<i>ON FISHING EFFORT</i>	Reduction of the fishing effort by implementation of a permanent and temporary cessation of fishing activities (measures to be implemented in 2012–2013)
<i>REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS</i>	

Other research projects in progress

<i>FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES</i>
<i>MEDITS</i> Biomass estimation of demersal resources (since 1996)
<i>MEDIAS</i> Echo-survey performed by Italian scientists from CNR ISMAR (since 2007)
<i>SOLEMON</i> Evaluation of <i>Solea solea</i> and other flatfish stocks in the Central and Northern Adriatic and estimation of the impact of different gear in the frame of AdriaMed
<i>MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES</i>

Biological and ecological characteristics and seasonal dynamics of five commercially important fish species in the Portorož Fisheries Reserve (2010-2013)

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES

Evaluation of the economic situation of the fishing sector, aquaculture sector, processing industry

Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

AdriaMed Project

Stock assessment of some species, eg. *Sardina pilchardus*, *Engraulis encrasicolus*, *Squilla mantis*, *Solea sole* ; cooperation in the framework of the SOLEMON project

Proposal for future research programmes

Description of the fisheries

<i>FLEET</i>	2 972 vessels (21/12/2011); 3 219 (31/12/2010)
<i>PRODUCTION</i>	60 031 t (2011); 46 071 t (2010)
<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	GSA's 01, 02, 05, 06 and 07

Status of stocks of priority species

<i>Merluccius merluccius</i> (GSA 01)	In overfishing status
<i>M. merluccius</i> (GSA 06)	In overfishing status
<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i> (GSA 01)	In overfishing status
<i>Aristeus antennatus</i> (GSA 06)	In overfishing status
<i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i> (GSA 01)	In overfishing status
<i>P. longirostris</i> (GSA 06)	In overfishing status

Statistics and Information Systems

<i>FISHERIES DATA</i>	Collected by the General Secretariat for Fisheries of the Spanish Ministry
<i>BIOLOGICAL DATA</i>	Collected by the Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO)
<i>ECONOMIC DATA</i>	Collected by the General Subdirectorate for Statistics

National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

<i>ON FISHING EFFORT</i>	Order AAA/2808/2012 establishes a Management Plan for Fisheries Resources Conservation within the Mediterranean for purse seiners, trawl and artisanal fleet, for the period 2013-2017
<i>ON ARTISANAL FISHERIES</i>	Ministerial Order AAA/2794/2012 regulating artisanal fisheries ('artes fijos y menores') in the Mediterranean
<i>ON RECREATIONAL FISHERIES</i>	Royal Decree 347/2011 establishes a National Register of authorised vessels and species, fishing modalities, limits of catches, general conditions for recreational fisheries and competitions, prohibited practices, etc. Marketing of catches is strictly prohibited
<i>REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS</i>	

Other research projects in progress

<i>FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES</i>
<i>MEDITS</i> Biomass estimation of demersal resources
<i>MEDIAS</i> Acoustic survey of pelagic resources

Fisheries and landings data collection by IEO

Blue-fin tuna tagging project (commercial and recreational fisheries)

Swordfish routine collection of biological samples (mainly long-line) and tagging (commercial fisheries)

Research on maturity and growth of albacore (commercial and recreational fisheries)

Research on small tuna maturity and fecundity rates, age and growth

MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Oceanographic conditions by IEO in GSAs 01, 05 and 06 under the framework of the activities developed to study climatic changes in the Mediterranean

TROFOALBORAN Project on Pelagic ecosystem trophic web dynamics influencing the early life stages of sardine and anchovy off their main nursery grounds

Research activities related with the effects of Marine Protected Areas on exploited communities, species and artisanal fisheries

LANBAL Selectivity of artisanal fisheries, with attention to diversity of species and in particular benthic structures, performance of different type of nets

COCONET A Coast to Coast NETWORK of protected areas: from the shore to the deep sea

SARAS Project (Eurofleets/JE) focusing the very recent processes in the sea floor along Alboran Basin and margins

MONTERA Searching geohabitats on seamounts and related benthic communities

CONTOURIBER Project looking at the sedimentary dynamic of the drift deposits driven by contour currents around continental margins

MOSAICO AND TESELA Projects along the south east Iberian coastal zone searching the effects of the river discharges on the sea floor deposits and modelling

INDEMARES (2009-2013) Research, conservation and assessment of the sea habitats in order to comply with commitments regarding the Marine European Natura 2000 network and reinforce the application of international conventions on the sea

Research on the biology, ecology and fisheries of the lobster *Palinurus elephas* and on abundance of the endangered species *Pinna nobilis* in MPAs and control areas

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES

Information on statistics of the Spanish fishery sector are available (since 2008) at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment website

Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

Proposal for future research programmes

For the assessment of marine resources much a greater attention is needed in taking into considerations ecological considerations for the implementation of ecosystem based approach in fisheries. Studies focusing on the impact of environmental changes (climatic variability, increase of gelatinous plankton, etc.) and on the variability of marine resources, as well as, on their effect on fishing catchability and fleet efficiency are recommended

No data provided

Description of the fisheries

<i>FLEET</i>	
<i>PRODUCTION</i>	
<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	

Status of stocks of priority species

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Statistics and Information Systems

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National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

<i>REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS</i>	

Other research projects in progress

<i>FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES</i>	
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<i>MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES</i>	
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<i>SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES</i>	
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Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

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Proposal for future research programmes

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Description of the fisheries

<i>FLEET</i>	> 12 000 vessels
<i>PRODUCTION</i>	109 160 t (2011); 102 066 t (2010)
<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	GSA 12, 13 and 14

Status of stocks of priority species

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Statistics and Information Systems

<i>FISHERIES DATA</i>	Ministère de l'Agriculture - Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture (DGPA)
<i>ARTISANAL FISHERIES DATA</i>	DGPA with FAO CopeMed II: pilot action for collection and improvement of artisanal fisheries statistical data

National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

<i>ON FISHING EFFORT</i>	Trawling ban in Gulf of Gabés (GSA 14) between 1 July 2012 and 30 September 2012
<i>REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS</i>	
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS</i>	

Other research projects in progress

<i>FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES</i>
Demersals and Small Pelagics Stock Assessment and fisheries management and Improvement of gear selectivity
Stock assessments of hake and red shrimp within the FAO MedSudMed Project
Biology of elasmobranchs, feeding habits of two Dasiatids species
Genetic analyses of <i>Epinephelus</i> sp. Populations
<i>MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES</i>
Monitoring of nesting sites and strandings of sea turtles
Identification of nursery areas for sharks and rays
Presence and localization of the Lessepsian puffer fish species <i>Lagocephalus sceleratus</i>
Studies on interactions between Delphinidae and maritime traffic in the northern coast of Tunisia

Habitat distribution in archipel de la Galite and bathymetric limits of coralligenous and inventory of mega-benthos species

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES

Bio-economic analysis of pelagic fisheries in Zarzis region

Socio-economic analysis of artisanal fisheries and assessment of management actions in lagoon de Boughrara

Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

MedSudMed

Stock assessments of hake and deep-sea pink shrimp

Proposal for future research programmes

Description of the fisheries

<i>FLEET</i>	17 165 vessels (2011)
<i>PRODUCTION</i>	477 658 t (2011)
<i>ACTIVITIES</i>	GSA 22, 24, 28, 29

Status of stocks of priority species

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Statistics and Information Systems

<i>FISHERIES DATA</i>	Fisheries Information System (FIS) to collect, process, transmit, and disseminate fisheries and biological relevant data
<i>VESSELS >15 M</i>	Data collected by The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock; VMS device being implemented; Automated Identification System (AIS) onboard.

National management measures and research projects related to GFCM Decisions

<i>ON TURBOT</i>	No fishing activity for turbot shall be permitted from 15 April to 15 June; The minimum landing size for turbot shall be 45 cm total length
<i>EFFORT AND SELECTIVITY CONTROL</i>	Minimum size restrictions have been enhanced for some species; prohibitions for use of some fishing gear and for some fishing zones have been introduced
<i>REC. GFCM/35/2011/2 ON THE EXPLOITATION OF RED CORAL</i>	It is prohibited to harvest red coral in accordance with Article 16 of the Notification 3/1 Regulating Commercial Fishing
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/2 ON MITIGATION OF INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF CETACEANS</i>	It is prohibited to catch cetaceans such as dolphin, whale and seal in accordance with Article 16 of the Notification 3/1 Regulating Commercial Fishing. Turkey has attempted to take measures to mitigate by catch of cetaceans. Turkey has involved in some bilateral pilot projects to reduce by catch (buoy gear project to prevent the usage of modified driftnet gear)
<i>REC. GFCM/36/2012/3 ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF SHARKS AND RAYS</i>	For all season, shark and rays catching are prohibited in all coastal lines of Turkey in accordance with Article 16 of the Notification 3/1 Regulating Commercial Fishing

Other research projects in progress

<i>FISHERIES ECOLOGY/BIOLOGY STUDIES</i>	
<i>MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES</i>	Strengthening Protected Area Network of Turkey: Catalyzing Sustainability of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas
<i>SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES</i>	Two studies on the status of Aegean fishery and northern Mediterranean and one on Mediterranean fishermen (2010)

Involvement in activities of FAO Regional Projects

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Proposal for future research programmes

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