

EUROPEAN UNION PROPOSAL FOR A GFCM RECOMMENDATION

amending Recommendation GFCM/37/2013/1 and on precautionary and emergency measures for 2015 on small pelagic stocks in the GFCM-GSA 17

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

RECALLING that the objectives of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and proper utilization of living marine resources;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/27/2002/1 on the management of selected demersal and small pelagic species and, notably, Article 2 therein;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/30/2006/1 on the management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and small pelagic and, notably, Article 2 and 3 therein;

CONSIDERING Recommendation GFCM/37/2013/1 on a multiannual management plan for fisheries on small pelagic stocks in the GFCM GSA 17 (Northern Adriatic Sea) and on transitional conservation measures for fisheries on small pelagic stocks in GSA 18 (Southern Adriatic Sea);

NOTING that for anchovy in GSA 17 the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) has recently considered the status of the stock as overexploited and advised to decrease fishing mortality;

NOTING that, following the latest SAC stock assessment, the reference points within Recommendation GFCM/37/2013/1 need to be revised;

CONSIDERING that pending the revision of the reference points, precautionary measures for 2015 have to be taken to reduce fishing mortality for anchovy;

NOTING that temporal restrictions are considered to have a beneficial effect on fisheries, a closed period during the spawning season of anchovy which usually take places from April to August shall be applied;

CONSIDERING that it is appropriate to revise the definition of fishing day;

CONSIDERING that it is appropriate to set a maximum number of fishing days per month;

ADOPTS in conformity with the provision of paragraph 1 (b) and (h) of Article III and Article V of GFCM Agreement that:

Modification of Recommendation GFCM/37/2013/1

1. The definition in paragraph 7(a), Part 1 shall be modified as follow:

"Vessel actively fishing for small pelagic stocks : means any vessels equipped with either trawl nets, purse seiners or other type of surrounding nets where the total catch of small pelagic stocks of sardine and anchovy account for at least 50% of the catch in live weigh."

2. The definition in paragraph 7(b), Part I, shall be modified as follow:

*"Fishing day means any continuous period of 24 hours, or part thereof, during which a vessel is present within the GSA 17 and/or GSA 18 and is **searching for fish, shooting, setting, towing, hauling of a fishing gear, taking catch on board, transshipping, retaining on board, processing on board, transferring and landing of fish and fishery products.**"*

3. Paragraph 27, Part VII, shall be modified as follow:

*"Trawlers and purse seiners for small pelagic stocks as identified in paragraph 22 second paragraph above, irrespective of the vessel's length overall, shall not operate for more than **20 fishing days per month** and shall not exceed 180 fishing days per year."*

Precautionary and emergency measures for 2015

4. For the year 2015, Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs) of the GFCM whose vessels have been fishing small pelagic stocks in GSA 17 shall reduce the fishing effort established under paragraph 27 of Rec. GFCM/37/2013/1. To this end, by derogation of the provisions of paragraph 27, Part VII, for the year 2015, each fishing vessel targeting anchovy shall not exceed 144 fishing days per year.

5. For the year 2015, in order to protect nursery and spawning areas, CPCs shall apply spatio-temporal closures of no less than 15 continuous days and up to 30 continuous days for vessels fishing small pelagic stocks in the GSA 17. These closures shall be designated in waters under their jurisdiction and shall take place between 1 April and 31 August.

6. CPCs shall notify to GFCM Executive Secretariat, by 30 November 2014, the closure dates and areas.

7. National control programs established under paragraph 29 of Rec. GFCM/37/2013/1 shall be adapted accordingly.

Review of the management plan

8. The SAC shall organise a specific inter-sessional meeting in 2014 to review the reference points of the management plan and to evaluate the measures applied by CPCs, including the closures to be applied by CPCs. The SAC shall assist in identifying further areas that are relevant for temporal closures, either within or outside national waters.

9. For the purpose of paragraph 8, the SAC shall take into consideration socio-economic elements and consult, where necessary, its Sub-Committee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS).

10. Based on the SAC advice, the GFCM shall review, and if necessary adapt, the content of the management plan in 2015.