

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



SAC GFCM Subcommittee of Stock Assessment

**SCSA Assessment Forms** 

| Subcommittee of Stock Assessment                                       |
|--|
| GFCM<br>CGPNI  |
| Tool designer<br>(GFCM consultant) <b>Federico De Rossi</b>            |
| FAO backstopping officer for SCSA Jordi Lleonart                       |
| SCSA coordinator Constantina Karlou-Riga                               |
| GFCM Deputy Executive Secretary / Adviser fisheries management Adviser |

#### PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE STARTING THE DATA ENTRY

#### Macro - Security settings

In order to ensure the proper full working of this Data Entry System, the macros must be allowed to run. To change the security settings, please go to: Tools --> Macro --> Security and then select the Medium level. Close and re-open the file. Now you are ready to start clicking on Cover!

#### **Control toolbox settings**

⊻@@ Q V @ ⊐ ° EE EE ≓ \$ \$ A @ 🞘 .

The Design Mode button must be **OFF**.

#### Warnings

- A Please do not try to **Delete**, **Rename**, **Move** or **Copy** any Excel Worksheets.
- **A** Right now it is not possible to **Print** the completed worksheets only.
- Once the data entry process is completed, the **file size** will be sensibly increased. Before sending it by email, please compress the file by using any zip tool available in your pc.

#### Colours and symbols meaning

| W<br>O      | Blue Gray 🕨        | Not compulsory sheet               |
|-------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| K<br>K<br>S | Pale Blue 🕨        | Compulsory sheet                   |
| HE          | Red 🕨              | Not completed sheet                |
| T<br>S      | Green 🕨            | Completed sheet                    |
| с           | Black asterisk 🕨 * | Compulsory sheet/field             |
| Е           | Turquoise 🕨 🍍      | Compulsory field not yet complited |
| L           | White ►            | Free cell                          |
| L           | Light green 🕨      | Cell with the scroll-down menu     |
| S           | Light yellow 🕨     | Auto-complete cell                 |

#### **Excel shortcuts**

| Ctrl + C    | Сору                     |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| Ctrl + V    | Paste                    |
| Ctrl + X    | Cut                      |
| Ctrl + Z    | Undo                     |
| Ctrl + P    | Print                    |
| Alt + Enter | Line break within a cell |

For more detailed information about Excel shortcut and function keys, please refer to the Microsoft website.

#### SCSA Assessment Forms Release 2 (2007) beta version

Since the SAC, and SCSA, inception (1999) a set of assessment forms were made available to scientists in order to provide a common framework to present assessments.

It has been decided to present a new release of these forms to facilitate their use. We took advantage of these upgrade to modify and amend some aspects. We would like to receive comments and suggestions from the users in order to improve the forms.

The structure of this new release is basically the same. The differences are:

- Migration from Word to Excel
- Some fields (yellow) are filled automatically
- Some sheets have been added
  - o A cover sheet with title, authors, species and GSAs
  - o A new sheet "other" allowing to include assessments based on methodologies other than the usual ones.
  - o An abstract sheet to be included (copy/paste) in the SCSA report
- It is more clear what sheets or fields are compulsory to fill
- The sheets for direct methods have not been yet upgraded

# Excerpts from the presentation of 1st version of the assessment forms (1999), however the sheet "other" can be used in such a case

Each assessment consists of several sheets. Each assessment will take, at least, one sheet of paper numbered "0" (Sheet #0) and will also include no less than one copy of sheets "B", "P1" and "P2a" (now using the current "operational units" terminology). It is not compulsory to fill out any of the other sheets that make up this assessment form, but the person in charge is supposed to fill out some of them: otherwise no assessment is actually made. There may be more than one copy in several cases. Sheets "D" (diagnosis) and "Z" (conclusions and recommendations) should be considered as essential too.

| Sheet | Title                                       | Contents  | # of sheets                           | Priority                     |
|-------|---|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 0     | Preliminary basic data<br>on the assessment | Species, person in charge, date and code. All the sheets that belong to the same assessment share this code.        | 1                                     | Indispensable                |
| В     | Biology of the species                      | Biological parameters used in the analyses (it is assumed that only one set of parameters is used).                 | 1                                     | Indispensable                |
| P1    | General information about the fishery       | Catches by gear and associated fleet.   | 1 or more                             | Indispensable                |
| P2a   | Fishery by Operational<br>Unit              | Time series for the operational in question, including structure by size (or age).                                  | At least as many as the OU numbers    | Indispensable                |
| P2b   | Fishery by Operational Unit                 | Accompanying species and regulations applicable to opertaonal unit.   | At least as many as the OU numbers    | If available                 |
| G     | Indirect methods:<br>global model           | Description of model, data, parameters and results of each analysis.  | As many as used in the analysis       | If available                 |
| A1    | Indirect methods: VPA,<br>LCA               | Description of model used and of general results of an analysis.  | As many as used in the analysis       | If available                 |
| A2    | Indirect methods: data                      | Description of data used by gear for the analysis in A1.  | As many as used in the analysis by OU | If available,<br>requires A1 |
| A3    | Indirect methods:<br>results of VPA         | Detailed description of results by gear, structured by size or age.   | As many as used in the analysis by OU | If available,<br>requires A1 |
| Y     | Indirect methods: Y/R                       | Description of model, data, parameters and results.   | As many as used in the analysis       | If available                 |
| Other | Other assessment methods                    | Description of model, data, parameters and results of other assessment methods not included in the previous sheets. | 1                                     | If available                 |
| D     | Diagnosis                                   | Synthesis of results of analyses and diagnosis on the state of resources.   | 1                                     | Indispensable                |
| Z     | Objectives and recommendations              | Set the objectives to be attained and recommendations for their attainment.   | 1                                     | Indispensable                |
| С     | Comments                                    | At the option of the person in charge.  | Unspecified                           | If available                 |

| Date*                   | 5   | September                | 2007          | Code*   | SOL1707G.                      |  |  |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------|---|--------------------------------|--|--|
|                         |   | Authors*                 | G. Fa<br>Raic | abi <sup>*</sup> , O. Giovanardi <sup>**</sup><br>evich <sup>**</sup> . G. Scarcella <sup>*</sup> | , F. Grati , I. Isajlovic , S. |  |  |
|                         | ** ICRAM Chioggia; *** IOF  |                          |               |   |                                |  |  |
| Species                 | Species Scientific name*       Solea vulgaris - SOL         Source: GFCM Priority Species |                          |               |   |                                |  |  |
| G                       | eogra   | phical area*             | Adri          | atic Sea  |                                |  |  |
| Geographical<br>Combina | Sub-A   | Area (GSA)*<br>of GSAs 1 | 17 -          | Northern Adriatic   |                                |  |  |
|                         |   | 2<br>3                   |               |   |                                |  |  |

Assessment form

Basic data on the assessment

Code: SOL1707G.

Sheet #0

| Date*    | 5  | Sep     | 2007      | Authors* | G. Fabi | *, O. Giovanardi | i**, F. Grati*, I. Isajlovic***, S. Raicevich** |
|----------|----|---------|-----------|----------|---------|------------------|---|
|          |    |         |           |          |         |                  |   |
| Species  |    |         |           |          |         | Species          | Sole  |
| Scientif | ĩc | Solea v | ulgaris - | SOL      |         | common           |   |
| name*    |    |         |           |          |         | name*            |   |

### **Data Source**

| CC 4 * | 17 Northam Advictio    | Period of | 2005-2006 |
|--------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| USA*   | 17 - Northern Adriatic | time*     |           |

### **Description of the analysis**

| Type of data*         | Catch data from experimental surveys;<br>landing data | Data source*   | rapido trawl surveys; sampling of landings |
|-----------------------|---|----------------|--|
| Method of assessment* | Length-converted catch curve analysis                 | Software used* | ATrIS, LFDA 5.0, FISAT II                  |

# Sheets filled out

| В | P1 | P2a   | P2b   | G     | A1    | A2    | A3    | Y     | Other | D | Ζ | С     |
|---|----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|---|-------|
| - |    | #REF! | 1 | 1 | #REF! |

# Comments, bibliography, etc.

Kirkwood G.P., Aukland R., Zara S.J. 2001a. Length Frequency Distribution Analysis (LFDA), Version 5.0. MRAG Ltd, London, UK.

Gayanilo, F.C.Jr.; Sparre, P.; Pauly, D. 2005. FAO-ICLARM Stock Assessment Tools II (FiSAT II). Revised version. User's guide. FAO Computerized Information Series (Fisheries). No. 8, Revised version. Rome, FAO. 168 pp.

Gramolini R., Mannini P., Milone N., Zeuli V. 2005. AdriaMed Trawl Survey Information System (ATrIS): User manual. AdriaMed Technical Documents No 17, GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-17. 141 pp.



Assessment form

Sheet B Biology of the species

Code: SOL1707G.

| Diology                |             |            |             |         |                     |                        |
|------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|---------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Somatic magni          | tude measur | ed (LH, LC | , etc)*     | Units*  |                     |                        |
| Sex                    | Fem         | Mal        | Both        | Unsexed |                     |                        |
| Maximum size observed  | 40          | 38,5       |             |         | Reproduction season | Late fall-early winter |
| Size at first maturity | 25,8        |            |             |         | Reproduction areas  | *                      |
| Recruitment size       |             |            | 17.5 - 18.5 |         | Nursery areas       | **                     |

# Parameters used (state units and information sources)

| Sex                     | Both   |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------|--------|--|--|--|--|
| Growth model            | VBGE   |  |  |  |  |
| Data source             | ***    |  |  |  |  |
| L <sub>∞</sub> (growth) | 39,6   |  |  |  |  |
| K (growth)              | 0,44   |  |  |  |  |
| t <sub>0</sub> (growth) | -0,35  |  |  |  |  |
| length-weight           |        |  |  |  |  |
| a (length-weight)       | 0,007  |  |  |  |  |
| b (length-weight)       | 3,0638 |  |  |  |  |
| sex ratio               | 0,54   |  |  |  |  |
| М                       | 0,46   |  |  |  |  |

### Comments

Assessment form

General information about the fishery

Code: SOL1707G.

Sheet P1

| Data source*                               | Year (s)* |  |
|--|-----------|--|
| Data aggregation (by year, average figures |           |  |
| between years, etc.)*                      |           |  |

# Fleet and catches (please state units)

|                     | Country | GSA | Fleet Segment | Gear Class |
|---------------------|---------|-----|---------------|------------|
| Operational Unit 1* |         |     |               |            |
| Operational Unit 2  |         |     |               |            |
| Operational Unit 3  |         |     |               |            |
| Operational Unit 4  |         |     |               |            |
| Operational Unit 5  |         |     |               |            |

| Operational Units* | Fleet<br>(n° of boats)* | Catch<br>(species<br>assessed) | Other species caught | Discards<br>(species<br>assessed) | Discards<br>(other species<br>caught) | Effort<br>units |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
|                    |                         |                                |                      |                                   |                                       |                 |
|                    |                         |                                |                      |                                   |                                       |                 |
|                    |                         |                                |                      |                                   |                                       |                 |
|                    |                         |                                |                      |                                   |                                       |                 |
|                    |                         |                                |                      |                                   |                                       |                 |
| Total              |                         |                                |                      |                                   |                                       |                 |

| Legal minimum size |  |
|--------------------|--|

## Comments



Assessment form

Sheet D Diagnosis

Code: SOL1707G.

# **Reference points**

| Criterion | Current value | Units | Reference<br>Point | Trend | Comments |
|-----------|---------------|-------|--------------------|-------|----------|
| В         | 1600          | t     |                    |       |          |
| SSB       | 600           | t     |                    |       |          |
| F         | 0,77          |       |                    |       |          |
| Y         |               |       |                    |       |          |
| CPUE      |               |       |                    |       |          |
|           |               |       |                    |       |          |
|           |               |       |                    |       |          |
|           |               |       |                    |       |          |
|           |               |       |                    |       |          |

Stock Status\* Use one (or both) of the following two systems for the stock assessment status description

|   | ۲  | ? - (or blank) Not known or uncertain. Not much information is available to make a judgment;                   |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|   | 0  | U - Underexploited, undeveloped or new fishery. Believed to have a significant potential for expansion in      |  |  |  |  |  |
| total production;   |  | total production;  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | 0  | M - Moderately exploited, exploited with a low level of fishing effort. Believed to have some limited          |  |  |  |  |  |
| lal   | )  | potential for expansion in total production;   |  |  |  |  |  |
| . F - Fully exploited. The fishery is operating at or close to an optimal yield lev |  | F - Fully exploited. The fishery is operating at or close to an optimal yield level, with no expected room for |  |  |  |  |  |
| further expansion;  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| . O - Overexploited. The fishery is being exploited at above a level which          |  | O - Overexploited. The fishery is being exploited at above a level which is believed to be sustainable in the  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jnic  | )  | long term, with no potential room for further expansion and a higher risk of stock depletion/collapse;         |  |  |  |  |  |
| C   | 0  | D - Depleted. Catches are well below historical levels, irrespective of the amount of fishing effort exerted;  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | <b>R</b> - Recovering Catches are again increasing after having been depleted or a collapse from a previous: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | ý  | The receivering. Calcines are again increasing after naving been depicted of a contapse from a previous,       |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

| Exploitation rate |                    |          | Stock abundance |                          |   |          |                 |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------------|--------------------------|---|----------|-----------------|
| nal               | No or low fishing  | ng       | 0               | Virgin or high abundance |   | 0        | Depleted        |
| nsio              | Moderate fishir    | g        | ۲               | Intermediate abundance   |   | $\sim$   | Uncertain / Not |
| ner               | High fishing media | ortality | 0               | Low abundance            | ľ | <u> </u> | assessed        |
| dir               | Uncertain / Not    | assessed |                 |                          |   |          |                 |
| Bi                |                    |          |                 |                          |   |          |                 |
|                   |                    |          |                 |                          |   |          |                 |

### Comments



Assessment form

Objectives and recommendations

#### Code: SOL1707G.

Sheet Z

#### Management advice and recommendations\*

The lack of precautionary reference points (Fpa and Bpa) for sole in the Mediterranean Sea, as well as the impossibility of estimating them from the rapido trawl surveys due to the short data series, do not allow to evaluate the stock status and to provide precise advices on the management of fishing effort on the basis of the obtained values of F and E. However, data from trawl surveys, associated with those on landings and fishing effort derived from fish markets auction documents (1996-2006) as well as with information on fishing areas obtained through direct interviews at the landing sites (2005-2006), evidence that:

- catches strictly depend on the recruitment success, mainly including juveniles (age classes from 0+ to 2+);

- the recruitment can strongly fluctuate, as happened in the two survey years, and this might be related both to the SSB level and to environmental variables, since sole juveniles spend a part of their lifespan in marine coastal areas as well as within estuarine and lagoon systems;

- the increase in fishing effort did not negatively affect LPUEs in the overall period, although a general LPUE reduction was recorded in the last four years;

- SSB remained constant in the two survey years; this might be related to the fact that in late fall - winter the main spawning area located in the northern Adriatic Sea (within meridians  $13^{\circ}00^{\circ}$  and  $14^{\circ}20^{\circ}$  E and parallels  $44^{\circ}10^{\circ}$  and  $45^{\circ}20^{\circ}$  N) is not exploited by the Italian fleets, while it is only partially exploited by the Croatian set netters.

The above ascertainment suggest that:

- the safeguard of spawning areas, both in spatial and temporal terms, might be crucial for the sustainability of the sole stock in the Adriatic Sea;

- taking into account that the recruitment biomass can strongly fluctuate, at a precautionary level an increase of fishing effort should be unwise;

- the continuation of the surveys and their extension to the overall Adriatic Sea (GSA 17 and GSA 18) would be also strongly advisable to monitor the status of the resource on time.

# Abstract for SCSA reporting

| Authors                 | G. Fabi*, O. Giovanardi**,                            | Year 2007 |
|-------------------------|---|-----------|
| Species Scientific name | Solea vulgaris - SOL<br>Source: GFCM Priority Species |           |
| Geographical Sub-Area   | 17 - Northern Adriatic                                |           |

### Fisheries (brief description of the fishery)\*

Besides to be included in the otter trawler multi-species catches, in the Adriatic Sea the sole represents the main target species of set nets (both gill nets and trammel nets) and rapido trawl (a sort of beam trawl having a mouth made of an iron frame provided with 3-5 skids and a toothed bar on its lower side). The fishing pressure applied by rapido trawlers and set netters on the Adriatic sole stock has increased in the last ten years in terms of either fishing effort (number of vessels, fishing time and engine power), efficiency of the gears and exploitation of new fishing grounds thanks to the use of advanced navigation equipment (e.g. GPS). This pressure, currently mainly due to the Italian fleets operating in the national and international waters, is likely to further increase in the next few years owing to fishery development in the emerging countries of the eastern Adriatic coast.

# Source of management advice\* (brief description of material -data- and methods used for the assessment)

- Experimental catches from rapido trawl surveys in the area extending from Trieste to the Pomo Pit northern limit and from the Italian coast to the Croatian one, for a total trawlable surface of 44,880 km2 (depth range 5 - 143 m); - landing data from rapido trawlers (fish market auction documents; sampling of landings; biological sampling of landings), otter trawlers (fish market auction documents; sampling of landings; biological sampling of landings), otter trawlers (fish market auction documents; sampling of landings; biological sampling of landings), and set netters (sampling of landings; biological sampling of landings) along the Italian coast from Trieste to San Benedetto del Tronto;

- direct interviews at the landing sites to get information on the fishing grounds along the Italian coast from Trieste to San Benedetto del Tronto.

#### Stock Status\*

| ? - (or blank) Not known or uncertain. Not much information is available to make a judgment; |                        |  |  |  |
|--|------------------------|--|--|--|
| Exploitation rate  | Stock abundance        |  |  |  |
| Uncertain / Not assessed   | Intermediate abundance |  |  |  |
| Comments   |                        |  |  |  |
|  |                        |  |  |  |
|  |                        |  |  |  |
|  |                        |  |  |  |
|  |                        |  |  |  |

#### Management advice and recommendations\*

The lack of precautionary reference points (Fpa and Bpa) for sole in the Mediterranean Sea, as well as the impossibility of estimating them from the rapido trawl surveys due to the short data series, do not allow to evaluate the stock status and to provide precise advices on the management of fishing effort on the basis of the obtained values of F and E.

However, data from trawl surveys, associated with those on landings and fishing effort derived from fish markets auction documents (1996-2006) as well as with information on fishing areas obtained through direct interviews at the landing sites (2005-2006), evidence that:

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- the recruitment can strongly fluctuate, as happened in the two survey years, and this might be related both to the SSB level and to environmental variables, since sole juveniles spend a part of their lifespan in marine coastal areas as well as within estuarine and lagoon systems;

- the increase in fishing effort did not negatively affect LPUEs in the overall period, although a general LPUE reduction was recorded in the last four years;

- SSB remained constant in the two survey years; this might be related to the fact that in late fall - winter the main spawning area located in the northern Adriatic Sea (within meridians 13°00' and 14°20' E and parallels 44°10' and 45°20' N) is not exploited by the Italian fleets, while it is only partially exploited by the Croatian set netters. The above ascertainment suggest that:

- the safeguard of spawning areas, both in spatial and temporal terms, might be crucial for the sustainability of the sole stock in the Adriatic Sea;

- taking into account that the recruitment biomass can strongly fluctuate, at a precautionary level an increase of fishing effort should be unwise;

- the continuation of the surveys and their extension to the overall Adriatic Sea (GSA 17 and GSA 18) would be also strongly advisable to monitor the status of the resource on time.