

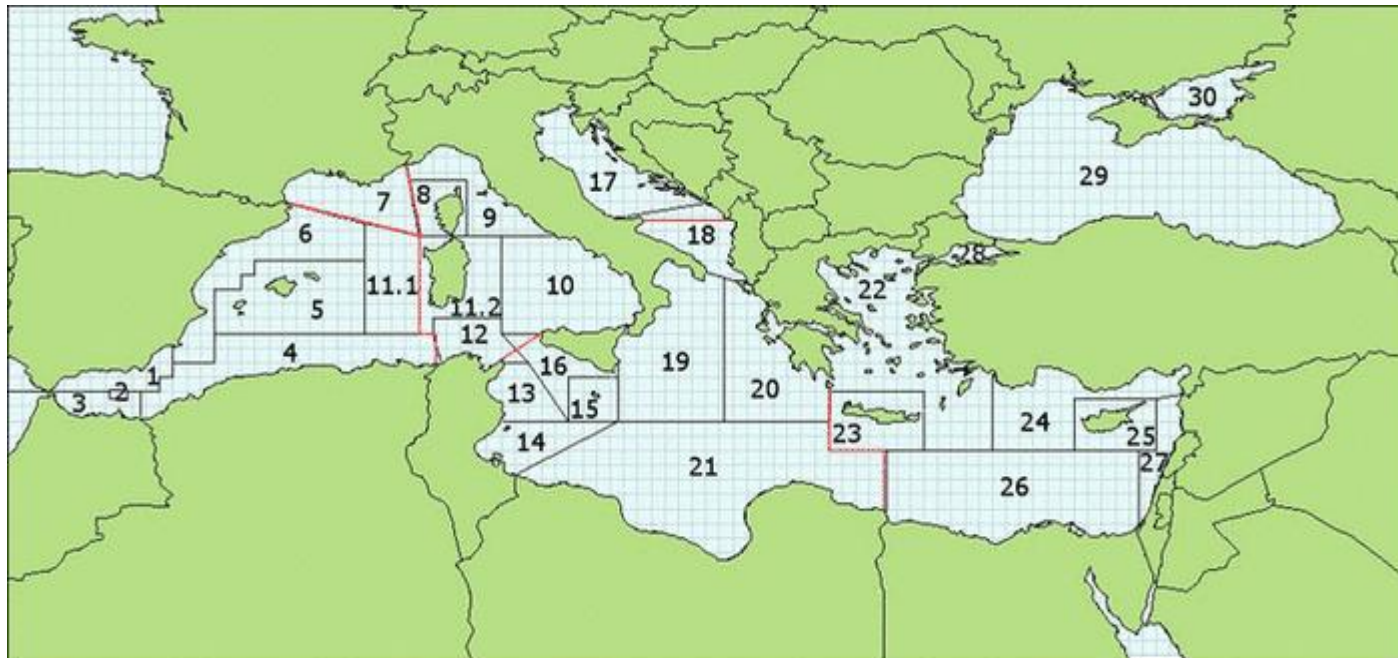
Explanatory meetings of the EU acquis – Chapter 13

General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean and transposition of the Recommendations into EU law

European Commission, DG MARE

These slides accompany the explanation of the acquis to Albania and North Macedonia and can only be used for that purpose. Their content is subject to further development of the acquis and interpretation by the Court of Justice of the European Union

GFCM decisions drive future management of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries



The EU is contracting party to the GFCM

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) is a regional fisheries management organization established under the provisions the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)



The GFCM holds its regular sessions annually and operates by means of its committees:

- *Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC),*
- *Scientific Advisory Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ)*
- *Compliance Committee (CoC),*
- *Committee of Administration and Finance (CAF)*
- *Working Group for the Black Sea (WGBS).*

GFCM AREA: Few figures

- *The EU is instrumental in presenting Recommendations during the GFCM's annual sessions: in 2017, 10 recommendations drafted by the EU were adopted, 11 in 2018*
- *The EU provides substantial financial support to the FAO and GFCM (EUR 3.7 million/year) and the four FAO regional projects (EUR 2 million/year)*
- *Total catches in the GFCM area : 1.237.088 t*
- *Total landed value in GFCM area : 3.094.000.000 \$*
- *Estimated economic impact of fisheries: 6.954.000.000 \$*

GFCM objectives

- *conservation and the sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of living marine resources*
- *sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean and in the Black Sea*



GFCM composition

- *24 members (23 member countries and the European Union: FR, IT, ES, EL, MT, CY, HR, SI, RO, BG)*
- *5 Cooperating non Contracting Parties (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Ukraine, Jordan and Moldova).*

GFCM Decisions

- *GFCM has the authority to adopt binding recommendations for fisheries conservation and management in its area of application.*



Methodology adopted by DG MARE

- *Monthly GFCM technical meetings with our MS*
- *Mandate by the Council to enter into negotiations*
- *Visits to Third Countries*
- *GFCM decisions are regularly transposed into EU law*

GFCM 42nd Annual Session (22-26 October 2018)

On this occasion the GFCM has shown its ability to translate its technical work into concrete decisions

- *general awareness among its members on the urgency to address the critical situation of stocks in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea*
- *The GFCM has adopted, by **consensus**, all the Recommendation proposals (11) made by the EU*

Conservation measures

- *Multi-annual Plans (MAPs) for sustainable trawling fishing activities in the **Ionian** and **Levant** Seas concerning high value species (Giant red Shrimp, Blue and red Shrimp)*



- *The entirety of the Central and Eastern Mediterranean is now covered by conservation and control measures.*

*In the **Adriatic**, new emergency measures for small pelagic stocks (2019, 2020, 2021)*

- *progressive 5% reduction of catches,*
- *limitation of the effort*
- *closure periods for sardines and anchovies.*



*MAP for the European **Eel***

- *Decrease of catches/effort by 30%*
- *3 months per year closure in the entire Mediterranean.*
- *recreational fishery activities, transitional brackish waters such as lagoons,*



Non Indigenous Species/ Sharks

- ***Shark and Ray** measures on the fins naturally-attached policy*



- *Regional research programmes for **blue crab** in the Mediterranean and for **rapa whelk** in the Black Sea & the creation of a monitoring network for these species.*



International committments

The transposition of decisions by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) is instrumental to ensure that the EU lives up to its international decisions and to guarantee their harmonious and efficient implementation by the EU Member States.

International commitments

- *Article **216** of TFEU*

*« Agreements concluded by the Union are binding upon the institutions of the union **and** the Member States »*

EU is Contracting Party to the GFCM

- *The EU and ten Member States (BG, HR, CY, FR, GR, IT, MT, SI, ES, RO) are contracting parties to the GFCM Agreement.*
- *To the extent to which the context of the GFCM Recommendations is not covered or is only partially covered by existing Union Law, the transposition of the relevant GFCM provisions is necessary to ensure that the latter will receive uniform and effective application throughout the EU*

GFCM Recommendations are legally binding

- *The GFCM has the authority to adopt compulsory decisions ("recommendation") in its area of competence; these acts are essentially addressed to its contracting parties but may also contain obligations for operators (e.g. the vessel master)*
- *The recommendations become binding within 120 days after the date of first notification, provided that no objections are lodged.*

The EU transposition proposal

- REGULATION (EU) 2019/...
OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE
COUNCIL of ... amending Regulation (EU) No
1343/2011 on certain provisions for fishing in the
GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the
Mediterranean) Agreement area
- Publication in June 2019

The EU transposition proposal

- *The proposal aims at transposing in Union law a number of measures adopted by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) at its annual sessions of 2015, 2016 and 2017 (e.g. on the fisheries restricted area in the Jabuka/Pomo Pit or the management plan for red coral).*
- *The proposal will amend Regulation of the EP and Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1343/2011 on certain provisions for fishing in the GFCM (General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean) Agreement area.*

Consolidation

- *The EU intends to **consolidate** all the GFCM Recommendations on the occasion of the adoption of the new GFCM Recommendations*

Thank you for your attention