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Updates to Commission proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas for 2026 [COM (2025)509 final]

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Explanatory Note

A. Implementation of the western Mediterranean multiannual management plan (West Med MAP)

Article 7(2) of Regulation EU 2019/1022[1] ('West Med MAP') provides that each year, based on scientific advice and pursuant to Article 4, the Council shall set a maximum allowable fishing effort for each fishing effort group by Member State. The scientific advice shows, for some stocks, an increase in biomass and decrease in fishing mortality, an important signal that the management plan is working and giving positive results. More specifically, the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)[2] concluded that nine fish stocks[3] out of 20 are in a better condition than in 2024. There are nevertheless eleven stocks[4] that are overfished and need further reductions in fishing mortality to achieve sustainable exploitation levels in 2026 (Fmsy). In addition, STECF concluded that **seven stocks**[5] out of the 20 are currently **below B_{PA}**[6]. Of these seven stocks, **one is below B_{LIM}**[7], namely Norway lobster stock (in geographical subarea (GSA) 6), and **two stocks are very close to B_{LIM}** (hake in GSA 1-2-5-6-7 and Norway lobster in GSA 11). These seven stocks will require significant reductions in fishing mortality in 2026.

In accordance with Article 6 of the West Med MAP, where scientific advice indicates that the spawning stock biomass of any of the stocks referred to in Article 1(2) of the MAP is **below** the precautionary biomass reference point (**B_{pa}**), or is below the limit biomass reference point (**B_{lim}**), **remedial measures** are to be taken to ensure the rapid return of the stock to levels above those capable of producing MSY.

STECF also assessed the impact of a combination of management measures in the form of effort reductions for trawlers and other fishing gears, as well as maximum catch limits, fleet reduction and conservation measures. In particular, STECF[8] advised that, for 2026, a holistic approach, **combining fishing effort and catch limits**, is needed to reduce urgently fishing mortality,

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1 Regulation (EU) 2019/1022 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 establishing a multiannual plan for the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean Sea and amending Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 (OJ L 172, 26.6.2019, p. 1–17)

2 Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) - Stock assessments in the Western Mediterranean Sea (STECF 25-09), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2025. https://stecf.ec.europa.eu/document/download/5a91e273-626f-4468-858b-72a875da211d_en

3 Hake in GSA 1-5-6-7, deep-water rose shrimp in GSAs 1, deep-water rose shrimp in GSAs 5-6-7, red mullet in GSA 1, red mullet in GSA 6, red mullet in GSA7, hake in GSA 8-9-10-11, red mullet in GSA 9, blue and red shrimp in GSAs 6-7

4 Norway lobster in GSA6, Norway lobster in GSA 11, Norway lobster in GSA 9, blue and red shrimp in GSA 6-7, stripped red mullet in GSA 5, Hake in GSAs 1-2-5-6-7, blue and red shrimp in GSA 1-2, , giant red shrimp in GSA 8-9-10-11, red mullet in GSA 1, hake in GSAs 8-9-10-11, red mullet in GSA 9

5 Hake in GSAs 1-2-5-6-7, hake in GSAs 8-9-10-11, Norway lobster in GSA6, stripped red mullet in GSA 5, blue and red shrimp in GSA 6-7, Norway lobster in GSA9, Norway lobster in GSA 11

6 Article 2(11) of the West Med MAP provides that 'B_{PA}' means the precautionary reference point, expressed as spawning stock biomass and provided for in the best available scientific advice, in particular by STECF, or a similar independent scientific body recognised at Union or international level, which ensures that the spawning stock biomass has less than 5 % probability of being below B_{LIM}.

7 Article 2(10) of the West Med MAP provides that 'B_{LIM}' means the limit reference point, expressed as spawning stock biomass and provided for in the best available scientific advice, in particular by STECF, or a similar independent scientific body recognised at Union or international level, below which there may be reduced reproductive capacity.

8 Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) - Evaluation of fishing effort and catch regime for demersal fisheries in the Western Mediterranean Sea (PART XIV) (STECF-25-11). Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2025, p 6-21 https://stecf.ec.europa.eu/document/download/32534030-de3c-4748-a28b-c2fce855c5ff_en

especially for hake, Norway lobster and deep-water shrimp stocks. A holistic approach is also needed to continue on the recovery trajectory, with a view to achieving stable and sustainable fisheries for the sector.

- **Effort reduction of trawlers**

Trawling remains the main source of fishing mortality for demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean and STECF advised, for 2026, to continue the fishing effort reduction for trawlers, combined with other management measures such as maximum catch limits for deep water shrimps and fishing effort for longliners, as well as remedial measures[9].

STECF indicated[10] differences in the status of each stock group and considered, as a consequence, that the **fishing mortality needs to be reduced differently** between the stock groups and geographical areas to which STECF refers as effort management units (EMU), namely EMU 1 (GSAs 1-2-5-6-7), concerning Spain and France, and EMU 2 (GSAs 8-9-10-11), concerning Italy and France. STECF advised that, for the **most vulnerable stocks** (Norway lobster in GSA 6 and Norway lobster in GSA 11), the fishing mortality should be reduced respectively by **65% in EMU 1** and **64% in EMU 2** to achieve Fmsy in 2026.

Pursuant to Article 4(3) of the West Med MAP, it is therefore proposed to reduce the fishing effort by 65% in EMU 1 and by 64% in EMU 2 compared to the maximum allowable fishing days established for 2025 by Council Regulation (EU) 2025/219[11].

- **Compensation mechanisms**

Considering that the most vulnerable stock in each EMU is not present in all GSAs, **it is proposed to compensate, in the respective GSAs, fishing vessels not fishing the most vulnerable stock**. Consequently, it is proposed to ensure a level-playing field between GSAs, taking into account: 1) which stock is the most vulnerable stock in other GSAs than GSA 6 and GSA 11; 2) the contribution of each GSA to the fishing mortality of the said stock at the level of the EMU; and 3) the requirement that all stocks need to be at Fmsy.

In addition, in order to improve the management of the key stocks under the West Med MAP, to promote the use of more selective gear, such as increased mesh size in cod-end, and to establish efficient closure areas protecting juveniles and spawners, it is proposed to **build on** the measures in the **compensation mechanism** established in **Regulation (EU) 2025/219**.

As these measures have a demonstrated impact on the fishing effort[12] and can contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the West Med MAP, the compensation mechanism should allow Member States to allocate additional fishing days to trawlers fulfilling the specific conditions listed in Article 8 of the proposal. Continuous and stable conditions for implementing the compensation scheme from one annual cycle to another can contribute to better management measures.

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9 STECF 25-11, p 6-21

10 STECF 25-09 pages 14-19

11 Council Regulation (EU) 2025/219 of 30 January 2025 fixing for 2025 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas.

12 STECF 25-11, PLEN 25-02, STECF 24-12 and Annex II, STECF 21-01, STECF 24-10, STECF PLEN 24-02, STECF PLEN 22-02, STECF 22-01

According to STECF[13], temporal closure effectiveness can be increased with longer durations and adequate seasonality with the reproductive cycle of stocks in the different areas. Permanent closures can be more beneficial for stocks and habitat conservation than temporary closures. Finally, the depth of permanent closures should be set in line with the biology of stocks.

Considering that for the stocks with an analytical assessment, the **average F/Fmsy** for the key stocks in 2024 was still **1.7 times higher than Fmsy** in EMU 1, and **1.6 times higher than Fmsy** in EMU 2, and considering the level of fishing days established for 2024, it is proposed that the Member State concerned shall **not allocate additional fishing days that would result in exceeding the level of fishing effort set for the relevant fishing effort group by Council Regulation (EU) 2024/259**. Given the current state of the stocks, any additional allocation beyond the 2024 fishing effort level would fail to achieve the objectives of achieving F_{MSY} for all stocks, and would trigger a further increase in fishing mortality.[14] Anything beyond the 2024 fishing effort level would delay the return of all the stocks concerned above Bpa and would thus deprive the Member States of the possibility to rely on Article 4(5)(c) of the West Med MAP in the short to medium term.

- **Remedial measures**

STECF advised[15] that:

(1) for **Norway lobster in EMU 1** (GSA 6), catches show a decline in the whole time series, with stable low values since 2021, 2024 being one of the lowest values (about half of 2015 value). The spawning stock biomass (SSB) declined in the whole time series, reaching the lowest value in 2024, a new decrease after the slight increase between 2021 and 2023. SSB in 2024 is estimated to be below B_{MSY}, below B_{PA} and **below B_{LIM}**. The assessment shows a decreasing trend in the number of recruits with the minimum value reached in the last four years, less than a third of the 2009 value. Fishing mortality shows a fluctuating pattern with a slight increasing trend in the last four years, with the lowest value reached in 2020;

(2) for **hake in EMU 1** (GSAs 1-2-5-6-7), catches show a decreasing trend from 2009 to 2020 with some oscillations since, while SSB shows a **slow increasing pattern** since 2020. In 2023, SSB was estimated to be below B_{MSY}, below B_{PA} and below B_{LIM}; however, SSB was estimated in 2024 to have reached a level **slightly above B_{LIM}**. The assessment shows a general long term declining trend in the number of recruits with some oscillations in most recent years, such as an increase in the last years reaching in 2021 the same values as 2014, a decrease in 2023 and a new increase in 2024 reaching the same value as in 2012. Fishing mortality shows oscillations between 1.5 and 2; in 2022, it reached a value of 1.68 and, in 2024, it reached a value of 0.95;

(3) for **hake in EMU 2** (GSAs 8-9-10-11), catches show a decline in the whole time series. **SSB** declined in the first part of the time series, reaching the **lowest value in 2024**. SSB in 2024 is estimated to be below B_{MSY}, **below B_{PA} and above B_{LIM}.** The assessment shows a decreasing trend in the number of recruits with the minimum value reached in 2020 and a peak in 2024.

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13 STECF PLEN 24-02 and STECF PLEN 25-02

14 STECF EWG 25-09 report on West Med stock assessment, p 11-24

15 Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) - Stock assessments in the Western Mediterranean Sea (STECF 25-09), p 11-24

Fishing mortality shows a fluctuating pattern with a declining trend, with the lowest value reached in 2024 (0.49);

(4) **for Norway lobster in EMU 2** (GSA 11), catches show a decline in the whole time series, with an increase since 2023 and levels in 2024 reaching similar levels as in 2015. SSB declined in the whole time series, reaching the lowest value in 2022 and showing a slight increase in 2023 and 2024. SSB in 2024 is estimated to be **below B_{MSY}, below B_{PA} and very close to B_{LIM}.** The assessment shows a stable and low level of recruit since 2015 with a slight increase in 2024, close to 2013 levels. **Fishing mortality** shows a fluctuating pattern with an **increasing general trend** including in 2024; and

(5) **for Norway lobster in EMU 2** (GSA 9), catches constantly decreased from between the early 2000s and 2021, except for a few exceptional years (2017 and 2018). Between 2022 and 2024, catches slightly increased. SSB followed a similar decreasing trend until 2020, when it reached the minimum in the time series, then it increased. The current level of fishing mortality (0.336) shows the stock is in over-exploitation. The current SSB is **below Bpa and above Blim**.

Similarly, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Scientific Advisory Committee confirmed[16] the high level of overexploitation of the hake stocks in the Western Mediterranean.

In accordance with Article 6 of the West Med MAP, it is **therefore proposed to adopt appropriate remedial measures** aiming to secure the recovery of hake stocks in EMU1 and EMU2 which are both below Bpa, and Norway lobster stocks in respectively GSA 6 where the stock is below Blim, and in GSA 9 and 11 where the stocks are below Bpa, as well as for two other stocks[17] below B_{PA}, at the level of each EMU (in particular for the two stocks with biomass close to B_{lim} levels[18]). Specifically, the use of otter-twin trawl gear has been demonstrated by STECF to increase the fishing efficiency and mortality on the species covered by the West Med MAP. It is therefore proposed as a remedial measure, to prohibit the use of otter-twin trawl gear in order to ensure a level-playing field.

The remedial measures are proposed in the form of: (i) catch limits for hake for gillnets and trammel nets; (ii) prohibition of the use of the otter-twin trawl gears (OTT); and (iii) minimum conservation reference size (MCRS) for Norway lobster.

- **Effort management of longliners**

STECF advised that, in 2026, fishing mortality from fishing gear other than trawlers will be **significant for hake spawners**, which are key for the stocks to recover, as catches of spawners (fish old enough to reproduce) have a greater impact on the stock biomass than other catches.

It is therefore proposed to continue fixing a maximum allowable fishing effort for longliners (in fishing days) fishing for hake, based on Article 7(5) of the West Med MAP, by freezing it in EMU

[16] Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC) - 26th session | General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

[17] The overall effort reduction for Norway lobster already provides for the remedial measure for **stripped red mullet in GSA 5 and blue and red shrimp in GSA 6-7** as it exceeds the reduction needed to achieve Fmsy for this stock.

[18] the two stocks close to Blim and below Bpa are Hake in GFCM GSAs 1-2-5-6-7 and Norway Lobster in GSA 11

1 and reducing it by 25% in EMU 2 compared to 2025 in order to prevent any increase of hake spawner fishing mortality.

- **Maximum catch limits for deep-water shrimps**

For the fisheries targeting **deep-water shrimps** (blue and red shrimp and giant red shrimp in GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8, 9, 10, 11), STECF advised that there is **still a high level of overfishing** and the state of those stocks has not sufficiently changed to achieve the MSY objective. This means that the previous reductions of the fishing effort for trawlers have been insufficient to tackle the overfishing, and that therefore such reductions need to be complemented with additional measures. STECF further advised that the implementation of maximum catch limits would allow for increase in stock sizes and, when combined with effort reductions and technical measures, would bring an improvement in stock sizes without additional negative socio-economic consequences.

It is therefore proposed to **combine the continued reduction in trawling effort with catch limits** as complementary measures relevant for the deep-water shrimp stocks.

In addition to effort reductions, it is also proposed to adopt three maximum catch limits to secure a rapid reduction in fishing mortality for deep-water shrimp species:

o A maximum catch limit for **blue and red shrimp** in western waters (GSAs 1-2-5-6-7) where, for this fishery, Spanish and French fishing vessels operate. Considering the implementation of other management measures, e.g. fishing effort reduction, it is proposed to **rollover 2025** maximum catch limits**.**

o A maximum catch limit for **blue and red shrimp** in French and Italian waters (GSAs 8-9-10- 11) where, for this fishery, French and Italian fishing vessels operate. Considering the implementation of other management measures, e.g. fishing effort reduction, it is proposed to **rollover** 2025 maximum catch limits.

o A maximum catch limit for **giant red shrimp** in French and Italian waters (GSAs 8-9-10-11) where, for this fishery, French and Italian fishing vessels operate. Considering the implementation of other management measures e.g. fishing effort reduction, it is proposed to **rollover** 2025 maximum catch limits.

B. IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMON DOLPHINFISH MULTIANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

At its 46th annual session in 2023, the GFCM adopted a recommendation on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of common dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) in the Mediterranean Sea, covering FAD (fish aggregating device) fishery and recreational fishery. These measures have been implemented in previous fishing opportunities regulations, and their implementation should continue. As these measures were omitted by error in the Commission proposal, it should be updated to include management measures for recreational fisheries, a prohibition period and a daily bag limit.

C. IMPLEMENTATION OF GFCM RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT THE 48th annual session

At its 48th annual session in 2025, the GFCM adopted a series of recommendations covering new measures for the management of small pelagic and demersal stocks in the Adriatic Sea, measures for demersal species in the Strait of Sicily, measures for deep-water shrimps in the Strait of Sicily, Ionian and the Levant seas, as well as measures concerning blackspot seabream in the Alboran Sea and turbot in the Black Sea.

- Adriatic Sea – small pelagic species multiannual management plan (MAP)

  The GFCM adopted a recommendation on conservation and management measures for small pelagic species under the MAP. This recommendation establishes catch limits for anchovy and sardine for 2026 at levels that are 10% lower than in 2025, in line with the harvest control rules. It is therefore proposed to implement those measures in Union law. It is also proposed that the allocation of fishing opportunities among Member States be based on the single species split and remain unchanged from the allocation established at the beginning of the implementation of the MAP in 2025.

- Adriatic Sea – demersal species MAP

  The GFCM adopted a recommendation reducing the fishing effort in 2026 by 9.6% for otter trawlers (OTB) and increasing it by 3% for beam-trawlers (TBB) by way of comparison with 2025. As in 2025, the recommendation also includes a segmentation by vessel length. It is therefore proposed to implement those measures in Union law. It is also proposed that the allocation of fishing opportunities among Member States remain unchanged from the allocation established for 2025 and be split by fleet segment based on fishing effort reported by the Member States. For Slovenia, it is proposed that the fishing effort does not exceed the annual limit of 3 000 fishing days, in line with Council Regulation (EU) 2025/219.

- Strait of Sicily – demersal species MAP

  The GFCM adopted a recommendation extending by one year the transitional period of the MAP and maintaining the fishing opportunities at the same levels set in 2025 for 2026. It is therefore proposed to implement those measures in Union law.

- Strait of Sicily, Ionian Sea, Levant Sea – deep-water shrimps MAPs

  The GFCM adopted three recommendations extending by one year the transitional periods of the respective MAPs for deep-water shrimps for the Strait of Sicily, the Ionian and the Levant Seas. These recommendations also establish fishing opportunities for 2026 at levels that are 3% lower than in 2025. It is therefore proposed to implement those measures in Union law.

- Alboran Sea – Blackspot seabream MAP

  The GFCM adopted a recommendation establishing the long-term phase of the management plan for Blackspot seabream, which sets a catch limit for that stock for 2026

at levels that are 56% lower than in 2025. It is therefore proposed to implement those measures in Union law.

- Black Sea – Measures for turbot

  The GFCM approved the EU request to carry-over the unused EU quota of 9.6 tonnes for turbot from 2024 to 2026, as provided for in Recommendation GFCM/41/2017/4, as amended by Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/3 establishing the turbot multi-annual management plan. It is therefore proposed to implement that measure in Union law. It is also proposed that the allocation of fishing opportunities be based on the respective contribution of each Member State to the unused quota, without modifying the existing allocation key.

The Commission Proposal COM (2025) 509 final is updated as follows (**the changes are marked in bold underline**):

1. Fishing opportunities for the demersal stocks in the Western Mediterranean Sea

1.1 The placeholder in Recital (9) is replaced by the following:

(9a) "STECF[19] advised that, in order to achieve the MSY targets in 2026 for all the Western Mediterranean fish stocks, further significant reductions of fishing mortality are necessary for trawlers. In addition, STECF indicated[20] differences in the status of the most vulnerable stock in each stock group and considered that the fishing mortality needs to be reduced differently between effort management units (EMU), namely EMU 1 (GSAs 1-2-5-6-7) and EMU 2 (8-9-10-11). STECF advised that, for the most vulnerable stocks (Norway lobster in GSA 6 and Norway lobster in GSA 11), the fishing mortality reductions should be respectively 65% in GSA 6 and 64% in GSA 11 to achieve Fmsy in 2026. Based on such advice, for 2026, the maximum allowable fishing effort of trawlers for each fishing effort group should therefore be reduced by 65% in EMU 1 and by 64% in EMU 2 compared to the maximum allowable fishing effort established for 2025 by Council Regulation (EU) 2025/219."

(9b) "Considering that the most vulnerable stock in each EMU is not present in all GSAs, it is therefore appropriate to compensate, in the respective GSAs, fishing vessels not fishing the most vulnerable stock. Consequently, it is appropriate to ensure a level-playing field between GSAs taking into account which stock is the most vulnerable stock in GSAs other than GSA 6 and GSA 11, the contribution of each GSA to the fishing mortality of the said stock at the level of the EMU and the requirement that all stocks need to be at Fmsy."

1.2 Recital (10) is replaced by the following:

"In order to promote the use of selectivity of fishing gear and to establish efficient closure areas to protect juveniles and spawners, Council Regulation (EU) 2022/1105 established a compensation mechanism in relation to the effort regime for trawlers. As STECF continues to recommend for 2026 the further improvement of selectivity of fishing gear and of efficiency of closure areas to protect juvenile fish and spawners, and as those measures have a demonstrated impact on the fishing mortality, Member States should be able to allocate additional fishing days to a fishing vessel if it complies with at least one of such measures set at national level. The Member State concerned shall not allocate additional fishing days that would result in exceeding the level of fishing effort set for the relevant fishing effort group by Regulation (EU) 2024/259."

1.3. New recitals 10(a) – (d) are inserted as follows:
(10a) "In 2025, STECF advised that longliners have an impact on European hake spawners, in particular in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11. In GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7, it is therefore appropriate to maintain, for 2026, the maximum allowable fishing effort for longliners at the

[19] STECF 25-09 pages 14-23.
[20] STECF 25-09 pages 14-23.

levels set for 2025 by Regulation (EU) 2025/219, on the basis of Article 7(5) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022. In GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11, it is appropriate to reduce, for 2026, the maximum allowable fishing effort for longliners by 25 % in comparison with the maximum allowable fishing effort set for 2025 by Regulation (EU) 2025/219, on the basis of Article 7(5) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022."

(10b) "In 2025, STECF advised that the fishing mortality of blue and red shrimp in GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 remains far from sustainable levels and that further management measures are thus required in addition to fishing effort reduction. To build on the measures adopted in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, and in accordance with Article 16(4) of the Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, it is therefore appropriate to complement the fishing effort regime with maximum catch limits and to set the maximum catch limits for blue and red shrimp in GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 at the same level compared to the fishing opportunities set for 2025 by Regulation (EU) 2025/219."

(10c) "In 2025, STECF advised that further management measures for blue and red shrimp in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 are required in addition to fishing effort reduction. It is therefore appropriate to complement the fishing effort regime with maximum catch limits, to build on the measures adopted in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, and in accordance with Article 16(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013. The maximum catch limits for blue and red shrimp in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 should be maintained at the same level compared to the fishing opportunities set for 2025 by Regulation (EU) 2025/219".

(10d) "In 2025, STECF advised that further management measures for giant red shrimp in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 are required in addition to fishing effort reduction. . It is therefore appropriate to complement the fishing effort regime with maximum catch limits, to build on the measures adopted in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, and to set the maximum catch limits for giant red shrimp in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 at the same level compared to the fishing opportunities set for 2025 by Regulation (EU) 2025/219".

1.4. Recital (11) is replaced by the following:

(11) In accordance with Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022, where scientific advice shows that the spawning stock biomass of any of the stocks referred to in Article 1(2) of that Regulation is below the precautionary biomass reference point (B_{PA}), or is below the limit biomass reference point (B_{LIM}), remedial measures are to be taken to ensure the rapid return of the stocks to levels above those capable of producing MSY. In 2025, STECF concluded that seven of the concerned stocks have a spawning stock biomass outside safe biological limits (Norway lobster in GSA 6, 9 and 11; hake in 1-5-6-7 and hake in 8-9-10-11; blue and red shrimp in GSAs 6 and 7 and stripped red mullet in GSA 5). Therefore, remedial measures should be implemented, namely catch limits for European hake for fishing vessels using gillnets and trammel nets, prohibition to use the otter-twin trawls and introduction of minimum conservation reference size for Norway lobster.

1.5 Article 8(-1) is inserted in the Commission proposal:

"**Compensation mechanism at GSA level**

1. For the fleet segment concerned, a Member State may grant in 2026 to eligible vessels flying its flag an additional allocation of fishing days calculated in accordance with paragraph 2, as follows:

(a) If the vessel was fishing in 2025 exclusively in GSA 1 and continues fishing only in that GSA in 2026, a Member State may increase its allocation of fishing days by 31%.
(b) If the vessel was fishing in 2025 exclusively in GSA 5 and continues fishing only in that GSA in 2026, a Member State may increase its allocation of fishing days by 61%.
(c) If the vessel was fishing in 2025 exclusively in GSA 7 and continues fishing only in that GSA in 2026, a Member State may increase its allocation of fishing days by 47%
(d) If the vessel was fishing in 2025 exclusively in GSA 8 and continues fishing only in that GSA in 2026, a Member State may increase its allocation of fishing days by 63%
(e) If the vessel was fishing in 2025 exclusively in GSA 9 and continues fishing only in that GSA in 2026 a Member State may increase its allocation of fishing days by 6%.
(f) If the vessel was fishing in 2025 exclusively in GSA 10 and continues fishing only in that GSA in 2026, a Member State may increase its allocation of fishing days by 49%.

2. The additional allocation of fishing days shall be calculated based on the maximum allowable fishing effort set in Regulation (EU) 2025/219 proportionally to the relevant number of eligible vessels concerned."

1.6 The placeholder in Article 8 is replaced by the following:

" Compensation mechanism

1. For the fleet segment concerned, a Member State may grant in 2026 to eligible vessels flying its flag an additional allocation of fishing days as provided for in paragraph 2 and calculated in accordance with paragraphs 7 and 8, provided that the vessel receiving the additional allocation fulfils one or more of the following conditions set at national level:
    a. it uses a trawl net with a square mesh codend of at least 45 mm fishing in the continental shelf and upper slope;
    b. it uses a trawl net with a square mesh codend of at least 50 mm fishing in deep-waters;
    c. the vessel's activity is subject to a closure period prohibiting fishing activities for trawlers between depths 100 m to 500 m for at least six continuous weeks between May and September;
    d. the vessel's activity is subject to a prohibition to conduct fishing activities for trawlers in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 for at least four continuous weeks between May and October;
    e. the vessel's activity is subject to a closure period prohibiting fishing activity for trawlers in GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 for at least four continuous weeks between May and October;
    f. the vessel's fishing grounds fall within a 12-month prohibition to conduct fishing activities in an area covering at least 5 % of its fishing grounds between depths 100 m and 500 m;
    g. the vessel's fishing grounds fall within a temporary closure area established in order to reduce by at least 20 % catches of spawners of European hake;

h. the vessel's fishing grounds fall within a temporary closure area established in order to reduce by at least 25 % catches of juveniles of all demersal species or by at least 20 % catches of spawners of all demersal species;
i. the vessel's fishing grounds are subject to a permanent closure for fishing activity with trawlers fishing for blue and red shrimp and giant red shrimp in deep-waters at a depth below 600 m;
j. the vessel uses a trawl with flying, mid-waters doors, low-contact otter boards or other doors which reduce the contact of the doors and the gear with the seabed, to preserve the essential fish habitats of the demersal species;
k. the vessel uses a highly selective gear, the technical specifications of which results in, according to a study by STECF, a reduction of at least 25 % of catches of juveniles of all demersal species or at least 20 % of spawners of all demersal species compared to 2020, such as a sorting grid with 20 mm spacing.
l. the vessel's fishing grounds are subject to a minimum 10% permanent closure, between depths of 300-600m, for fishing activity with trawlers fishing for Norway lobster in GFCM GSAs 6, 9 and 11.

2. The allocation of additional fishing days referred to in paragraph 1 shall be calculated as follows:
   a. if a fishing vessel fulfils the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (a), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 9,3 % and in cases where the vessel is implementing that measure before 1 May 2026, the allocation of fishing days may be increased by 18,6 %; in cases where vessels representing in total more than 40 % of the fleet of the Member State concerned are implementing that measure before 1 May 2026, the Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 25 %; and in cases where that measure applies to all vessels of the Member State concerned before 1 May 2026, the Member State may increase the allocation of the fishing days by 30 %.

      A Member State may increase by 33% the allocation of fishing days of a vessel that has already implemented this condition in 2025 and continues to implement it in 2026 without interruption; this percentage cannot be cumulated with the percentages in the preceding subparagraph.

      If a fishing vessel is involved both in coastal and deep-water fishing activities, the number of additional fishing days allocated to a vessel should be calculated using a prorata when both 45 mm and 50 mm types of trawl nets are used by the same vessel during the year;

   b. if a fishing vessel fulfils the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (b), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 15,4 % and in cases where the vessel is implementing that measure before 1 May 2026, the allocation of fishing days may be increased by 30,8 %; where vessels representing in total more than 40 % of the fleet of the Member State concerned are implementing that measure before 1 May 2026, the Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 40 % and where that measure applies to all vessels of the Member State concerned before 1 May 2026, the Member State may increase the allocation of the fishing days by 50 %.

A Member State may increase by 55% the allocation of fishing days of a vessel that has already implemented this condition in 2025 and continues to implement it in 2026 without interruption; this percentage cannot be cumulated with the percentages in the preceding subparagraph.

If a fishing vessel is involved both in coastal and deep-water fishing activities, the number of additional fishing days allocated to a vessel should be calculated using a prorata when both 45 mm and 50 mm types of trawl nets are used by the same vessel during the year;

c. if the vessel's activity is subject to the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (c), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 10 %; a Member State may increase by 2% the allocation of fishing days of a fishing vessel that has already been subject to this condition in 2025 and continues to be subject to it in 2026. .
d. if the vessel's activity is subject to the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (d), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 6.6 %;
e. if the vessel's activity is subject to the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (e), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 6.6 %.
f. if the vessel's is subject to the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (f), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 4 %.
g. if the vessel's activity is subject to the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (g), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 13 %; a Member State may increase by 2% the allocation of fishing days of a fishing vessel that has already been subject this condition in 2025 and continues to be subject to it in 2026.
h. if the vessel's activity is subject to the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (h), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 3 %;
i. if the vessel's activity is subject to the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (i), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 6 %;
j. if a vessel fulfils the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (j), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 3 %.
k. if a vessel fulfils the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (k), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 3 %.
l. if the vessel's activity is subject to the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (l), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 8 %.

3. Member States shall submit to the Commission the draft national legislation relating to the selected conditions for the compensation mechanism at least one month before its adoption.
4. Member States shall submit the following information to the Commission:
   (b) the list of fishing vessels flying their flag that fulfil any of the conditions referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2; and
   (b) the related number of additional fishing days.
5. The notification of the additional allocation of fishing days shall be submitted to the Commission no later than 30 June 2026. If the Member State concerned submits to the Commission its notification of additional allocation of fishing days after 30 June 2026, the percentages specified in paragraph 2 shall be halved.

6. Member States shall separately notify every month to the Commission the effort deployed to be counted against the additional allocation referred to in paragraph 2, using the specific reporting codes designated for that purpose.
7. Member States shall calculate the additional allocation of fishing days on the basis of the baseline corresponding to the maximum allowable fishing effort set in Regulation (EU) 2024/259, proportionally to the relevant number of eligible fishing vessels fulfilling the conditions laid down in paragraphs 1 and 2.
8. Member States shall not allocate additional fishing days that would result in exceeding the maximum allowable fishing effort set for the relevant fishing effort group in Regulation (EU) 2024/259.
9. The Member State concerned shall not deploy the effort exerted for the additional allocation referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 before exhausting the maximum allowable fishing effort set for the relevant fishing effort group in this Regulation.
10. Member States shall enhance the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing vessels referred to in this Article in order to ensure compliance with the eligibility conditions laid down in paragraphs 1 and corresponding national measures."

1.7 The placeholder in Article 9 is replaced by the following:

"Remedial measures

Article 9(a) " **Remedial measures for European hake in GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 and Norway lobster in GFCM GSA 6**

1. This Article applies to fishing activities by Union vessels catching European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) in GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 and Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) in GFCM GSA 6.
2. The maximum catch limit of European hake for Union fishing vessels using gillnets and trammel nets (GNS, GTR, GND) in Union waters of the Western Mediterranean Sea is set out in Annex IV.
3. It is prohibited to use the otter-twin gear for trawlers fishing in GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7.
4. Member States shall adopt a minimum conservation reference size for Norway lobster of at least 25 mm carapace length (CL).
5. This Article shall not apply to fishing operations conducted for the exclusive purpose of scientific investigations, provided that those investigations are carried out in compliance with Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council."

Article 9(b) "**Remedial measures for European hake in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 and Norway lobster in GFCM GSA 9 and 11**

1. This Article applies to fishing activities by Union vessels catching European hake *(Merluccius merluccius*) in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 and Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) in GFCM GSAs 9 and 11.
2. The maximum catch limit of European hake for Union fishing vessels using gillnets and trammel nets (GNS, GTR, GND) in Union waters of the Western Mediterranean Sea is set out in Annex IV.
3. It is prohibited to use the otter-twin gear for trawlers fishing in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11.

4. Member States shall adopt a minimum conservation reference size for Norway lobster of at least 25 mm carapace length (CL).
5. This Article shall not apply to fishing operations conducted for the exclusive purpose of scientific investigations, provided that those investigations are carried out in compliance with Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241."

1.8 In Annex IV, table 1(a) is replaced by the following:

"1. Maximum allowable fishing effort (in fishing days)

(a) Number of fishing days for trawlers in the Alboran Sea, Balearic Islands, Northern Spain and Gulf of Lion (GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and7)

Stock group	Overall length of vessels	Spain	France	Italy	Fishing effort group code	Additional allocation code
Red mullet in GSAs 1, 5, 6 and 7; European hake in GSAs 1, 5, 6 and 7; deep-water rose shrimp in GSAs 1, 5 and 6; Norway lobster in GSAs 5 and 6	< 12 m	**111**	**0**	**0**	EFF1/MED1_TR1	EFF1/MED1_TR1_AA
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	**1190**	**0**	**0**	EFF1/MED1_TR2	EFF1/MED1_TR2_AA
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	**2233**	**708**	**0**	EFF1/MED1_TR3	EFF1/MED1_TR3_AA
	≥ 24 m	**786**	**862**	**0**	EFF1/MED1_TR4	EFF1/MED1_TR4_AA
Blue and red shrimp in GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7	< 12 m	**0**	**0**	**0**	EFF2/MED1_TR1	EFF2/MED1_TR1_AA
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	**56**	**0**	**0**	EFF2/MED1_TR2	EFF2/MED1_TR2_AA
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	**565**	**0**	**0**	EFF2/MED1_TR3	EFF2/MED1_TR3_AA
	≥ 24 m	**454**	**0**	**0**	EFF2/MED1_TR4	EFF2/MED1_TR4_AA

(1) TBB, OTB, PTB, TBN, TBS, TB, OTM, PTM, TMS, TM, OTT, OT, PT, TX, OTP and TSP

."

1.9 In Annex IV, table 1(b) is replaced by the following:

“(b) Number of fishing days for trawlers in Corsica Island, Ligurian Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea and Sardinia Island (GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11)

Stock group	Overall length of vessels	Spain	France	Italy	Fishing effort group code	Additional allocation code
Red mullet in GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11; European hake in GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11; deep-water rose shrimp in GSAs 9, 10 and 11; Norway lobster in GSAs 9 and 10	< 12 m	**0**	**50**	**433**	EFF1/MED2_TR1	EFF1/MED2_TR1_AA
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	**0**	**198**	**6503**	EFF1/MED2_TR2	EFF1/MED2_TR2_AA
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	**0**	**50**	**4373**	EFF1/MED2_TR3	EFF1/MED2_TR3_AA
	≥ 24 m	**0**	**50**	**584**	EFF1/MED2_TR4	EFF1/MED2_TR4_AA
Giant red shrimp in GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11	< 12 m	**0**	**30**	**72**	EFF2/MED2_TR1	EFF2/MED2_TR1_AA
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	**0**	**120**	**527**	EFF2/MED2_TR2	EFF2/MED2_TR2_AA
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	**0**	**30**	**425**	EFF2/MED2_TR3	EFF2/MED2_TR3_AA
	≥ 24 m	**0**	**30**	**57**	EFF2/MED2_TR4	EFF2/MED2_TR4_AA

.”

1.10 In Annex IV, table 1(c) is replaced by the following:

“(c) Number of fishing days for demersal longliners in Alboran Sea, Balearic Islands, Northern Spain and Gulf of Lion (GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7)

Stock group	Overall length of vessels	Spain	France	Italy	Fishing effort group code
European hake in GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7	< 12 m	9 433	6 432	0	EFF1/MED1_LL1
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	2 148	93	0	EFF1/MED1_LL2
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	74	0	0	EFF1/MED1_LL3
	≥ 24 m	29	0	0	EFF1/MED1_LL4

.”

1.11 In Annex IV, table 1(d) is replaced by the following:

“(d) Number of fishing days for demersal longliners in Corsica Island, Ligurian Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea and Sardinia Island (GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11)

Stock group	Overall length of vessels	Spain	France	Italy	Fishing effort group code
European hake in GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11	< 12 m	0	**1077**	**21655**	EFF1/MED2_LL1
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	0	**33**	**3098**	EFF1/MED2_LL2
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	0	0	**17**	EFF1/MED2_LL3
	≥ 24 m	0	0	0	EFF1/MED2_LL4

.”

1.12 In Annex IV, table 2(a) is replaced by the following:
“(a) Fishing opportunities for blue and red shrimp (A*risteus antennatus*) in the Alboran Sea, Balearic Islands, Northern Spain and Gulf of Lion (GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7), expressed as maximum level of catches in tonnes live weight

Species:	Blue and red shrimp *Aristeus antennatus*		Zone:	GSA 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 (ARA/GF1-7)
Spain	**708,3**			
France	**45,9**			
Italy	**0**			
Union	**754,2**			
TAC	Not relevant		Maximum level of catches	

1.13 In Annex IV, table 2(b) is replaced by the following:

“(b) Fishing opportunities for blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) and giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) in Corsica Island, Ligurian Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea and Sardinia Island (GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11), expressed as maximum level of catches in tonnes live weight

Species:	Blue and red shrimp *Aristeus antennatus*	Zone:	GSA 8, 9, 10 and 11 (ARA/GF8-11)

Spain	**0**		
France	**8,5**		
Italy	**221,9**		
Union	**230,4**		
TAC	Not relevant		Precautionary catch limit Maximum level of catches

Species:	Giant red shrimp *Aristaeomorpha foliacea*		Zone:	GSA 8, 9, 10 and 11 (ARS/GF8-11)
Spain	**0**			
France	**4,7**			
Italy	**323,4**			
Union	**328,1**		Analytical catch limits Maximum level of catches	
TAC	Not relevant			

."

1.14 Table 3(a) is inserted:

"3**. Maximum catch limits for European hake in the Mediterranean Sea**

(a) Fishing opportunities for European hake (*Merluccius merluccius)* caught by static gear (GNS, GND and GTR) in the Alboran Sea, Balearic Islands, Northern Spain and Gulf of Lion (GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7), expressed as maximum level of catches in tonnes live weight.

Species:	European hake *Merluccius merluccius*	Zone:	GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 (HKE/GF1-7)
Spain	**44,2**	Analytical catch limit	

France	**110**	Article 3(2) and 3(3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.
Italy	**0**	
Union	**154,2**	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.
TAC	Not relevant	Article 15(9) of Regulation (EC) No 1380/2013 shall not apply.
		Maximum level of catches

.”

1.15 Table 3(b) is inserted:

“**(b) Fishing opportunities for European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) caught by static gear (GNS, GND and GTR) in Corsica Island, Ligurian Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea and Sardinia Island (GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11), expressed as maximum level of catches in tonnes live weight**

Species: European hake *Merluccius merluccius*		Zone: GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 (HKE/GF8-11)
Spain	0	Analytical catch limit
France	**0,2**	Article 3(2) and 3(3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.
Italy	**196,1**	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.
Union	**196,3**	Article 15(9) of Regulation (EC) No 1380/2013 shall not apply.
TAC	Not relevant	Maximum level of catches

.”

2. Fishing opportunities for common dolphinfish in the Mediterranean Sea

2.1. Recital (5) is replaced by the following:

> “(5) At its 46th annual meeting in 2023, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/46/2023/14 on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of common dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) in the Mediterranean Sea (geographical subareas 1 to 27). That Recommendation introduced, consistent with the precautionary approach and for a transitional period of 2024 to 2026, a fleet capacity ceiling, a freeze of fish aggregating devices (FADs) capacity per vessel, a catch limit and a temporal closure. For recreational fisheries, Recommendation GFCM/46/2023/14 further provides that a daily bag limit is to be observed **as well as a prohibition period for recreational fisheries**. Those measures were implemented in Union law since 2024 by means of Council Regulation (EU) 2024/259 and Council Regulation (EU) 2025/219. Those measures should continue to be implemented in Union law for 2026. **Those measures are without prejudice to the management measures that may be proposed by the Scientific Advisory Committee within GFCM for the long-term management plan for the period 2027–2031**.”

2.2. In Article 6, paragraph 5 is replaced by the following:

“5. Recreational fisheries of common dolphin shall be allowed from 15 August to 31 December under the following conditions:

a) no more than five specimens may be caught and retained per fisher per day; or

b) no more than 10 kg in total may be caught and retained per fisher per day. ”

2.3. Table b) in Annex II is replaced by the following:

“(b) Maximum number of FADs per vessel authorised to target common dolphinfish in the Mediterranean Sea (GSAs 1-27), **as well as a daily bag limit for anglers targeting common dolphinfish**

Member State	**Number of FADs per vessel**
Italy	100
Malta	200
Spain	50
Recreational fisheries	**Angling – daily bag limit = 10 kg or 5 fish/person/day**

“.

3. Fishing opportunities for small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea

3.1. The placeholder in recital (13) is replaced by the following:

“At its 48th annual session in 2025, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/48/2025/5 on a long-term fishing regime and the establishment of catch limits in 2026 for small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea (GFCM GSAs 17 and 18), amending Recommendation GFCM/44/2021/20 and repealing Recommendations GFCM/42/2018/8, GFCM/40/2016/3, GFCM/39/2015/1, GFCM/38/2014/1, GFCM/37/2013/1 and GFCM/30/2006/1. That recommendation established for 2026 catch limits for anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) and sardines (*Sardina pilchardus*), in line with the harvest control rules. The allocation among Member States should be based on the historical catches of each Member State. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.”

3.2. In Annex V, Table 1, point (a) is replaced by the following:

“(a) Maximum level of catches expressed in tonnes live weight

Species	Small pelagic species (anchovy and sardine)	Zone	Union and International waters of GFCM-GSAs 17 and 18

	Engraulis encrasicolus (ANE/GF1718)	*Sardina pilchardus* (PIL/GF1718)		
Italy	**14154.5**	**8062.3**		
Croatia	**9542.5**	**32625.7**		
Slovenia	**111**	**189**		
Union	**23 808**	**40 877**		
TAC	Not relevant			

."

4. Fishing opportunities for demersal stocks in the Adriatic Sea

4.1. The placeholder in recital (15) is replaced by the following:

"At its 48th annual session in 2025, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/48/2025/6 on the implementation of a fishing effort regime for key demersal stocks in the Adriatic Sea (GFCM GSAs 17 and 18) in 2026, stemming from Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/5. That recommendation provides for a reduction of the fishing effort regime for otter-trawlers by 9.6 % and an increase of 3% of the 2025 effort levels for beam-trawlers. In order to implement those measures into Union law, 9.6% should therefore be deducted from the maximum allowable fishing effort for otter-trawlers set for 2025 by Regulation (EU) 2025/219 and the maximum allowable fishing effort for beam-trawlers should be increased by 3% compared to 2025 levels. Those measures should be implemented in Union law."

4.2. Recital (16) is replaced by the following:

"Taking into account the particularities of the Slovenian fleet and its marginal impact on the stocks of small pelagic and demersal stocks, and in accordance with paragraph **33 of Recommendation GFCM/44/2021/20 and paragraph** 13 of Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/5, it is appropriate to preserve existing fishing patterns and to ensure access by the Slovenian fleet to a minimum **quantity of small pelagic species and a minimum** effort allocation for demersal stocks ".

4.3. In Annex V, Table 2, point (a) is replaced by the following:

"(a) Maximum allowable fishing effort (in fishing days) by types of trawls and fleet segment fishing for demersal stocks in GSAs 17 and 18 (Adriatic Sea).

					Fishing Days 2026

Gear type	Geographical area	Stocks concerned	Overall length of vessels	Effort group code	Italy	Croatia	Slovenia **(*)**
Trawls (OTB)	GFCM subareas 17-18	Red mullet; Hake; Deepwater rose shrimp, and Norway lobster	< 12m	EFF/MED3_OTB _TR1	**2507**	**8988**	
			≥ 12 m and < 24 m	EFF/MED3_OTB _TR2	**56347**	**20939**	
			≥ 24 m	EFF/MED3_OTB _TR3	**4937**	**1880**	
Beam trawls (TBB)	GFCM sub-area 17	Common sole	< 12m	EFF/MED3_TBB_TR1	**200**	**0**	**0**
			≥ 12 m and < 24 m	EFF/MED3_TBB_TR2	**3744**	**0**	**0**
			≥ 24 m	EFF/MED3_TBB_TR3	**3723**	**0**	**0**

(*) Slovenia shall not exceed the effort limit of 3 000 fishing days per year in accordance with paragraph 13 of GFCM/43/2019/5.

.“.

5. Fishing opportunities for demersal species in the Strait of Sicily

5.1. The placeholder in recital (18) is replaced by the following:

“At its 48th annual session in 2025, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/48/2025/2 on the extension of the transitional period of the multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of demersal stocks in the Strait of Sicily (GFCM GSAs 12 to 16), amending Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/4. That Recommendation provides for the extension by one year of the transitional period of the management plan and maintains for 2026 the fishing opportunities set in 2025. In order to implement those measures into Union law, maximum level of catches set for 2025 by Regulation (EU) 2025/219 should therefore be maintained for 2026. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.”

5.2. In Annex VI, Table 1, point (b) is replaced by the following:

“(b) Maximum level of fishing effort (in number of fishing days), for bottom otter-trawl vessels (OTB) targeting European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) in the Strait of Sicily (GSAs 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16)

Member State	**Gear**	**Vessel length**	**Effort group code**	**Fishing days 2026**
Cyprus	OTB	T-12	EFF4/MED4_OTB4	**51**
Italy	OTB	T-07	EFF4/MED4_OTB1	**90**
Italy	OTB	T-10	EFF4/MED4_OTB2	**188**
Italy	OTB	T-11	EFF4/MED4_OTB3	**19 366**
Italy	OTB	T-12	EFF4/MED4_OTB4	**3 675**
Malta	OTB	T-11	EFF4/MED4_OTB3	**338**
Malta	OTB	T-12	EFF4/MED4_OTB4	**165**

.”

5.3. In Annex VI, Table 1, point (c) is replaced by the following:

“(c) Maximum level of catches of deep-water rose shrimp *(Parapenaeus longirostris*) in the Strait of Sicily (GSAs 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16) expressed in tonnes live weight

Species:	**Deep-water rose shrimp** ***Parapenaeus longirostris***	**Zone: GSAs 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 (DPS/GF12-16)**
Cyprus	**1**	Analytical catch limit
Italy	**2 020**	
Malta	**5**	
Union	**2 026**	
TAC	Not relevant	

.”

6. Fishing opportunities for deepwater shrimps in the Strait of Sicily

6.1. The placeholder in recital (20) is replaced by the following:

“At its 48th annual session in 2025, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/48/2025/9 on the extension of the transitional period of the multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) and blue and red shrimp stocks (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Strait of Sicily (GFCM GSAs 12 to 16), amending Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/5. That Recommendation provides for the extension by one year of the transitional period of the management plan and a 3% reduction of the fishing opportunities in 2026. In order to implement those measures into Union law, 3% should therefore be deducted from the maximum level of catches set for 2025 by Regulation (EU) 2025/219. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.”

6.2. In Annex VI, Table 2, point (b) is replaced by the following:

“(b) Maximum level of catches of giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) in the Strait of Sicily (GSAs 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16) expressed in tonnes live weight

Species	**Giant red shrimp *(Aristaeomorpha foliacea)***	**Zone: GSAs 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 (ARS/GF12-16)**
Spain	**0.9**	Analytical catch limit
Italy	**794.4**	
Cyprus	**0**	
Malta	**33.7**	
Union	**829**	
TAC	Not relevant	Maximum level of catches

.”

6.3. In Annex VI, Table 2, point (c) is replaced by the following:

“(c) Maximum level of catches of blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Strait of Sicily (GSAs 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16) expressed in tonnes live weight

Species	**Blue and red shrimp *(Aristeus antennatus)***	**Zone: GSAs 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 (ARA/GF12-16)**

Spain	**0.9**	Precautionary catch limit
Italy	**91.9**	
Cyprus	**0**	
Malta	**7.1**	
Union	**95**	
TAC	Not relevant	Maximum level of catches

.”

7. Fishing opportunities for deepwater shrimps in the Ionian Sea

7.1. The placeholder in recital (22) is replaced by the following:

“At its 48th annual session in 2025, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/48/2025/3 on the extension of the transitional period of the multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) and blue and red shrimp ((*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Ionian Sea (GFCM GSAs 19 to 21), amending Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/6. That Recommendation provides for the extension by one year of the transitional period of the management plan and a 3% reduction of the fishing opportunities in 2026. In order to implement those measures into Union law, a 3% should therefore be deducted from the maximum level of catches set for 2025 by Regulation (EU) 2025/219. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.”

7.2. In Annex VII, Table 1, point (b) is replaced by the following:

“(b) Maximum level of catches of giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea)* in the Ionian Sea (GSAs 19, 20 and 21) expressed in tonnes live weight

Species	Giant red shrimp *(Aristaeomorpha foliacea)*	Zone: GSAs 19-20-21 (ARS/GF19-21)
Greece	**31.3**	Analytical catch limit
Italy	**285.7**	
Malta	**42**	

Union	**359**	
TAC	Not relevant	Maximum level of catches

.”

7.3. In Annex VII, Table 1, point (c) is replaced by the following:

“(c) Maximum level of catches of blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Ionian Sea (GSAs 19, 20 and 21) expressed in tonnes live weight

Species	Blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*)	Zone: GSAs 19-20-21 (ARA/GF19-21)
Greece	**13.8**	Analytical catch limit
Italy	**228.2**	
Malta	**0**	
Union	**242**	
TAC	Not relevant	Maximum level of catches

.”

8. Fishing opportunities for deepwater shrimps in the Levant Sea

8.1. Recital (23a) is inserted:

“(23a) At its 48th annual session in 2025, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/48/2025/4 on the extension of the transitional period of the multiannual management plan for sustainable demersal trawl fisheries targeting giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) and blue and red shrimp ((*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Levant Sea (GFCM GSAs 24 to 27), amending Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/7. That Recommendation provides for the extension by one year of the transitional period of the management plan and a 3% reduction of the fishing opportunities in 2026. In order to implement those measures into Union law, 3% should therefore be deducted from the maximum level of catches set for 2025 by Regulation (EU) 2025/219. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.”

8.2. In Annex VII, Table 2, point (b) is replaced by the following:

“(b) Maximum level of catches of giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) in the Levant Sea (GSAs 24, 25, 26 and 27) expressed in tonnes live weight

Species	Giant red shrimp *(Aristaeomorpha foliacea)*	Zone: GSAs 24, 25, 26, 27 (ARS/GF24-27)
Italy	**44.3**	Precautionary catch limit
Cyprus	**10.7**	
Union	**55**	
TAC	Not relevant	Maximum level of catches

."

8.3. In Annex VII, Table 2, point (c) is replaced by the following:

"(c) Maximum level of catches of blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Levant Sea (GSAs 24, 25, 26 and 27) expressed in tonnes live weight

Species	Blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*)	Zone: GSAs 24, 25, 26 and 27 (ARA/GF24- 27)
Italy	**9.4**	Precautionary catch limit
Cyprus	**5.6**	
Union	**15**	
TAC	Not relevant	Maximum level of catches

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9. Fishing opportunities for blackspot seabream in the Alboran Sea

9.1. The placeholder in recital (24) is replaced by the following:

"At its 45th annual meeting in 2022, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/3 on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of blackspot seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) in the Alboran Sea (GFCM GSAs 1 to 3), repealing Recommendations GFCM/44/2021/4, GFCM/43/2019/2 and GFCM/41/2017/2. That Recommendation introduced a maximum number of longliners and handliners authorised for fishing in Alboran Sea. That measure should be implemented in Union law."

9.2. Recital (24a) is inserted:

"At its 48th annual session in 2025, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/48/2025/7 on a long-term fishing regime for blackspot seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) in the Alboran Sea (GFCM GSAs 1 to 3), stemming from Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/3 and repealing Recommendations GFCM/47/2024/3 and GFCM/46/2023/15. That recommendation introduced a reduction of 56% of the catch limits for that stock for 2026. In order to implement those measures into Union law, 56% should therefore be deducted from the maximum level of catches set for 2025 by Regulation (EU) 2025/219. Those measures should be implemented in Union law."

9.3. The placeholder in Article 18 is replaced by the following:

"**Blackspot seabream**

1. This Article applies to commercial and recreational fishing activities by Union fishing vessels catching blackspot seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) with longlines and handlines in the Alboran Sea.

2. The maximum level of catches shall not exceed the levels set out in Annex VIII.

3. The maximum number of longliners and handliners authorised to fish for blackspot seabream is set out in Annex VIII.

4. Member States shall establish a temporal closure with a view to protecting the key stock during spawning for periods of no less than 60 continuous days. Such closure shall last for at least two months, shall take place during the period from January to March 2026 and shall cover the key areas of distribution of blackspot seabream in the Alboran Sea.

5. Recreational fisheries for blackspot seabream shall be prohibited."

9.4. The placeholder in Annex VIII is replaced by the following:

"(a) Maximum level of catches carried out by longlines and handlines expressed in tonnes live weight

Species	**Blackspot seabream** *(Pagellus boraraveo)*	**Zone: Union waters in the Alboran Sea - GSAs 1-2-3 (SBR/GF1-3)**
Spain	**9.1**	**Maximum level of catches**
Union	**9.1**	
TAC	**Not relevant**	

(b) Maximum number of longliners and handliners authorised for fishing in Alboran Sea (GSAs 1, 2 and 3)

Member State	**Blackspot seabream in GSAs 1, 2 and 3**
Spain	**82**

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10. Fishing opportunities for turbot in the Black Sea

10.1. Recital (26a) is inserted:

"(26a) At its 48th annual meeting in 2025, the GFCM approved a carry-over of the unused Union quota for turbot in 2024. That measure should be implemented in Union law. The allocation of such fishing opportunities among Member States should be based on the respective contribution of each Member State to the unused quota, without modifying the allocation key established by Regulation (EU) 2024/259 concerning the annual allocation of TAC."

10.2 In Annex IX, the table concerning the fishing opportunities for turbot is replaced by the following:

"

Species:	Turbot *Scophthalmus maximus*		Zone:	Union waters in the Black Sea – GSA 29 (TUR/F3742C)
Bulgaria	**86.3**		Analytical TAC Article 3(2) and 3(3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply. Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Romania	**88.3**			
Union	**174.6**	(*)		
TAC	**890**			

(*) No fishing activity, including transshipment, retaining on board, landing and first sale shall be permitted from 15 April to 15 June 2026.

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