

**Recommendation GFCM/38/2014/1**  
**on precautionary and emergency measures for 2015 on small pelagic stocks in geographical subarea 17 and amending Recommendation GFCM/37/2013/1**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*RECALLING* that the objective of the Agreement for the establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM Agreement) is to ensure the conservation and sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of marine living resources in the GFCM area of application;

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

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

*CONSIDERING* Recommendation GFCM/37/2013/1 on a multiannual management plan for fisheries exploiting small pelagic stocks in the geographical subarea 17 (northern Adriatic Sea) and on transitional conservation measures for fisheries exploiting small pelagic stocks in geographical subarea 18 (southern Adriatic Sea);

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

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

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

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

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

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

*ADOPTS*, in conformity with Articles 5 b), 8 b) and 13 of the GFCM Agreement, the following recommendation:

**Modification of Recommendation GFCM/37/2013/1**

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

*“Vessels actively fishing for small pelagic stocks means any vessels equipped with either trawl nets, purse seiners or other types of surrounding nets where the total catch of small pelagic stocks of sardine and anchovy account for at least 50 percent of the catch in live weight.”*

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

*“Fishing day means any continuous period of 24 hours, or part thereof, during which a vessel is present within GSA 17 and/or GSA 18 and is searching for fish, shooting, setting, towing, hauling a fishing*

***gear, taking catch on board, transshipping, retaining on board, processing on board, transferring and landing fish and fishery products.”***

3. Paragraph 27, Part VI, shall be modified as follows:

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

#### **Precautionary and emergency measures for 2015**

4. For the year 2015, the contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties (CPCs) whose vessels have been fishing small pelagic stocks in GSA 17 shall reduce the fishing effort established under paragraph 27, Part VI, of Recommendation GFCM/37/2013/1. To this end, by derogation from the provisions of paragraph 27, Part VI, for the year 2015, each fishing vessel targeting anchovy shall not exceed 144 fishing days per year.
5. For the year 2015, in order to protect nursery and spawning areas, CPCs shall apply spatio-temporal closures of no less than 15 continuous days and up to 30 continuous days for vessels fishing small pelagic stocks in GSA 17. These closures shall be designated in waters under their jurisdiction and shall take place between 1 April and 31 August.
6. CPCs shall notify to the GFCM Secretariat, by 30 November 2014, their closure dates and areas.
7. National control programmes established under paragraph 29, Part VII, of Recommendation GFCM/37/2013/1 shall be adapted accordingly.

#### **Review of the management plan**

8. The SAC shall organize a specific intersessional meeting in 2014 to review the reference points of the management plan and to evaluate the measures applied by CPCs, including the closures to be applied by CPCs. The SAC shall support the identification of other areas that are relevant for temporal closures, either within or outside national waters.
9. For the purpose of paragraph 8, the SAC shall take into consideration socio-economic elements and consult, where necessary, its Subcommittee on Economic and Social Sciences.
10. Based on the SAC advice, the GFCM shall review, and if necessary adapt, the content of the management plan in 2015.