

Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/4
on a management plan for the sustainable exploitation of red coral in the Mediterranean Sea

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;

CONSIDERING that all measures formulated by the GFCM shall be based on the best scientific advice available, taking into account relevant environmental, economic and social factors;

CONSIDERING that the GFCM shall apply the precautionary approach in accordance with the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks of 4 August 1995 (Fish Stocks Agreement) and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);

CONSIDERING the international nature of red coral trade, the high socio-economic importance of local fisheries exploiting red coral and the need to ensure their sustainability;

CONSIDERING that the GFCM shall adopt management measures based on an ecosystem approach to fisheries to guarantee the maintenance of stocks above levels which can produce maximum sustainable yield (MSY);

RECALLING that red coral is listed in the Annex III of the Protocol concerning the Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol) of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention), which implies that its exploitation needs to be properly regulated at the national and international level;

RECALLING that red coral is listed as “endangered” under the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);

RECALLING that, at its twenty-first session (Egypt, June 2019), the Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC) endorsed the work of the Workshop on red coral (WKREDCORAL) pointing to a possible overexploitation with signs of deterioration of red coral populations;

NOTING that, at its twenty-first session, the SAC acknowledged the urgent need to implement management measures for red coral, in particular by not increasing catches;

FURTHER NOTING that, at its twenty-first session, the SAC acknowledged the urgent need to implement a traceability scheme for red coral in order to curb the likely high level of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) catches and to ensure a sustainable exploitation of this species;

FURTHER NOTING that, at its twenty-first session, the SAC endorsed, in Annex 9 to its report, an updated research programme on red coral to be launched in 2020;

CONSIDERING that cooperation between research teams and professional operators could promote and facilitate stakeholder involvement in the decision-making process with a view to enhancing compliance with the rules regulating the management and exploitation of red coral;

CONSIDERING the measures already established for the management of red coral at GFCM level in Recommendations GFCM/35/2011/2 on the exploitation of red coral in the GFCM area of application, GFCM/36/2012/1 on further measures for the exploitation of red coral in the GFCM area of application, GFCM/40/2016/7 concerning the authorization of the use of remotely operated vehicles within the framework of national scientific research programmes on red coral and GFCM/41/2017/5 on the establishment of a regional adaptive management plan for the exploitation of red coral in the Mediterranean Sea;

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

PART I

General objective, scope and definitions

General objective

1. This recommendation establishes an adaptive multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of red coral populations in the Mediterranean Sea.

Scope

2. This recommendation applies to all commercial fishing activities exploiting red coral in the geographical subareas (GSAs) 1 to 27 included.

Definitions

3. For the purpose of this recommendation, the following definitions shall apply:

- a) “red coral” means colonies pertaining to the species *Corallium rubrum*;
- b) “red coral colony” or “colony” means a genetic unit formed by hundreds/thousands of red coral polyps. A colony can have a tree-like shape with several branches. The red coral colony is the biological unit exploited in red coral fisheries;
- c) “red coral bank” (“bank”) or “red coral zone” (“zone”) means an area of variable size identified by contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties (CPCs) where red coral colonies are relatively abundant;
- d) “fishing authorization” means a specific entitlement other than a fishing licence issued by a CPC and allowing a fisher to engage in specific fishing activities with a given fishing gear, during a given period and in a given area, or for a given fishery under specific conditions listed in the fishing authorization. In the case of red coral, the fishing authorization specifically allows fishers, fishing vessels, concessionaries or legal persons/entities to harvest red coral;
- e) “authorized fisher” means a fisher (diver), fishing vessel, concessionary or legal person/entity in possession of a specific fishing authorization allowing the harvest and landing of red coral;
- f) “harvest” means the red coral catch proceeding from harvesting operations targeting red coral;
- g) “live weight” means the weight of freshly caught colonies weighed immediately after the end of the fishing operations or, at the latest and in case of daily fishing trips only, before their landing at the designated port. The weight refers, where possible, to clean colonies without epibionts or rocks attached;
- h) “authorized port” means a port designated by the concerned CPC where the landing of red coral catches is authorized;

- i) “illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing” or “IUU fishing” means the activities mentioned in paragraph 3 of the 2001 FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU).

PART II

Specific objectives

4. The multiannual management plan shall contribute to the objectives mentioned in Article 2 and the principles listed in Article 5 of the GFCM Agreement.
5. The multiannual management plan shall also contribute to improve the scientific, technical and socio-economic knowledge of fisheries exploiting red coral.
6. In particular, the multiannual management plan shall aim to:
 - a) apply the precautionary approach to red coral fisheries management;
 - b) counteract or prevent overfishing with a view to ensuring long-term yields while maintaining the red coral populations within biologically sustainable levels;
 - c) establish measures to adjust exploitation rates and fishing effort to sustainable levels; and
 - d) deter IUU fishing activities.
7. Pending the results of the research programme on red coral to be launched by the GFCM Secretariat in 2020 and the consolidated SAC advice on sustainable exploitation levels for red coral in the Mediterranean, transitional measures shall apply.

PART III

National management plans

8. Where no national management plan for red coral is in place, CPCs shall adopt one no later than 30 June 2020. Depending on available scientific information, management shall take place at red coral bank, GFCM statistical rectangle or CPC level. Any national management plan shall comprise at least the elements listed in Part IV (Conservation measures), Part V (Fleet management measures) and Part VI (Control and enforcement) of this recommendation. CPCs shall submit their national management plan for red coral to the GFCM Secretariat at the latest within 15 days after their adoption. CPCs shall immediately resubmit any updated national management plan for red coral, in particular when new closures or new openings of red coral banks are decided.

PART IV

Conservation measures

Harvest method

9. The only gear authorized for harvesting red coral colonies shall be a hammer used by an authorized fisher or fishing vessel using scuba diving equipment. During the harvest, the authorized fisher shall ensure that the base of the coral colony is not detached from the substrate.

Minimum harvest depth

10. It shall be prohibited to harvest red coral colonies in waters less than 50 metres deep.
11. By way of derogation from paragraph 10, CPCs may adopt derogations from the minimum harvest depth provided that:
 - a) such derogations have been continuously implemented by means of management rules during at least the five years preceding the entry into force of this recommendation; or
 - b) SAC assessment demonstrates that requests for new derogations are in line with the general and specific objectives of this recommendation.

Minimum conservation reference size

12. It shall be prohibited to harvest red coral colonies whose diameter is less than 7 millimetres, measured within one centimetre from the base of the colony.

13. If a national management plan is in force, the concerned CPC may apply a maximum tolerance of 10 percent in live weight of colonies below the minimum conservation reference size (MCRS).

Transitional precautionary harvest and effort limits for 2020–2023

14. During the transitional period (2020–2023), CPCs that harvest red coral shall:

- a) maintain their harvest of red coral at the average level authorized and exerted over the period 2015–2017 or over another period of three consecutive years after 2000, as chosen by the CPCs; and
- b) maintain the number of fishing authorizations delivered for the exploitation of red coral at the level exerted in 2019 or over another period of three consecutive year after 2000, as chosen by the CPCs, without prejudice to paragraph 29.

This shall be without prejudice to the discussions to take place in the context of paragraph 18.

15. CPCs shall inform the GFCM Secretariat, no later than 1 March 2020, about the reference period chosen, the harvest limits and the effort limits to be observed by their authorized fishers or fishing vessels during the transitional period. Where CPCs have not harvested red coral in recent years, they may use a reference period based on the last years where their authorized fishers harvested red coral. Such transitional harvest and effort limits do not prejudice future decisions or the right of CPCs to reopen their red coral fishery.

16. By way of derogation from Recommendation GFCM/40/2016/2 on the progressive implementation of data submission in line with the GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework, CPCs shall communicate to the GFCM Secretariat once a year, at the latest on 30 June of each year, their exerted harvest and effort over the preceding year.

17. CPCs may set individual daily/annual harvest and/or effort limits for their authorized fishers and fishing vessels. Such limits shall be consistent with the number of fishing authorizations granted as well as with the annual harvest limits and effort limits set for the concerned CPC.

Long-term harvest and effort limits

18. Upon SAC advice and based on the results of the research programme, and, if applicable, of the pilot phase of the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) referred to in paragraph 47, the GFCM, at its forty-seventh session, shall adopt harvest and effort limits for CPCs interested in having red coral fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea. Such limits shall apply as of 1 January 2024, taking due account of the state of red coral populations in each CPC.

19. For CPCs that have no historical red coral harvest data owing to long-standing prohibition, harvest and effort limits shall be determined based on the red coral national management plan provided by those CPCs.

20. The GFCM may revise harvest limits upon scientific advice validated by the SAC.

Harvest control rules and precautionary closure

21. The harvest control rules set out in Annex 1 shall apply. They shall trigger specific management actions according to the percentage of red coral colonies below the MCRS in the annual harvest of a given CPC.

22. When the proportion of the red coral colonies below the MCRS exceeds 25 percent (trigger) of the total annual harvest from a given red coral bank, relevant CPCs shall close the concerned area to any red coral fishery on precautionary grounds and immediately inform the GFCM Secretariat. Where red

coral banks have not yet been properly identified, the trigger and precautionary closures foreseen in paragraph 21 shall apply at the scale of the relevant GFCM statistical rectangle.

23. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to implement precautionary closures. The decision establishing precautionary closures shall clearly define the geographical area of the affected harvest ground, its duration and the conditions governing red coral fisheries in that area during the precautionary closure as well as the conditions for reopening the fishery. Such decision shall be immediately transmitted to the GFCM Secretariat.

Spatio-temporal closures

24. In addition to closures already established at the national level, CPCs actively harvesting red coral may introduce, not later than 1 January 2020, additional spatio-temporal closures for the protection of red coral and immediately inform the GFCM Secretariat.

25. By way of derogation from paragraph 24, CPCs that adopted spatio-temporal closures for a duration of at least ten years for all or part of their waters at the date of entry into force of this recommendation may choose not to introduce additional such closures.

Move-on rule

26. CPCs may implement a move-on rule to avoid reaching the trigger defined in paragraph 22 and ensure an optimal exploitation and recovery of the colonies. When CPCs implement move-on rules, they shall immediately notify the GFCM Secretariat. Such mechanism shall be consistent, *inter alia*, with the objectives of the multiannual management plan, the fishing pressure exerted on red coral (mortality) and the growth parameters of red coral colonies in the banks concerned.

Crop rotation

27. CPCs may implement a crop rotation system between their red coral banks to ensure an optimal exploitation and recovery of the colonies. When CPCs implement a crop rotation mechanism, they shall immediately notify the GFCM Secretariat. The closure period shall be consistent, *inter alia*, with the objectives of the multiannual management plan, the harvest pressure and the growth parameters of red coral colonies in the banks concerned.

PART V

Fleet management measures

Fishing authorizations

28. Fishers shall be authorized to harvest red coral in the Mediterranean Sea only if they hold a valid fishing authorization issued by the flag CPC authorities where the fishing activity takes place (fishers) or by the flag CPC authority (vessel). Such authorization shall specify the technical conditions governing the fishery. In the absence of such authorization, fishers shall not harvest, retain on board, transship, land, store or sell red coral. A fishing authorization may only be granted to a fisher (diver) who complies with national standards for professional diving.

29. CPCs shall maintain an updated register of the fishing authorizations they issue. Every year and no later than 30 June, CPCs shall communicate to the GFCM Secretariat the list of fishers and/or vessels authorized to harvest red coral. Such list shall include, for each vessel, at least the information referred to in Annex 2 of this recommendation.

30. CPCs shall not increase the number of fishing authorizations they issue until scientific advice validated by the SAC indicates that red coral populations have rebuilt to sustainable levels allowing them to sustain increased exploitation.

31. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of red coral for recreational fisheries.

Development plans

32. By way of derogation from paragraph 14, CPCs intending to start targeting red coral shall submit a management plan for red coral as referred to in paragraph 8 and a development plan during the period between the entry into force of this recommendation and the adoption of permanent management measures by the GFCM. The SAC shall review the development plan and formulate appropriate advice if it is not in line with the general and specific objectives set out in this recommendation. Pending possible amendments in line with SAC advice, the GFCM shall take a decision on the adoption of such development plan.

PART VI Control and enforcement

Authorized ports

33. Each CPC shall designate ports in which the landing and transshipment of red coral harvest is authorized and communicate such list to the GFCM Secretariat not later than the date set out in paragraph 29. CPCs shall immediately communicate any update in this respect to the GFCM Secretariat. It is only permitted to land and transship red coral in authorized ports.

34. Prior to entry into any port, and at least four hours before the estimated time of arrival, or at least one hour if the fishing grounds are less than four hours from the port of arrival, the authorized fishers or their representative shall notify the relevant authorities of the following information:

- a) estimated time of arrival to the port;
- b) external identification number and name of the authorized vessel or vessel used for harvesting;
- c) estimated live weight and number of red coral colonies retained on board; and
- d) harvesting area, preferably with geographical coordinates.

Harvest recording

35. CPCs shall ensure that the authorized fishers or the masters of the vessels authorized to harvest red coral have the obligation to record their harvest daily after each harvest operation, in line with the provisions of Recommendation GFCM/40/2016/2.

36. By way of derogation from paragraph 2 of Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/1 concerning the establishment of a GFCM logbook, amending Recommendation GFCM/34/2010/1, each CPC shall set a mechanism to record all red coral daily harvests in the logbook, irrespective of the live weight of the harvest.

Vessel tracking

37. Without prejudice to Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/7 concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a vessel monitoring system in the GFCM area of application, CPCs may, on a voluntary basis, implement pilot projects to ensure that all fishers and/or vessels authorized to harvest red coral use a vessel monitoring system (VMS) or any other geolocation system allowing control authorities to track their activity at all times during the fishing trips.

Control of landings

38. Each CPC shall establish a risk-based control programme, in particular to check the landing and logbook information.

Transshipment

39. It shall be prohibited to transship red coral at sea.

Inspection plan

40. All such control and enforcement measures shall be contained in an inspection plan that each CPC shall establish taking into account, as guidelines, the elements listed in Annex 5. Such inspection plans shall be communicated to the GFCM secretariat by 31 January of each year.

PART VII
Traceability of red coral products

Principles

41. Each CPC shall take the necessary steps to implement a CDS for the purpose of identifying the origin of red coral harvested in the GFCM area of application and in order to support the implementation of relevant GFCM conservation and management measures.

42. Such measure shall not prejudice other traceability systems in force ensuring the same level of control over the traceability of red coral products by CPCs.

43. A validated CDS certificate as referred to in Annex 3 to this recommendation (for the pilot phase) and issued by the competent authorities of the flag CPC shall accompany all landings, imports, exports and re-exports of red coral harvested from the entry into force of this recommendation.

44. Each CDS form shall have a unique document identification number. Such number shall be specific to the flag CPC and be assigned to each fisher or harvesting vessel. Such forms shall not be transferable to another fisher or harvesting vessel.

45. CPCs shall validate the CDS harvest certificates for red coral only when all the information contained in the CDS has been established to be accurate as a result of the verification of the supporting documents and corresponding consignment.

46. Not later than 1 January 2021, CPCs shall ensure that they have put in place a system (e.g. a specific customs code for red coral) allowing for the collection of statistical data and the monitoring of their red coral imports, exports and re-exports.

Pilot phase

47. For a transitional period of three years (2020–2022), CPCs may participate in the pilot phase of the CDS, where all the above traceability measures shall be fully implemented.

48. In parallel to the pilot phase, the GFCM shall set up, in 2020, a Compliance Committee (CoC) working group tasked with developing a permanent GFCM CDS, according to the terms for reference provided in Annex 4 of this recommendation.

49. CPCs shall report on the implementation of the pilot phase to the CoC working group referred to in paragraph 48 in preparing a permanent GFCM CDS for red coral.

50. Upon the advice of the CoC, the GFCM shall adopt the permanent GFCM CDS for red coral at its forty-sixth session and CPCs shall start implementing it on 1 January 2023.

PART VIII
Scientific information

51. In addition to the provisions related to red coral contained in Recommendation GFCM/40/2016/2, CPCs shall report the data listed below at the bank, GFCM statistical grid and national level, when available:

- a) number of red coral fishing authorizations granted for fishers and for authorized vessels;
- b) number of dives per authorized fisher and fishing trip;
- c) number of authorized fishers on board for each fishing trip; and
- d) diameter of each colony harvested, if possible.

Such data shall be reported first in a single batch by 30 June 2020 for years dating as far back as possible in the past, and thereafter by the deadline stipulated for red coral in the recommendation referred to above

52. CPCs whose authorized fishers target red coral shall ensure that a mechanism for adequate scientific monitoring of red coral fisheries and red coral harvest is in place to allow the SAC to provide descriptive information and advice on at least:

- a) fishing effort deployed (e.g. weekly, monthly or annual number of fishing trips or dive time, if possible) and overall catch levels at the bank, GFCM statistical grid, national or supranational level;
- b) reference points with a view to improving this multiannual management plan in line with MSY objective and low risk of stock collapse;
- c) biological and socio-economic effects of alternative management scenarios, including input/output and/or technical measures; and
- d) possible additional spatio-temporal closures in order to preserve the sustainability of red coral fisheries.

53. The use of remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) shall be allowed until 31 December 2022 for scientific purposes only and within CPC authorized research programmes led by scientific institutions. Such authorizations shall be without prejudice to stricter measures adopted by CPCs.

54. It shall be strictly forbidden to commercialise red coral colonies harvested within the framework of such research programmes.

55. Each CPC intending to use ROVs shall submit the following information to the GFCM Secretariat, at least one month before the start of the campaign. The GFCM Secretariat shall immediately communicate to all CPCs the following information:

- a) objectives and protocol followed during the research campaign;
- b) list of vessels authorized to use ROVs;
- c) duration of the research campaign mission involving the use of ROVs; and
- d) geographical coordinates of the areas where ROVs will be used for research purposes.

56. Each year, the SAC shall evaluate the use of ROVs and report to the GFCM annual session.

57. CPCs may deploy national scientific observers on the vessels that are used to harvest red coral in the Mediterranean Sea. In this case, CPCs are encouraged to report on the information collected to the GFCM Secretariat.

58. In 2020, the GFCM shall launch the research programme on red coral endorsed by the SAC at its twenty-first session and referred to in Appendix 9 to its report. The research programme shall be completed in 2022. The research programme shall in particular evaluate the trigger for closure as established in paragraph 22.

59. The GFCM may adopt any urgent measure in case of risk of collapse of red coral identified by the SAC.

60. At its twenty-fifth session, the SAC shall advise the GFCM, based on the review and assessment of the following elements:

- a) results of the red coral research programme launched by the GFCM Secretariat;
- b) lessons learnt from the pilot phase of the CDS, in coordination with the CoC;
- c) effectiveness of the management measures in place in CPCs;
- d) effectiveness of this multiannual management plan with regards to the objectives pursued; and
- e) any other scientific information available.

PART IX
Final provisions

61. In light of available information, the GFCM may adopt appropriate measures concerning, *inter alia*, control measures, catch documentation, authorized areas for red coral harvesting, the use of ROVs for scientific purposes only, the minimum harvesting depth and the MCRS.

62. Recommendations GFCM/35/2011/2, GFCM/36/2012/1, GFCM/40/2016/7 and GFCM/41/2017/5 are hereby repealed.

63. The provisions contained in this recommendation shall be applied without prejudice to stricter rules enforced in the CPCs.

Harvest control rules

Proportion of undersize colonies in the harvest = 0%	No specific management action
0% < proportion of undersize colonies in the harvest < 10%	If a national management plan is in place: no specific management action. If no plan: implement stricter control
10% < proportion of undersize colonies in the harvest < 25% (= trigger)	Implement stricter control and survey the size structure of the population
Proportion of undersize colonies in the harvest > 25% (trigger)	Close the fishery in the area on precautionary grounds

Fishing authorization

Subject to more detailed provisions under the GFCM data collection programme, the fishing authorization shall contain for each vessel authorized at least the following information:

- Vessel name (authorized vessel or vessel used for harvesting);
- Vessel register number (code assigned by the CPCs);
- GFCM registration number, where relevant (country ISO 3-alpha code + 9 digits);
- Port of registration (full name of the port);
- Previous name (if any);
- Previous flag (if any);
- Previous details of deletion from other registers (if any);
- International radio call sign (if any);
- VMS or other equipment for vessel geolocation (indicate Y/N);
- Vessel type, length overall (LOA) and gross tonnage (GT) and engine power expressed in kW;
- Safety and security equipment to host observer(s) on board (indicate Y/N);
- Time period authorized for fishing red coral;
- Area(s) authorized for fishing red coral: GSA(s) and rectangles of the GFCM statistical grid; and
- Participation in research programmes led by national/international scientific institutions (indicate Y/N; provide some description).

Harvest certificate for the GFCM pilot catch documentation scheme

HARVEST CERTIFICATE FOR THE GFCM RED CORAL PILOT CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME (CDS)			
Harvest document number		Validating authority	
1. Name of the fishing vessel master, if applicable		Address - Tel/fax/email	
Signature and stamp of the fishing vessel master			
2. Vessel name and registration No		Flag and home port	Call sign/IMO (where applicable)
		Inmarsat/fax/telephone number/email	
3. Port			
		Port of departure and country	Port of landing and country
4. Authorized fisher(s) on board		Name - Address - Tel/fax/email	
Fishing licence number(s) - valid to (date), if applicable		Red coral fishing authorization number - valid to (date)	Signature of the holder
5. Harvest area (coordinates Long., Lat.)	Harvest date	Estimated live weight (kg)	Landed live weight (kg)
a.			
b.			
c.			
d.			
e.			
6. Flag state authority validation			
Name and title		Signature	Date and stamp

7. Name of the exporter, if applicable	Address - Tel/fax/email	
Signature and stamp of the exporter – Date		
8. Export authority validation - Name and title	Signature	Date and stamp
9. Name of the importer	Address - Tel/fax/email	
Signature and stamp of the importer – Date		
10. Import authority validation Name and title	Signature	Date and stamp

Terms of reference for the CoC Working Group on a permanent GFCM red coral catch documentation scheme

1. The objective of the catch documentation scheme (CDS) is to help curb illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The working group shall develop an effective and cost-efficient permanent CDS ensuring that individual batches of red coral batches are labelled with a unique identifier (code, tag or other, as appropriate) and documented all along the value chain, from authorized fishers to the final seller. The CDS shall also be designed to inform final customers on the red coral products they buy, including the conditions, date and place of catch and transformation.
2. In developing the CDS and accompanying documents, the working group shall take into account the following:
 - a) experience gathered and best practices identified during the pilot project;
 - b) overall conservation status of red coral;
 - c) specificities of red coral fisheries in the contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties (CPCs);
 - d) specificities of red coral, including its high potential for long-term storage;
 - e) information (including qualitative) on the level of IUU fishing;
 - f) schemes in force in CPCs and their effectiveness, if appropriate;
 - g) respective administrative capacities of CPCs;
 - h) schemes in force in various regional fisheries management organizations such as the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), as well as the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes; and
 - i) schemes in force in the jewellery industry, or in extractive industries, if appropriate.
3. The CDS shall ensure, *inter alia*, the traceability of red coral catches along the value chain from the first authorized operator (fisher) to the final buyer. Each red coral batch shall be labelled with a unique identifier (code, tag or other, as appropriate).

Guidelines for the development of inspection plans for red coral

Inspection plans shall clearly define the following:

- a) means of control: description of human, technical and financial means specifically available for the implementation of the plans; and
- b) inspection strategy (including inspection protocols).