

Recommendation GFCM/44/2021/1

on the establishment of a fishing effort regime for key demersal stocks in the Adriatic Sea (geographical subareas 17 and 18)

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

CONSIDERING 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 the most recent scientific advice endorsed by the Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC) at its twenty-second session (online, June 2021), which shows an enduring overexploitation of key demersal stocks in the Adriatic Sea as well as low biomass levels, in particular for European hake and Norway lobster;

RECALLING that 2021 is the last year of the transitional fishing effort regime established under paragraph 11 of Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/5 on a multiannual management plan for sustainable demersal fisheries in the Adriatic Sea (geographical subareas 17 and 18);

RECALLING that, based on the SAC advice, the first fishing effort allocation of a five-year fishing effort regime (2022–2026) shall be established in January 2022 with a view to achieving the objectives set in paragraph 9 of the above-mentioned recommendation;

RECALLING that such allocations shall be expressed in fishing days per contracting party and cooperating non-contracting party (CPC) and in effort groups for the fleet segments and types of gear;

CONSIDERING that the GFCM shall ensure that, for each CPC, any increase or decrease in effort allocation is in line with the formula provided in Annex 4 of Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/5 and with total effort for the reference year in the area by effort group listed in Annex 3, as reported starting from 2021;

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

1. The annual reduction in fishing mortality (F) needed to achieve the maximum sustainable yield target (F_{MSY}) in 2026 for all key stocks shall be a progressive linear reduction towards maximum sustainable yield (MSY). In line with this, the overall reduction in fishing effort in 2022 shall be 7 percent for bottom otter trawls and 3 percent for beam trawls overall.
2. The fishing effort allocations for 2022, established in line with paragraph 1 of this recommendation and with paragraph 12 of Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/5 and based on the latest scientific advice, are listed by CPC and effort group code in the annex to this recommendation. Effort allocations for 2022 shall cover the entire period from 1 January to 31 December as well as the fishing effort exerted during the months preceding the entry into force of this recommendation and shall be accounted for by effort group against the effort consumption of 2022.
3. A CPC may amend its fishing effort allocations by transferring fishing days across fishing effort groups relating to the same geographical subarea and/or type of gear, provided that it applies a national conversion factor based on the best available scientific advice. The SAC shall provide conversion factors in 2022. The transferred fishing days and conversion factors shall be made available immediately, and not later than ten working days, to the GFCM Secretariat and other CPCs.

4. Fishing effort allocations (in number of days) by vessel length, as established in paragraph 2 and in the annex to this recommendation, shall be without prejudice to the future segmentation.

Transitional fishing effort allocations for relevant contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties, expressed in fishing days and effort group code, from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

Gear type	Geographical subarea (GSA)	Stocks concerned	Overall length of vessels	Effort group code	Number of fishing days in 2022		
					European Union	Albania	Montenegro ¹
Otter trawls (OTB)	17–18	Red mullet; European hake; deep-water rose shrimp; and Norway lobster	< 12 m	OTB12<	13 909	0	
			≥ 12 m and < 24 m	OTB12-24	103 341	16 297	
			≥ 24 m	OTB>24	9 107	5 812	
Beam trawls (TBB)	17	Common sole	< 12 m	TBB12<	200	0	
			≥ 12 m and < 24 m	TBB12-24	3 747	0	
			≥ 24 m	TBB>24	3 726	0	

¹ Montenegro shall not exceed the effort limit of 3 000 fishing days per year, in accordance with paragraph 13 of Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/5.