

## **Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/4 on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of demersal stocks in the Strait of Sicily (geographical subareas 12 to 16), repealing Recommendations GFCM/44/2021/12 and GFCM/42/2018/5**

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;

*RECALLING* that, in giving effect to the objective of the GFCM Agreement, the GFCM shall adopt recommendations on conservation and management measures aimed at ensuring the long-term sustainability of fishing activities, in order to preserve marine living resources and the economic and social viability of fisheries and that, in adopting such recommendations, the GFCM shall give particular attention to measures to prevent overfishing and minimize discards, as well as to the potential impacts on small-scale fisheries and local communities;

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

*RECALLING* that the 2017 Malta MedFish4Ever Ministerial Declaration requires that, in the context of establishing an ecosystem-based fisheries management framework, all key fisheries should be managed with management plans;

*CONSIDERING* that the GFCM shall apply the precautionary approach in accordance with the 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 and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);

*CONSIDERING* that the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries provides that States “should apply the precautionary approach widely to conservation, management and exploitation of living aquatic resources in order to protect them and preserve the aquatic environment, taking account of the best scientific evidence available. The absence of adequate scientific information should not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take measures to conserve target species, associated or dependent species and non-target species and their environment”;

*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;

*RECALLING* Recommendation GFCM/41/2017/7 on a regional plan of action to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the GFCM area of application;

*CONSIDERING* that fishing mortality should be kept below safe thresholds to ensure long-term high yields while limiting the risk of stock collapse and guaranteeing stable and more viable fisheries;

*CONSIDERING* the socioeconomic importance of fisheries and the need to ensure their sustainability;

*RECALLING* that owing to the importance of this area, different recommendations have been adopted for the Strait of Sicily since 2015:

- Recommendation GFCM/39/2015/2 on the establishment of a set of minimum standards for bottom trawling fisheries of demersal stocks in the Strait of Sicily, pending the development and adoption of a multiannual management plan, that includes a common minimum conservation reference size (MCRS) of 20 mm carapace length (CL) for deep-water rose shrimp and 20 cm total length for European hake;
- Recommendation GFCM/40/2016/4 establishing a multiannual management plan for the fisheries exploiting European hake and deep-water rose shrimp in the Strait of Sicily (geographical subareas 12 to 16), that applies to vessels operating with bottom trawls over 10 m in total length bringing in a catch of these species that represents at least 25 percent of the total catch in live weight or value;
- Recommendation GFCM/41/2017/8 on an international joint inspection and surveillance scheme outside the waters under national jurisdiction in the Strait of Sicily (geographical subareas 12 to 16);
- Recommendation GFCM/42/2018/5 on a multiannual management plan for bottom trawl fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the Strait of Sicily (geographical subareas 12 to 16), repealing Recommendations GFCM/39/2015/2 and GFCM/40/2016/4;
- Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/6 on management measures for sustainable trawl fisheries targeting giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp in the Strait of Sicily (geographical subareas 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16) that introduces a general framework for the management of deep-water shrimps in the area and was rolled over by Recommendation GFCM/44/2021/7; and
- Recommendation GFCM/42/2018/5 on a multiannual management plan for bottom trawl fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the Strait of Sicily (geographical subareas 12 to 16) rolled over by Recommendation GFCM/44/2021/12;

*NOTING* that the Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC) acknowledged, at its twenty-third session in 2022, the status of the most important commercial demersal stocks, namely European hake and deep-water rose shrimp in the Strait of Sicily, which have been in overexploitation in recent years;

*CONSIDERING* that the management measures adopted since 2015 have been an important first step towards a unified management of fisheries resources and have contributed to establishing an internationally binding framework that started moving the demersal stock towards sustainable exploitation levels and combatted illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;

*NOTING*, however, that in biological terms, the management plan set forth in Recommendation GFCM/42/2018/5 has not achieved its MSY goal due to a lack of annually established fishing effort or catch limitations set on the basis of scientific advice and the capacity of the fleets being out of balance with the demersal stocks;

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

## PART I

### General objectives, geographical scope and definitions

#### **General objectives**

1. The present recommendation establishes a multiannual management plan for sustainable demersal fishing activities in the Strait of Sicily (geographical subareas 12 to 16) exploiting key demersal stocks of European hake and deep-water rose shrimp by means of bottom trawlers. On the basis of SAC advice, the scope of this recommendation could be extended to other types of fishing gear and other stocks.
2. The multiannual management plan shall be consistent with the precautionary approach. It shall be designed to provide high long-term yields consistent with the MSY and to guarantee a low risk of stock collapse while maintaining the sustainability and relative stability of fisheries and dependent industries. The plan should take account of the mixed nature of the fisheries and the nature of stock dynamics.
3. Contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties (CPCs) whose vessels are actively fishing in geographical subareas (GSAs) 12 to 16 agree to implement such a multiannual management plan for the fisheries concerned and in accordance with the general and specific objectives and measures set forth by this recommendation.
4. A set of transitional precautionary management measures for the Strait of Sicily shall be developed in order to ensure that the stocks and fisheries progress towards biologically sustainable levels while minimizing socioeconomic impacts and finalizing scientific advice by the SAC.
5. The multiannual management plan for the fisheries shall also pursue a reduction in IUU fishing activities in GSAs 12 to 16.

#### **Geographical scope**

6. The multiannual management plan provided by the present recommendation shall apply to GSAs 12 to 16.

#### **Definitions**

7. For the purpose of this recommendation:
  - a) “ $F_{msy}$ ” means the value of the estimated fishing mortality that, with a given fishing pattern and under current average environmental conditions, gives the long-term maximum sustainable yield, or “ $F_{msy}$  proxy”.
  - b) “ $B_{lim}$ ” means the limit reference point, expressed as spawning stock biomass below which there may be reduced reproductive capacity.
  - c) “Stock within safe biological limits” means a stock with a high probability of its estimated spawning biomass at the end of the previous year being higher than the limit biomass reference point ( $B_{lim}$ );
  - d) “ $B_{pa}$ ” means the precautionary reference point, expressed as spawning stock biomass that ensures that the spawning stock biomass has less than a 5 percent probability of being below  $B_{lim}$ .
  - e) “Strait of Sicily” means GSAs 12 to 16 as defined in Resolution GFCM/33/2009/2 on the establishment of geographical subareas in the GFCM area of application, amending Resolution GFCM/31/2007/2.
  - f) “Vessel actively fishing” means any vessel fishing with demersal trawls in the Strait of Sicily on the key stocks and entitled by the CPC whose flag it flies to carry out specific fishing operations during a specified period in a given area or for a given fishery under specific conditions.

- g) “Fishing day” means any continuous period of 24 hours, or part thereof, during which a vessel is present in the Strait of Sicily and is searching for fish, shooting, setting, towing or hauling a fishing gear, taking catch on board, transshipping, retaining on board, processing on board, transferring or landing fish and fishery products.
- h) “Key stocks” means marine organisms pertaining to the species as defined:
  - European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*), and
  - deep-water rose shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*).
- i) “Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing” or “IUU fishing” means the activities set out in paragraph 3 of the 2001 FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and following the provisions of Recommendation GFCM/41/2017/7;
- j) “Designated landing point” means ports, or places close to the shore, designated by CPCs according to Recommendation GFCM/40/2016/1 on a regional scheme on port state measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the GFCM area of application, including offshore terminals and other installations for landing, transshipping, packaging, processing, refuelling or resupplying of fishing vessels, where landings, transshipments, packaging and/or processing operations of fishery products are permitted.

## **PART II**

### **Specific objectives and transitional measures**

8. The multiannual management plan shall aim to contribute to the objectives mentioned in Article 2 and to the principles listed in Article 5 of the GFCM Agreement.
9. The multiannual management plan shall, in particular:
  - a) apply the precautionary approach to fisheries management;
  - b) ensure that exploitation levels of key stocks are at the MSY as soon as possible and at the latest by 31 December 2030;
  - c) prevent increases in fishing capacity and in fishing effort in relation to the year 2021;
  - d) protect nursery and spawning areas and essential fish habitats important for the key stocks in the Strait of Sicily;
  - e) contribute to the elimination of discards by avoiding and reducing unwanted catches and by ensuring that all catches are landed; and
  - f) provide for measures to adjust the fishing capacity and catches to levels of fishing mortalities consistent with the MSY, with a view to ensuring economically viable fleets without overexploiting marine living resources.
10. The multiannual management plan shall be based on a two-step approach whereby: i) over the first three years, effort and catch limits and spatio-temporal measures shall be applied; and ii) from 2026, on the basis of new scientific data, the SAC shall evaluate the state of the stocks and, on the basis of the harvest control rules (HCRs), propose further measures and advisable yearly effort and catch limits per species, in line with the provisions in Parts II, III, IV, V and VI of this recommendation, that would contribute to reaching  $F_{msy}$  or  $F_{msy}$  proxy and staying within safe biological limits.

**PART III**  
**Transitional measures**

11. Fishing effort regime:
  - a) For the period 2023–2025, a fishing effort regime shall apply to all vessels fishing with bottom trawls for European hake according to the fleet segment definition in Annex 1.
  - b) The fishing effort limits by CPCs during the transitional period shall be established in accordance with Annex 1 on the basis of the fishing effort deployed by vessels flying the flag of those CPCs in 2021 as notified in the GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF) database.
  - c) If the SAC advice in 2024 does not confirm the continuity of a constructive evolution of fishing mortality towards a restoration of the size of the European hake stock, the fishing effort limits may be reviewed by the GFCM.
12. Catch limits for deep-water rose shrimp:
  - a) For the period 2023–2025, a catch limit for deep-water rose shrimp for each CPCs shall be established based on the catches reported in 2021 with an annual reduction of 3 percent per year as defined in Annex 1.
  - b) In case the SAC advice established in 2024 does not confirm the continuity of a constructive evolution of fishing mortality towards a restoration of deep-water rose shrimp stock, the catch limits may be reviewed by the GFCM.
13. In 2024 and 2025, the SAC shall assess the impacts of demersal longlines, gillnets and trammel nets targeting the spawning stock of European hake in the Strait of Sicily. It shall also assess the need to include the fleets using these types of gear in the multiannual management plan and to adopt specific spatial measures to protect the spawning stock of European hake in the Strait of Sicily.
14. In 2024 and 2025, the SAC shall assess the possibility of integrating the stocks of red mullet (*Mullus barbatus*), striped mullet (*Mullus surmuletus*) and Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) into the fishing effort regime referred to in paragraph 11. On the basis of the SAC advice, the GFCM may establish a fishing effort regime applicable to fishing gear targeting these stocks and/or catch limits for these stocks.
15. In 2023, 2024 and 2025, CPCs shall be fully committed to supporting and completing the scientific assessments of the key species and the species referred to in paragraph 14 and the assessment of the management strategy provided for in paragraphs 17 to 19, as well as the identification of spatial and temporal measures provided for in paragraphs 23 and 24 and of new restricted fishing areas in the southern Strait of Sicily provided for in paragraph 30.
16. By way of derogation from paragraphs 11 and 12, CPCs intending to start targeting key stocks shall submit a management plan for key stocks 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 the SAC advice, the GFCM shall make a decision on the adoption of such development plan.
17. The SAC, at its twenty-fifth session in 2024, shall give a mandate to the Workshop on the assessment of management measures (WKMSE) to carry out a management strategy evaluation in order to define the most appropriate HCRs for the key stocks to be implemented according to paragraphs 18 and 19, including socioeconomic aspects.

**PART IV**  
**Long-term management plan**

18. A long-term management plan for the period 2026–2030 is established. Each year, on the basis of updated SAC advice, the GFCM shall establish yearly effort or catch limits for the key stocks. Such limits shall be based on HCRs in line with paragraphs 17 and 19, which shall be proposed by the WKMSE and endorsed by the SAC for 2025.

19. The HCRs shall ensure, for the key stocks, a low probability of spawning stock biomass falling below  $B_{lim}$  (5 percent probability).

***Safeguards***

20. Where, based on SAC scientific advice, the spawning biomass of any of the key stocks is below  $B_{pa}$ , the GFCM shall take remedial measures to ensure the rapid return of the concerned stocks to levels above those capable of producing MSY. In particular, fishing effort and/or catch limits shall be set at levels consistent with producing a fishing mortality lower than  $F_{msy}$ , taking into account the decrease in biomass.

21. Where, based on SAC scientific advice, the spawning biomass of any of the key stocks is below  $B_{lim}$ , the GFCM shall take further remedial measures to ensure the rapid return of the concerned stocks to levels above those capable of producing MSY. In particular, such remedial measures may include suspending the fishery targeting the concerned stocks and an adequate reduction in fishing effort or catch limits.

**PART V**  
**Technical measures**

***Spatial and temporal closures***

22. Over the transitional period, the SAC shall: i) assess whether a ban on fishing within established and new fisheries restricted areas (FRAs) could be applied to longlines and gillnets; and ii) increase the understanding of the reproductive peaks, recruitment and spawning periods of relevant species to determine appropriate spatio-temporal measures through an analysis of fishery-independent and dependent information as well as of the scientific literature. Such measures could be implemented within the long-term management plan.

23. Over the transitional period, as a pilot measure, bottom longlines, gillnets and trammel nets targeting European hake spawning aggregations shall stop fishing for 30 consecutive days between the months of March and April. Contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties shall communicate to the GFCM Secretariat, no later than 30 June 2023, and annually thereafter, these temporal restrictions.

24. Any fishing activity with bottom trawlers, irrespective of the vessels' length overall shall not be allowed between the coast and the 200 m depth isobath in GSA 14 (Gulf of Gabès). This closure shall apply every year from 1 July until 30 September.

***Fisheries restricted areas***

25. Fisheries restricted areas for the conservation and management of the key stocks shall be maintained where already established in the northern part or where newly established in the southern part of the Strait of Sicily.

26. The FRAs already adopted in Recommendation GFCM/42/2018/5 in the three areas of the Strait of Sicily as defined in Annex 2 of this recommendation shall be extended for the duration of this plan, as of 1 January 2023.

27. Any demersal fishing activity, including recreational fisheries, irrespective of the vessels' length overall, shall not be allowed in the FRAs referred to in paragraph 26.
28. In order to avoid accidental access to the FRAs referred to in paragraph 26, buffer areas extending 1 nautical mile beyond the FRAs shall be established as defined in Annex 2.
29. For any fishing activity with bottom trawls in the buffer areas established in paragraph 28, vessels shall ensure that their vessel monitoring system (VMS) is fully functional before entering the buffer zone. Those vessels not equipped with VMS transponders and aiming to fish in the buffer areas shall be equipped with another geolocation system allowing control authorities to track their activities.
30. In line with paragraph 25, the SAC shall examine the possibility of establishing new FRAs in the southern Strait of Sicily. In 2023, CPCs, with the support of the GFCM Secretariat, shall ensure the continuation of existing surveys-at-sea, as well as the monitoring of new areas (e.g. the shelf and slopes at the borders of the Malta plateau). Particular focus shall be given to the continuation of the scientific surveys in GSAs 12, 13 and 14 towards confirming European hake nursery areas in the Gulf of Hammamet and the Gulf of Tunis as potential temporary or permanent FRAs. In addition, CPCs shall continue efforts to map vulnerable marine ecosystems towards their protection from trawling in the Strait of Sicily. The CPCs concerned should submit necessary data for the evaluation of new FRAs in the southern Strait of Sicily one month ahead of the 2024 meeting of the Subregional Committee for the Central Mediterranean at the latest and support the work for their evaluation.

#### ***Minimum conservation reference size***

31. During the transitional period, the SAC shall identify, in the context of Resolution GFCM/44/2021/2 on the definition of a minimum conservation reference size for priority stocks in the Mediterranean Sea, appropriate minimum conservation reference sizes (MCRS) for the key stocks lacking an MCRS to be then applied within the long-term management plan for all species covered.
32. Recommendation GFCM/40/2016/5 establishing a minimum conservation reference size for European hake in the Mediterranean Sea shall apply.
33. In line with Recommendation GFCM/42/2018/5 on a multiannual management plan for bottom trawl fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the Strait of Sicily (geographical subareas 12 to 16), repealing Recommendations GFCM/39/2015/2 and GFCM/40/2016/4, the MCRS for deep-water rose shrimp shall be set 20 mm CL.
34. Specimens of key stocks smaller than the MCRS defined in paragraphs 32 and 33 shall not be caught, retained on board, transhipped, transferred, landed, stored, sold, displayed or offered for sale by professional or recreational fisheries. The same provision applies for the remaining key stocks in the long-term management plan, in line with the MCRS established in paragraph 31.

### **PART VI**

#### **Fleet management measures**

35. Contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties shall ensure that the overall fleet capacity of the fleets operating with bottom trawls and actively fishing for the key stocks does not exceed, in terms of gross tonnage (GT), engine power (kW) and number of vessels, as recorded both in national and GFCM registers, over the duration of this recommendation, the fleet capacity for demersal fisheries in the year 2021.
36. Vessels authorized to fish the key stocks with bottom trawls in the Strait of Sicily shall be listed by the CPC whose flag they are flying.

37. Contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties shall communicate to the GFCM Secretariat, no later than 1 August in the first year and by 31 March of each subsequent year, the list of vessels flying their flag and actively fishing for the key stocks for the current year or forthcoming years. This list shall include, for each vessel, the information referred to in Annex 3.

38. Each CPC shall ensure that adequate mechanisms are set up to record each fishing vessel in a national fleet register and to record vessels' catches and fishing effort via the logbook, as well as to monitor fishing vessels' activities and landings via catch and effort sampling surveys according to the rules stipulated by each CPC.

39. Contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties shall maintain and keep updated a register of the above-mentioned fishing authorizations. Unless specifically provided for in the DCRF, CPCs shall communicate the following to the GFCM Secretariat:

- a) the list of operating vessels for which such authorization has been issued for current or forthcoming year(s), no later than 31 March of each year; and
- b) a report on fishing activities carried out by the vessels referred to in paragraph 36 in an aggregated format, including the following minimum information – number of exploitation days, exploitation area, catches and discards of European hake and of deep-water rose shrimp – no later than 31 August of each year, starting from August 2023.

40. The GFCM Secretariat shall maintain and update the list of fishing vessels authorized to fish for the key species and publish it on the GFCM website in a manner that is consistent with GFCM data confidentiality policy and procedures.

41. The above provisions are 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.

## **PART VII**

### **Scientific monitoring, adaptation and revision of the plan**

42. The SAC shall provide, on an annual basis starting from 2023, advice on the status of all the key stocks in the Strait of Sicily, including specific objectives to maintain fishing mortality within agreed precautionary fishing mortality reference points and to maintain or restore the key stocks at levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield in accordance with the objectives set out in paragraph 9.

43. Based on SAC advice, the GFCM may review the content of the multiannual management plan.

44. Where SAC advice indicates that the general or specific objectives of the multiannual management plan are not being met, the GFCM shall decide on additional and/or alternative management measures to contribute to achieving those objectives.

45. Where, for any reason (e.g. lack of appropriate data), the SAC is not in a position to provide accurate advice on the stock status of the key stocks and on their exploitation levels, the GFCM shall decide on the most appropriate management measures to ensure the sustainability of the fisheries. These measures shall be based on SAC advice in accordance with the precautionary approach and taking into consideration environmental and socioeconomic elements in a way that guarantees the sustainability of the fisheries.

46. Contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties, with the support of GFCM Secretariat, shall ensure the implementation of the pilot project to improve trawl gear selectivity, in particular in fisheries targeting deep-water rose shrimp in the Strait of Sicily in 2023.



## **PART VIII**

### **Specific measures to address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing**

47. Each CPC shall ensure that adequate mechanisms are in place for the registration of each fishing vessel in a national fleet register, for the recording of the vessel's catch and fishing effort in the logbook and for the monitoring of the vessel's fishing activities and landings by means of surveys and sampling of catches and fishing effort, carried out in accordance with the rules laid down by each CPC.
48. Each CPC shall designate landing points at which landings by vessels actively fishing for the key stocks in the Strait of Sicily shall take place.
49. For each designated port, the concerned CPC shall specify permitted landing and transshipping times and places.
50. Contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties shall carry out inspections on the basis of a risk analysis.
51. It shall be prohibited to land or transship from fishing vessels any quantity of key stocks fished in the Strait of Sicily at any place other than ports designated by CPCs in accordance with paragraph 48.
52. Contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties shall transmit to the GFCM Secretariat, no later than 30 April 2023 and subsequently on 30 November each year, any changes to the list of the designated landing points at which landings of key stocks in the Strait of Sicily may take place.
53. Contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties shall engage to cooperate in the fight against IUU fishing activities, in particular through sharing information and gathering intelligence to fight against illegal activities.
54. Part VII of this recommendation is without prejudice to Recommendation GFCM/41/2017/7.

## **PART IX**

### **Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) programme**

55. Vessels operating with otter trawls, bottom longlines, gillnets and trammel nets exploiting key stocks in the Strait of Sicily shall be allowed to carry out specific fishing activities only if these are indicated in a valid fishing authorization issued by the competent authorities.
56. Authorized vessels shall be equipped with a VMS in accordance with Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/7.
57. Contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties shall monitor the consumption of the effort and catch limits, as follows: beginning from the date when 80 percent of the quota has been exhausted, the CPC concerned shall communicate to the GFCM monthly reports on effort and catch. Such a report should be sent by the fifteenth day of the month for the previous month. When the effort or catch limit has been reached, the CPC shall prohibit any further fishing effort on or catches of key stocks.

## **PART X**

### **Permanent inspection scheme**

58. The permanent inspection scheme established for demersal stocks by Recommendation GFCM/41/2017/8 is amended and extended with Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/15 on an international joint inspection and surveillance scheme outside the waters under national jurisdiction in the Strait of Sicily (geographical subareas 12 to 16), amending Recommendation GFCM/41/2017/8 and repealing Recommendation GFCM/42/2018/6, to cover this recommendation.

**PART XI**  
**National management plans**

59. In order to ensure adequate conservation of the key stocks, CPCs shall adopt fisheries management measures or national management plans in the Strait of Sicily.

60. Contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties shall notify the GFCM Secretariat, from 30 September 2023, of the management measures or management plans adopted at the national level. Where appropriate, should these measures be modified, the CPCs shall communicate such modifications by 30 April of the following year.

**PART XII**  
**Final provisions**

61. The multiannual management plan established by this recommendation shall remain in force for eight years from the date of its adoption.

62. Measures in this recommendation shall be without prejudice to stricter measures adopted by the CPCs.

63. On the basis of SAC scientific advice, the GFCM may revise this recommendation.

64. This recommendation repeals and replaces Recommendations GFCM/44/2021/12 and GFCM/42/2018/5.

**Annex 1**

Fishing opportunities by fleet segment for demersal fisheries in the Strait of Sicily (GSAs 12 to 16) over the transitional period 2023–2025.

In line with paragraphs 11 to 13, effort and catch limits are reported for each CPC with an active fleet fishing for the key stocks.

	<b>Gear</b>	<b>Fleet segment</b>	<b>European Union 2023–2025</b>	<b>Tunisia 2023–2025</b>
Effort regime for European hake (fishing days)	Otter trawlers	T-07	90	0
		T-08	188	0
		T-10	19 704	0
		T-11	3 870	25 994
		T-12	3	23 443

	<b>European Union 2023</b>	<b>European Union 2024</b>	<b>European Union 2025</b>	<b>Tunisia 2023</b>	<b>Tunisia 2024</b>	<b>Tunisia 2025</b>
Catch limit (tonnes) for deep-water rose shrimp	2 154	2 090	2 026	3 993	3 874	3 757

### Geographical coordinates of fisheries restricted areas in the northern Strait of Sicily

Fisheries restricted area 1: East of Adventure Bank

Fisheries restricted area	
Latitude	Longitude
37° 23,850' N	12° 30,072' E
37° 23,884' N	12° 48,282' E
37° 11,567' N	12° 48,305' E
37° 11,532' N	12° 30,095' E

Buffer area	
Latitude	Longitude
37° 24,849'N	12° 28,814' E
37° 24,888'N	12° 49,536' E
37° 10,567'N	12° 49,559' E
37° 10,528'N	12° 28,845' E

Fisheries restricted area 2: West of Gela Basin

Fisheries restricted area	
Latitude	Longitude
37° 12,040'N	13° 17,925'E
37° 12,047' N	13° 36,170'E
36° 59,725' N	13° 36,175'E
36° 59,717' N	13° 17,930'E

Buffer area	
Latitude	Longitude
37° 13,041'N	13° 16,672'E
37° 13,049'N	13° 37,422'E
36° 58,723'N	13° 37,424'E
36° 58,715'N	13° 16,682'E

Fisheries restricted area 3: East of Malta Bank

Fisheries restricted area	
Latitude	Longitude
36° 12,621'N	15° 13,338'E
36° 12,621'N	15° 26,062'E
35° 59,344'N	15° 26,062'E
35° 59,344'N	15° 13,338'E

Buffer area	
Latitude	Longitude
36° 13,624'N	15° 12,102'E
36° 13,624'N	15° 27,298'E
35° 58,342'N	15° 27,294'E
35° 58,342'N	15° 12,106'E

### Annex 3

Subject to more detailed provisions under the GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF), the list referred to in paragraph 37 shall contain, for each vessel, the following information:

- Vessel name
- National registration number (code assigned by the CPCs)
- Vessel registration number (country ISO 3-alpha code + 9 digits, e.g. xxx000000001)
- 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 (indicate yes/no)
- Vessel type, length overall (LOA) and gross tonnage (GT) and engine power expressed in kW
- Name and address of owner(s) and/or charter and/or operator(s)
- Main target species
- Main gear used for European hake and deep-water rose shrimp and DCRF fleet segment allocation
- Time period authorized for fishing with bottom trawl or any other gear likely to fish European hake and/or deep-water rose shrimp (if any of such authorization)