

Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/8 on the implementation of a fishing effort regime for key demersal stocks in the Adriatic Sea (geographical subareas 17 and 18) in 2023, stemming from Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/5

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 the most recent scientific advice, endorsed by the Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC) at its twenty-third session, showing an enduring overexploitation of most Adriatic key demersal stocks;

RECALLING that in January 2022 the first effort allocation, based on SAC advice, was established with 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), which entailed the first effort allocation of a five-year fishing effort regime established for the period 2022–2026 towards the achievement of the objectives set in paragraph 9 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 such allocations shall be expressed in fishing days per contracting party and cooperating non-contracting party (CPC) and effort group for the fleet segments and types of fishing gear;

CONSIDERING that the GFCM shall ensure that, for each CPC, increases or decreases towards effort allocation are in line with the formula in Annex 4 of Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/5 and with total effort in the area in the reference year by the effort groups listed in Annex 3, as reported starting from 2021;

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

1. The annual reduction in fishing mortality needed to achieve the maximum sustainable yield (F_{msy}) target in 2026 for all the key stocks shall be a progressive linear reduction until the maximum sustainable yield. In line with this progression, the overall reduction in fishing effort for 2023 shall globally be of 5.2 percent for otter trawl (OTB) gear and 3 percent for beam trawl (TBB) gear.
2. The fishing effort allocations for 2023, established in line with paragraph 1 of this recommendation and 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 of this recommendation. Effort allocations for 2023 shall cover the entire period from 1 January to 31 December and the fishing effort days exerted over the months preceding the legal entry into force of this recommendation shall be accounted for, by effort group, against the effort consumption of 2023.

3. A CPC may amend its fishing effort allocations by transferring fishing days across fishing effort groups of the same geographical area and/or fishing gear, provided that the CPC applies a national conversion factor which is supported by the best available scientific advice. In 2023, the SAC shall provide conversion factors. The exchanged fishing days and conversion factor shall be made available immediately, and no later than after 10 working days, to the GFCM Secretariat and other concerned CPCs.

4. Fishing day allocations by vessel length, as established in paragraph 2 and in annex of this recommendation, shall not prejudice future segmentation.

Annex

Transitional fishing effort allocation to concerned contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties, expressed in fishing days and effort group code, for the period of 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

					Fishing days 2023		
Fishing gear type	Geographical subarea	Stocks concerned	Vessel length overalls	Effort group code	European Union	Albania	Montenegro ¹
Otter trawls (OTB)	17–18	Red mullet; European hake; deep-water rose shrimp; norway lobster	< 12 m	OTB 12 <	13 372	0	
			≥ 12 m and < 24 m	OTB 12–24	97 124	16 015	
			≥ 24 m	OTB 24	8 561	5 711	
Beam trawls (TBB)	17	Common sole	< 12 m	TBB 12 <	194	0	0
			≥ 12 m and < 24 m	TBB 12–24	3 635	0	0
			≥ 24 m	TBB > 24	3 614	0	0

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