

Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/9 on a multiannual management plan for turbot fisheries in the Black Sea (geographical subarea 29), amending Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/3

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;

RECALLING that in giving effect to the objective of the GFCM Agreement, the GFCM shall foster, as appropriate, a subregional approach to fisheries management and aquaculture development in order to better address the specificities of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea;

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

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 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) 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 conservation and management measures”;

RECALLING that the 2016 Bucharest Declaration towards enhanced cooperation on Black Sea fisheries and aquaculture and the 2018 Sofia Ministerial Declaration on Black Sea fisheries and aquaculture provide a concrete set of actions for Black Sea riparian countries to implement, particularly with regard to existing management measures that will be complemented and expanded in order to progressively achieve exploitation at maximum sustainable yield;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the GFCM 2030 Strategy for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea endorsed with Resolution GFCM/44/2021/12, particularly its Target 1 “Fisheries and ecosystems: healthy seas and productive fisheries”;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/41/2017/4 on a multiannual management plan for turbot fisheries in the Black Sea (geographical subarea 29), as amended by Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/3;

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

ACKNOWLEDGING that due to force majeure in 2022, the tenth meeting of the Working Group on the Black Sea (WGBS) was postponed to 2023, meaning that up-to-date scientific advice is expected in 2023;

CONSIDERING that certain fisheries management measures of the turbot multiannual management plan need to be extended to 2023, notably the total allowable catch (TAC) and the quotas allocated to contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties (CPCs), with a view to avoiding interruptions of fishing activities;

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

Amendment of Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/3

1. Paragraph 1 a) shall be amended and replaced as follows:

For the years 2020–2023, an annual TAC shall be set to 857 tonnes for CPCs, with the following allocation:

CPCs	Annual quotas 2020–2023 (in tonnes)	Percentage
European Union	150	17.5
Türkiye	497	58.0
Ukraine	160	18.7
Georgia	20	2.3
Others	30	3.5
Total	857	100.0

2. Paragraph 4 shall be amended and replaced as follows:

In the context of the multiannual management plan for turbot fisheries, the WGBS shall provide, at its tenth meeting in 2023, scientific advice including the necessary elements for setting biological reference points and for the revision of TAC and quotas, to be adopted by the GFCM at its forty-sixth session in 2023.