



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



General Fisheries Commission
for the Mediterranean
Commission générale des pêches
pour la Méditerranée

Relevant provisions related to bycatch

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

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The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) of the FAO

- Established in 1949 in the framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN)

- Objectives

- To ensure the conservation and sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of **living marine resources** (contributing to the conservation and preservation of the Mediterranean and Black Sea)
- To ensure the **sustainable development of aquaculture**

- Area of application:

- The **Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea**

- Membership

- 23 Contracting Parties**

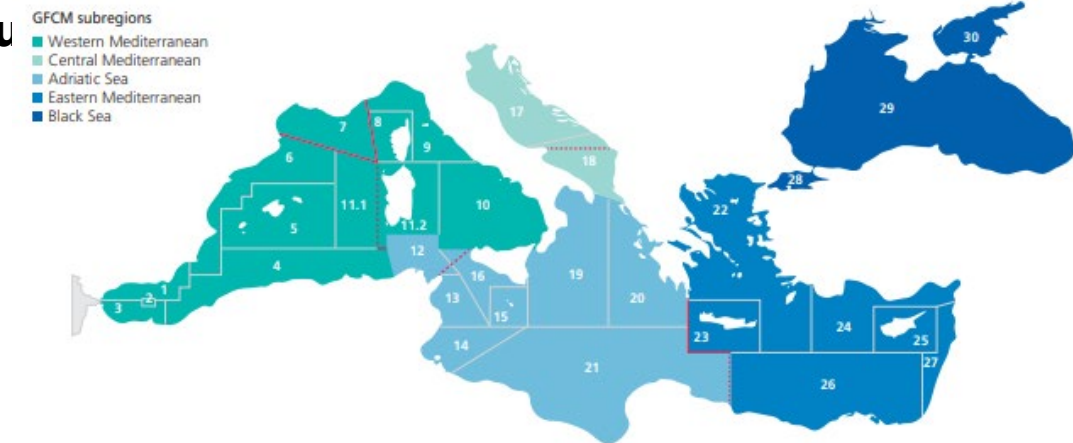
- 19 Mediterranean states, 3 Black Sea states and EU

- 5 Cooperating non-Contracting Parties**

- Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova and Jordan

- Key function

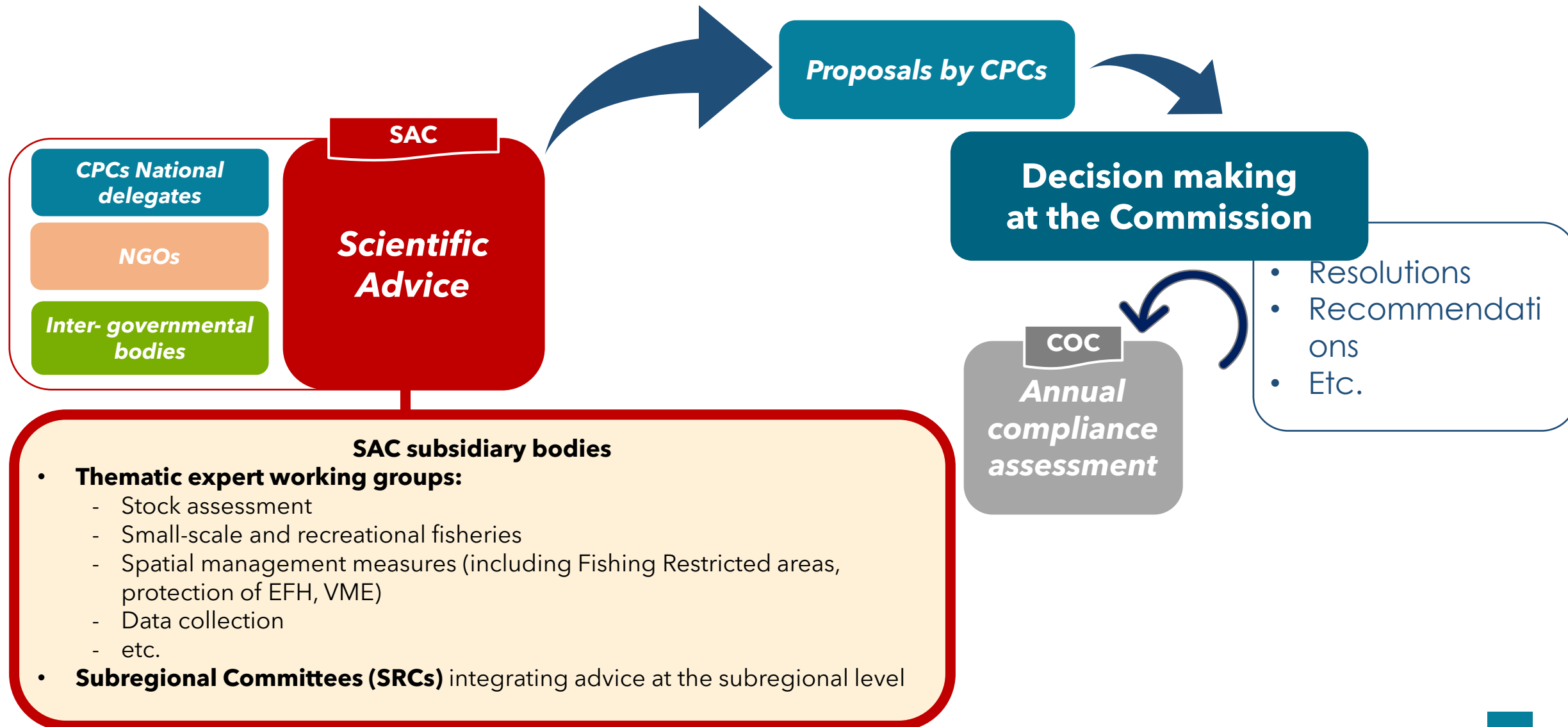
- Adopt **binding recommendations** for **fisheries and aquaculture** governance including the conservation of ecosystems



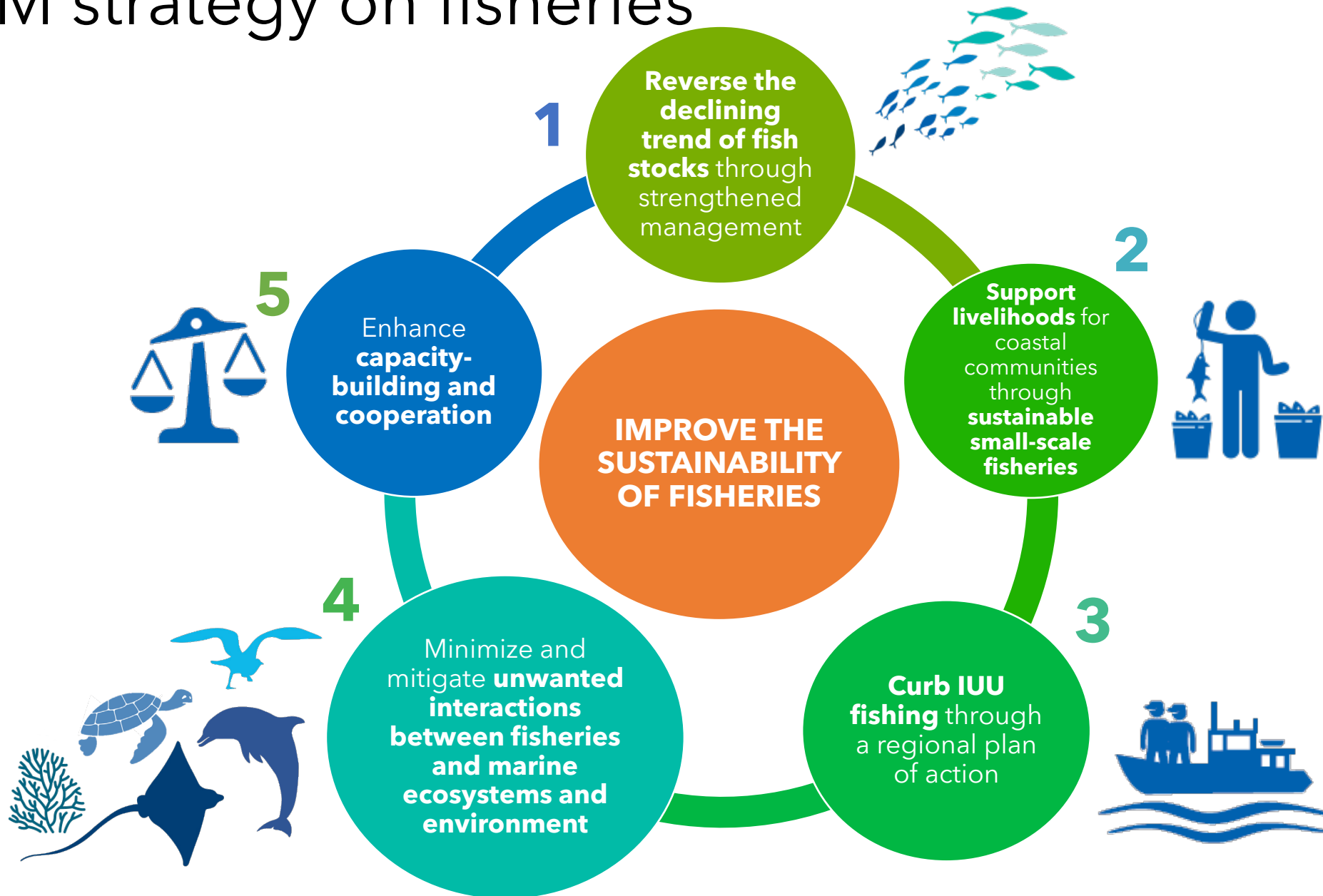
FAO statistical divisions GFCM geographical subareas (GSAs) Source: GFCM, 2018.

01. Northern Alboran Sea	07. Gulf of Lion	13. Gulf of Hammamet	19. Western Ionian Sea	25. Cyprus
02. Alboran island	08. Corsica	14. Gulf of Gabès	20. Eastern Ionian Sea	26. South Levant
03. Southern Alboran Sea	09. Ligurian Sea and northern Tyrrhenian Sea	15. Malta	21. Southern Ionian Sea	27. Eastern Levant Sea
04. Algeria	10. South and central Tyrrhenian Sea	16. South of Sicily	22. Aegean Sea	28. Marmara Sea
05. Balearic islands	11.1. Sardinia (west) 11.2. Sardinia (east)	17. Northern Adriatic Sea	23. Crete	29. Black Sea
06. Northern Spain	12. Northern Tunisia	18. Southern Adriatic Sea	24. North Levant Sea	30. Azov Sea

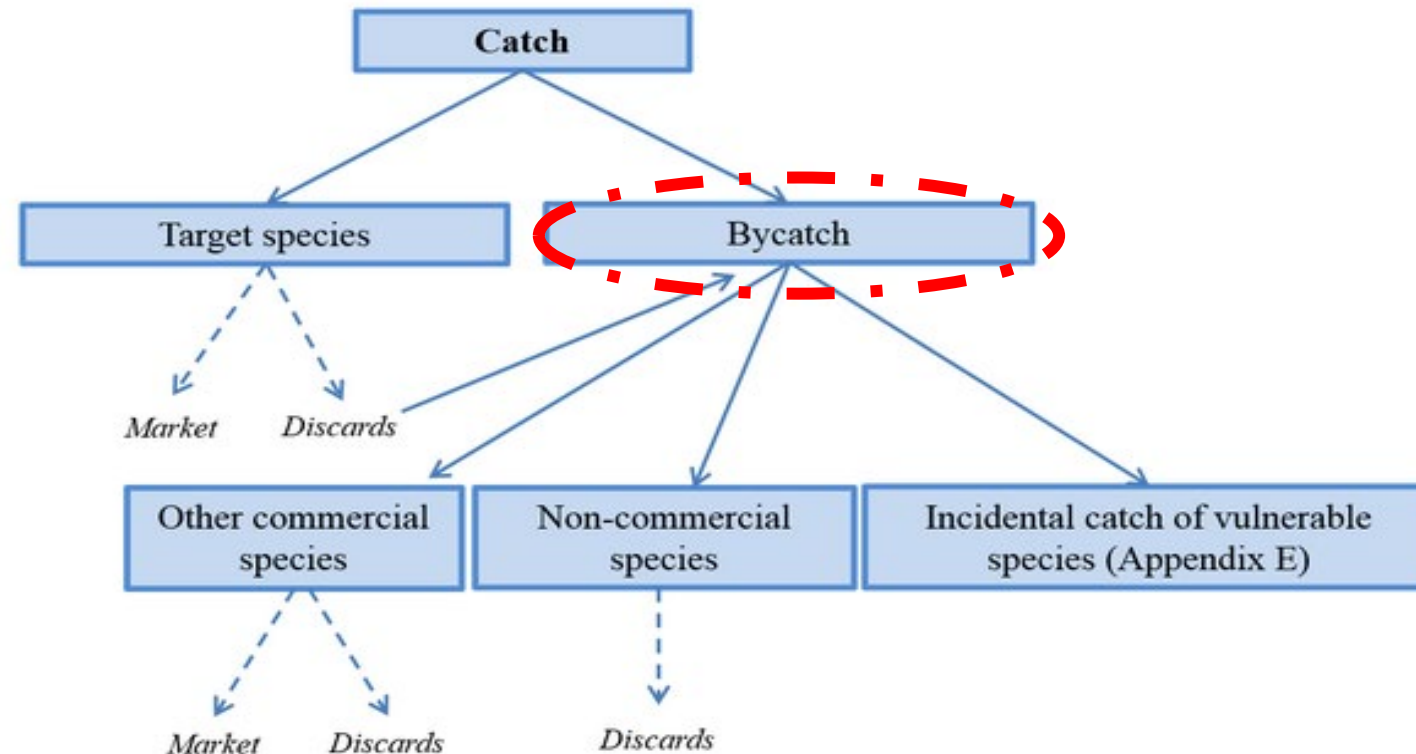
Decision-making process within the GFCM



GFCM strategy on fisheries



Understanding bycatch and adopting effective measures to reduce it represent essential steps towards minimizing the impacts of fisheries on vulnerable species, discards, and more generally on marine ecosystems, as well as towards ensuring a sustainable fishery sector.



To address this issue and better understand bycatch, the GFCM is working with fishers, national and international partners, environmental organizations and researchers to develop new tools and approaches for reducing bycatch and to implement management measures



In the last years, on the basis of the analysis of SoMFi 2018 and the adoption of a **dedicated strategy towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries**, the GFCM has launched a number of initiatives to **improve knowledge on bycatch** by fleet, subregion and species group across the Mediterranean and Black Sea. The most important of these initiatives include:

- The implementation of **discards monitoring programmes** in several countries;
- The participation in the MedBycatch project «**Understanding Mediterranean multi-taxa bycatch of vulnerable species and testing mitigation – a collaborative approach**» to monitor and mitigate incidental catch of vulnerable species.
- The involvement in the depredation projects «**Towards solutions to interactions between fisheries and cetaceans in Moroccan and Tunisian waters**»
- The participation in the project namely «**Mitigating dolphin depredation in Mediterranean fisheries – Joining efforts for strengthening cetacean conservation and sustainable fisheries**», aiming to reduce depredation by dolphins in fishing gear.



Additionally, two GFCM resolutions and one recommendation have been recently adopted:

Resolution GFCM/43/2019/6 on the establishment of a set of measures to protect **vulnerable marine ecosystems** formed by cnidarian (coral) communities in the Mediterranean Sea

Resolution GFCM/43/2019/2 on **enhancing the conservation of cetaceans** in the GFCM area of application),

Recommendation GFCM/42/2018/2 on fisheries management measures for the **conservation of sharks and rays** in the GFCM area of application

Complementing previous decisions relevant to incidental catches:

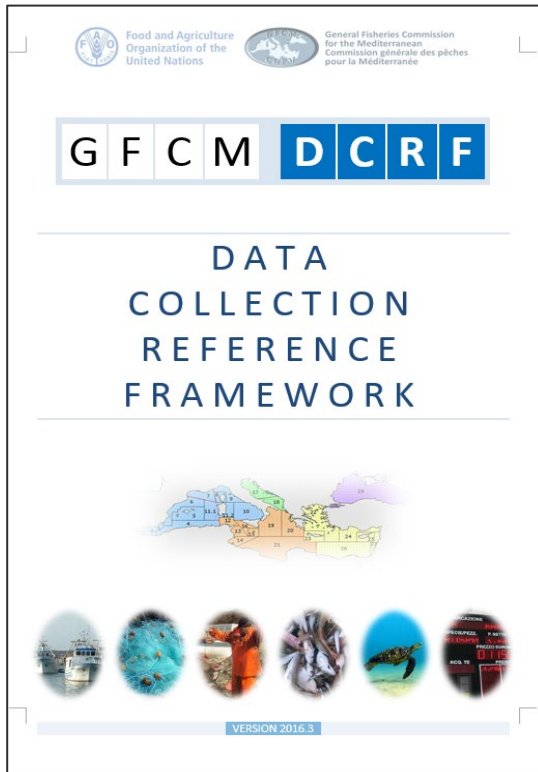
Recommendation GFCM/36/2012/2 on the mitigation of **incidental catches of cetaceans** in the GFCM area of application

Recommendation GFCM/39/2015/4 on management measures for **piked dogfish** in the Black Sea

Recommendation GFCM/37/2013/2 on the establishment of a set of minimum standards for bottom-set gillnet fisheries for turbot and **conservation of cetaceans in the Black Sea**

Recommendation GFCM/40/2016/2 on the progressive implementation of data submission in line with the GFCM **Data Collection Reference Framework** (DCRF)

GFCM-Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF)



The DCRF is the first **comprehensive GFCM framework for the collection and transmission of fisheries-related data** in the Mediterranean and Black Sea

It aims to be instrumental in achieving a **more efficient data collection** programme in the whole region, and to better **integrate data collection and subregional multiannual management plans**.

It could be regularly reviewed by relevant GFCM subsidiary bodies in light of possible requirements emanating from the GFCM Commission, including through new recommendations.



List of online data reporting tools by GFCM requirements

The following online data reporting tools will be progressively activated on the DCRF online platform according to the GFCM data submission schedule. The active tools already at disposal of CPCs for data submission purposes are highlighted in orange.

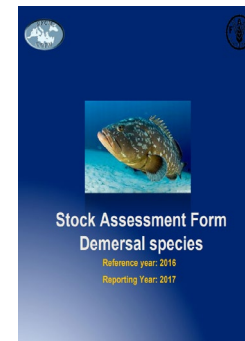
DATA REQUIREMENTS		ONLINE REPORTING TOOLS			DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION
TASK	NAME	SUBTASK	NAME	TYPE	
I	GLOBAL FIGURES	I	Global figures of national fisheries	Form	MAY
II	CATCH	II.1	Landing data	Excel	JUN
		II.2	Catch data per species		
III	BYCATCH	III	Bycatch of vulnerable species	Excel	JUL
IV	FISHING FLEET	IV.1	Fishing vessels (LOA ≤ 15m)	Excel	MAY
		IV.2	Fishing vessels (LOA > 15m)		
		IV.3	Fishery Restricted Areas		
V	FISHING EFFORT	V.1	Data per fleet segment	Excel	JUN
		V.2	Data per fishing gear		
		V.3	CPUE		
VI	SOCIO-ECONOMICS	VI.1	Economic and social data	Excel	NOV
		VI.2	Operating costs	Excel	MAY
		VI.3	Species value		
		VI.4	Other economic aspects		
VII	BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION	VII.1	Stock assessment - Input data	Excel	OCT
		VII.2	Length data	Excel	JUL
		VII.3.1	Size at first maturity		
		VII.3.2	Maturity data		
		VII.4.1	Dolphin fish (general information)		
		VII.4.2	Dolphin fish (statistics)		
		VII.5	Red coral	Excel	JUN
		VII.6	European eel		SEP

Collected data

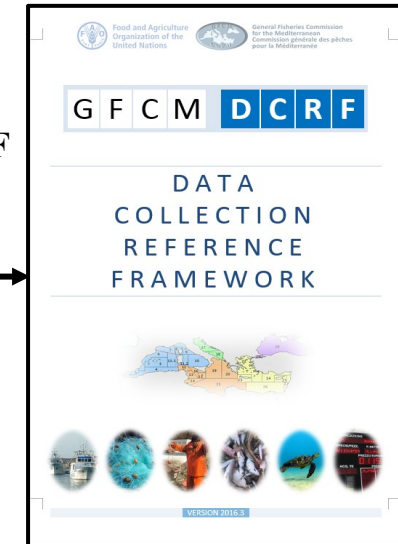


**WGSAD; WGSASP;
SGSABS**

**Stock Assessment
Forms**



DCRF



**Dedicated meeting(s)/Wks
for common analysis at
sub-regional and/or
regional level**



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Thank you for your attention

