



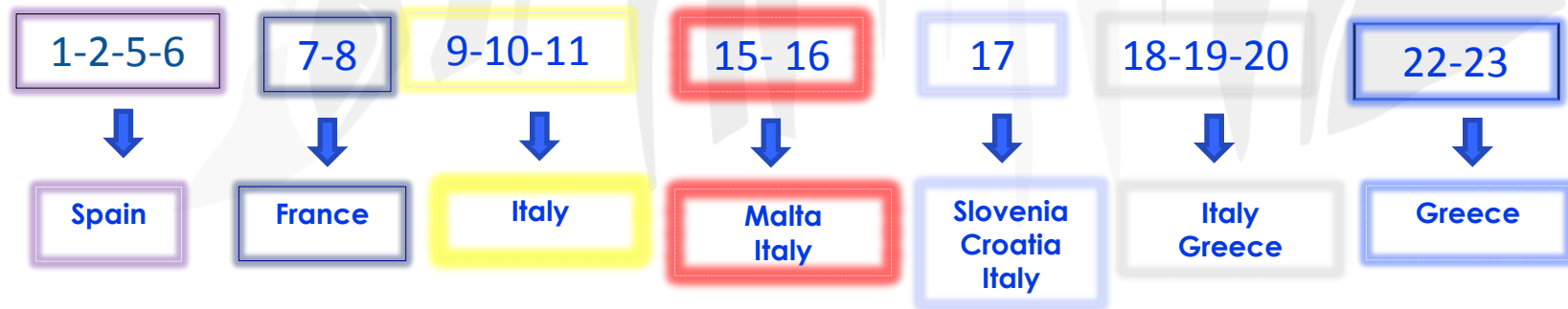
MEDAC's contribution to the Mediterranean discard plan

DiscardLess project-Mediterranean Workshop

Rome 9 March

Advice for a Joint Recommendation on LO Management Plan for small pelagic

MEDAC advice for a joint recommendation on discards management plan has been drafted thanks to the results of the ad hoc WG and it has been sent to each Mediterranean MS administration according to their GSAs. (The Cypriot association (PAPF) was not a MEDAC member yet)



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Advice for a Joint Recommendation on LO Management Plan for small pelagic

Objectives:

- ➔ to make the application of the *de minimis* exemption possible in the conditions described herein
- ➔ due to the significant difficulty in applying the *de minimis* exemption in the Mediterranean as no scientific data on discards minimum size fraction are available, we proposed to apply the *de minimis* rule (**adaptive approach**):
 - in the first two years at a fixed rate (the first year for the collection of real data and the second for data processing),
 - according to the percentage of actual catches from the third year onwards

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Critical aspects:

- Lack of specific official scientific available data;
- First time working within each MS through the election of a Country focal point with no legal framework on the MEDAC functioning;
- First time acting with a new role as Advisory Council > from just giving advices to submitting technical and articulated indications
- First time MEDAC worked directly with MS
- Lack of financial resources to organize additional regional meetings



With no coordination and cooperation with Member States, MEDAC would have never been and would not be able to give a significant and effective contribution

Advice for a Joint Recommendation on LO Management Plan for species defining the fisheries (demersal)

The MEDAC thank to the previous experience achieved with the LO for small pelagics, and with reference to the requests for cooperation received from the concerned MS, proposed an opinion for a joint recommendation for the start, as of 1st January 2017, of the landing obligation for certain demersal target species, divided into three main areas:

 **Western Mediterranean Sea (FR, IT, SP) red mullet and hake**

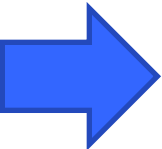
 **Adriatic Sea (HR, IT, SI) red mullet, hake and common sole**

 **Central-Eastern Mediterranean Sea (CY, GR, IT, MT) red mullet, hake and deep rose shrimp**

Advice for a Joint Recommendation on LO Management Plan for species defining the fisheries (demersal)

Objectives:

- To eradicate the capture of by-catch as far as possible, in the Mediterranean particular reference is made to Annex III to the Mediterranean Regulation.
- to minimize or eliminate the capture of undersized specimens of the target species identified, both by means of increased selectivity of the capture gear, and also by avoiding fishing activities in sensitive areas where juveniles of these species concentrate seasonally.



Where these measures are not sufficient to solve the problem, the law establishes the obligation to land and market these products for non-human consumption. This implies the creation of a specific sector on land, whether in port areas or adjacent to them, wherever landing takes place and assumes that there are companies interested in purchasing this product for various purposes (animal feed, cosmetics, lubricants, biogas etc.).

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Advice for a Joint Recommendation on LO Management Plan for species defining the fisheries (demersal)

Conclusions:

- Due to the low and irregular and seasonal volumes of discards registered throughout the Mediterranean and the lack of already existing infrastructures and industries located in proximity of the landing sites, which are widely spread throughout the coast of all Mediterranean member States (i.e. more than 800 in Italy, and close to 1000 in Croatia) it seems that disproportionate cost of handling cost of unwanted catches can be claimed for the Mediterranean.
- For socio-economic protection it is necessary to carry out a preventive analysis of the additional costs resulting from landing obligation, storage and transportation of unwanted catches and its impact on employment and company profitability. Support measures, even financially, should be provided.

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Advice for a Joint Recommendation on LO Management Plan for species defining the fisheries (demersal)

Conclusions:

- The commercialization of unwanted catches should be by any means discouraged and not implemented, especially where unwanted catches are negligible.
- Disproportionate costs of handling unwanted catches are also a major argument for trawlers to benefit from de minimis exemption authorizing limited discards.

Contribution to the Mediterranean Discard Ban

Next Steps:

- To review the joint recommendation on small pelagic fishes in 2017 according to 2016 new scientific data;
- To draft joint recommendations on discards for demersal species;
- To act as facilitator and coordinator on multiannual management plans concerning shared stocks, as foreseen by the new CFP Reform (Western Mediterranean and Adriatic Sea)

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Thank you for your attention!

r.caggiano@med-ac.eu

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