



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

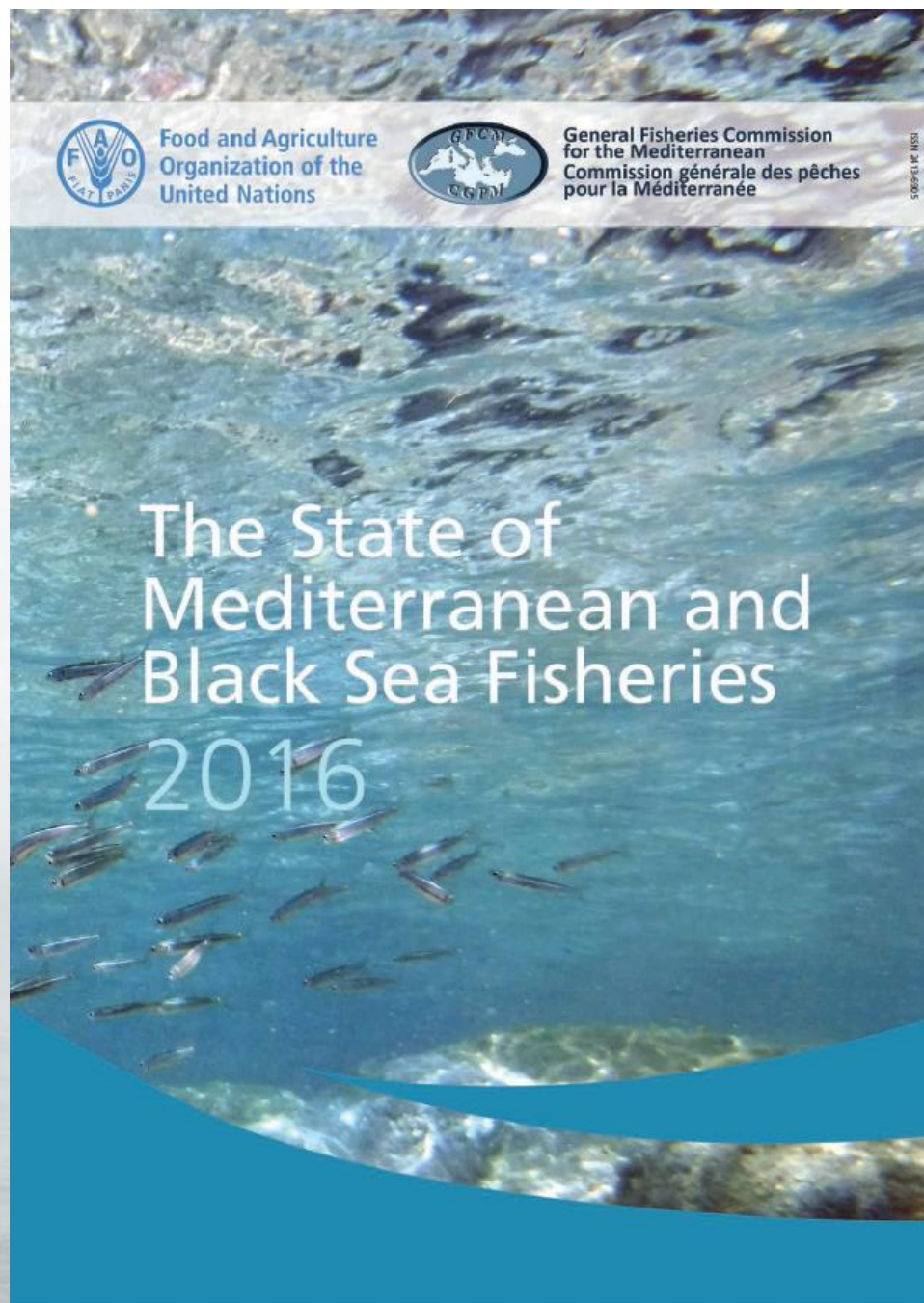


General Fisheries Commission
for the Mediterranean
Commission générale des pêches
pour la Méditerranée

Discards in the Mediterranean and Black Sea

DiscardLess project-Mediterranean
WS-Rome 9 March

GFCM Secretariat



SoMFi, 2016

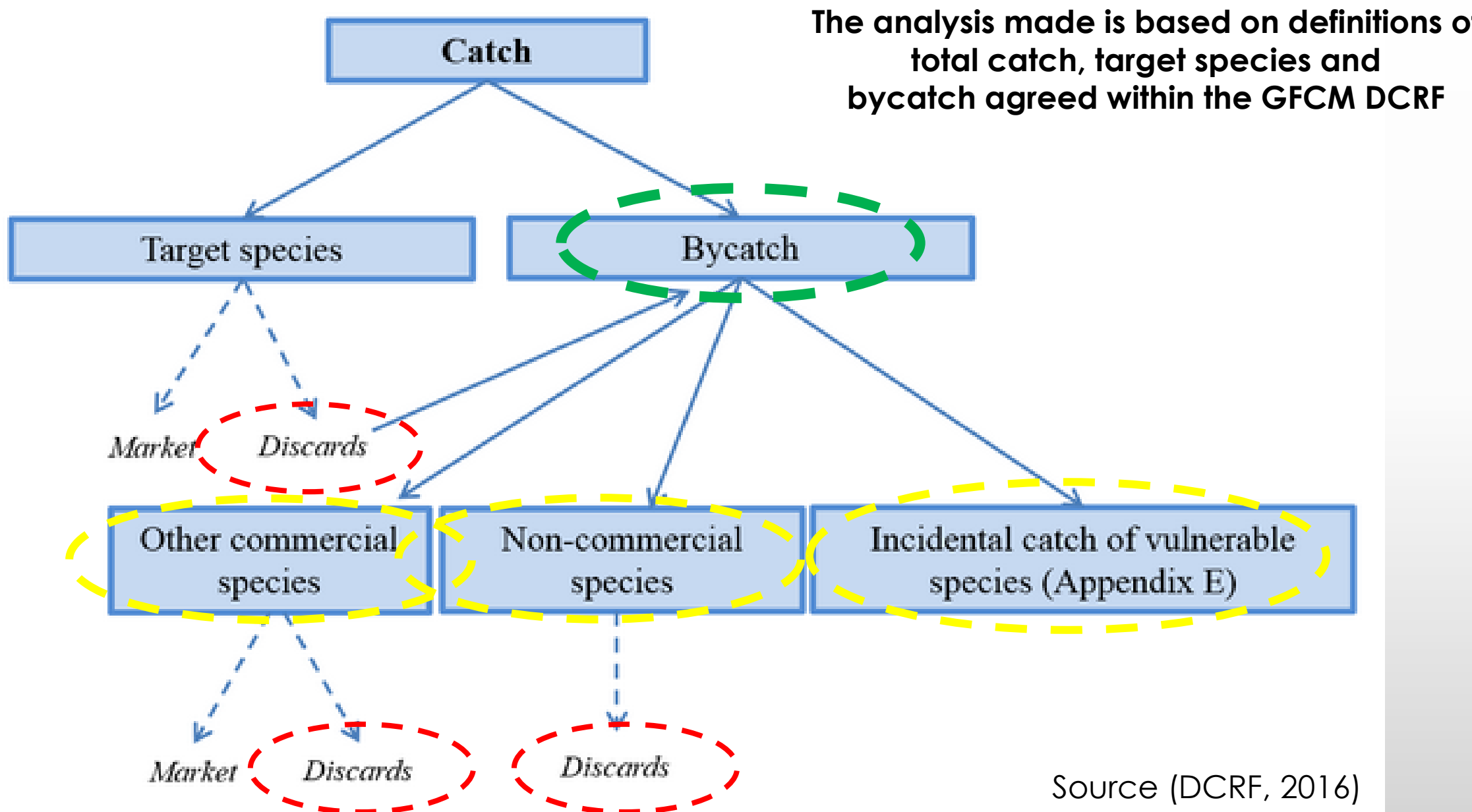
OVERVIEW OF DISCARDS BY FISHERY IN THE GFCM AREA OF APPLICATION



provides an overview of the main components of bycatch in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea: discards and incidental catches of vulnerable species.

the percentage of discards to total catch is presented, both by GFCM subregion and by major fishing fleet.

OVERVIEW OF DISCARDS BY FISHERY IN THE GFCM AREA OF APPLICATION



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In the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, identifying target species may be not simple, since most fisheries are multi-target and rely on different types of gear and fishing techniques. In such multi-species fisheries, and/or when market forces play a significant role in commercial decision-making, there may be a number of target species. The target species may also be subject to daily change.

**“One day’s waste and nuisance catch can be tomorrow’s target”
(Clucas, 1997).**

OVERVIEW OF DISCARDS BY FISHERY IN THE GFCM AREA OF APPLICATION

Discards in the Mediterranean are estimated at around **230.000 tons** (around 18 percent of the catch), with trawls responsible for the bulk of discards. In the Black Sea discards are estimated at around **45.000 tons** (10-15 % of the catch).



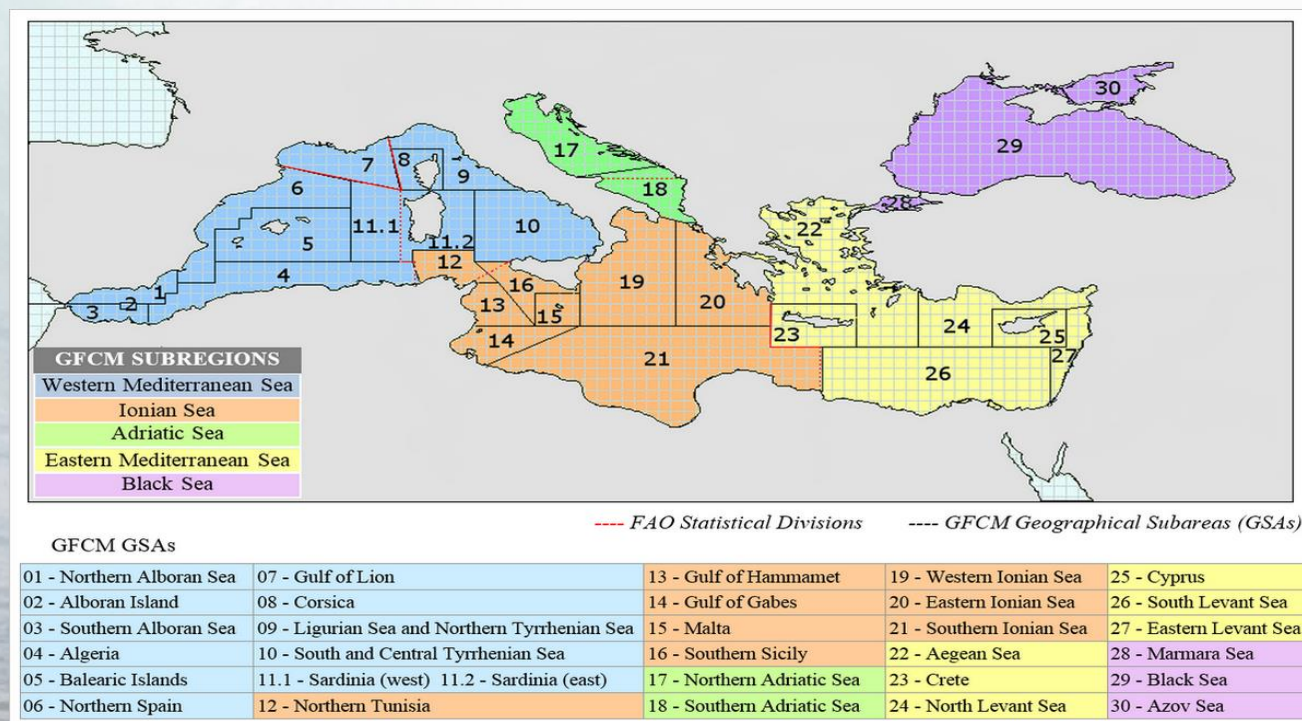
Reasons for discards may be **economic** (e.g. low market prices), **legal** (e.g. minimum landing sizes), **environmental** (e.g. weather conditions affecting sorting practices), **technical** (e.g. vessel capacity), **biological** (e.g. poisonous fish, jellyfish), and/or based on personal decisions.

Moreover, the extent of discarding is dependent on a number of variables which include the **gear and fishing method practised, the fishing ground, fishing season, depth, duration of the trip, duration of the haul, the market situation and fluctuation in the abundance of juvenile fish.**

OVERVIEW OF DISCARDS BY FISHERY IN THE GFCM AREA OF APPLICATION

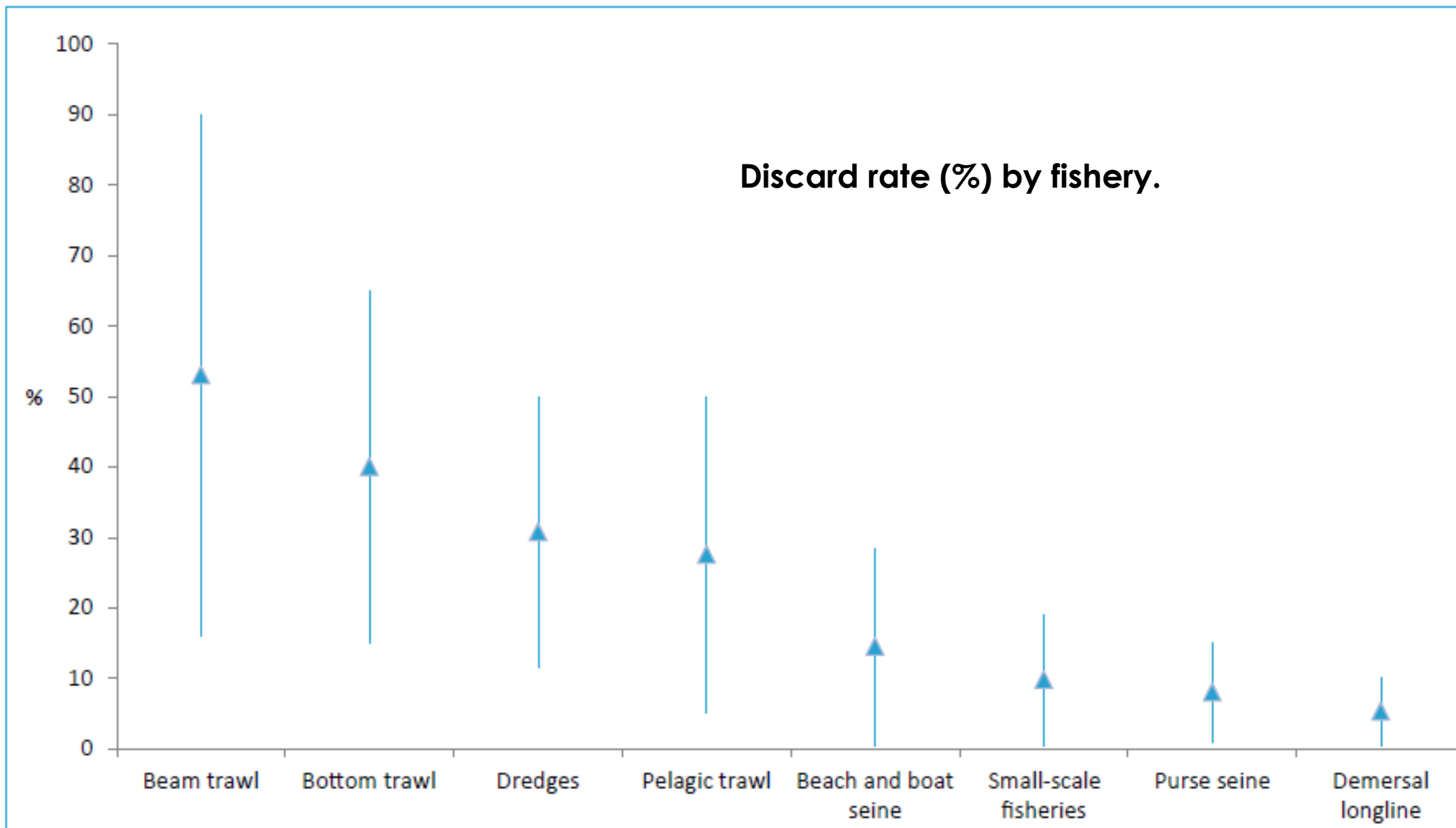
Fisheries were separated into three broad categories depending on their discard rates:

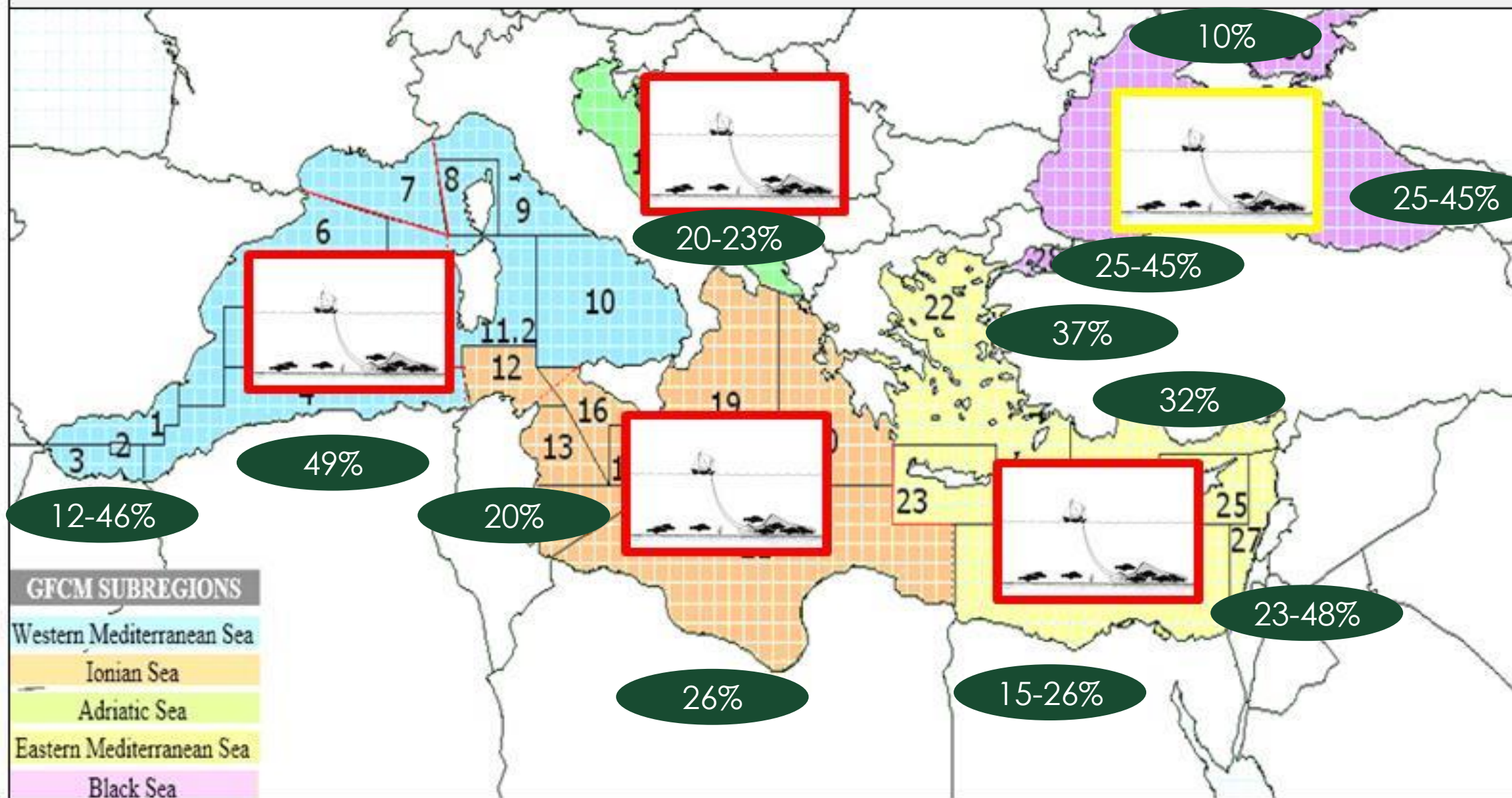
- high discard fisheries (> 40 percent of total catch)
- medium discard fisheries (15–39 percent)
- low discard fisheries (< 15 percent)



**GFCM
subregions**

OVERVIEW OF DISCARDS BY FISHERY IN THE GFCM AREA OF APPLICATION



Bottom trawl: *Discard behavior*

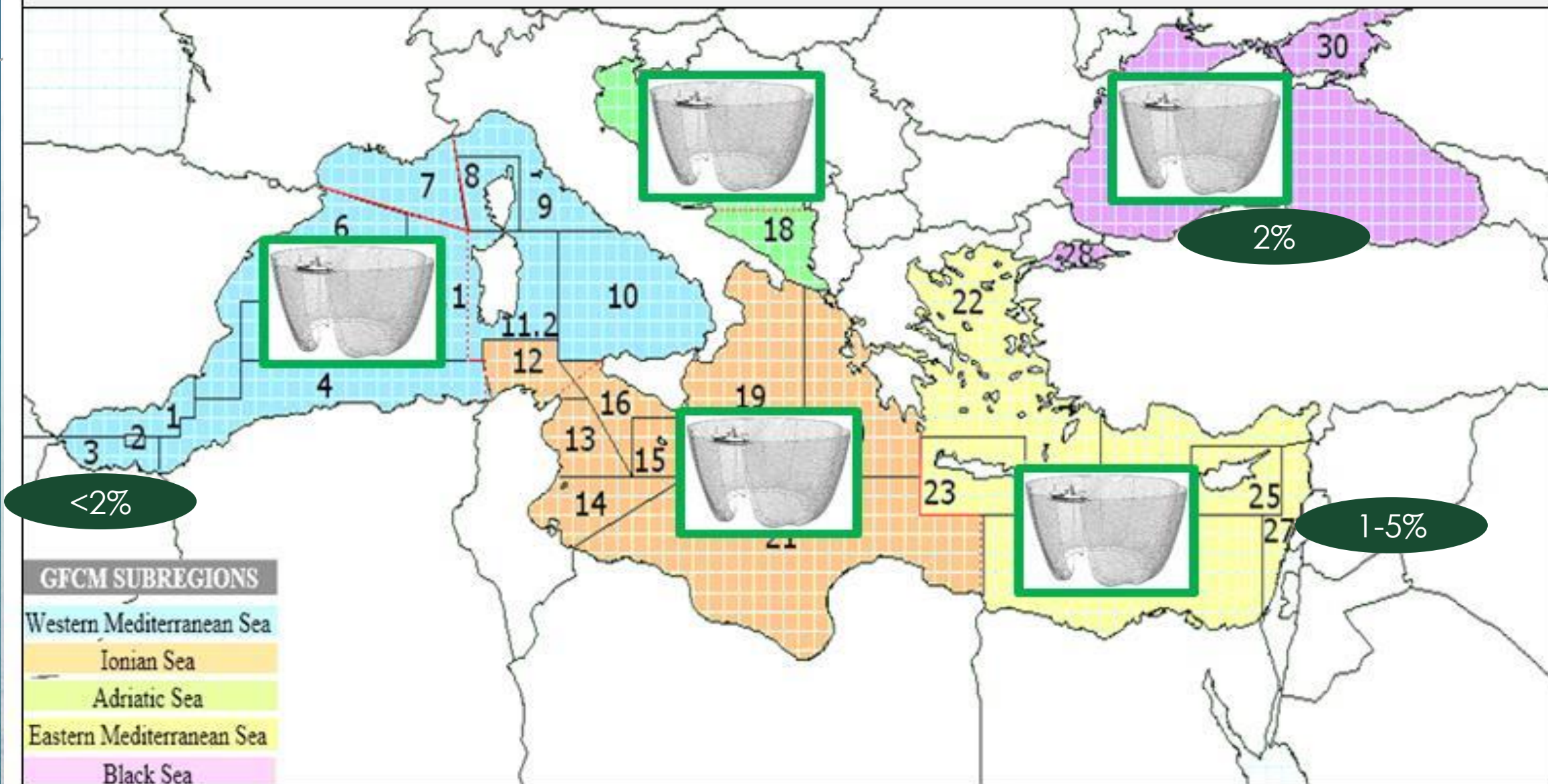
High discard rate >40%



Medium discard rate 15-39%



Low discard rate < 15%

Purse seine: *Discard behavior*

High discard rate >40%

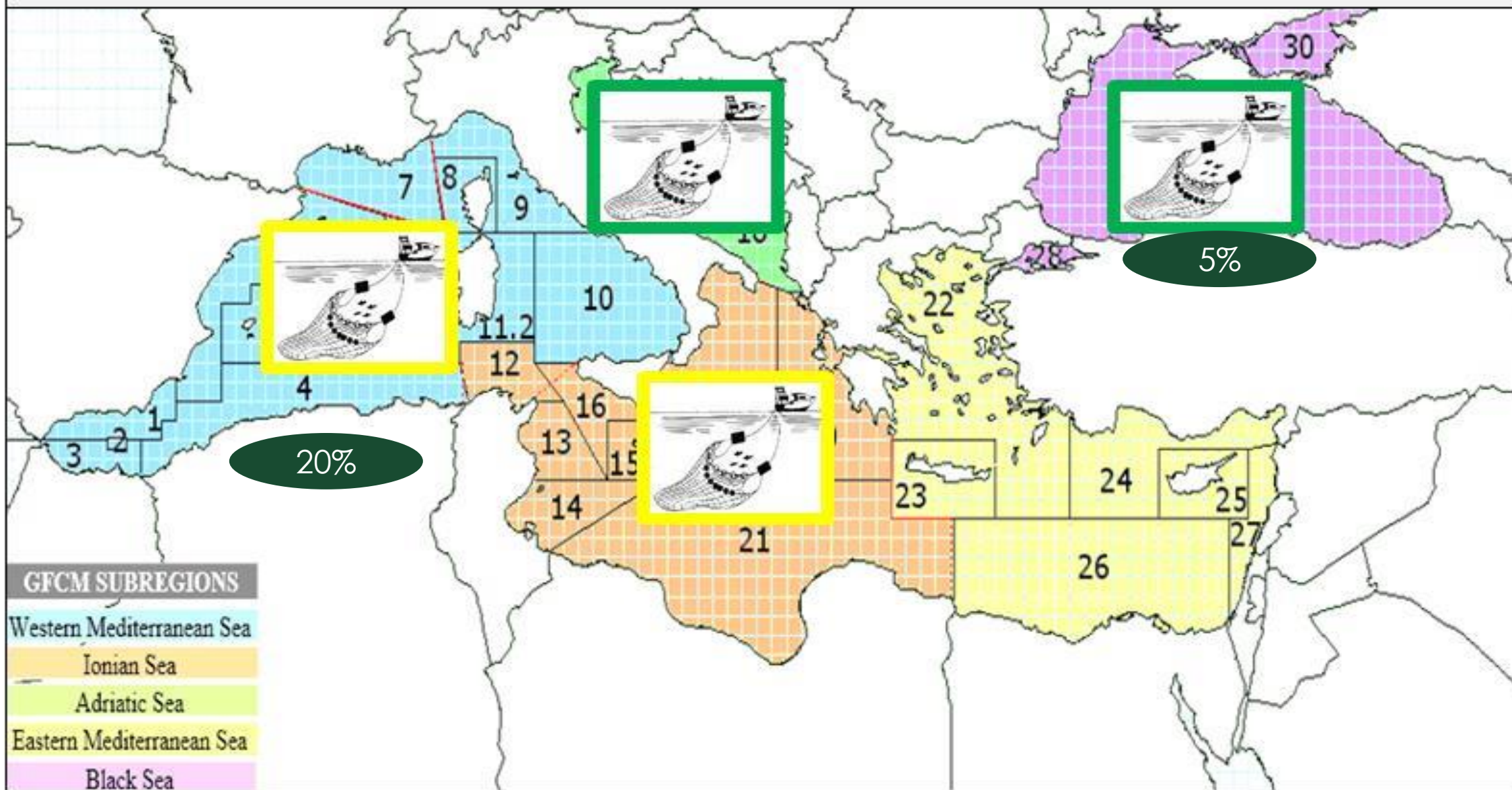


Medium discard rate 15-39%



Low discard rate < 15%

Pelagic trawl: *Discard behavior*



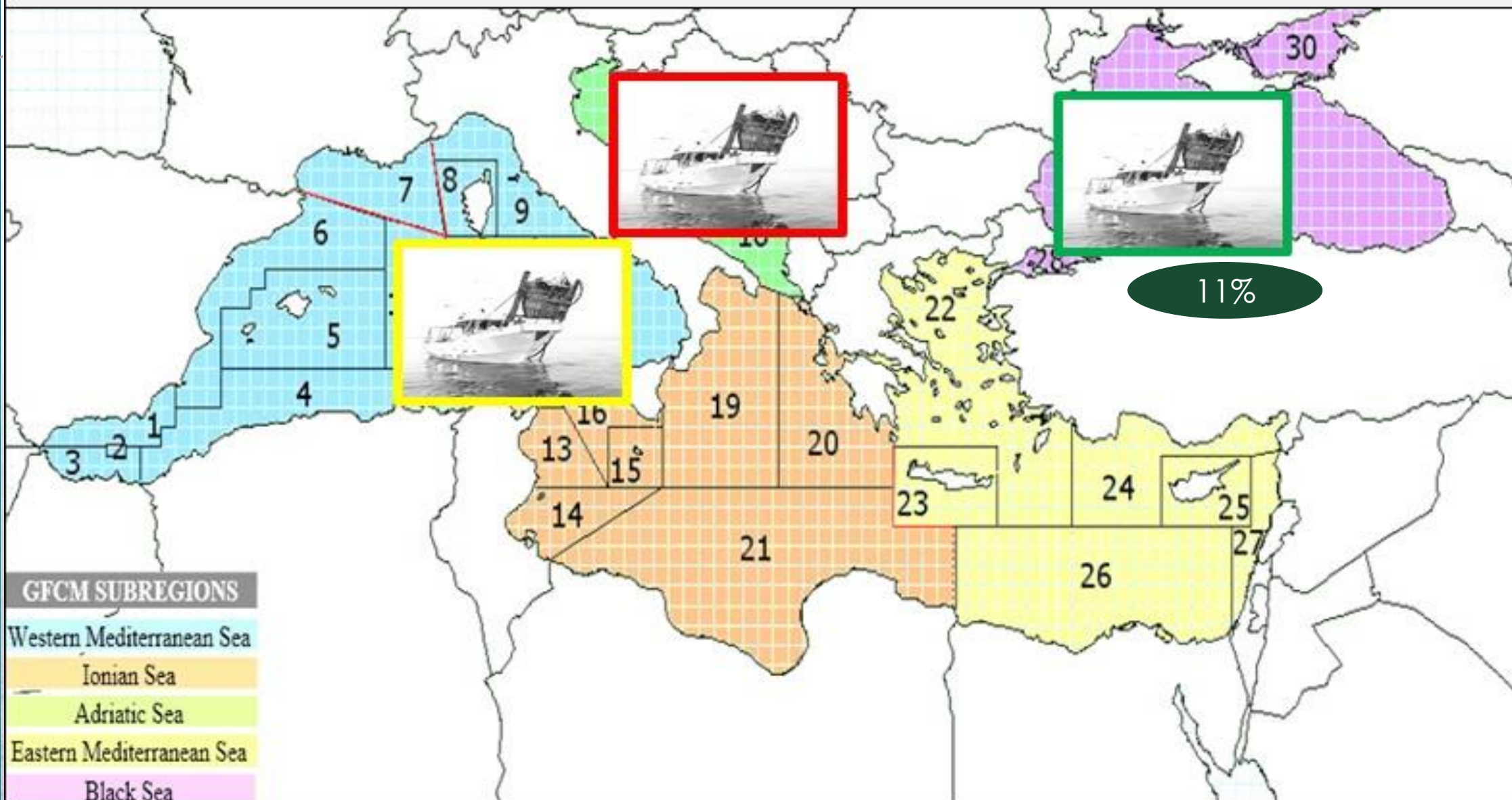
High discard rate >40%



Medium discard rate 15-39%



Low discard rate < 15%

Dredge: *Discard behavior*

High discard rate >40%

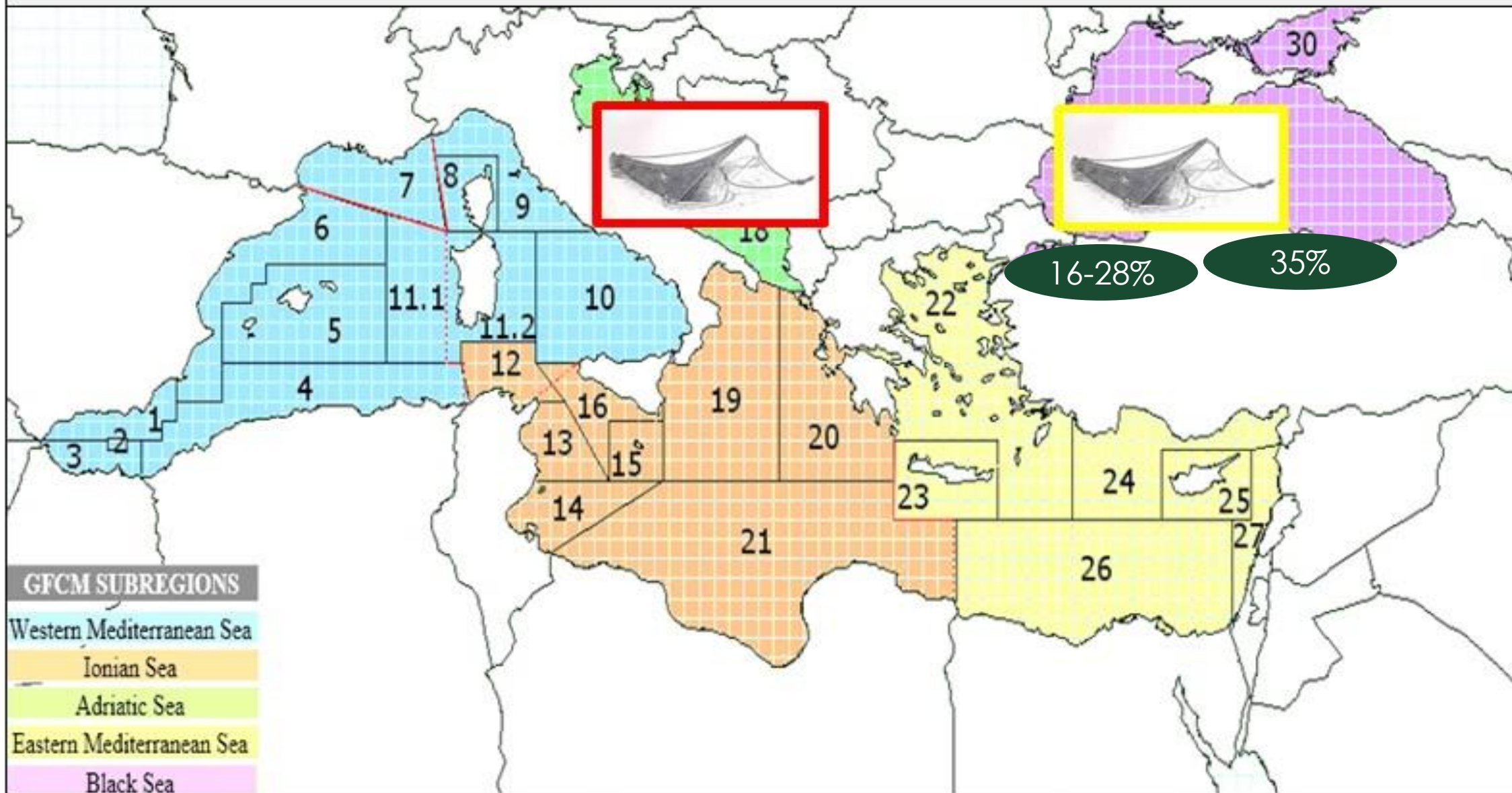


Medium discard rate 15-39%



Low discard rate < 15%

Beam trawl: *Discard behavior*



High discard rate >40%

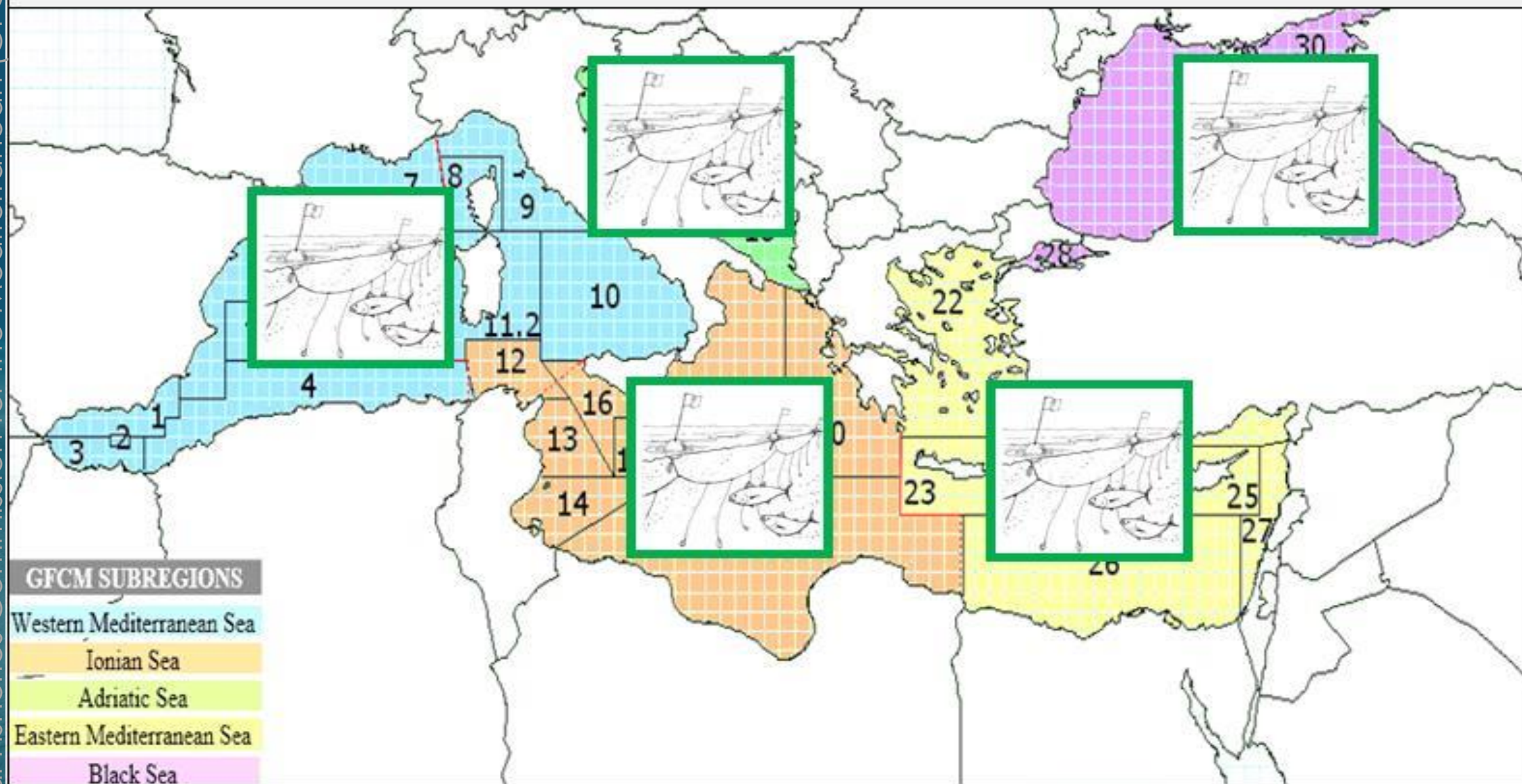


Medium discard rate 15-39%



Low discard rate < 15%

Longline: Discard behavior



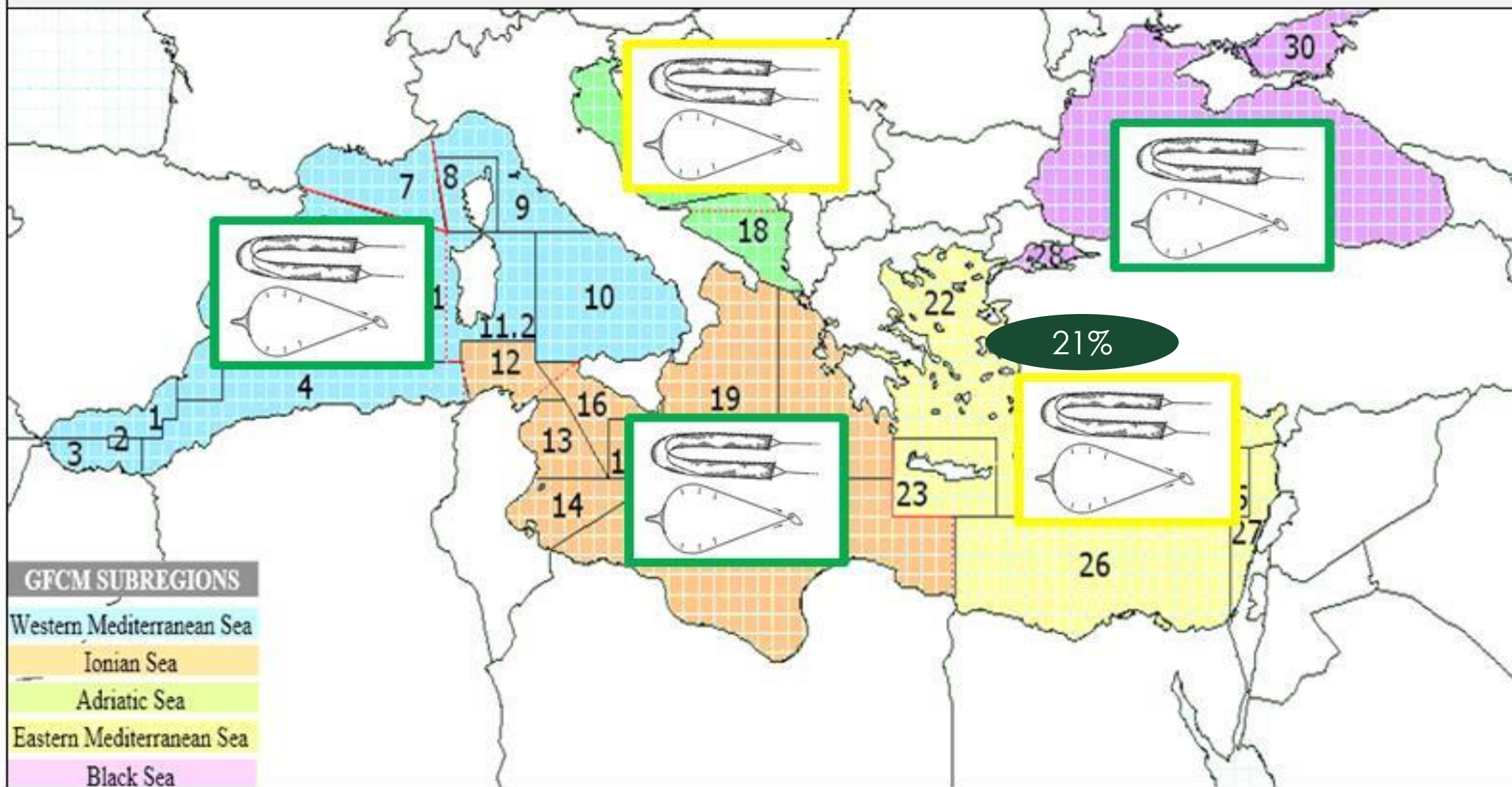
High discard rate >40%



Medium discard rate 15-39%



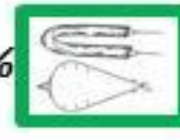
Low discard rate < 15%

Beach and Boat seine: *Discard behavior*

High discard rate >40%



Medium discard rate 15-39%



Low discard rate < 15%

The analysis evidenced several important gaps of knowledge:

- *discard studies are absent for many fishing gears,*
- *discard studies are absent in many countries or/and subregions*
- *most of the existing studies cover relatively short temporal and small spatial scales.*

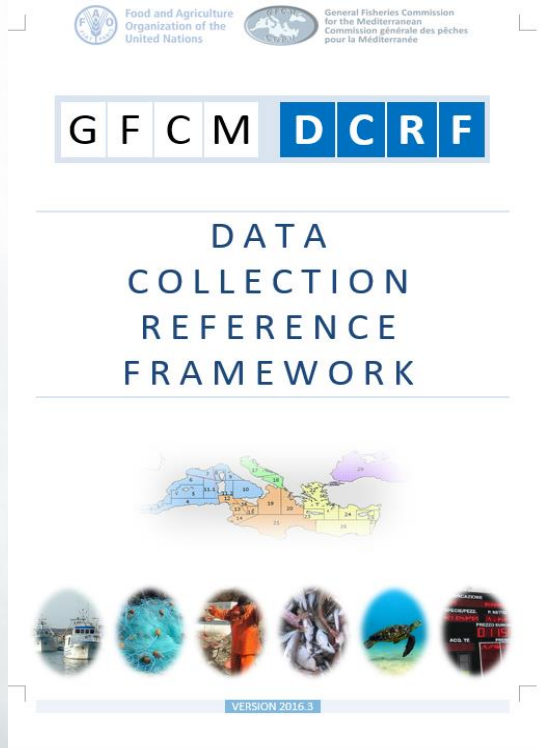
Routine monitoring of discards is essential for stock assessment purposes and it is also a very important element of studies on the marine environment.

This gap of knowledge highlights the need to expand discard (and even incidental catch of vulnerable species) surveys and standardize practices in order to compare among fisheries, and test potential methods and, eventually, tools aiming to their mitigation.

GFCM-Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF)

DCRF

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)



The DCRF 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.

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

APPENDIX 6

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

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

CONSIDERING that rational management for sustainable fisheries is dependent on the scientific utilization of relevant data on fishing fleet capacity, on the fishing activities carried out, on the status of exploited biological resources and on the social and economic situation of fisheries;

RECALLING the subregional approach to fisheries management as enshrined in the Agreement for the establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM Agreement), with a view to better addressing the specificities of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea region;

NOTING the importance of multidisciplinary data and information to monitor and assess fisheries and fisheries resources and to ensure their sustainable exploitation;

RECOGNIZING the need to develop a GFCM database, on the basis of the information received from Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) according to a standardized format;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF) as an instrument supporting the identification of fisheries-related data necessary to formulate sound scientific advice;

CONSIDERING that a timely submission of complete data and the analysis of the status of fisheries and exploited resources are of paramount importance for the effectiveness and credibility of GFCM management measures;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the importance of the classification of groups of priority species as identified by the Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC), of the use of the GFCM fleet segmentation for the sake of collection of the economic and biological data, as well as of the use of standard nominal fishing effort measurement;

NOTING that relevant data on fishing fleet, red coral and common dolphinfish as identified by the SAC in the DCRF are already requested under existing GFCM Recommendations GFCM/30/2006/2, GFCM/33/2009/3, GFCM/33/2009/6 and GFCM/36/2012/1;

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

1. CPCs shall submit to the GFCM Secretariat national data on catch, incidental catch of vulnerable species, fishing effort, socio-economics and biological information (as specified in Annex 1) for the first time in 2017, and subsequently on each calendar year. Such submission shall be done in accordance with appropriate data submission standards, procedures and protocols to be made available online by the GFCM Secretariat. Data shall be compiled following the specifications on the GFCM fleet segmentation (Annex 2) and on fishing effort measurement (Annex 3).

2. In addition to the data mentioned above, CPCs shall submit to the GFCM Secretariat for the first time in 2017, and subsequently on each calendar year, information needed to assess the status of those stocks considered priority by the Commission. Such submission shall be done using the stock assessment form (SAF) made available online by the GFCM Secretariat and following the data structure specified in Annex 5.

3. CPCs shall submit the data referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 according to submission specifications (reporting schedule, reference year and frequency) as defined in Annex 4. With a view to ensuring consistency of the time series in the GFCM database, populated with data submitted in line with Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3 up to the 2014 reference year, the first data submission in 2017 shall also cover the preceding two-year timeframe, i.e. 2015 and 2016.

GFCM-Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF)

TASK I GLOBAL FIGURES OF
NATIONAL FISHERIES



TASK II CATCH



TASK III INCIDENTAL CATCH OF
VULNERABLE SPECIES



TASK IV FLEET



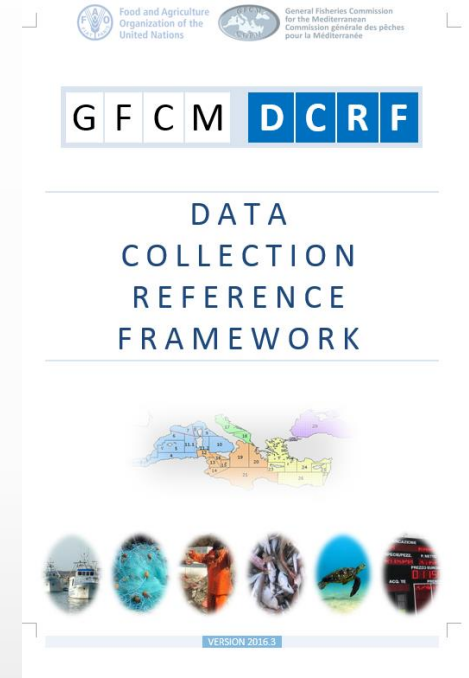
TASK V EFFORT



TASK VI SOCIO-ECONOMICS



TASK VII BIOLOGICAL
INFORMATION

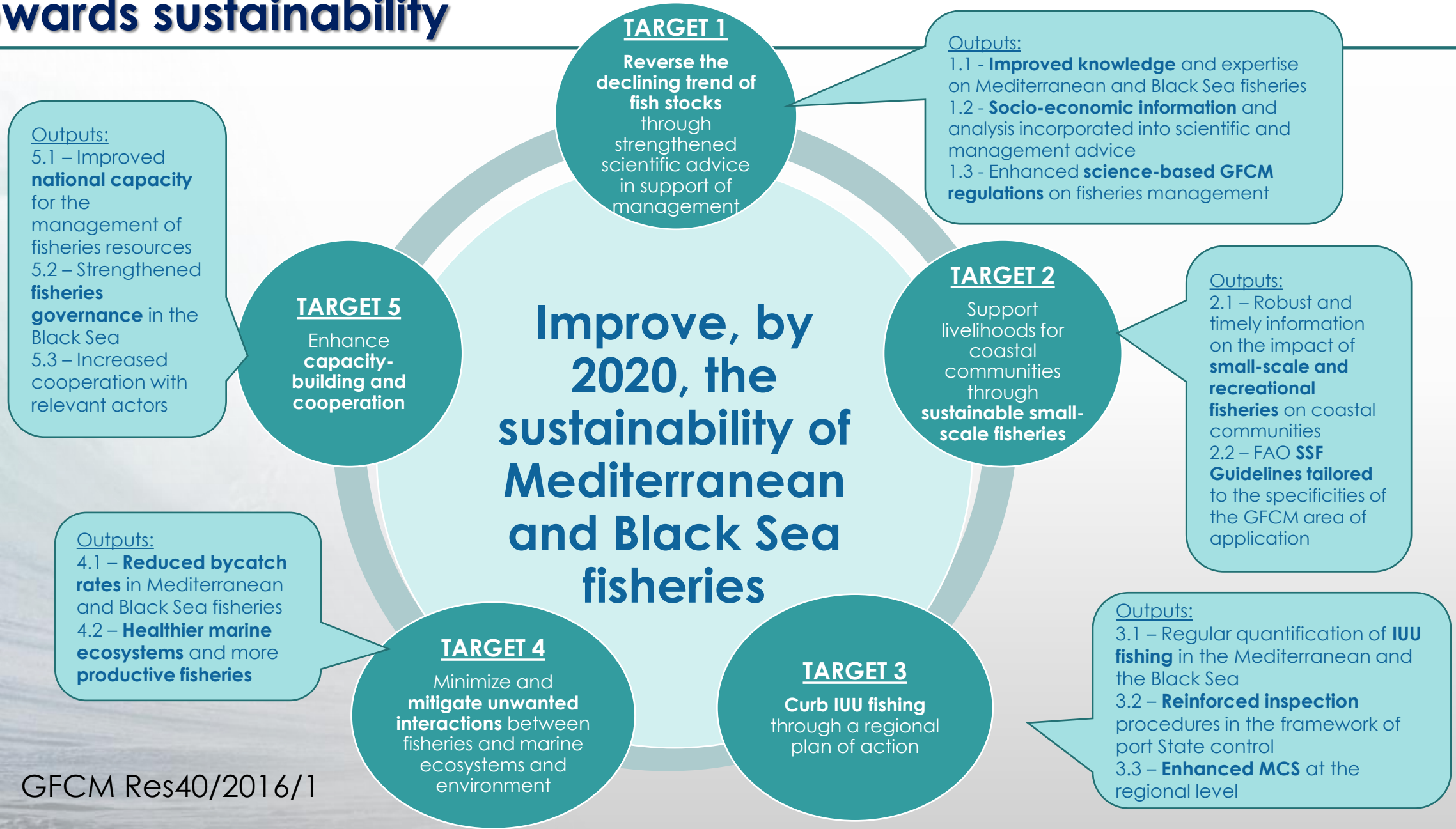


GFCM mid-term strategy (2017–2020)

The overall objective of the GFCM strategy is to improve, by 2020, the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries, by achieving five different targets and related outputs and actions.

The Mediterranean and Black Sea strategy: renewed commitment towards sustainability

STRATEGY



GFCM mid-term strategy (2017–2020) towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries

TARGET 4: MINIMIZE AND MITIGATE UNWANTED INTERACTIONS BETWEEN FISHERIES AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND ENVIRONMENT

Output 4.1: Reduced **bycatch rates** in Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries

The implementation of a **discard monitoring programme**, including through the use of observers onboard commercial fishing vessels.

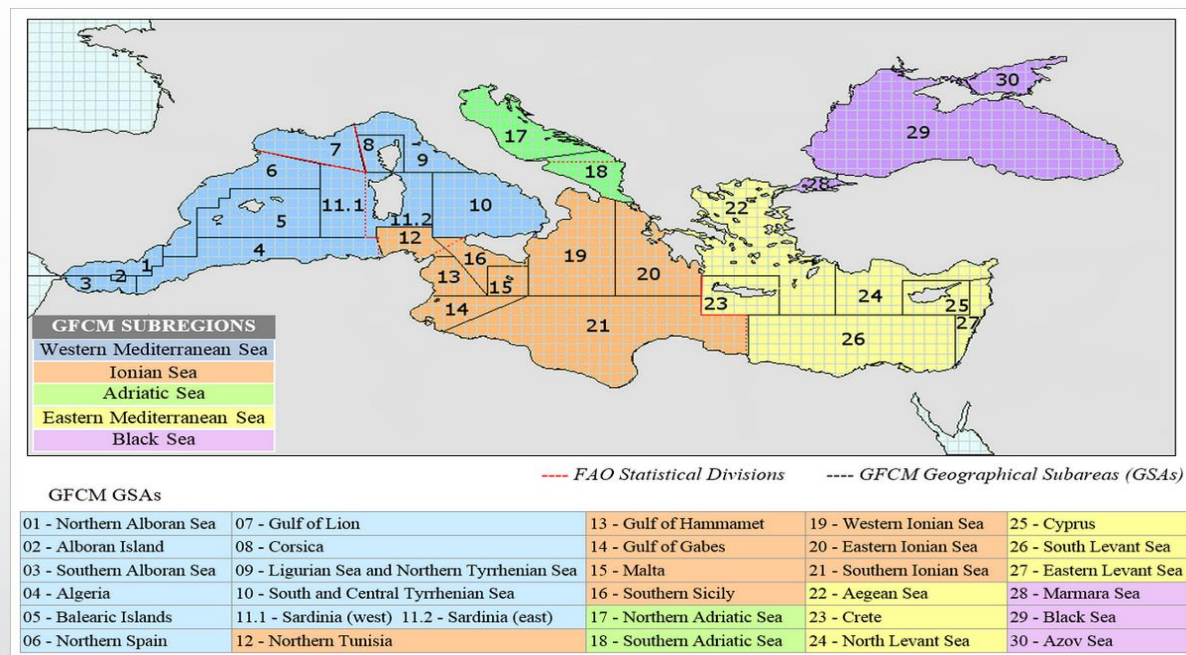
This programme is expected to obtain representative data on the **discard component** of total bycatch in Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries, as well as information on the **incidental catch of vulnerable species** that could occur during sampled fishing operations, with a view to facilitating the adoption of required management measures towards the reduction of bycatch rates.

GFCM mid-term strategy (2017–2020) towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries

- i) collecting and compiling available data in a regional database;
- ii) developing a regional pioneer sampling programme with observers on board.

GFCM mid-term strategy (2017–2020) towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries

The monitoring programme will be designed taking into account the **spatial** (GSA) and **temporal** (quarterly) variability....



.....in order to detect **seasonal differences** in the volume and **demographic structure of the discards**, to evaluate the **volume and the composition of the landings for the different fleet segments**, and to monitor the impact of different fishing activities on vulnerable species.

An underwater photograph of sand dunes on the ocean floor, with a blue gradient overlay on the right side of the image.

Thanks
for your kind
attention