

RECOMMENDATION GFCM/2002/1

RECOMMENDATION ON THE MANAGEMENT OF SELECTED DEMERSAL AND SMALL PELAGIC SPECIES

Recalling that the objectives of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and proper utilization of living marine resources;

Recalling that effective management measures aim to curb the decline in stocks targeted by scientific advice, and to improve their exploitation;

Noting that the wide diversity of fishing fleets and gear used in the zone under the competence of the Commission makes it essential to establish a general regulatory framework that permits the formulation and application of national regulations adapted to individual cases, in an effort to achieve the maximum effectiveness of sustainable management of living marine resources;

Considering the advice on demersal and small pelagic species given at the Fifth session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC);

Considering that, in its advice of 2002, the Scientific Advisory Committee estimated that certain stocks are overexploited and that sustainable management measures should therefore be put into effect for the fisheries concerned;

Considering that the Members of the GFCM should therefore implement measures aimed at gradually adjusting fishing effort and reducing the capture of juveniles;

Noting that the stock assessments conducted by the SAC only concern specific geographical sub-areas corresponding to the data supplied by certain Members and that the assessed stocks may be shared with adjacent GFCM geographical sub-areas, all the Members concerned should ensure that the stocks are managed according to the following provisions:

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean recommends that:

1. The Members in the GFCM geographical sub-areas concerned are encouraged to adopt measures aimed at adjusting the fishing effort for selected demersal species (*Merluccius merluccius*, *Aristeus antennatus*, *Mullus barbatus*) and to rationalize their exploitation on the basis of the advice of the Scientific Advisory Committee;
2. The Members in the GFCM geographical sub-areas concerned are encouraged to take measures aimed at minimizing the capture of small pelagics below the size needed to maintain recruitment stock at a level compatible with sustainable resource exploitation.