Towards a new strategy of the CFP in the Mediterranean

High Level Seminar on the Status of Stocks in the Mediterranean and the CFP Approach

MEDAC
MEDITERRANEAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

Catania 9 – 10 February 2016

Background

Over the last three decades, the CFP has developed a series of measures which has progressively improved the scope of the technical and management measures. During this process, which has involved all the European seas and fleets, a clear difference has emerged between the Mediterranean basin and other EU seas, following stock assessment activities which dealt primarily with the resources of the Atlantic and Northern seas, only covering the Mediterranean in more recent years.

Characteristics of the Atlantic and Northern seas

Industrial nature of the fleets

Monospecific capture systems

CFP Conservation Policy

Reduction of fleet capacity

Establishment of annual fishing opportunities for each stock (TACs and Quota)

Characteristics of the Mediterranean fishery

Artisanal nature of the fleets

Multispecific capture systems

CFP Conservation Policy

Reduction of fleet capacity and fishing effort management

Attempt to reduce fishing mortality (F) through technical and managemet measures

Factors that prevented CFP conservation policy to be successful in the Mediterranean:

- A delay between the acquisition of data and stock assessments
- Significant multi-specificity of capture systems, with both seasonal and spatial variability
- Fleet overlap in distribution ranges and shared stocks, involving both EU members and non EU countries
- The territorial waters of coastal countries only extend up to 12nm
- Seasonal migration of stocks from coast to coast, subject to the action of different fleets and different management systems
- Illegal practices and difficult to carry out effective control
- A greater number of fishing systems and a wide variety of capture tools

Factors that prevented CFP conservation policy to be successful in the Mediterranean:

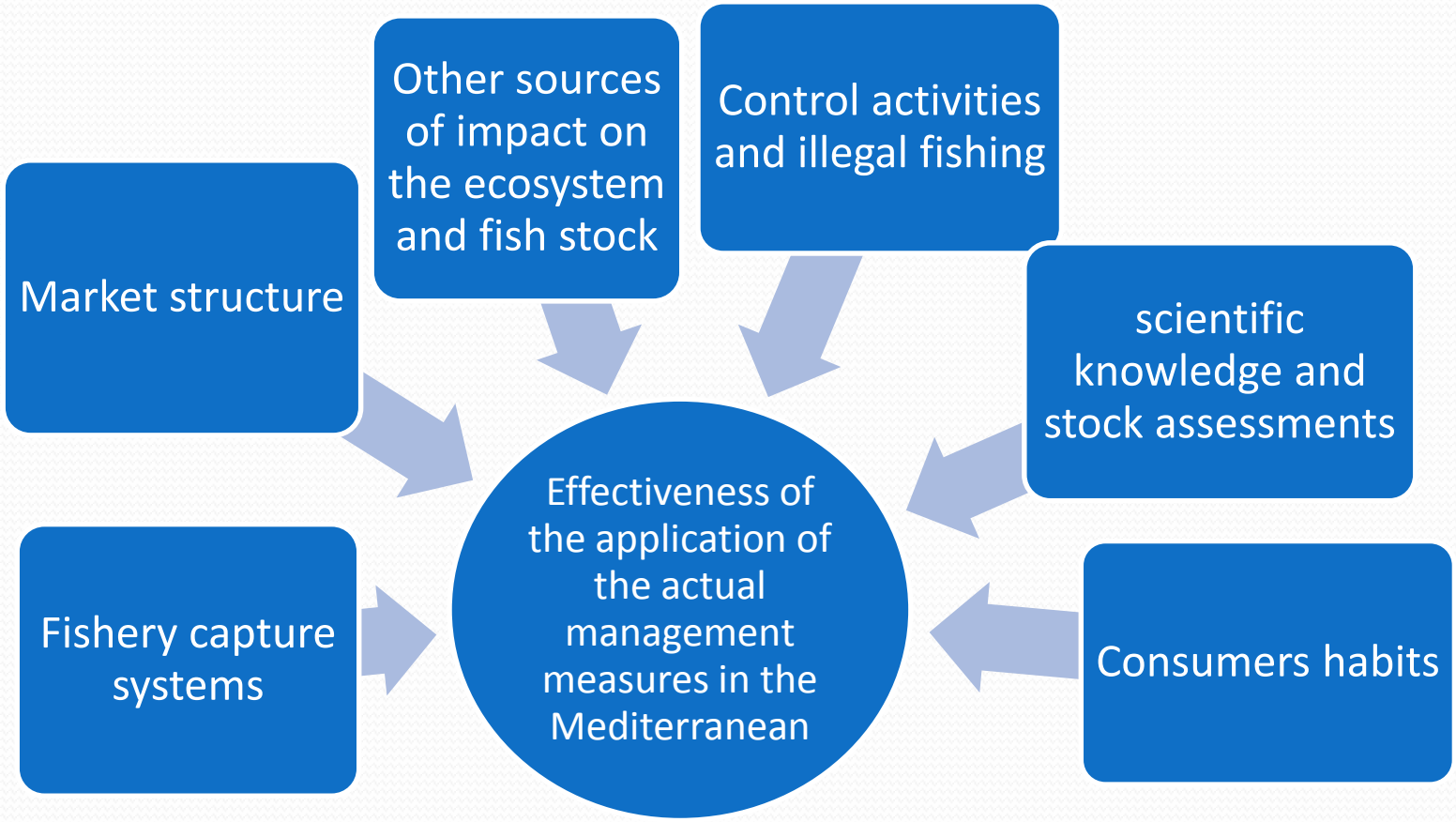
- Landing points scattered along the coast
- A prevalence small-scale fishing fleets and artisanal fishery activities
- Different segmentation of the fleets of the different Member States (TAC &Quotas)
- Lack of management policy over coastal areas
- Lack of adequate consideration of recreational fishing and fisheries policy making
- Not enough scientific advice due to the lack of investigation (only 30 species assessed)
- Limited reduction of fishing effort

Regulations for the Mediterranean

- Reg. 1626/94: introduced technical measures (minimum sizes, minimum mesh size, gear characteristics, etc.) that was later extended to management measures (Reg. 1967/2006: distance from the coast, management plans, etc.)
- The ban on drift nets (1997), even though not specifically developed for the Mediterranean
- Quota system, only for Bluefin Tuna

Critical Aspects

- The development of Data Collection and stock assessment activities (Reg.199/2008) demonstrate **severe depletion** (93%) of almost all of the 30 stocks assessed to date



Towards a new strategy for the CFP in the Mediterranean

To encourage full compliance through the full involvement of stakeholders in the decision-making process achieving high level of responsibility and awareness among sector operators.

The CFP Management plans in the Mediterranean

MAPs according to the former Med. Reg (for some capture system)

New Generation MAPs (for stocks which encompasses more than one capture system)

Discards Management Plans (one of the main innovation of the reform)

Towards a new strategy for the CFP in the Mediterranean – Priority Actions

Intensification of research efforts and stock assessments (possibility of applying TAC…spatial planning)

Consideration and evaluation other sources of impact play on the environment and on fishery resources

Intensification of control activities (on land, along the supply chains, markets)

Towards a new strategy for the CFP in the Mediterranean – Priority Actions

Possibility of applying TACs and quotas for some target species in monospecific capture system, at the GFCM level

Empowerment and education of all fishers (commercial and recreational)

EMFF tools and opportunities to contribute to the rationalization of fishing efforts and to initiatives consistent with the MAPs

Towards a new strategy for the CFP in the Mediterranean – Priority Actions

Intensification of dialogue with Third Countries through the GFCM

Addressing the complex matters of the jurisdiction of Mediterranean waters

Coastal management plans both for commercial and recreational fisheries

Thanks for your attention!

Mr. Giampaolo Buonfiglio
MEDAC Chairman