

Multiannual plan for the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the Western Mediterranean Sea

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) establishes the objectives and means for ensuring sustainable fisheries, including achieving exploitation rates consistent with the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) at the latest by 2020 for all stocks. It also introduces a landing obligation, which means that unwanted catches of species that are subject to catch limits and, in the Mediterranean Sea, also catches of species which are subject to minimum sizes as defined in Annex III to the Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 can no longer be discarded. The entry into force of this obligation is phased in according to a specific calendar but the latest deadline is 1 January 2019. Furthermore, the CFP pursues coherence with the objective of achieving good environmental status (GES) as required by Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (Marine Strategy Framework Directive).

Multiannual plans are a priority instrument in the CFP to address the challenges of fisheries management. For mixed fisheries or where the dynamics of stocks relate to one another, multiannual plans should cover fisheries exploiting several stocks in a relevant geographical area and take into account available knowledge about interactions between stocks, fisheries and marine ecosystems.

There have already been a number of discussions with stakeholders on the ways to address the challenges to implement the new CFP in the Mediterranean Sea, among others in the Western Mediterranean area. Possible approaches include either the revision of current national management plans adopted under the MEDREG or the development of an EU multiannual plan to manage the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the Western Mediterranean.

In this context, the services of the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) of the European Commission are now launching a public consultation on the management options for the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the Western Mediterranean Sea. Anyone with an interest in the topic is thus invited to express their views on the questions identified in the online questionnaire, as well as to present their opinions as to what additional measures could be appropriate to manage demersal stocks in the aforementioned area.

The content of this online questionnaire does not prejudge the views, positions or any decision to be taken by the Commission on the subject. The Commission cannot be held responsible for any use that might be made of the information contained therein.

How to respond

This consultation is open until **16 September 2016**.

The online questionnaire is initially published in English; other language versions will be uploaded by the end of June 2016. The respondents are invited to reply in English, French, Italian or Spanish.

Operational aspects: (i) before starting, we suggest you to consult the background document and the questionnaire in PDF format; (ii) when answering a question, you will be asked to tick one or select the level of importance depending on the question. You will also be able to add comments. You can pause and save your work and continue later; (iii) you will also be able to download an electronic copy of your contribution once you have submitted it.

The Commission service responsible for the consultation:

Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE)

Unit D2 "Fisheries conservation and control Mediterranean and Black Sea"

e-mail: MARE-WESTERN-MEDITERRANEAN@ec.europa.eu

Files:

[Background Document.doc](#)

[Questionnaire EN.pdf](#)

Questionnaire

A. Information about the respondent

*** 1. Are you responding to this questionnaire as:**

- A private individual
- A representative of an organisation/company/institution

*** 2. Please enter your name or the name of your organisation - e.g. Charles DARWIN**

*** 3. Please enter your e-mail address (this data will not be made public)**

*** 4. Please indicate the type of organisation represented**

- Not applicable (private individual)
- Government institution/Public administration
- Research institute/Academic institution
- Non Governmental Organisation
- Advisory Council
- Fishermen association
- Catching sector
- Processing sector
- Other

Please specify

4a. Transparency Register ID

If you are answering as an organisation/company/institution, please provide your Register ID number. You can also register [here](#). If your organisation/company/institution responds without being registered, the Commission will consider its input as that of an individual and will publish it as such.

*** 4b. What is the total number of permanent employees in your business/private organisation?**

- Between 1 and 9 employees
- Between 10 and 49 employees
- Between 50 and 249 employees
- ≥ 250 employees

*** 5. Please enter your country of residence or where your organisation is based.**

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- Other

Please specify

*** 5a. Gender** (this data will not be made public but used for statistical purposes only)

- Male
- Female

*** 5b. Year of birth** - e.g. 1975 (this data will not be made public but used for statistical purposes only)

*** 5c. Please provide your professional experience or educational background**

*** 6. Please indicate your preference for the publication of your contribution on the European Commission's website.**

Please note that regardless the option chosen, your contribution may be subject to a request for access to documents under Regulation 1049/2001 on public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents. In this case the request will be assessed against the conditions set out in the Regulation and in accordance with applicable data protection rules.

- Under the name given: I consent the publication of all information in my contribution and I declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that prevent publication.
- Anonymously: I consent the publication of all information in my contribution and I declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that prevent publication.
- Please keep my contribution confidential (it will not be published, but will be used internally within the Commission).

B. Fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the Western Mediterranean Sea

*** 1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the perception of the problem described in the background document (i.e. "high levels of overfishing and limitations of the current management framework")?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

***Please justify**

2. Are there any other aspects that you consider should be taken into account when defining the problem?

*** 3. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the current management framework (through national management plans) is sufficient to meet the objectives of the CFP (i.e. sustainable exploitation of marine biological resources) in the Western Mediterranean Sea?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

***Please justify**

*** 4. To what extent do you agree or disagree that complementing the current management framework with short-term measures such as emergency measures set at national or EU level (e.g. trawling ban, etc.) would be a sufficient solution to meet the objectives of the CFP?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

***Please justify**

*** 5. To what extent do you agree or disagree that amending the current management framework would be a sufficient solution to meet the objectives of the CFP?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

***Please justify**

5a. Which amendments to the current management framework do you consider would be most effective? Please select the level of importance for each option.

	Not at all Important	Slightly Important	Important	Very Important
*Revision of the objectives (e.g. include MSY approach).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Integration of relevant fishing gears not included in the national management plans (e.g. gillnets).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Revision of the material scope of the national management plans.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***Please specify**

*** 6. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the current management framework is fully implemented?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

***Please justify**

*** 7. To what extent do you agree or disagree that an EU multiannual plan for the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the Western Mediterranean Sea, which would take into account the interactions between different types of fisheries, would be the best option?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

***Please justify**

8. Which objectives do you consider should be introduced in a possible EU multiannual plan? Please select the level of importance for each option.

	Not at all Important	Slightly Important	Important	Very Important
*To attain sustainable exploitation of the stocks driving demersal fisheries.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*To adopt an effective and transparent management framework.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*To ensure socio-economic stability of the fishing sector.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*To reinforce Control, Monitoring and Surveillance systems.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Others.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*Please specify

Please provide reasons for your answers.

9. Which of the following elements do you consider should be introduced in a possible EU multiannual plan? Please select the level of importance for each option.

	Not at all Important	Slightly Important	Important	Very Important
*Scope in terms of stocks, fisheries, area.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Quantifiable targets with timeframe for achieving them.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Safeguards and remedial actions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Provisions to implement the landing obligation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Emergency measures.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*Please specify

Please provide reasons for your answers.

10. Which species do you consider should be introduced in a possible EU multiannual plan? Please select the level of importance for each option.

	Not at all Important	Slightly Important	Important	Very Important
*Red mullet (<i>M. barbatus</i>)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Deep-water rose shrimp (<i>P. longirostris</i>)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Giant red shrimp (<i>A. foliacea</i>)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Hake (<i>M. merluccius</i>)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Blue whiting (<i>M. poutassou</i>)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Monkfish (<i>Lophius spp.</i>)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Blue and red shrimp (<i>A. antennatus</i>)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Norway lobster (<i>N. norvegicus</i>)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Octopus (<i>O. vulgaris</i>)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*Please specify

Please provide reasons to support your answers.

11. Which technical/conservation measures do you consider should be introduced to manage the species included in a possible EU multiannual plan? Please select the level of importance for each option.

	Not at all Important	Slightly Important	Important	Very Important
*To establish spatio/temporal closures (e.g. reproduction period/area, etc.).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*To establish seasonal or daily catch limits.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*To define ceilings for fishing capacity and/or fishing effort.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*To address the selectivity of the fishing gear.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*To apply sorting grids or similar devices.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*Please specify

Please provide examples of specific measures relevant for your region.

12. Which technical measures do you consider should be introduced to facilitate the implementation of the landing obligation? Please select the level of importance for each option.

	Not at all Important	Slightly Important	Important	Very Important
*"De minimis" exemptions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Measures designed to minimise unwanted catches by modifying the gear structure.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Measures designed to minimise unwanted catches by spatio/temporal closures.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Market incentives.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*Please specify

Please provide examples of specific measures relevant for your region.

13. Which mitigation measures do you consider should be introduced to minimise short-term economic and social impacts on the fishing fleet and the coastal communities depending on the demersal fisheries? Please select the level of importance for each option.

	Not at all Important	Slightly Important	Important	Very Important
*To improve the added value of fish products, including the use of 'ecolabelling'.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*To promote the setting of new producer organisations/To support existing producer organisations.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*To provide public support under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*Please specify

Please provide examples of specific measures relevant for your region.

14. Which other technical/conservation measures not yet applied in the Mediterranean Sea do you consider appropriate in view of ensuring sustainable exploitation? Please select the level of importance for each option.

	Not at all Important	Slightly Important	Important	Very Important
*To establish fishing opportunities (outputs-quotas).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*To increase the mesh size to avoid catches of juvenile fish.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*To establish new Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*Please specify

Please provide examples of specific measures relevant for your region.

15. Which impacts on the ecosystem do you consider should be taken into account in a possible EU multiannual plan? Please select the level of importance for each option.

	Not at all Important	Slightly Important	Important	Very Important
*Impact on habitats and benthic communities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*By-catch of unwanted species.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Impact on juvenile individuals.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*Please specify

Please provide examples of specific measures relevant for your region.

*** 16. Are there specific measures (such as minimum mesh sizes, minimum conservation reference sizes, permanent or seasonal closures, etc.) that merit increased flexibility under an EU multiannual plan and that could be introduced at a regional level? What would be the most appropriate legal framework for doing so, the technical measures regulation or the possible EU multiannual plan? Please justify your answer.**

17. Taking into account your responses and inputs, which management framework do you consider better to manage the demersal fisheries in the Western Mediterranean Sea? Please rank the following options according to their level of importance.

	Not at all Important	Slightly Important	Important	Very Important
*National management plans set under the Mediterranean Regulation (with amendments).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*An EU multiannual plan.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*An international multiannual plan.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*Please justify - Only answers justified will be taken into account.

19. Additional information:

Should you wish to provide additional information or raise specific points not covered by the questionnaire, you can comment or upload any document(s) here:

Please upload your file

