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COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2025/219

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fixing for 2025 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 43(3) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

(1) The Council is to adopt measures on the fixing and allocation of fishing opportunities, including certain conditions functionally linked to those fishing opportunities, as appropriate. Article 16(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council ([1]) provides that fishing opportunities are to be fixed in accordance with the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) set out in Article 2(2) of that Regulation. Article 16(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 provides that fishing opportunities are to be allocated to Member States in such a way as to ensure the relative stability of fishing activities of each Member State for each fish stock or fishery.

(2) Therefore, in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, the fishing opportunities should be set on the basis of available scientific advice, taking into account biological and socioeconomic aspects whilst ensuring fair treatment between fishing sectors, as well as the opinions expressed during consultations with stakeholders.

(3) At its 47th annual meeting in 2024, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) adopted Recommendation GFCM/47/2024/1 which establishes long-term management measures for European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) as foreseen by Recommendation GFCM/46/2023/16 on a long-term management plan for European eel (GFCM geographical subareas (GFCM GSAs) 1 to 27). Recommendation GFCM/47/2024/1 maintains, for 2025, the six-month closure period for commercial fisheries and a ban on recreational fisheries. Furthermore, that Recommendation limits the commercial fishing activities for glass eels to a period of two months and allows such fishing only under certain conditions. Those measures are to apply to all marine waters of the Mediterranean Sea and to freshwaters, as well as to brackish waters, including estuaries, coastal lagoons and transitional waters, in accordance with that Recommendation. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.

(4) At its 47th annual meeting in 2024, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/47/2024/2 which establishes long-term measures for the sustainable exploitation of red coral (*Corallium rubrum*) as foreseen by Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/4 on a management plan for the sustainable exploitation of red coral in the Mediterranean Sea (GFCM GSAs 1 to 27). Recommendation GFCM/47/2024/2 maintains for 2025 the freezing of fishing effort expressed as a maximum number of fishing authorisations and harvest limits for red coral. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.

(5) At its 46th annual meeting in 2023, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/46/2023/14 on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of common dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) in the Mediterranean Sea (GFCM GSAs 1 to 27). That Recommendation introduced, consistent with the precautionary approach and for the transitional period of 2024 to 2026, a fleet capacity ceiling, a freeze on the capacity of fish aggregating devices (FADs) per vessel and a catch limit. For recreational fisheries, that Recommendation further provides that a daily bag limit is to be observed. Those measures were implemented in Union law for 2024 by means of Council Regulation (EU) 2024/259 ([2]) and those measures should continue to be implemented in Union law for 2025. Those measures are without prejudice to the management measures that will be proposed by the Scientific Advisory Committee within GFCM for the long-term management plan for the period of 2027 to 2031.

([1]) Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council decision 2004/585/EC (OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 22, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1380/oj).

([2]) Council Regulation (EU) 2024/259 of 10 January 2024 fixing for 2024 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas (OJ L, 2024/259, 11.1.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/259/oj).

(6) Regulation (EU) 2019/1022 of the European Parliament and of the Council ([3]) established a multiannual plan for the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean Sea (GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11). That plan sets out targets and measures for the long-term conservation and sustainable exploitation of stocks covered by it. This includes measures to reach and maintain the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for target stocks, ensuring that exploitation of living marine biological resources restores and maintains populations of harvested species above levels which can produce the MSY.

(7) In accordance with Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022, fishing opportunities for stocks listed in Article 1(2) of that Regulation are to be set in order to achieve fishing mortality at MSY on a progressive, incremental basis by 2020 where possible, and by 1 January 2025 at the latest.

(8) Fishing opportunities for stocks listed in Article 1(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022 should be fixed in accordance with the range of fishing mortality values resulting in maximum sustainable yield (MSY) (ranges of F_{MSY}), or at a lower level, and in accordance with the safeguards provided for in that Regulation. The ranges of F_{MSY} are set out in the relevant STECF advice. Where no adequate scientific information is available, fishing opportunities for stocks referred to in Article 1(2) and Article 1(3) of that Regulation should be fixed in accordance with the precautionary approach to fisheries management, in accordance with Article 4(6) of that Regulation.

(9) Moreover, fishing opportunities are to be expressed as a maximum allowable fishing effort for trawlers and longliners, set in accordance with the fishing effort regime laid down in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022, and as maximum catch limits for blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) and giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) in deep waters, set in accordance with scientific advice and Article 16(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.

(10) STECF advised that, in order to attain the MSY targets in 2025 for all the western Mediterranean fish stocks, further significant reductions of fishing mortality are necessary for trawlers. In addition, STECF indicated differences in the status of the most vulnerable stock in each stock group and considered that the fishing mortality needs to be reduced differently between effort management units (EMU), namely EMU 1 (GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7) and EMU 2 (GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11). STECF advised that for the most vulnerable stock (European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) in EMU 1 and European hake in EMU 2), the fishing mortality reductions should amount to 66 % in EMU 1 and 38 % in EMU 2 in order to reach F_{MSY} in 2025. Based on such advice, for 2025, the maximum allowable fishing effort of trawlers for each fishing effort group should therefore be reduced by 66 % in EMU 1 and by 38 % in EMU 2 taking into account the contributions of each Member State to the fishing mortality and deducted from the maximum allowable fishing effort established for 2024 by Regulation (EU) 2024/259.

(11) In 2024, STECF advised that longliners have an impact on European hake spawners, in particular in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11. STECF also advised that the spawning stock biomass of European hake in GFCM GSAs 1, 5, 6 and 7 and in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 is still below the conservation limit reference point (B_{LIM}) within the meaning of Article 2(10) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022 and that fishing mortality should be reduced by 66 % in GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 and 38 % in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 in order to reach F_{MSY} in 2025. In GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7, it is therefore appropriate to maintain, for 2025, the maximum allowable fishing effort for longliners at the levels set for 2024 by Regulation (EU) 2024/259, on the basis of Article 7(5) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022. In GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11, it is appropriate to reduce, for 2025, the maximum allowable fishing effort for longliners by 13 % in comparison with the maximum allowable fishing effort set for 2024 by Regulation (EU) 2024/259, on the basis of Article 7(5) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022.

(12) In 2024, STECF advised that the fishing mortality of blue and red shrimp in GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 remains far from sustainable levels and that further management measures are thus required in addition to fishing effort reduction. In particular, STECF advised that, in order to reach F_{MSY} in 2025, catches should be reduced on average by 50 %, and specifically by 25 % in GFCM GSAs 1 and 2, by 64 % in GFCM GSA 5 and by 62 % in GFCM GSAs 6 and 7. In continuation of the measures adopted in 2022, 2023 and 2024 and in accordance with Article 16(4) of the

([3]) Regulation (EU) 2019/1022 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 establishing a multiannual plan for the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean Sea and amending Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 (OJ L 172, 26.6.2019, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/1022/oj).

Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, it is therefore appropriate to complement the fishing effort regime with maximum catch limits. The maximum catch limits for blue and red shrimp in GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 should be reduced by 10 % compared to the fishing opportunities set for 2024 by Regulation (EU) 2024/259.

(13) In 2024, STECF advised that further management measures for blue and red shrimp in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 are required in addition to fishing effort reduction and advised decreasing the total catch by 18 %. It is therefore appropriate to complement the fishing effort regime with maximum catch limits, in continuation of the measures adopted in 2022, 2023 and 2024 and in accordance with Article 16(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013. The maximum catch limits for blue and red shrimp in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 should be reduced by 6 % compared to the fishing opportunities set for 2024 by Regulation (EU) 2024/259.

(14) In 2024, STECF advised that further management measures for giant red shrimp in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 are required in addition to fishing effort reduction and advised decreasing the total catch by 29 %. It is therefore appropriate to complement the fishing effort regime with maximum catch limits, in continuation of the measures adopted in 2022, 2023 and 2024 and in accordance with Article 16(4) of the Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013. The maximum catch limits of giant red shrimp in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 should be reduced by 6 % compared to the fishing opportunities set for 2024 by Regulation (EU) 2024/259.

(15) In order to promote the use of selectivity of fishing gear and to establish efficient closure areas to protect juveniles and spawners, Council Regulation (EU) 2022/110 ([4]) established a compensation mechanism in relation to the effort regime for trawlers. As STECF continues to recommend for 2025 the further improvement of selectivity of fishing gear and of efficiency of closure areas to protect juvenile fish and spawners, and as those measures have a demonstrated impact on the fishing effort, Member States should be able to allocate additional fishing days to a vessel if the vessel complies with at least one of such measures set at national level. The Member State concerned shall not allocate additional fishing days that would result in exceeding the level of fishing effort set for the relevant fishing effort group by Regulation (EU) 2024/259.

(16) In accordance with Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022, where scientific advice shows that the spawning stock biomass of any of the stocks referred to in Article 1(2) of that Regulation is below the precautionary biomass reference point (B_{PA}), or is below the limit biomass reference point (B_{LIM}), remedial measures are to be taken to ensure the rapid return of the stocks to levels above those capable of producing MSY.

(17) At its 44th annual meeting in 2021, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/44/2021/20 on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea (GFCM GSAs 17 and 18), which introduced from 2022 to 2029 a maximum level of catches and a related fleet capacity ceiling for purse seiners and pelagic trawlers targeting small pelagics. Those measures that relate to 2025 should be implemented in Union law.

(18) At its 47th annual meeting in 2024, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/47/2024/4 on a long-term fishing regime and the establishment of catch limits in 2025 for small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea (GFCM GSAs 17 and 18), stemming from Recommendation GFCM/44/2021/20. Recommendation GFCM/47/2024/4 established for 2025 the separate level of catches for anchovy and sardines, stemming from the implementation of the new harvest control rules. The distribution between the Member States is based on the historical catches of each Member State. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.

(19) At its 43rd annual meeting in 2019, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/5 on a multiannual management plan for sustainable demersal fisheries in the Adriatic Sea (GFCM GSAs 17 and 18), which introduced a fishing effort regime and a fleet capacity ceiling for certain demersal stocks. Those measures that relate to 2025 should be implemented in Union law.

(20) At its 47th annual meeting in 2024, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/47/2024/5 on the implementation of a fishing effort regime for key demersal stocks in the Adriatic Sea (GFCM GSAs 17 and 18) in 2025, stemming from Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/5. Recommendation GFCM/47/2024/5 provides for a global reduction of the fishing effort regime for otter-trawlers by 5,2 % and a roll-over of the 2024 effort levels for beam-trawlers. In

([4]) Council Regulation (EU) 2022/110 of 27 January 2022 fixing for 2022 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas (OJ L 21, 31.1.2022, p. 165, ELI: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/110/oj).

order to implement those measures into Union law, 5,2 % should therefore be deducted from the maximum allowable fishing effort for otter-trawlers set for 2024 by Regulation (EU) 2024/259 and the maximum allowable fishing effort for beam-trawlers should be kept at 2024 levels.

(21) Taking into account the particularities of the Slovenian fleet and its marginal impact on the stocks of small pelagic and demersal stocks, and in accordance with paragraph 33 of Recommendation GFCM/44/2021/20 and paragraph 13 of Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/5, it is appropriate to preserve existing fishing patterns and to ensure access by the Slovenian fleet to a minimum quantity of small pelagic species and a minimum effort allocation for demersal stocks.

(22) At its 45th annual meeting in 2022, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/4 on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of demersal stocks in the Strait of Sicily (GFCM GSAs 12 to 16), repealing Recommendations GFCM/44/2021/12 and GFCM/42/2018/5. Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/4 introduced an effort regime for European hake and catch limits for deep-water rose shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*), as well as a fishing capacity freeze. For 2025, Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/4 provides for a freeze in the fishing effort at the 2024 level and a reduction of 3 % of the catch limits for deep-water rose shrimp. In order to implement those measures in Union law, 3 % should therefore be deducted from the maximum catch limits for deep-water rose shrimp set for 2024 by Regulation (EU) 2024/259.

(23) At its 45th annual meeting in 2022, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/5 on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp stocks in the Strait of Sicily (GFCM GSAs 12 to 16), repealing Recommendations GFCM/44/2021/7 and GFCM/43/2019/6. Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/5 introduced a catch limit and a fishing capacity freeze. For 2025, that Recommendation provides for a reduction of 3 % of the catch limits for giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp. In order to implement those measures in Union law, 3 % should therefore be deducted from the maximum catch limits for giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp set for 2024 by Regulation (EU) 2024/259.

(24) At its 45th annual meeting in 2022, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/6 on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp stocks in the Ionian Sea (GFCM GSAs 19 to 21), repealing Recommendations GFCM/44/2021/8 and GFCM/42/2018/4. Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/6 introduced a catch limit and a fishing capacity freeze. For 2025, that Recommendation provides for a reduction of 3 % of the catch limits for giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp. In order to implement those measures in Union law, 3 % should therefore be deducted from the maximum catch limits for giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp set for 2024 by Regulation (EU) 2024/259.

(25) At its 45th annual meeting in 2022, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/7 on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp stocks in the Levant Sea (GFCM GSAs 24 to 27), repealing Recommendations GFCM/44/2021/6 and GFCM/42/2018/3. Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/7 introduced a catch limit and a fishing capacity freeze. For 2025, that Recommendation provides for a reduction of 3 % of the catch limits for giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp. In order to implement those measures in Union law, 3 % should therefore be deducted from the maximum catch limits for giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp set for 2024 by Regulation (EU) 2024/259.

(26) At its 45th annual meeting in 2022, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/3 on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of blackspot seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) in the Alboran Sea (GFCM GSAs 1 to 3), repealing Recommendations GFCM/44/2021/4, GFCM/43/2019/2 and GFCM/41/2017/2. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.

(27) At its 47th annual meeting in 2024, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/47/2024/3 on the adoption of additional remedial measures for blackspot seabream in the Alboran Sea (GFCM GSAs 1 to 3), amending Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/3. Recommendation GFCM/47/2024/3 introduced a reduction of 30 % of the catch limits for 2025. In order to implement those measures in Union law, 30 % should therefore be deducted from the maximum level of catches set for 2024 by Regulation (EU) 2024/259.

(28) Based on the scientific advice provided by the GFCM Working Group for the Black Sea, the current level of fishing mortality of sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) should be maintained to ensure the sustainability of sprat stocks in the Black Sea (GFCM GSA 29). It is therefore appropriate to continue setting an autonomous quota for this stock.

(29) At its 43rd annual meeting in 2019, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/3 amending Recommendation GFCM/41/2017/4 on a multiannual management plan for turbot (*Scophthalmus maximus*) fisheries in the Black Sea (GFCM GSA 29). Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/3 introduced an updated regional total allowable catch (TAC) and a quota allocation scheme for turbot, as well as further conservation measures, in particular a two-month closure period and a limitation of fishing days to 180 days per year. In accordance with Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/3, those further conservation measures are functionally linked to the fishing opportunities, as, without those measures in place, the TAC level for turbot would have to be reduced to ensure its recovery. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.

(30) At its 47th annual meeting in 2024, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/47/2024/8 on a multiannual management plan for turbot fisheries in the Black Sea (GFCM GSA 29), amending Recommendations GFCM/43/2019/3 and GFCM/41/2017/4. Recommendation GFCM/47/2024/8 established the TAC for turbot for the period of 2025 to 2028. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.

(31) At its 47th annual meeting in 2024, the GFCM approved a carry-over of the unused Union quota for turbot in 2023, in view of the exceptional situation created by the regional context in the Black Sea. That measure should be implemented in Union law. The distribution of the fishing opportunities arising from that under-utilisation should be carried out on the basis of the respective contribution of each Member State towards the under-utilisation, without modifying the distribution key established by Regulation (EU) 2024/259 concerning the annual allocation of TACs.

(32) The use of fishing opportunities available to Union fishing vessels set out in this Regulation is subject to Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 ([5]), and in particular to Articles 33 and 34 thereof concerning the recording of catches and fishing efforts and the notification of data on the exhaustion of fishing opportunities. It is therefore necessary to specify the codes to be used by Member States when sending data relating to landings of stocks subject to this Regulation to the Commission.

(33) Council Regulation (EC) No 847/96 ([6]) provides for additional conditions for the year-to-year management of TACs and quotas, including under Articles 3 and 4 thereof, and flexibility provisions for precautionary and analytical TACs. Under Article 2 of that Regulation, when establishing TACs, the Council is to decide which stocks will not be subject to Articles 3 and 4 of that Regulation, in particular on the basis of the biological status of stocks. Moreover, Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 provides for further year-to-year flexibility for all stocks that are subject to the landing obligation. Therefore, in order to avoid excessive flexibility that would hinder the achievement of the objectives of the CFP and cause the biological status of stocks to deteriorate, it should be made explicit that the year-to-year flexibility provided for in Articles 3 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 and the year-to-year flexibility provided for in Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 do not apply cumulatively. Finally, the year-to-year flexibility provided for in Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 should, where relevant, be excluded on the basis of the biological status of stocks.

(34) In order to avoid the interruption of fishing activities and to ensure the livelihood of Union fishers, this Regulation should apply from 1 January 2025. For reasons of urgency, this Regulation should enter into force on the day following that of its publication,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

TITLE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Scope

1. This Regulation applies to Union fishing vessels operating in the Mediterranean and Black Seas and exploiting the following fish stocks:

(a) European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), red coral (*Corallium rubrum*) and common dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) in the Mediterranean Sea;

([5]) Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy, amending Regulations (EC) No 847/96, (EC) No 2371/2002, (EC) No 811/2004, (EC) No 768/2005, (EC) No 2115/2005, (EC) No 2166/2005, (EC) No 388/2006, (EC) No 509/2007, (EC) No 676/2007, (EC) No 1098/2007, (EC) No 1300/2008, (EC) No 1342/2008 and repealing Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1627/94 and (EC) No 1966/2006 (OJ L 343, 22.12.2009, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1224/oj).

([6]) Council Regulation (EC) No 847/96 of 6 May 1996 introducing additional conditions for year-to-year management of TACs and quotas (OJ L 115, 9.5.1996, p. 3, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/1996/847/oj).

(b) blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*), deep-water rose shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*), giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*), European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*), Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) and red mullet (*Mullus barbatus*) in the western Mediterranean Sea;

(c) anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) and sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) in the Adriatic Sea;

(d) European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*), Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*), common sole (*Solea solea*), deep-water rose shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*) and red mullet (*Mullus barbatus*) in the Adriatic Sea;

(e) European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) and deep-water rose shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*) in the Strait of Sicily;

(f) giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) and blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Strait of Sicily, in the Ionian Sea and in the Levant Sea;

(g) blackspot seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) in the Alboran Sea;

(h) sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) and turbot (*Scophthalmus maximus*) in the Black Sea.

2. This Regulation also applies to other Union fishing activities, including recreational fisheries, where such fishing activities are expressly referred to in the relevant provisions.

Article 2

Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation, the definitions laid down in Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 apply. In addition, the following definitions apply:

(a) 'international waters' means waters falling outside the sovereignty or jurisdiction of any State;

(b) 'recreational fisheries' means non-commercial fishing activities exploiting marine living aquatic resources for recreation, tourism or sport;

(c) 'total allowable catch' (TAC) means:

(i) in fisheries subject to the exemption of the landing obligation as laid down in Article 15(4) to (7) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, the quantity of fish that can be landed from each stock each year;

(ii) in all other fisheries, the quantity of fish that can be caught from each stock over the period of a year;

(d) 'quota' means a proportion of the TAC allocated to the Union or a Member State;

(e) 'Union autonomous quota' means a catch limit autonomously allocated to Union fishing vessels in the absence of an agreed TAC;

(f) 'analytical quota' means a Union autonomous quota for which an analytical assessment is available;

(g) 'analytical assessment' means a quantitative evaluation of trends in a given stock, based on data about the stock's biology and exploitation, which scientific review has indicated to be of sufficient quality to provide scientific advice on options for future catches;

(h) 'fish aggregating device' (FAD) means any anchored equipment floating on the sea surface with the objective of attracting fish.

Article 3

Fishing zones

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following fishing zone definitions apply:

(a) 'GFCM geographical subareas' (GFCM GSAs) means the areas set out in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2023/2124 of the European Parliament and of the Council ([7]);

(b) 'Mediterranean Sea' means the waters in GFCM geographical subareas 1 to 27, as set out in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2023/2124;

([7]) Regulation (EU) 2023/2124 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 October 2023 on certain provisions for fishing in the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Agreement area (OJ L, 2023/2124, 12.10.2023, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2124/oj).

(c) 'western Mediterranean Sea' means the waters in GFCM geographical subareas 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, as set out in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2023/2124;

(d) 'Adriatic Sea' means the waters in GFCM geographical subareas 17 and 18, as set out in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2023/2124;

(e) 'Strait of Sicily' means the waters in GFCM geographical subareas 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16, as set out in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2023/2124;

(f) 'Ionian Sea' means the waters in GFCM geographical subareas 19, 20 and 21, as set out in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2023/2124;

(g) 'Levant Sea' means the waters in GFCM geographical subareas 24, 25, 26 and 27, as set out in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2023/2124;

(h) 'Alboran Sea' means the waters in GFCM geographical subareas 1, 2 and 3, as set out in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2023/2124;

(i) 'Black Sea' means the waters in GFCM geographical subarea 29, as set out in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2023/2124.

TITLE II

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNION FISHING VESSELS

CHAPTER I

Mediterranean Sea

Article 4

European eel

1. This Article applies to the GFCM geographical subareas 1 to 27, to brackish waters and to freshwaters. Brackish waters include estuaries, coastal lagoons and transitional waters.

2. It shall be prohibited to engage in commercial fishing activities for European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) of an overall length of more than 12 cm, either as a targeted species or as incidental by-catch, for a period of at least six months in 2025. To that effect, each Member State concerned shall determine one or more closure periods subject to the following:

(a) where appropriate, the closure period or periods may differ within one Member State from one fishing area to another in order to take account of the geographical and temporal migration pattern of European eel at its different life stages;

(b) the closure period or periods shall last either at least six consecutive months, or a total of six months in accordance with the conditions set out in paragraph 3; and

(c) the closure period or periods shall be consistent with the conservation objectives set out in Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 ([8]), with national management plans in place and with the temporal migration patterns of European eel at the respective life stage in the Member State concerned.

3. The closure period shall be from 1 January to 31 March 2025, and an additional closure period of three months shall be established by each Member State concerned to take place between 1 April and 30 November 2025.

4. Commercial fishing activities for European eel of an overall length of less than 12 cm shall be authorised annually for a period of two months, and those fishing activities shall be monitored by a designated scientific institution which shall supervise data collection and analyses.

5. The maximum number of fishing authorisations and the maximum number of passive gears authorised to target European eel of an overall length of less than 12 cm for commercial purposes shall not exceed the levels set out in Annex I.

6. Recreational fisheries of European eel at all life stages shall be prohibited.

([8]) Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 of 18 September 2007 establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel (OJ L 248, 22.9.2007, p. 17, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2007/1100/oj).

7. Each Member State concerned shall inform the Commission of:

(a) the closure period or closure periods that it has determined in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 by 1 March 2025;

(b) the national measures relating to the closure period or closure periods that it has determined in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3, within two weeks of their adoption; and

(c) the period authorised to fish for European eel of an overall length of less than 12 cm in accordance with paragraph 4 by 1 March 2025.

Article 5

Red coral

1. This Article applies to all activities by Union fishing vessels and other Union fishing activities harvesting red coral (*Corallium rubrum*) in the Mediterranean Sea.

2. For targeted fisheries, the maximum number of fishing authorisations and the maximum quantities of red coral stocks harvested by Union fishing vessels and Union harvesting activities shall not exceed the levels set out in Annex II.

Article 6

Common dolphinfish

1. This Article applies to all commercial pelagic fishing activities by Union fishing vessels targeting common dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) by using FADs in the Mediterranean Sea. It also applies to recreational fisheries of common dolphinfish in the Mediterranean Sea.

2. The maximum fleet capacity, expressed in number of vessels, kW and gross tonnage (GT), of Union fishing vessels authorised to fish for common dolphinfish is set out in Annex III.

3. The maximum number of FADs per vessel authorised to fish for common dolphinfish is set out in Annex III.

4. The maximum level of catches of common dolphinfish shall not exceed the levels set out in Annex III.

5. For recreational fisheries, the maximum number of catches shall be limited to 10 kg or five fish of any size per person per day.

CHAPTER II

Western Mediterranean Sea

Article 7

Demersal stocks

1. This Article applies to all fishing activities by Union fishing vessels and other Union fishing activities catching demersal stocks referred to in Article 1(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022 in the western Mediterranean Sea.

2. The maximum allowable fishing effort for trawlers and longliners is set out in Annex IV to this Regulation. Member States shall manage the maximum allowable fishing effort in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022 and Articles 26 to 34 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.

3. The maximum catch limits for deep-water shrimp in the Alboran Sea, Balearic Islands, Northern Spain and Gulf of Lion is set out in Annex IV.

4. The maximum catch limits for deep-water shrimp in Corsica Island, Ligurian Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea and Sardinia Island is set out in Annex IV.

5. The allocation of fishing opportunities among Member States as set out in Annex IV shall be without prejudice to:

(a) exchanges made pursuant to Article 16(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013;

(b) deductions and reallocations made pursuant to Article 37 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009;

(c) additional landings allowed under Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 or under Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013;

(d) quantities withheld in accordance with Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 or transferred under Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013;

(e) deductions made pursuant to Articles 105, 106 and 107 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.

Article 8

Compensation mechanism

1. For the fleet segment concerned and the list of eligible vessels concerned, a Member State may grant in 2025 to vessels flying its flag an additional allocation of fishing days as provided for in this paragraph and calculated in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5, provided that the vessel receiving the additional allocation fulfils one or more of the following conditions set at national level:

(a) if the vessel removes the otter-twin trawl gears (OTT), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 24 %; if the vessel is implementing that measure before 1 May 2025, the allocation of fishing days may be increased by 35 %; if the total number of vessels represents more than 40 % of the fleet of the Member State concerned, the Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 40 %;

(b) if the vessel uses a trawl net with 45 mm square mesh in codend, a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 9,3 %; if the vessel is implementing that measure before 1 May 2025, the allocation of fishing days may be increased by 18,6 %; if the total number of vessels represents more than 40 % of the fleet of the Member State concerned, the Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 25 %; if the measure applies to all vessels of the Member State concerned, the Member State may increase the allocation of the fishing days by 30 %;

(c) if the vessel uses a trawl net with 50 mm square mesh in codend, a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 15,4 %; if the vessel is implementing that measure before 1 May 2025, the allocation of fishing days may be increased by 30,8 %; if the total number of vessels represents more than 40 % of the fleet of the Member State concerned, the Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 40 %; if the measure applies to all vessels of the Member State concerned, the Member State may increase the allocation of the fishing days by 50 %;

(d) if the vessel is subject to a closure period prohibiting fishing activities for trawlers between depths 100 m to 500 m for at least six continuous weeks between May and September, a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 10 %;

(e) if the vessel is subject to a closure period prohibiting fishing activity for trawlers in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 for at least four continuous weeks between May and October, a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 15 %;

(f) if the vessel is subject to a closure period prohibiting fishing activity for trawlers in GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 for at least four continuous weeks between May and October, a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 15 %;

(g) if the vessel is subject to a national closure area covering at least 5 % of their fishing grounds between depths 100 m and 500 m, a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 4 %;

(h) if the vessel is subject to a temporary closure area allowing for the reduction of at least 20 % catches of spawners of European hake, a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 13 %;

(i) if the vessel is subject to a temporary closure area allowing for the reduction of at least 25 % catches of juveniles of all demersal species or by at least 20 % catches of spawners of all demersal species, a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 3 %;

(j) if the vessel is subject to a permanent closure for fishing activity with trawlers at a depth below 800 m, a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 3 %;

(k) if the vessel uses a trawl with flying, mid-waters doors, low-contact otter boards or other doors which reduce the contact of the doors and the gear with the seabed, to preserve the essential fish habitats of the demersal species a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 3 %;

(l) if the vessel uses a regulated highly selective gear, the technical specifications of which results in, according to a study by STECF, a reduction of at least 25 % of catches of juveniles of all demersal species or at least 20 % of spawners of all demersal species compared to 2020, such as a sorting grid with 20 mm spacing, a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 3 %.

2. The Member State concerned shall submit to the Commission, when notifying additional allocation of fishing days, the list of fishing vessels that fulfil each of the selected conditions for compensation, as well as the related number of additional fishing days.

3. The Member State concerned shall submit to the Commission, by 15 October at the latest, its notification of additional allocation of fishing days and transmit to the Commission, as soon as possible, the relevant information concerning the fulfilment of the conditions.

4. The additional allocation of fishing days shall be calculated from the maximum effort allowed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2024/259 proportionally to the relevant number of eligible vessels concerned by the conditions listed in paragraph 1.

5. The Member State concerned shall not allocate additional fishing days that would result in exceeding the level of fishing effort set for the relevant fishing effort group in Regulation (EU) 2024/259.

6. The Member State concerned shall also separately notify every month to the Commission the effort deployed to be counted against the additional allocation referred to in paragraph 1 by using the specific reporting codes for that allocation.

Article 9

Remedial measures for European hake in GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7, blue and red shrimp in GFCM GSAs 5, 6 and 7, giant red shrimp in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11, and Norway lobster in GFCM GSA 6

1. This Article applies to fishing activities by Union vessels catching European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) in GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7, Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) in GFCM GSA 6, blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) in GFCM GSAs 5, 6 and 7, and giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11.

2. The maximum catch limit of European hake for Union fishing vessels using gillnets and trammel nets (GNS, GTR, GND) in Union waters of the Western Mediterranean Sea is set out in Annex IV.

3. Member States shall adopt a minimum conservation reference size for blue and red shrimp and for giant red shrimp of at least 25 mm CL.

4. Member States shall adopt a minimum conservation reference size for Norway lobster of at least 25 mm CL.

5. This Article shall not apply to fishing operations conducted for the exclusive purpose of scientific investigations, provided that those investigations are carried out in compliance with Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council ([9]).

Article 10

Remedial measures for European hake in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11

1. This Article applies to fishing activities by Union vessels catching European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11.

2. The maximum catch limit of European hake for Union fishing vessels using gillnets and trammel nets (GNS, GTR, GND) in Union waters of the Western Mediterranean Sea is set out in Annex IV.

3. This Article shall not apply to fishing operations conducted for the exclusive purpose of scientific investigations, provided that those investigations are carried out in compliance with Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241.

([9]) Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1967/2006, (EC) No 1224/2009 and Regulations (EU) No 1380/2013, (EU) 2016/1139, (EU) 2018/973, (EU) 2019/472 and (EU) 2019/1022 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 894/97, (EC) No 850/98, (EC) No 2549/2000, (EC) No 254/2002, (EC) No 812/2004 and (EC) No 2187/2005 (OJ L 198, 25.7.2019, p. 105, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/1241/oj).

Article 11

Data recording and transmission

1. Member States shall record and transmit the fishing effort data to the Commission in accordance with Articles 33 and 34 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 and Articles 146c, 146d and 146e of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011 ([10]).

2. When Member States submit to the Commission data relating to fishing effort pursuant to Articles 33 and 34 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, they shall use the fishing effort group codes set out in Annex IV to this Regulation.

CHAPTER III

Adriatic Sea

Article 12

Small pelagic stocks

1. This Article applies to all fishing activities by Union fishing vessels and other Union fishing activities catching sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) and anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) in the Adriatic Sea.

2. The maximum level of catches of sardine and anchovy shall not exceed the levels set out in Annex V.

3. The maximum fleet capacity, expressed in number of vessels, kW and GT, of Union fishing vessels authorised to fish small pelagic stocks is set out in Annex V.

4. Articles 3 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply where a Member State uses the year-to-year flexibility provided for in Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.

Article 13

Demersal stocks

1. This Article applies to all fishing activities by Union fishing vessels and other Union fishing activities catching European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*), Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*), common sole (*Solea solea*), deep-water rose shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*) and red mullet (*Mullus barbatus*) in the Adriatic Sea.

2. The maximum allowable fishing effort for those demersal stocks and the maximum fleet capacity within the scope of this Article is set out in Annex V.

3. Member States shall manage the maximum allowable effort in accordance with Articles 26 to 35 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.

Article 14

Data transmission

When, pursuant to Articles 33 and 34 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, Member States submit data relating to landings and fishing effort to the Commission, they shall use the stock codes and fishing effort group codes set out in Annex V to this Regulation.

CHAPTER IV

Strait of Sicily

Article 15

European hake and deep-water rose shrimp

1. This Article applies to all activities by Union fishing vessels and other Union fishing activities catching European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) and deep-water rose shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*) in the Strait of Sicily.

([10]) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011 of 8 April 2011 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy (OJ L 112 30.4.2011, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2011/404/oj).

2. The maximum fleet capacity, expressed in number of vessels, kW and GT, of bottom trawl vessels authorised to fish for demersal stocks within the scope of this Article is set out in Annex VI.

3. The maximum allowable fishing effort for European hake (expressed in number of fishing days), for bottom otter-trawl vessels (OTB) targeting European hake is set out in Annex VI.

4. The maximum level of catches of deep-water rose shrimp shall not exceed the levels set out in Annex VI.

5. Member States shall manage the maximum allowable fishing effort in accordance with Articles 26 to 35 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.

Article 16

Deep-water shrimps

1. This Article applies to all fishing activities by Union fishing vessels and other Union fishing activities catching giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) and blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Strait of Sicily.

2. The maximum fleet capacity, expressed in number of vessels, kW and GT, of bottom trawl vessels authorised to fish the demersal stocks within the scope of this Article is set out in Annex VI.

3. The maximum level of catches shall not exceed the levels set out in Annex VI.

Article 17

Data transmission

When, pursuant to Articles 33 and 34 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, Member States submit data relating to landings of quantities of stocks caught to the Commission, they shall use the stock codes set out in Annex VI to this Regulation.

CHAPTER V

Ionian Sea and Levant Sea

Article 18

Deep-water shrimps

1. This Article applies to all fishing activities by Union fishing vessels and other Union fishing activities catching giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) and blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Ionian Sea and in the Levant Sea.

2. The maximum fleet capacity, expressed in number of vessels, kW and GT, of bottom trawl vessels authorised to fish for demersal stocks within the scope of this Article is set out in Annex VII.

3. The maximum level of catches shall not exceed the levels set out in Annex VII.

CHAPTER VI

Alboran Sea

Article 19

Blackspot seabream

1. This Article applies to commercial and recreational fishing activities by Union fishing vessels catching blackspot seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) with longlines and handlines in the Alboran Sea.

2. The maximum level of catches shall not exceed the levels set out in Annex VIII.

3. The maximum number of longliners and handliners authorised to fish for blackspot seabream is set out in Annex VIII.

4. A temporal closure shall be established with a view to protecting the key stock during spawning for periods of no less than 60 continuous days. Such closure shall last for at least two months and shall take place during the period from January to March 2025 and shall cover the key areas of distribution of blackspot seabream in the Alboran Sea.

5. For recreational fishing activities, the maximum number of catches shall be limited to one fish per person per day. The minimum conservation reference size of 40 cm for blackspot seabream shall apply to recreational fisheries in the Alboran Sea. Recreational fisheries for that species shall be prohibited during the closure period of commercial fisheries set at national level.

CHAPTER VII

Black Sea

Article 20

Sprat

1. This Article applies to all activities by Union fishing vessels and other Union fishing activities catching sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) in the Black Sea.

2. The Union autonomous quota for sprat is set out in Annex IX.

3. Articles 3 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply where a Member State uses the year-to-year flexibility provided for in Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.

Article 21

Turbot

1. This Article applies to all activities by Union fishing vessels and other Union fishing activities catching turbot (*Scophthalmus maximus*) in the Black Sea.

2. The TAC for turbot applicable in Union waters in the Black Sea, the allocation of such TAC among Member States and the conditions functionally linked thereto, where appropriate, are set out in Annex IX.

3. Articles 3 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply where a Member State uses the year-to-year flexibility provided for in Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.

Article 22

Management of fishing effort for turbot

Union fishing vessels authorised to fish for turbot within the scope of Article 21, irrespective of the vessels' overall length, shall not exceed 180 fishing days per year.

Article 23

Closure period for turbot

It shall be prohibited for Union fishing vessels to carry out any fishing activity for turbot, including transhipment, retaining on board, landing and first sale of turbot, in Union waters in the Black Sea from 15 April to 15 June.

Article 24

Special provisions on allocations of fishing opportunities in the Black Sea

The allocation of fishing opportunities among Member States as set out in Annex IX of this Regulation shall be without prejudice to:

(a) exchanges made pursuant to Article 16(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013;

(b) deductions and reallocations made pursuant to Article 37 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009;

(c) deductions made pursuant to Articles 105 and 107 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.

Article 25

Data transmission

When, pursuant to Articles 33 and 34 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, Member States submit to the Commission data relating to landings of quantities of stocks of sprat and turbot caught in Union waters in the Black Sea, they shall use the stock codes set out in Annex IX to this Regulation.

TITLE III

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 26

Entry into force and application

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 30 January 2025.

For the Council

The President

A. SZŁAPKA

ANNEX I

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNION COMMERCIAL FISHING ACTIVITIES FOR GLASS EELS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GFCM MULTIANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR EUROPEAN EEL IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

The tables in this Annex set out the maximum allowable number of fishing authorisations and the maximum numbers for fishing gear authorised for commercial fishing activities targeting European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) of an overall length of less than 12 cm.

Table 1

Maximum number of fishing authorisations

Member States	European eel ELE
Spain	153

Table 2

Maximum number of fishing gears

Member States	Fishing gear	Gear code	Units
Spain	Pots and traps	EPO	249

ANNEX II

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNION FISHING VESSELS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GFCM MULTIANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR RED CORAL IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

The tables in this Annex set out the maximum allowable number of fishing authorisations and the maximum level of harvested quantities of red coral in the Mediterranean Sea.

References to fishing zones are references to the GFCM GSAs.

For the purposes of this Annex, the following comparative table of Latin names and common names of fish stocks is provided:

Scientific name	Alpha-3 code	Common name
Corallium rubrum	COL	Red coral

Table 1

Maximum number of fishing authorisations (*)

Member States	Red coral COL
Greece	12
Spain	0 (**)
France	32
Croatia	0 (**)
Italy	40

(*) Representing number of vessels or divers, or both, or a pair of one diver with one vessel, authorised to harvest red coral.
(**) In accordance with the current temporal ban for red coral fisheries established in Spanish waters and in Croatian waters, pending possible changes in future.

Table 2

Maximum level of harvested quantities expressed in kilograms live weight

Species:	Red coral *Corallium rubrum*	Zone:	Union waters in the Mediterranean Sea – GSAs 1-27 COL/GF1-27
Greece	1 844		
Spain	0 (**)		
France	1 400		
Croatia	0 (**)		
Italy	1 378		
Union	4 622		
TAC	Not relevant		

(**) In accordance with the current temporal ban on red coral fisheries established in Spanish waters and in Croatian waters, pending possible changes in future.

ANNEX III

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNION FISHING VESSELS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MANAGEMENT OF COMMON DOLPHINFISH IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

The tables in this Annex set out the maximum number, kW and GT of Union fishing vessels authorised to fish for common dolphinfish by using FADs in the Mediterranean Sea and the maximum level of catches.

References to fishing zones are references to GFCM GSAs.

For the purposes of this Annex, the following comparative table of Latin names and common names of fish stocks is provided:

Scientific name	Alpha-3 code	Common name
Coryphaena hippurus	DOL	Common dolphinfish

Table 1

Maximum fleet capacity of vessels targeting common dolphinfish by using FADs in the Mediterranean Sea (GSAs 1-27)

Member State	Number of vessels	kW	GT
Italy	261	21 061	1 986
Malta	130	16 662	1 296,28
Spain	45	2 105,73	153,34

Table 2

Maximum number of FADs per vessel authorised to target common dolphinfish in the Mediterranean Sea (GSAs 1-27)

Member State	Number of FADs per vessel
Italy	100
Malta	200
Spain	50

Table 3

Maximum level of catches in tonnes live weight caught in the Mediterranean Sea (GSAs 1-27)

Species:	Common dolphinfish *Coryphaena hippurus*	Zone:	Union and International waters of GFCM GSAs 1-27 (DOL/MED)
Italy	1 174	Maximum level of catches	
Malta	517		
Spain	127		
Union	1 818		
TAC	Not relevant		

ANNEX IV

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNION FISHING VESSELS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MANAGEMENT OF DEMERSAL STOCKS IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA

The tables in this Annex set out the maximum allowable fishing effort (in fishing days) by stock groups, as defined in Article 2, point (13), of Regulation (EU) No 2019/1022, maximum catch limits and overall length of vessels for all types of trawls [1] and demersal longliners fishing for demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean Sea.

All fishing opportunities set out in this Annex shall be subject to the rules set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022 and Articles 26 to 35 of Regulation (EC) 1224/2009.

References to fishing zones are references to GFCM GSAs.

For the purposes of this Annex, the following comparative table of Latin names and common names of fish stocks is provided:

Scientific name	Alpha-3 code	Common name
Aristaeomorpha foliacea	ARS	Giant red shrimp
Aristeus antennatus	ARA	Blue and red shrimp
Merluccius merluccius	HKE	European hake
Mullus barbatus	MUT	Red mullet
Nephrops norvegicus	NEP	Norway lobster
Parapenaeus longirostris	DPS	Deep-water rose shrimp

1. Maximum allowable fishing effort (in fishing days)

(a) Number of fishing days for trawlers in the Alboran Sea, Balearic Islands, Northern Spain and Gulf of Lion (GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7)

Stock group	Overall length of vessels	Spain	France	Italy	Fishing effort group code	Additional allocation code
Red mullet in GSAs 1, 5, 6 and 7; European hake in GSAs 1, 5, 6 and 7; deep-water rose shrimp in GSAs 1, 5 and 6; Norway lobster in GSAs 5 and 6	< 12 m	317	0	0	EFF1/MED1_TR1	EFF1/MED1_TR1_AA
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	3 400	0	0	EFF1/MED1_TR2	EFF1/MED1_TR2_AA
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	6 379	2 023	0	EFF1/MED1_TR3	EFF1/MED1_TR3_AA
	≥ 24 m	2 247	2 462	0	EFF1/MED1_TR4	EFF1/MED1_TR4_AA

[1] TBB, OTB, PTB, TBN, TBS, TB, OTM, PTM, TMS, TM, OTT, OT, PT, TX, OTP and TSP.

Stock group	Overall length of vessels	Spain	France	Italy	Fishing effort group code	Additional allocation code
Blue and red shrimp in GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7	< 12 m	0	0	0	EFF2/MED1_TR1	EFF2/MED1_TR1_AA
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	160	0	0	EFF2/MED1_TR2	EFF2/MED1_TR2_AA
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	1 615	0	0	EFF2/MED1_TR3	EFF2/MED1_TR3_AA
	≥ 24 m	1 297	0	0	EFF2/MED1_TR4	EFF2/MED1_TR4_AA

(b) Number of fishing days for trawlers in Corsica Island, Ligurian Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea and Sardinia Island (GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11)

Stock group	Overall length of vessels	Spain	France	Italy	Fishing effort group code	Additional allocation code
Red mullet in GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11; European hake in GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11; deep-water rose shrimp in GSAs 9, 10 and 11; Norway lobster in GSAs 9 and 10	< 12 m	0	138	1 202	EFF1/MED2_TR1	EFF1/MED2_TR1_AA
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	0	551	18 064	EFF1/MED2_TR2	EFF1/MED2_TR2_AA
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	0	138	12 148	EFF1/MED2_TR3	EFF1/MED2_TR3_AA
	≥ 24 m	0	138	1 622	EFF1/MED2_TR4	EFF1/MED2_TR4_AA
Giant red shrimp in GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11	< 12 m	0	83	199	EFF2/MED2_TR1	EFF2/MED2_TR1_AA
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	0	333	1 465	EFF2/MED2_TR2	EFF2/MED2_TR2_AA
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	0	83	1 180	EFF2/MED2_TR3	EFF2/MED2_TR3_AA
	≥ 24 m	0	83	158	EFF2/MED2_TR4	EFF2/MED2_TR4_AA

(c) Number of fishing days for demersal longliners in Alboran Sea, Balearic Islands, Northern Spain and Gulf of Lion (GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7)

Stock group	Overall length of vessels	Spain	France	Italy	Fishing effort group code
European hake in GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7	< 12 m	9 433	6 432	0	EFF1/MED1_LL1
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	2 148	93	0	EFF1/MED1_LL2
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	74	0	0	EFF1/MED1_LL3
	≥ 24 m	29	0	0	EFF1/MED1_LL4

(d) Number of fishing days for demersal longliners in Corsica Island, Ligurian Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea and Sardinia Island (GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11)

Stock group	Overall length of vessels	Spain	France	Italy	Fishing effort group code
European hake in GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11	< 12 m	0	1 436	28 873	EFF1/MED2_LL1
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m	0	44	4 131	EFF1/MED2_LL2
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m	0	0	23	EFF1/MED2_LL3
	≥ 24 m	0	0	0	EFF1/MED2_LL4

2. Maximum catch limits for deep-water shrimps

(a) Fishing opportunities for blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Alboran Sea, Balearic Islands, Northern Spain and Gulf of Lion (GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7), expressed as maximum level of catches in tonnes live weight

Species:	Blue and red shrimp *Aristeus antennatus*	Zone:	GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 (ARA/GF1-7)
Spain	708,3	Maximum level of catches	
France	45,9		
Italy	0		
Union	754,2		
TAC	Not relevant		

(b) Fishing opportunities for blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) and giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) in Corsica Island, Ligurian Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea and Sardinia Island (GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11), expressed as maximum level of catches in tonnes live weight

Species:	Blue and red shrimp *Aristeus antennatus*	Zone:	GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 (ARA/GF8-11)
Spain	0	Precautionary catch limit	
France	8,5	Maximum level of catches	
Italy	221,9		
Union	230,4		
TAC	Not relevant		

Species:	Giant red shrimp *Aristaeomorpha foliacea*	Zone:	GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 (ARS/GF8-11)
Spain	0	Analytical catch limits	
France	4,7	Maximum level of catches	
Italy	323,4		
Union	328,1		
TAC	Not relevant		

3. Maximum catch limits for European hake

(a) Fishing opportunities for European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) caught by static gear (GNS, GND and GTR) in the Alboran Sea, Balearic Islands, Northern Spain and Gulf of Lion (GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7), expressed as maximum level of catches in tonnes live weight.

Species:	European hake *Merluccius merluccius*	Zone:	GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 (HKE/GF1-7)
Spain	49,1	Analytical catch limit	
France	122,2	Article 3(2) and 3(3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.	
Italy	0	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.	
Union	171,3	Article 15(9) of Regulation (EC) No 1380/2013 shall not apply.	
TAC	Not relevant	Maximum level of catches	

(b) Fishing opportunities for European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) caught by static gear (GNS, GND and GTR) in Corsica Island, Ligurian Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea and Sardinia Island (GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11), expressed as maximum level of catches in tonnes live weight

Species:	European hake *Merluccius merluccius*	Zone:	GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 (HKE/GF8-11)
Spain	0	Analytical catch limit	
France	0,2	Article 3(2) and 3(3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.	
Italy	261,5	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.	
Union	261,7	Article 15(9) of Regulation (EC) No 1380/2013 shall not apply.	
TAC	Not relevant	Maximum level of catches	

ANNEX V

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNION FISHING VESSELS IN THE ADRIATIC SEA

The tables in this Annex set out the fishing opportunities by stock or vessel effort groups and, where appropriate, the conditions functionally linked thereto, including the maximum number of Union fishing vessels authorised to fish small pelagics.

All fishing opportunities set out in this Annex shall be subject to the rules set out in Articles 26 to 35 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.

Reference to fishing zones are references to GFCM GSAs.

For the purposes of this Annex, the following comparative table of Latin names and common names is provided:

Scientific name	Alpha-3 code	Common name
Engraulis encrasicolus	ANE	Anchovy
Merluccius merluccius	HKE	European hake
Mullus barbatus	MUT	Red mullet
Nephrops norvegicus	NEP	Norway lobster
Parapenaeus longirostris	DPS	Deep-water rose shrimp
Sardina pilchardus	PIL	Sardine
Solea solea	SOL	Common sole

1. Small pelagic stocks – GSAs 17 and 18

(a) Maximum level of catches expressed in tonnes live weight

Species	Small pelagic species (anchovy and sardine)		Zone:	Union and International waters of GFCM GSAs 17 and 18
	Engraulis encrasicolus (ANE/GF1718)	*Sardina pilchardus* (PIL/GF1718)		
Italy	15 733,7	8 962,549	Maximum level of catches	
Croatia	10 608,3	36 267,45		
Slovenia	111	189		
Union	26 453	45 419		
TAC	Not relevant			

(b) Maximum fleet capacity of trawlers and purse seiners actively fishing for small pelagics

Member State	Gear	Number of vessels	kW	GT
Croatia	PS	249	77 145,52	18 537,72
Italy	PTM, OTM and PS	187	64 655	14 065

Member State	Gear	Number of vessels	kW	GT
Slovenia (*)	PS	4	433,7	38,5

(*) The provision under paragraph 28 of GFCM/44/2021/20 shall not apply to national fleets of less than 10 purse seiners or pelagic trawlers actively fishing for small pelagic stocks, as recorded both in national and GFCM registers in 2014. In such case, the capacity of the active fleet may increase by not more than 50 % in number of vessels and in terms of gross tonnage (GT), gross registered tonnage (GRT) and kW.

2. Demersal stocks – GSAs 17 and 18

(a) Maximum allowable fishing effort (in fishing days) by types of trawls and fleet segment fishing for demersal stocks in GSAs 17 and 18 (Adriatic Sea).

					Fishing Days 2025		
Gear type	Geographical area	Stocks concerned	Overall length of vessels	Effort group code	Italy	Croatia	Slovenia
Trawls (OTB)	GSAs 17 and 18	Red mullet, European hake, deep-water rose shrimp and Norway lobster	< 12 m	EFF/MED3_OTB_TR1	2 880	9 557	(*)
			≥ 12 m and < 24 m	EFF/MED3_OTB_TR2	64 737	22 266	(*)
			≥ 24 m	EFF/MED3_OTB_TR3	5 672	1 999	(*)
Beam trawls (TBB)	GSA 17	Common sole	< 12 m	EFF/MED3_TBB_TR1	194	0	0
			≥ 12 m and < 24 m	EFF/MED3_TBB_TR2	3 635	0	0
			≥ 24 m	EFF/MED3_TBB_TR3	3 614	0	0

(*) Slovenia shall not exceed the effort limit of 3 000 fishing days per year in accordance with paragraph 13 of GFCM/43/2019/5.

(b) Maximum fleet capacity of bottom trawler and beam trawl vessels authorised for fishing demersal stocks

Member State	Gear	Number of vessels	kW	GT
Croatia	OTB	495	79 867,99	13 267,99
Italy	OTB and TBB	1 363	260 618,37	47 148
Slovenia (*)	OTB	11	1 813,00	168,67

(*) The provisions of paragraphs 9(c) and 28 of GFCM/43/2019/5 shall not apply to national fleets operating with trawls (OTB) and fishing for less than 1 000 days during the reference period mentioned in paragraph 9(c) of GFCM/43/2019/5. The fishing capacity of the active fleet operating with trawls (OTB) shall not increase by more than 50 percent with respect to the reference period.

ANNEX VI

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNION FISHING VESSELS IN THE STRAIT OF SICILY

The tables in this Annex set out the fishing opportunities by stock or vessels' effort groups and, where appropriate, the conditions functionally linked thereto, including the maximum number of Union fishing vessels authorised to fish demersal species and deep-water shrimps.

All fishing opportunities set out in this Annex shall be subject to the rules set out in Articles 26 to 35 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.

References to fishing zones are references to GFCM GSAs.

For the purposes of this Annex, the following comparative table of Latin names and common names is provided:

Scientific name	Alpha-3 code	Common name
Merluccius merluccius	HKE	European hake
Parapenaeus longirostris	DPS	Deep-water rose shrimp
Aristaeomorpha foliacea	ARS	Giant red shrimp
Aristeus antennatus	ARA	Blue and red shrimp

1. Demersal Stocks

(a) Maximum fleet capacity, expressed in number of vessels, kW and GT, of bottom trawl vessels authorised to fish demersal stocks in the Strait of Sicily (GSAs 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16)

Member State	Gear	Number of vessels	kW	GT
Cyprus	OTB	1	265	105
Spain	OTB	1	100	118
Italy	OTB	594	144 175	36 856
Malta	OTB	15	5 562	2 007

(b) Maximum level of fishing effort (in number of fishing days), for bottom otter trawl vessels (OTB) targeting European hake *(Merluccius merluccius*) in the Strait of Sicily (GSAs 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16)

Member State	Gear	Vessel Length	Effort group code	Fishing Days 2025
Cyprus	OTB	T-12	EFF4/MED4_OTB4	51
Italy	OTB	T-07	EFF4/MED4_OTB1	90
Italy	OTB	T-10	EFF4/MED4_OTB2	188
Italy	OTB	T-11	EFF4/MED4_OTB3	19 366
Italy	OTB	T-12	EFF4/MED4_OTB4	3 657
Malta	OTB	T-11	EFF4/MED4_OTB3	338
Malta	OTB	T-12	EFF4/MED4_OTB4	165

(c) Maximum level of catches of deep-water rose shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*) in the Strait of Sicily (GSAs 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16) expressed in tonnes live weight

Species:	Deep-water rose shrimp *Parapenaeus longirostris*	Zone:	GSAs 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 (DPS/GF12-16)
Cyprus	1	Analytical catch limit	
Italy	2 020		
Malta	5		
Union	2 026		
TAC	Not relevant		

2. Deep-water shrimps

(a) Maximum fleet capacity, expressed in number of vessels, kW and GT, of bottom trawl vessels authorised to fish deep-water shrimp stocks in the Strait of Sicily (GSAs 12, 13 14, 15 and 16)

Member State	Gear	Number of vessels	kW	GT
Cyprus	OTB	1	265	105
Spain	OTB	2	440,56	218,78
Italy	OTB	239	76 232	22 672
Malta	OTB	15	5 562	2 007

(b) Maximum level of catches of giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) in the Strait of Sicily (GSAs 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16) expressed in tonnes live weight

Species:	Giant red shrimp *Aristaeomorpha foliacea*	Zone:	GSAs 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 (ARS/GF12-16)
Spain	0,9	Analytical catch limit	
Italy	818,4		
Cyprus	0		
Malta	34,7		
Union	854		
TAC	Not relevant		

(c) Maximum level of catches of blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Strait of Sicily (GSAs 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16) expressed in tonnes live weight

Species:	Blue and red shrimp *Aristeus antennatus*	Zone:	GSAs 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 (ARA/GF12-16)
Spain	0,9	Precautionary catch limit	
Italy	94,8		
Cyprus	0		
Malta	1,8		
Union	98		
TAC	Not relevant		

ANNEX VII

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNION FISHING VESSELS IN THE IONIAN SEA AND THE LEVANT SEA

The tables in this Annex set out the maximum number of Union fishing vessels authorised to fish for demersal stocks in the Ionian Sea and the Levant Sea.

References to fishing zones are references to GFCM GSAs.

For the purposes of this Annex, the following comparative table of Latin names and common names of fish stocks is provided:

Scientific name	Alpha-3 code	Common name
Aristaeomorpha foliacea	ARS	Giant red shrimp
Aristeus antennatus	ARA	Blue and red shrimp

1. Ionian Sea

(a) Maximum fleet capacity, expressed in number of vessels, kW and GT, of bottom trawl vessels authorised to fish deep-water shrimp stocks in the Ionian Sea (GSAs 19, 20 and 21)

Member State	Gear	Number of vessels	kW	GT
Greece	OTB	240	69 281	23 101
Italy	OTB	291	72 383	16 853
Malta	OTB	15	5 562	2 007

(b) Maximum level of catches of giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) in the Ionian Sea (GSAs 19, 20 and 21) expressed in tonnes live weight

Species:	Giant red shrimp *Aristaeomorpha foliacea*	Zone:	GSAs 19, 20 and 21 (ARS/GF19-21)
Greece	32,3	Analytical catch limit	
Italy	294,4		
Malta	43,3		
Union	370		
TAC	Not relevant		

(c) Maximum level of catches of blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Ionian Sea (GSAs 19, 20 and 21) expressed in tonnes live weight

Species:	Blue and red shrimp *Aristeus antennatus*	Zone:	GSAs 19, 20 and 21 (ARA/GF19-21)
Greece	14,3	Analytical catch limit	
Italy	235,7		
Malta	0		
Union	250		
TAC	Not relevant		

2. Levant Sea

(a) Maximum fleet capacity, expressed in number of vessels, kW and GT, of bottom trawler vessels authorised to fish deep-water shrimp stocks in the Levant Sea (GSAs 24, 25, 26 and 27)

Member State	Gear	Number of vessels	kW	GT
Cyprus	OTB	6	2 048	618
Italy	OTB	34	15 345	5 542

(b) Maximum level of catches of giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) in the Levant Sea (GSAs 24, 25, 26 and 27) expressed in tonnes live weight

Species:	Giant red shrimp *Aristaeomorpha foliacea*	Zone:	GSAs 24, 25, 26 and 27 (ARS/GF24-27)
Italy	45,1	Precautionary catch limit	
Cyprus	10,9		
Union	56		
TAC	Not relevant		

(c) Maximum level of catches of blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Levant Sea (GSAs 24, 25, 26 and 27) expressed in tonnes live weight

Species:	Blue and red shrimp *Aristeus antennatus*	Zone:	GSAs 24, 25, 26 and 27 (ARA/GF24-27)
Italy	9,4	Precautionary catch limit	
Cyprus	5,6		
Union	15		
TAC	Not relevant		

ANNEX VIII

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNION FISHING VESSELS IN THE ALBORAN SEA

(a) Maximum level of catches carried out by longliners and handlines, expressed in tonnes live weight

Species:	Blackspot seabream *Pagellus bogaraveo*	Zone:	Union waters in the Alboran Sea – GSAs 1, 2 and 3 (SBR/GF1-3)
Spain	20,83	Maximum level of catches	
Union	20,83		
TAC	Not relevant		

(b) Maximum number of longliners and handliners authorised for fishing in Alboran Sea (GSAs 1, 2 and 3)

Member State	Blackspot seabream in GSAs 1, 2 and 3
Spain	82

ANNEX IX

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNION FISHING VESSELS IN THE BLACK SEA

The tables in this Annex set out TACs and quotas expressed in tonnes live weight by stock and, where appropriate, the conditions functionally linked thereto.

All fishing opportunities set out in this Annex shall be subject to the rules set out in Articles 26 to 35 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.

References to fishing zones are references to GFCM GSAs.

For the purposes of this Annex, the following comparative table of Latin names and common names is provided:

Scientific name	Alpha-3 code	Common name
Sprattus sprattus	SPR	Sprat
Scophthalmus maximus	TUR	Turbot

Species:	Sprat *Sprattus sprattus*		Zone:	Union waters in the Black Sea – GSA 29 (SPR/F3742C)
Bulgaria		8 032,50	Analytical TAC	
Romania		3 442,50	Article 3(2) and 3(3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.	
Union		11 475	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.	
TAC		Not relevant		

Species:	Turbot *Scophthalmus maximus*		Zone:	Union waters in the Black Sea – GSA 29 (TUR/F3742C)
Bulgaria		90,26	Analytical TAC	
Romania		93,09	Article 3(2) and 3(3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.	
Union		183,35 (*)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.	
TAC		890		

(*) No fishing activity, including transhipment, retaining on board, landing and first sale, shall be permitted from 15 April to 15 June 2025.