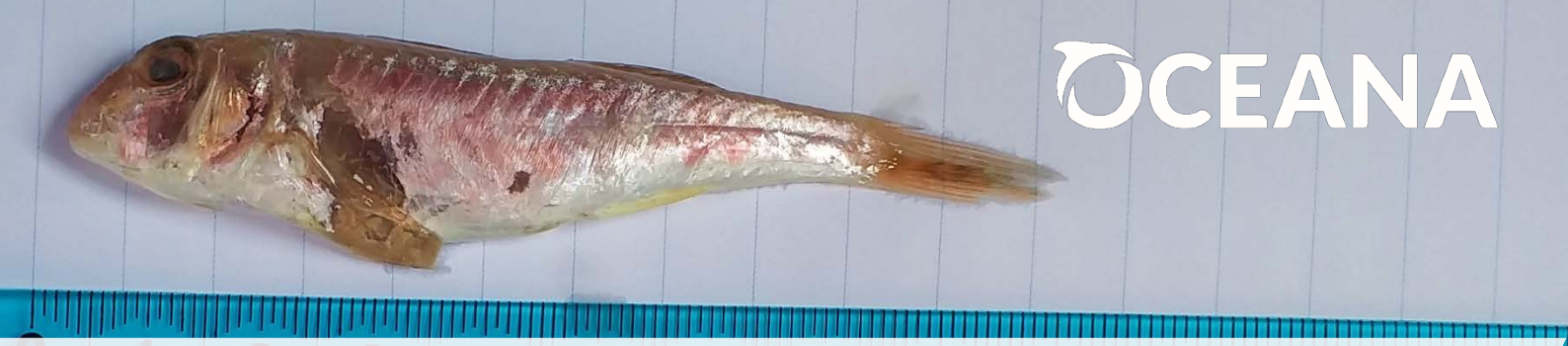


GFCM Post-2020 Strategy

CALL FOR THE ADOPTION OF MINIMUM LANDING SIZES FOR ALL GFCM PRIORITY SPECIES

43rd GFCM Commission Meeting
Athens, 4-8 November 2019

What is the problem?

The protection of juvenile fish is a prerequisite to secure productive fisheries. Yet the catch of small and immature individuals (both targeted and bycatch) is a persistent problem in Mediterranean fisheries that results in the majority of fisheries resources being captured before they realize their reproductive potential. According to the SoMFi 2018 report, a significant part of the discard fraction (between 20% and 30%) is represented by undersize specimen or fish of inadequate size in the Mediterranean Sea.

With only a few exceptions, **most GFCM priority species currently lack any Minimum Landing Size (MLS) or Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS)**. This analysis by Oceana on 15 GFCM priority fish species from the Mediterranean Sea confirms an overall absence of MLS/MCRS measures for most priority species, and notably that:

- Only **European hake** is subject to a specific GFCM regional-wide measure to conserve juveniles across the entire Mediterranean region;
- MCRS for **deep-water rose shrimp** is established under the scope of the multiannual management plan for demersal fisheries in the Strait of Sicily;
- MCRS for **anchovies and sardines** are established under the scope of the multiannual management plan for small pelagic fisheries in the Adriatic Sea;
- Additional species (e.g. **common sole, shrimp species**) could be subject to MCRS measures in the future under multiannual management plans, depending on scientific assessments/advice.
- 2 species (**Norway lobster**, **Red mullet**) do not have MCRS whereas they exist under EU legislation;
- For 8 other species that do not have MLS/MCRS, scientific information is available on "minimum size mature" and/or "length at first maturity", which can help estimate a value for this parameter.
- Many GFCM non-priority species, where juvenile represent a large part of the landings, lack MLS/MCRS: like **monkfish, conger, John dory, horse mackerel, sprat, gobies**, etc.
- In some instance, species do have MLS/MCRS defined, but below their science-based maturity size.

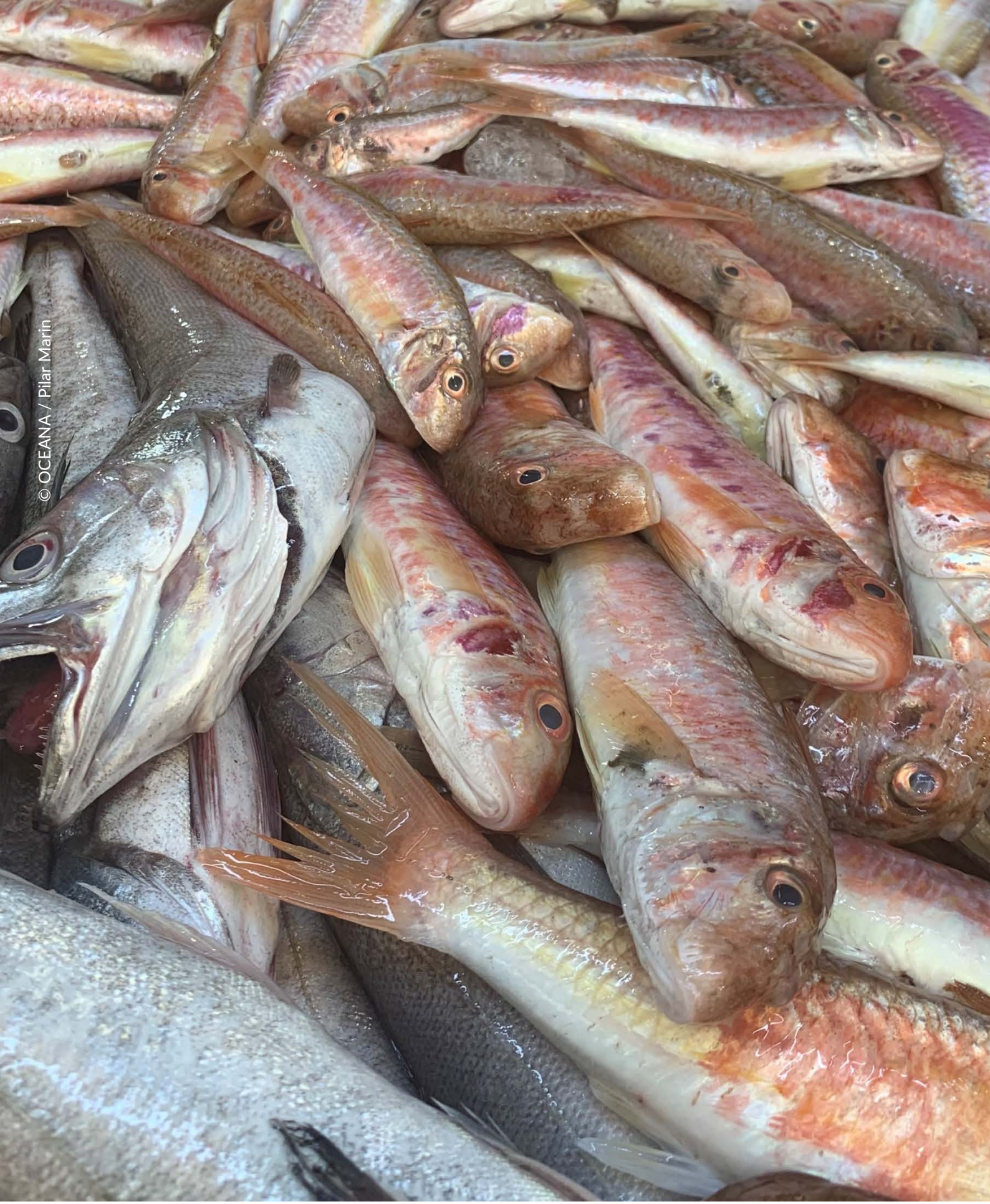
What can GFCM do about it?

Adopting and enforcing MLS/MCRS is good fisheries management decision to prevent fishermen from being tempted or incentivised to catch undersized fish. A variety of technical measures can then be developed either under multiannual management plans or beyond (regional scope), to reduce exploitation rates of juveniles and improve selectivity (e.g. regulating mesh size, establishing spatial/temporal closures etc.).

The new GFCM Strategy Post-2020 must tackle with ambition the protection of juveniles at the regional level by adopting science-based MLS/MCRS for all GFMC species, starting progressively with GFCM priority species.

	PRIORITY SPECIES NAME	Adopted MCRS/MLS at GFCM level*	Indicative available L_{mat} (minimum size mature) or L_{50} (50% mature)***	Legal reference and remarks
DEMERSAL SPECIES	**Deep-water rose shrimp** *Parapenaeus longirostris* 	Defined in Strait of Sicily MAP: 20mm CL *Indicative EU MLS**: 20 mm CL*	L_{mat} (♀) = 10-18.5 mm CL L_{mat} (♂) = no data	**MAP** : Art 8 & 9 GFCM/42/2018/5 **Adriatic Demersal fisheries MAP**: suggested potential future measure under Technical Elements
	Blue and red shrimp *Aristeus antennatus* 	Not defined in any location	L_{mat} (♀) = 15-32 mm (CL) L_{mat} (♂) = 19-21 mm (CL)	**MAP Ionian / MAP Levant**: Not defined under existing MAP, pending the identification of biological reference points in line with the MSY
	Giant red shrimp *Aristaeomorpha foliacea* 	Not defined in any location	L_{mat} (♀) = 28-38 mm (CL) L_{mat} (♂) = 27-29 mm (CL)	**MAP Ionian / MAP Levant**: Not defined under existing MAP, pending the identification of biological reference points in line with the MSY
	Norway lobster *Nephrops norvegicus* 	Not defined in any location *Indicative EU MLS**: 20 mm CL / 70 mm TL*	L_{mat} (♀) = 18-30 mm (CL) L_{mat} (♂) = no data	**Adriatic Demersal fisheries MAP**: suggested potential future measure under Technical Elements
	Spot-tail mantis shrimp *Squilla mantis* 	Not defined in any location	L_{mat} (♀) = 93 mm (TL) – in GSA 12, 13, 14 L_{mat} (♂) = no data	**Adriatic Demersal fisheries MAP**: suggested potential future measure under Technical Elements
	Red mullet *Mullus barbatus* 	Not defined in any location *Indicative EU MLS**: 11 cm*	L_{50} (♀): 10,4-14,4 cm L_{50} (♂): 9,4-15,5 cm	**Adriatic Demersal fisheries MAP**: suggested potential future measure under Technical Elements
	Hake *Merluccius merluccius* 	Defined for all GFCM subregions: 20 cm TL	L_{50} (♀) =18-43 cm L_{50} (♂) =18-32 cm	All Subregions: Art 3 REC GFCM/40/2016/5 **MAP Strait of Sicily**: Art 8 & 9 GFCM/42/2018/5 **Adriatic Demersal fisheries MAP**: suggested potential future measure under Technical Elements
	Blackspot seabream *Pagellus bogaraveo* 	Indicative EU MLS**: 33 cm	Size at first maturity L50% (GFCM 2018a, CopeMed II 2018): Spain: L_{50} (♀) =36 cm / L_{50} (♂) =30 cm Morocco: L_{50} (♀) =31,7 cm / L_{50} (♂) =30,9 cm	To be defined in line with the scientific advice of the SAC 2019 (at 43rd session GFCM?)
	Lizardfish *Saurida lessepsianus* 	Not defined in any location	Length of maturity unknown (FishBase 2019)	
	Common sole *Solea solea* 	Not defined in any location	L_{50} (♀) = 15,2-25,8 cm L_{50} (♂) = 14,8-18,7 cm	**Adriatic Demersal fisheries MAP**: suggested potential future measure under Technical Elements
	Common cuttlefish *Sepia officinalis* 	Not defined in any location	L_{50} (♀) = 80/110 mm (ML) L_{50} (♂) = 50/70 mm (ML)	**Adriatic Demersal fisheries MAP**: suggested potential future measure under Technical Elements
OF REGIONAL IMPORTANCE	**Common dolphinfish** *Coryphaena hippurus* 	Not defined in any location	Data from Gatt et al (2015) for Maltese waters: Juvenile > 65cm FL L_{50} (♀) = 62,56 cm (FL) / L_{100} (♀) = 104 cm (FL) L_{50} (♂) = 58,9 cm (FL) / L_{100} (♂) = 104 cm (FL) Data from Massuti and Morales-Nin (1997): L_{50} (♀) = 54,5 cm (FL) L_{50} (♂) = 61,8 cm (FL)	
PELAGIC SPECIES	**European anchovy** *Engraulis encrasicolus* 	Defined in Adriatic MAP: 9 cm *Indicative EU MLS**: 9 cm*	L_{50} (♀) = 6,1-12,78 cm L_{50} (♂) = 6,3-12,7cm	MAP small pelagic in Adriatic Sea: Art 19 GFCM/37/2013/1
	European pilchard *Sardina pilchardus* 	Defined in Adriatic MAP: 11 cm *Indicative EU MLS**: 11 cm*	L_{50} = 7,9 cm in the eastern Adriatic (Sinovčić et al 2008)	
	Round sardinella *Sardinella aurita* 	Not defined in any location	In the North-Eastern Aegean Sea (Kavala Gulf, Greece) (Tsikliras & Antonopoulou 2006): L_{mat} (♀) = 16,83 cm L_{mat} (♂) = 15,50 cm In Tunisian waters (Gaamour et al 2001): L_{mat} (♀) =15,2 cm L_{mat} (♂) =14,1 cm	

(*) TL (Total length), CL (Carapace Length), Mantle length (ML), Fork length (FL); **(**)** adopted by EU - Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 concerning management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean Sea; **(***)** from FAO Atlas of the maturity stages of Mediterranean fishery resources, GFCM Studies & Review 99, 2019. (NOTE: maturity sizes may vary according to locations). © Images: FAO; European Commission



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