



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

**FAO Workshop on the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries<sup>1</sup> (DSF) and  
Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) in the Mediterranean  
(in collaboration with GFCM)**

18-20 July 2016, FAO HQ, Rome, Italy

King Faisal Room (D 263)

Draft agenda

**DAY 1**

**Working hours: 09:00–17:30**

**1. Opening**

**1.1. Opening session**

- Welcome addresses
- Appointment of Chair and Rapporteur
- Adoption of Agenda
- Introductions of participants

**1.2. Workshop objectives and expected outputs (by FAO)**

**2. Setting the scene: relevant global and regional instruments and measures**

**2.1. International instruments relevant to DSF (by FAO)**

**2.2. Global summary of RFMO/A measures for DSF and VMEs and overall assessment of their effectiveness (by FAO)**

**2.3. Regional instruments relevant to DSF in the Mediterranean and GFCM response to international legislation (by GFCM)**

**3. Characterization of DSF and benthic habitats in the Mediterranean**

**3.1. Identification of DSF, fished areas and fish stocks in the deep-seas of the Mediterranean**

- **Overview of Mediterranean DSF** (by Giuseppe Scarcella, GFCM, and Fabio Fiorentino, IAMC-CNR)
- **Spatial distribution of fishing effort around the Mediterranean** (by Nora Anna Tasseti, ISMAR-CNR)
- **Deep-sea resources, Mediterranean Sea, Egypt** (by Mahmoud Farrag, Al-Azhar University)
- **Deep-water red shrimps in the Ionian and Aegean Seas** (by Kostas Kapiris, Hellenic Centre of Marine Research)

**3.2. Benthic habitats of the Mediterranean (participants)**

- **Deep-sea habitats: species and ecosystems** (by Emanuela Fanelli, ENEA)

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<sup>1</sup> Note: Deep-sea fisheries for the Mediterranean Sea are here regarded as fisheries that use bottom contact gear in waters deeper than 400 m or use deep pelagic trawls that fish on species associated with the sea floor in waters deeper than 400 m and shallower than 1000 m, according to GFCM Recommendation 29/2005/1 which prohibited the use of towed dredges and trawl nets beyond 1000 m of depth. Shallower fisheries may be considered if they also extend below 400 m. Much of what is discussed in DSF is also relevant to other fisheries (FAO DSF Guidelines, Paras 8-11)

- **Results from the MEDITS programme: long-term changes in demersal species in the Spanish Continental Mediterranean upper-slope (400-800 m)** (by Gil de Sola Simarro Luis, IEO)
  - **Benthic modular organisms as VME builders** (by Carlo Cerrano, Polytechnic University of Marche)
- 3.3. Habitats and DSFs under management measures in the Mediterranean** (by GFCM)
- *Open discussion on DSF in the Mediterranean*

## DAY 2

**Working hours: 09:00–17:30**

### 4. VMEs and measures to protect VMEs from significant adverse impacts (SAIs)

#### 4.1. VMEs

- **Basic concepts: bottom fisheries, SAIs, and VMEs** (by FAO)
  - **Management of DSF and VMEs: regional experiences** (by Mariano Koen Alonso, NAFO)
  - **Information from surveys and commercial vessels on the distribution of VMEs** (by Luis López Ábellan, IEO)
  - **Known vulnerable Mediterranean deep-sea ecosystems** (by Maria del Mar Otero Villanueva, IUCN)
  - **Defining Mediterranean VMEs** (by Pilar Marin, OCEANA)
  - *Open discussion on indicator species, indicator elements, and characteristics of Mediterranean VMEs*
- 4.2. Sponge and coral fauna: reporting and tools** (by Marzia Bo, Genova University)
- **Identification tools for deep-sea sponges** (by FAO)
- 4.3. Encounter protocols and the use of indicators and thresholds to protect biodiversity**
- Introduction (TBC)
  - **GFCM actions in relation to the use of encounter protocols, and outcomes of the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the GFCM (May 2016)** (by Othman Jarboui, GFCM SAC)
  - *Open discussion*
- 4.4. Exploratory fishing protocols and impact assessments** (by FAO)

## DAY 3

**Working hours: 09:00–17:30**

### 5. Information, data and reporting

- 5.1. Data Collection by scientific and commercial vessels** (by FAO)
- 5.2. Monitoring and compliance for DSF and VMEs** (by Fernando Nieto Conde, Independent Consultant)
- **Monitoring aspects of deep-sea bottom trawl fisheries in the Mediterranean** (by Anna Nora Tassetti, ISMAR-CNR)

### 6. Collaboration and partnerships

- 6.1. Joint strategy between RAC/SPA, ACCOBAMS, GFCM and IUCN with the collaboration of MedPAN, for the spatial conservation and sustainable use of the marine environment in the Mediterranean** (by Daniel Cebrian, RAC/SPA)

**6.2. FAO's work with DSF: developing partnerships, collaborative work, and opportunities (by FAO)**

**7. Closing session**

**7.1. Placing GFCM's management within a global context (by FAO)**

**7.2. Conclusions and recommendations**

**7.3. Any other business**

**7.4. Workshop closure**