Overview of GFCM Fisheries Restricted Areas

GFCM Secretariat

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON “OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MEASURES” IN NORTH AFRICA AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
10-11 February 2020
A FRA can be established to protect any kind of marine resource and ecosystem (including VMEs) from potentially harmful fishing activities.

Yet in 2005 the GFCM was a pioneer in establishing a deep sea large FRA encompassing all sea bed below 1000 m depth (bottom trawling prohibited).

Other 8 FRAs were established from 2006 to 2018.

New FRAs proposals are under discussion at SAC level.

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**GFCM Fisheries Restricted Areas**

**Definition by SAC**

“... a geographically-defined area in which all or certain fishing activities are temporarily or permanently banned or restricted in order to improve the exploitation and conservation of harvested living aquatic resources or the protection of marine ecosystems...”
GFCM Fisheries Restricted Areas

(2009) Fishing effort is freezed to protect EFHs (and possible VMEs)

(2017) Fishing with bottom-contact gear forbidden to protect EFHs

(2016x3) Fishing with bottom-contact gear forbidden to protect EFHs

(2006) Bottom-trawl fishing is prohibited to protect VMEs (sponges, cold-water corals, etc.)

Conservation of essential fish habitats (EFH) FRAs
Conservation of deep-sea sensitive habitats (VMEs) FRAs
Multi-annual management plan in place
1000 m deep-water FRA
GFCM Fisheries Restricted Areas

How does it work?

• The initial FRA proposal can be submitted to GFCM by any stakeholder, e.g. Institutions, scientists, policy-makers, NGOs, private sector

• Through an ad-hoc form available on the GFCM website providing information on the area, e.g. site description, biological features, human activities and impacts, legal status, objective of the FRA, etc.

• Process

FRA Proposal → Expert GFCM groups / Subregional Committees → SAC → Commission

Technical consultations

Institutional consultations
GFCM FRAs are included in the FAO database on VMEs
STANDARD FORM FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS FOR GFCM FISHERIES RESTRICTED AREAS (FRAs) IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE BLACK SEA

Proposal revised by (SAC technical group/subregional committee):

Date of endorsement:

| |

Name of the FRA

Submitted by (institution, scientists, GFCM contracting parties, etc.):

Date of submission:
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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 2. AREA IDENTIFICATION

### 2.1. GFCM GEOGRAPHICAL SUBAREA

### 2.2. NAME OF THE FRA

### 2.3. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

#### 2.3.1. General location

#### 2.3.2. Precise location of the proposed core area

#### 2.3.3. Buffer area (if applicable)

#### 2.3.4. Location map

#### 2.3.5. Depth range

## 3. SITE DESCRIPTION

### 3.1. MAIN PHYSICAL FEATURES

#### 3.1.1. Geology/Geomorphology

#### 3.1.2. Other relevant physical or chemical features

### 3.2. BIOLOGICAL FEATURES

#### 3.2.1. Habitats

#### 3.2.2. List of species of regional importance

#### 3.2.3. Occurrence of biological and ecological processes relevant to fish resources

### 3.3. USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

#### 3.3.1. Current human use and development of fisheries

#### 3.3.2. Current human use and development other than fisheries

## 4. REGIONAL IMPORTANCE OF THE SITE

### 4.1. PRESENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS/HABITATS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

### 4.2. PRESENCE OF HABITATS THAT ARE CRITICAL TO ENDANGERED, THREATENED OR ENDEMIC SPECIES

### 4.3. OTHER RELEVANT FEATURES

#### 4.3.1. Educational interest

#### 4.3.2. Scientific interest

## 5. IMPACTS AND ACTIVITIES AFFECTING THE AREA

### 5.1. IMPACTS AND ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE SITE

#### 5.1.1. Exploitation of natural resources

#### 5.1.2. Threats to habitats and species

### 5.2. IMPACTS AND ACTIVITIES AROUND THE SITE

#### 5.2.1. Pollution

#### 5.2.2. Other external, natural and/or anthropogenic threats

## 6. EXPECTED DEVELOPMENT AND TRENDS

### 6.1. EXPECTED DEVELOPMENT AND TRENDS RELATED TO THE THREATS TO AND PRESSURES UPON THE AREA

## 7. MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION REGIME

### 7.1. LEGAL STATUS

#### 7.1.1. Historical background related to management of the area

#### 7.1.2. Regulatory measures currently governing management on the site

#### 7.1.3. Objectives

### 7.2. LEGAL BACKGROUND

### 7.3. LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR MANAGEMENT

#### 7.3.1. Zoning in the area

#### 7.3.2. Legal competencies

### 7.4. Other legal provisions

## 8. RATIONALE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FRA AND PROPOSED MANAGEMENT MEASURES

### 8.1. RATIONALE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FRA

### 8.2. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE FRA

#### 8.2.1. Management measures

#### 8.2.2. Monitoring, control and surveillance measures

#### 8.2.3. Socio-economic impacts (of the FRA)

#### 8.2.4. Economic assessment of ecosystem services

## 9. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

## 10. RELEVANT CONTACTS
Thank you for your attention