

**Report of the Transversal Workshop on
Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
(GFCM & RAC/SPA)**

Salammbô, Tunisia, 24 and 25 May 2007

OPENING AND ARRANGEMENTS OF THE WORKSHOP

1. The Transversal Workshop on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), jointly organised with RAC/SPA, was held in the INSTM, Salammbô, Tunisia, from 24 to 25 May 2007. The meeting was attended by 24 participants from Albania, Libya, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey as well as by representatives from Sanctuary Pelagos, UNEP/MAP-RAC/SPA and WWF. The list of participants is provided in Appendix B.
2. Mr Bradai, coordinator of SCMEE opened the meeting, introducing the terms of reference (annex 1) and thanking GFCM and RAC/SPA for the organization. The Director General of INSTM, Mr Ridha M'Rabet, welcomed the participants and presented the progress made in Tunisia, especially in the Gulf of Gabès regarding protection of marine areas.
3. Mr Srour, GFCM Deputy Executive Secretary, thanked INSTM for hosting the meeting, FAO for the support and Mr Raïs for moderating the meeting.
4. Mr Ganoun, Director of RAC/SPA thanked the participants and the hosting organization stressing the partnership RAC/SPA and GFCM in the organization.
5. Mr Rais acted as moderator of the meeting. Mr Lleonart was appointed rapporteur. The agenda was adopted with minor changes (Appendix A).

GENERAL VIEW REGARDING THE DEFINITION AND CLASSIFICATION OF MPAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

- *Introductory presentation on the definition and classification of MPAs in the Mediterranean (Chedly Raïs)*

Abstract: For the IUCN an MPA is defined as “any area of intertidal or subtidal terrain, together with its overlying water and associated flora, fauna, historical and cultural features, which has been reserved by law or other effective means to protect part or all of the enclosed environment”. According to their objectives, the MPAs can be classified in several categories. IUCN has no special categories for classifying MPAs, however the categories used to classify Protected Areas are valid for MPAs. Here are the categories of protected areas established by IUCN:

- CATEGORY I.a: Strict Nature Reserve: Protected area managed mainly for science
- CATEGORY I.b: Wilderness Area: Protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection
- CATEGORY II: National Park: Protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation
- CATEGORY III: Natural Monument: Protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features
- CATEGORY IV: Habitat/Species Management Area: Protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention

- CATEGORY V: Protected Landscape/Seascape: Protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation

Classifying MPAs according to these categories should be based on their objectives. Here are the main objectives for declaring MPAs in the Mediterranean countries:

- Conservation of Representative ecosystems to ensure their long-term viability and to maintain their biological diversity
- Protection of habitats that are critical to the endangered species of flora or fauna
- Conservation of habitats which are in danger of disappearing in their natural area of distribution
- Preservation of traditional practices and sites of cultural or educational interest
- Management of living marine resource

However, in several Mediterranean countries, the objectives of the MPAs are not always clearly stated, which makes very hard classifying them according to the categories of IUCN. Indeed, in many Mediterranean countries, the wording of the MPA name is the only information available about the category or the objective of the MPA. About twenty different designations/categories of MPAs are recorded throughout the Mediterranean:

Protected Area Marine Protected Area Specially Protected Area	National Park Marine Park National Marine Park
Marine Protected Area Marine Natural Protected Area Natural Marine Protected Area	Natural Park Nature Park Regional Natural Park
Marine Reserve Natural Reserve Marine Nature Reserve Special Marine Reserve	National Hunting Refuge Natural Monument Sanctuary Fisheries Marine Reserve

The most represented designations are Marine Reserve (15,07%), National Park (13.70), Natural Marine Protected Area (12,33%) and Natural reserve (9,59).

In addition to these denominations, many countries use International categories, the main ones are:

- World Heritage Sites
- Man and Biosphere Reserves
- Ramsar Sites
- Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs)
- Natura 2000 Sites
- Emerald Network
- European Diploma
- Bilateral (transboundary MPAs)
- Deep Sea fishery MPA (GFCM)

Given the heterogeneity of categories used from one Mediterranean country to another, inventorying and classifying the Mediterranean MPAs is a very hard task. According to the information available with the relevant international organizations and projects, the total number of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean has increased in the past 40 years to reach about 70 MPAs (73 in 2004). However, for many countries, the available information on MPAs is not comprehensive and only the data provided by the environment authorities are

available at international level and these do not include, for some countries, the fishery reserves.

Therefore, there is a clear need for harmonization of objectives and denominations of MPAs in the Mediterranean countries. This will facilitate the evaluation of the comprehensiveness of the Mediterranean network and would be a significant step towards achieving a representative network of MPAs in the Mediterranean, as recommended by the CBD and the Johannesburg Earth Summit.

6. The MPAs classification of IUCN (6 categories, one of which divided in 2 sub-categories) was deeply discussed. Mr. Rais raised the problem of what he called “paper MPAs” or MPAs officially established but not actually enforced. In addition, the meeting noted the relevance of specifying whether the management restrictions of the existing MPAs affect, or not, the fishing activities.

7. The workshop debated about the governance of MPAs in relation with their location in national or international waters and agreed on the need to better clarify this issue.

8. The workshop was also informed that the WWF-MedPAN is updating the data on MPAs in the Mediterranean.

INVENTORY OF EXISTING TYPES OF MPAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Information given by experts through the standard form made available for before the workshop

- ***Marine Protected Area notified by the Mediterranean countries to RAC/SPA – Actual state (Christine Pergent-Martini)***

Abstract: Specially Protected Areas (SPA) appear as valuable tool to reduce the loss of biodiversity and several international Conventions have decided to promote the creation of new protected areas and particularly in the marine environment.

The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) is, as Secretariat of the Specially Protected Area and Biological Diversity Protocol, under the Barcelona Convention, responsible for managing the processes related to SPA and updating the list of the Mediterranean SPAs.

Since 2003, there is no change in this list, so RAC/SPA, in cooperation with GFCM has decided to make an inventory of the existing MPAs. The objectives were to update the information concerning these areas (location, surface, type), to evaluate their representativeness and efficiency for the conservation of the biodiversity and to identify the importance of the fishery reserves as MPA.

A common questionnaire was sent to the RAC/SPA's Focal Points and GFCM correspondents.

According to the data provided by these Focal Points, there are now 649 SPAs and 121 MPAs in the Mediterranean basin. It is important to underline that there is a strong heterogeneity of the structures referred under “MPA” by the various countries. In addition there are several risks of duplications insofar as the same geographical surface can be quoted several times because it is referred, with different surfaces in several types.

A database is being crafted to enable regular easy updating of such information in the future. Nevertheless it is important to stress that the reliability and the interest of this base will depend on the care which the national Focal points will bring to check and to inform information that it contains.

9. The workshop stressed the need for a specific collaboration between RAC/SPA and GFCM Secretariat to promote the use of this standard form for reporting information on national experiences regarding MPAs.

Information given by partner organizations

- *Update of the MedPAN Directory of Mediterranean MPAs (Catherine Piante, Elodie Maison & Marina Gomei)*

Abstract: MedPAN is the network of managers of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean, which objective is to improve the effectiveness of the management of Mediterranean MPAs and to contribute to the 2012 objective of creating a network of MPAs in the Mediterranean.

MedPAN has made available online on www.medpan.org the directory of Mediterranean MPAs in 2005. It is currently updated with the objective to prepare a synthesis of the situation of MPAs in the Mediterranean. This work is a collaboration between WWF, MedPAN and the IUCN, with the official support of RAC/SPA (Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas).

The MedPAN Directory will help:

- to identify gaps in representativeness and effectiveness of existing MPAs, with different levels of analysis (geographical, ecological and management analysis);
- to monitor the progress in establishing an ecologically representative, effectively-managed network of Mediterranean MPAs;
- And to develop future conservation strategies and initiatives.

10. The meeting was also informed on an inventory of MPAs carried out in Brussels (Sub Group on Management Objectives SGMOS-07-02 meeting “Evaluation of closed areas”, 19-21 March 2007 (https://stecf.jrc.cec.eu.int/meetings/sgmos/0702/STECF-SGMOS0701_Agenda.doc))

11. After these two presentations, the discussion focused on data collection, harmonization and management of databases. It was noted that there is a difficulty in inventorying MPAs, mainly because the definitions differ, and because of ambiguous spatial delimitation of some areas since some reserves are included in others.

12. It was suggested to request from the managers of the protected areas to provide information, in order to inventory MPAs according to the current management measures; a sound criterion to classify MPAs could be by objectives.

13. It would be relevant to have the results of the MedPAN inventory ready for the next SCMEE and discuss the possibility of having a unique database for the Mediterranean. However, prior agreement on definitions and classifications should be sought.

14. The need of harmonising the classification of MPAs objectives and harmonising the existing data bases, the setting of a common understanding of the role of MPAs and the standardization of the terminology were recognised to be key issues and should be included in the agenda of the next SCMEE.

Other information given by participants

- *Aires marines protégées au Maroc (M. Najih)*

Au Maroc (Atlantique et Méditerranée), trente huit zones côtières sont identifiées comme sites d'intérêt biologique et écologique (SIBE). Sur le versant méditerranéen, l'un de ces sites, en l'occurrence "plateau des Bokoyas" constitue un Parc National (P.N. d'Al Hoceima).

Ce parc est créé en 2004 (Décret), sa superficie est de 48460 ha dont 2330 ha, zone marine naturelle protégée et 17270 ha, zone de gestion des ressources naturelles marines.

Les objectifs de la création de ce parc sont :

- La conservation d'échantillons représentatifs du patrimoine naturel de la façade méditerranéenne du Maroc
- Le maintien des équilibres naturels et des processus écologiques vitaux
- La préservation et augmentation de la diversité et la complémentarité des habitats naturels de l'ensemble du Parc
- L'information, l'éducation et la sensibilisation de différents publics
- La protection des paysages caractéristiques du Parc et préservation de la diversité biologique et génétique (Animale et Végétale)
- la mise en place de conditions particulières pour un développement local et une amélioration des conditions de vie de la population par la réalisation de programmes de développement intégré et participatif.

- ***The lagoon of El Biban, a site to be protected (Djabou Hanem)***

Abstract: The El Biban lagoon is located in southeastern Tunisia. This lagoon has a variable temperature, a high salinity level and a weedy phytoplanktonic biomass.

The macroflora is especially characterized by the presence of a coralline alga: *Neogoniolithon notarisii* concretions, having a platform type extended on about 30km. The macrophytes are represented by 73 species.

In this lagoon, *Posidonia oceanica* is observed on located area. Its cartography shows a particular microatolls form, without any trace of pollution or degradation.

15. It was noted that this area is unique in the Mediterranean because of the presence of a *Neogoniolithon* reef, and its protection is of paramount importance.

- ***Present situation of MPAs in Turkey and as a sample 'Gökçeada Marine Park' (Topaloglu, Bülent)***

(summary of presentation to be provided by the author)

- ***The PELAGOS Sanctuary (Philippe Robert)***

Abstract: After one decade of discussions and division of information, France, Italy and the Principality of Monaco, guided by a common will, signed on November 25, 1999, an international agreement to create a sanctuary for the marine mammals in the Mediterranean, named PELAGOS.

This agreement came into force on February 21, 2002, after ratification by these three countries.

Covering an area of 87.500 km², this Sanctuary constitutes the first protected marine surface located in seagoing and was the object, in 2001, of an enrolment on the list of Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, as SPAMI (Special Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance) devoting in fact the innovating character of the Protocol of Barcelona relating to the especially protected areas and biological diversity in the Mediterranean. This enrolment at the Sanctuary brings the official recognition of the States signatories of the Convention of Barcelona for the Mediterranean protection.

The main species in the sanctuary are the Striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*), the Bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), the Long-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala melas*), the Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), the Fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*) and the Sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*).

Created to protect the marine mammals against all the sources of disturbances coming from the human activities, the sanctuary aims to reconcile the harmonious development of the socio-economic activities with the necessary protection of habitats and species.

So, each Part of the Agreement organizes its thought and its managing projects, in dialogue with the other Parts and in reference to the managing plan adopted jointly. This step is also coordinated with other intergovernmental organizations or Agreements like ACCOBAMS, the CIESM, the GFCM, or the RAC/SPA. *

One of the strategies of action of the Sanctuary is to develop the synergy of the various technical, scientific, teaching and legal ways, applicable to reconcile the economic and naturalists' interests on this large marine area.

In the field of the communication, the edition of a booklet in three languages (French, Italian and English), the choice of a logo and a code of good conduct for the whale-watching, then the holding meetings organized by the Parts, testify to the will to diffuse the messages of the Sanctuary widely.

International dimension more strongly develops since 2006 with the setting up of the Permanent Secretariat charged to help the Parts to implement the managing plan and to coordinate their actions with common meetings intended to define the priority topics.

In 2007, the Secretariat will set up in Italy, within the Ligurian Council in the prestigious building of the Ducal Palace in Genoa.

A priority action plan is organized by working groups around the following topics:

- Control coordination at sea by the Parts as regards management of the entropic activities,
- tripartite data bank,
- Web site,
- Whale-watching, swimming with the dolphins and dolphin therapy,
- Fishing and fish farming,
- Shipping,
- Motor races,
- Monitoring and scientific research, census and estimate of the populations of cetacean.

All the elements seem now to be combined for a joint and effective action intended to rich the objectives of management of Sanctuary PELAGOS.

ACCOBAMS : Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black and Mediterranean Seas and Contiguous Atlantic Area

CIESM : The Mediterranean Science Commission

GFCM : The General Fishing Commission for The Mediterranean

RAC / SPA : The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas



16. The meeting noted that currently there are no forbidden activities but only proposals that were sent to the parties who should commit themselves to take and respect measures. Ex. No organization of fast boat races, limit whale watching to 5 n.m (exception for Corsica).

REPRESENTATIVITY AND EFFICIENCY OF MPAS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

17. Regarding the representativity of MPAs, the meeting highlighted the fact that MPAs do not cover all types of habitats and that consequently their representativity is weak. The choice of sites for conservation interests should be based also on the identification of habitats.

18. The workshop was informed about the work developed by RAC/SPA on habitat identification, noting the relevance of the following two documents:

- Classification of benthic marine habitat types for the Mediterranean region
<http://www.rac-spa.org/telechargement/SDF/LCHM%20ENG.pdf>
- Handbook for interpreting types of marine habitat for the selection of sites to be included in the national inventories of natural sites of conservation interest
<http://www.rac-spa.org/telechargement/SDF/MSDF.pdf>

19. It was noted that there is clear need of improving management systems of MPAs, as more than 2/3 rd of MPAs have no management plans. Still the workshop noted the lack of information about the management systems.

- ***Presentation of the GEF project (Jordi Lleonart)***

RAC/SPA, WWF, FAO, GFCM in a GEF proposal entitled “Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem – Regional Component: Implementation of agreed actions for the protection of the environmental resources of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas”. This intends to assist the eligible Mediterranean countries to implement the two Strategic Action Plans (SAPs), SAP Med (addressing pollution from land-based activities) and SAP BIO (addressing loss of marine and coastal biodiversity) through a single programme. The component, entitled ‘Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Biological Biodiversity of Vulnerable Coastal and Marine Resources of the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem’ is that where the organisations are involved in. The formulation phase has been completed and the project will be submitted to the GEF Council in 2007.

INVENTORY/SYNTHESIS OF PUBLISHED STUDIES ON FISHERIES AND BIODIVERSITY OF DEEP SEA AREAS AND DEVISE A STANDARD PROCEDURE TO ASSESS THE ELIGIBILITY OF NEW PROPOSALS FOR DEEP SEA FISHING RESERVES OR RESTRICTED FISHING AREAS.

- ***Biodiversity of deep sea areas (inventory and synthesis of available documentation)***
(Chedly Rais)

Abstract: Although the exploitation of deep-sea grounds still poses technological and legal problems in many regions, the sustainable management of deep-sea resources and ecosystems has been identified as one of the major challenges to be taken up in the coming years. For the Mediterranean region, the GFCM Members decided in 2005 to prohibit the use of towed dredges and trawl nets fisheries at depths beyond 1000 m of depth. They also decided to establish several deep-sea fishing reserves.

In order to give further consideration to the management of deep-sea areas, the GFCM, at its Thirty-first session, invited the SAC's SCMEE to prepare an inventory/synthesis of published studies on fisheries and biodiversity of deep sea areas. This inventory is being compiled, mainly through search on Internet and in specialized databases. The preliminary analysis shows that the main topics addressed by the inventoried documentation are:

- Geology of deep sea zones
- Structure of deep-water Mediterranean communities
- Functioning of deep-sea Mediterranean food webs
- Seasonal variation in hydrology
- Trophic webs
- Description of unique features and their related fauna and flora:
 - Brine pools
 - Deep-sea coral formation
 - Canyons
- Seamounts
- Anthropogenic impact
- Deep sea shrimp fisheries

- ***Standard Format for the Presentation of Proposals for Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRA) in the Mediterranean (Susana Sainz-Trápaga, WWF)***

20. Ms Sainz-Trápaga presented the proposal for a standard format, developed by WWF and IUCN to submit fisheries restricted areas to the SCMEE. The forms were reviewed and amended by the workshop. The approved version of the forms is in the Appendix C. The workshop encouraged the use of these forms when submitting any new GFCM fisheries restricted area proposal.

ROLE OF MPAS AS FISHERIES MANAGEMENT TOOL

- ***Marine protected areas as fisheries management tool: FAO Technical Guidelines***
(Jessica Sanders)

Abstract: The FAO is currently working on a project dealing with both marine protected areas as a fisheries management tool and deep-sea fisheries, and the convergence of the two topics in high seas marine protected areas. The FAO Expert Workshop on Marine Protected Areas as a Fisheries Management Tool (June 2006) began to address some of the overlying issues of MPAs in fisheries management. The initial question being a working definition of the term. The participants at the workshop agreed that a new definition is not necessary and, in fact, would only confuse the issues. However, five points that characterize an MPA used as a fisheries management tool could be that MPAs in a fisheries context:

- " are intended to contribute to achieving conservation and sustainability objectives of fisheries management, while contributing to biodiversity and habitat conservation (with intended or unintended social and economic consequences);

- are temporally and geographically specified in three dimensions for a portion of the geographic range of the fishery management unit;
- would afford fishery resources a higher degree of protection within the geographic boundaries of the MPA than the resource is afforded elsewhere within the geographic range of the fishery management unit;
- are established through legally binding mechanisms and/or other effective means; and
- are usually expected to have resource conservation and sustainability benefits, other ecological benefits, and/or social benefits, beyond the boundaries of the MPA."

21. It was agreed to consider the FAO Technical Guidelines on MPAs as fisheries management tool as the reference tool and discuss the possible adaptation to the Mediterranean when necessary.

22. The workshop noted the absence of a definition of “deep sea”. There are several criteria used in different fora. The workshop underlined the need to have a standard GFCM definition for Mediterranean deep sea.

- ***The current situation with MPAs in Malta (Patrick J. Schembri)***

Abstract: Although legally there are no ‘Marine Protected Areas’ as such in Malta, there are areas of sea with various legal designations where marine living resources are protected or managed that in effect, these function as MPAs. At present there are three such areas (Rdum Majjiesa/Ras ir-Raheb, Malta; Qawra/Dwejra Heritage Park, Gozo; and the 25 NM Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ) around Malta), with a fourth one (the sea round the islet of Filfla) in the process of being declared. However, a 1994 RAC/SPA report identified 27 marine areas around Malta as deserving protection because of their relatively pristine ecosystems and/or the representative habitats and biotic communities.

The Rdum Majjiesa to Ras ir-Raheb ‘MPA’, comprising 11km of coastline and 8.5km² of sea area, supports a representative selection of all major marine biotopes occurring around the Maltese Islands, including sand banks, *Posidonia* beds, rocky reefs, large shallow inlets, and sea caves, all of which are of conservation values in terms of the European Union’s ‘Habitats Directive’. In 2005, the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA; the Malta Government agency concerned with environmental protection) declared this area as a ‘Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Candidate Site of International Importance’ and proposed it as a candidate NATURA 2000 site. A management plan has been formulated and approved but the marine component has not yet started being implemented.

The Qawra/Dwejra Heritage Park ‘MPA’ comprises 7.5km of coastline and 2.5km² of sea area that boasts an impressive variety of underwater geomorphological features, including: rocky platforms, drop-offs, shoals, boulder fields, arches, five large submerged caves and six large emergent caves, and tunnels. It also supports biocoenosis of infralittoral algae on rock, *Posidonia oceanica* meadows, coarse sands and fine gravels mixed by waves, well-sorted fine sands, coarse and muddy heterogeneous sediment, infralittoral stones and pebbles, and caves and overhangs. The area attracts some 750,000 tourists each year of which around 40,000 visit the site for diving. In 2007, MEPA declared this area as a ‘Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Candidate Site of National Importance’ and proposed it as a candidate NATURA 2000 site. An ‘Action Plan’ for the site has been drawn up and approved but the marine component has not yet started being implemented.

In 1971 Malta declared a 25NM ‘Exclusive Fishing Zone’ within which it has since operated a strict licensing scheme, controlled allocation of fishing areas, and restricted trawler access in order to keep large scale industrial fishing at a minimum. On accession to the European Union, Malta requested that the sustainability of Maltese fisheries would be safeguarded, and through Council Regulation (EC) 813 /2004 of 26.4.2004 amending Regulation (EC) 1626/94 the EU accepted Malta’s

submissions and established a 25NM Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ), with the objectives of fisheries conservation and the conservation of the benthic ecosystems that support these fishery resources. The FMZ covers a sea area of 10,700 km² and included both shelf (<200m) and deeper waters (down to 800m). The management measures implemented by Malta essentially limit fishing effort and fishing capacity by restricting size and power of vessels. Total trawler effort is not allowed to exceed 6500 HP units, trawlers operating in waters shallower than 200m are restricted to <250HP and trawling is restricted to specified zones. The pre-accession level of fishing effort within the FMZ is maintained by limiting vessels to be under 12m in length (therefore to small scale fishing vessels), except for *lampara* and *lampuki* (dolphin fish) fisheries; the *lampuki* fishery continues to be regulated using the traditional management regime, limiting the number of licensed vessels to a maximum of 130. All vessels 12 meters or over in length which are eligible to carry out fishing operations within the FMZ are required to form part of the VMS scheme, and to maintain the conservation approach, the FMZ is completely closed to large pelagic drift nets.

• **Italian marine protected area: effect on fishing resources (Tunesi Leonardo, Agnesi Sabrina, Di Nora Taira, Mo Giulia)**

Abstract: Fishing activities (artisanal and industrial) have economic, social and cultural relevance in Italy.

The sector occupies more than 45.000 fishermen and the general status of overfishing in national waters highlights the need for new management solutions and an increase in fishermen participation in the active management of the resources.

The main objective of the presentation is to provide a synthetic review and some considerations concerning the following topics:

- the Italian approach to the creation of no-take areas and the two principal marine protection instruments available for their creation;
- the potential role of Italian Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to define specific management measures for artisanal fisheries;
- MPA effects on coastal fish assemblages within their boundaries;
- some limits to the approach involving the recovery of fish species only by means of MPAs.

Two different legal tools exist, in Italy, for the creation of national no-take areas. The first instrument is that which foresees the creation of Zones of Biological Protection – as defined by the Marine Fishery Law n. 963, dating back to 1965, established by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forests and Fisheries Politics –Fisheries Direction. This measure is devoted to the restoration of particular sites for fishery purposes, and foresees the closure of fisheries for specific periods of time. A list of the main national zones of biological protection is given in table I.

Various other legal tools for the enhancement of fisheries exist at the subnational regional administrative level, involving measures such as the closure of stretches of coast to specific fishing gears, but these aspects will not be treated in this presentation which instead intends to focus on MPAs intended as areas devoted to the protection of the marine environment. For the same reason initiatives such as artificial reefs or other measures involving strong changes in the original marine environment finalized to enhancing fish productivity will not be addressed.

Tab. I: Zones of biological protection in Italy (still existing) and their dates of institution

Portoferraio (Elba Island – Tuscan Archipelago)	D.M. 10.08.1971
Montecristo Island (Tuscan Archipelago)	D.M. 05.04.1979
	D.M. 02.04.1981
	D.M. 01.09.1988

Pianosa Island (Tuscan Archipelago)	D.M. 06.09.1989
Tor Paterno / Villa Campello (Latium)	D.M. 20.08.1988
Santa Croce Bank (Campania)	D.M. 15.06.1993
Lampedusa Island (Sicily)	D.M. 25.09.1979
Santa Maria di Castellabate (Campania)	D.M. 25.08.1972
Wreck of the Off-shore platform Paguro (Romagna)	D.M. 21.07.1995

The second typology of legal tool is represented by marine protected areas (979/82, 314/91 and successive Italian laws). The MPAs are established by the Italian Ministry of the Environment and are multi-objective. Their goal is to ensure environmental conservation and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources. To date the Italian system of coastal protected areas is based on 23 established marine protected areas (21 MPAs + 2 submerged archaeological sites) (Tab. II) and 2 national Parks. On the overall, however, the National legislation foresees the total establishment of a complex of 50 MPAs.

The Italian approach to the management of these MPAs is based on a 3 level zoning (A: “no entry - no take”; B: “entry –take only for local professional fishers – regulated”; C: “buffer zone”, where fishing activity is only allowed for local professional fishers). This scheme should allow the conservation and the separation of conflicting uses.

Table II: List of the established MPAs in Italy and surfaces areas of their different zones.

MPA	Total Surface Hectares	A Zone	B Zone	C Zone
1. Portofino	346	18	134	194
2. Cinqueterre	2.726	79	186	2461
3. Secche Tor Paterno	1.387	0	1.387	0
4. Ventotene e S.Stefano	2.799	410	1.600	789
5. Isola dell'Asinara	10.732	577	6.988	3.167
6. Capo Caccia	2.631	38	547	2.046
7. Penisola Sinis-Is.Mal di Ventre	32.900	1.136	1.513	30.251
8. Capo Carbonara	8.598	332	1.191	7.075
9. Tavolara	15.357	529	3.113	11.715
10. Punta Campanella	1.539	181	674	684
11. Isola di Ustica	15.951	60	7.860	8.031
12. Capo Gallo	2.173	77	242	1.854
13. Isole Egadi*	53.992	1.067	2.865	50.060
14. Isole Pelagie	3.220	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
15. Isole Ciclopi	623	35	202	386
16. Capo Rizzuto	14.721	585	9.326	4.810
17. Porto Cesareo	16.654	173	3.056	13.425
18. Torre Guaceto	2.227	179	163	1.885
19. Isole Tremiti	1.466	180	268	1.018
20. Miramare	30	30	0	0
21. Plemmirio	2.429	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
Total	192.501	5.68	41.315	139.851

* also including a D Zone; ° excluded the surface of the Pelagic Island and of Plemmirio

The surface areas of the 21 established MPAs (excluding the two submerged archaeological sites) implies the protection of more than 192.000 hectares of coastal waters and, on the whole, the A zones (No Entry - No Take) attain approximately 6.000 hectares (3% of the total protected surfaces), while the B and the C zones approximately cover more than 180.000 hectares.

The main aspects involving fishing activities in the Italian MPAs are that professional fishing is allowed only in the B and C zones, and only for resident fishermen using selective artisanal gears. At present the regulation of fishing restrictions does not follow a set scheme or guidelines for the management of fisheries while, in fact, B and C zones are areas in which specific fishing rights are exercised and new fishing management models can be tested (Tunesi et al., 2004).

The established MPAs affect 38 Italian Maritime Districts. On the whole the professional fishing fleet belonging to these Districts (23,316 vessels in 2003) is mainly composed by vessels belonging to the smallest length classes (91%): 52% to the length class (0-3 m), 16% to the second one (3.01 – 6m) and the 23% to the third (6.01-10m length) (Tunesi et al., 2004). The preliminary remarks on this data, relative to 20 Italian MPAs, indicate:

- a high percentage of small vessel and artisanal fishing gears (which theoretically could be involved in pilot management experiences) operate in the Italian MPAs;
- the potential relevance of initiatives of artisanal fishing management at local scale with the direct involvement of fishermen and their categories;
- a need of standard approaches in organizing fishing activities in B and C zones, specifically defined in a fishing right system (unique in Italy), at national scale with relevant stakeholders of the fishing sector.

Taking into account the most updated available information on the effects of MPAs on fish assemblages in Western Mediterranean MPAs, produced in the recent study “Community-wide effects of marine reserves in the Mediterranean Sea”, from Guidetti and Sala (2007) it is clear that the establishment of marine reserves has led to direct positive responses in density and biomass of predatory fish species, and of the most targeted species in particular, when MPAs are really enforced and managed.

The presentation also intends to focus on the need for specific measures to be placed side by side to the MPAs to solve specific management problems taking into account the example of the dusky grouper (*Epinephelus marginatus* Lowe, 1834). This is one of the most important flag species of the Mediterranean rocky coastal habitats. It is a top predator and the target of many fishing activities (artisanal and sport) as well as of recreational scuba diving. To this purpose, the synthesis of a pilot study focusing on the evaluation of the effects of different level of protection on the presence of this species in the coastal waters of the Ligurian Sea (Tunesi and Molinari, 2007) is presented.

The study was done in the pilot area of the Portofino MPA and in its nearby coastal waters. In 1950 the Portofino waters were appreciated for the abundance of dusky groupers. In the following years a strong increase of the catches (mainly due to spearfishing) provoked a strong reduction of the presence of this species. In 1991 a visual census survey devoted to plan the new marine protected area (MPA) of the Portofino Promontory was carried out and no dusky grouper specimens were recorded (Tunesi and Vacchi, 1993). The national MPA was established in 1999 following the general Italian MPA zoning characterised by 3 level (A, B, C) and by the spearfishing ban (Tunesi and Molinari, 2007).

Visual census studies (VC), performed on fish fauna in the four-year period 2002-2005 in the MPA and in their nearby areas, allowed to evaluate the presence of the species in relation to different levels of protection. Recorded data shows the positive effect of the MPA for the dusky grouper, as of 2002 (only three years after the Portofino MPA's institution). No relevant differences in abundances were registered with respect to the level of protection within the MPA's waters. This is likely due to the very small surface area of the A zone and to the relatively low pressure of the fishing activities in the zones B and C. Particular attention should be paid to the absence of *E.marginatus* in areas external to the MPA, even in the waters close to its boundaries. Professional and sport fishing pressure in these waters is clearly higher than in the MPA but the main difference is most likely due to the presence of spearfishing activities in areas external to the MPA. This particular activity, specifically targeted to grouper and large Sparids, is known to be particularly high in

the areas immediately outside the MPA and it is likely to be interfering, if not deleting, any spillover phenomenon for these species.

On the overall, Italian MPAs represent a useful means to conduct artisanal fishing management to the benefit of marine environmental protection, though the need of a standardised approach to the organisation of fishing activities within the MPA zoning schemes is needed. Collected data also shows that MPAs are strategic tools to fight overfishing, to increase the restoration of marine coastal fish assemblages and their species richness (Tunési & Molinari, 2005) but the conservation of species as the dusky grouper needs the undertaking of specific measures at national and regional levels. This last study stresses the relevance of a specific action plan to protect the dusky grouper at the Italian and Mediterranean level, thereby supporting the development of specific management tools such as those advanced by the French moratorium.

The main indications proposed from the presentation are the following:

- MPAs exert positive effect on fish assemblages within their boundaries in presence of effective management; for this reason there is a need for a national engagement in improving the management of the established MPAs and the need for more efficiently managed MPAs;
- Importance of completing the National system / Network of MPAs;
- Need of specific legal measures to be implemented in all the national coastal waters to allow the recovery of particular target species (i.e. groupers);
- Start up the process of a true management of fishing activities in National system of MPAs with standards identified at national level with the support of the fishermen category.

Literature Cited

GUIDETTI P. & SALA E., 2007 – Community-wide effects of marine reserves in the Mediterranean Sea. *Mar. Ecol. Progr. Ser.*, **333**: 43-56.

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TUNESI L. & MOLINARI A., 2005 – Specific richness and biogeographic outlines of the fish assemblages of the Portofino Marine Protected Area (Ligurian Sea). *Biol. Mar..Medit.* **12**: 116-123.

TUNESI L. & MOLINARI A., 2007 – Need of specific measures to protect the dusky grouper (*Epinephelus marginatus*) in the Italian coastal water – A pilot study in the Portofino MPA (Ligurian Sea). In: *Francour P., Gradiot J. (Eds). Second International Symposium on the Mediterranean Groupers. Nice University publ., May 10-13th 2003, Nice*: 149-151.

TUNESI L. & VACCHI M., 1993 - Indagini visuali in immersione nell'area marina di Portofino: applicazione di un metodo per lo studio dei popolamenti ittici. *Biologia Marina*, **1**: 355-360.

23. The workshop discussed the protection of groupers and concluded that there is a need of an international management network for management of these species.

24. The meeting raised the problems of boundaries of MPA and the difficulties of measuring the spill-over due to the fishing of individuals going out of the MPA.

- *Are marine protected areas effective for fisheries enhancement? (Sánchez Lizaso, J.L.; Forcada, A.; Valle, C.; Bonhomme, P.; Criquet, G.; Cadiou, G & Lenfant, P)*

(summary of presentation to be provided by the author)

25. The continuity of habitats and existence of ecological corridors are fundamental to the success of protection actions. The minimum size of MPA depends on the mobility of the

species. From the fisheries point of view at least 20% of the fishing grounds should be protected to have a real effect on stocks.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

- ***New coordinates for deep Sea fisheries restricted area “Lophelia reef off Capo Santa Maria di Leuca” (Jordi Lleonart)***

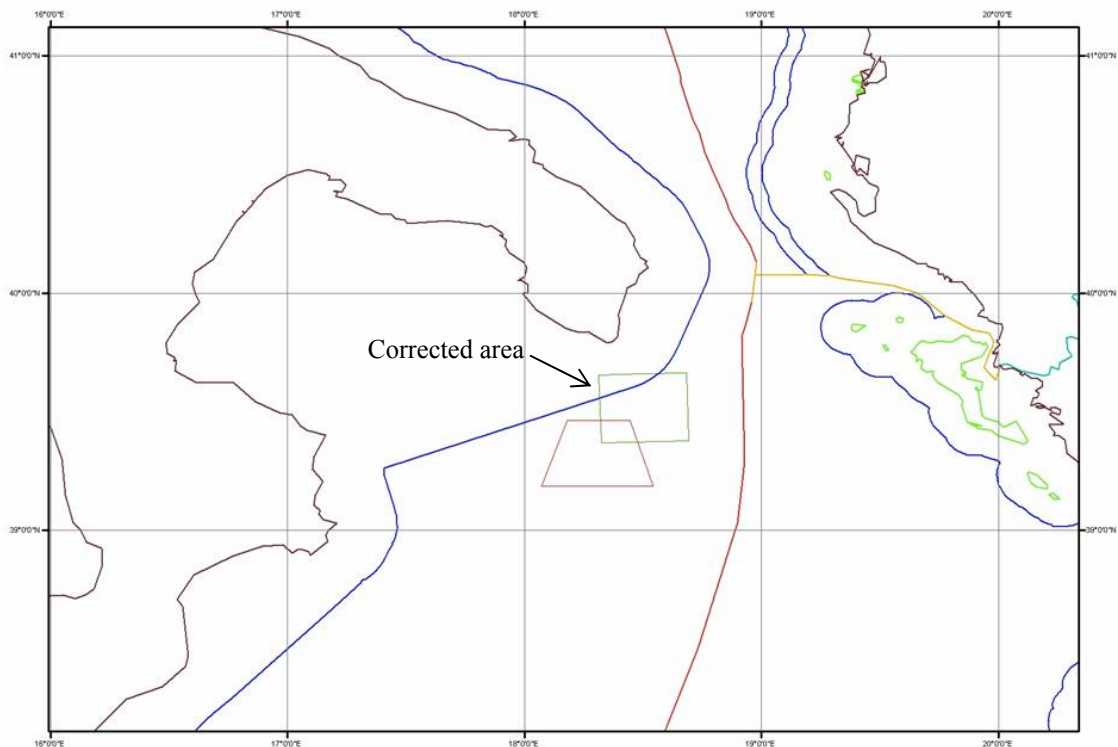
Abstract: Due to an error in the coordinates of the deep sea fisheries restricted area “Lophelia reef off Capo Santa Maria di Leuca” it was presented the new and right coordinates which are:

39° 39.318' N, 18° 18.684' E
39° 39.789' N, 18° 40.980' E
39° 22.704' N, 18° 41.550' E
39° 22.230' N, 18° 19.524' E

The area is about 1110 km², a little bit bigger that the previous one (about 974 km²)

The map shows the comparison between the old area (brown) and the new one (green). The latter overlaps with the 12 nm Italian territorial waters (blue line).

26. The workshop suggested launching the usual process to amend the resolution adopted by GFCM according to this change.



- ***The south Malta deep-water coral banks: A proposal for their conservation (Patrick Schembri)***

Abstract: In 2000, thriving deep-water coral banks dominated by living colonies of *Lophelia* accompanied by *Madrepora* were discovered by Italian scientists off the coast of Santa Maria di Leuca (Apulia, Italy) at depths between 425m and 1110m. This was an important discovery as until very recently, this was the only known living large *Lophelia* reef in the Mediterranean. However, in 2003, Maltese scientists discovered a second living and healthy deep-water coral bank, with *Lophelia* and *Madrepora*, at a depth of 390-617m, some 20-40 km off the southern coast of Malta. This may also be a large reef, making this the second such bank known to date from the Mediterranean. This bank is presently being investigated using non-destructive techniques, since the coral frameworks are easily damaged, but take many decades to grow. In January 2006, the GFCM declared a restricted area for deep sea fisheries off Cape Santa Maria di Leuca and has prohibited fishing with towed dredges and bottom trawl nets specifically to protect the coral banks there. Trawling is formally illegal where the South Malta coral banks occur, however, unauthorised operations may still take place and it is recommended that the area be declared off limits to commercial trawling, in order to preserve these sites and allow their further scientific study.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORKSHOP

- a. The meeting noted the heterogeneity of the current terminology, the redundancy of the information and the need for a common understanding of the role of MPAs and a standardized terminology.
- b. The meeting recognized a weak representativity of the Mediterranean habitats in MPAs.
- c. The workshop underlined the lack of up to date information concerning both MPA management and the effectiveness of the implementation of the management plans for already functioning MPAs.
- d. The workshop underlined the need to have clear objectives when proposing an MPA and to define appropriate links between protection measures and MPA objectives.
- e. The meeting noted that no clear definition of 'deep sea' was available in the context of this workshop.
- f. The workshop pointed out that MPAs alone are not sufficient to protect certain species, in particular dusky grouper (*Epinephelus marginatus*), and that additional measures are required at a regional level.
- g. The size and connectivity of MPAs have been recognized as key issues regarding fishery sustainability. MPA size depends on the mobility of the target species, and protection of 20% of fishing grounds has been considered a sound reference point to have a real effect on the stocks.

Recommendations to SCMEE.

- Use the IUCN definition of MPAs, as a reference, taking into consideration recent updates and follow the definitions given by FAO MPA Workshop (Rome, 12-14 June, 2006) as a reference to elaborate GFCM criteria to establish fisheries MPAs.
- In the selection of sites to be declared as MPAs, to consider the RAC/SPA habitat reference list and amend it to make it more relevant to fisheries.
- Adopt the standard form proposed by WWF and IUCN as reviewed in the present workshop (Appendix C) to submit new MPA proposals to SCMEE.
- Propose the creation of a common data base on MPAs using standard terminology.

- Further refine the concept of MPA representativity and analyse the representativeness of the current MPA network regarding the habitats involved.
- Elaborate a definition of 'deep sea' in the GFCM context.

Agenda

1. Opening and arrangements of the Workshop
2. General view regarding the definition and classification of MPAs in the Mediterranean
3. Inventory of existing types of MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea
4. Representativity and efficiency of MPAs management systems
5. Inventory/synthesis of published studies on fisheries and biodiversity of deep sea areas and devise a standard procedure to assess the eligibility of new proposals for deep sea fishing reserves or restricted fishing areas
6. Role of MPAs as fisheries management tool
7. Any other matters
8. Conclusions of the Workshop

Terms of reference

1. Considering the importance of fishery reserves in the management of fisheries, the SCMEE recommended to organize jointly with RAC/SPA in 2007 a SCMEE/SCSA Transversal workshop on MPAs to:

- make an inventory of existing types of MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea;
- evaluate their representativity and the efficiency of their management systems;
- define their role as a fisheries management tool;
- prepare a synthesis on MPAs in the Mediterranean.

2. Information on MPAs will be collected via the SAC focal points and of RAC/SPA and other partner organizations. A standard form to collect data will be elaborated.

Appendix B

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**STANDARD FORMAT FOR THE PRESENTATION OF PROPOSALS FOR GFCM
FISHERIES RESTRICTED AREAS (FRA) IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

Name of the FRA:

Presented by:

Date:

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (maximum 500 words)

Supply a summary of the information contained in sections 2 to 8.

2 AREA IDENTIFICATION

2.1 GFCM GEOGRAPHICAL SUBAREA

http://www.icm.esic.es/rec/projectes/scsa/SAC_Geographical_SubAreas_2007.pdf

2.2 NAME OF THE FRA

2.3 GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

2.3.1 General location

2.3.2. Precise location of the proposed core area: provide geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude in degrees, minutes and seconds) for the vertex of a polygonal area.

2.3.3. Buffer area (if applicable)

2.3.4. Location Map: include geographical coordinates of the core and buffer areas, bathymetry, and the boundary of international waters. Add a global reference map of the Mediterranean with the location of the site.

2.3.5. Depth range (in m; specify core and buffer area)

2.4 SURFACE AREA (in ha and km²; specify core and buffer area)

3 SITE DESCRIPTION

3.1 MAIN PHYSICAL FEATURES

3.1.1. Geology/Geomorphology

Give a brief description of the geological aspects; processes of sedimentation and erosion observable in the area and other geomorphologic features. Indicate bibliographical sources.

3.1.2. Other interesting physical or chemical features: Such as hydrodynamics, frontal areas, upwelling, etc.

3.2 BIOLOGICAL FEATURES

3.2.1. Habitats: A brief description of the dominant marine habitats including pelagic ones if applicable

3.2.2. List of regionally important species

List here those marine species protected by international agreements (specify the agreement) and/or included in the GFCM priority list. If applicable, give the IUCN category. Any other species may be listed if it is clearly considered of regional importance given its high representation in the area. For each species state:

- a) its relative abundance as Common (C), Uncommon (U) or Occasional (O),
- b) Its regional status as rare (r), endemic (e) and/or threatened (t), and
- c) its status as an important resident population (R), or important for its breeding (B), feeding (F), wintering (W) or migratory passage (M)

SPECIES	Rel. Abundance (C) (U) (O)	Regional STATUS (r) (e) (t)	Local STATUS (R) (B) (F) (W) (M)

3.2.3. Occurrence of biological and ecological processes relevant to fish resources (essential fish habitats)

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3.3 USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

3.3.1. Current human use and development

a) Briefly describe the current use of the area by artisanal, industrial and recreational fishing, and other economic sectors.

--

b) Enter how many of the users depend on these resources, seasonality, and assessment of the social and economic importance of their use and of the perceived impact on the conservation of the area, in a score of 0-1-2-3 (meaning null, low, medium, high).

ACTIVITY AND CATEGORY	ASSESS IMPORTANCE OF								Estimated No. of Users	Seasonality
	Socio-economic				Conserv. Impact					
FISHING										
Artisanal	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3		
Industrial	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3		
Other										
OTHER ACTIVITIES										
-	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3		
-	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3		
-	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3		

4 REGIONAL IMPORTANCE OF THE SITE

This Section aims at stressing the importance of the site for conservation at the regional scale.

4.1 PRESENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS/HABITATS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

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

Name the habitat types and the species linked to it.

4.3 OTHER RELEVANT FEATURES

4.3.1. Educational Interest

E.g. particular values for activities of environmental education or awareness

4.3.2. Scientific Interest

Explain if the site represents a particular value for research.

5 IMPACTS AND ACTIVITIES AFFECTING THE AREA

5.1 IMPACTS AND ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE SITE

5.1.1. Exploitation of natural resources

Assess if the current rates of exploitation of natural resources within the area (e.g. fishing, sand and mineral exploitation) are deemed unsustainable in quality or quantity, and try to quantify these threats, e.g. the percentage of the area under threat, or any known increase in extraction rates.

5.1.2. Threats to habitats and species

Mention any serious threats to the habitat (e.g. modification, disturbance, pollution) or to species (e.g. disturbance, poaching, introduced alien species...) within the area.

5.2 IMPACTS AND ACTIVITIES AROUND THE SITE

5.2.1. Pollution

Name and describe sources of pollution.

5.2.2. Other external threats, natural and/or anthropogenic

Briefly describe any other external threat to the ecological, biological, aesthetic or cultural values of the area (such as unregulated exploitation of natural resources, serious threats on habitats or species, pollution problems) likely to influence the area in question.

5.2.3. Sustainable development measures

Comment whether the area is covered by a management plan, or bordering upon a zone under such a plan.

6 EXPECTED DEVELOPMENT AND TRENDS¹

This is not always easy to assess and thus, it is not obligatory to fill in this Section.

6.1 EXPECTED DEVELOPMENT AND TRENDS OF THREATS TO AND PRESSURES UPON THE AREA

Deal briefly with the development of economic activities within the area

¹ By expected development and trends are meant the development, which is thought most likely to occur in the absence of any deliberate intervention to protect and manage the site.

7 MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION REGIME

7.1 LEGAL STATUS (if applicable)

7.1.1. Historical background of the management and protection of the site

7.1.2. Legal texts currently ruling the protection on the site

Mention if the area, or part of it, has been designated and on what date, with an international conservation category.

7.1.3. Objectives

Name in order of importance the objectives of the area as stated in its legal declaration.

7.2 LEGAL BACKGROUND

Briefly mention if the area or part of it is subject to any legal claim, or to any file open in that connection within the framework of an international body.

7.3 LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR MANAGEMENT

7.3.1. Zoning

Briefly state if the legal text protecting the area provides for different zones to allocate different management objectives of the area (e.g. core and scientific zones, fishing zones, etc) and in this case the surface area of these zones. Include a map as an annex.

7.3.2. Basic regulations

Mention the provisions which apply to the area to comply with international law.

7.3.3. Legal competencies

Legal competence and responsibility with regard to administration and implementation of conservation measures

--

7.3.4. Other legal provisions

Describe any other relevant legal provisions, such as those requiring a management plan or any other significant measures concerning the protection and management of the area.

--

8 OBJECTIVES OF THE FRA AND PROPOSED MANAGEMENT MEASURES

8.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE FRA

State the reasons that justify the designation of the FRA

--

8.2 PROPOSED PROTECTION MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE FRA

8.2.1. Management measures

Suggest management measures to be implemented in the FRA

--

8.2.2. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance measures

Suggest measures to effectively enforce the FRA

--

9 OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

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10 CONTACT ADDRESSES

(National Administration (if applicable) or name(s), position(s) and contact address(es) of the person(s) in charge with the proposal and that compiled the report).

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