





**GFCM draft proposal for GES determination and GES targets with regard to Ecological Objective 3 (Harvest of commercially exploited fish and shellfish)**

**Ecological Objective 3:** Populations of selected commercially exploited fish and shellfish are within biologically safe limits, exhibiting a population age and size distribution that is indicative of a healthy stock

**1.1 Operational Objectives and Indicators**

Operational objective	Indicator	Proposed GES Description	Proposed Targets	Similar indicators from other policies	Suggestions for development	Baselines and thresholds
3.1 Level of exploitation by commercial fisheries is within biologically safe limits	3.1.1 Total catch	<p>Total catch does not exceed the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY).</p> <p><i>Description: The total catch is the quantity of fish which is retained by the fishing gear during fishing operations. This should ideally include landings by commercial fleet, recreational fishing, by catch and IUU estimates.</i></p>	<p>State</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Long-Term High Yields</li> <li>-MSY</li> </ul> <p>Pressure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Reduction of IUU catch</li> <li>-Minimization of discarding and by-catch</li> </ul>	-CFP-EC -MSFD		Baseline is not necessary. Threshold is formulated in GES.
	3.1.2 Fishing mortality	<p>Fishing mortality in the stock does not exceed the level that allows MSY (<math>F \leq F_{MSY}</math>).</p> <p><i>Description: The Maximum Sustainable Yield is, theoretically, the maximum yield that can be obtained from a species, and it is associated with a maximum fishing mortality (<math>F_{MSY}</math>). When <math>F</math> is higher than <math>F_{MSY}</math> the yield decreases. <math>F_{MSY}</math> is</i></p>	<p>Pressure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<math>F_{MSY}</math></li> <li>-<math>F_{0.1}</math> a proxy of <math>F_{MSY}</math> (precautionary)</li> </ul>	-CFP-EC -MSFD		Baseline is not necessary. Threshold is formulated in GES.

Operational objective	Indicator	Proposed GES Description	Proposed Targets	Similar indicators from other policies	Suggestions for development	Baselines and thresholds
		<p><i>consider as a limit due to the consequences of overestimating F. Only available if the stock has been assessed. Fishing mortality (F) reflects all deaths in the stock that are due to fishing per year (not only what is actually landed). It is usually expressed as a rate ranging from 0 (for no fishing) to high values (1.0 or more). It is common practice to refer F as a scalar value but it would be more appropriate to refer to it as a vector.</i></p>				
	3.1.3 Biomass indices	<p>Stable or increasing biomass indices (relative or absolute), with absolute value at or above biomass that produces maximum sustainable yield.</p> <p><i>Description: Biomass indices can be calculated when scientific surveys (trawling, acoustics, etc.) are available. Different targets can be used, such as acceptable stock size, safe biological limits, historical level of CPEU (Catch per unit of effort), Trend of CPEU increasing per year, Historical level of standardized index of abundance from scientific surveys. In the Mediterranean Sea, regional data is not available for many species.</i></p>	<p>State -Stable or positive trend -Biomass at MSY (Bmsy) (when MSY available)</p>	-CFP-EC -MSFD	<p>Note that a reference point for small pelagic fish exists: 1/3 biomass in the ecosystem for predators (Cury et al. 2012. Science) or 0.3B<sub>0</sub>.</p>	<p>Data is needed for definition of reference conditions in the past, which is the baseline. Threshold needs to be defined based on the acceptable deviation from reference conditions.</p>
	3.1.4 Ratio	The catch/biomass ratio allows to	Pressure	-CFP-EC		Baseline is

Operational objective	Indicator	Proposed GES Description	Proposed Targets	Similar indicators from other policies	Suggestions for development	Baselines and thresholds
	between catch and biomass index (hereinafter catch/biomass ratio).	<p>recover the stock or to maintain it at a level where it can produce the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)</p> <p><i>Description: The Catch/Biomass ratio should entail a low risk of collapse of the species, and a high probability of recovery of the stock. If the species is at risk, it should entail a low time frame of recovery.</i></p>	-Stable or positive trend	-MSFD		not necessary. Threshold needs to be defined based on the acceptable deviation from reference conditions.
	3.1.5 Length distribution of the population in the catch	<p>The length distribution of the population in the catch is maintained or increases.</p> <p><i>Description: The mean body size in the catch (Lt) has to be higher than the minimum conservation size: Lt &gt; Lm, being Lm = minimum conservation size (for example, to protect juveniles with minimum sizes). The length distribution of the population in the catch will be available only for those target species with monitoring programs dedicated to collect length distribution data.</i></p>	State -Stable or increasing in size -Lt > Lm	-CFP-EC -MSFD		Baseline is not necessary. Threshold needs to be defined based on the acceptable deviation from reference conditions.
	3.1.6. Spatial distribution of the population	<p>The spatial distribution of the population is maintained or increases.</p> <p><i>Description: It is important to know the spatial distribution of species: Species</i></p>	State -Stable or positive trend	-CFP-EC -MSFD		Data is needed for definition of reference conditions in

Operational objective	Indicator	Proposed GES Description	Proposed Targets	Similar indicators from other policies	Suggestions for development	Baselines and thresholds
		<p><i>with wider distributions are less vulnerable to fishing. However, regional data is not always available.</i></p>				<p>the past, which is the baseline. Threshold needs to be defined based on the acceptable deviation from reference conditions.</p>
<p><b>3.2 The reproductive capacity of stocks is maintained</b></p>	<p>3.2.1. Size at maturity</p>	<p>The mean size of organisms in the catch is larger than the mean size at first maturity</p> <p><i>Description: May reflect the extent of undesirable genetic effects of exploitation. To calculate this indicator, the mean size at first maturity is needed by species in the catch, in addition to the size of species in the catch. As in 3.1.5, this indicator will be available for those target species with monitoring programs dedicated to collect length distribution data.</i></p>	<p>State -Stable or positive trend</p>	<p>-CFP-EC -MSFD</p>		<p>Baseline is not necessary. Threshold is formulated in GES.</p>

Operational objective	Indicator	Proposed GES Description	Proposed Targets	Similar indicators from other policies	Suggestions for development	Baselines and thresholds
	3.2.2 Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB)	<p>The Spawning Stock Biomass is at a level at which reproduction capacity is not impaired</p> <p><i>Description: The Spawning Stock Biomass, usually referred to as SSB, is the total weight of the spawning stock. The SSB is available through stock assessment so not all species will have this information. Note that <math>B_{MSY}</math> is currently not considered as a threshold for stock management in European waters and values are not available. When both 3.1.3 and 3.2.3 indicators are available (only for few species) the most precautionary will be adopted. Only available if the stock has been assessed.</i></p>	<p>State -<math>B &gt; B_{thr}</math> (<math>2 \times B_{lim}</math>)</p>	<p>-CFP-EC -MSFD</p>		<p>Data is needed for definition of reference conditions in the past, which is the baseline. Threshold is formulated in GES.</p>
3.3. The impact of fishing activities in the ecosystem is low	3.3.1. Mean Trophic Level of the catch (and community)	<p>The Mean Trophic Level is maintained or increases with time</p> <p><i>Description: These indicators are being used with the CDB and other programs. To calculate these indicators, time series of catch per species or biomass (tones) and trophic level of the species are needed. The trophic level per species can be obtained from FishBase, SeaLifeBase, or regional datasets and models.</i></p>	<p>State -Stable or positive trend</p>	<p>-MSFD -CBD -IndiSeas -OSPAR</p>		<p>Baseline is not necessary. Threshold needs to be defined based on the acceptable deviation from reference conditions.</p>

Operational objective	Indicator	Proposed GES Description	Proposed Targets	Similar indicators from other policies	Suggestions for development	Baselines and thresholds
	3.3.2. Proportion of large fish in the catch (and the community)	<p>The proportion of large fish is maintained or increases with time.</p> <p><i>Description: The large fish indicator (LFI) reflects the size structure of the fish assemblage, which is assumed to be primarily affected by size-selective exploitation but is mediated by species composition as well as the fishing-induced reduction of life expectancy of each exploited species. In European waters, <math>LFI = W_{LargeFish} / W_{total}</math>, where <math>W_{LargeFish}</math> is the weight of fish greater than a chosen length (cm) and <math>W_{total}</math> is the total weight of all fish in the catch or survey. For the Mediterranean Sea we need to define Large Fish. This indicator can be calculated from the catch and from surveys (if data is available).</i></p>	State -Stable or positive trend	-MSFD -IndiSeas		Data is needed for definition of reference conditions in the past, which is the baseline. Threshold needs to be defined based on the acceptable deviation from reference conditions.
	3.3.3. Proportion of predatory fish in the catch (and in the community)	<p>The proportion of predatory fish in the population is maintained or increases with time</p> <p><i>Description: This indicator complements 3.3.3 and needs time series of total catch and catch of predatory species. This indicator can be calculated from biomass surveys if data is available. The definition of predatory fish should be</i></p>	State -Stable or positive trend	-MSFD -IndiSeas		Data is needed for definition of reference conditions in the past, which is the baseline. Threshold needs to be

Operational objective	Indicator	Proposed GES Description	Proposed Targets	Similar indicators from other policies	Suggestions for development	Baselines and thresholds
		<i>specifically defined for the Mediterranean region.</i>				defined based on the acceptable deviation from reference conditions.
	3.3.4. Proportion of all exploited species with declining biomass in the population	The proportion of species with declining biomass in the population is maintained or reduced with time  <i>Description: this indicator is based on data from 3.1.3 (Biomass indices) and will be only calculated when time series of survey biomass of retained species is available.</i>	State -Stable or negative trend	-IndiSeas		Baseline is not necessary. Threshold needs to be defined based on the acceptable deviation from reference conditions.
	3.3.5. Mean length of fish in the community	The mean size of the fish is maintained or increases with time.  <i>Description: This indicator reflects the species composition of a fish assemblage, where fishing is expected to cause a decrease in the proportion of species with large asymptotic body size, slow growth rate, late age and large size at maturation. It requires time series of</i>	State -Stable or positive trend	-MSFD -IndiSeas		Data is needed for definition of reference conditions in the past, which is the baseline. Threshold needs to be

Operational objective	Indicator	Proposed GES Description	Proposed Targets	Similar indicators from other policies	Suggestions for development	Baselines and thresholds
		<p><i>individual length measures (cm) and time series of number of fish sampled. In places where there is no data for length, weights can be converted to lengths using w-l relationships. An alternative can be the mean maximum length of fish (MML) using the asymptotic total length of each species (<math>L_{\infty}</math>). This indicator can be only calculated when time series of survey fish biomass is available. It can also be calculate from catch data.</i></p>				<p>defined based on the acceptable deviation from reference conditions.</p>

Definitions from the table:

**MSY:** The largest annual catch that may be taken from a stock every year without affecting the catch of future years.

**IUU:** Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

**Surveyed species** (Definition from IndiSeas project, to be revised for the Mediterranean): These are species sampled by researchers during routine surveys (as opposed to species sampled in catches by fishing vessels), and should include species of demersal and pelagic fish (bony and cartilaginous, small and large), as well as commercially important invertebrates (squids, crabs, shrimps...). Intertidal and subtidal crustaceans and molluscs such as abalones and mussels, mammalian and avian top predators, and turtles, should be excluded. Surveyed species are those that are considered by default in the calculation of all survey-based indicators.

**Retained species (landed)** (Definition from IndiSeas project, to be revised for the Mediterranean): These are species caught in fishing operations, although not necessarily targeted by a fishery (i.e. include by-catch species), and which are retained because they are of commercial interest, i.e. not discarded once caught, although this does not imply that sometimes certain size classes of that species may be discarded. A non-retained species is considered to be one that would never be retained for consumptive purposes. Intertidal and subtidal crustaceans and molluscs such as abalones and mussels are to be excluded. Retained species are those that are considered by default in the calculation of all catch-based indicators.

**Predatory fish species** (Definition from IndiSeas project, to be revised for the Mediterranean): Predatory fish are considered to be all surveyed fish species that are not largely planktivorous (i.e. phytoplankton and zooplankton feeders should be excluded). A fish species is classified as predatory if it is piscivorous, or if it feeds on invertebrates that are larger than the macrozooplankton category (> 2cm). Detritivores should not be classified as predatory fish.

## 1.2 Species to be considered: Groups of priority species identified by GFCM

Group I	Group II		Group III	
<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	<i>Alosa pontica</i>	<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>	<i>Siganus rivulatus</i>
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	<i>Aristaeomorpha foliacea</i>	<i>Squilla mantis</i>	<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	<i>Lagocephalus sceleratus</i>
<i>Mullus barbatus</i>	<i>Aristeus antennatus</i>	<i>Trachurus mediterraneus</i>	<i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i>	<i>Saurida undosquamis</i>
<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>	<i>Boops boops</i>	<i>Trachurus picturatus</i>	<i>Centrophorus granulosus</i>	<i>Marsupenaeus japonicus</i>
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	<i>Chamelea gallina</i>	<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>	<i>Dalatias licha</i>	<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>
<i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i>	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>		<i>Dipturus oxyrhincus</i>	<i>Fistularia commersonii</i>
<i>Psetta maxima</i>	<i>Diplodus annularis</i>		<i>Etmopterus spinax</i>	<i>Metapenaeus stebbingi</i>
<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	<i>Eledone cirrhosa</i>		<i>Galeus melastomus</i>	
<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	<i>Eledone moschata</i>		<i>Heptranchias perlo</i>	
<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	<i>Galeus melastomus</i>		<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>	
<i>Trachurus mediterraneus</i>	<i>Illex coindetii</i>		<i>Mustelus asterias</i>	
	<i>Lophius budegassa</i>		<i>Mustelus mustelus</i>	
	<i>Merlangius merlangius</i>		<i>Mustelus punctulatus</i>	
	<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>		<i>Myliobatis aquila</i>	
	<i>Octopus vulgaris</i>		<i>Prionace glauca</i>	
	<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>		<i>Pteroplatytrygon violacea</i>	
	<i>Pagellus erythrinus</i>		<i>Raja asterias</i>	
	<i>Psetta maxima</i>		<i>Raja clavata</i>	
	<i>Raja asterias</i>		<i>Raja miraletus</i>	
	<i>Raja clavata</i>		<i>Raja undulata</i>	
	<i>Sardinella aurita</i>		<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i>	
	<i>Scomber japonicus</i>		<i>Scyliorhinus stellaris</i>	
	<i>Scomber scombrus</i>		<i>Sphyrna tudes</i>	
	<i>Sepia officinalis</i>		<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	
	<i>Solea vulgaris</i>		<i>Squalus blainvillei</i>	
	<i>Sphyrna sphyraena</i>		<i>Torpedo marmorata</i>	

Group of vulnerable species	Family	Species	Common name
<b>Cetaceans</b>	Balaenopteridae	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Common minke whale
		<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Sei whale
		<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Fin whale
		<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Humpback whale
	Balenidae	<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	North Atlantic right whale
	Physeteridae	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Sperm whale
		<i>Kogia simus</i>	Dwarf Sperm Whale
	Phocoenidae	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Harbor porpoise
	Delphinidae	<i>Steno bredanensis</i>	Rough-toothed dolphin
		<i>Grampus griseus</i>	Risso's dolphin
		<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Common bottlenose dolphin
		<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	Striped dolphin
		<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	Common dolphin
		<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>	False killer whale
		<i>Globicephala melas</i>	Long-finned pilot whale
	Ziphiidae	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Killer whale
<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>		Cuvier's beaked whale	
	<i>Mesoplodon densirostris</i>	Blainville's beaked whale	
<b>Seals</b>	Phocidae	<i>Monachus monachus</i>	Mediterranean monk seal
<b>Sharks, Rays, Chimaeras*</b>	Carcharhinidae	<i>Carcharias taurus</i>	Sand tiger
		<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	Great white shark
		<i>Prionace glauca</i>	Blue shark
	Cetorhinidae	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Basking shark
	Gymnuridae	<i>Gymnura altavela</i>	Spiny butterfly ray
	Lamnidae	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	Shortfin mako
		<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle
	Myliobatidae	<i>Mobula mobular</i>	Devil fish
Odontaspidae	<i>Odontaspis ferox</i>	Small-tooth sand tiger shark	

Group of vulnerable species	Family	Species	Common name
Sharks, Rays, Chimaeras	Oxynotidae	<i>Oxynotus centrina</i>	Angular rough shark
	Pristidae	<i>Pristis pectinata</i>	Smalltooth Sawfish
		<i>Pristis pristis</i>	Common sawfish
	Rajidae	<i>Dipturus batis</i>	Common skate
		<i>Leucoraja circularis</i>	Sandy ray
		<i>Leucoraja melitensis</i>	Maltese skate
		<i>Rostroraja alba</i>	Bottlenose skate
	Rhinobatidae	<i>Rhinobatos cemiculus</i>	Blackchin guitarfish
		<i>Rhinobatos rhinobatos</i>	Common guitarfish
	Sphyrnidae	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	Scalloped hammerhead
		<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	Great hammerhead
		<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	Smooth hammerhead
	Squatinaidae	<i>Squatina aculeata</i>	Sawback angel shark
<i>Squatina oculata</i>		Smoothback angel shark	
<i>Squatina squatina</i>		Angel shark	
Triakidae	<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>	School/Tope shark	
Sea Turtles	Cheloniidae	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Loggerhead turtle
		<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Green turtle
	Dermochelyidae	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Leatherback sea turtle
Sea birds	Falconidae	<i>Falco eleonora</i>	Eleonora's Falcon
	Cerylidae	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Pied Kingfisher
	Charadriidae	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Kentish Plover
		<i>Charadrius leschenaultii columbinus</i>	Greater Sand Plover
	Halcyonidae	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	White-throated Kingfisher
	Hydrobatidae	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	European Storm-Petrel
		<i>Hydrobates pelagicus melitensis</i>	European Storm-Petrel
		<i>Hydrobates pelagicus pelagicus</i>	European Storm-Petrel
	Laridae	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	Audouin's Gull
		<i>Larus armenicus</i>	Armenian Gull
<i>Larus genei</i>		Slender-billed Gull	
<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>		Mediterranean Gull	

Group of vulnerable species	Family	Species	Common name
Sea birds	Pandionidae	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey
	Pelecanidae	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	Dalmatian Pelican
		<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	Great White Pelican
	Phalacrocoracidae	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	European Shag
		<i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i>	Pygmy Cormorant
	Phoenicopteridae	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	American Flamingo
	Procellariidae	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	Cory's Shearwater
		<i>Puffinus puffinus yelkouan</i>	Yelkouan Shearwater
		<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	Mediterranean Shearwater
		<i>Puffinus muretanicus</i>	Balearic Shearwater
	Scolopacidae	<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>	Slender-billed Curlew
	Sternidae	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Little Tern
		<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>	Lesser Crested Tern
		<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Sandwich Tern
<i>Sterna caspia</i>		Caspian Tern	
<i>Sterna nilotica</i>		Gull-billed Tern	

- **Group I:** Species that drive the fishery and for which assessment is regularly carried out.
- **Group II:** Species that are important in terms of landing and/or economic values at regional and subregional level and for which assessment is not regularly carried out.
- **Group III:** Species under international or national management plans; species under recovery and/or action plans for conservation. This Group 3 also contains a list of non-indigenous species with the greatest potential impact.
- **Vulnerable species:** List of endangered or threatened species included in the Appendix II-III of the SPA/BD Protocol of the Barcelona Convention (Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean).

Table identifying which species groups will be used for each indicator:

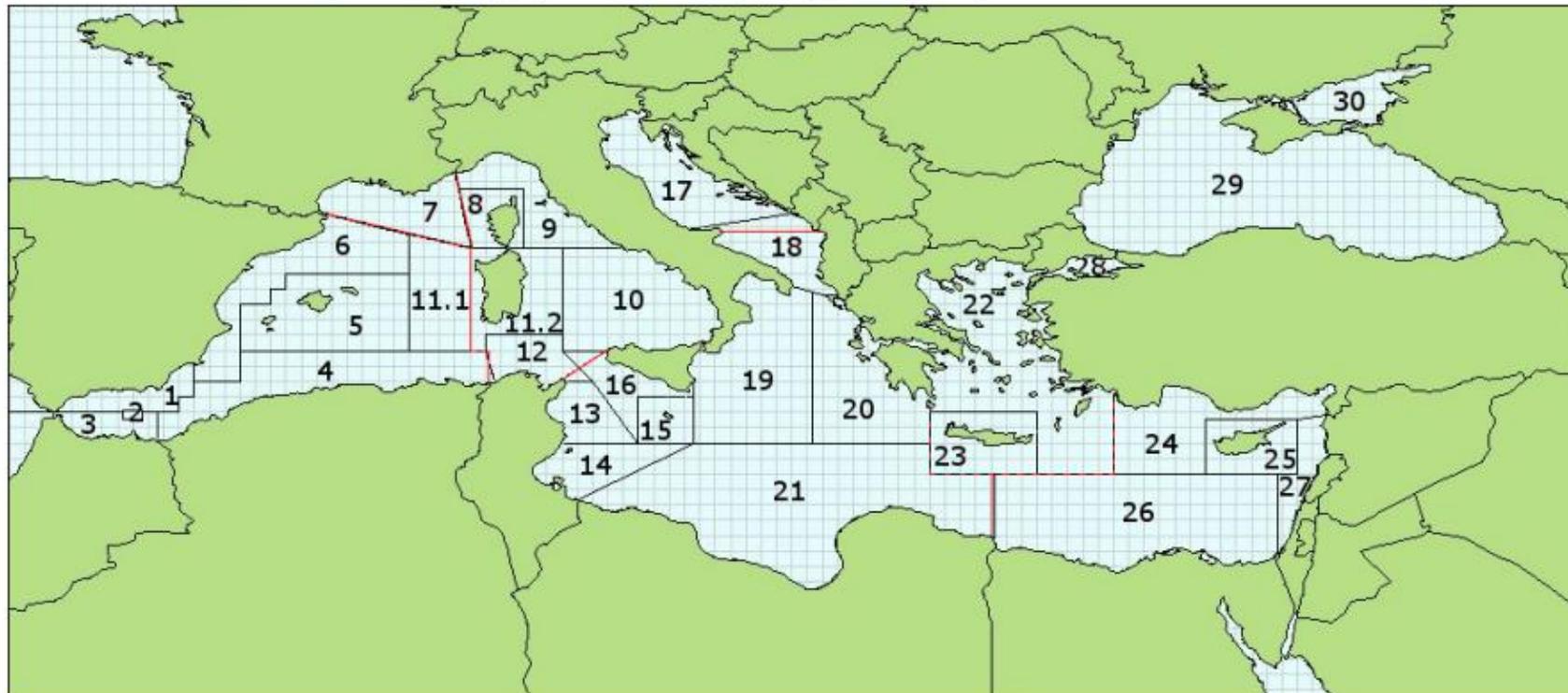
Operational objective	Indicator	Proposed GES Description	Species included
3.1. Level of exploitation by commercial fisheries is within biologically safe limits	3.1.1 Total catch	Total catch does not exceed the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY).	-Priority species (I-II-III) -Vulnerable species
	3.1.2 Fishing mortality	Fishing mortality in the stock does not exceed the level that allows MSY ( $F \leq F_{MSY}$ ).	-Priority species (I-II)
	3.1.3 Biomass indices	Stable or increasing biomass indices (relative or absolute), with absolute value at or above biomass that produces maximum sustainable yield.	-Priority species (I-II-III) -Vulnerable species
	3.1.4 Ratio between catch and biomass index (hereinafter catch/biomass ratio).	The catch/biomass ratio allows to recover the stock or to maintain it at a level where it can produce the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	-Priority species (I-II-III) -Vulnerable species
	3.1.5 Length distribution of the population in the catch	The length distribution of the population in the catch is maintained or increases.	-Priority species (I-II)
	3.1.6. Spatial distribution of the population	The spatial distribution of the population is maintained or increases.	-Priority species (I-II)
3.2. The reproductive capacity	3.2.1. Size at maturity	The mean size of organisms in the catch is larger than the mean size at first maturity.	-Priority species (I-II)

	3.2.2 Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB)	The Spawning Stock Biomass is at a level at which reproduction capacity is not impaired	-Priority species (I-II)
<b>3.3. The impact of fishing activities in the ecosystem is low</b>	3.3.1. Mean Trophic Level of the catch (and community)	The Mean Trophic Level of the Catch and the Community is maintained or increases with time.	-Priority species (I-II-III) -Vulnerable species
	3.3.2. Proportion of large fish in the catch (and the community)	The proportion of large fish (>40 cm) is maintained or increases with time.	-Priority species (I-II-III) -Vulnerable species
	3.3.3. Proportion of predatory fish in the catch (and in the community)	The proportion of predatory fish in the population is maintained or increases with time	-Priority species (I-II-III) -Vulnerable species
	3.3.4. Proportion of all exploited species with declining biomass in the population	The proportion of species with declining biomass in the population is maintained or reduced with time	-Priority species (I-II-III) -Vulnerable species
	3.3.5. Mean length of fish in the community	The mean size of the fish is maintained or increases with time.	-Priority species (I-II)

**1.3 Geographical scale:**

As part of the guidance for a common methodology to be use by clusters, the ECAP Coordination Group recommended that scales should be national and when possible regional (Mediterranean) and transboundary or sub-regional. Currently, around half of the Mediterranean countries have stock assessments for some of the stocks being fished on their national waters.

Under GFCM, stock assessments are made by Geographical Sub-Areas (GSA) established as management units in 2001 and amended in 2009 (RESOLUTION GFCM/33/2009/2). The GSA delimitation is mainly based on practical considerations rather than on the stock distribution, and many stocks extend beyond the geographic limits of GSAs. However, although the concept of their delimitation still needs further consideration, the GSAs, as established by GFCM appear as the most appropriate subdivisions for stock assessments for management purposes in the Mediterranean Sea. They are also adopted for assessments at national level.



--- FAO Statistical Divisions (red)      --- GFCM Geographical Sub-Areas (black)

01 - Northern Alboran Sea	07 - Gulf of Lions	13 - Gulf of Hammamet	19 - Western Ionian Sea	25 - Cyprus Island
02 - Alboran Island	08 - Corsica Island	14 - Gulf of Gabes	20 - Eastern Ionian Sea	26 - South Levant
03 - Southern Alboran Sea	09 - Ligurian and North Tyrrhenian Sea	15 - Malta Island	21 - Southern Ionian Sea	27 - Levant
04 - Algeria	10 - South and Central Tyrrhenian Sea	16 - South of Sicily	22 - Aegean Sea	28 - Marmara Sea
05 - Balearic Island	11.1 - Sardinia (west)    11.2 - Sardinia (east)	17 - Northern Adriatic	23 - Crete Island	29 - Black Sea
06 - Northern Spain	12 - Northern Tunisia	18 - Southern Adriatic Sea	24 - North Levant	30 - Azov Sea

### GFCM Geographical Sub-Areas (GSAs)



