

Mediterranean fisheries management measures

As a contracting party to the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the European Union is bound to adopt its conservation and management measures in EU law, so that they become applicable to EU fishing vessels. The European Parliament is expected to vote on a Commission proposal on the transposition of new GFCM measures, that go beyond the existing regulations, during the March II plenary session.

Background

Fishing in areas beyond national jurisdiction is subject to cooperation in the framework of regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs). The GFCM, one of the oldest RFMOs, adopts binding recommendations for fisheries measures in its area of application – covering the Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea and connecting waters (see map). The organisation is currently composed of [24 contracting parties](#), the European Union and 23 states, among them all ten EU Member States around the area of application and most other coastal states.

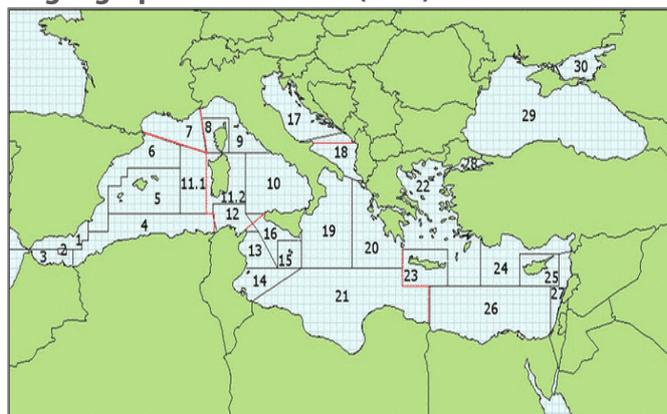
European Commission proposal

On 22 March 2018, the Commission put forward a [proposal](#) to transpose a number of new GFCM recommendations into Union law, through amending the existing Regulation [1343/2011](#). The proposal includes a wide range of measures adopted by the GFCM at its annual sessions of [2015](#), [2016](#) and [2017](#), aimed at the recovery of fish stocks and the protection of vulnerable habitats. More specifically, it includes measures such as the establishment of a fisheries restricted area in the Adriatic Sea, prohibition of bottom trawling in certain areas of the Strait of Sicily, spatial/temporal fishing restrictions in the Alboran Sea to protect blackspot seabream, closure of turbot fisheries in the Black Sea during the spawning season and precautionary closures for the protection of red coral. Various measures for monitoring, control and surveillance and for fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing are also included.

European Parliament position

On 21 November 2018, Parliament's Committee on Fisheries (PECH) adopted its [report](#) on the proposal. It brings the proposal closer into line with the GFCM recommendations, and proposes to extend the scope of Regulation 1343/2011 to include recreational fishing (where specifically provided for). Parliament and Council reached a [provisional agreement](#) on 19 February 2019, including most of Parliament's amendments and, amongst additional changes, introducing a minimum conservation reference size for piked dogfish in the Black Sea. The text now needs to be formally adopted by Parliament, and is scheduled to be voted during the March II plenary session.

Map – GFCM area of application and its 30 geographical sub-areas (GSA)



Source: [GFCM \(FAO\)](#).

First-reading report: [2018/0069\(COD\)](#); Committee responsible: PECH; Rapporteur Linnéa Engström (Greens/EFA, Sweden). For further information see our '[at a glance](#)' note, from June 2018, on the proposal.

