

PECH hearing:

Rebuilding Fish Stock in the Mediterranean: Next Steps

ways forward to rebuild

Nicolas Fournier Campaign Director, Marine Protection 27 October 2020



Presentation's outline

A genuine EU responsibility

Political momentum

- 1. Protect nurseries/spawning grounds
- 2. Strictly protect MPAs
- 3. Control capacity & Neighbourhood policy Key recommendations





A genuine EU responsibility

Dire situation, even before COVID19:

- high overfishing (80% stocks)
- Structural overcapacity
- Poor culture of compliance

Important EU responsibility:

- 44 stocks exclusively fished by EU
- Largest fleet and catch volume
- Most developed nations (GDP)

Trends in the fishing pressure (Ratio of F/F_{MSY})

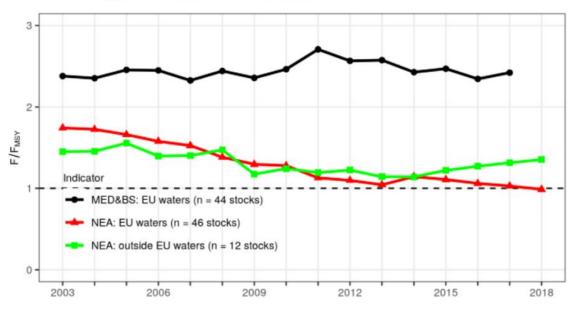


Figure 2. Trends in fishing pressure 2003-2018. Three model based indicators F/FMSY are presented (all referring to the median value of the model): one for 46 EU stocks with appropriate information in the NE Atlantic (red line); one for an additional set of 12 stocks also located in the NE Atlantic but outside EU waters (green line), and one for the 44 assessed stocks from the Mediterranean & Black Seas (black line).



Political momentum

EC leadership (MedFish4Ever declaration) as driver for policy change:

- Roadmap and new dynamic in the GFCM
- EU MAP (WestMed)

But main challenges remain:

- EU Member States fail on their responsibilities
- Insufficient implementation
- Regional credibility undermined

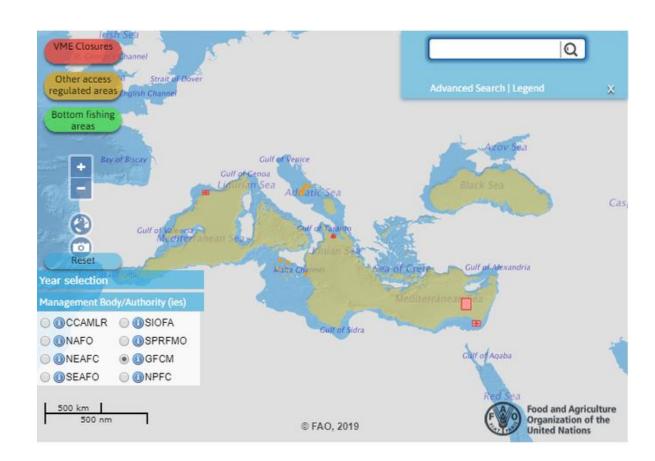






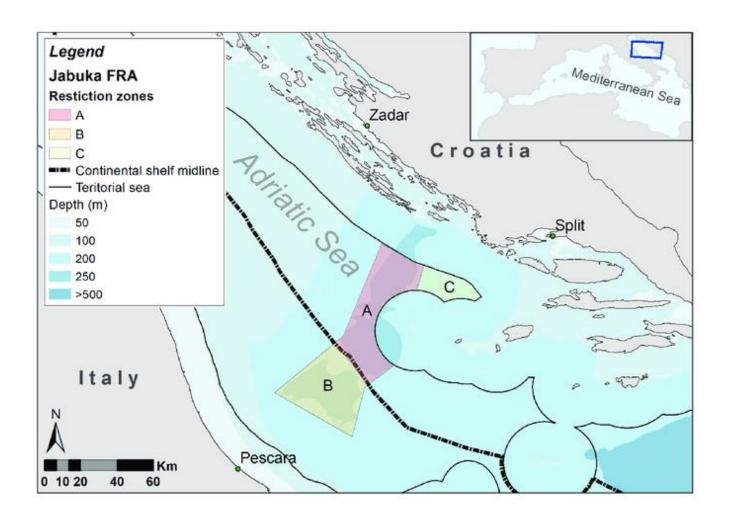
1. Protect nurseries/spawning grounds

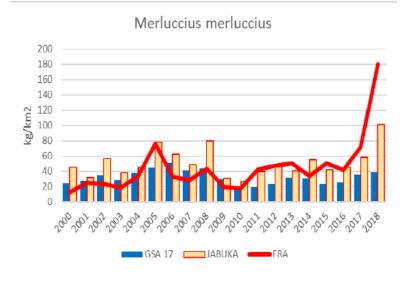
- Spatial closures for fish nurseries:
 - Positive impacts on stocks status (SSB)
 - Reduced discards
- MedFish4Ever: Commitment to create network of Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRA)
 - But: only 0,22% of Mediterranean is permanent FRA
- EU WestMed MAP: protection of hake nurseries

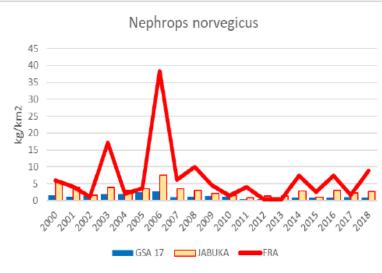




Jabuka/Pomo Pit FRA success story



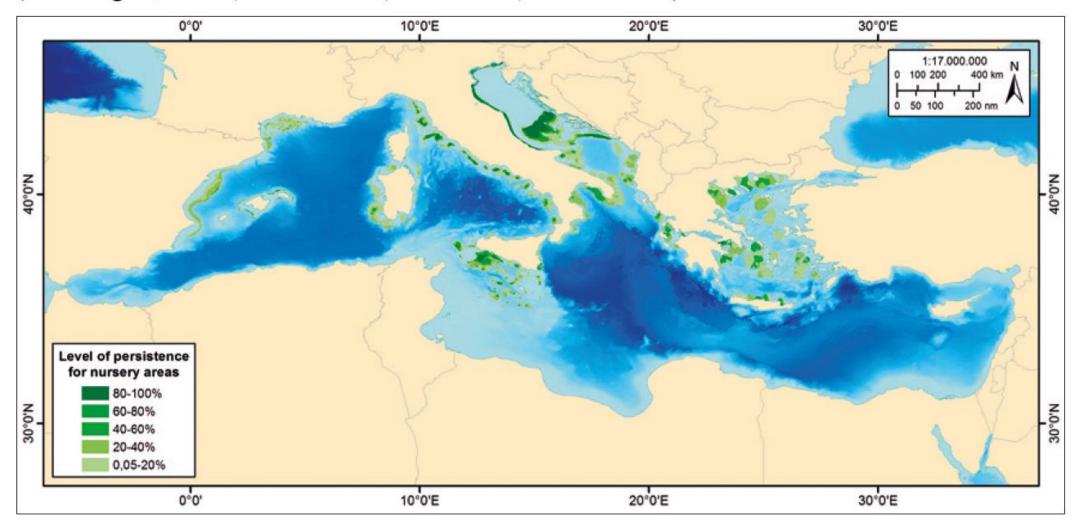






Data and identification of fish nurseries

Figure 3. Identified nurseries for some priority demersal species according to MEDISEH (including A. *foliacea*, M. *merluccius*, M. *barbatus*, M. *surmuletus*)





2. Strictly protect Marine Protected Areas

Science: strictly protect 30% of the ocean

- halt biodiversity loss
- build climate resilience

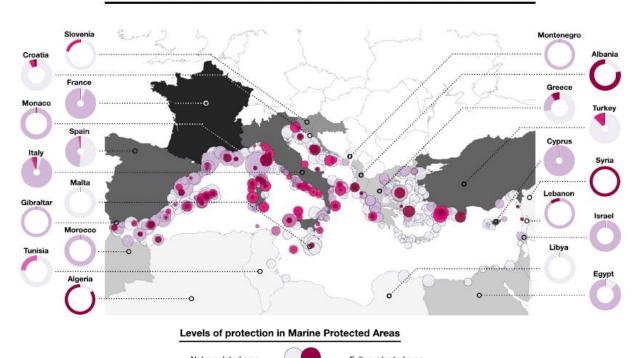
New EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy

- 30% MPAs
- 10% strictly protected

Currently: "Paper-parks"

- 59% of European MPAs are trawled
- 85% of EU MPAs lack management plans
- 6% MPA coverage in Mediterranean
 - > 0.23% "fully or highly" protected
 - > 0.06% "fully" protected

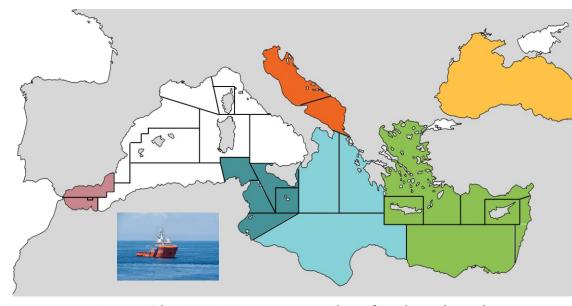
Levels of protection in the Mediterranean Sea



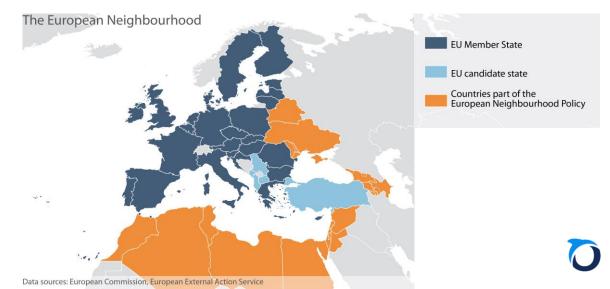


3. Control capacity in EU and thirs countries

- Fight IUU fishing by increasing transparency:
 - of fishing operations
 - of monitoring & control efforts
- Enhance capacity for fisheries control:
 - EFCA (e.g. joint-inspections)
 - Additional EU patrol boat?
- Build capacity in third countries

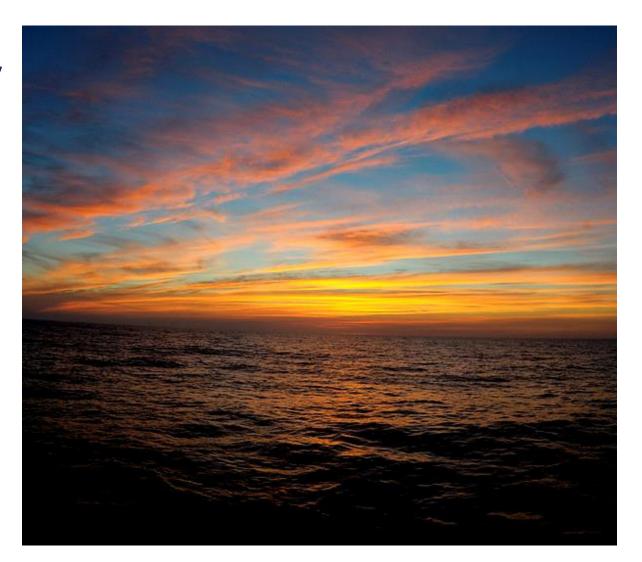


Areas with GFCM Management Plans for shared stocks



Key recommendations

- Keep political momentum & focus on sustainability as key to recovery/rebuilding
 - New GFCM 2025 Strategy
 - 2021 MedFish4Ever ministerial meeting
- Protect nurseries/spawning grounds
- Support 10% no-take zones
- Manage & **prohibit trawling** in all MPAs
- Increase transparency & control/enforcement for regional/global credibility
- Integrate fisheries into EU Neighbourhood policy





Nicolas Fournier

Campaign Director, Marine Protection

nfournier@oceana.org

@nico_fournier

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