HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD,
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR FISHERIES

Annual fishing fleet report for the 2022 reference year

pursuant to Article 22 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council

Athens, May 2023

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A. Introduction

This report is submitted as part of Greece's obligations set out in Article 22 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013. The purpose is to adjust the fishing capacity of the Greek fishing fleet to its fishing opportunities, taking into account trends and based on best scientific advice, with the objective of achieving a stable and enduring balance between them.

In order to achieve a common approach across all EU Member States, the report was prepared in accordance with the common guidelines set out in Commission Communication COM (2014) 545 final of 2 September 2014.

For the purposes of drawing up this report, use has been made of data kept under the responsibility of the Directorate-General for Fisheries of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, in the form of fishing activity data which the vessel owners and/or masters concerned enter without delay in the database of the integrated monitoring system for fishing activities (OSPA) and data in the national fishing register.

In addition, to assess the balance indicators (biological, economic and vessel use indicators), as presented in Section F of this report, use has been made of the most recent data collected under the national fisheries data collection programme implemented by Greece pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy.

The methodology for collecting and processing data is described in detail in the approved work plan, entitled 'GREECE Work Plan for data collection in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors', 2022-2024, Version 3 (Revision 4th November 2021), as posted on the following link: https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/wp/2022-2027

A.1 Description of the Greek fishing fleet

According to data from the national fishing register, on 31 December 2022 the Greek fishing fleet comprised 12 197 fishing vessels with a gross tonnage of 62 642.03 GT and a total engine power of 359 977.25 kW.

The table below gives an overview of the Greek fishing fleet as at 31 December 2022, broken down according to OECD-approved length categories.

Table A.1: Number of vessels of the Greek fishing fleet, broken down by length category

Overall length (LOA) (in metres)	Number of vessels	Tonnage (GT)	Engine power (kW)
up to 5.99 m	* 3 823	2 648.44	37 494.49
between 6 and 11.99 m	** 7 617	21 089.88	181 240.27
between 12 and 17.99 m	365	6 505.61	37 886.49
between 18 and 23.99 m	221	10 811.26	50 963.94
between 24 and 29.99 m	145	15 687.84	42 972.56
between 30 and 35.99 m	24	5 092.00	7 730.89
between 36 and 44.99 m	2	807.00	1 688.61
between 45 and 59.99 m	0	0	0
between 60 and 74.99 m	0	0	0
more than 75.00 m	0	0	0
Grand total	**12 197**	**62 642.03**	**359 977.25**

* 82 of these vessels have no engine
** 14 of these vessels have no engine

Taking into account the fishing gear registered in the national fishing register, the Greek fleet is categorised as follows:

i. vessels equipped with static gear only (mainly nets, longlines and traps);
ii. vessels equipped with towed gear, i.e. bottom otter trawls (OTB);
iii. vessels equipped with encircling gear, i.e. purse seine (PS).

As already mentioned in the annual report for the reference year 2021, Greece states that no fishing vessel is equipped with the 'boat dredges' (DRB) gear.

There is a small number of vessels equipped with traditional gear commonly known as 'argalios' [loom] and 'tsougrana' [rake], which look similar to dredges but do not constitute towed gear within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006. This gear is manually operated or hauled with manual winches and is entered in the national fishing register with the code DRH (hand dredges used on board a vessel).

The Directorate-General for Fisheries of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food issued circular No 3155/245486/2.3.2022 for the purposes of correctly recording and supplementing and/or correcting the licences of fishing vessels carrying such gear.

The characteristics of those three categories are briefly described in the following paragraphs.

A.1.1 Data on fleet equipped with static gear

The vast majority of vessels in the Greek fishing fleet, i.e. 11 727 vessels out of 12 197 (96.13%), are vessels that have static gear only (mainly nets, longlines and traps).

Based on their overall length, most of these vessels (97.55%) are classified in the category of small coastal fishing vessels, i.e. vessels with an overall length of less than 12 metres, while only 2.45% are vessels with an overall length of 12 metres or more.

Table A.1.1: Number of vessels equipped with static gear, broken down by length category

Length category (LOA)	Number of vessels	Tonnage (GT)	Engine power (kW)
up to 5.99 metres	3 823	2 648	37 494
between 6 and 11.99 metres	7 617	21 090	181 240
between 12 and 17.99 metres	278	4 555	26 043
between 18 and 23.99 metres	9	385	1 341
TOTAL	**11 727**	**28 679**	**246 119**

The fishing activities carried out by small coastal fishing vessels mainly consist in fishing for stocks in coastal waters. As a rule, these vessels are equipped with almost the whole range of static gear and, depending on the area and season, operate with different gear, targeting different stocks each time.

Coastal fishing, as an occupation, is particularly important for Greece, as these vessels generally operate in the coastal areas of mainland Greece and of the islands and contribute to their social and economic cohesion.

As a rule, in 2022 vessels of this category operated in Greek national waters, while vessels larger in length also operated in international waters in the Mediterranean, in FAO areas 37.2.2-Ionian (GSA 20), 37.3.1-Aegean (GSA 22 and 23) and 37.3.2-Levant, targeting mainly large pelagic species (SWO, ALB and BFT).

Under the multi-annual management plans and in accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 (Control Regulation), and under national provisions on the protection of specific stocks, vessels of this category may be granted fishing authorisations for the following:

i. swordfish (SWO) (*Xiphias gladius*);
ii. albacore (ALB) (*Thunnus alalunga*);
iii. bluefin tuna (BFT) (*Thunnus thynnus*);
iv. species of the genus *Holothuria spp.;*
v. *Plesionika narval* (narwal shrimp);
vi. fishing outside national territorial waters;
vii. shellfish;

viii. sea urchin;
ix. red coral;
x. activities relating to fishing tourism.

As regards the submission of fishing logbook data and the installation of satellite-tracking devices, vessels in this category are required to comply with all the obligations arising from Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 (Control Regulation).

In addition, under national legislation, irrespective of the length of the vessels, the Greek authorities apply stricter provisions than the Control Regulation, which can be summarised as follows:

(a) all vessels with an overall length of 10 metres or more are required to keep an electronic fishing logbook;
(b) all vessels, regardless of length, that are granted fishing authorisations for (i) to (vi) above are required to keep an electronic fishing logbook and to install and fully operate satellite-tracking devices (VMS).

In particular, Ministerial Decision No 2287/40083/7.4.2015 (Government Gazette, Series II, No 695) introduced the obligation for owners of all vessels under 10 metres in length that do not hold fishing authorisations (points (i) to (iv) above) to complete and submit monthly statistical data.

In accordance with the above Ministerial Decision, the following data are recorded and submitted every month in the monthly production declaration: data about the vessel, the owner, the type of fishing gear, the option of no fishing activity (months with zero production), the catch area, all species (selection from a list with mandatory fields: FAO three-digit code, scientific name of species, common trade name) and kilograms per species. Please note that the above data (except kilograms) are entered by selecting options from lists that are the same for all OSPA applications and correspond to the MDR lists in order to avoid errors in the entries.

The above procedure fully complies with the sampling methodology laid down in Article 57(4) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011 and is an acceptable equivalent of the sampling plan under Articles 16 and 25 of the Control Regulation.

In order to ensure that production declarations are submitted by all vessels, Article 32 of Law 4597/2019 (Government Gazette, Series I, No 35), as amended by Article 52(2) of Law 4647/2019 (Government Gazette, Series I, No 204), linked the renewal of fishing licences for professional fishing vessels to the obligation to submit data on fishing activity. Licences are valid for 2 years and are renewed in the final quarter of the second year. As the above obligation has therefore already been in place for 2 consecutive years, it has been ensured at this stage that all owners of vessels less than 10 metres who have renewed their licence have been complying with the obligation to submit monthly data on time.

Based on the officially declared production data, as recorded in the national database of the integrated monitoring system for fishing activities (OSPA) and submitted to the European Commission (ACDR), vessels equipped with coastal gear declared a catch of approximately 10 970 tonnes, corresponding to 20.5% of the total annual production for 2022.

It should be noted that 18% of production comes from small-scale coastal fishing, i.e. vessels with an overall length of less than 12 metres (SSF), and the remaining 2.5% from vessels of an overall length of 12 metres or more.

Finally, it is important to note that in recent years there has been a strong interest among fishers in engaging in fishing tourism, as it has proved to be a source of additional income for fishers. Under national legislation, only vessels of an overall length of less than 15 metres equipped only with static gear may carry out activities relating to fishing tourism. In 2022, a total of 266 vessels were licensed to carry out such activities and it is estimated that this number will increase.

A.1.2 Data on fleet equipped with towed gear (bottom otter trawls – OTB)

According to data from the national fishing register, as at 31 December 2022 a total of 248 vessels equipped with bottom otter trawls (OTB, trawlers) as their main or secondary gear were recorded in the Greek fishing fleet. The characteristics of these vessels are shown in Table A.1.2 below. Of the 248 vessels equipped with OTB gear, 157 vessels have OTB gear only, while the remaining 91 are also equipped with purse seines (PS).

Table A.1.2: Vessels equipped with towed gear (bottom otter trawls – OTB)

Length category (LOA)	Number of vessels	Tonnage (GT)	Engine power (kW)
between 15 and 17.99 metres	**3**	**82**	**535**
between 18 and 23.99 metres	**100**	**5 143**	**26 695**
between 24 and 29.99 metres	**119**	**13 357**	**36 652**
between 30 and 35.99 metres	**24**	**5 092**	**7 731**
between 36 and 44.99 metres	**2**	**807**	**1 689**
TOTAL	**248**	**24 481**	**73 301**

All vessels equipped with OTB are required to keep an electronic fishing logbook and to install and continuously operate satellite-tracking devices (VMS).

In 2022 vessels of this category operated in Greek national waters, and also in international waters in the Mediterranean, in FAO areas 37.2.2-Ionian (GSA 20), 37.3.1-Aegean (GSA 22 and 23) and 37.3.2-Levant.

For fishing with bottom otter trawls, Greece has put in place a management plan pursuant to Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006. Under the management plan, 231 fishing authorisations were granted in 2022.

Moreover, in 2022 fishing authorisations were granted to 227 vessels for *Aristeus antennatus* (blue and red shrimp) and *Aristaeomorpha foliacea* (red shrimp).

Based on the officially declared production data, as recorded in the national database of the integrated monitoring system for fishing activities (OSPA) and submitted to the European Commission (ACDR), vessels equipped with OTB declared a catch of approximately 13 209 tonnes, corresponding to 24.7% of the total annual production for 2022.

A.1.3 Data on fleet equipped with encircling gear (purse seine)

According to data from the national fishing register, as at 31 December 2022 a total of 313 vessels equipped with purse seines (PS) as their main or secondary gear were recorded in the Greek fishing fleet. The characteristics of these vessels are shown in Table A.1.3 below. Of the 313 vessels equipped with PS, 222 vessels have PS only, while the remaining 91 are also equipped with OTB.

Table A.1.3: Vessels equipped with encircling gear (purse seines – PS)

Length category (LOA)	Number of vessels	Tonnage (GT)	Engine power (kW)
between 12 and 17.99 metres	86	1 916	11 548
between 18 and 23.99 metres	156	7 496	33 826
between 24 and 29.99 metres	63	6 095	17 450
between 30 and 35.99 metres	8	1 623	2 631
TOTAL	**313**	**17 130**	**65 455**

All vessels equipped with purse seines are required to keep an electronic fishing logbook and to install and continuously operate satellite-tracking devices (VMS).

In 2022 vessels of this category operated in Greek national waters, and also in international waters in the Mediterranean, in FAO areas 37.2.2-Ionian (GSA 20), 37.3.1-Aegean (GSA 22 and 23) and 37.3.2-Levant.

For fishing with purse seines, Greece has put in place a management plan pursuant to Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006. Under the management plan, 224 fishing authorisations were granted in 2022.

Moreover, in 2022 fishing authorisations for albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) were granted to 31 vessels.

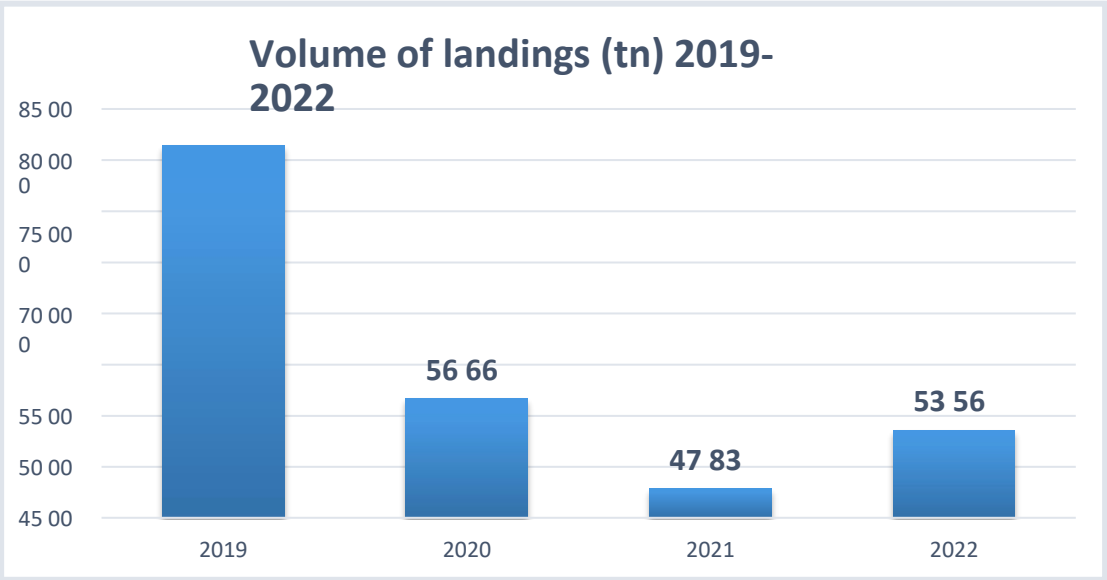
Based on the officially declared production data, as recorded in the national database of the integrated monitoring system for fishing activities (OSPA) and submitted to the European Commission (ACDR), vessels equipped with purse seines declared a catch of approximately 29 386 tonnes, corresponding to 54.9% of the total annual production for 2022.

A.2 Correlation with fishing activities

According to the report of the Department for Data Entry and Management (within the Directorate for the Control of Fishing Activities and Products, Directorate-General for Fisheries), the processing of the data entered in the OSPA national database and submitted to the European Commission (ACDR) showed that **the national annual production for 2022 stands at 53 566 tonnes**.

Total production in 2022 is higher than in 2021 (47 838 tonnes), but remains lower than in 2020 (56 663 tonnes) and significantly lower than in 2019 (81 429 tonnes). This is directly linked to both the Covid-19 pandemic and the recent energy crisis.

Figure A.2.1 Total volume of landings from 2019 to 2022



Based on the reported data for 2022, a volume of 44 968 tonnes (84%) was declared by vessels equipped with an electronic fishing logbook (i.e. vessels of 10 metres or more and vessels under 10 metres with fishing authorisations), while a volume of 8 596 tonnes (16%) was declared by vessels that are required to submit a monthly declaration (vessels under 10 metres without fishing authorisations).

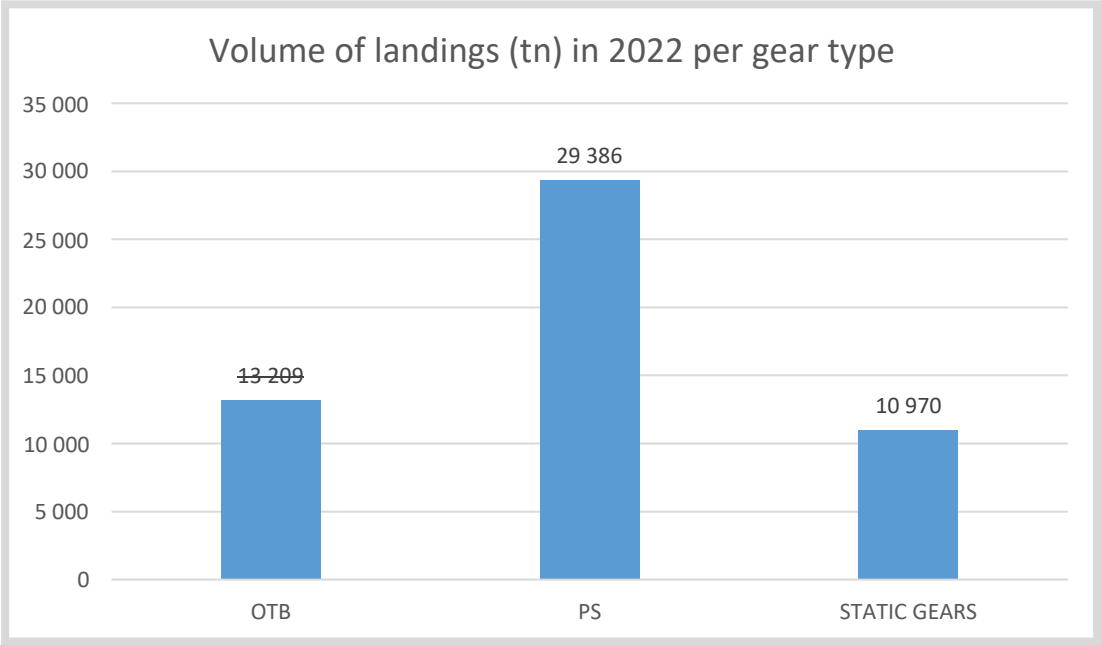
There is a decrease in production in 2022 compared to 2021 for vessels that used static gear (mainly nets and longlines). However, they show a high number of fishing days, a contrast which is particularly sharp as regards nets, while the number of vessels does not vary significantly. The energy crisis is likely to be the main factor, as these vessels are pushed to shorter fishing trips closer to shore and therefore to log more days with declared fisheries production.

The production of bottom otter trawl vessels (OTB trawlers) shows a further decrease in both production and fishing days, while the number of vessels remains stable. The main factor behind the reduced production is the energy crisis, which has led to a sharp increase in fuel prices. As this category of fleet has high energy requirements and is exclusively dependent on oil, this limits the scope of its fishing activities.

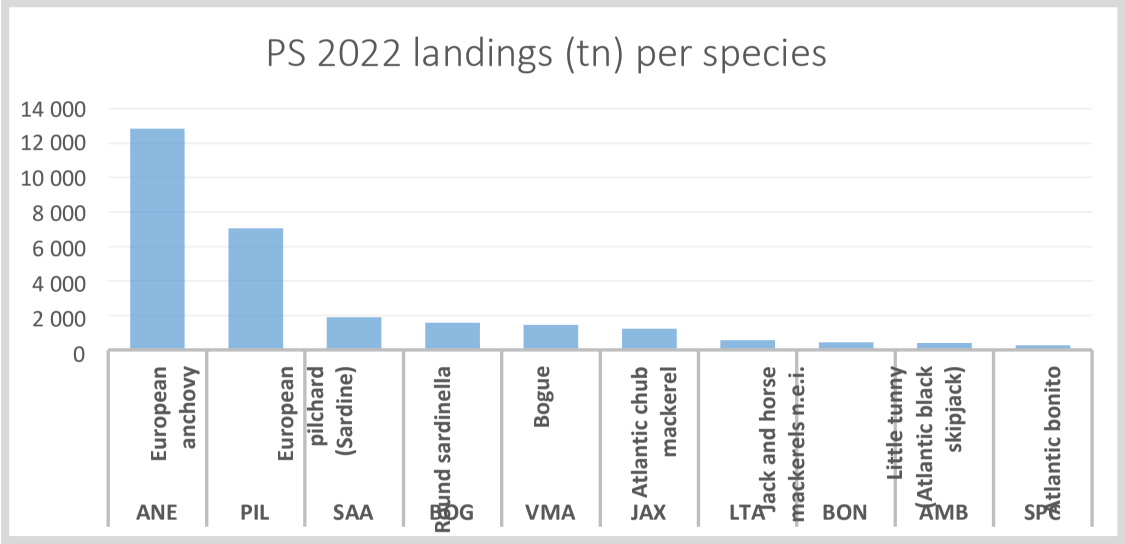
Overall production for **purse seiners** decreased significantly in 2021, but in 2022 shows a recovery to 2020 levels. An important reason for the 2021 decline in purse seiner production was the effect of phytoplankton. Fishing days follow the pattern of production, but with a smaller decrease in 2021, while the number of vessels does not vary significantly.

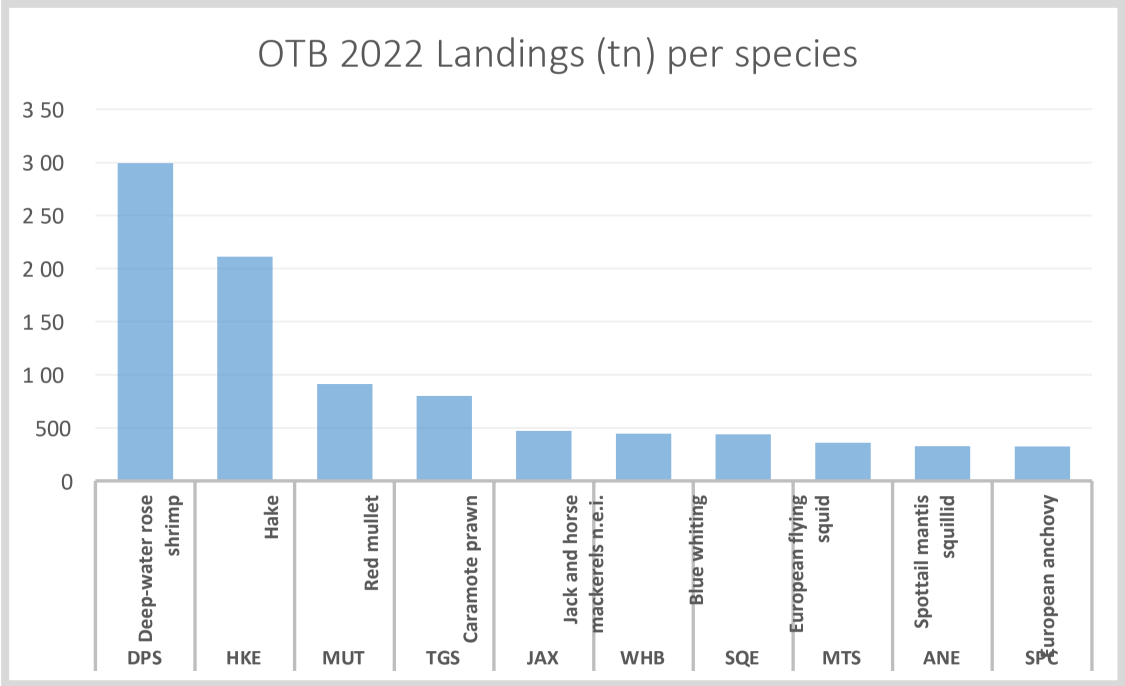
As shown in Figure A.2.2 below, according to the gear type used, in 2022 more than half of the annual production comes from purse seiners (55%), followed by bottom otter trawls (24.5%) and vessels equipped with static gear (20.5%).

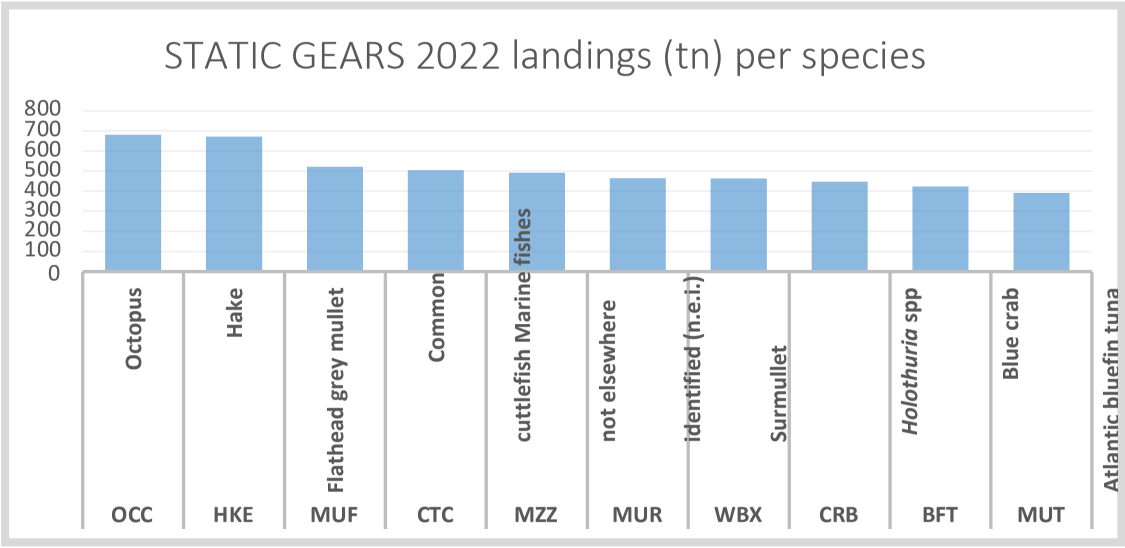
Figure A.2.1 Total volume of landings from 2019 to 2022



The figures below show the production in 2022 for the top ten species, broken down by gear type.


PS 2022 landings (tn) per species
14 000
12 000
10 000
8 000
6 000
4 000
2 000
0
European anchovy
ANE
European pilchard (Sardine)
PIL
Round sardinella
SAA
Bogue
BOG
Atlantic chub mackerel
VMA
Jack and horse mackerels n.e.i.
JAX
Little tunny (Atlantic black skipjack)
LTA
Atlantic bonito
BON
AMB
SPC


OTB 2022 Landings (tn) per species
3 50
3 00
2 50
2 00
1 50
1 00
500
0
Deep-water rose shrimp
DPS
Hake
HKE
Red mullet
MUT
Caramote prawn
TGS
Jack and horse mackerels n.e.i.
JAX
Blue whiting
WHB
European flying squid
SQE
Spottail mantis squillid
MTS
European anchovy
ANE
SPC


STATIC GEARS 2022 landings (tn) per species
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
Octopus
OCC
Hake
HKE
Flathead grey mullet
MUF
Common
CTC
cuttlefish Marine fishes
MZZ
not elsewhere
MUR
identified (n.e.i.)
WBX
Surmullet
CRB
Holothuria spp
BFT
Blue crab
MUT
Atlantic bluefin tuna

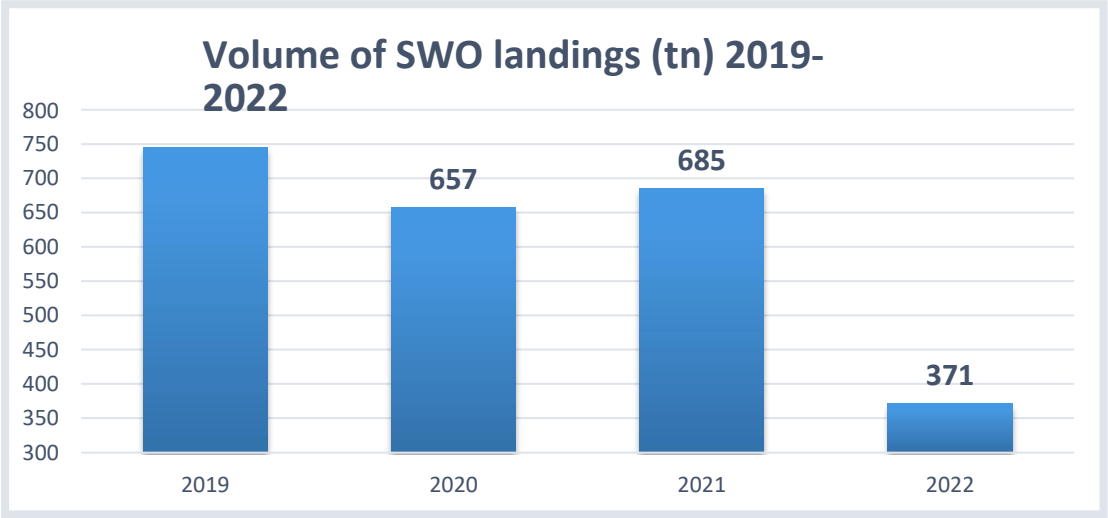
BFT fishing

In 2022, 424.06 tonnes were landed by Greek fishing vessels that had tuna fishing authorisations, almost exhausting the national quota limit of 430.42 tonnes for 2022.

Under Regulation (EU) 2022/109 the national quota was set at 318.53 tonnes, and 20.5 tonnes were received from Spain (AVARCH) and 100 tonnes from Croatia (AE45WM) through exchanges.

SWO fishing

In 2022, 370.62 tonnes were landed by Greek fishing vessels that had swordfish fishing authorisations. As illustrated in the figure below, this production is significantly lower than in previous years.



A large number of vessels that had swordfish fishing authorisations for 2022 reported no catch. This is believed to be due to the fact that vessels targeting swordfish generally operate in areas that are at a long distance from the base ports, with fishing trips lasting for many days and, given the high fuel prices over the past year, have significantly limited the scope of their swordfish fishing activities.

ALB fishing

In 2022, only 145.46 tonnes were landed by Greek fishing vessels that had albacore fishing authorisations. As illustrated in the figure below, this production is significantly lower than in previous years.

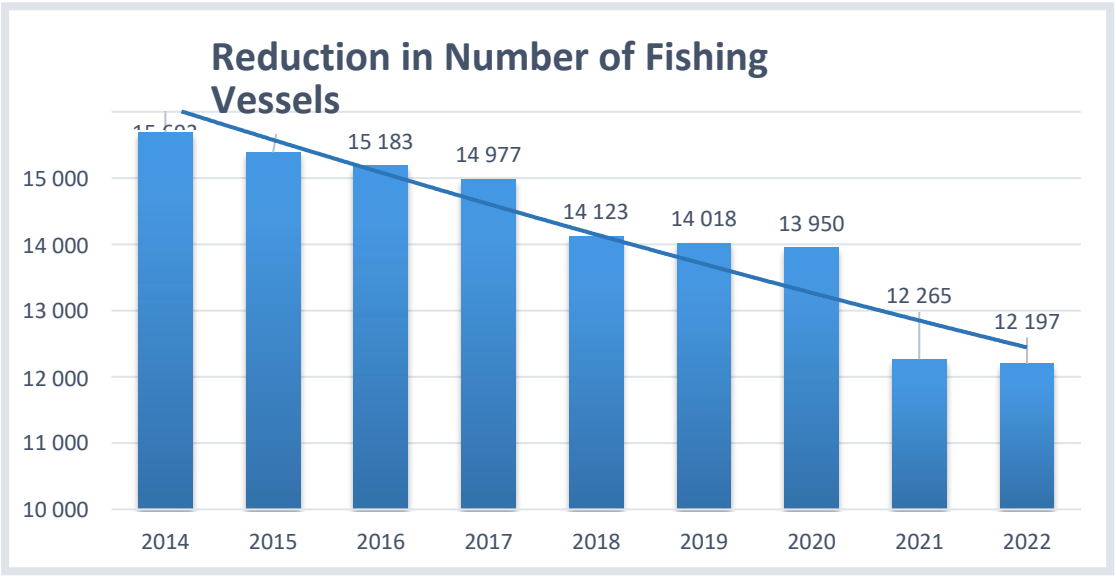
As in the case of swordfish fishing, a large number of vessels that had albacore fishing authorisations for 2022 reported no catch. This is believed to be due to the fact that vessels targeting albacore generally operate in areas that are at a long distance from the base ports, with fishing trips lasting for many days and, given the high fuel prices over the past year, have significantly limited the scope of their albacore fishing activities.

The tables in Section H (Annexes) show the production data in 2022 for the top 30 species (Table H.1) and the value data for the top 30 species (Table H.2).

A.3 Fleet evolution

According to data on the fishing capacity of the Greek fleet from 2014 to 2022, as illustrated in Figure A.3.1 below, the total number of vessels decreased by 22.28%, i.e. from 15 693 vessels in 2014 to 12 197 vessels in 2022.

Figure A.3.1 Total number of fishing vessels 2014-2022



For the same period (2014-2022), Figures A.3.2 and A.3.3 below show a decrease in gross tonnage from 79 793 GT in 2014 to 62 642 GT in 2022 (down by 21.50%) and in total engine power from 451 376 kW in 2014 to 359 977 in 2022
(down by 20.25%).

Figure A.3.2 Gross tonnage (in GT) for the period 2014-2022

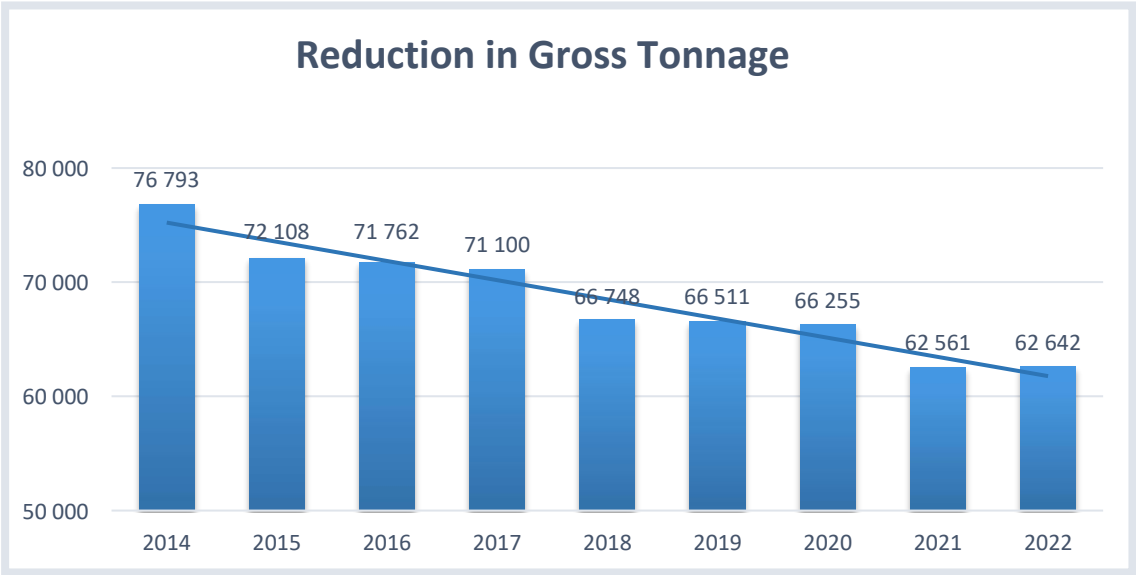
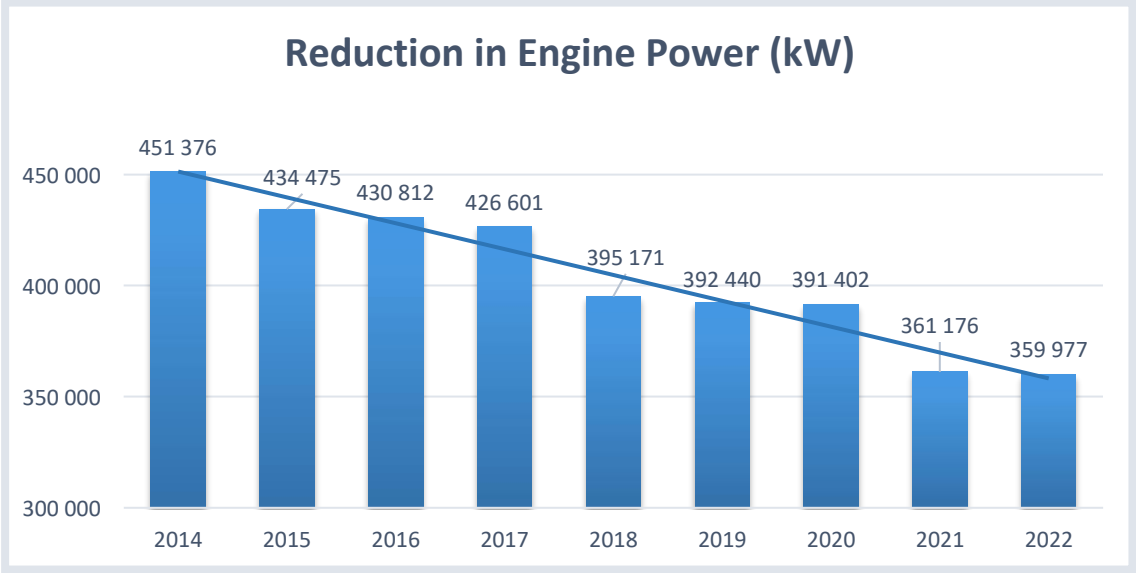


Figure A.3.3 Total engine power (in kW) for the period 2014-2022



B. Impact of reducing fishing effort on fishing capacity

Greece has in the past implemented action plans to reduce fishing capacity, as part of measures relating to permanent cessation of fishing activities. This, together with other socio-economic factors, has led to a reduction in the fishing capacity of the Greek fishing fleet, as illustrated in Section A.3 of this report.

i. In 2017, in line with the action plan submitted together with the 2016 fleet report, a significant number of vessels was selected for scrapping under the 'permanent cessation of fishing activities' measure provided for in the 2014-2020 fisheries and maritime operational programme. The actual scrapping mainly took place in 2018 but continued in 2019.
ii. No scrapping was carried out in 2022.
iii. Fishing of large pelagic species (tuna, swordfish and albacore) is based on national quotas under the international conservation measures adopted by ICCAT. The conditions for granting fishing authorisations for these species are strict, in accordance with relevant national legislation.
iv. Fishing with active gear such as purse seines and trawls is governed by national management plans, in accordance with the requirements of Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006, starting from 2012 and 2014 respectively. Based on these plans, the management measures implemented concern spatial/temporal closures and gear specifications. Strict rules apply to the use of active gear and conditions apply to the granting of 1-year fishing authorisations.
v. Winch trawls were not used in 2022. They have actually not been used since 1 April 2020, due to the failure to adopt a new management plan after the expiry of the previous plan that was in force from October 2017 to March 2020.
vi. With a view to boosting the income of segments of the fleet engaged in small-scale coastal fishing, while reducing fishing effort, fishers are showing a strong interest in fishing tourism, as evidenced in practice by the ever-increasing granting of such licences.

C. Implementation of entry/exit scheme

The table below concerns the implementation of the entry/exit scheme, as provided for in Article 23 of Regulation (EC) No 1380/2013, and shows the reference levels as at 31 December 2022, as derived from data in the national fishing register.

Description	Operation	GT	kW
A. Fishing capacity ceiling (Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1380/2013)	**A**	**84 123**	**469 061**
B. Total exits with public aid (2014 to 2022)	**B**	**7 382**	**38 905**
C. Reference level as at 31 December 2022 (ceiling)	**C= A-B**	**76 741**	**430 156**
D. Fleet fishing capacity (national fishing register) as at 31 December 2022	**D**	**62 642**	**359 977**

The data in the above table show that the fishing capacity of the Greek fleet does not exceed the ceilings, that the entry/exit scheme is successfully implemented, and that there is excess fishing capacity equivalent to **14 099 GT and 70 179 kW**.

D. Strengths and weaknesses of the fleet management system, a plan for improvements, and information on the general level of compliance with the fleet policy tools

D.1 Summary of weaknesses and strengths of the fleet management system

Weaknesses

- The very large number of fishing vessels, mainly small coastal fishing vessels.
- The very long coastline (more than 16 000 km) where Greek fishing vessels carry out their activities, with over 500 trip starting points throughout Greece.
- Multi-species fishing with a variety of gear and fishing methods makes it difficult to segment the fleet and assess the economic indicators of sustainability.
- The geomorphology of Greece makes the work of control authorities at sea difficult, as in recent years the officers of the Hellenic Coast Guard of the Ministry of Shipping and Island Policy have been tasked with dealing with migratory flows and very frequent search and rescue missions.

Strengths

- All professional fishing vessels have a fishing licence which is renewed every 2 years. Since 2019, the obligation to submit production data for all vessels has been laid down by law as a condition for the renewal of fishing licences. This contributed to the collection of production data from almost all vessels carrying out fishing activities.
- Spatial/temporal closures at national level largely ensure the sustainable exploitation of stocks. For instance, according to data published since 2017, permanent closures cover 38% of the Aegean and seasonal closures apply to an additional 27.8%.
- Application over time of management plans for certain fisheries as provided for in Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006. In this context, Greece is implementing management plans for fishing with bottom otter trawls (OTB) and purse seines (PS).
- Adoption by Greece of restrictions at national level that are stricter than obligations stemming from EU legislation and recommendations made by regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)). For instance, in 2021 Greece made it compulsory to submit fishing logbook data online for all vessels with an overall length of 10 metres or more (as opposed to vessels of 12 metres or more laid down in the Control Regulation). In addition, regardless of the length of vessels, Greece has introduced an obligation for vessels granted fishing authorisations to submit fishing logbook data online and to install and operate satellite-tracking devices.
- Greece is successfully implementing all the obligations stemming from the EU Fisheries Control System. In particular, since the implementation of the action plan to address the shortcomings of the Greek fisheries control system, as established by Commission Implementing Decision C(2018)7898/29.11.2018, Greece has made enormous progress in recent years, achieving a high degree of compliance.

D.2 Plan for improvements in the fleet management system

i. Using the resources of the Fisheries and Maritime Operational Programme (Regulation (EC) No 508/2014), Greece is currently implementing projects for upgrading and expanding the fisheries control system and for managing the fishing fleet.
ii. To this end, IT projects are currently being implemented aimed at expanding the existing IT recording and monitoring systems (ERS, fleet register, FMC, etc.), in order to incorporate the latest technical requirements and implement new projects such as the License project.
iii. At the same time, procedures are under way for the revision of the national legislative framework governing fishing licences and the terms and conditions for professional fishing activities.
iv. Moreover, additional measures for monitoring recreational fisheries are expected to be adopted in the near future, as part of implementing the recent Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/12 on the establishment of a set of minimum rules for sustainable recreational fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea.
v. Greece is constantly making every effort to implement the objectives of MedFish4Ever and the common fisheries policy and is developing initiatives regarding rational stock management measures, use of more selective gear, the protection of nurseries and support for coastal fishers.
vi. Under the GFCM's Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (RPOA SSF), Greece is promoting actions to support and strengthen small-scale coastal fishing, an activity inextricably linked to the sustainability of sensitive coastal and remote areas of Greece and its cultural heritage.

D.3 Information on the general level of compliance with the fleet policy tools

For the purposes of generally complying with the rules of the common fisheries policy and meeting the obligations under national legislation in the reference year (2022), the Greek authorities have taken the following steps at both central and regional level:

i. 231 fishing authorisations were issued in line with a management plan for bottom otter trawls (OTB), as provided for in Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006;
ii. 224 fishing authorisations were issued in line with a management plan for purse seines (PS), as provided for in Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006;
iii. 272 swordfish fishing authorisations were issued;
iv. 283 albacore fishing authorisations were issued;
v. 117 bluefin tuna fishing authorisations were issued;
vi. 365 authorisations were issued for fishing outside national territorial waters;
vii. 34 fishing authorisations were issued for *Plesionika narval;*
viii. 30 fishing authorisations were issued for *Holothuria spp;*
ix. 227 fishing authorisations were issued for *Aristaeomorpha foliacea* and *Aristeus antennatus;*
x. 266 authorisations were issued for carrying out activities relating to fishing tourism;
xi. circular No 3155/245486/2-3-2022 of the Directorate-General for Fisheries (Ministry of Rural Development and Food) was adopted regarding the correct recording of gear in the national fishing register;
xii. a presidential decree was adopted to regulate the fishing of *Plesionika narval*;
xiii. a ministerial decision was adopted to regulate the fishing of the *Microcosmus* genus.

E. Information on changes in administrative procedures related to fleet management

i. As indicated in Section D.2 'Plan for improvements in the fleet management system', the Greek authorities are implementing projects for upgrading and expanding the fisheries control system and for managing the fishing fleet, using the resources of the Fisheries and Maritime Operational Programme (Regulation (EC) No 508/2014).

ii. At the same time, procedures are under way for the revision of the national legislative framework governing fishing licences and the terms and conditions for professional fishing activities.

iii. [*Text missing in the original text*] commercial fisheries, and additional measures for monitoring recreational fisheries are expected to be adopted in the near future, as part of implementing the recent Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/12 on the establishment of a set of minimum rules for sustainable recreational fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea.

iv. Very recently, the Greek authorities introduced new rules for the management of excess fishing capacity, by means of Article 51 of Law 5035/2023 (Government Gazette, Series I, No 76). Under that Article, existing fishing vessels are granted the right to increase their fishing capacity (in tonnage and/or engine power), provided that these vessels are not equipped with gear targeting species for which the sustainable harvest indicators are demonstrably outside the acceptable reference limits. That Article also provides that, by way of derogation, it is possible to increase fishing capacity if engines and new technology systems are installed that will contribute to improving energy efficiency, including reducing fuel intensity or total fuel consumption or using low-carbon energy sources as fuels. In order to implement the above arrangement, a ministerial decision is expected to be issued soon, specifying the terms and conditions, the scoring criteria and any other matter.

v. As regards the use of winch trawls, in its letter ref. No 1335/127108/18-05-2022, the Directorate-General for Fisheries informed the European Commission (MARE-D2) that winch trawls have not been used in Greece since 1 April 2020. As most of the vessels concerned are equipped with other gear, mainly static gear (nets, traps and longlines), they continue to appear in the Greek fishing register as active vessels carrying out fishing activities. They are also formally equipped with SB gear but have not been granted the right to use it.

F. Assessment of balance indicators

F.1 Biological indicators

In accordance with the Commission's guidelines (COM(2014)545 final), the biological indicators used for the assessment are the sustainable harvest indicator (SHI) and the stocks-at-risk indicator (SAR).

For the purposes of this report, the latest available data were used, as collected under the national fisheries data collection programme. The data concern the **reference year 2022**.

The methodology for collecting and processing data is described in detail in the approved work plan, entitled 'GREECE Work Plan for data collection in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors', 2022-2024, Version 3 (Revision 4th November 2021), as posted on the following link: https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/wp/2022-2027

For Greece, these indicators are assessed by evaluating the surveys and data under the national fisheries data collection programme.

i. Small pelagic species (anchovy and sardine)
   The biomass of the anchovy and sardine stocks in the Aegean (GSA 22) and the Ionian (GSA 20) is estimated on an annual basis through the MEDIAS project (scientific surveys at sea).
   The MEDIAS project is implemented by the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Institute of Marine Biological Resources and Inland Waters https://www.hcmr.gr/en/research-institutes/marine-biological-resources-inland-waters/
   The data collected is used to estimate the abundance and biomass of anchovy and sardine stocks with a methodology unrelated to fishing, i.e. the acoustic method. In 2022, the programme was carried out without any particular problems. The programme is part of the MEDIAS Coordination Group, and reports can be found at: http://www.medias-project.eu/medias/website/

ii. Demersal species
   The biomass of demersal species in areas of interest in Greece (GSAs 20, 22 and 23) is estimated through the national fisheries data collection programme, in particular the MEDITS programme.
   The programme is conducted annually in several areas of the Mediterranean according to a standardised protocol, with the aim of coordinating all experimental sampling with bottom trawls (MEDITS) carried out across the Mediterranean. The main objective of MEDITS survey sampling is to monitor spatial and temporal variations in the abundance of demersal fish stocks. All sampling activities planned for 2022 (186 hauls) were carried out within the survey areas (GSAs 20, 22 and 23).

Assessment of 'sustainable harvest' indicators

In accordance with the Commission's guidelines (COM(2014)545 final), the 'sustainable harvest' indicator was calculated for fishing fleets in geographical areas (GSAs) 20 (Ionian) and 22 (Aegean), broken down by gear and vessel size.

F/F_{msy} values are shown below for the stocks taken into account, along with the weighting given to each stock based on its catch value expressed in euro (€ thousand). In each case, account was taken of the main species, i.e. those making up the majority of the catch and with the highest economic value. Two species were taken into account for purse seiners, five for trawlers and eight for coastal vessels.

For a limited number of stocks, namely anchovy (ANE), sardine (PIL), hake (HKE), red mullet (MUT) and shrimp (DPS), the F/F_{msy} indicator is based on estimates made by GFCM and the EU (STECF) working groups. For the remaining stocks the estimates were made specifically for the purposes of this report. However, due to significant gaps in data time series, the estimates regarding the condition of the stocks involve a significant degree of uncertainty that needs to be taken into account and examined on a case-by-case basis, in particular if the estimates are used for management purposes. Similar comments have also been made by the STECF and GFCM expert working groups, which have been able to make validated quantitative assessments of the condition of the stocks only in a few cases.

Purse seines (PS)

Species	Area	Fleet segment	F/F_{msy}	Catch value
ANE	GSA 20	VL1824	0 096	411
PIL	GSA 20	VL1824	0.69	1016
ANE	GSA 22	VL1218	1.51	272
PIL	GSA 22	VL1218	1.17	901
ANE	GSA 22	VL1824	1.51	6159
PIL	GSA 22	VL1824	1.17	8804
ANE	GSA 22	VL2440	1.51	4043
PIL	GSA 22	VL2440	1.17	3106

Bottom otter trawl (OTB)

Species	Area	Fleet segment	F/F_{msy}	Catch Value
DPS	GSA 20	VL1824	0.87	7
HKE	GSA 20	VL1824	5.46	148
MUR	GSA 20	VL1824	0.44	15
MUT	GSA 20	VL1824	1.33	150
SPC	GSA 20	VL1824	0.33	19
DPS	GSA 20	VL2440	0.87	42
HKE	GSA 20	VL2440	5.46	1026
MUR	GSA 20	VL2440	0.44	39
MUT	GSA 20	VL2440	1.33	397
SPC	GSA 20	VL2440	0.33	27
DPS	GSA 22	VL1824	3.21	1324
HKE	GSA 22	VL1824	6.13	1652
MUR	GSA 22	VL1824	0.45	284
MUT	GSA 22	VL1824	0.86	1784
SPC	GSA 22	VL1824	0.5	94
DPS	GSA 22	VL2440	3.21	4526
HKE	GSA 22	VL2440	6.13	7823
MUR	GSA 22	VL2440	0.45	2345
MUT	GSA 22	VL2440	0.86	4000
SPC	GSA 22	VL2440	0.5	403

Coastal vessels (SSF)

Species	Area	Fleet segment	F/F_{msy}	Catch Value
BOG	GSA 20	VL0006	0.24	20
CTC	GSA 20	VL0006	1.42	138
HKE	GSA 20	VL0006	5.46	50
MUR	GSA 20	VL0006	0.44	177
MUT	GSA 20	VL0006	1.33	29
OCC	GSA 20	VL0006	1.33	16
PAC	GSA 20	VL0006	0.41	472
BOG	GSA 20	VL0612	0.24	200
CTC	GSA 20	VL0612	1.42	1567
HKE	GSA 20	VL0612	5.46	4114
MUR	GSA 20	VL0612	0.44	1659
MUT	GSA 20	VL0612	1.33	2043
OCC	GSA 20	VL0612	1.33	633
PAC	GSA 20	VL0612	0.41	460
BOG	GSA 22	VL0006	0.18	308
CTC	GSA 22	VL0006	1.73	1473
HKE	GSA 22	VL0006	6.13	131
MUR	GSA 22	VL0006	0.45	859
MUT	GSA 22	VL0006	0.86	590
OCC	GSA 22	VL0006	1.33	501
PAC	GSA 22	VL0006	0.59	341
BOG	GSA 22	VL0612	0.18	968
CTC	GSA 22	VL0612	1.73	5212
HKE	GSA 22	VL0612	6.13	5063
MUR	GSA 22	VL0612	0.45	5682
MUT	GSA 22	VL0612	0.86	4449
OCC	GSA 22	VL0612	1.33	7350
PAC	GSA 22	VL0612	0.59	3322
SPC	GSA 22	VL0612	0.5	172
BOG	GSA 22	VL1218	0.18	7
CTC	GSA 22	VL1218	1.73	21
HKE	GSA 22	VL1218	6.13	618
MUR	GSA 22	VL1218	0.45	32
MUT	GSA 22	VL1218	0.86	27
OCC	GSA 22	VL1218	1.33	730
PAC	GSA 22	VL1218	0.59	2
BOG	GSA 22	VL1824	0.18	9
HKE	GSA 22	VL1824	6.13	109
MUT	GSA 22	VL1824	0.86	0.3

Based on the above data, the weighted sustainable harvest indicator (SHI) values for the fishing fleets of trawlers, coastal and purse seiners, by vessel size and area, have been calculated and presented in the table below. The relatively high indicator values for certain categories of trawlers and coastal vessels are mainly due to the high F/F_{msy} values estimated for hake (HKE) stocks.

Weighted sustainable harvest indicator (SHI) for 2022

Gear	Area	Fleet segment	SHI
PS	GSA 20	VL1824	0.52
PS	GSA 22	VL1218	1.25
PS	GSA 22	VL1824	1.31
PS	GSA 22	VL2440	1.36
OTB	GSA 20	VL1824	3.03
OTB	GSA 20	VL2440	4.04
OTB	GSA 22	VL1824	3.13
OTB	GSA 22	VL2440	3.52
SSF	GSA 20	VL0006	0.89
SSF	GSA 20	VL0612	2.74
SSF	GSA 22	VL0006	1.23
SSF	GSA 22	VL0612	1.81
SSF	GSA 22	VL1218	3.36
SSF	GSA 22	VL1824	5.67

F.2 Economic indicators

In accordance with the Commission's guidelines (COM(2014)545 final), two indicators are used to evaluate whether fleet segments are economically sustainable in the long term (allowing capital investments) and are able to cover their costs in the short term.

i. **The first indicator** (return on investment) compares the long-term profitability of the fishing fleet segment to other available investments. If this value is lower than the low-risk long-term interest rates available elsewhere, then this suggests that the fleet segment may be overcapitalised.
   The threshold is defined as follows: where the return on investment (i.e. the return on fixed tangible assets – ROFTA) is less than zero and less than the best available long-term risk-free interest rate, this is an indication of long-term economic inefficiency that could indicate the existence of an imbalance.
ii. **The second indicator** is the ratio between current revenue and break-even revenue. This measures the economic capability of the fleet segment to keep fishing on a day-by-day basis: does income cover the pay for the crew and the fuel and running costs for the vessel? If not, there may be an imbalance.
   The threshold is defined as follows: where the ratio between current revenue and break-even revenue is less than one, this is an indication of short-term economic inefficiency that could indicate the existence of an imbalance.

For the purposes of this report, the latest available data were used, as collected under the national fisheries data collection programme. The data concern the **reference year 2021**.

The methodology for collecting and processing data is described in detail in the approved work plan, entitled 'GREECE Work Plan for data collection in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors', 2022-2024, Version 3 (Revision 4th November 2021), as posted on the following link: https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/wp/2022-2027

The segmentation of the fleet was made in accordance with Table 8 (previously Table 5B) under Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2021/1167 of 27 April 2021 establishing the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of biological, environmental, technical and socioeconomic data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors from 2022.

Based on the above methodology, Table F.2.a below shows the quantitative characteristics of the individual fleet segments for the years 2019 to 2021.

Table F.2.a Quantitative characteristics of the individual fleet segments for the years 2019 to 2021

Fleet segment	Number of vessels	GT	kW	Number of vessels	GT	kW	Number of vessels	GT	kW	Number of vessels	GT	kW
	2021			2020			2019			2019-2021		
DFN VL0006	2 001	1 367	18 649	2 530	1 699	22 733	2 669	1 699	22 733	668	332	4 084
DFN VL0612	4 721	13 083	112 282	5 003	13 371	114 931	4 918	13 371	114 931	197	288	2 649
DFN VL1218	101	1 563	9 162	140	2 171	12 303	143	2 171	12 303	42	608	3 141
DRB VL0612	8	20	216	10	17	188	10	17	188	2	-3	-28
DTS VL0612	0	0	0	118	589	5 904	121	589	5 904	121	589	5 904
DTSVL1218	0	0	0	34	536	3 859	28	536	3 859	28	536	3 859
DTS VL1824	83	4 239	22 444	85	4 303	22 705	81	4 303	22 705	-2	64	261
DTS VL2440	135	17 983	43 131	140	18 647	44 688	136	18 647	44 688	1	664	1 557
FPO VL0006	44	26	555	48	29	570	56	29	570	12	3	15
FPO VL0612	281	614	6 988	269	567	6 506	267	567	6 506	-14	-47	-482
HOK VL0006	725	522	7 888	1 058	736	10 138	1 119	736	10 138	394	214	2 250
HOK VL0612	1 552	4 398	37 175	1 696	4 693	40 663	1 688	4 693	40 663	136	295	3 488
HOK VL1218	95	1 774	9 715	80	1 399	7 540	90	1 399	7 540	-5	-375	-2 175
PS VL1218	59	1 300	7 916	62	1 359	8 343	64	1 359	8 343	5	59	427
PS VL1824	117	5 540	24 191	100	4 782	20 584	123	4 782	20 584	6	-758	-3 607
PS VL2440	28	2 495	6 738	27	2 405	6 497	24	2 405	6 497	-4	-90	-241
INACTIVE VL0006	1 089	755	10 613	1 219	829	11 203	1 274	829	11 203	185	74	590
INACTIVE VL0612	1 068	2 957	25 523	1 207	3 377	29 954	1 168	3 377	29 954	100	420	4 431
INACTIVE VL1218	100	1 683	9 978	75	1 344	7 812	52	1 344	7 812	-48	-339	-2 166
INACTIVE VL1824	12	597	2 990	46	2 245	10 451	34	2 245	10 451	22	1 648	7 461
INACTIVE VL2440	8	1 066	2 556	5	623	1 519	10	623	1 519	2	-443	-1 037
TOTAL	**12 227**			**13 952**			**14 075**			**1 848**		

Table F.2.b below shows the ROFTA rates per fleet segment resulting from the processing of data collected under the national fisheries data collection programme for the reference year 2021.

Table F.2.b ROFTA values of segments of the Greek fishing fleet for the years 2019 to 2021

#	Fleet segment	Number of vessels	GT	kW	ROFTA		
		2021			2019	2020	2021
1	DFN VL0006	2 001	1 367	18 649	0.19	-0.97	-1.13
2	DFN VL0612	4 721	13 083	112 282	1.07	-0.33	-0.19
3	DFN VL1218	101	1 563	9 162	0.06	0.12	0.17
4	DRB VL0612	8	20	216	-0.01	0.24	0.47
5	DTS VL0612	0	0	0	-0.32	-0.21	n/a
6	DTS VL1218	0	0	0	-0.17	-0.24	n/a
7	DTS VL1824	83	4 239	22 444	0.69	0.84	0.43
8	DTS VL2440	135	17 983	43 131	0.95	1.34	0.67
9	FPO VL0006	44	26	555	1.2	0.05	0.2
10	FPO VL0612	281	614	6 988	0.35	1.22	1.22
11	HOK VL0006	725	522	7 888	-0.32	-1.18	-0.51
12	HOK VL0612	1 552	4 398	37 175	-0.47	-0.14	-0.12
13	HOK VL1218	95	1 774	9 715	-0.01	0.12	0.9
14	PS VL1218	59	1 300	7 916	0.6	1.02	0.29
15	PS VL1824	117	5 540	24 191	1.62	2.16	0.87
16	PS VL2440	28	2 495	6 738	2.65	1.82	0.55

Fleet segments DTS VL0612 and DTS VL1218 concern vessels equipped with SB gear (winch trawls) that has not been in use since April 2020, as there was no management plan.

F.3 Vessel use indicators

In accordance with the Commission's guidelines (COM(2014)545 final), the vessel use indicators describe how intensively fishing vessels are used in each of our segments. Two indicators are calculated for this purpose:

i. The first indicator describes the proportion of vessels that are not actually active at all (i.e. that did not fish at any time in the year).
ii. The second indicator concerns the average activity levels of vessels that did fish at least once in the year, taking account of the seasonality of the fishery and other restrictions. Under normal conditions, it can be expected that up to 10% of the vessels in a fleet segment will be inactive, due to major repairs, refits, conversions or pending sales and transfers.

The threshold is defined as follows: where more than 20% of the fleet segment is recurrently inactive or if the average activity level of vessels in a fleet segment is recurrently less than 70% of the potential workable activity of comparable vessels, this could indicate technical inefficiency that may reveal the existence of an imbalance, unless it can be explained by other reasons, such as unexpected climatic or human-made events or emergency measures set out in the common fisheries policy.

For the purposes of this report, the latest available data were used, as collected under the national fisheries data collection programme. The **data concern the reference year 2021**.

The methodology for collecting and processing data is described in detail in the approved work plan, entitled 'GREECE Work Plan for data collection in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors', 2022-2024, Version 3 (Revision 4th November 2021), as posted on the following link: https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/wp/2022-2027

Tables F.2.a and F.2.b below were produced taking into account fleet data and data from the national fisheries data collection programme. They show the quantitative inactive fleet indicators for the 3-year period 2019-2021.

Table F.2.a: Inactive fleet indicators (number of vessels)

Fleet segment	Number of inactive vessels			Number of inactive vessels as % of total vessels		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
INACTIVEVL0006	1 274	1 219	1 089	9.05	8.74	8.91
INACTIVEVL0612	1 168	1 207	1 068	8.30	8.65	8.73
INACTIVEVL1218	52	75	100	0.37	0.54	0.82
INACTIVEVL1824	34	46	12	0.24	0.33	0.10
INACTIVEVL2440	10	5	8	0.07	0.04	0.07
TOTAL	2 538	2 552	2 277	18.03	18.29	18.62

Table F.2.b: Inactive fleet indicators (changes in GT and kW)

Fleet segment	Inactive KW as % of fleet KW			Inactive GT as % of fleet GT		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
INACTIVEVL0006	3	3	3	1.26	1.26	1.22
INACTIVEVL0612	1	8	7	5.14	5.14	4.77
INACTIVEVL1218	0	2	3	2.04	2.04	2.72
INACTIVEVL1824	1	3	1	3.42	3.42	0.96
INACTIVEVL2440	0	0	1	0.95	0.95	1.72
TOTAL	5	16	14	12.81	12.81	11.39

The vessel utilisation indicator is the average, for each fleet segment, of the ratio between the effort actually made and the maximum effort that could be made by the fleet. This indicator is based on what are expected to be reliable data and provides a quickly calculated assessment of fleet utilisation in prevailing circumstances for the fishing activity. There are two versions of this indicator, based on either observed or theoretical maximum activity levels.

Tables F.2.c and F.2.e below show the vessel use indicators for both versions (observed and theoretical values).

Table F.2.c: Vessel use indicators (observed)

Fleet segment	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
OTB VL1218	0.38	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	0.36	0.41	0.41	0.34	0.32	-	-	0.73	0.72
OTB VL1824	0.76	0.76	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.74	0.83	0.83	0.8	0.77	0.71	0.74	0.74	0.73
OTB VL2440	0.78	0.8	0.78	0.79	0.77	0.76	0.86	0.86	0.84	0.82	0.91	0.87	0.88	0.89
PS VL1218	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.38	0.75	0.77	0.76	0.73
PS VL1824	0.64	0.64	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.61	0.65	0.65	0.58	0.59	0.87	0.77	0.76	0.74
PS VL2440	0.74	0.76	0.74	0.75	0.74	0.73	0.88	0.88	0.79	0.78	0.99	0.84	0.74	0.74
Coastal VL0006	0.76	0.76	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.72	0.68	0.68	0.66	0.62	0.64	0.55	0.66	0.64
Coastal VL0612	0.85	0.84	0.85	0.85	0.83	0.81	0.75	0.75	0.73	0.71	0.77	0.77	0.72	0.75
Coastal VL1218	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.34	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.5	0.39	0.65	0.52	0.53

Table F.2.e: Vessel use indicators (theoretical)

Fleet segment	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
OTB VL1218	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.23	-	-	0.37	0.38
OTB VL1824	0.72	0.72	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.68	0.74	0.74	0.73	0.71	0.65	0.68	0.68	0.70
OTB VL2440	0.78	0.79	0.76	0.76	0.79	0.75	0.81	0.81	0.8	0.78	0.88	0.83	0.84	0.85
PS VL1218	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.28	0.6	0.62	0.61	0.62
PS VL1824	0.53	0.51	0.53	0.52	0.51	0.5	0.55	0.55	0.53	0.54	0.81	0.71	0.7	0.68
PS VL2440	0.68	0.66	0.68	0.66	0.66	0.64	0.71	0.71	0.68	0.69	0.96	0.81	0.71	0.71
Coastal VL0006	0.43	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.43	0.43	0.45	0.46	0.43	0.23	0.35	0.33
Coastal VL0612	0.56	0.54	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.53	0.56	0.56	0.59	0.61	0.64	0.56	0.52	0.53
Coastal VL1218	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.19	0.19	0.2	0.39	0.32	0.39	0.31	0.33

G. Statement on the balance between fleet capacity and fishing opportunities

We consider it an undeniable fact that in recent years Greece has successfully addressed the administrative problems of the past and has made progress towards collecting and processing fisheries data, both at administrative level, having ensured that data on fishing activities are submitted for all vessels entered in the national fishing register, and at the level of implementing the national fisheries data collection programme.

However, due to the specificities of the Greek fishing fleet (large number of vessels equipped with a variety of gear targeting different stocks each time) and due to the geomorphology of the coastal areas of mainland Greece and of the islands, there are still many objective difficulties in assessing the balance indicators (biological, economic, vessel use indicators).

In order to overcome these difficulties, assumptions and configurations are made to ensure that the attempted assessment of the condition of the fleet segments gives a true picture.

There have also been problems with implementing the national fisheries data collection programme in the past, but these have been resolved and the national programme has been running continuously since 2017.

This provides the Greek authorities with all the necessary information for the purposes of a reliable assessment of the fishing capacity in accordance with Article 22 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and the extent to which fishing capacity is effectively balanced with fishing opportunities in Greece.

In this context, please note the following by way of necessary information and explanations regarding the assessment results of the Scientific Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) for both the reference year 2020 (STECF 21-16) and the reference year 2021 (STECF 21-16) *[sic]*, and also in reply to letter ref. Ares (2022)1988306-18/03/2022 from DG-MARE/MARE/D3 inviting the Greek authorities, on the basis of the STECF assessment (21-16), to adopt an action plan for fleet segments DRB-VL0612, DTS-VL0612, DTS-VL1218 and HOK-VL-0006, as the available parameters, except Net Value Added/Full Time Equivalent (NVA/FTE), show an imbalance.

i. Fleet segment DRB-VL0612

With regard to DRB-VL0612, i.e. vessels equipped with boat dredges as referred to in Annex III to Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013, the most recent Greek annual fleet report for the reference year 2021 has already provided clarifications. More specifically, as stated in the 2021 report, the segment in question includes vessels equipped with a type of dredge manually operated or hauled with a manual winch in shallow coastal waters, targeting mainly bivalve molluscs, gastropods or sponges. According to the definition in Article 2(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006, ‘dredges pulled by hand or by manual winch in shallow waters with or without a boat to catch bivalves, gastropods or sponges (hand dredges) shall not be considered towed gears for the purpose of this Regulation’.

In the past, this gear was erroneously or inadvertently entered in the national fishing register as 'boat dredges – DRB'. The necessary administrative steps have been taken and now the gear in question is not linked to any vessel in the national fishing register and has been replaced with the correct gear with the code DRH.

In view of the above, the Greek authorities state that:

There is no DRB-VL0612 fleet segment and there is therefore no need to draw up and implement an action plan within the meaning of Article 22(4) of the CFP Regulation.

ii. Fleet segments DTS-VL0612 and DTS-VL1218

For the purposes of fleet segmentation, the annual fleet report for the reference year 2020 took into account the provisions of Delegated Commission Decision (EU) 2019/910. The relevant tables showed the status of active and inactive vessels classified in segments DTSVL0612 and DTSVL1218 as their main fishing gear was winch trawls (SB).

Similarly, the most recent annual report for the reference year 2021, in particular the tables on the composition of the Greek fleet, took into account the provisions of Delegated Commission Decision (EU) 2021/1167. The relevant tables showed the status of active and inactive vessels classified in segments DTSVL0612 and DTSVL1218 as their main fishing gear was winch trawls (SB).

However, as regards the use of winch trawls, in its letter ref. No 1335/127108/18-05-2022, the Directorate-General for Fisheries informed the European Commission (MARE-D2) that the use of winch trawls in Greece has not been allowed since 1 April 2020.

In addition, in the above letter, the Greek authorities informed the Commission that the collective body of fishers had appealed to the Supreme Administrative Court of Greece (Council of State) against the decision of the Greek authorities not to adopt a management plan as required by Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 (winch trawls). The fishers request that the decision be annulled to allow continued use of the gear.

For formal reasons and based on the provisions of Delegated Commission Decision (EU) 2021/1167 concerning fleet segmentation, vessels equipped with winch trawls (SB) were again included in the annual fleet report for 2021 in segments DTSVL0612 and DTSVL1218, although they have not been actively fishing with SB gear since 1 April 2020.

As most of these vessels are equipped with other gear, mainly static gear (nets, traps and longlines), they continue to appear in the Greek fishing register as active vessels carrying out fishing activities. Although reference is made to SB gear, they are not allowed to carry it on board.

Following the adoption of Decision No 2133/2022 of Chamber E of the Council of State (November 2022), and in order to comply with that decision, it was deemed that the appropriate steps to be taken involved compensatory measures providing for the abolition of boat seines (winch trawls – SB), using financial support under *de minimis* aid in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 717/2014. This procedure is under way.

In view of the above, the Greek authorities state that:

As regards fleet segments DTS-VL0612 and DTS-VL1218, it appears that it is not clearly demonstrated that fishing capacity is not effectively balanced with fishing opportunities; it is therefore considered that it is not necessary to draw up and implement an action plan within the meaning of Article 22(4) of the CFP Regulation.

iii. Fleet segment HOK-VL-0006

Most vessels in this category operate in peripheral regions, where fishing is a complementary income for fishers. Also, a large proportion of these fishers are older people who engage in fishing activities on an occasional rather than on a daily basis.

Most vessels in this category with an overall length of up to 6 metres are also typically equipped with other static gear (nets, traps, longlines, lines). The fishers' declared use of category HOK gear, and by extension the classification of these vessels in the HOK VL0006 segment, entails a high rate of error and subjectivity, as this is combined each time with the fishing area, the season, spatial and temporal variations in target species, temporal and spatial closures regarding gear or species, weather conditions, etc., which is evident from the variations in fishing effort from year to year.

To address the issue, which may also potentially arise in other fleet segments, such as DFN VL0006, steps will be taken to identify any systemic problems at the time of data collection and processing and, if necessary, to try to reassess the balance indicators for these fleet segments.

As stated in Section E of this Decision, changes to administrative procedures in relation to fleet management include the revision of the national legislative framework concerning the management of fishing licences and of the institutional framework for the terms and conditions to be met. In this context, the above systemic issues will be taken into account and an effort will be made to address them rationally.

In view of the above, the Greek authorities state that:

As regards the HOK VL0006 fleet segment, it appears that the imbalance recorded is due to assessments of balance indicators calculated on the basis of data which may not take into account collateral social and/or economic factors. In the first instance, further processing will be undertaken in cooperation with the bodies implementing the national fisheries data programme. If no scientifically accepted results are obtained, the Greek administration will draw up and implement an action plan within the meaning of Article 22(4) of the CFP Regulation.

iv. Fleet segments DTS and PS

As regards the fishing activities of all vessels (regardless of length) in the fleet segments DTS (bottom otter trawls – OTB) and PS (purse seines), management plans for the use of OTB and PS gear respectively were adopted by Ministerial Decisions No 271/2576/09-01-2014 (Government Gazette, Series II, No 58) and No 9131.4/2/02-05-2012 (Government Gazette, Series II, No 1519), as required by Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006. The decisions also set the reference limits for the sustainable exploitation of the target species.

The sustainable harvest indicators of recent years, as calculated under the national fisheries data collection programme, show that the reference thresholds have been exceeded for the anchovy and sardine stocks caught by purse seiners and for the hake stock mainly caught by bottom otter trawls.

In view of the above, it is clear that there is an obligation to take measures to protect the above stocks and, by extension, to adopt action plans to adapt the operation of these fleet segments.

Since the fleet segments in question are already subject to management plans approved by the European Commission, a revised proposal must be drawn up and submitted again for approval. The requests for revision of management plans will be accompanied by studies providing scientific evidence and taking into account the latest scientific data. To this end, studies that will provide scientific evidence are currently being carried out. They will provide alternative scenarios of how to achieve the objective of protecting stocks and restoring the balance between fishing capacity of the above segments and fishing opportunities.

The Greek authorities expect to have finalised these studies on the revision of the management plans for OTB and PS in the course of this year.

I. ANNEXES

I.1 Production in 2022 by species (for the top 30 species)

No	Species code (according to FAO)	Common name	Scientific name	Production (in tonnes)	Percentage (%) of total production
1	ANE	European anchovy	*Engraulis encrasicolus*	13 182	24.61%
2	PIL	European pilchard (Sardine)	*Sardina pilchardus*	7 248	13.53%
3	DPS	Deep-water rose shrimp	*Parapenaeus longirostris*	3 005	5.61%
4	HKE	Hake	*Merluccius merluccius*	2 783	5.20%
5	BOG	Bogue	*Boops boops*	2 176	4.06%
6	SAA	Round sardinella	*Sardinella aurita*	1 974	3.69%
7	JAX	Jack and horse mackerels n.e.i.	*Trachurus spp*	1 864	3.48%
8	VMA	Atlantic chub mackerel	*Scomber colias*	1 602	2.99%
9	MUT	Red mullet	*Mullus barbatus*	1 307	2.44 %
10	TGS	Caramote prawn	*Penaeus kerathurus*	845	1.58%
11	OCC	Common octopus	*Octopus vulgaris*	826	1.54%
12	BON	Atlantic bonito	*Sarda sarda*	659	1.23%
13	MUR	Surmullet	*Mullus surmuletus*	649	1.21%
14	LTA	Little tunny (Atlantic black skipjack)	*Euthynnus alletteratus*	644	1.20%
15	SPC	Picarel	*Spicara smaris*	641	1.20%
16	CTC	Common cuttlefish	*Sepia officinalis*	589	1.10%
17	MUF	Flathead grey mullet	*Mugil cephalus*	586	1.09%
18	SQE	European flying squid	*Todarodes sagittatus*	469	0.88%
19	WHB	Blue whiting	*Micromesistius poutassou*	465	0.87%
20	AMB	Greater amberjack	*Seriola dumerili*	462	0.86%
21	WBX	*Holothuria* spp	*Holothuria spp*	462	0.86%
22	CRB	Blue crab	*Callinectes sapidus*	451	0.84%
23	SBG	Gilthead seabream	*Sparus aurata*	437	0.82%
24	BFT	Atlantic bluefin tuna	*Thunnus thynnus*	424	0.79%
25	PAC	Common pandora	*Pagellus erythrinus*	416	0.78%
26	SQR	European squid	*Loligo vulgaris*	407	0.76%
27	MNZ	Monkfishes n.e.i.	*Lophius spp*	400	0.75%
28	RPG	Red porgy	*Pagrus pagrus*	378	0.71%
29	SWO	Swordfish	*Xiphias gladius*	371	0.69%
30	MTS	Spottail mantis squillid	*Squilla mantis*	364	0.68%
Total production (30 species)				**46 087**	**86.04%**
Total production (all species) in 2022				**53 566**	**100%**

Note:

The data in the above table come from all the data recorded (either via the electronic recording system (ERS) or in the form of monthly production declarations) in the database of the integrated monitoring

system for fishing activities (OSPA) of the Directorate-General for Fisheries at the Ministry of Rural Development and Food.

I.2 Value of fishery products in 2022 by species (for the top 30 species)

No	Species code (according to FAO)	Common name	Scientific name	Total value (in EUR)	Percentage (%) of total value
1	ANE	European anchovy	*Engraulis encrasicolus*	21 830 330	12.35%
2	HKE	Hake	*Merluccius merluccius*	16 442 792	9.30%
3	PIL	European pilchard (Sardine)	*Sardina pilchardus*	15 282 023	8.65%
4	MUT	Red mullet	*Mullus barbatus*	10 021 398	5.67%
5	MUR	Surmullet	*Mullus surmuletus*	8 086 257	4.58 %
6	DPS	Deep-water rose shrimp	*Parapenaeus longirostris*	7 653 835	4.33 %
7	TGS	Caramote prawn	*Penaeus kerathurus*	7 249 800	4.10%
8	RPG	Red porgy	*Pagrus pagrus*	6 368 500	3.60 %
9	OCC	Common octopus	*Octopus vulgaris*	5 686 456	3.22 %
10	AMB	Greater amberjack	*Seriola dumerili*	4 979 309	2.82%
11	SQR	European squid	*Loligo vulgaris*	3 781 840	2.14%
12	NEP	Norway lobster	*Nephrops norvegicus*	3 556 355	2.01%
13	BFT	Atlantic bluefin tuna	*Thunnus thynnus*	3 504 623	1.98%
14	SWO	Swordfish	*Xiphias gladius*	3 259 319	1.84%
15	CTC	Common cuttlefish	*Sepia officinalis*	3 232 569	1.83%
16	VMA	Atlantic chub mackerel	*Scomber colias*	2 961 431	1.68%
17	BOG	Bogue	*Boops boops*	2 901 818	1.64%
18	BON	Atlantic bonito	*Sarda sarda*	2 890 751	1.64%
19	JAX	Jack and horse mackerels n.e.i.	*Trachurus spp*	2 535 572	1.43 %
20	DEC	Common dentex	*Dentex dentex*	2 106 011	1.19%
21	SBG	Gilthead seabream	*Sparus aurata*	2 093 987	1.18%
22	RSE	Red scorpionfish	*Scorpaena scrofa*	2 021 298	1.14%
23	EEA	Blacktip grouper	*Epinephelus fasciatus*	1 991 181	1.13%
24	SAA	Round sardinella	*Sardinella aurita*	1 729 318	0.98%
25	MNZ	Monkfishes n.e.i.	*Lophius spp*	1 600 419	0.91%
26	SLO	Common spiny lobster	*Palinurus elephas*	1 416 706	0.80%
27	SPC	Picarel	*Spicara smaris*	1 409 894	0.80%
28	JOD	John Dory	*Zeus faber*	1 281 307	0.72%
29	WHB	Blue whiting	*Micromesistius poutassou*	1 266 864	0.72%
30	LTA	Little tunny (Atlantic black skipjack)	*Euthynnus alletteratus*	1 251 789	0.71 %
Total value of fishery products (top 30 species)				**150 393 753**	**85.10%**
Total value of fishery products in 2022 (all species)				**176 733 885**	**100%**

Note:

For the purpose of calculating the value of fishery products, account was taken of the average selling prices per species in 2022, as resulting from the first-sale declarations entered by the approved first buyers in the database of the integrated monitoring system for fishing activities (OSPA) of the Directorate-General for Fisheries at the Ministry of Rural Development and Food.