



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE



ANNUAL REPORT

**on efforts to achieve a sustainable balance between fishing
capacity and fishing opportunities for the year 2018**

ROMANIA

pursuant to the Article 22 of the *Regulation (EU) no 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC*

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Introduction

Article 22 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1830/2013 provides for the submission of Annual report by the Member States on efforts to achieve a sustainable balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities of their one commercial fleets. The Annual Report corresponds to the structure required elements of “Guidelines for the analysis of the balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities according to Art 22 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC (Brussels, 2.9.2014 COM(2014) 545 final)”.

A. Description of the fishing fleets in relation to fisheries: developments during the previous year, including fisheries covered by multiannual management or recovery plans

A.1 Description of fleets

The Romanian fishing fleet is operating in the area of competence of the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations - G.F.C.M., Area 37 - Mediterranean and Black Sea, Sub-area 37.4., Division 37.4.2, GSA 29, along the Romanian coastline and is limited to the marine waters' areas up to 60-70-meter isobaths, exclusively in the EEZ.

The number of fishing vessels has considerably decreased by removing inactive vessels (the reason being: poor technical condition, no annual activities, orientation to other activities (tourism, commercial fishing in continental waters, etc.) starting with 2012 year.

Starting with 2013, fishing activities of Rapa whelk concentrated on two main catching technics: on the manual harvesting, but also with mechanized beam trawl, has led on changes to other vessels with 12-18 m and 18-24 m increased number. These vessels are equipped with new technic facilities, stationary gears (gillnets, longlines, etc.) and trawls (pelagic trawl or beam trawl). The total number of recorded vessels in 2013 was 194 of which only 112 were active. The share of active vessels in length segments was as follows: 81% 06-12m boats, 13% boats 00-06m, 4% 12-18m vessels and 2% 24-40m vessels. *Total landings in 2013 was increase up to 1,617.354 kg.*

In 2014, the share of the segment of 06-12 m small boats have been kept constant, but the share of 12-18 m increased, due to the switching of fishermen towards the mechanized exploitation of the Rapa whelk, the 24-40m vessels has remained constant and the 00-06m has suffered a slight reduction. *The total landings in 2014 were 2,199.519 kg.* It has recorded an increase in the level of catches by fishing segments for vessels with the length of 12-18 m; the catches on the segment length of 24 - 40 m vessels were kept approximately constant at the level of 2013.

In the year 2015, there were registered 151 small boats and vessels of which 127 active and 24 inactive. Should be underlined a decrease in the number of small boats between 00 - 12 m, respectively an increase of the number of vessels with a length of more than 12 m. A progressive increase is still recorded number of vessels 12 - 18 m. *Total landings in 2015 was 4,842.573 kg.* Excluding the capture of the small boats segment 00-06m and 06-12m length, it's observed that 67% of the total catches was achieved by vessels with lengths greater than 12 m.

In 2016, the number of total recorded vessels was lower by 4 units than 2015 year. From the 147 vessel numbers, 121 were active and 26 were inactive. The trend was still to reduce the number of vessels in the segments 00-06 m and 06-12 m and to increase the segments of vessels with length exceeding 12 m. An increase in the number of vessels in the segment of 12 - 18 m and a slight increase in the segment 24 - 40 m was observed. The total landings in 2016 were 6,839.443 kg. With regard to registered share by length segments, the catches of the 12-18m were most important with 56% of the total landings. A slight increase was also registered in the segment 24-40 m, 15%, while the segment that was dominant until 2014 had a share of only 23%.

The number of total vessels in 2017, as per FFR data reported to DG MARE at 31.12.2017, as structure, comprises: 155 total number of vessels, of which 135 active vessels and 20 inactive, less than 13 %; *87 % of vessels in FFR were active, indicating an increase of quality management measures on the application of Action Plan measures in the past two years, 2016/2017.*

The number of total vessels in 2018, as per FFR data reported to DG MARE at 31.12.2018, as structure, comprises: 167 total number of vessels, of which 136 active vessels and 31 inactive, less than 18.56 %; *81.44 % of vessels in FFR were active, indicating an increase of quality management measures on the application of Action Plan measures in the last years.* In analysing for information, the 2018 fleet structure is shown in Table 1 , the share by length classes segments was the following: 60.47 % small boats between 06-12 m, 10.78% vessels of 12-18m , 7.19 % between 00-06 m, 2.4 % vessels of 24-40 m and 0.6 % 18-24 m. see Table 1. The total landed in 2018 was 7,744.995 kg. Rapa whelk (RPW) is the characteristic species influenced at most the actual structure of fishing activities and effort deployed.

From the total landings in 2018 RPW represented 94.65 % caught by beam trawl (TBB) 75.41 %, followed by mussels (MSM) 2.97 % - manually caught by divers and turbot (TUR) 0.74 % using nets – GNS.

Table 1. Structure of the Romanian fleet in 2018 by fleet segments, fishermen and vessels number, length classes, average age, GT and Kw

Length class (m)	Total vessels	Share of the total vessel (%)	Fishing techniques	Average length	Average age	Total GT	Total Kw	Total fishermen
VL 00-06	12	7.19	PG *	5.23	15.5	9.43	93.5	33
VL 06-12	63	37.72	PG	7.77	22.22	105.01	627.8	146
VL 06-12	38	22.75	PMP*	8.24	13	166.11	1091.41	131
VL 12-18	18	10.78	PMP	14.68	8.67	576.3	2895.57	72
VL 18-24	1	0.6	PMP	20.2	19	70	184	4
VL 24-40	4	2.4	PMP	25.75	26.8	476	1217.25	19
VL 00-06	6	3.59	inactive	5.08	18.33	4.6	4.41	-
VL 06-12	24	14.37	inactive	7.84	21	40.13	25.69	-
VL 12-18	1	0.6	inactive	14.9	1	24.87	109	-
Total	167	100%				1472.95	6248.63	405

*PG * vessels using only stationary fishing gears; PMP* vessels using both, active and stationary fishing gears*

Despite the fact the small vessels 06-12m are taking the largest share, as number of 60.47%, the GT 18.41 % and Kw of its are very low 27.51 %, *10,78 % correspond for the length vessel segment 12-18m as number, but for 39,14% as GT and 46,34% as Kw, the most important share in the fleet. The segment is the most important*, followed by: 2.4 % 24-40m segment with 476 GT – 32.33% and 1,217.25 Kw – 19.48%, and 7.19 % 00-06m segment with GT 0.64 % and Kw 1.50% from total fleet capacity – see Table 2.

Table 2. Structure of the Romanian fleet in 2017 in % by fleet segments as GT and Kw.

GT, Kw, %		GT	% TOTAL GT	Kw	% TOTAL Kw
fleet segments (active and inactive vessels)					
Active	00 - 06 m	9.43	0.64	93.5	1.50
	06 -12 m	271,12	18.41	1719.21	27.51
	12 - 18 m	576.3	39.14	2895.57	46.34
	18 - 24 m	70	4.75	184	2.94
	24 - 40 m	476	32.33	1217.25	19.48
Inactive	00 - 06 m	4.6	0.31	4.41	0.07

	06 - 12 m	40.13	2.73	25.69	0.41
	12 - 18 m	24.87	1.69	109	1.74
Total fleet		1472.45	100	6248.63	100

As it could be seen from the Table 2., a very low percentage of 4.73 % as GT and 2.23 % as Kw, is not used, from the total fishing capacity achieved, according to the number of vessels in Fishing Fleet Register at 31.12.2018, a very low percentage, all most negligible.

It conducts to the conclusion that **in 2018 total fleet capacity has very good percentage of use, corresponding to 95.27 % for GT and 97.77 % for Kw.**

A. 2 Link with fisheries

The current status of fishing in Romania is similar to the last 2 years (2016 and 2017), the fishing activities being carried out only in the waters of the Black Sea under Romania jurisdiction. There are no fishing activities in other regions or catches of other species than in the area of Romania.

A total of 14 different species were landed in 2018 counting for significant catches. The most important in terms of quantity and value are listed in Table 3 – below. Trends in landings were stable over time, with small pelagic species having a small percentage in the landings structure. Small pelagic species constituting as significant species in terms of volume, are represented by: sprat and anchovy – 0.41 %, 0.38 %, horse mackerel and other pelagic species. Table 2 shows the main catch as shared in total landings recorded, with major importance of: Rapa whelk – 94,65 %, followed by Mediterranean mussels – 2,97 %, turbot - 0.74 %.

Is to be observed that he most quantity of Rapa whelk is caught during summer – autumn, turbot in 2 seasons – spring and autumn/winter, sprat in spring, and the other species during the all fishing seasons with no significant quantitative differences from one month to another.

Table 3. Distribution of total landings by species in 2018 per share in total landings (kg) by species, fleet segment and principal fishing gear, for information

Species	Fleet segments	% of the catches per main segment	Fishing gear	% of catches by principal fishing gear	Total landings (kg)	Share in total landings (%)
TUR	VL0612	58.09	GNS	99.88	57,616.6	0.74
SPR	VL2440	69.02	OTM	69.02	32,004	0.41
DGS	VL0612	38.48	GNS	68.75	512	0.01
RPW	VL1218	48.54	TBB	79.67	7,330,261	94.65
SHC	VL0612	85.20	GNS	76.10	1,879	0.02
MUF	VL0612	100	GNS	100	148.5	0.00
MGA	VL0612	95.33	GNS	80.42	2,100	0.03
MBF	VL0612	81.45	GNS	62.92	1,440	0.02
GPA	VL0612	92.90	LHP	21.26	4,986	0.06
MUT	VL0612	88.56	FPN	83.33	7,527.5	0.10
ANE	VL0612	94.85	FPN	94.41	31,497	0.41
CUI	VL0612	93.92	FPN	86.78	2,859.5	0.04
MSM	VL0612	90.77	NO	100	230,567	2.97
HMM	VL0612	88.12	FPN	77.33	29,131.3	0.38

Other sp.	VL0006	82.05	FPN	61.55	12,466	0.16
Total					7,744,995.4	100

The vessels operate up to 30–35 marine miles out of shore. The climate conditions have a big influence on the presence of living aquatic resources in the area. Fishing activity is seasonal because of the strict dependence of that specific conditions and the poor technical conditions of the fleet in general. It could be considered and concluded the fishing fleet activity is dependent on the TACs under EU regulation for turbot and sprat, and, also on Rapa whelk and mussels based on the stock abundance. As mentioned above the abundance during the fishing season, offers better opportunities for fishermen. The other significant conclusion is the national fleet is 100 % dependent of catches in waters under national jurisdiction of Romania, due to the limited capacity for navigation of the vessels.

A. 3 Development in fleets

In 2018, 7 vessels left the fleet (54.94 GT and 583.68 kW), average length 7.63m, average age 15.28 years, out of which: VL 00-06 =1 vessel, VL 06-12 = 5 vessels, VL 12-18 = 1 vessel.

16 vessels entered to the fleet, totalizing 115.29 GT and 564.86 kW), having average length 8.81m, average age 10.47 years, namely: VL 00-06 =3 vessels, VL 06-12 = 12 vessels, VL 12-18 = 1 vessel.

Should be mentioned that 3 vessels re-entered in the fleet with 4.34 GT and 216.97 kW, in the segment VL 06-12m, with an average length 6.81m, and average age 9.66years.

At the end of 2018, there were 167 vessels in the fishing fleet, with a total capacity of 1472.45 GT and 6248.66 kW, as per Table 4.

B. Impact of fishing effort reduction schemes on fishing capacity

B.1 Statement of effort reduction schemes

According to the provisions of Common Fisheries Policy and the fleet capacity ceiling which was established in the Annex II of Regulation (EU) 1380/2013, Romania is respecting the fishing capacity according, as established.

According to these provisions, the management measures of the entry/exit regime used in 2018, **Romania fulfilled its commitments related to the ceiling levels, namely the actual total GT is 1472.45 tonnes and engine power is 6248.63 kW, lower to the maximum levels of 1,908 GT and 6,356 kW, as per regulation.**

The conclusion is that the management of the fishing fleet capacity, is not exceeding levels of the fleet capacity reported in 2018 – see Table 4.

B.2 Impact on fishing capacity of effort reduction schemes

In the period of the application of previous EFF measures “Permanent cessation of fishing activities” conducted, to scrapping operation financed with funds from the EFF, that started in the second half of July 2010 and ended in the first half of December 2013, leading to a scrapping procedures of *16 vessels in the segments: VL06-12 - 10 vessels, VL12-18m – 1 vessel, VL18-24m - 1 vessel and VL24-40m – 4 vessels. All these vessels totalized a capacity of 596,43 GT, and 1796,85 kW.*

The impact of these measures conducted to an improved ratio of fishing capacity utilisation as will be stated in the respective chapter of indicators.

i. The multiannual management plan for eliminate IUU in Turbot fishery of Black Sea

The GFCM, as the RFMO in the region, and EU Commission adopted the Recommendation GFCM 39/2015/3 in order to reduce, at least, the IUU fishery for Turbot species in the Black Sea, compulsory for Bulgaria and Romania, as EU and GFCM MSs, and Turkey as GFCM member, but which is not so compulsory for the other 3 riparian countries Ukraine and Georgia, and Russian Federation.

The application of this management plan for Romania was to address the reduction annually the number of special authorizations to fish Turbot, corresponding to the quota allocation approved each year through EU Regulation. Under the EFCA guidance the plan conducted to a reduced number of irregularities on Romania fleets, timely evaluated by the inspectors of EFCA. This plan includes a special operation of common inspections of Romania and Bulgaria, and dedicated landings points for Turbot, inter alia. A spatio-temporal closure of fishery for two month – minimum 60 days, was adopted and strictly monitored, during the fishing season on the Turbot spawning period. In Romania this e period 15 April – 15 June each year in its territorial waters. As a consequence, the stock assessment showed a slight increase of biomass in 2016/2017 for Turbot, allowing both, GFCM and EC, to increase the TACs catches up to 57 tones, for 2018 recognizing the positive results achieved by Romanian authorities on the managing plan at national level for this fishery.

Actions of IUU fight in Turbot fishery included the supervision of all area of Romania. In 2017 were sanctioned 2 Turkish vessels due to illegal fishing activities in Romania EEZ, using fishing gears not allowed for Turbot fishery, having dimensions over legal limits. These examples show the necessity that management plan to be reinforced by GFCM including specific measures addressed to Turkish fleet, for instance.

C. Statement of compliance with entry/exit scheme and with level of reference

As mentioned above, Romania is acting in respect of entry/exit scheme under the ceiling level, both KW and GT, as set in the regulation. Prior to accession, there were no capacity ceilings and is shown in the Table 4 bellow.

The management measures of fishing fleet, as per the previous action plans deployed in 2017 reveal increased values over 2018, for: number of fishing vessels – 167, GT level – 1,472.45 and Kw level achieved – 6,248.63, and the actual figures for 2018 confirms that the measures in place are foreseen to respect the limits.

Table 4. Fleet capacity of Romania operating in the Black Sea at 31.12.2018 for information

	GT	KW
Reference level as at 1 January 2007	2315	7473
Status of fleet as at 1 January 2007	2504	8153
Reference level as at 31 December 2018	1908	6356
Status of fleet as at 31 December 2018	1472.45	6248.63
Entries in 2018	115.29	564.86
Exits in 2018	54.94	583.68
Re-entry 2018	4.34	216.97

Over the analysed period, 2013-2018, the number of the vessels was reduced from a total of 194 to 167, but the number of fishermen increased from 302 to 405, see Table 1, Annex 1 and 5. This aspect is due to the fact that the active number ratio was improved and the organizational actions of the fishermen in professional association/organizations had a positive role. It should be mentioned the establishment of Advisory Council for the Black Sea, under the same regulation, had a very important role on the sector cooperation with the administration as national and EU level.

D. Strength and weaknesses of the fleet management system with plan for improvements and information on general level of compliance with fleet policy instruments

D.1 Summary of weaknesses & strengths of fleet management system

Considering that no major changes in the fishing fleet management were encountered in the last two years, it would be observed, as a benefit for the improvement of fishing fleet capacity the number of small-scale vessels exists have been bigger than upper class segments see **Annexe 1**. The national administration strategy for the sector consolidation is to increase the number of vessels in the segments fleet over 18m length, because these are more suitable for marine resources stocks exploitation in Romania Black Sea waters. The reduce number of fish species with significant economic value in the area, less than in Mediterranean area, is the key answer for the administrative strategy accepted even by the fishermen, so that the balanced indicators for this segment is presented on the relevant chapter of the report.

As a general comment should be emphasize the fleet is in a precarious stage, and the strategy should be applied constantly, aiming to improve the safety on board vessels, as well as the working conditions. The same desiderate to develop the port facilities is to be develop on the strategy, mainly the discharging facilities. The actual landing points used are: Mangalia, Olimp, Costinești, Constanța, Mamaia, Cap Midia, Sf. Gheorghe, Sulina.

On this way the role of artisanal fishery will be oriented more and more to traditional fishing activities near to shore for small species catches. Actually, the fishermen are still switching to a gear to other one in the same season, on irregular basis, not scientifically recommended. The infrastructure of fishing ports, referring to specialized port berths, storing facilities, and technical conditions to organize first sale are missing practically. It would be still considered the low access to financial resources for investments available.

Strengths:

- fishing resources, relatively diversified, i.e. – pelagic species (sprat, anchovy, horse mackerel, pontic shad, grey mullet), demersal species (turbot, mullets, gobies, sharks, whiting) and molluscs (Rapa whelk, mussels, some quantities of vongole).
- Gears already regulated from the selectivity and exploitation pattern.
- Local and long tradition for small-scale fishery (coastal fishery) as well as primary processing knowledge.
- Some new availabilities of business environment to invest in fishery.
- Tradition in fish consumption, developed during the touristic season, as opportunity.
- The active fishery organizations at Romanian littoral.
- Actions and new strategies developed with EU, EFCA and GCFM (especially for small-scale fishery).

Weaknesses:

- Just seasoning fishing activities pending on fish agglomerations.
- Quantities of fishes at long distance from shore, unfavourable to fishing effort.
- The migratory character of all most species in the marine area, so that marine fishing in Romania largely depends on the state of stocks at regional level, implicitly by the resource management of neighboring states.
- Not enough number of vessels for the Black Sea pelagic species due to the EU's engine power and displacement ceilings.
- Vessels morally and technically used without the capacity to keep catches and preserve their quality until the point of landing.
- Specific infrastructure poorly developed (ports, landing points, first-sale points, shelters);
- The absence of facilities at landing points for primary processing, logging and temporary storage of untaken catches immediately after landing.
- Low marketing activity specific to the fishery products.
- Still existent IUU fishery and including some non-taxed market of marine resources accessed.
- The low economic value of most fish species in the Black Sea.
- Lack of financial capital of operators and low access to bank credits due to low financial standing.
- Lack of available qualified fishermen.

Possible Solutions foreseen to improve:

- Internal consumption market with high absorption potential.
- Non-reimbursable financial support from the Operational Plan for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs.

- Potential for fishing tourism and other complementary activities.
- Possibility of primary processing on board vessels.
- Availability of equipment and vessels and craft equipment necessary to maintain catch quality till the landing points.
- Medium and higher opportunities for education in the field.
- Development of research and widespread implementation of research results.
- Improve the management of Black Sea fishery resources by expanding cross-border collaboration (conventions, joint expeditions, standardized methodologies for inventory evaluation and research) and implementing integrated maritime policy guidelines to be applied by all riparian countries of Black Sea.
- Organization, design, implementation and operation of an information system on licensing, authorization and reporting of fishing activities, as well as trade in fishery products.
- Institutional organization and regulation of the national fisheries sector and market.
- Consolidation of the multidisciplinary collaboration framework between fishermen, processors, research institutes / academia and public authorities with responsibilities in the field.

Risks

- Introduction of fisheries equipment with a major impact on the ecosystem, insufficiently studied.
- Excessive administrative procedures for accessing non-reimbursable financial support and delays in reimbursement of expenses incurred by beneficiaries of Community financial support.
- Increasing the cost of operating the vessels.
- Lack of infrastructure to add value to products.
- Administrative and legislative instability in fisheries.
- Lack of continuity in promoting fisheries policies.
- Insufficient input of professional fishermen organizations to promote the specific interests of members.

D. 2 Plan for improvements in fleet management system –

We must reiterate the same issues: Romania is maintaining the target to have a minimum level (“minimum vitalis”) of its fishing fleet operating in the Black Sea preserving and consolidating fishing activity, achieved target, and to develop related activities, target not yet achieved. Romania is maintaining the targets respecting/fulfilling the total ceiling levels, also aiming the consolidation of small-scale fishing fleet.

The Electronic Recording System (ERS), under Regulation EC 1224/2009 is to replace paper logbook and landing declarations and ensuring the accurate and faster record and transmission and exchange of data. In addition, the sales notes of all registered first-sale buyers are planned to be electronically recorded, conducting to a more accurate, fast recorded and transmissions of trading data (first sales points).

Actually, the system is working simultaneous with the previous one, using paper documents. Only the flux system is to be finalized, and the actual operating system will be used till the finalisation of ERS system operability, and DG MARE exchanges/transmissions, under specialized services of the EC and EFCA works.

Romania accepted the EC control and inspection plan under EFCA guidance as mentioned above.

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

Romania is implementing annually technical measures aiming to achieve balance between national fishing capacity and the available fishing opportunities specific for the Black Sea. For this reason, Romania is using the principals of the EU CFP regulations, other specific regulations such as: managing the fishing fleet register, as well as the provisions of Regional fishery management organization – GFCM recommendations. The level of compliance with these provisions generally is assured by:

- Ceiling the fish catches up to the level of approved fishing opportunities allocated to fishermen on a system for TACs and quota allocations. based annually on scientific studies;

- Managing, monitoring and controlling regularly the fish capacity at the level approved by EU Regulation 1380/2013 – see chapter C.

E. Information on changes of the administrative procedures relevant to management of the fleet

During the last two years, despite of non-major/significant changes in the fleet structure, the administrative procedures are targeting for an improved management of fishing capacity, which have a low capacity/dimension level. We are reiterating the most relevant measures of fleet management in place:

- System of annually allocation of fishing opportunities, based on scientific studies, by vessels fishing capacity, targeting species under EU TACs and national allocations in a system of authorizing vessels based on allocation schemes including specific criteria allocation of fishing opportunities;
- Organising meetings between fishermen, scientists and national authority implementing the CFP and national legislation;
- Establishment the annual seasonal closure of fishery for the most relevant species in the area;
- Establishing the fishing effort by annual order of the responsible authority;
- It was launched the pilot study on the impact of Rapa whelk fishery using bottom trawls in relation with other demersal species – namely turbot. The preliminary results were submitted to DG MARE in September 2017, and it will be continued on National Data Collection Working Plan implementation.
- Finalization of the plan for controlling the fishing engine power and the control of the fishing gears designed in 2016;
- Have been started actions, in cooperation with fishermen organizations and Advisory Council for Black Sea comprising the scientists aiming the improvement of better knowledge of the specific fishing gears used by metiers, assessing the impact on marine ecosystem, establishing common measures ensuring **the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through adapted technical measures, in order to put in place specific regulatory legislative acts at national level.**

F. Estimation and discussion of balance indicators

A general comment should be done in the actual Report in order to withdraw the attention to relevant analysing and decisional bodies of the EU to evaluate the impact of a small fishing fleet versus to a bigger fishing fleet and the unbalance on the fishing capacities of other national fleets on the area of Black Sea, and to address relevant technical, management measures in order to be achieved by all riparian countries of a level playing field on the exploitation of marine into the basin resources, leading to a similar managing system should be implemented, both in EU and GFCM commissions.

F.1 Technical indicators (Actual Effort*kW or GT) / (Maximum Effort*kW or GT)

As in the last 2017 Report in the calculation of the indicator have been used the “Guidelines for the analysis of the balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities according to Art 22 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy “(Brussels, 2.9.2014 COM (2014) 545 final).

In the Annex 4 are reflected the level of Ratio between fish days and maximum fish days per fleet segments for the analysed period 2013-2017. In accordance with the relevant Guidelines for the indicator’s calculation for active and passive gears have been used the capacity in kW for engine power and tons for GT. We are reiterating that: in the waters of the Black Sea, especially for the N-W part, the fishing conditions are not favourable for a long fishing season. It is owed to the specific hydro-climatic conditions such as: many days with strong wind during autumn, winter and in the first half of spring season. Also, in the same periods of time are recorded very low temperatures leading to a seasonal fishery – the majority of fish pelagic species, are migrating in the Romanian littoral starting late in March and stopping this migration starting with month of September. In the same situation, it was observed that Rapa whelk starts to be present in the Romanian fishing area by month of May until no late than middle of November when the water temperature is already very low,

around max 7-8⁰ C. All these conditions are causing massive withdrawals of the species towards wintering areas that are not accessible, especially for small scale vessels that characterize the Romanian fleet, as number. Also, in order to reduce the impact on main species for economic interest, annually temporary closed fishing period during April – May is applied.

From these reasons, according to the records, data shows as result a number of fishing days theoretical/maximum amounting a level of 135 days. This level is based on the average of fishing days observed by fleet segments. Annex 4, shows the level of calculated indicators, as mentioned above.

F.2. Biological indicators

F.2.: Ratio between F estimated and F target (F/Ft)

To facilitate comparisons and to avoid duplication of work, we used data collected according to the Data Collection Framework for National Fisheries Data Collection Program, **send to various STECF meetings dedicated for stocks status assessment, Black sea analyses, etc, or GFCM working groups meetings for the Black Sea – in all of these meetings Romania is only country in the region submitting all required data.**

Fishing mortality (F) and Fmsy used for analysis is specified at Black Sea level because the fish species having commercial value are shared within EEZ of the Black Sea riparian countries (namely sprat, turbot, anchovy, whiting, dogfish, red mullet, etc.). The EU representatives on the working groups could confirm

Two indicators are used to assess whether vessels are relying on overfished stocks (SHI), or involved in causing a high biological risk to a depleted stock (SAR). We are mentioning that the segment VL1824m is missing, in past years, due to the fact it was catching only Rapa whelk, which is not in the species list of the National Program Data Collection for 2017-2019.

The indicators are calculated for all area of the Black Sea according to GFCM/FAO division's definition – namely for the area FAO 37.4.2 and GSA 29 – only one area and no subdivisions. **Romania proposed, and various working groups of GFCM, EU Commission (e.g. RCMMed&BS 2012, WGBS 2017) approved the significative recommendations to address all issues for a single stock exploited by several/deferent fleets, of the riparian countries, corresponding of each member state jurisdiction.**

At the High level Conference of the GFCM, October 2016, Bucharest, all parties agreed to apply the same management measures of the fisheries, but despite their commitments on the occasion of the conference, on the fishery development for a sustainable exploitation of the fishing resources, until now the actual results of these started works the signification of the biological indicators is not used in the works of all riparian countries. For the same reasons we are underlining the fact that not only for practical reasons these indicators are not suitable for the assessment of the unbalanced or balanced ratio between fishing opportunities and fishing capacities for EU countries in the area, Romania and Bulgaria. So that, the conclusions on the fact that the fishing fleets of mentioned countries are influencing the general situation of the stocks in the area is not fair, due to the mentioned above rationales. In that conditions these indicators are presented in the report only in order to fulfil the RO commitments to the EU. Romania considers these indicators to be adapted to the specific conditions of RO and BG fleets in the area, or to be avoided in the future if no alternative will be available for the next year.

It should be emphasized that this catches contribution of the Romanian fishing fleet cannot be expected to have a noticeable impact on the status of the fish stocks exploited by the Romanian fishing fleet, since Romania exploits a very small fraction of these stocks in comparison to other Member States or other riparian countries in the same sub region and/or whole region of the Black Sea whose fishing vessels are targeting the same stocks. With regard to this, it is important to note that Romanian catches have always been low and they are in the last few years **less than 0,10%** of their exploitation in the GFCM area, while the overwhelming share of the stocks is caught by other third riparian countries with whom Romania shares these stocks species in GSA 29.

That's why we are reiterating the same assumptions as in the last 2017 Report:

1) SHI - indicator

The sustainable harvest indicator (SHI) is a measure of how much a fleet segment relies on stocks that are overfished. Here, "overfished" is assessed with reference to Fmsy values over time. **Threshold:** Values of the indicator above 1. When the value of SHI is >1 , indicates that a fleet segment is, on average, relying for its income on fishing opportunities which are structurally set above levels corresponding to exploitation at levels corresponding to MSY. In the Romanian fleet segments, all values of SHI are above 1 – Table 5.

The fishing opportunities do not necessarily match the MSY objective at all times, but the first biological indicator has been designed with this overall objective this in mind.

In the Romanian case, it would however not be appropriate to conclude that a fleet segment is necessarily in imbalance if we take into account that the transition is underway to align fishing opportunities with the MSY objective as set out in the CFP and also if we take into account the values of the stocks-at-risk indicator (SAR).

2) SAR - indicator

In the last year Report Romania mentioned, and we are reiterating it, the comment from Guidelines: "The stocks-at-risk indicator is a measure of how many stocks are being affected by the activities of the fleet segment – in other words, stocks which are at low levels and are at risk of not being able to replenish themselves and which are either important in the catches of the fleet segment or where the fleet segment is important in the overall effects of fishing on the stock. **Threshold:** if a fleet segment takes more than 10% of its catches taken from a stock which is at risk, this could be treated as an indication of imbalance. If a fleet segment has an impact on one or more stocks at high biological risk, this is an indicator of a potential capacity imbalance.

It is not the case of the Romanian catches. Compared to catches made at the Black Sea level, Romanian catches are below 10%, most of them under 1%, so that SAR indicators are not calculated by Romania."

Table 5 . Biological indicators

Fleet segments	Biological indicators	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
PMP <6m	SHI			3.54817	7.258358	0.71504	0.70321
	SAR	0	0	0	0	0	0
PMP 6-12m	SHI			4.828312	3.241051	0.97554	0.95686
	SAR	0	0	0	0	0	0
PMP 12-18m	SHI			4.784007	4.833876	0.81026	0.81025
	SAR	0	0	0	0	0	0
PMP18-24m	SHI					0.64087	0.64121
	SAR	0	0	0	0	0	0
PMP 24-40m	SHI			2.766669	2.388445	1.01521	0.99845
	SAR	0	0	0	0	0	0
PG 6-12m	SHI			4.110951	2.526987	1.82199	1.80256
	SAR	0	0	0	0	0	0

F.3. Economic indicators

The economic indicators are calculated using the last version of the Commission Guidelines (2.9.2014), data provided by the National Program for Data Collection. The indicators are provided for each segment of the fleet, based on the total number of 121 active vessels registered in Romanian Fishing Fleet Register – see Table 4.

1) ROI = Net profit / Capital asset value

Net profit = (Income from landings + other income) - (crew costs + unpaid labour + energy costs + repair costs + other variable costs + non-variable costs + depreciation)

Capital asset value = Vessel replacement value + estimated value of fishing rights

BER = (Fixed costs)/(1- [Variable costs/Current revenue])

Fixed costs = Non variable costs + depreciation

Variable costs = Crew costs + Unpaid labour + Energy costs + Repair costs + Other variable costs

F.3. Economic indicators

The economic indicators are calculated using the last version of the Commission Guidelines (2.9.2014), data provided by the National Program for Data Collection. The indicators are provided for each segment of the fleet, based on the total number of 135 active vessels registered in Romanian Fishing Fleet Register – see Annex 4.

1) ROI = Net profit / Capital asset value

Net profit = (Income from landings + other income) - (crew costs + unpaid labour + energy costs + repair costs + other variable costs + non-variable costs + depreciation)

Capital asset value = Vessel replacement value + estimated value of fishing rights

BER = (Fixed costs)/(1- [Variable costs/Current revenue])

Fixed costs = Non variable costs + depreciation

Variable costs = Crew costs + Unpaid labour + Energy costs + Repair costs + Other variable costs

Table 6. Economic data and calculation of Economic indicators in 2017 Euro

Indicators	VL2440PMP	VL1824PMP	VL1218PMP	VL0612PG	VL0612PMP	VL0006PG
Income	679,203	153,557	2,082,617	334,314	1,232,934	37,872
Other income	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current revenue	679,203	153,557	2,082,617	334,314	1,232,934	37,872
Crew costs	121,509	13,325	276,124	130,979	203,949	15,275
Unpaid labour	3,837	3,700	11,059	5,700	22,200	0,650
Energy costs	128,642	26,345	288,189	41,868	143,700	2,884
Repair and maintenance costs	82,118	8,127	82,285	22,365	139,218	5,880
Other variable costs	4,565	0	14,625	16,444	24,460	1,011
Non-variable costs	21,647	1,193	96,342	31,923	75,835	1,317
Depreciation	45,247	7,568	140,523	11,454	21,814	3,409
Total costs	407,565	60,258	909,147	260,733	631,176	29,776
Net profit	271,638	93,299	1,173,470	73,581	601,758	8,096
Vessel replacement value	3,170,000	360,000	4,250,000	552,549	537,696	87,400
Estimated value of fishing rights	6,001	0,280	25,722	5,963	13,659	1,605
Capital asset value	3,176,001	360,280	4,275,722	558,512	551,355	89,005

ROI	8.55%	25.9%	27.4%	13.53%	109.14%	9.10%
ROI – risk free long-term interest rate	4.59%	21.94%	23.44%	9.57%	105.18%	5.14%
BER	134,217	13,176	349771	123934	172129	13957
CR/BER	5.06	11.65	5.95	2.69	7.16	2.71

ECB – interest rate 3.96 Source data regarding long term interest rate -

http://sdw.ecb.europa.eu/quickview.do?SERIES_KEY=229.IRS.M.RO.L.L40.CI.0000.RO.N.N.Z

Return of investment (ROI) – illustrate a good level, even for VL00-06m segment.

The interpretation of the values of ROI is based comparing the medium value of the Long-term interest rate of 3.96 % in 2017, the ECB/National Bank of Romania. Table 8 indicates that the fleet segments VL2440PMP, VL1824PMP, VL1218PMP, VL0612PG, VL0612PMP and VL0006PMP have a positive return of investment (ROI), the value of the ROI indicator being in this case higher than the long-term interest rate (3.96%) -Table 8.

The main focus of fishing activities was on Rapa whelk; the increasing harvest lead to a very big value in tons of total landings and the corresponding value in total revenue. Meantime, in the case of

Rapa whelk harvesting, offers facile conditions of exploitation, vessels are not spending to search agglomeration locations, Rapa whelk being a species grouped in the same areas of mussels, for feeding. There still persist the situation for vessels in terms of a fuel consumption, but their technical conditions proving the contrary, that meant a significant fuel consumption is registered, on the segments VL1218PMP, VL1824PMP and VL2440PMP. This trend of fishermen to focus in Rapa whelk fishery, lead to an increased dependency of fleet on the Rapa stocks abundance. Despite of a decreasing tendency of unit price for the Rapa species (first sale price) the availability on the stocks and increased landings achieved are leading to a good profitability of the fleet segments..



2) The ratio between current and break-even revenue (CR / BER) 2017

The profitability level is shown, also, by the level of the ratio of CR/BER indicator - Table 8, with a level above about 3, suggesting the sufficient revenue generated by the fleet covering the variable and fixed capital, costs, so the segments are profitable.

The indicators calculated and analysed in the Report chapter conduct to the conclusion in 2017 Romania's fishing fleet was in balance with the fishing opportunities in the Black Sea national fishing area.

PRESIDENT,

Nicolae DIMULESCU



ANNEXES

Annex 1. Fishing fleet evolution in period 2013-2018 (for information)

Fleet segment		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
VL	No of vessels	10		12	10	12	12
00-06	GT	6.26	-	8.78	6.76	9.21	9.43
	kW	176.72		201.84	189.78	189.78	93.5
VL	No of vessels	5	10				
00-06	GT	2.95	7.93	-	-	-	-
	kW	146.63	212				
VL	No of vessels	10	6	4	4	4	6
00-06	GT	6.89	3.34	3.16	3.66	3.09	4.60
inactive	kW	21.2	22	10	4.41	4.41	4.41
VL	No of vessels	72	75	78	63	65	63
06-12	GT	108.17	111	120.39	99.81	101.64	105.01
	kW	1989.61	1102	1256.46	836.08	583.66	627.80
VL	No of vessels	71	28	20	21	16	24
06-12	GT	80.6	46.2	25.38	41.88	26.65	40.13
inactive	kW	865.3	391	196.29	291.59	92.67	25.69
VL	No of vessels	19	26	23	31	34	38
06-12	GT	48.22	66	65.25	85.97	104.13	166.11
	kW	884.97	1067	678.42	426.35	540.54	1091.41
VL	No of vessels	5	10	11	13	19	18
12-18	GT	119.6	308	340.37	388.13	616.41	576.3
	kW	1086	2095	2305	2309.3	3300.41	2895.57
VL	No of vessels		1		1		1
12-18	GT	-	6.6	-	53.77	-	24.87
inactive	kW		110		184		109.00
VL	No of vessels			1	1	1	1
18-24	GT	-	-	70	70	70	70.00
	kW			272.06	272.06	272.06	184.00
VL	No of vessels	2	2	2	3	4	4
24-40	GT	240	240	240	359	476	476
	kW	1112	1112	1111.6	1332.25	1217.25	1217.25
Total	No of vessels	194	158	151	147	155	167
	GT	613	790	873.33	1108.98	1407.13	1472.45
	kW	6282	6111	6031.67	5845.82	6200.78	6248.63

Annex 2. Landed quantity for fishing gear in 2018

Fishing gear	Landed quantity (kg)	Share of the total landings (%)
TBB - Beam trawl	5,840.126	75.41
Miscellaneous-hand harvesting (e.g. snails)	1716.524	22.16
FPN – Traps	89.618	1.16
GNS - Gill nets	67.6982	0.87
OTM - Midwater other trawls	26.192	0.34
LHP-Hand lines	2.981	0.04
LLS- Set longlines	1.149	0.01
SB - Beach seines	0.70695	0.01
TOTAL	7744.995	100

Annex 3. Romanian national fleet structure, activity and production in 2013-2017

Variable	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Capacity					
All Vessels	194	158	151	147	155
Inactive vessels	82	35	24	26	20
Average of vessel (LOA) (m)	7,54	7.84	8.26	8.65	8.92
Average vessel age (years)	15	17	18	18.6	17.9
GT (thousand tonnes)	0,6	0.8	0.87	1.11	1.41
kW Engine power (thousands KW)	6,1	6.1	6	5.85	6.2
No Enterprises (N)	74	77	80	79	89
Employment					
Total employment	302	330	331	326	406
Fishing Effort					
Fishing Days (thousand days)	2,7	2.7	3.68	3.75	4.77
Days at Sea (thousand days)	2,8	2.8	4	4.1	4.86
GT fishing days (thousands)	186	238	375	549	739.5
Energy consumption (thousands of litres)	361	545	711	744	768
Production					
Landings weight (thousand tonnes)	1,7	2.2	4.8	6.8	9.6
Landings value (million Euros)	1,4	2.5	4.3	3.84	4.5

Annex 4. Total ratio between days at sea and maximum days at sea for the different fleet segments in period of 2013-2017

Fleet segment	Capacity			Current effort			Maximum effort			Capacity utilisation		
	No. of vessels	GT	KW	days	GT days	KW days	days	GT days	KW days	days	GT days	KW days
VL2440 PMP	2	240	1112	200	48000	222400	300	72000	333600	0.67	0.67	0.67
VL1218 PMP	4	113	976	137	15439,9	133712	600	67620	585600	0.23	0.23	0.23
VL0612 PG	72	108	1990	1376	148842	2737703	10800	1168236	21487788	0.13	0.13	0.13
VL0612 PMP	19	48.2	885	467	22518.7	413281	2850	137427	2522164,5	0.16	0.16	0.16
VL0006 PG	10	6.26	176,7	438	2741.88	77403,36	1500	9390	265080	0.29	0.29	0.29
VL0006 PMP	5	2.95	146.6	82	241.9	12023.66	750	2212.5	109972.5	0.11	0.11	0.11
Total 2013	112	518	5286	2700	237784	3596523	16800	1456886	25304205	0.16	0.16	0.16
VL2440 PMP	2	240	1112	177	42480	196824	300	72000	333600	0.59	0.59	0.59
VL1218 PMP	10	308	2095	392	120736	821240	1500	462000	3142500	0.26	0.26	0.26
VL0612 PG	75	111	1102	1469	163059	1618838	11250	1248750	12397500	0.13	0.13	0.13
VL0612 PMP	26	66	1067	567	37422	604989	3900	257400	4161300	0.15	0.15	0.15
VL0006 PMP	10	7.93	212	169	1340.17	35828	1500	11895	318000	0.11	0.11	0.11
Total 2014	123	733	5588	2774	365037	3277719	18450	2052045	20352900	0.25	0.25	0.25
VL2440 PMP	2	240	1111.6	245	58800	272342	300	72000	333480	0.82	0.82	0.82
VL1218 PMP	11	340.37	2305	645	219539	1486725	1650	561611	3803250	0.39	0.39	0.39
VL1824 PMP	1	70	272.06	33	2310	8978	150	10500	40809	0.22	0.22	0.22
VL0612 PG	78	120.39	1256.46	1747	210321	2195036	11700	1408563	14700582	0.15	0.15	0.15
VL0612 PMP	23	65.25	678.42	1058	69035	717768	3450	225113	2340549	0.31	0.31	0.31
VL0006 PMP	12	8.78	201.84	317	2783	63983	1800	15804	363312	0.18	0.18	0.18
Total 2015	127	844.79	5825.38	4045	562788	4744832	19050	2293591	25181982	0.35	0.35	0.35
VL2440 PMP	3	359	1332.25	270	96930	359708	405	145395	539561	0.67	0.67	0.67
VL1824 PMP	1	70	272.06	70	4900	19044	135	9450	36728	0.52	0.52	0.52
VL1218 PMP	13	388.13	2309.30	855	331851	1974452	1755	681168	4052822	0.49	0.49	0.49
VL0612 PG	63	99.81	836.08	1328	132548	1110314	8505	848884	7110860	0.16	0.16	0.16
VL0612 PMP	31	85.97	426.35	1294	111245	551697	4185	359784	1784275	0.31	0.31	0.31
VL0006 PG	10	6.76	189.78	276	1866	52379	1350	9126	256203	0.20	0.20	0.20
Total 2016	121	1009.67	5365.82	4093	679340	4067594	16335	2053807	13780449	0.39	0.39	0.39
VL2440 PMP	4	476	1217.25	411	195636	500289.75	540	257040	657315	0.76	0.76	0.76
VL1824 PMP	1	70	272.06	102	7140	27750.12	135	9450	36728.1	0.76	0.76	0.76
VL1218	19	616.41	3300.41	1029	634285.89	3396121.89	2565	1581091.65	8465551.65	0.40	0.40	0.40

PMP												
VL0612 PG	65	101.64	583.66	1352	137417.28	789108.32	8775	891891	5121616.5	0.15	0.15	0.15
VL0612 PMP	34	104.13	540.54	1761	183372.93	951890.94	4590	477956.7	2481078.6	0.38	0.38	0.38
VL0006 PG	12	9.21	189.78	204	1878.84	38715.12	1620	14920.2	307443.6	0.13	0.13	0.13
Total 2017	135	1377.39	6103.7	4859	1159730.94	5703876.14	18225	3232349.55	17069733.45	0.43	0.43	0.43

Annex 5. The Vessel Utilization Indicator 2013-2017

Fleet segment	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
VL0006 PMP	0.11	0.11	0.18	0	0
VL0006 PG	0.29	0	0	0.20	0.13
VL0612 PMP	0.16	0.15	0.31	0.31	0.38
VL0612 PG	0.13	0.13	0.15	0.16	0.15
VL1218 PMP	0.23	0.26	0.39	0.49	0.40
VL1824 PMP	0	0	0.22	0.52	0.76
VL2440 PMP	0.67	0.59	0.82	0.67	0.76

Annex 6.

Action plan under Article 22(4) of Regulation No. 1380/2013 on the Common Fisheries policy

The biological SHI indicator relies on the exploited stocks for the all Black Sea area, that means all 6 riparian countries. But, according to the SAR indicator levels (all of them below 10%, and most of them less than 1%), the impact of Romanian fishing fleet is not at all significant. That's why we must reiterate the same arguments and to keep the same rationals, as for the last two years, namely: The impact of the Romanian fleet on the species status stocks is the lowest in the division GSA 29/FAO 37.4.2. fishing area – the only one in the Black Sea.

The actual action plan for the segments of application of the addressed measures, is based on the economic and technical indicators. Romania proposes an action plan that includes the application of measures in the previously adopted plan (2018) and keeping the measures for some fleet segments, where is the case, as follow:

The Romanian fishing vessels are conducting fishing activities under instable hydro-climatic conditions specific for the Black Sea. This fact is conducting to a reduced fishing days' number, lower than in other marine area. This is negatively influencing the levels calculated for "vessel use indicator" (VUR). The reduced total number of fishing days leads to a decreased pression on the fishing stocks. As a result, the measures taken by the financial/banking sector did not consider the productive sectors of the national economy, mainly for the fishing sector, which could not apply for financing investments, reducing of the resources to vessels modernization actions, so that the ROI and CR/BER indicators show a stable level for all segments between **2013 and 2017** – see **Table 6**.

Romania would implement the measure "Support for the design and implementation of conservation measures and regional cooperation" from Article 37 of the EMFF Regulation to ensure effective regional cooperation at the level of all Black Sea area for the implementation of relevant measures approved under EU legislation and the recommendations of the GFCM - the regional fisheries management organization. Both organizations are to enforce the necessary actions ensuring the common playing field for all riparian countries, especially for third countries (not EU members) in the area to introduce in their national legislation the same management measures.

The Previous action plan has a result the reduction of the number of the fishing vessels, observed from a total of 194 in 2013 to 155 in 2017, with a slight increase of active vessels due to the increase of turbot quota and Rapa whelk catches increase (Annex 1, Table 3). Also, this is an effect of increased number of fishermen, and reducing the number of inactive vessels.

The total number of Romania fishing vessels, the catch as value and volume, indicate a percentage much lower than 10%, in the total catches of Black Sea area shared stocks, so the actual impact of the Romanian fleet is the same, not significant and could not improve the sustainable exploitation of fish species stocks in the area. The level of the Romanian fishing fleet capacity is managed to ensure the level of economic efficiency and preservation of the economic activities of the actual coastal fisheries communities. As example at 32.12.2018 the number of fishermen was around 405. Also, Romania has the objective foreseen to consolidate the socio-economic conditions of the existing local fishery communities.

Other important managing measure is to adopt annually, by the ministerial order TACs and quotas and ensuring an adequate effort levels for marine fisheries in Romanian waters of the Black Sea, where the national fleet is acting. The general measure in the Romania fishing fleet management is the implementation of Annual Plan for monitoring, control and inspection of all fishing activities, under the guidance of Commission and EFCA specialized services, continuing the improve of the quality of results of this plan. Also, it was implemented with Bulgaria the multiannual management plan to fight against IUU fishery, starting with turbot fishery, as it was proposed by the EC and approved by GFCM.

Ensuring the fulfilment of its commitments to the EU on Common Fisheries Policy provisions, Romania is continuing to implement the Action Plan in line with the Guidelines used for this Report, till 2020 year, and mentioning the measures deployed according the last two years plans. For the implementation of this Plan the EMFF financing support is used, especially for training of the personnel of NAFA for control and inspection actions.

The provisions of the plan will allow fishermen organizations to increase the technical fleet level, including introducing in use gears with increased selectivity, as a main goal for the EU policy, under actions engaging the scientists.

In conclusion, considering the level of indicators, excepting biological indicators and VUR-capacity utilisation ratio, the plan is addressing to 4 segments of the fleet:

Segment VL0006 PG – considering the VUR values a decrease is observed from the year 2016 from 0,20 to 0.13 in 2017 year. Still the value indicator is under reference point **0.7** that meant the segment could be considered underbalanced. The Plan would consider continuing the specific measures adopted in the last two years:

- Issuing fishing permits/licenses in order to catch other alive marine resources than fish (such as molluscs, Rapa whelk) in order to reduce the pressure on pelagic fish stocks. – Deadline: annually until 2020;
- Continuing the organising professional meetings with scientists and fishermen. – Deadline: 31.12.2020, in 2018 two such some meetings were assured.
- As a measure, applicable for all fleet segments, including this one, is to control the issuing licence for new entry vessels in order to assure the total capacity ceiling at national level;
- Reinforcing the control of temporary cessation of fishing activities for demersal species catches (turbot and picked dog fish) during prohibition period - Deadline: annually until 2020;
- Meetings between scientists and fishermen - Romanian NAFA has organized the first meeting dedicated to this measure between fishermen and scientists meeting on 13-16.02.2017 in the National Institute for Marine Research and Development in Constanta. The specialists of this institutes underlined to fishermen the necessity to use new and more selective gears, the characteristics and the benefits of these gear types. Meantime it was established that scientists will support fishermen to successfully design the projects that would be needed for EMFF applications to finance the procurement of the new gears – until end 2020.

Segment VL0612 PMP – during the analysed period the VUR value level was increased in 2017 at 0.38 versus 0.31 in 2016. The increasing trend is observed on the economic indicators – Table 6. Due to the below 0.7 level of VUR in the Plan are maintained following measures:

- Issuing fishing authorisations aiming to increase the catches of other alive marine resources (such as molluscs, or vongole) in order to reduce the pressure on fish stocks; – Deadline: annually until 2020
- Limitation of the fish permits/licenses in order to stabilised fishing capacity and effort; – Deadline: annually until 2020, in order to ensure the total capacity ceiling of the national fleet;
- Increasing the number of fishing days deployed; – Deadline: permanently;
- Strengthening the control and inspection actions during temporary cessation of fishing activities for demersal species catches (turbot and picked dog fish) during prohibition period - Deadline: annually until 2020;
- Orientating fishermen to use diversified fishing gears specialised for target species; – Deadline: 31.12.2019;
- Ensuring the meetings organisation between scientists and fishermen to guide for the better fishing techniques and new gears use – Deadline: 31.12.2020;
- Encouraging the fishermen to apply for training and specialised sessions from the scientists – permanent.

Segment VL0612 PG – the decrease level of indicator evolution between is observed from the year 2016 from 0,16 to 0.15 in 2017 year.

The increased level of indicator evolution between 2015 – 0.15 and 2016 – 0.16 shows a positive trend, but during 2017 the level of indicator was decreased at 0.15, under 0,7 reference point; the measures will consist on underlining the specific issues:

- Annual order of the agriculture ministry to establish the number of fishing gear, especially for turbot and associated species, such as Pick dogfish; – Deadline: annually, 1st Quarter;
- Improving gradually the gears selectivity; – Deadline: 31.12.2020;
- Strengthening the control on the number of fishing authorisations in order to stabilise the number of vessels – Deadline: annually until 2020, in order to ensure the total capacity ceiling of the national fleet;
- Ensuring the organization of meetings between scientists and fishermen to guide for the better fishing techniques and new gears use – annually;
- Strengthening the control and inspection actions during temporary cessation of fishing activities for demersal species catches (turbot and picked dog fish) during prohibition period - Deadline: annually until 2020;
- Meetings between scientists and fishermen - Romanian NAFA has organized the first meeting dedicated to this measure between fishermen and scientists meeting on 13-16.02.2017 in the National Institute for Marine Research and Development in Constanta. The specialists of this institutes underlined to fishermen the necessity to use new and more selective gears, the characteristics and the benefits of these gear types. Meantime it was established that scientists will support fishermen to successfully design the projects that would be needed for EMFF applications to finance the procurement of the new gears – until end 2020.

Segment VL1218PMP – despite the positive trend observed on the economic and technical indicators during the analysed period, the following measures are maintained in the action plan:

- Annual order of the agriculture ministry to establish the number of fishing gear, especially for turbot and associated species; – Deadline: annually, 1st Quarter;
- Limitation the number of fishing authorisations in order to stabilize the number of the vessels – Deadline – annually until 2020; in order to ensure the total capacity ceiling of the national fleet;
- Assistance in vessel modernisation that would be supported by the specialists, even under EMFF projects;
- The increase of the selectivity of fishing gears. – permanent;
- Ensuring the meeting between scientists and fishermen to guide for the better fishing techniques and new gears use – Deadline: 31.12.2017; Romanian NAFA has organized the first meeting dedicated to this measure between fishermen and scientists meeting on 13-

16.02.2017 in the National Institute for Marine Research and Development in Constanta. The specialists of this institutes underlined to fishermen the necessity to use new and more selective gears, the characteristics and the benefits of these gear types. Meantime it was established that scientists will support fishermen to successfully design the projects that would be needed for EMFF applications to finance the procurement of the new gears.

- Strengthening the control and inspection actions during temporary cessation of fishing activities for demersal species catches (turbot and picked dog fish) during prohibition period - Deadline: annually until 2020;
- Issuing fishing authorizations in order to catch also other alive marine resources (such as molluscs: mussels and vongole) in order to reduce the pressure on fish stocks; – Deadline: annually until 2020.

General measure ensuring the balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities for the national fleet is the achievement for the assistance for marketing support, i.e. the finalization of the construction of the Fish electronic auction facility in Tulcea city, as a goal reiterated in the previous plan. This auction will cover the needs of Black Sea fishermen to sell their products throughout this electronic auction in order to increase the income by transparent and more efficient first sale system opened for the registered merchants. **The Tulcea electronic auction is now operational.**

Romania will improve the necessary measures on management of its fleet capacity according to the above-mentioned, in order to comply with the commitments to EU, according to the provisions for achieving the targets of Common Fisheries Policy as per the Art. 2 of Regulation (EU) no 1380/2013.

According to the figures in Table 1 and Annex 3 can be observed that total catches of achieved 9.6 thousand tonnes and 406 fishermen in 2017. This meant, the issuing of fishing authorisation and increased catches limit for Rapa whelk is a good measure to reduce the pressure of Romanian fleet on the shared fish stocks in the Black Sea, and this permanent measure in the Action Plan is justified.

We reiterate that the total catches of Romanian fleet are much below 10 % of the total catches of each stock in the area. The stocks in the Black Sea area are common and shared with the riparian countries, so the contribution of Romanian fleet to achieve the MSY in the region should be evaluated according to the size of the fleet (the smallest in the Black Sea area), and a conclusion is **that the impact of the Romanian fleet to fish stocks is quite limited**, as expressed in last reports, also.

The low level of indicators shows the conclusion that is a **reduction of the pressure on the fish stocks, a positive aspect that should be take into account in the evaluation of the overall situation related to fishing capacity of Romania, as in the last two years trend.**

NAFA reiterate that Romania is fully engaged to ensure the implementation of its commitments to achieve the targets of the Common Fisheries Policy, including the measures to achieve in the next future a balance between fishing opportunities and fishing capacity for its fleet.

The actual small limits of Romanian fishing fleet, including the comparison with other EU fishing fleet, is one of the lowest in recent years, as well in the EU fishing fleet register, and the Action Plan has the same objectives to maintain the existence of the national fishing sector, as declared in fishing strategy, and all occasions, aiming the consolidation of the small-scale fishery, stimulating inclusive the hand harvesting of other marine fishing resources than fish species, i.e. Rapa whelk and mussels.