

ANNEX 3  
UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PLAN

Active vessels of between 0 and 24 metres in length fishing for eel with other active gear in ICES VIII abd

MEASURES UNDER THE ACTION PLAN FROM THE 2022 REPORT		IMPLEMENTATION	
<b>Action No 1</b>	Ban on new vessels joining the fleet in this fishery.	<b>Action No 1</b>	The Directorate for Sea Fisheries and Aquaculture (DGAMPA) is paying particular attention to the segment of the fleet engaged in eel fishing. The fishing capacity of this segment in the Atlantic has been frozen ever since an imbalance was recorded in the segment. In collaboration with the industry which is responsible for managing CMEA licences including special fishing rights for yellow eel and glass eel, fleet renewal has been limited in such a way as to not alter capacity.
<b>Action No 2</b>	Ban on granting new regional fishing authorisations for eel.	<b>Action No 2</b>	Furthermore, loss of any licence conferring a glass eel fishing right led to the disappearance of a right with a view to specific fishing rights for glass eel reverting to the level of 2015. Between 2017 and 2020, the number of CMEA licences fell considerably (by 29). 427 licences were issued in 2021. At the same time, discussions on a stricter capacity framework have been taking place.
<b>Action No 3</b>	Temporary closures	<b>Action No 3</b>	Mechanism not yet activated.

Vessels fishing Mediterranean Posidonia-dependent stocks and thereby impacting the sustainability of their habitat ('gangui').

MEASURES UNDER THE ACTION PLAN FROM THE 2022 REPORT		IMPLEMENTATION	
<b>Action No 1</b>	Continuation of the current authorisation scheme which prohibits any modification or sale of vessels, failing which fishing authorisation is permanently withdrawn.	<b>Action No 1</b>	Bans on changing vessels or active vessel owners have been applied. Since 2018, holders of an authorisation for 'gangui' fishing must have a vessel monitoring system (VMS) in order to be issued such authorisation. Between 2019 and 2020, the number of available authorisations decreased from 19 to 13. The number of authorisations issued fell from 9 to 7.
<b>Action No 2</b>	Conversion of vessels to metiers other than 'gangui' fishing. As 'gangui' fishing is a highly subsidiary activity, vessels will be encouraged to fish with nets, as most already do.	<b>Action No 2</b>	Conversion has continued involving metiers using nets and other active gear. The population of fishermen is ageing and the number of fishermen who practise 'gangui' fishing is in natural decline.
<b>Action No 3</b>	Introduction of stricter procedures for issuing 'gangui' authorisations	<b>Action No 3</b>	Authorisation for 'gangui' fishing has become harder to obtain since 2018 due to the requirement for vessels to be equipped with a vessel monitoring system (VMS). 9 vessels obtained a European fishing authorisation in 2019 out of the 13 eligible. In 2020, 10 vessels obtained a European fishing authorisation out of the 13 eligible. In 2021, 9 vessels obtained a European fishing authorisation out of the 9 eligible. The number of eligible vessels has continued to decline.

Active vessels of between 18 and 40 metres in length trawling for hake in the Mediterranean  
(ME ME DTS VL1824 - ME ME DTS VL2440)

MEASURES UNDER THE ACTION PLAN FROM THE 2022 REPORT		IMPLEMENTATION	
<b>Action No 1</b>	1° Continuation of the current authorisation scheme which prohibits any increase in vessel capacity or new vessels joining the fleet, failing which fishing authorisation is permanently withdrawn.	<b>Action No 1</b>	The segments have not changed. There were ultimately no requests for additional capacity or changes in ownership, and no new vessels joined the fleet.
<b>Action No 2</b>	2° Ban on new vessels joining the fleet in this fishery.	<b>Action No 2</b>	Entries to the fleet have been restricted and fleet entry and capacity increase requests for these segments were blocked. The segments did not change between 2017 and 2021. Capacity did not increase.
<b>Action No 3</b>	3° Continuation of effort reduction measures stepped up as part of the European plan for the Western Mediterranean (WestMED) as from the second half of 2019. A reduction in the fishing effort ceiling was put in place for 2020. A further reduction in the ceiling was applied in 2021 (-8.5%). Reductions are planned for 2022, 2023 and 2024.	<b>Action No 3</b>	WestMED entered into force during the second half of 2019. Consequently, the fishing-effort quota has been gradually falling in both segments over the course of several years. The vessel reduction target for 2022 was not met. However, a fleet exit plan has been in place in 2023 resulting in some fifteen trawlers exiting the fleet.
<b>Action No 4</b>	4° Spatial and time-based closures have been in place since 1 January 2020 in the Gulf of Lion in order to protect juvenile hake in particular. They have been maintained for 2021.	<b>Action No 4</b>	Spatial and time-based closures have been in place since 2020 under the WestMED plan in order to protect juvenile fish, in particular juvenile hake, as well as spawning grounds and nurseries. These areas correspond to one-third of the Gulf of Lion which is closed for at least half of the year. They have proven effective in reducing catches of juvenile hake which have fallen by over 50% (as confirmed in an Ifremer report from 2021). The effectiveness of the closures is due to be assessed in 2023.

Vessels of between 0 and 24 metres in length fishing for eel in the Mediterranean

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<b>Action No 1</b>	1) Ban on new vessels joining the fleet in this fishery.	<b>Actions</b>	The additional capacity being considered in the context of issuing European fishing licences has remained frozen for 4 years. Difficulties were experienced in regulating the granting of authorisations during the first 2 years as this is managed independently at regional level. This makes strict management by the national authorities complicated. As a result, the number of authorisations increased (by 9) between 2016 and 2018, and again (by 4) in 2019. Since 2020, however, the number of licences issued has fallen (211 licences issued in 2021).
<b>Action No 2</b>	2) Ban on granting new regional fishing authorisations for eel.		
<b>Action No 3</b>	3) Temporary closures laid down by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).		

**Vessels of between 0 and 18 metres in length fishing for European pilchard (PIL.27.8abd) in the Bay of Biscay (AT GG\_Ib OTM VL0010, AT GG\_Ib OTM VL1012, AT GG\_Ib MGP VL1012 et AT GG\_Ib PS\_ VL1218) and in the Celtic Sea - West Scotland (AT MC\_OE\_Is PS VL1218)**

MEASURES UNDER THE ACTION PLAN FROM THE 2022 REPORT		IMPLEMENTATION	
<b>Action No 1</b>	1° Improvement of scientific data	<b>Actions</b>	work on making the stock estimation methodology more reliable (in particular regarding missing data) to enable management rules to be successfully put in place.  Possible areas of improvement were identified in 2021, namely Ongoing scientific work on genetics as part of DEFIPEL and on developing the size model which has been initiated. The PELGAS initiative, aimed at monitoring the pelagic ecosystem in the Bay of Biscay, is ongoing. Work being carried out to improve stock assessments by Ifremer is targeting the next benchmark announced for 2024-2025.
<b>Action No 2</b>	2° Selection of best measures to ensure joint management of the European pilchard stock in the Bay of Biscay.		Depends on the results of scientific exercises which will identify the right measures to be taken where necessary. Industry commitment to restarting work in 2023 on the development of a pilchard management plan for the Bay of Biscay as soon as PELGAS data allows.

**Vessels fishing for common sole in the Eastern Channel (AT MdN\_Mchest DFN VL1012)**

MEASURES UNDER THE ACTION PLAN FROM THE 2022 REPORT		IMPLEMENTATION	
<b>Action No 1</b>	1° Zero increase in capacity and capacity reduction due to implementation of a fleet exit plan in the light of Brexit.	<b>Actions</b>	Implementation of BREXIT individual support plan underway in 2023. In order to identify changes in the stock, the impact of fleet exits in the coming years will first need to be known.