

Annex 5: Details on closure of the coastal zone up to 6 nautical miles to all active towed gears

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1) Slovenia

Slovenian fisheries sector is very affected by the limited size of marine fishing area. The existence of two sea fishery reserves where all fishing activities are banned (Portorož and Strunjan fishery reserves) further limit the reduced Slovenian fishing area. Moreover, there is an important industrial port in the Gulf of Koper. Due to the safety and international rules, a common routing system and traffic separation scheme was established in the Northern Adriatic, which also has an important impact on fisheries.

For all these reasons, mentioned above, Slovenia already has a derogation for Demersal trawlers, which allows fishing up to 1.5 nautical miles distance from the coast (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/2383).

Establishment of the closure of the coastal zone up to 6 nautical miles would further reduce Slovenian fishing area to a minimum not suitable to maintain commercial fishing activities.

2) Croatia

The most important regulation measures in Croatia are temporal and spatial trawl fishing restrictions (temporary or permanent prohibition in certain areas). This is a complex system created as a consequence of long-lasting evolution process in balancing exploitation needs with necessity for the protection of demersal resources.

Croatian fishing sea consists of two parts: inner fishing sea with an area of 12,461 km², encompassing inner sea from coastland to starting line, and outer sea consisting of territorial sea (area of 19,267 km²) and Protected environmental fishing zone – ZERP/PEFZ (area of about 25,000 km²). Inner fishing sea is divided into three fishing zones (E, F and G), territorial sea into four fishing zones (A, B, C and D) and PEFZ into four fishing zones (H, I, J and K).

The maximum engine power of bottom trawlers is limited to 184 kW in inner fishing sea (except in certain parts of the Northern Adriatic channels, where the limit is 110 kW), while in the outer fishing sea it is limited to 662 kW.

Trawl fishing is permanently prohibited within 1.5 NM from mainland and island coast, 2 NM around outer islands (Palagruža, Galijula, Lastovo, Sušac, Svetac, Biševo and Brusnik and other smaller island in their vicinity) In the most part of northern Adriatic (western Istrian coast) and in some channel area of central Adriatic where depth is less than 50 m trawl fishery is prohibited 3 NM from mainland and island coast. In order to protect the juvenile stages of hake and Norway lobster trawl fishery is prohibited 3 NM around Blitvica and Jabuka islands. Trawl fishing is also prohibited in numerous bays and channels, e.g. Cres bay, Osor bay, Vinodol and Velebit channel, Novigrad sea, part of Zadar and Pašman channels, Kaštela bay, most part of the Split and Brač channels, part of the Hvar channel, part of the Neretva channel and part of the Koločep channel.

In numerous parts of the fishing sea the trawl fishing is prohibited for certain part of the year or of the week. Bottom trawl fishing in the most part of the channel area in central Adriatic is totally prohibited 6 months per year during spring summer period. In winter and autumn period, it is open for trawl fishery only two days per week (Wednesday and Thursday) during the day light, with engine power limitation (max 184 kW).

The area of Rijeka bay is divided in half and trawl fishery prohibition is alternating every 6 months between halves.

Trawl fishing is also prohibited on Saturday and Sunday 12 NM around Jabuka/Pomo island. In order to protect recruits of hake and Norway lobster during the sensitive phase of life cycles, temporal trawl fishing ban of 30 days was introduced during September and October in fishing zones C, D, E, J and K. In addition, short-term emergency temporal fishery regulation measures are often set in power when it is needed (e.g. bottom trawl fishery ban of 6NM of island Blitvenica for protection of hake recruits during spring summer period).

Furthermore, trawl fishing is prohibited above seagrass beds, coralligenous habitats and maerl. Any fishing activities are forbidden inside of 3 marine national parks (315 km²), disposal sites for explosives (266 km²) and in other sensitive areas (ornithological reservations, nature parks etc.).

According to the existing regulations, trawl fishing is permanently prohibited in approximately 30% of the territorial sea of Croatia, with additional around 10% is prohibited between 100 and 300 days annually.

It should also be emphasized that, considering technical characteristics of vessels and geomorphological configuration of the bottom of the Adriatic Sea, trawl fishing in Croatia is dominantly performed up to 350 – 400 m depths.

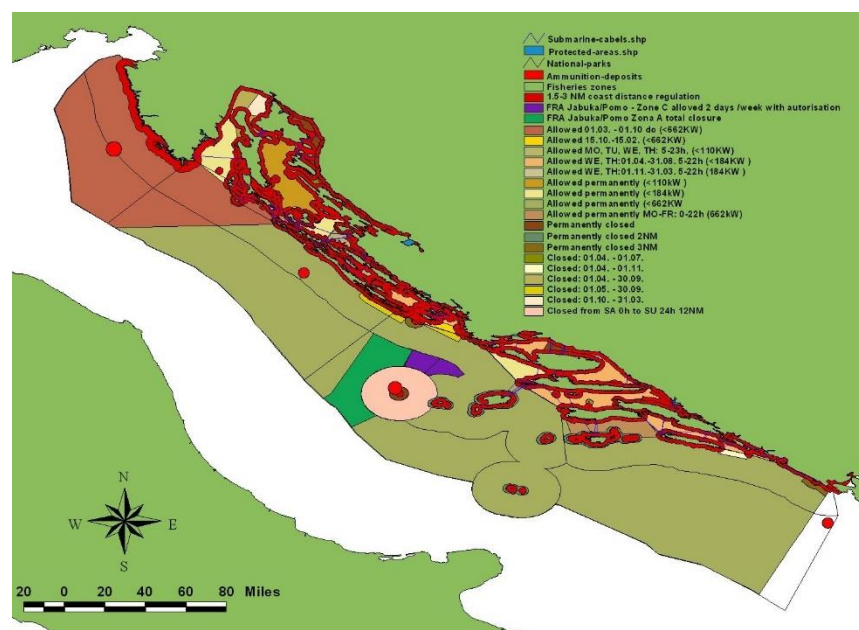


Figure xy. Map of fisheries regulation measures of Republic of Croatia for active towed gear

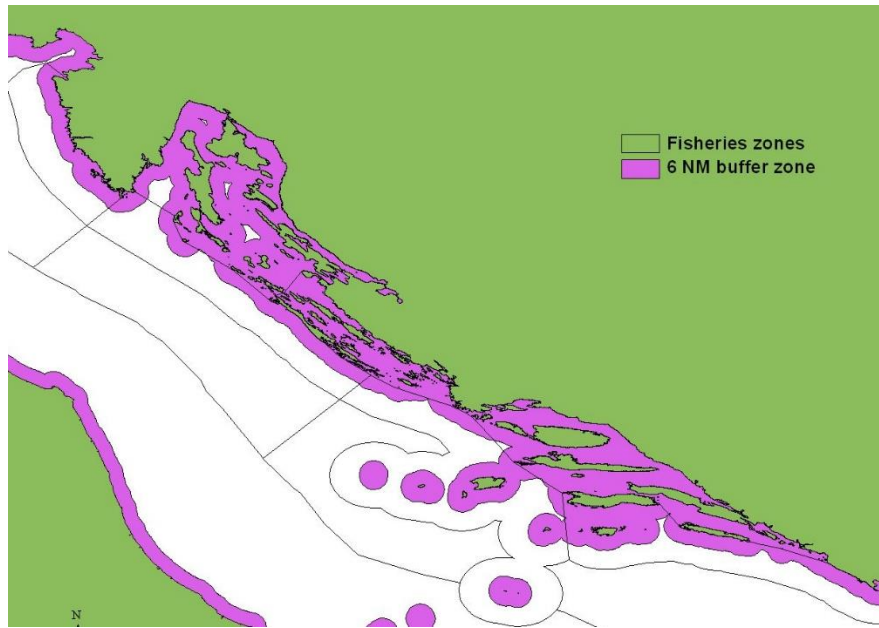


Figure xz. Croatian 6 nautical miles fishing area

3) Italy

Colloca et al. (2015) have demonstrated that the only nurseries consistently protected in European Mediterranean waters are those of coastal species, such as red mullet, common Pandora and common sole with 66.8%, 54.1% and 46.1% respectively of persistent nursery areas under protection. This is mostly due to the trawling ban within 3 nautical miles of the shoreline or 50 m depth, applied through current management measures as defined by Article 13 of EU Council Regulation 1967/2006. This situation is particularly evident for the Adriatic Sea. Based on this evidence, EWG 19-02 believes that the implementation of the spatial management measure currently in force (3 nautical miles) with an extension to the 6 nautical miles would have the potential to substantially improve current fisheries exploitation patterns.

The Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food, Forestry and Tourism Policies (MIPAAFT) regulates the temporary closure of fishing activities for bottom (OTB and TBB) and pelagic trawlers in the Adriatic Sea (August-July). Since 2012 such Regulation also includes temporary spatial restrictions: 1) vessels enabled to coastal fishery (<6 nm from the coast) or having LOA <15 m cannot operate inside the 4 nm from the beginning of the temporary closure until 31th October; 2) vessels having LOA >15 m cannot operate inside the 6 nm from the beginning of the temporary closure until 31th October. These regulations exclude the Maritime Departments of Monfalcone and Trieste because, due to the peculiar geo-morphology of the

northern Adriatic, the fishing grounds of such Maritime Departments have a limited spatial extension.

EWG 19-02 has focused on Italy GSA17, where a temporary fishing ban inside the 6 nautical miles has been enforced since 2012.

In 2017, the Italian fleet operating in the GSA17 included 259 vessels having LOA < 15 m belonging to the category DTS (251 OTB and 8 TBB) and 361 vessels having LOA > 15 m and belonging to the category DTS (313 OTB and 48 TBB).