STECF
EXPERT WORKING GROUP EWG 26-10

concerning the fishing effort regime for demersal fisheries in Western Mediterranean EU MAP

28 September – 1 October 2026, ***Online meeting***

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The EWG report would be adopted during a mini-plenary on 19-20 October 2026 for a publication by the end of October at the latest.

Request to STECF

STECF is requested to provide for 2027 fishing effort days by EMU and fleet segment in the coastal and deep areas by EMU upfront in the report and in absolute numbers. These are to be provided in an overview table merging models outcomes, for year +1 to be relevant with setting FO having taken into account the level of fishing days in 2026 and the compensation measures in line with Annex I.

The primary objective is to determine the specific effort levels required to reach in 2027 the FMSY target for the most vulnerable stock accounting for the effect induced by measures taken in the intermediate year (possible improvement + compensation measures adopted by each Member State) given the inherent uncertainties they induce on the stock development. In addition, the EWG 26-10 will be requested to provide for 2027 the Fmsy effort levels while accounting for the effect of new compensation measures that Member States will have planned to implement in 2027 and consider the appropriate level for a fishing effort capping in presence of compensation measures.

In the context of the discussions of STECF PLEN 26-02 it was identified the need to give more time to the Expert Working Group EWG 26-10 concerning the fishing effort regime for demersal fisheries in West Mediterranean EU MAP, by carefully analysing and preparing the data and scenarios. Ad hoc contracts in preparation of the EWG 26-10 have been launched to to allow for the parametrisation of the bioeconomic model, and the simulation of the identified scenarios, providing outcomes on the effects of effort, catch, population dynamics and socio-economic indicators. Their results will be made available at the beginning of EWG 26-10.

Basic scenarios:

O n the basis of the advice from EWG 26-09 and in line with the agreed protocol for information sharing between EWG 26-09 and 26-10, the ad hoc work will be the basis for STECF to produce the 2027 fishing effort advice for each Member State fleets to achieve Fmsy for the most vulnerable stock in Effort Management Units (EMU) 1 and 2 according to the methodology and the scenarios described in below:

Baseline 2026: Identify the management option that achieves FMSY for the Most Vulnerable Stock including the intermediate year. The baseline shall include the compensation measures which have been already applied by MS. The scenarios for the following year shall be assessed against this baseline.

Scenarios:

- 2027 Fishing days at Fmsy (or Fmsy upper if available[1]) for the most vulnerable stocks with compensation measures taken in 2026 (adopted and implemented by Member States in 2026, see Annex I and supplementary information) and without compensation measures for 2027 onwards (A).

- 2027 Fishing days at Fmsy (or Fmsy upper if available) for the most vulnerable stocks with a set of 2027 compensation measures (compensation measures by Member State to be taken in 2027 according to the Annex I), (B).

Two levels of biological uncertainty (if the model not already stochastic on that) should be considered for the above scenarios (C and D).

Technical specifications for scenario running:

For each scenario, the models have to be run with the management measures adopted at EU and national level between 2020 and 2026, which from 2022 onwards include both effort, catch management measures, remedial measures and measures from the compensation mechanism. Scenarios should be run till 2030 in order to estimate the short- and mid-term impact of the management measures from a stock as well as a socio-economic perspective. Scenarios should account for the management measures adopted since 2020 and in particular compensation measures[2] adopted/envisioned by Italy, France and Spain in the context of the West Med MAP, including measures associated with the compensation mechanism. The modellers should consider correcting their model specifications whenever needed so that the way the catch limits are handled do not constraint the effort levels deduced, given catch limits are not part of the long term plan (as catch limits appear only in "remedial measures").

Applying the methodology outlined by PLEN 26-02 and discussed during PLEN 26-02 the model simulations should include different estimates of the effort-FMSY-days according to:

- Effort reductions homogeneous across fleet segments

- Assumptions on compensation measure effects (e.g. change in selectivity)

- If time allows the proportional reduction of effort could be explored.

[1] From an ad hoc contract back to back with EWG 26-09 and with delivery date on 11/09

[2] Stemming from Art 8 of Council Regulation (EU) 2026/266 of 26 January 2026 fixing for 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas

Terms of Reference for EWG-26-10 concerning the fishing effort regime for demersal fisheries in Western Mediterranean EU MAP

The EWG is requested to document a shift in approach toward providing a unified advice per area, eliminating possibly conflicting outcomes from different models for the same region, effectively moving towards an "envelope modelling" (e.g. averaging estimates over several models).

TOR 1

Provide the evaluation (Q1,Q2,Q3 according to the methodology discussed in PLEN 26-01 and PLEN 26-02) for the compensation measures taken in 2026 (according to Table in Annex 1and by reporting the estimated values by measure in a similarly structured table) and the remaining ones listed in Art 8 of Council Regulation 2026/226 on the basis of the ad hoc contracts.

Consider the results of the ad hoc contract estimating/validating the upper Fmsy range for the most vulnerable stock by EMU and replace Fmsy by Fupper where possible.

Building on 2026 STECF ad-hoc contracts (for France, Italy and Spain for IAM, ISIS-Fish, BEMTOOL and SMART), which should provide:

- An analysis of VMS and e-logbook data (confidential data provided by Member States through a MARE ad hoc data call and shared by JRC within the ad hoc contracts) for i) a data driven compensation measure evaluation by crossing with FLStock data (delivered by EWG 26-09, by 11 September); ii) use to condition the bioeconomic models

- Compare 2 or 3 years ago simulation outcomes with actual recent FDI x FLstock data to deduce how compensatory effects have performed and see if granted extra days associated with CM were having the expected effects

- Parametrisation of the spatial models based on the most up-to-date, high-resolution data available on fleet activity, fishing effort, and catch

TOR 2

In line with the conclusions of the EWG Methods (26-03) and of PLEN 26-02, list and describe upfront the assumptions and uncertainties associated with the producing the Fmsy fishing effort days in 2027. Clearly describe what cannot be simulated or what are the assumptions implications in the intermediate year and in the projection year (2027, and beyond):

1. how the compensatory measures (CMs) could impact stock developments (i.e. how the CMs are in practice translated into the modelling mechanism),
2. how the biological uncertainties impact the level of stock recruitment (recruitment assumptions),
3. how the effort reduction could be implemented:
    a. effort reduction applied homogeneously across fleet segments or
    b. effort reduction proportional to partial F of the "most vulnerable stock
    c. catch limits, computed upfront of effort or a posteriori or disjoint

TOR 3

A. On the basis of the advice from EWG 26-09 and in line with the agreed protocol for information sharing between EWG 26-09 and 26-10, produce the 2027 fishing effort advice for each Member State fleets to achieve Fmsy for the most vulnerable stock in Effort Management Units (EMU) 1 and 2 according to the methodology and the scenarios described above (*cf.* Basic scenarios). The full scenario description is in Annex II and the format for providing the fishing effort levels should be in line with Annex III.

- 2027 Fishing days at Fmsy (or Fmsy upper if available) for the most vulnerable stocks with compensation measures taken in 2026 (adopted and implemented by Member States in 2026, see Annex I and supplementary information) and without compensation measures for 2027 onwards (A), should be discussed by:
    - Accounting for the effect of compensation measures adopted and implemented by Member States in 2026 according to Annex I. This work should account for the evaluability work and the ad hoc contracts including the analysis of VMS and e-logbook data
    - Applying the methodology outlined by PLEN 26-02 and in particular the level of fishing days should stem from the bioeconomic and spatial models (IAM, ISISFISH, BEMTOOL and SMART) given each model ahead of the EWG will provide a confidence interval around the effort-FMSY-days according to:
        - effort reductions homogeneous across fleet segments
        - effort reductions according to partialF or landings by GSA
        - biological uncertainty (e.g. recruitment)
- 2027 Fishing days at Fmsy (or Fmsy upper if available) for the most vulnerable stocks with a set of 2027 compensation measures (B), should be computed by applying the same methodology as scenario (A) on the basis of the additional measures:
    - Compensation measures by Member State to be taken in 2027 according to the Annex I
    - Test a capping level on the maximum fishing days (indicated in table below) that can be added to the Fmsy days computed under scenario (A) that would ensure Fmsy level is attained under 2027 compensation measures

	MSs	2024 fishing days (without CM)	CAPmed (circa 2024 level)
EMU 1	ES	73391	73391
	FR	7602	7602
EMU 2	FR	973	973
	IT	59074	59074

B. *cf.* Technical specifications for scenario running:

TOR 4.

On the basis of the simulated scenarios under TOR 3, STECF is requested to include a comprehensive analysis of the socio-economic impacts of the proposed management scenarios on the short term (2027) and long term. The socio-economic indicators should consider the potential effects on gross profit margins, or GVAs and employment levels within the demersal fishing fleets, providing valuable insights for the overall socio-economic sustainability of the sector.

Based on a new advice structure developed in 2026 (PLEN 26-02) and the template tables for outputs (Annex III), provide a synoptic overview of:

- Management advice describing the scenarios, the main assumptions and providing for the fishing days by fleet segment and country (point 1. Final advice tables in Annex III),
- (ii) the biological indicators expressed as cacthes, F over FMsy and SSB over Bpa and Blim and
- (iii) socio-economic indicators in relative terms (expressed as % variation compared to baseline)

These outputs for the West Med MAP management scenarios developed under TOR 3 should be Technical Annexes of the EWG report. Advice should be unified between the available models. Single model specifications and outputs should be documented in digital technical document.

Annex I

Table 1. Actual 2026 compensation measure implemented by Member States and likely measures planned for 2027and their level of "evaluability" by the set of EWG Effort models. Evaluability is understood in three classes:

- Class Q1 (Quantitative) is validated relationships between the fishing mortality, and the management plan exist and all required data are available. Fishing days equivalent to the measure can be estimated for compensation.
- Class Q2 (Semi-quantitative): Validated relationships exist BUT required data are incomplete. Fishing days cannot be estimated.
- Class Q3 (Qualitative): Neither validated relationships nor sufficient data exist. Fishing days cannot be estimated

scenario	Member State	CMs in 2026	Possible CMs in 2027	"Evaluability" (see STECF PLEN 26-01 TOR 7.2)
	Spain	Selectivity measures i.e. 45mm (coastal) and 50mm (deep water) for the entire fleet => 92% granted, as a combination of 55% and 37%, according to ES calculations, disputed by COM	Selectivity measures i.e. 45mm (coastal) and 50mm (deep water) for the entire fleet	Q1, Q2, Q3, depending on data availability Selectivity change would affect landings size composition, therefore interacting with the catch limits measure
		Spatio temporal closure according to national decree of 2026 (but not notified as a CM)	Spatio temporal closures similar to the ones in 2026	Q1, Q2, Q3, depending on data availability Effort displacement uncertainty; model sensitivity high; long simulations required
		Flying doors equipped on 301 fishing vessels (but not notified as a CM)	Flying doors equipped on at least 301 fishing vessels	
			800m ban for all trawlers	Q2, unless scientific survey data become available Displacement uncertainty; model sensitivity high; long simulations. What is required is survey coverage below 800m
	France	Selectivity measures, i.e., 45mm (26 trawlers from 1st of January 2026, with 37% effort granted, and 17 from the 1st of May, with 30 % effort granted)	Selectivity measures, i.e., 45mm (all trawlers from 1st of January 2027)	Q1, Q2, Q3, depending on data availability Selectivity change would affect landings size composition, therefore

				interacting with the catch limits measure
		800m ban for all trawlers => 5% effort granted.	800m ban for all trawlers	Q2, unless scientific survey data become available Displacement uncertainty; model sensitivity high; long simulations. What is required is survey coverage below 800m
		6 consecutive weeks closure period (no fishing activities at depth 100m and 500, between February and September) => 12% effort granted	6 consecutive weeks closure period (no fishing activities at depth 100m and 500, between February and September)	Q2 Seasonal effort reallocation uncertainty; Model sensitivity high; Long simulations required
	Italy	800m ban for all trawlers => 5% effort granted.	800m ban for all trawlers	Q2, unless scientific survey data become available Displacement uncertainty; model sensitivity high; long simulations. What is required is survey coverage below 800m
		4 weeks closure (01-30 October) => 18% effort granted.	4 weeks closure (01-30 October)	Q2 Seasonal effort reallocation uncertainty; Model sensitivity high; Long simulations required
		Permanent cessation of around 11% of the OTB fleet in GSA 9-10-11 => 30% effort granted (see in detail the final list of trawlers leaving the fishing fleet and timeline of decommissioning)	According to IT, permanent cessation cannot be repeated in 2027. However, they insist to test/consider the enduring effect of the permanent cessation done in 2026 also in 2027	Q2, Q3 Not necessarily linked to a reduction in fishing mortality if, in a system based on effort quotas, total activity remains constant

Annex II

Table 2. Management Scenarios for FO2027

scenario	Member State	CMs in 2026	Possible CMs in 2027	Catch limit ARS & ARA	Effort limit HKE (LLS)	Capping 2027 in line with Tor 3
A	Spain	Selectivity measures i.e. 45mm (coastal) and 50mm (deep water) for the entire fleet => 92% granted, as a combination of 55% and 37%, according to ES calculations, disputed by COM		Level from FO in 2026 and roll over	Level from FO in 2026 and roll over	Yes
		Spatio temporal closure according to national decree of 2026 (but not notified as a CM)				
		Flying doors equipped on 301 fishing vessels (but not notified as a CM)				
B	Spain	Selectivity measures i.e. 45mm (coastal) and 50mm (deep water) for the entire fleet => 92% granted, as a combination of 55% and 37%, according to ES calculations, disputed by COM	Selectivity measures i.e. 45mm (coastal) and 50mm (deep water) for the entire fleet	Level from FO in 2026 and roll over	Level from FO in 2026 and roll over	Yes
		Spatio temporal closure according to national decree of 2026 (but not notified as a CM)	Spatio temporal closures similar to the ones in 2026			
		Flying doors equipped on 301 fishing vessels (but not notified as a CM)	Flying doors equipped on at least 301 fishing vessels			

			800m ban for all trawlers			
A	France	Selectivity measures, i.e., 45mm (26 trawlers from 1st of January 2026, with 37% effort granted, and 17 from the 1st of May, with 30 % effort granted)		Level from FO in 2026 and roll over	Level from FO in 2026 and roll over	Yes
		800m ban for all trawlers => 5% effort granted.				
		6 consecutive weeks closure period (no fishing activities at depth 100m and 500, between February and September) => 12% effort granted				
B	France	Selectivity measures, i.e., 45mm (26 trawlers from 1st of January 2026, with 37% effort granted, and 17 from the 1st of May, with 30 % effort granted)	Selectivity measures, i.e., 45mm (all trawlers from 1st of January 2027)	Level from FO in 2026 and roll over	Level from FO in 2026 and roll over	Yes
		800m ban for all trawlers => 5% effort granted.	800m ban for all trawlers			
		6 consecutive weeks closure period (no fishing activities at depth 100m and 500, between February and September) => 12% effort granted	6 consecutive weeks closure period (no fishing activities at depth 100m and 500, between February and September)			
A	Italy	800m ban for all trawlers => 5% effort granted.		Level from FO in	Level from FO in	Yes

		4 weeks closure (01-30 October) => 18% effort granted.		2026 and roll over	2026 and roll over	
		Permanent cessation of around 11% of the OTB fleet in GSA 9-10-11 => 30% effort granted (see in detail the final list of trawlers leaving the fishing fleet and timeline of decommissioning)				
B	Italy	800m ban for all trawlers => 5% effort granted.	800m ban for all trawlers	Level from FO in 2026 and roll over	Level from FO in 2026 and roll over	Yes
		4 weeks closure (01-30 October) => 18% effort granted.	4 weeks closure (01-30 October)			
		Permanent cessation of around 11% of the OTB fleet in GSA 9-10-11 => 30% effort granted (see in detail the final list of trawlers leaving the fishing fleet and timeline of decommissioning)	According to IT, permanent cessation cannot be repeated in 2027. However, they insist to test/consider the enduring effect of the permanent cessation done in 2026 also in 2027			

Annex III

Templates of tables for outputs

1. Final Advice Tables (= to ANNEX IV of FO Med)

1) Table 3.1 Maximum allowable fishing effort (in fishing days) **with no** Compensation Measures in 2027 in EMU1

Number of fishing days for trawlers in the Alboran Sea, Balearic Islands, Northern Spain and Gulf of Lion (GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and7)

Stock group	**Overall length of vessels**	**Spain**	**France**	**Fishing effort group code**
Red mullet in GSAs 1, 5, 6 and 7; hake in GSAs 1, 5, 6 and 7; deep-water rose shrimp in GSAs 1, 5 and 6; Norway lobster in GSAs 5 and 6	<12m	**XX effort days (+/- CI)**	**XX effort days (+/- CI)**	EFF1/MED1_TR1
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m			EFF1/MED1_TR2
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m			EFF1/MED1_TR3
	≥ 24 m			EFF1/MED1_TR4
Blue and red shrimp in GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7	<12m			EFF2/MED1_TR1

	≥ 12 m and < 18 m			EFF2/MED1_TR2
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m			EFF2/MED1_TR3
	≥ 24 m			EFF2/MED1_TR4

2) Table 3.2 Maximum allowable fishing effort (in fishing days) **with** Compensation Measures in 2027 in EMU1

Number of fishing days for trawlers in the Alboran Sea, Balearic Islands, Northern Spain and Gulf of Lion (GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and7)

Stock group	**Overall length of vessels**	**Spain**	**France**	**Additional allocation code**
Red mullet in GSAs 1, 5, 6 and 7; hake in GSAs 1, 5, 6 and 7; deep-water rose shrimp	<12m	XX days (linked to compensation measures XYZ)	XX days (linked to compensation measures XYZ)	EFF1/MED1_TR1_AA
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m			EFF1/MED1_TR2_AA

in GSAs 1, 5 and 6; Norway lobster in GSAs 5 and 6	≥ 18 m and < 24 m			EFF1/MED1_TR3_AA
	≥ 24 m			EFF1/MED1_TR4_AA
Blue and red shrimp in GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7	<12m			EFF2/MED1_TR1_AA
	≥ 12 m and < 18 m			EFF2/MED1_TR2_AA
	≥ 18 m and < 24 m			EFF2/MED1_TR3_AA
	≥ 24 m			EFF2/MED1_TR4_AA

3) Table 3.3 Maximum allowable fishing effort (in fishing days) **with no** Compensation Measures in 2027 in EMU2 (use similar template as above)
4) Table 3.4 Maximum allowable fishing effort (in fishing days) **with** Compensation Measures in 2027 in EMU2 (use similar template as above)

2. Biological outputs for all West Med stocks

Table 4.1 Total catches by management scenarios for 2027 for single-stock advice and scenarios:

Stock	Single-stock catch advice for 2027	Catches per scenario 2027 (in tons)			
		A	B	C	D
One line per stock					

Table 4.2 Fishing Mortality (F) by management scenarios for 2027 for single-stock advice and scenarios:

Stock	Single-stock advice F/FMsy for 2027	F/Fmsy(2027) resulting from scenario			
		A	B	C	D
One line per stock					

Legend:

	F2026 / Fmsy

Table 4.3 Spawning stock biomass (SSB) by management scenarios for 2026 for single-stock advice and scenarios:

Stock	Single-stock advice SSB for 2027	SSB(2027) resulting from scenario			
		A	B	C	D
One line per stock					

Legend:

	SSB2026 /Bpa
	SSB2026 / Blim

3. Socio-economic outputs for all West Med stocks

As in previous years since 2022, the scenarios' socio-economic outputs should be summarized in a table with estimates in 2026 (short-term) and by 2030 (mid-term), for each fleet segment and each Member State the landings of the main stocks could be used to calculate the socio-economic indicators:

Table 5. Synthesis table for scenarios

Scenarios	MS	Estimated variation of landings of target species (% change of landings 2026 - 2027)	Estimated variation of profitability (% change of gross profit margin 2026 - 2027)	Estimated variation of employment (% change of on-board FTE 2026 - 2027)
A	ES			
	FR			
	IT			
B	ES			
	FR			
	IT			
C	ES			
	FR			
	IT			
D	ES			
	FR			
	IT			

Table 6. Long-term performance table for scenarios

Scenarios	MS	Estimated variation of landings of target species (% change of landings AVG(2020-2026) - 2030)	Estimated variation of profitability (% change of gross profit margin AVG(2020-2026) - 2030)	Estimated variation of employment (% change of on-board FTE AVG(2020-2026) - 2030)	Estimated Number of fleet segments in green (Nbr of vessels AVG(2026 - 2030))
A	ES				
	FR				
	IT				
B	ES				
	FR				
	IT				
C	ES				
	FR				
	IT				
D	ES				
	FR				
	IT				