



Ministero delle politiche alimentari agricole e forestali

DIPARTIMENTO DELLE POLITICHE EUROPEE E INTERNAZIONALI
DIREZIONE GENERALE DELLA PESCA MARITTIMA
E DELL'ACQUACOLTURA

**Italian Annual Report on the activities performed in 2012
under the National Data Collection Programs under Council
Regulation (EC) N° 199/2008 and Commission Regulation
(EC) N° 665/2008**

**National Program 2011-2013
Reference year 2012**

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I General framework

In accordance with the Community Regulations concerning the collection of fishery data, the present annual report illustrates the activities performed in pursuance of national program 2012¹ by providing a detailed description of the progress attained with a view to the accomplishment of the objectives established upon definition of the minimum program and of the extended one.

There have been no major changes in approach compared to the year before. In implementing the 2012 NP, consistency with data and time series collected under the previous years has been ensured. A particular attention has been given to the regional approach and compliance with RCMed&BS recommendations has been ensured.

In compiling the present report, we have applied the “Guidelines for the amendment of National Programmes 2011-13 for the year 2013” (EC Commission Ref. Ares(2012)847827 - 11/07/2012), in particular regarding the Reference Years, for which the guidelines state that: “MS can choose whether or not to update the reference years in the text and tables of the amended NP. If a Member State updates the reference years, they do not need to resubmit their amended National Programme to the Commission, but should report on this in their Annual Report”.

The following table provides the list of derogations.

Short title of derogation	NP proposal section	Type of data – Variables	Region	Derogation approved or rejected	Year of approval or rejection	Reason/justification for derogation
Metièr: Hand and pole line for cephalopods (LHP_LHM_CEP_0_0_0) in the GSA 19	III.C	Metier related variables	Mediterranean Sea	A	2009	Pilot study in 2011 to assess the low and sporadic impact of the fishery
Discards: Trammel net for demersal species (GTR_DES_>=16_0_0)	III.C	Discards	Mediterranean Sea	A	2009	Pilot studies in 2005 and 2011 Pilot study in 2011 to assess the low and sporadic impact of discards
Discards: Set gillnet for demersal fish (GNS_DEF_>=16_0_0)	III.C	Discards	Mediterranean Sea	A	2009	Pilot studies in 2005 and 2011 Pilot study in 2011 to assess the low and sporadic impact of discards
Discards: Purse seine for small pelagic fish (PS_SPF_>=14_0_0)	III.C	Discards	Mediterranean Sea	A	2009	Pilot studies in 2005 and 2011 Pilot study in 2011 to assess the low and sporadic impact of discards
Discards: Beach and boat seine for demersal species (SB_SV_DES_0_0_0)	III.C	Discards	Mediterranean Sea	A	2009	Pilot studies in 2005 and 2011 Pilot study in 2011

¹ Italian National Programme 2011-2013, English version of December 2010

						to assess the low and sporadic impact of discards
Discards: Set longline for demersal fish (LLS_DEF_0_0_0)	III.C	Discards	Mediterranean Sea	A	2009	Pilot studies in 2005 and 2011 Pilot study in 2011 to assess the low and sporadic impact of discards
Discards: Drifnets for small pelagic fish (GND_SPF_0_0_0)	III.C	Discards	Mediterranean Sea	A	2009	Pilot studies in 2005 and 2011 Pilot study in 2011 to assess the low and sporadic impact of discards
Stock: Mugilidae	III.E	Stock related variables	Mediterranean Sea	A	2009	< 200 tons, it is a complex of species and it is mostly caught in lagoons
<i>Coryphaena equiselis</i>	III.E	Stock related variables	Mediterranean Sea	A	2009	< 200 tons
Stock: <i>Sparus aurata</i>	III.E	Stock related variables	Mediterranean Sea	A	2009	< 200 tons over the last 5 years period The production is very variable from one year to another. It is mostly caught in lagoons. Only a small fraction is by catch of demersal trawlers and small scale fishery
Stock: <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>	III.E	Stock related variables	Mediterranean Sea	A	2009	< 200 tons
Stock: Collection of “Stock variables” related to all shark species with the exception of <i>Raja clavata</i>	III.E	Stock related variables	Mediterranean Sea	A	2009	As agreed at Regional Level shark species have been collected concurrently only for length. No stock-based sampling has been added if metier based sampling fails to provide the appropriate precision for length distributions (see paragraph III_E_2)

Number of fishing operations for purse seiners	III.F (Effort)	EFFORT	Mediterranean Sea	A	2009	This information is not required in the logbooks and it is also very difficult to be obtained through questionnaires. Fisherman does not record this information because it does not affect in any way nor the production or the operating costs.
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Insert 'a' for approved or 'r' for rejected

II National data collection organisation

II A National correspondent and participating institutes

The Italian national correspondent pursuant to Article 6(3) of the implementing regulation is:

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According to article 9 of the Commission Regulation 1078/2008, laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 861/2006, the Italian administration has been assisted by partners for the implementation of the national programme.

A call for tender has been launched on the August 2010 to select institutes with the necessary experience and qualification to assist the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Policies in the implementation of the National Program 2011-2013².

After the evaluation of the received candidatures, the selected partner is the consortium constituted by:

CIBM (GSA 9)

Viale Nazario Sauro, 4, 57128 – LIVORNO

² Selezione pubblica per la scelta di organismi aventi i requisiti idonei per assistere il Ministero delle politiche agricole alimentari e forestali nell'esecuzione del Programma Nazionale 2011 – 2013, avviso pubblicato sulla Gazzetta Ufficiale della Repubblica Italiana n. 196 del 21 agosto 2010.

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The following table describes the activities carried out by each institute:

Institute	Activity
CIBM	MEDIT GSA 9 Biological sampling GSA 9 Ecosystem indicators GSA 9
COISPA	MEDIT GSA 10 and GSA 18 Biological sampling GSA 10 and GSA 19 Biological sampling demersal species, GSA 18 Ecosystem indicators, GSA 10 and GSA 18
Università di Cagliari	MEDIT GSA 11 Biological sampling GSA 11 Ecosystem indicators GSA 11
CNR IAMC	MEDIT GSA 16 Biological sampling, GSA 16 MEDIAS GSA 16, GSA 10 and GSA 9 Ecosystem indicators, GSA 16
Laboratorio Fano	MEDIT GSA 17
Università di Bari	MEDIT GSA 19 Ecosystem indicators, GSA 19
CNR ISMAR	Biological sampling, GSA 17 Biological sampling, small pelagics, GSA 18 MEDIAS GSA 17 and GSA 18 Ecosystem indicators GSA 17
Unimar	Biological sampling large pelagics Recreational fishery, blue fine tune (BFT) Economic data aquaculture sector
Irepa onlus	Economic data fishing fleet Transversal data Economic data processing industry Ecosystem indicators: fuel efficiency
Università Roma Tor Vergata	Eel data collection (biological sampling and recreational fishery) Ecosystem indicators 5, 6 e 7 (VMS)

One national meeting for co-ordination have been organised in 2012 (Mazara del Vallo, May 2012). Research institutes taking part of the implementation of the national program attended the meeting. The coordination meeting discussed the following issues:

- Implementation of 2012 NP, problems and activities carried out
- Surveys and future activities
- Compilation of data sets for meeting data calls requests and revision of time table for sending the data to the administration
- State of art of the revision of the DCF: DCMAP for the period 2014-2020
- Mediterranean Regional Database, roadmap
- Discussion on the presentation of 2013 NP
- Participation to international DCF meetings
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD): interactions with the DCF
- Financial issues
- Establishment of 3 working groups on: eco system indicators, Fisheries Yearbook, GFCM Task 1

An ad hoc scientific Committee manages the National program for the collection of fisheries data. This Committee is composed by the national correspondent and other expert members in the fields of biology, economy and statistics. The scientific Committee is entrusted with the task of co-ordinating the data collection program, monitoring the entire process, proposing adjustments aimed at improving the methodologies of data collection and approval of pilot studies to be conducted within the present national program.

The website “raccolta dati” (<http://raccoltadati.irepa.org/>) is the central point of the system. It presents the data collection framework and activities carried out within this framework to external users (article 8, Commission Regulation 665/2008). The web site is also a web platform for exchange/management of data for the actors involved in the data collection. It is linked with a database storing the aggregated information transmitted by the main institutes responsible for DCF.

II B Regional and International coordination

II B 1 Attendance of International meetings

Standard table II.B.1 indicates which meetings have been attended by Italy.

II B 2 Follow-up of regional and international recommendations

The list of recommendations made by the RCM and LM and actioned by the MS is reported in the following table:

<i>RCM Recommendations, 2010 and 2011</i>	
RCMMed&BS 2010 Recommendations	Actions
The RCMMed&BS recognizing that the clustering procedure, when performed, must strictly follow the statistical methodology. The guidance drawn up by SGECA, setting out the different approaches, should be followed. Further work be undertaken at a regional level, through the RCMs.	Guidelines on clustering have been followed
The RCMMed&BS recommends that MSs perform checks on the quality of their data and that further work be undertaken before RCMs in order to facilitate the recommended comparability checks within regions.	Italy has followed the revised guidelines for preparation of AR which requires very detailed information on quality checks
The RCMMed&BS recommends that the proposed study to harmonize quality reporting be undertaken. In particular, a detailed methodology for non probability sampling must be proposed. In addition to the ToRs proposed by SGECA 2009-02, RCMMed&BS recommends to evaluate the methodological reports and check the practice of MSs related to the types of data collection. Furthermore, the subgroup proposes more detailed information on how MSs calculate the quality indicator (CV) in their NP.	
RCMMed&BS recommends all MS to follow strictly the metiers reference list established at the regional level (RCMMed&BS 2009 report). If the combination between gear and target assemblage does not correspond to an identified reference metier of level 6, the national metier must be	Italy has strictly followed the metier level 6 reference list agreed at Regional level

registered as a Miscellaneous one (Misc.), ranked as the other metiers and described in the NP and the required forms if sorted by the ranking system.	
RCMMed&BS recommends all MS to follow strictly the SGRN guidelines in terms of coding and naming conventions and also the reference lists of metiers established by the RCM at the regional level. Technical tables must be filled in English. Otherwise SGRN is invited to revise NP and TR guidelines as some discrepancies yet exist between texts and technical tables' samples, in order to ensure unambiguous documenting and coding of gears, metiers, fishing grounds etc... and to avoid fastidious and time consuming validation before tables' analysis and ranking process.	Italy has followed the SGRN guidelines in terms of coding and naming conventions and also the reference lists of metiers established by the RCM at the regional level.
By processing the national technical table III.C.1 to perform ranking systems at different geographic scales, RCMMed&BS met difficulties by lack of information on some metiers, concerning one or several required ranking parameters (effort, landings and/or value). These gaps may bias the outcomes of the rankings carried out at international level or combining several GSAs, mainly for metiers targeting species of high commercial value. RCMMed&BS recommends all MS to complete their national table III.C.1 (in compliance with the Guidelines 2009) to assess the real national and regional importance of each metier identified by MS in conformity with the DCF regulation.	Italy has completed the national table III.C.1 in compliance with the Guidelines 2009.
RCMMed&BS recommends to strictly following the output of the proposed table made up in the PGMed 2010 for the metiers to sample for discards.	Italy agreed with this recommendation and, in the NP, has adapted the discards sampling table following the Regional decision. (see Module III.C)
For the purposes of optimizing the spatial, time and metiers coverage of the discard sampling program, RCMMed&BS recommends MS to revise the discards sampling program and the table on discards metadata (prepared during the RCMMed&BS 2010 but still to finalize) in order to provide missing information regarding the non sampling of certain métier.	Italy has provided missing information regarding the non sampling of certain métier.
The RCMMed&BS revised the group 3 species and recommends as agreed in 2008 as minimal list of Group 3 species for the Mediterranean the 11 following species (already present in the Medits reference list): <i>Aspitrigla cuculus</i> , <i>Citharus linguatula</i> , <i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i> , <i>Lepidorhombus boscai</i> , <i>Pagellus acarne</i> , <i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i> , <i>Phycis blennoides</i> , <i>Spicara flexuosa</i> , <i>Trigloporus lastoviza</i> , <i>Trisopterus minutus capelanus</i> , <i>Zeus faber</i> . A list of species of local interest (i.e. Cyprus GSA 25) has been suggested in 2008 (<i>Siganus sp.</i> , <i>Pagrus pagrus</i> ,	Italy agreed with the proposed RCMMed&BS group 3 species

<i>Diplodus sargus</i> , <i>Diplodus vulgaris</i> , <i>Sparisoma cretense</i> and <i>Spicara maena</i> .) and another one has been added by France this year (e.g <i>Palinurus elephas</i>).	
The RCMMed&BS 2010 recommends that all the Mediterranean countries that are not performing biological samplings on eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>) in Mediterranean area should present their grounds for not doing it. RCMMed&BS reminds that eel is Group 1 species and is under Recovery Plan. Metier data (i.e. length frequencies distribution) shall be collected by MS. Stock related variables (sex, age, weight and maturity) should be also collected. In case eel Stock variables are not collected justification shall be provided.	. Italy is performing biological samplings on eel
RCMMed&BS considers that sampling of recreational fisheries on eel in marine waters is not necessary, this activity not really being a real targeted practice.	Italy is collecting data on recreational fishery of eel in inland waters in compliance with DCF requirements
RCMMed&BS recommends MS to provide landings data of the previous year of the species presented in Appendix VII of the Commission Decision 2010/93/EU as requested by the PGMed templates. The Group reminds that, if landings data are not disaggregated by species the data quality of the results will be affected. In the Comm. Dec. 93/2010 the exemption rules for the Mediterranean Stock, in order to justify the derogations on sampling stock related variables, stated that “the landings by weight of a Mediterranean Member State for a species corresponding to less than 10 % of the total Community landings from the Mediterranean Sea”. Following this issue, the group recommends to all MS to send the required landing data at species level.	Italy, since 5 years, provides landing data disaggregated at species level as requested by the Appendix VII of the Commission Decision 2010/93/EU
RCMMed&BS 2011 recommended each MS to organize the stock related variables sampling for large pelagic along the three years period, accordingly to their own suitability. MS should adjust their NP accordingly to these results.	Italy followed this decision, and will organize the stock related variables sampling for large pelagic along the three years period
Transversal variables: common understanding of effort definitions	Italy is still waiting for indication from SGRN if the collection of effort variables should be optional for the metier not-selected by the ranking system. In the meantime all métier are covered.
RCMMed&BS recommends to discuss and agree about the characteristics and methodological aspects for an autumn survey, for clarifying the objectives, geographical distribution, number of sampling stations and complementary sampling methods, in order to define a new survey complementary to spring MEDITS	Italy agreed with this recommendation and fully supported a second demersal survey (during autumn period) in the Mediterranean sea.
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendations	Actions
Regional data base – Reconsidering	Italy is agreed with this recommendation and with

RCMMed&BS position on RDB MSs participated to RCMMed&BS 2011 (except Spain) in view of: i) the general trend of DCF to improve the use of data collected under the DCF; ii) the improvements to facilitate extraction of validated datasets under common formats by implementing RDB; iii) the LM, SGRN and STECF recommendations pushing MS to collaborate for implementing such data bases at least at RCM level; iv) the possible changes in stocks assessment (i.e. a better knowledge on stocks boundaries for the Mediterranean species); v) the increasing GFCM requirements, especially with annual Task 1 data calls; vi) the future DCF requirements, have reconsidered their position on the usefulness and adequacy of a Mediterranean RDB not only reduced to large pelagic issues and surveys. RCMMed&BS will carry out an analysis on the relevant perimeter to facilitate the implementation of a RDB, the MS works and to improve efficiency through a broader RDB for Mediterranean and Black Sea.	the proposed roadmap
Regional data base – Which issues and covering for a Mediterranean RDB? To analyse the relevant perimeter and covering of the future Mediterranean RDB, RCMMed&BS recommends to PGMed 2012 to propose priorities in terms of thematic issues, types of data and aggregation levels. RCMMed&BS recommends also the creation of a steering committee to review PGMed conclusions and to propose a framework and a roadmap to NCs and to RCMMed&BS for advice, at the latest before next RCMMed&BS meeting.	Italy is agreed with this recommendation and will wait the work made by the steering committee and the analysis that will be made during the RCMMed&BS 2012 to evaluate the progress and the state of the RDB roadmap
Review feedback from data end users: Data call Following the difficulties encountered by MS in transmitting information through a number of data calls during 2010 and 2011 in different data exchange formats, RCMMed&BS 2011 strongly reiterates the 2010 recommendation concerning data calls and transmission of data (endorsed by Liaison Meeting 2010): respect of legal provisions to deliver data calls (1 month); provide clearer indications on variables; standardize data exchange formats of the request; respect DCF format without changing format from year to year.	Italy strongly supported this recommendation
Review feedback from data end users: Data presentation Following a review of the 2011-2013 NPs of the Mediterranean MS concerning the availability of the data to end users (see data presentation in each section of NPs), the group recommends MS to agree on a harmonized time period required for	Italy strongly supported this recommendation

data to be available for transmission to end users. The group suggests, for all transversal and biological data collected, a time period of 6 months following the reference year of the collection of data; this time period should be respected by the data calls and the end users.	
The RCMMed&BS recommends establishing a planning group (PGECON) to discuss methodological and coordination issues related to the economic modules of the DCF. In this way, participation of economists in the RCM would be facilitated because the planning group would ensure the presentation of appropriate ToRs. It is noted that in the SGECA meetings, participants are independent experts and not experts who are directly involved in the implementation of National Programs	Italy attended and hosted the first PGECON meeting
The Group supports the creation of database for economic data and recommends furthering investigating this proposal in order to review different implementing procedures. A steering Committee should be established to decide who will administrate Database, what data should be included and access rules.	Italy will cooperate for the implementation of database for economic data
RCM is aware that utility will be much better if economic data are collected at GSA level but, there are methodological issues that need to be addressed first, in order to allocate costs to different sub-areas. RCM recommends SGECA (EWG 11-18) to address these methodological issues and to propose appropriate procedures.	Italy will follow any method that will be suggested in the future
RCM is aware that too many data calls take place each year requiring too much administrative costs to MS, especially having in mind that every data call contains the whole set of data available. Given that the new DCF does not oblige for the data to be destroyed after 20 days, the Group does not realize why the same set of data are required more than once in the same year and in different formats every time. The Group suggests that one coordinated data call takes place each year and the same template/ data format is applied each year.	Italy supports the simplification on data call procedures
RCMMed&BS recommends to continue the exercise carried out during PGMed reviewing yearly the sampling figures for métier related variables (length) and to estimate CV at regional level. RCMMed&BS 2011 recommend maintaining the sampling levels calculated in the PGMed 2011. MS should adjust their NP accordingly to these results.	Italy agreed with the RCMMed&BS recommendation and followed the sampling intensity suggested by PGMed 2011
RCMMed&BS recommends to continue the exercise carried out during PGMed 2011 reviewing yearly the sampling figures for métier related variables and to estimate CV at regional	Italy agreed with the RCMMed&BS recommendation and followed the sampling intensity suggested by PGMed 2011

level for shared stocks (GSA 7, GSA 15-16 and GSA 17). MS should adjust their NP accordingly to these results.	
By processing the national technical tables III.C.1 to perform ranking systems at different geographic scales, PGMed met difficulties by lack of information on some métiers, concerning one or several required ranking parameters (i.e. value). These gaps may bias the outcomes of the rankings carried out at international level or combining several GSAs, mainly for métiers targeting species of high commercial value. RCMMed&BS recommends all MS to complete their national table III.C.1 (in compliance with the Guidelines 2009) to assess the real national and regional importance of each métier identified by MS in conformity with the DCF regulation.	Italy completed the national table reported in the excel sheet III.C.1 in compliance with the Guidelines 2009
All MS should provide data and information required to PGMed in the appropriate formats in order to facilitate the work and to make possible the scope of the results during this methodological group	Italy agreed with this recommendation and will provide the requested data in appropriate formats
The RCMMed&BS revised the group 3 species and recommends adding the following 6 species: <i>Diplodus annularis</i>, <i>D. puntazzo</i>, <i>Lithognathus mormyrus</i>, <i>Polyprion americanus</i>, <i>Homarus gammarus</i> and <i>Pecten jacobaeus</i>. The RCMMed&BS 2011 consider that is not necessary to include the G3 species in the common landing template because of the aim of this template is to justify the derogations on sampling stock related variables in accordance with the DCF requirements to G1 and G2 species. The Group reminds also that Group 3 species are only selected for length distribution and not other parameters (i.e. age, sex and maturity) must be collected.	Italy agreed with this recommendation and with the proposed list of species
Large pelagic issue: RCMMed&BS 2011 strongly recommends that the large pelagic species included in the Appendix VII of DCF Decision under the Mediterranean and Black Sea remain under the responsibility of the RCMMed&BS, for what concern the data collection (the minimum number of individual that each Member States must sample; the collection of stock related variables) and Regional coordination issues (the CV calculation as requested by EC Reg. 193/2010 must be calculated at stock level and for large pelagic this requires a Regional approach). For BFT, the only tuna or tuna like species which is not a Mediterranean single stock, a collaboration is required with the RCM LDF concerning the east Atlantic part of the stock.	Italy strongly supported this recommendation and welcomes the effort put by the PGMed group trying to follow a Regional approach for the large pelagic species.
Large pelagic issue: Concerning the east bluefin stock (Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean sea),	Italy is fully agreed with this recommendation

the RCMMed&BS recommend that the métier related data (i.e. length) collected by MS participating in RCM LDF (Portugal, France, Spain) should provided data to the PGMed, for a complete estimation of the relevant CVs of the bluefin. The analysis of the data should be discussed in both relevant RCMs (RCMMed&BS and RCM LDF).	
Concerning the issue on large pelagic, RCMMed&BS recommends to continue the exercise carried out during PGMed 2011 reviewing yearly the sampling figures for métier related (length) and to estimate CV at regional level. MS should adjust their NP accordingly to these results. Moreover, RCMMed&BS recommend using the conversion table finalized during the meeting to transmit the data to the different end-users (i.e. ICCAT and/or European Commission).	Italy agreed with this recommendation and has adapted the sampling scheme following the Regional decision.
MEDITs survey - RCMMed&BS recommends to the next Medits steering committee the finalization of the MEDITs manual. This manual must be ready before the start of the 2012 Medits surveys.	This recommendation has been addressed by the Medits 2011 steering Committee (Slovenia, March 2011) and Italy will follow the agreement reached at Regional Level.
MEDIAS survey - RCMMed&BS recommends to the MEDIAS group to emphasize the current state of development of the Regional Database for MEDIAS surveys and report it to the RCMMed&BS	Italy will follow the output of the 2011 Medias steering committee and the following decision of the RCMMed&BS 2012
RCMMed&BS recommends to those groups which work under its umbrella (i.e. PGMed, MEDITs and MEDIAS steering groups) to clearly follow the Terms of References defined and to inform about the resulting discussion in their annual reports	This recommendation has been addressed both by the Medits and Medias steering Committee and Italy will follow the agreement reached at Regional Level.
RCMMed&BS and RCM Long Distance Fishery 2011 Recommendations	Actions
Considering that the quality of the work of the ICCAT working groups depends on the adequate participation of experts, the two groups strongly recommend the participation of experts to the ICCAT scientific meetings. It is reminded that ICCAT scientific meetings are eligible for participation under the DCF.	Italy agreed with this recommendation and invited experts to participate to the ICCAT working groups
The two groups propose a joined workshop among ICCAT representatives, scientists involved in large pelagic sampling, as well as representatives from RCM LDF and RCM MED&BS in order to harmonize the biological sampling issues on large pelagic and specify additional data or modifications that should be included in the future DCF, taking into account the ICCAT requirements for stock assessment.	Italy agreed with this recommendation
Considering that the current DCF does not allow any changes on the codification of métiers, the	Italy strictly followed the SGRN guidelines in terms of coding and naming conventions and also

two groups recommend all MS involved in tuna and tuna-like fisheries to strictly follow the SGRN guidelines in terms of coding and naming conventions and also the reference list of métiers agreed by both groups at levels 6 and 7. For the transmission of data to the relevant RFMO (i.e. ICCAT), the conversion tables (see Annex IV of the present report) adopted by the two groups should be used.	the reference list of métiers at levels 6 and 7.
Economic variables The RCM Med&BS recommends establishing a planning group (PGECON) to discuss methodological and coordination issues related to the economic modules of the DCF. In this way, participation of economists in the RCM would be facilitated because the planning group would ensure the presentation of appropriate TORs. It is noted that in the SGECA meetings, participants are independent experts and not experts who are directly involved in the implementation of National Programs Through the PGECON, proposals for workshops and/or studies could be transmitted to the RCM for endorsement	Italy hosted and attended the first PGECON meeting
Economic variables. The Group supports the creation of regional database for economic data and recommends to further investigate this proposal in order to review different implementing procedures. A steering Committee should be established to decide who will administrate Database, what data should be included and access rules.	Italy will collaborate for the implementation of such database
Data needs. The Group supports the establishment of a long distance experts group for the preparation of the forthcoming DCF which fully address the data needs in relation to ALL the RFMOs for which the EU is contracting party.	Italy fully supports this initiative
Relationships with end users. The Group recognizes the need of strengthening the links between the DCF and some of the RFMOs for which the EU is contracting party in order to align requirements in terms of data format and structure as well as receiving feed back on data adequacy.	Italy fully supports this initiative
CECAF Sub-Group. Information about fishing activity of Italian fleet in the CECAF area must be completed.	Italy submitted the required additional information
CECAF Sub-Group. The NP of Italy contains text information on a fishery in CECAF area including commitment to sampling, but it is not reflected in the relevant tables.	Italy submitted the required additional information in the tables
Métier variables. Sampling Observer Programme To implement a joint observer program in the fishery of small pelagic in the CECAF area during the years 2012 and 2013	Italy is not involved in this fishery

RCMMed&BS and RCM Long Distance Fishery 2012 Recommendations	Actions
RCMMed&BS, recalling its 2011 recommendation and also the STECF EWG 11-20 recommendation on a harmonized time period required for data to be available for transmission to end-users, recommends that the time period of 6 months following the end of the collection of transversal and biological data is respected by the data calls and the end users. In case this time period of 6 months continues not being respected by the data calls, the Group stresses the importance that the National Correspondents follow a common approach requesting the respect of this time period and NOT submit the data.	Italy agrees with this approach
The Group agreed that the Med&BS RDB will include biological and transversal data. It was decided that economic and survey data will be excluded for the time being from the RDB, following the decision by PGECON to develop one European Database for including economic and transversal data from all supra-regions. The Group agreed that the Mediterranean & Black Sea regional database could be hosted by GFCM and that the Steering Committee for the development of the RDB will include 1 person per MS, 2 economists for the transversal data, the Chairs of Medias and Medits and a GFCM representative. It was further agreed that the RDB steering group will be represented at the planned GFCM Workshop for the finalization of GFCM Task 1 and Task 2.	Italy agrees with this approach
The RCM Med&BS recalls its 2008 recommendation and recommends MS to investigate the accuracy of the geographical origin of landings and effort data (using the VMS data where possible). This information should be reviewed during the next RCM Med & BS.	Italy agrees with this approach
Stock variables: Methodology on biological sampling In the absence of a maturity scale for CECAF stocks, the RCM-LDF recommends for the time being to use the maturity scale established in the ICES WKSPMAT 2008 Workshop.	Italy agrees with this approach
Liaison Meeting 2011	
(22) Concerning Stock variables: stocks with low landings - The RCM ask for some advice or guidelines on data demands for stocks (included in Appendix VII of the Commission Decision 2010/93/EC), which are landed in small amount.	Italy agrees with this suggestion
(35) Concerning Stock variables: Quality issues - RCM NA recommends DG MARE to review the exact needs for biological parameters for each stocks, in close relation with the end-users. In	Italy is in favour of this recommendations

view of the future DCF, if data are not required by any EWG, these should be removed from the Appendix VII.	
(36) Concerning Quality issues : data collection protocols - RCM NA recommends PGCCDBS to reflect on standard ways of drafting sampling protocols, in order to improve the description by MS in their NP proposals and to enable RCM to compare and compile international procedures.	Italy agrees with this suggestion
(37) Quality issues : Stock variables - RCM NA recommends DG MARE and STECF to reflect on the construction on a meta information database to hold the details of the national programmes, with the view of eventually replacing the current set of Excel tables.	Italy is in favour of this recommendations
(38) Concerning Metier variables: Regional ranking - RCM NA recommends STECF to investigate more closely the methods used by MS to deal with <10m transversal variables.	Italy is in favour of this recommendation and will provide information on sampling schemes adopted in relation of < 10 meters vessels
(44) Concerning Metier related variables: Large pelagic sampling - Concerning the issue on large pelagic, RCM Med&BS recommends to continue the exercise carried out during PGMed 2011 reviewing yearly the sampling figures for métier related (length) and to estimate CV at regional level. MS should adjust their NP accordingly to these results. Moreover, RCM Med&BS recommend using the conversion table finalized during the meeting to transmit the data to the different end-users (i.e. ICCAT and/or European Commission).	Italy is attending PGMED and is providing all the basic information for calculating cv and reviewing the sampling figures
(45) Concerning Large pelagic issue: Workshop proposal concerning large pelagic sampling: The two groups (RCM LDF and RCM MED&BS) propose a joined workshop among ICCAT representatives, scientists involved in large pelagic sampling, as well as representatives from RCM LDF and RCM MED&BS in order to harmonize the biological sampling issues on large pelagic and specify additional data or modifications that should be included in the future DCF, taking into account the ICCAT requirements for stock assessment.	Italy is in favor of such proposal
(48) Concerning Economic variables: Data calls - RCM is aware that too many data calls take place each year requiring too much administrative costs to MS, especially having in mind that every data call contains the whole set of data available. Given that the new DCF does not oblige for the data to be destroyed after 20 days, the Group does	Italy supports the idea of moving from a data call approach to a fixed deadline approach

not realize why the same set of data are required more than once in the same year and in different formats every time. The Group suggests that one coordinated data call takes place each year.	
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III Module of the evaluation of the fishing sector

III A General description of the fishing sector

No major changes affected the Italian fishing sector in 2012.

III B Economic variables

Supra region: Mediterranean Sea

III B 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal (Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea)

The purpose of the present module is to attain a statistically significant estimate of the economic parameters in order to analyse the economic situation of the fishery sector in Italy.

The reference period is year 2011. Pursuant to what was established by the agreement between the responsible institute and the Directorate-General of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policies, the results pertaining to the period January –December 2011 have been delivered in September 2012. Results of 2012 will be delivered no later than September 2013.

The estimate of the economic parameters was conducted through a specific sample survey. Conversely, the value of fixed assets was calculated by processing records derived from the Vessel Register.

The target population is the Vessel Register (including vessels less than 12 m.).

The number of sample units per stratum and the coverage rate is reported in table III.B.1.

To carry out the sample survey the statistical methods (sample design, sample size, strata allocation, raising factors, variance estimators) described in the 2011-2013 national program have been applied.

Data were collected by using a computerised questionnaire specifically designed for the survey (see National Programme).

Standard tables III.B.1, III.B.2 and III.B.3 have been updated with the information collected during the sampling year.

Italy is collecting economic and transversal data regarding the fishing fleet for all fishing vessels in the vessel register during the reference year.

Clustering of fleet segments

In this section clustering of fleet segments is described and information is given on the segments that have been clustered, as required by the DCF and following STECF recommendations.

Standard Table III.B.2 reports the segments that have been clustered. Clusters are named after the biggest segment in terms of number of vessels.

Segments have been distinguished in: important segments with distinct characteristics; segments similar to other segments; non-important segments with distinct characteristics. Importance of fleet segments has been assessed in terms of landings (value and volume). Similarity is explained in the following text using expert knowledge on fishing patterns and on available data on capacity structure.

Important segments with distinct characteristics have not been clustered. No confidentiality reasons for reporting emerged.

No clustering of “non-important segments with distinct characteristics” has been necessary.

Only “segments similar to other segments” have been clustered for sampling purposes and not for confidentiality reasons. The criteria used to select segments to be merged as well as the approach to determine similarity are explained and described below.

The clustering of dredgers is justified by the fact that dredgers are based almost exclusively in central-north Adriatic coast. Vessels are very specialised targeting only clams and smooth-callista (*Venus gallina* and *Callista chione*) and they are homogenous in terms of size, gears and fishing practises. Vessels have an average LOA of 13.4 meters and 81% of them belong to the class 12-18 meters. Therefore, the split into the class <12 m and > 12 meters is not statistically reliable for this segment. Moreover, it is demonstrated that revenues are not correlated with the LOA of the vessels and this fact proves the high level of homogeneity of the vessels.

Regarding the segment “Vessels using hooks 12 -18 m”, the clustered segment “Vessels using hooks 6 - 12 m” is composed by only 11 vessels and the clustering was necessary in order to design the sampling plan.

The third case is that of Purse seiners 12-18 m. Also in this case vessels are concentrated near the average value. The clustered segment (purse seiners 12-18 m*) is composed by 143 vessels with an average LOA of 13.5 m. The clustered segment is highly homogenous from a statistical point of view.

The last case is that of vessels using polyvalent "passive" gears only 12 - 18 m *. The clustering of the 22 vessels >18 m into the lower LOA class is necessary in order to design the sampling plan. In fact these vessels are scattered along the Italian coast (GSA 9, GSA 10, GSA 11, GSA 17, and GSA 19). The average length of these 20 vessels is 19.6 meters, therefore very close to the upper limit of the 12-18 m class.

Capital value and capital cost

The value of fixed assets and the capital costs are estimated processing data of the Vessel Register and according to the methodology suggested by the study on “evaluation of the capital value, investments and capital costs in the fisheries sector” (No FISH/2005/03).

According to the capital study, the estimation of the capital value (GCS) consisted of three steps:

1. Specification of the composition of the active fleet by age
2. Estimation of price per unit of capacity (e.g. per GT)
3. Calculation of the value of each vintage (year of construction) of the fleet and either converting values of all vintages to current prices or to historic prices using price indices.

The specification of the composition of the active fleet by age has been done by processing the fleet register (which reports the year of construction for each vessel).

More details are given in the table below which refers to specific information required by the Commission guidelines on AR presentation.

Questions	Answers
1. Which are the reference values taken into account for the estimation of the Price per Capacity Unit, PCU (e.g. book value, second hand market, etc...)?	The current price (historical value) per unit of capital has been estimated using the RINA construction index. In order to apply the PIM (perpetual inventory method) and in absence of other possibilities, as initial benchmark of the gross capital stock, the RINA (Italian Naval Register) construction index has been used.
2. Which estimation methods and/or models have been used to estimate the PCU?	The construction index taken from the RINA survey was used as initial benchmark of the estimated price

	per capacity of the gross capital stock of 1992
3. If a net value has been used, what is the method used to calculate the gross value? (e.g. formula, figures from the balance sheets, etc..)?	digressive (replacement) formula := historical value/ (1-depreciation rate of each asset)^age of the asset
4. What type of index price series have been used (e.g. heavy machinery index, etc..)?	Italian heavy machinery index
5. What depreciation rates? From where do they come (e.g. national legislation, general scheme excel spreadsheet, etc...)?	From assumptions made in the study No. FISH/2005/03: Hull (7%), Engine (25%), Electronics (50%), other equipment (35%)
6. Which age schedule (service life time) has been used?	Hull (25), Engine (10), Electronics (5), other equipment (7)
7. What is the share of each asset on the total value of the capital?	Hull (46%), Engine (25%), Electronics (2%), other equipment (27%)

Inactive vessels have been included in the evaluation of capital value and capital costs.

FTE and engaged crew

Employment (total and FTE) is estimated according to the methodology suggested by the study on “calculation of labour including FTE (full-time equivalent) in fisheries” (No FISH/2005/14).

In order to trace the reality of labour input in fishing as closely as possible, the study proposes to follow a ‘métier’ approach, where ‘métier’ is defined as a “specific activity of a segment or the use of a specific fishing gear within a segment” (as defined by the DCF regulation).

The output of the methodology adopted is the number of engaged crew, i.e. the number of persons employed and the number of FTE in each métier.

The estimation of the employment in terms of FTE has been made by assuming a FTE threshold (representing the standard working time for the fishing sector) expressed in terms of yearly hours per man.

The FTE threshold for the estimation of Italian employment data has been determined on the average days at sea per vessel over the last 6 years. The FTE threshold used is the average of the FTE by fishing segments. It is equal to 1,600 hours per year. It has been also assumed that:

- each crewman working annually 1,600 hours or more is counted as one FTE
- each crewman working less than 1,600 hours per year is counted as a percentage of an FTE according to the number of hours worked in relation to the threshold of 1,600 hours
- working time is the time spent on fishing and related activities on board or on shore. This means that working time is only a part of the duration of a fishing trip.

III B 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal (Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea)

Table III.B.3 gives details on the sampling methods used (column 'Sampling strategy') and on the achieved values of the accuracy indicators.

Information on data quality is given in terms of achieved precision levels (cv) and in terms of coverage rate. The estimation of the variance for the calculation of the CV in the case of statistical sample is explained in the NP (methodology for the estimation of economic variables). Specific software for calculation of cv has been developed in 2012. The instrument is called ISE (Irepa statistical engine) and it is an application developed in Visual Basic for Excel associated with the R environment for statistical computing but no specific knowledge is required for using it. The application is provided with a user manual.

The data sources for estimation of variables in Appendix VI are homogenous, therefore data are consistent. This guarantees that economic indicators on profitability (gross cash flow, gross value added, net profit) are not biased by the use of different data sources.

In case of derived indicators, as FTE, the information about calculation procedures is reported in the previous paragraph. Accuracy indicators of based data collected are presented in Table III.B.3.

III B 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations (Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea)

The list of recommendations made by the RCM and LM and actioned by the MS is reported in the following table:

RCM Recommendations, 2010	Actions
The RCMMed&BS recognizing that the clustering procedure, when performed, must strictly follow the standard? chosen? statistical methodology. The guidance drawn up by SGECA, setting out the different approaches, should be followed. Further work be undertaken at a regional level, through the RCMs.	Italy is applying SGRCA guidelines on clustering
The RCMMed&BS recommend that MSs perform checks on the quality of their data and that further work be undertaken before RCMs in order to facilitate the recommended comparability checks within regions.	Italy applies appropriate procedures to check quality of data
The RCMMed&BS recommend that the proposed study to harmonize quality reporting be undertaken. In particular, a detailed methodology for non probability sampling must be proposed. In addition to the ToRs proposed by SGECA 2009-02, RCMMed&BS recommends to evaluate the methodological reports and check the practice of MSs related to the types of data collection. Furthermore, the subgroup proposes more detailed information on how MSs calculate the quality indicator (CV) in their NP.	Italy applies the revised guidelines for AR which requires detailed information on quality checks
RCM Recommendations, 2011	Actions
The RCMMed&BS recommend establishing a planning group (PGECON) to discuss methodological and coordination issues related to the economic modules of the DCF. In this way, participation of economists in the RCM would be facilitated because the planning group would ensure the presentation of appropriate ToRs. It is	Italy attended and hosted the first PGECON meeting

noted that in the SGECA meetings, participants are independent experts and not experts who are directly involved in the implementation of National Programs	
The Group supports the creation of a database for economic data and recommends furthering investigating this proposal in order to review different implementing procedures. A steering Committee should be established in order to decide who will administrate Database, what data should be included and access rules.	Italy will collaborate for the implementation of a database for economic data
RCM is aware that utility will be much better if economic data are collected at GSA level but, there are some methodological issues that need to be addressed first, in order to allocate costs to different sub-areas. RCM recommends SGECA (EWG 11-18) to address these methodological issues and to propose appropriate procedures.	Italy will follow any methodology that will be provided
RCM is aware that too many data calls take place each year requiring too much administrative costs to MS, especially having in mind that every data call contains the whole set of data available. Given that the new DCF does not oblige for the data to be destroyed after 20 days, the Group does not realize why the same set of data are required more than once in the same year and in different formats every time. The Group suggests that one coordinated data call takes place each year and the same template/ data format is applied each year.	Italy fully supports any simplification of data call procedures
Liaison Meeting 2011	
(48) Concerning Economic variables: Data calls - RCM is aware that too many data calls take place each year requiring too much administrative costs to MS, especially having in mind that every data call contains the whole set of data available. Given that the new DCF does not oblige for the data to be destroyed after 20 days, the Group does not realize why the same set of data are required more than once in the same year and in different formats every time. The Group suggests that one coordinated data call takes place each year.	Italy supports the idea of moving from a data call approach to a fixed deadline approach

III B 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls (Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea)

The project activities were specified in agreement with the reports foreseen by the national program. All parameters have been evaluated as requested and precision levels have been calculated.

SUPRA-REGION: Other Regions

III B 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal (Other Regions)

The economic variables listed in Appendix VI have been collected through a non-probability survey. 7 fishing vessels have been interviewed and these have been selected on the basis of the availability to cooperate. Primary data collected on these vessels and additional information gained from official balance sheets have been elaborated in order to estimate the following parameters: income, personnel costs, energy costs, repair and maintenance costs, other operational costs, investments, financial position.

Capital costs and capital value have been estimated according to the methodology suggested by the study on “evaluation of the capital value, investments and capital costs in the fisheries sector” (No FISH/2005/03).

Employment (in terms of engaged crew, FTE National, FTE harmonised) have been estimated according to the methodology suggested by the study on “calculation of labour including FTE (full-time equivalent) in fisheries” (No FISH/2005/14).

III B 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal (Other Regions)

Coefficient of variations has been calculated even if a non-probability survey has been applied, according with DCF guidelines and Eurostat recommendations on data quality. The variability achieved is reported in table III.B.3.

Analysis in time series and correlation indexes among variables has been performed to further assess the variability of non-probability sampling in case of “Other regions”.

III B 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations (Other Regions)

RCM LDF Recommendations, 2011	Actions
The RCM Med&BS recommends establishing a planning group (PGECON) to discuss methodological and coordination issues related to the economic modules of the DCF. In this way, participation of economists in the RCM would be facilitated because the planning group would ensure the presentation of appropriate TORs. It is noted that in the SGECA meetings, participants are independent experts and not experts who are directly involved in the implementation of National Programs Through the PGECON, proposals for workshops and/or studies could be transmitted to the RCM for endorsement	Italy attended and hosted the first PGECON meeting
The Group supports the creation of regional database for economic data and recommends to further investigate this proposal in order to review different implementing procedures. A steering Committee should be established to decide who will administrate Database, what data should be included and access rules.	Italy will collaborate for the implementation of such database

III B 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls (Other regions)

No shortfalls occurred.

III C Metier-related variables

Region: Mediterranean Sea

III C 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal (Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea)

Sampling has been performed in order to evaluate the quarterly length distribution of species in the catches, and the quarterly volume of discards. Data have been collected by métier referred to level 6 of the matrix defined in Appendix IV of the DCF and agreed at Regional Level (RCMMed&BS 2009 and 2010).

The sampling scheme has been designed taking into account the spatial and temporal (quarterly) variability of the landings. The GFCM/FAO geographical disaggregation (Geographical Sub Areas, GSA) has been applied for the sampling procedure.

For sampling purposes, only the major métiers have been considered. In order to identify the métiers to be sampled, the ranking system at GSA level (for a total of 7 GSA around Italian waters), as described in the DCF EU Dec. 93/2010, has been applied. To apply correctly the ranking system, the most recent set of data have been used: landing data, value and effort data from 2009 and 2010.

Table III.C.1 reports the update values (2009-2010) as reported in the Guidelines for the amendment of National Programmes 2011-13: *“Regarding Reference Years, MS can choose whether or not to update the reference years in the text and tables of the amended NP. If a Member State updates the reference years, they do not need to resubmit their amended National Programme to the Commission, but should report on this in their Annual Report”*.

For each GSA, métiers which contribute for less than 10% in terms of total effort, landing or values have been excluded from the sampling plan (Table III.C.1).

The total number of fishing days to be sampled has been defined proportionally to the effort (number of days at sea for each métier) and the landings. According to the regulation, the minimum number of fishing days to be sampled has been at least 1 fishing day (one day= one trip) per month during the fishing season. Sampling strategies in each GSA have been a mix of concurrency-at-sea (sampling directly on board by observers and scientists) and concurrency-at-landing site (sampling directly on landing site, at market, by observers and scientists). The Italian fishing fleet is characterized by vessels of small or medium size that perform their activities mostly within the 12 miles. Fishing trips last about 12 hours on average. This is true for most of the fleet in all geographical areas. Bigger trawlers, mostly in Sicily Channel (GSA 16), and long liners > 24 meters mostly in Ionian Sea (GSA 19) and Sicily Channel (GSA 16), perform fishing trips of more than one day. All these vessels represent only 2% of the total fleet. In these cases, the biological sample has considered this specificity and the fishing trip has been sampled accordingly. The number of fishing-days/trips that has been sampled by métier and GSA is reported in Table III.C.3.

Metier targeting demersal and small pelagic species

Biological sampling, for demersal and small pelagic species, covered all the main fishing activities for a total period of 1371 fishing days. The whole survey covered a one-year period, the time has been subdivided in quarters, in order to detect likely seasonal differences in the demographic structure and composition of the landings. The number of fishing-days (on board and at landing/market place) that have been sampled by métier in each GSA is reported in table III.C.3.

In table III.C.3, NP means Not Planned. Italy, for the preparation of the NP 2011-2013, have been followed the DCF Guidelines (Guidelines for the submission of National Programme Proposals on the National Data Collection Programmes under Council Regulation (EC) 199/2008, Commission Regulation (EC) 665/2008 and Commission Decision 2008/949/EC, Version 2009). In these Guidelines, under the Description of fields, in table III.C.3 it is clearly reported that “MS states the sampling strategy: concurrent sampling at markets”, “concurrent sampling at sea” or “other”. If “other” is used (e.g. “other [Market stock specific sampling]”), the strategy should be described in section III.C.1 (c) and scientific evidence should be provided to ensure that the sampling strategy does not conflict with the objectives of concurrent sampling. If more than one sampling strategy is applied to a métier then separate rows should be used for each strategy that is used.” So

Italy reported separately, both in the rows and in the column of the table III.C. 3, the kind of sampling strategy followed: at sea or at market.

The expected number of trips in Table III.C.3, is not doubles, but it is the sum of the total n of trips at sea + the total number of trips at market/landing. Obviously it could be appears as a repetition but it is a problem of the structure of the table that should be redrafted accordingly. Concerning the few differences related to the number of trips or the presence/absence of some metiers between NP and AR, it is due to the fact that the NP version as been updated with the most recent set of data (i.e. ranking with years data 2009-2010). Those changes have been considered as “minor changes” and the NP has not been re-submitted to the Commission. These “minor changes” have been reported only in the AR.

All 2012 Annual Report tables, report the update values (2009-2010) as suggested in the Guidelines for the amendment of National Programmes 2011-13: “Regarding Reference Years, MS can choose whether or not to update the reference years in the text and tables of the amended NP. If a Member State updates the reference years, they do not need to resubmit their amended National Programme to the Commission, but should report on this in their Annual Report”.

The length composition by species has been sampled in order to derive the length frequency distribution (LFD) by species and fishing day. Length measures, approximate to the half centimetre lower, have been collected for finfish, cephalopods and crustaceans. Fish: total length (TL) from the head to the end of the caudal fin for all demersal and small pelagic species; Cephalopoda: mantle length (LM), expressed in millimetres, from the virtual median line that goes through the eyes reaching the end of the mantle. Crustaceans: carapax length (LC), in millimetres, from the back margin of the orbit to the median margin of the carapax.

Table III.C.4 summarized the sampling effort that has been adopted for the different fishing activities. In some cases, reported under the columns named “% achieved number of trips at sea” and “% achieved number of trips on shore” the sampling planned effort, showed a slightly deviation from planned activity. In some cases there has been an increasing on the sampling plan at sea and/or on shore and *viceversa*. Overall, the total number of trips to be sampled “% achieved number of trips” showed consistencies with the sampling program. For the Mediterranean area, in tables III.C, the fishing ground is represented by the GSA. For most of the Mediterranean species (except for large pelagic and eel) a species in a GSA represent a single stock. For this reason, with the exception of the metier targeting large pelagic and eel, all the collection and analysis of data (i.e. metier sampling for demersal and small pelagic species) has been performed at GSA level.

Lowest metier coverage has been achieved in the GSA 17 and GSA 18 for purse seine targeting small pelagic species (PS_SPF_>=14_0_0). Concerning this metier, it is necessary to remark that the activity in both GSAs followed strictly seasonality: it is concentrated in winter and autumn periods. Unfortunately in 2012, due to bad weather conditions, it was not possible to address completely the planned sampling days.

In the table III.C.5, Italy reported only the species of G1 and G2 present in the Appendix VII of the EU Decision 93/2010 (including all the shark species) plus the species of G3 agreed at Regional Level (see RCMMed&BS 2010 report, Slovenia). The planned specimens to be collected are reported at National level: it was requested by the NP Guidelines Version 2009 and by the heading of the AR column “Planned minimum no. of fish to be measured at national level”

Concerning the oversampling activities, Italy has carried out the activities without any consequences on the planned costs (i.e. no additional cost have been requested by Italy).

Concerning discards, as agreed at Regional level (see RCMMed&BS 2009 “Discards template”), the survey has covered all the following trawlers activity:

- bottom otter trawl for demersal species OTB_DES_>=40_0_0
- bottom otter trawl for deep water species OTB_DWS_>40_0_0
- bottom otter trawl for mixed demersal and deep water species OTB_MDD_>40_0_0
- pelagic pair trawl for small pelagic species PTM_SPF_>=20_0_0
- beam trawl for demersal species TBB_DES_0_0_0

For the above selected métiers, discards have been monitored for the Group 1 and Group 2 species, as defined in the Commission Decision 93/2010 Chapter III. Data on the quantities of the target discarded

species has been collected directly on board. The length composition by species also has been sampled in order to derive LFDs by species and fishing day.

Moreover, following the output of the RCMMed&BS 2009 (“Discards template”) discards for:

- Boat dredge for molluscs DRB_MOL_0_0_0
- Pots and traps for demersal species FPO_DES_0_0_0
- Fyke nets for demersal species FYK_DES_0_0_0
- Hand and pole line for cephalopods LHP_LHM_CEP_0_0_0

it can be considered negligible (see report RCMMed&BS 2009 section 3.3.4 “*Sampling of discards*”). These métiers have to be considered not mandatory for discards sampling and have not been monitored.

For the other métiers (even not selected by the ranking system), as suggested by STECF EWG 11-19, in 2011, Italy has conducted a pilot study to investigate the discards behavior. These métier were:

Set gillnets for demersal fish	GNS_DEF_>=16_0_0
Driftnets for small pelagic fish	GND_SPF_0_0_0
Set trammel nets for demersal species	GTR_DES_>=16_0_0
Purse seine for small pelagic fish	PS_SPF_>=14_0_0
Beach and boat seine for demersal species	SB_SV_DES_0_0_0
Set longlines for demersal fish	LLS_DEF_0_0_0
Set gillnets for small and large pelagic species	GNS_SLP_>=16_0_0

The object of the study was to estimate the discards, in weight and number of the species G1 and G2 in the Appendix VII (Commission Decision 93/2010 and 949/2008). Data on the quantities of the target discarded species have been collected directly on board. The results of these activities (number of fishing-days that have been sampled by métier and GSA) have been already reported in table III.C.3 of the Annual Report 2011 (Evaluated and approved by EWG 12-08).

Outputs of the pilot study, confirming the results of the other studies conducted in 2005, showed no discards behaviour for mostly of the métiers cited above.

The output of the Pilot studies have demonstrated that only the métier GNS_DEF_>16_0_0, and only in the GSA 9 and GSA 17, showed discard behaviour for some target species (i.e. *Merluccius merluccius*). So in 2012, only for this métier (GNS_DEF_>16_0_0), and in the two GSAs considered (GSA 9 and 17), has been continued the analysis of the discards.

Metier targeting large pelagic species

Regarding métier targeting the large pelagics species, the métiers selected for the sampling program have been: Purse seine [PS_LPF_0_0_0]; Drifting longlines [LLD_LPF_0_0_0] and Miscellanea [MIS] (harpoon, FADs). Data have been collected following the ICCAT recommendation to métier level 7 (see also RCMMed&BS 2010 and 2011 agreement and Table III.C.2). Methodologies and sampling strategies have been applied at national scale.

Data, following the agreement reached at Regional level, has been reported as:

LLD_LPF_0_0_0 SWO

LLD_LPF_0_0_0 BFT

LLD_LPF_0_0_0 ALB

The survey for estimating length distribution covered a one-year period. The planned specimens (agreed at Regional level during the PGMed 2011, Vienna) to be used for estimating the LFDs for large pelagic, were collected during a total number of 217 sampling fishing days (see table III.C.3 for disaggregation of sampling intensities among different métiers). Discards have been monitored during the sampling days on board, but for the mentioned métiers they can be considered negligible (Tables III.C.5 and III.C.6). The length composition by species has been sampled in order to derive the length frequency distribution (LFD) by species: length to the fork (FL) for all the species have been collected, with the exception of swordfish for which the length of the lower jaw (LJFL) was also considered.

Lowest metier coverage has been achieved for purse seine targeting *Thunnus thynnus* (PS_LPF_0_0_0). Following the recent ICCAT Recommendations (2010/04 and 2012/03) and the EU Reg. 500/2012, the observer on board of the PS_LPF, can be only appointed by ICCAT. For this reason was impossible to cover all the planned days at sea (there is no landing or market observations for this metier due to the fact that tuna are transferred alive in the cages). Observations have been intensified for the other large pelagic métiers (i.e. longline).

Metier targeting shark species

Regarding sharks, as reported in the NP 2011-2013, collection of “sharks” biological variables (i.e. length frequency distribution) has been associated to the Metier-related variables following the concurrent sampling approach. Should be underlined that most of the proposed species in the Appendix VII (actually the list presents 47 species of sharks and rays) of the Commission Decision 93/2010, are rare and with a sporadic and not confirmed presence in the Mediterranean area. For this issue, some cells were labelled as NP (Not Planned) since the minimum number of sharks specimens to be sampled cannot be fixed ‘*a priori*’. Furthermore, as agreed at Regional Level (RCMMed&BS 2010) no precision target is associated with the collection of sharks variables. During the three annual period 2011-2013 all shark species will be collected concurrently for length. No stock-based sampling will be added if metier-based sampling fails to provide the appropriate precision for length distributions. In tables III.C.5 and III.C.6 the shark species that have been sampled during the 2012 are included.

Overall, for all the group of metier and species above mentioned (demersal, small and large pelagic species, and sharks) tables III.C.3, III.C.4, III.C.5 and III.C.6 report all the information (i.e. achieved number of trips at sea/on shore per metier and GSA, number of fish measured, CV achieved etc etc) collected during the sampling year.

III C 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal (Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea)

CV for length of demersal and small pelagic species has been calculated annually for each métier, for all métier combined and per GSA. CV for single species (Table III.C.5) has been calculated on the basis of 2012 set of data.

The method used to calculate the CV has been developed by Vigneau and Mahevas (2004). This method allows estimating the precision for each length class and for the whole length frequency distribution (LFD) at métier level. The low values of CV estimated for some species and for some métier, could be associated to some major problems caused by using this method: the low representativeness of the sample; the requirement of a good coverage of all length classes, that for some species and for the entire range of the LFD in a particular métier is almost impossible to obtain. To avoid this problem in the future the sampling effort for some metiers will be intensified and the stock based sampling will be associated if métier based sampling fails to provide the appropriate precision for length distributions. Thereafter the estimates of precision obtained for each métier will be summed up for the métier targeting the same stock.

For some demersal and small pelagic species, few GSA couldn't reach the total number of planned specimens, and was not possible to achieve a good CV, due to the seasonality of their catches and the low catch rates of the mentioned species for that particular métier in that GSA. For other species (i.e. *Lophius* spp.) the sampling level and the CV has been low because of the difficulties of sampling this species at the landing sites due to the fishing seasonality of the species or because the species is not considered target (i.e. *Boops boops*).

For some valuable species (i.e. some shrimps like *Aristaeomorpha foliacea*, *Aristeus antennatus*, *Nephrops norvegicus*, *Parapenaeus longirostris* etc.) the discard is negligible and for this reason no CV can be estimated. Generally, the landing, is composed by different fish categories starting from the most valuable ones (all shrimps are usually in the first category) to the low quality (third or fourth category). Shrimps even if small or damaged are sold as third or fourth category and for this reason discards is absent.

Regarding the large pelagic species Italy followed the RCMMED&BS recommendation. At Regional Level an agreement was reached for the sampling intensities needed to achieve precision levels on a

Mediterranean-wide basis for the large pelagic species included in group 1 list (*Thunnus thynnus*, *Xiphias gladius*) and group 2 list (*Sarda sarda*, *Coryphaena hyppurus*, *Thunnus alalunga*). The CV for length of large pelagic species has been approached at Regional level during the PGMed 2013 (Report PGMed 2013, Belfast, Ireland). The precision, in terms of Coefficient of Variation (CV) of the Length Frequency Distributions (LFDs) was assessed using COST tools (packages in R), following RCMMed&BS 2011 recommendation. This method allows estimating the precision, in terms of coefficient of variation (CV) for each length class and for the whole LFD at stock level. The PGMed 2013 Report is still not available and was not possible to insert CV value calculated at Regional level, for large pelagic species, in the III.C.5 table.

Concerning sharks, most of the proposed species in the new Appendix VII (actually the list presents 47 species of sharks and rays) of the Commission Decision 93/2010, are rare and with a sporadic and not confirmed presence in the Mediterranean area. As agreed at Regional Level (RCMMed&BS 2009 recommendation), shark species have been collected concurrently only for length and not CV has been associated. For this reason during the RCMMed&BS has been decided that no minimum number or sampling strategy (and as a consequence no estimation of CV) should be associated to the collection of all the “sharks” species reported in the Appendix VII (EU Dec 93/2010). However, even if it was not planned in the NP 2011-2013, an attempt to estimate the CV related to the metier variables for some sharks species has been performed.

III C 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations (Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea)

In 2012, for all the large pelagic fish, included both in group 1 and in group 2 list, the sampling plan (i.e. number of individuals to sample) has been performed at national level following the Regional agreement (RCMMed&BS reports 2009, 2010 and 2011). The minimum number of large pelagic fish to be sampled, that has been set at Regional level (Lubijana, 2011) with the relatively sampling intensity needed to achieve precision levels on a Mediterranean-wide basis, will be revised annually and monitored during the different Regional Coordination Meeting.

RCMMed&BS 2009 Recommendation	
For the purposes of understanding the heterogeneity of metiers and the consequences for task sharing and discard sampling, national descriptions of the regionally ranked metiers should be compiled using the metier description template Annex 6. To enable this, participants from the MS should strictly respect the agreed naming conventions of fishing ground and metiers as well as the deadline for submission of the information.	Italy is following this recommendation
RCM Med&BS recommends the MS to check the list of sharks and decided at national level which species are presented in their catches. RCM Med&BS supports the idea to collect, as a first estimation, the metier based variables for these species (length frequency distribution).	Italy is agreed and is following with this recommendation
RCMMed&BS 2010 Recommendations	Actions
RCMMed&BS recommends all MS to follow strictly the metiers reference list established at the regional level (RCMMed&BS 2009 report). If the combination between gear and target assemblage	Italy has strictly followed the metier level 6 reference list agreed at Regional level

does not correspond to an identified reference metier of level 6, the national metier must be registered as a Miscellaneous one (Misc.), ranked as the other metiers and described in the NP and the required forms if sorted by the ranking system.	
RCMMed&BS recommends all MS to follow strictly the SGRN guidelines in terms of coding and naming conventions and also the reference lists of metiers established by the RCM at the regional level. Technical tables must be filled in English. Otherwise SGRN is invited to revise NP and TR guidelines as some discrepancies yet exist between texts and technical tables' samples, in order to ensure unambiguous documenting and coding of gears, metiers, fishing grounds etc... and to avoid fastidious and time consuming validation before tables' analysis and ranking process.	Italy has followed the SGRN guidelines in terms of coding and naming conventions and also the reference lists of metiers established by the RCM at the regional level.
By processing the national technical table III.C.1 to perform ranking systems at different geographic scales, RCMMed&BS met difficulties by lack of information on some metiers, concerning one or several required ranking parameters (effort, landings and/or value). These gaps may bias the outcomes of the rankings carried out at international level or combining several GSAs, mainly for metiers targeting species of high commercial value. RCMMed&BS recommends all MS to complete their national table III.C.1 (in compliance with the Guidelines 2009) to assess the real national and regional importance of each metier identified by MS in conformity with the DCF regulation.	Italy has completed the national table III.C.1 in compliance with the Guidelines 2009.
RCMMed&BS recommends to strictly following the output of the proposed table made up in the PGMed 2010 for the metiers to sample for discards.	Italy agreed with this recommendation and, in the NP, has adapted the discards sampling table following the Regional decision. (see Module III.C)
For the purposes of optimizing the spatial, time and metiers coverage of the discard sampling program, RCMMed&BS recommends MS to revise the discards sampling program and the table on discards metadata (prepared during the RCMMed&BS 2010 but still to finalize) in order to provide missing information regarding the non sampling of certain métier.	Italy has provided missing information regarding the non sampling of certain métier.
The RCMMed&BS revised the group 3 species and recommends as agreed in 2008 as minimal list of Group 3 species for the Mediterranean the 11 following species (already present in the Medits reference list): <i>Aspitrigla cuculus</i> , <i>Citharus linguatula</i> , <i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i> , <i>Lepidorhombus boscii</i> , <i>Pagellus acarne</i> , <i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i> , <i>Phycis blennoides</i> , <i>Spicara flexuosa</i> , <i>Trigloporus lastoviza</i> , <i>Trisopterus minutus capelanus</i> , <i>Zeus faber</i> . A list of species of	Italy agreed with the proposed RCMMed&BS group 3 species

local interest (i.e. Cyprus GSA 25) has been suggested in 2008 (<i>Siganus sp.</i> , <i>Pagrus pagrus</i> , <i>Diplodus sargus</i> , <i>Diplodus vulgaris</i> , <i>Sparisoma cretense</i> and <i>Spicara maena</i> .) and another one has been added by France this year (e.g <i>Palinurus elephas</i>).	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendations	Actions
RCMMed&BS recommends to continue the exercise carried out during PGMed reviewing yearly the sampling figures for métier related variables (length) and to estimate CV at regional level. RCMMed&BS 2011 recommend maintaining the sampling levels calculated in the PGMed 2011. MS should adjust their NP accordingly to these results.	Italy agreed with the RCMMed&BS recommendation and followed the sampling intensity suggested by PGMed 2011
RCMMed&BS recommends to continue the exercise carried out during PGMed 2011 reviewing yearly the sampling figures for métier related variables and to estimate CV at regional level for shared stocks (GSA 7, GSA 15-16 and GSA 17). MS should adjust their NP accordingly to these results.	Italy agreed with the RCMMed&BS recommendation and followed the sampling intensity suggested by PGMed 2011
By processing the national technical tables III.C.1 to perform ranking systems at different geographic scales, PGMed met difficulties by lack of information on some métiers, concerning one or several required ranking parameters (i.e. value). These gaps may bias the outcomes of the rankings carried out at international level or combining several GSAs, mainly for métiers targeting species of high commercial value. RCMMed&BS recommends all MS to complete their national table III.C.1 (in compliance with the Guidelines 2009) to assess the real national and regional importance of each métier identified by MS in conformity with the DCF regulation.	Italy completed the national table reported in the excel sheet III.C.1 in compliance with the Guidelines 2009
All MS should provide data and information required to PGMed in the appropriate formats in order to facilitate the work and to make possible the scope of the results during this methodological group	Italy agreed with this recommendation and will provide the requested data in appropriate formats
The RCMMed&BS revised the group 3 species and recommends adding the following 6 species: <i>Diplodus annularis</i> , <i>D. puntazzo</i> , <i>Lithognathus mormyrus</i> , <i>Polyprion americanus</i> , <i>Homarus gammarus</i> and <i>Pecten jacobaeus</i> . The RCMMed&BS 2011 consider that is not necessary to include the G3 species in the common landing template because of the aim of this template is to justify the derogations on sampling stock related variables in accordance with the DCF requirements to G1 and G2 species. The Group reminds also that Group 3 species are	Italy agreed with this recommendation and with the proposed list of species

only selected for length distribution and not other parameters (i.e. age, sex and maturity) must be collected.	
Large pelagic issue: RCMMed&BS 2011 strongly recommends that the large pelagic species included in the Appendix VII of DCF Decision under the Mediterranean and Black Sea remain under the responsibility of the RCMMed&BS, for what concern the data collection (the minimum number of individual that each Member States must sample; the collection of stock related variables) and Regional coordination issues (the CV calculation as requested by EC Reg. 193/2010 must be calculated at stock level and for large pelagic this requires a Regional approach). For BFT, the only tuna or tuna like species which is not a Mediterranean single stock, a collaboration is required with the RCM LDF concerning the east Atlantic part of the stock.	Italy strongly supported this recommendation and welcomes the effort put by the PGMed group trying to follow a Regional approach for the large pelagic species.
Large pelagic issue: Concerning the east bluefin stock (Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean sea), the RCMMed&BS recommend that the métier related data (i.e. length) collected by MS participating in RCM LDF (Portugal, France, Spain) should provided data to the PGMed, for a complete estimation of the relevant CVs of the bluefin. The analysis of the data should be discussed in both relevant RCMs (RCMMed&BS and RCM LDF).	Italy is fully agreed with this recommendation
Concerning the issue on large pelagic, RCMMed&BS recommends to continue the exercise carried out during PGMed 2011 reviewing yearly the sampling figures for métier related (length) and to estimate CV at regional level. MS should adjust their NP accordingly to these results. Moreover, RCMMed&BS recommend using the conversion table finalized during the meeting to transmit the data to the different end-users (i.e. ICCAT and/or European Commission).	Italy agreed with this recommendation and has adapted the sampling scheme following the Regional decision.
RCMMed&BS and RCM Long Distance Fishery 2011 Recommendations	Actions
Considering that the quality of the work of the ICCAT working groups depends on the adequate participation of experts, the two groups strongly recommend the participation of experts to the ICCAT scientific meetings. It is reminded that ICCAT scientific meetings are eligible for participation under the DCF.	Italy agreed with this recommendation and invited experts to participate to the ICCAT working groups
The two groups propose a joined workshop among ICCAT representatives, scientists involved in large pelagic sampling, as well as representatives from RCM LDF and RCM MED&BS in order to harmonize the biological sampling issues on large pelagic and specify	Italy agreed with this recommendation

additional data or modifications that should be included in the future DCF, taking into account the ICCAT requirements for stock assessment.	
Considering that the current DCF does not allow any changes on the codification of métiers, the two groups recommend all MS involved in tuna and tuna-like fisheries to strictly follow the SGRN guidelines in terms of coding and naming conventions and also the reference list of métiers agreed by both groups at levels 6 and 7. For the transmission of data to the relevant RFMO (i.e. ICCAT), the conversion tables (see Annex IV of the present report) adopted by the two groups should be used.	Italy strictly followed the SGRN guidelines in terms of coding and naming conventions and also the reference list of métiers at levels 6 and 7.
Liaison Meeting 2011 Recommendations	
Concerning Métier variables: Regional ranking - RCM NA recommends STECF to investigate more closely the methods used by MS to deal with <10m transversal variables.	Italy support this recommendation
Concerning Metier related variables: Large pelagic sampling - Concerning the issue on large pelagic, RCM Med&BS recommends to continue the exercise carried out during PGMed 2011 reviewing yearly the sampling figures for métier related (length) and to estimate CV at regional level. MS should adjust their NP accordingly to these results. Moreover, RCM Med&BS recommend using the conversion table finalized during the meeting to transmit the data to the different end-users (i.e. ICCAT and/or European Commission).	Italy support this recommendation
Concerning Large pelagic issue: Workshop proposal concerning large pelagic sampling: The two groups (RCM LDF and RCM MED&BS) propose a joined workshop among ICCAT representatives, scientists involved in large pelagic sampling, as well as representatives from RCM LDF and RCM MED&BS in order to harmonize the biological sampling issues on large pelagic and specify additional data or modifications that should be included in the future DCF, taking into account the ICCAT requirements for stock assessment.	Italy support this recommendation

III C 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls (Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea)

The project activities were specified in agreement with the reports foreseen by the national program, following also the agreement reached at Regional level by the RCMMed&BS.

Region: Other regions

III C 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal (Other Regions)

Concerning the fishing activity in the CECFAF Region, the Italian fleet operating outside community waters, consists of 7 vessels fishing around Mauritania waters (FAO Area 34.1). All vessels operate with trawls nets targeting mainly demersal species: cephalopods (OTB_CEP_70_0_0) and crustaceans (OTB_CRU_50_0_0). No data are reported because till now no biological sampling has been carried out in the area, waiting for an international coordination of this activity. For this reason Italy has participated to the last RCM Long Distance Fishery (Romania, September 2013) in order to identify the métiers to be sampled and the sampling strategy. During that meeting, Italian landing data have been used to calculate the ranking system and the contribution of the Italian fleet on the total landing in the CECFAF area. It has been achieved and agreement that other MSs operating in the area (with higher landing contribution and effort) will set up the biological sampling on the landings (see RCMLDF 2013 report).

No Italian vessel operates in the IOTC Region.

III C 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal (Other Regions)

NP proposal specified that biological sampling would have been carried out following a program coordinated by CECFAF or by RCM LDF. No such coordinated program has been proposed.

Italy will attend the RCM LDF in 2013 and will collaborate with any sampling program that will be proposed.

III C 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations (Other Regions)

RCMMed&BS and RCM Long Distance Fishery 2011 Recommendations	Actions
CECAF Sub-Group, Information about fishing activity of Italian fleet in the CECFAF area must be completed.	Italy submitted the required additional information
CECAF Sub-Group, The NP of Italy contains text information on a fishery in CECFAF area including commitment to sampling, but it is not reflected in the relevant tables.	Italy submitted the required additional information in the tables
Métier variables: Sampling Observer Programme To implement a joint observer program in the fishery of small pelagic in the CECFAF area during the years 2012 and 2013	Italy is not involved in this fishery

III C 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls (Other Regions)

No shortfalls incurred.

III D Recreational fisheries

III D 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

Recreational fisheries of bluefin tuna

The main basis of the data collection program has been the overall census of recreational and sport fisheries that will cover all the Italian coast line and islands that means more than 800 ports and landing sites. Starting

from this census, information on fleet and type of activities per administrative region has been obtained. Total catches have been reported in official sheets that recreational fishermen are obliged to compile and send to port authorities. There was no deviation from the provisions of the national program. Since with the census survey is not provided the calculation of CV.

Moreover, has been analysed the register of boats authorized to fish for sport and recreation bluefin catch reports and data, both provided by Regulation (EC) No. 302/2009.

Recreational fisheries of eels

Recreational fishery of eel in Italy is carried out exclusively in inland waters (rivers, lagoons and lakes) and without the use of any kind of boats.

In 2009, during the first phase of the project, the data on spatial distribution of eel on the national territory had been checked in order to draw a map of the whole distribution of the fishing activities. In addition, a census was carried out with the aim of estimate the number of recreational fisheries operating in national territory, which was estimated in 2009 at 549,118 units.

During 2010, a program of interviews has been implemented, involving the National Sport-fishing Associations. In order to identify a sample considered representative of recreational fishermen, the Italian Federation of Sport Fishing and Diving (FIPSAS) was used as reference list. This Federation includes 227,000 members which are distributed over almost all the Italian provinces. In 2011, it was possible to enlarge the sample of recreational fishermen, by adding to FIPSAS another Federation, ARCI FISA, thus increasing the representativeness of the interviews. Ad-hoc questionnaires (prepared and tested in 2009) have been used in order to acquire the information on catches of eels. Questionnaires also included information on specific features of eel fishery like the gears used and the seasonality. This methodology has been applied since 2011. During 2012, in the provinces surveyed, only a fraction showed the presence of eel catches, which indicates a rather not homogenous distribution of the activity.

In the remaining provinces, capture of eel by recreational fishermen resulted absent or sporadic. In many provinces it was stressed, by the interviewees, the gradual contraction of the presence of the species in recent years.

Information has been gathered concerning fishing effort, i.e. gear used and days/year, and about frequency and consistency of the catch.

Analysis of data showed that about 6-7 % of the fishermen, registered in the provincial offices of FIPSAS ARCI FISA, in 2012 have been fishing eel (with an average of 4 months per year) with a mean catch value between 1 kg and 5 kg per year (with a maximum of 50 kg per year).

Recreational fisheries of sharks

Since 2011, Italy is implementing the project: SHARKLIFE - Urgent actions for the conservation of cartilaginous fish in Italy, LIFE10 NAT/IT/000271.

In line with the European Plan of Action for Cartilaginous Fishes, which was approved in 2009, this project aims to contribute to the conservation of cartilaginous fishes, particularly basking sharks and pelagic stingrays in Italian seas by reducing the mortality rate caused by commercial and leisure fishing.

The project "Shark Life" started in 2011 and will last 3 years. Among its objectives, the project is aimed at collecting all information and data on sharks in fishing competitions through the use of a specific questionnaire.

In particular, the project has implemented a 'tag and release' policy for fishing tournaments.

The expected results is a 100% reduction of the catching of sharks and rays in the national fishing competitions through the implementation of a tag and release policy. FIPSAS (Federazione Italiana Pesca Sportiva e Attività Subacquee) has already issued a ban on shark catches during tournaments.

Moreover, recreational catch data for large pelagic sharks in the Mediterranean can be submitted to ICCAT and/or to MEDLEM (Mediterranean Large Elasmobranchs Monitoring), either online or using the data sheets

provided. So far, no data on sharks recreational fisheries have been collected and have been stored in both databases.

In the meanwhile, the GFCM is developing a data collection framework for recreational fisheries that will include procedures for providing recreational catch records for small demersal and coastal sharks and rays.

III D 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

Recreational fisheries of bluefin tuna

Concerning the Recreational fisheries of bluefin tuna, as required by the regulation, data related to annual estimates of the catches in volumes will lead to a precision of level 1. Data on capacity has been collected exhaustively. Continuity and consistency of the series collected is assured by the methodology applied that will be the same as in previous programs.

Data have been collected following the methodologies reported in the NP with no discrepancies with activities planned in the NP

Recreational fisheries of eels

As reported in the NP regarding the Eel Recreational Fishery eel the methodology foresees the implementation of interviews through forms specifically prepared. The sample has been statistically chosen according to the relative importance of the different regions. Sample data has been raised to the universe of the Italian fishermen practising eel fishing through statistical techniques. Interviews, according to what requested by Reg. 199/2008, gave information on the distribution and consistency of the activity, different gears used and on reasonable estimate of the amount of catches.

During 2012, the collection of data on recreational fishery of *Anguilla anguilla* has proceeded with remarkable efficiency.

For these reasons, there are no discrepancies with activities planned in the NP.

III D 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendations	Actions
The RCMMed&BS 2011 recommends that all the Mediterranean countries that are not performing biological samplings on eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>) in Mediterranean area should present their grounds for not doing it. RCMMed&BS reminds that eel is Group 1 species and is under Recovery Plan. Metier data (i.e. length frequencies distribution) shall be collected by MS. Stock related variables (sex, age, weight and maturity) should be also collected. In case eel Stock variables are not collected justification shall be provided.	Italy is currently performing biological samplings on eel
RCMMed&BS considers that sampling of recreational fisheries on eel in marine waters is not necessary, this activity not really being a real targeted practice.	Italy is collecting data on recreational fishery of eel in inland waters in compliance with DCF requirements

III D 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

The project activities were specified in agreement with the reports foreseen by the national program.

III E Stock-related variables

REGION: Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea

III E 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal (Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea)

The present project, conducted by Italy under the Module E of the NP 2011-2013, concerned the sampling of organisms exploited by commercial fisheries. The data collected allowed the evaluation of the composition of the Italian landings by size related to age, weight, sex and maturity. The percentage value “Achieved No of individuals at a national level” is always reached and, sometimes, is even higher than planned. This happens because the planned sampling is based on landings statistics of the years before, while the number of samples is based on the landings actually realized.

The biological sampling was conducted by the scientific institutions designated by the relevant Italian Administration separately for each Geographical sub-areas (GSA) and by major groups of species: small pelagic species and demersal species. For large pelagic species, following the agreement at Regional level, the collection of biological variables (sex, age, weight, maturity) is planned in 2013 (see sampling plan Table III.E.2).

The structure of the biological sampling program was very complex due to the number of species examined, the type of fishing techniques and Geographical Sub Area (a total of 7 GSA) involved. Strata have been represented by a combination of geographical sub-areas (GSA) and métier. The sampling scheme has been designed taking into account the spatial and temporal (quarterly) variability of the landings.

The GFCM/FAO geographical disaggregation (Geographical Sub Areas, GSA) has been applied for the sampling procedure. All the achievements are reported at GSA level. However, in all the columns of the Table III.E.3, following the NP Guidelines Version 2009, everything was requested and should be reported at National Level “Achieved No of individuals at a national level”; “Planned minimum No of individuals to be measured at a national level”. For this, there are discrepancies between NP and AR and it is difficult to compare the tables: because in the NP version, submitted in October 2010, Italy has grouped under a single fishing ground all the GSA (as also requested by the NP Guidelines “State the planned minimum number of fish to be measured at the national level...”), thereafter in the AR as reported the values for single GSA.

So, in the Table III.E.3 of the AR 2012, Italy has reported the sampling procedure for each single GSA, and due to the fact that those were considered as “minor changes” the NP has not been re-submitted to the Commission and the “minor changes” have been reported only in the AR.

The sampling unit has been the fishing day (corresponding to the fishing trip). According to the regulation, the minimum number of fishing days to be sampled has been at least 1 fishing day per month during the fishing season. Biological parameters (sex, weight, maturity) have been collected both from survey and from commercial fisheries (i.e. landing, market place, on board sampling) following each stratum. Therefore, in each stratum, the sampling fishing days has been the primary sampling units and the commercial fishing vessels the secondary sampling units.

The survey has covered a one-year period, subdividing the whole time in quarters, in order to detect seasonal differences in the demographic structure and composition of the landings.

Stocks included in the sampling scheme are presented in Table III.E.I. Regarding the Reference Years, following the “Guidelines for the amendment of National Programmes 2011-13 for the year 2013, July 2012”, Italy has updated the reference years, without resubmit the amended National Programme to the Commission, but reporting it on this Annual Report. Data (landing for each species and Regional percentage contribution) come from the work made at Regional Level (PGMed, Vienna 2011). Should be underlined that, due to inaccurate species identification, for some species (i.e. *Lophius* spp., *Mullus* spp., *Trachurus* spp., *Eledone* spp. and *Mugilidae*) the Regional percentage contribution (%) might be not precise (PGMed, 2011).

For 2012, the stock biological sampling has covered all the main Group 1 species (i.e. *Merluccius merluccius*, *Mullus barbatus*, *Mullus surmuletus*, *Solea vulgaris*, *Engraulis encrasicolus*, *Sardina pilchardus*, *Aristeus antennatus*, *Aristaeomorpha foliacea*, *Parapenaeus longirostris* and *Nephrops norvegicus*) plus some shark species (Table III.E.2).

As reported in the EU Decision 93/2010, stock related variables (i.e. age, sex ratio, maturity, weight) for *Anguilla anguilla*, for large pelagic species and for Group 2 species, must be collected every three years (see Table III.E.2). Following what is reported in table III.E.2 these results should be reported in 2013. However for some of these species, data have already been collected in 2012 and have been presented in table III.E.3.

In table III.E.3 is reported the sampling intensity by species and for all GSAs, the number of samples achieved to calculate sex ratio, length at age, weight and sexual maturity.

Species not sampled are highlighted in grey in the Table III.E.3. In most cases, the landing by weight for the “grey” species correspond to less than 10% of the total Community landings from the Mediterranean Sea or to less than 200 tonnes. Concerning the *Mugilidae* and *Sparus aurata* (as already stated in the National Programme), the landing of these species is very fragmented along the Italian coast and it is subject to seasonal variability and to yearly fluctuations (i.e. *S. aurata*). Landings of *mugilidae* occur in lagoons and are object of aquaculture. Only a small fraction is by-catch of trawlers, targeting demersal species, or small scale fishery. The sampling of just few individuals in these metiers could force to largely increase the sampling effort, and decrease significantly the efficiency of the sampling for other commercial species.

Planned sampling is based on landings statistics of the year before, while the number of samples is based on the landings actually realized: in most cases have been collected more than the requirement samples for all the species. Concerning the oversampling, must be clarified that the present activity, conducted by Italy under the Module E of the NP, concerned the sampling of organisms exploited by commercial fisheries (on board and/or at landing place), by purchase of fish, and by surveys. The percentage value “Achieved No of individuals at a national level” is always reached and, sometimes, is even higher than planned. This happens because many observations have been conducted on board, so following the concurrent sampling approach was possible to measure and collect data on different species without any additional cost. No financial implications there have been in the NP 2012. On the contrary, for some other species different GSAs couldn't reach the total number of planned specimens due to the seasonal availability of the species and the low catches of the species in question. Overall the total number of fish achieved at National level resulted higher than the planned ones.

Concerning the sharks, most of the proposed species in the Appendix VII (actually the list presents 47 species of sharks and rays) of the Commission Decision 93/2010, are rare and with a sporadic and not confirmed presence in the Mediterranean area. As agreed at Regional Level, shark species have been collected concurrently only for length and no stock-based sampling must be added if metier-based sampling fails to provide the appropriate precision for length distributions. However, in some cases the biological data (sex, maturity weight) has been collected and the results reported in the Table III.E.3.

III E 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal (Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea)

CV for stock related variables of demersal and small pelagic species (G1 species) has been calculated annually for all métiers combined and for GSA. CVs have been calculated on the basis of 2012 data collected.

CV for stock related variables (i.e. sex ratio, maturity, weight) for all G2 species (demersal and small pelagics), must be collected every three years as reported in the table III.E.2 of the National Program.

The method used to calculate the CV has been developed by Vigneau and Mahevas (2004). This method allows estimating the precision for each length class and for the whole length frequency distribution (LFD) at metier level. The low values of CV estimated for some species could be associated to some major problems caused by using this method: the low representativeness of the sample; the requires of a good coverage of all length classes, that for some species and for the entire range of the LFD is almost impossible to obtain. To avoid this problem in the future the sampling effort will be intensified for some stocks.

For some demersal and small pelagic species, even if the number of planned specimens have been achieved, was not possible to achieve a good CV for the different biological parameters.

For other species (i.e. *Lophius* spp.) the sampling level and the CV has been low because of the difficulties of sampling this species at the landing sites.

Estimation of the CV for stock related variables of large pelagic species, following the three-annual evaluation (agreement at 2009 RCMed&BS), has been approached at Regional level during 2010 and next results will be provided during 2013. However, PGMed 2012 and 2013 continued to standardize the methodology to calculate the CV at Regional Level.

Concerning the shark, most of the proposed species in the new Appendix VII (actually the list presents 47 species of sharks and rays) of the Commission Decision 93/2010, are rare and with a sporadic and not confirmed presence in the Mediterranean area. As agreed at Regional Level shark species have been collected concurrently only for length. No stock-based sampling has been added if metier based sampling fails to provide the appropriate precision for length distributions. For this reason during the RCMed&BS 2009 has been decided that no minimum number and sampling strategy should be associated to the collection of all the “sharks” species reported in the Appendix VII. Should be underlined that the landings of each shark species represent less than 200 tons at National Level. However, even if the estimation of the CV% was not planned in the NP 2011-2013, for some GSA an effort to estimate the CV for stock related variables, related to some shark species, has been made and reported in the table.

Concerning the oversampling, as stated already in the previous paragraph, must be clarified that the present activity, conducted by Italy under the Module E of the NP, concerned the sampling of organisms exploited by commercial fisheries. The percentage value “Achieved No of individuals at a national level” is always reached and, sometimes, is even higher than planned. This happens because many observations have been conducted on board, so following the concurrent sampling approach was possible to measure and collect data on different species without any additional cost. No financial implications there have been in the NP 2012.

III E 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations (Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea)

RCMMed&BS Recommendations	Actions
RCMMed&BS 2011 recommends MS to provide landings data of the previous year of the species presented in Appendix VII of the Commission Decision 2010/93/EU as requested by the PGMed templates. The Group reminds that, if landings data are not disaggregated by species the data quality of the results will be affected. In the Comm. Dec. 93/2010 the exemption rules for the Mediterranean Stock, in order to justify the derogations on sampling stock related variables, stated that “ <i>the landings by weight of a Mediterranean Member State for a species corresponding to less than 10 % of the total Community landings from the Mediterranean Sea</i> ”. Following this issue, the group recommends to all MS to send the required landing data at species level.	Italy, since 5 years, provides landing data disaggregated at species level as requested by the Appendix VII of the Commission Decision 2010/93/EU
RCMMed&BS 2011 recommended each MS to organize the stock related variables sampling for large pelagic along the three years period, accordingly to their own suitability. MS should adjust their NP accordingly to these results.	Italy followed this decision, and will organize the stock related variables sampling for large pelagic along the three years period
Liaison Meeting 2011 Recommendations	
Concerning Stock variables: stocks with low landings - The RCM ask for some advice or guidelines on data demands for stocks (included	Italy support this recommendation

in Appendix VII of the Commission Decision 2010/93/EC), which are landed in small amount.	
Concerning Stock variables: Quality issues - RCM NA recommends DG MARE to review the exact needs for biological parameters for each stocks, in close relation with the end-users. In view of the future DCF, if data are not required by any EWG, these should be removed from the Appendix VII.	Italy support this recommendation
Quality issues: Stock variables - RCM NA recommends DG MARE and STECF to reflect on the construction on a meta information database to hold the details of the national programme, with the view of eventually replacing the current set of Excel tables.	Italy support this recommendation

III E 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls (Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea)

The project activities were specified in agreement with the reports foreseen by the national program.

III E 5 Monitoring of commercial eel

Data on commercial fishery of eel have been collected for the year 2012 by a sample survey, based on the census of all fishers on the whole national territory performed in 2011.

The aim of the sample survey was the statistically significant estimation of catch per unit effort (CPUE), defined as weight (kg) per fisherman (Castelnaud & Beaulaton, 2008). This parameter has been considered the most important in order to extrapolate the total catch at the national level and for each stratum.

The survey took into account all commercial fisheries operating in Italy. The sampling design was at one stage-stratified. The sample units (catches) were selected without replacement and with equal probability. The stratification was designed to take into account the level of disaggregation of the information required by Regulation 199/2008, and was based on two auxiliary variables:

- The first stratification variable was the Region, as this is the UG (management unit) defined for the management of eel fisheries, as implemented in the National Eel Management Plan (Regulation 1100/2007).
- The second variable regards the habitat typology, also used in the context of national and regional management plans to distinguish the type of environment in which the fishing activity is carried on (lake, lagoon, managed lagoon, river) .

On the basis of Regulation 100/2007, there are 9 management units (Regions) where eel fisheries are at present allowed, on the basis of their participation to the eel recovery programme implemented through the eel National Management Plan. Therefore, the sample survey considered only these 9 regions. Considering the presence or absence of the different typologies described in the 9 Italian regions, 24 strata have been identified.

During 2012, the interviews have been carried out by interviewers, using questionnaires prepared ad hoc. Data concerning catches and fishing effort (time and gears) were requested on a seasonal basis and for each different stage of the eel ("glass eel", "yellow eel" and "silver eel"), as required by EU Reg. 199/2008 .

The results, checked and validated, have been stored into a database and then processed for the extrapolations necessary to characterize the fishing activities in the different management units (UG).

Biological samplings of catches have been carried out to evaluate their composition by length, stage and sex. . Samplings have been carried out on a management unit/typology basis (“yellow eel” and “silver eel”).

During 2012, eel biological sampling has been completed for the management units (UG) where it was possible to carry out this work. Analyses carried out on each individual of the sample (in total more than 900 individuals have been: total length and weight, sex, precise characterization of the stage (yellow eel / argentine eel). All methodologies used are those currently validated and intercalibrated by international working groups.

As requested from the EU Regulation, samples were part of commercial catches. Unfortunately, it was not possible to carry out all the planned sampling activities due to several problems that affected the fishing activities. In the North-East Regions, due to bad weather conditions and/or stop of the fishing activity, it was not possible to perform the biological sampling as planned.

Table: Number of individuals (yellow eels and eel Argentina), and stratum sampled for each Management Unit (Regional).

Region	Stratum	yellow eel	Silver eel
Lombardia	Lago	-	-
Friuli V.G.	Laguna	-	-
Veneto	Laguna	56	34
Emilia R.	Laguna	102	100
Toscana	Laguna	99	100
Umbria	Lago	-	-
Puglia	Laguna	103	94
Sardegna	Laguna	50	40
Lazio	Laguna	40	105

Data quality

During 2012, the collection of catch data has proceeded with remarkable efficiency.

Even if in some regions it was not possible to achieve the planned number of specimens for the biological samplings, due to the problems above mentioned, a good representation of the whole sector has been achieved at National Level. It should be mentioned that ICES highlighted the opportunity to reduce the number of samples that resulted oversized. (ICES, 2011. Report of the 2010 session of the Joint EIFAC/ICES Working Group on Eels WGEEL, 9–14 September 2010 Hamburg, Germany. ICES CM 2010/ACOM: 18, 201 pp.). This and other important aspects were also discussed at the ICES WKESDCF - Workshop on Eel and Salmon DCF Data that met in Copenhagen from 3 to 6 July 2012, under the co-chairmanship of Ted Potter (UK) and Alan Walker (UK). Discussion on DCF requirements for eel also took place at the 2012 meeting of the Working Group on Eel will take place in ICES HQ, Copenhagen Monday 3rd - Sunday 9th, September 2012.

Actions to avoid shortfalls

Peculiarities of eel fisheries are due to the life cycle of the species, to its distribution and to the different and extremely heterogeneous exploitation typologies. The management, as well as the collection of data concerning the eel fisheries is therefore rather complex.

Major problems in the data collection process can be summarized as follows:

- eel distribution limited to inland waters, where the species is caught both from recreational and commercial fishery. This requires the need for interaction with multiple administrations, since the

jurisdiction over inland fisheries, including fishing for eels, is attributed to the Regions (DPR n. 11, January 15 1972 and July 24, 1977, n. 616).

- inadequacy of the current system of fishery statistics in inland waters, for the same problem mentioned above, and absence of a system of registration of fishing catches both at regional and provincial level.
- inadequacy of the systems in force in relation to the necessities imposed by the EU Regulations 1100/2007 and 199/2008 to provide data according to specific requirements (catch per stage, fishing effort, etc..).
- extreme fragmentation of the fishing activities on the national territory, and heterogeneity of the fishing methods, that makes very difficult to establish contacts with the fishermen.
- scarce awareness of both sport and commercial fishers of the eel stock present situation, of the need of a recovery plan and of the involvement at the national and local levels in Management Plans. This makes them extremely diffident when confronted with the necessity to answer questions, to compile logbooks, to collaborate in collecting biological samples.
- problems related to the coordination at European level. The eel Fisheries Data Collection under Reg. 199/2008 is not yet operational in many States for all compartments. For recreational fisheries, in some countries it is still at early stages of development (e.g. methodological issues)
- marked seasonality of the fishing activities linked to the migration patterns of the different stages of the eel: most of the fishing activities take place in the last days of December of the calendar, also linked to the market demand for Christmas. This implies that the interviews with fishers, sampling and examination of samples may need to be moved to the following year, creating considerable difficulties both from technical-scientific and administrative points of view.

The above mentioned aspects make the census of commercial fishing activities in inland waters and lagoons very expensive in terms of time and investment and for these issues there are considerable difficulties in coordinating the activities carried out within this module.

Region: Other regions

III E 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal (Other regions)

National Proposal 2011-2013 has been evaluated and approved by STECF EWG 11-19. Concerning the Stock-related variables in the other Regions (i.e. CECAF areas), when submitted NP 2011-2013 Italy asked for a derogation for the years 2011-2013. The reason for asking such derogation is that biological sampling of this fishery will be carried out through a self-sampling that is not feasible for the stock related variables. STECF EWG 11-19, retained the Italian national proposal for the collection of fisheries is in general in accordance with Council Regulation EC 199/08 and Commission Decision 93/2010, appreciating also the improvement that was done by member state. In any case, Italy is attending the RCM Long Distant Fishery. During the last meeting (September 2013), Italian data of CECAF area showed the very low share of Italian vessels in terms of effort and landings.

III E 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal (Other regions)

No sampling activity has been carried out.

III E 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations (Other regions)

RCM LDF 2011	Actions
Stock variables: Methodology on biological sampling In the absence of a maturity scale for CECAF stocks, the RCM-LDF recommends for the time being to use the maturity scale established in the ICES WKSPMAT 2008	Italy agrees with this approach

Workshop.	
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III E 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

No sampling activity has been carried out. Italy will attend the RCM Long Distant Fishery and will participate to any coordinated program that will be proposed.

III F Transversal variables

III F 1 Capacity

III F 1 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

The following parameters have been estimated for capacity:

- number of vessels
- GT, kW, Age (as defined in Regulation (EC) No 26/2004)

Parameters are given annually, per fleet segments (Appendix III) and per supra-regions (Mediterranean & Black Seas and Other regions).

The basic data source is the fleet register at the 1st of January.

III F 1 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

Data are collected exhaustively from the vessel register.

III F 1 3 Actions to avoid shortfalls

The project activities were specified in agreement with the reports foreseen by the national program.

III F 2 Effort

III F 2 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

Effort has been estimated according to the variables and disaggregation levels listed in Appendix VIII.

Effort data are collected for all the métiers. From a methodological point of view, the major problem in respecting the required disaggregation is given by the disaggregation by métier (Level 6 of Appendix IV, 4). Compulsory information for all the fleet is not available. In Italy, there is no obligation for vessels to indicate the type of activity they practice along the year. Each vessel can utilize all the gears indicated in the licence. More than 70% of the Italian fishing-vessel licences allow the use of more than one fishing system, and therefore gears. This framework is also more complex if we consider the high number of existing métiers actually practised by Italian vessels, with differences in seasonality and geographical areas.

In order to estimate fishing effort per métier and GSA, different data sources have been used:

- logbook information. Logbook is compulsory in the Mediterranean only for a minority of fleets (vessels of overall length exceeding 10 metres) and will contain production information only where vessels retain on board quantities exceeding 50 kg live-weight equivalent of some species (Reg. CE 1224/09).
- field survey to detect the prevalent fishing activity
- sample survey to estimate the monthly distribution of activity by métiers.

The sample survey is based on a panel of around 1500 vessels (11% of the fleet), including the small scale (vessels < 12 m). Survey takes place every week on a continuous basis. Data on fishing effort, vessel activity

and fishing area are recorded by gear and species using purposely formulated questionnaires. Results for each area, by month and by métier are obtained by applying raising factors to the sampled data. Statistical methods described in the 2011-2013 NP have been applied.

Table III.F.1 reports the information collected during the sampling year.

III F 2 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

Elementary and aggregated data have been checked to verify their reliability. Consistency among different variables has been analysed.

Precision levels have been calculated in terms of CV at the level of fleet segments and per GSA.

Table III.F.1 reports the values of the accuracy indicators.

III F 2 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

The list of recommendations made by the RCM and actioned by the MS is reported in the following table:

RCMMed&BS 2010 Recommendations	Actions
Transversal variables: common understanding of effort definitions	Italy is still waiting for indication from SGRN if the collection of effort variables should be optional for the metier not-selected by the ranking system. In the meantime all métier are covered.

III F 2 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

AR states that "the project activities were specified in agreement with the reports foreseen by the national program". No deviations occurred and therefore no explanations is considered necessary

III F 3 Landings

III F 3 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

Landings have been estimated according to the variables and disaggregation levels listed in Appendix VIII.

Commercial landings have been assessed on the basis of a sampling procedure. In particular, monitoring of the activities of fishing vessels less than 10 meters requires the definition of a specific sample program.

The methodology of the survey for estimation of landings per species was approved by Eurostat during the meeting of the working group "fishery statistics" held in Luxembourg, 18-19 February 2002.

The survey is based on a sample of around 1500 vessels that corresponds to 11% of the total fleet. The sample is stratified according to fishing segments and geographical areas. Elementary data are collected through questionnaires filled by data collectors, which are scattered along the Italian coast. Survey takes place every week on a continuous basis. Data on landings (weight and prices) and fishing area are recorded by gear and species. This allows post-stratifying the final estimates according to the métiers level (Level 6, Appendix IV, 4). Annual average prices per species are calculated using weighted averages.

The sample survey covers the entire Italian fleet which operates in the Mediterranean Sea. Landing data of vessels fishing beyond the straits ("Other regions") are recorded on a census basis and taken from the compulsory documentation.

Data related to BFT landings (including tuna farming) are provided by a specific data collection implemented by the national administration in accordance with ICCAT procedures and, as such, are excluded from the sample survey.

Table III.F.1 reports the information collected during the sampling year.

III F 3 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

Precision levels have been calculated in terms of CV at the level of fleet segments and per GSA. The sample size has been fixed according to this precision target. Estimates of variance to calculate CV are reported in table III.F.1.

III F 3 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

With respect to the landings, RCM Med&BS commented that in some cases the landings data are still reported by mixed species and that this creates problems in calculating the actual percentage of landings of each species by MS. This is not the case for Italy because landings data are available per single species.

III F 3 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

The project activities were specified in agreement with the reports foreseen by the national program.

III G Research surveys at sea

III G 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

According to appendix IX of DCF (EU Dec. 93/2010), the Italian National Program for the period 2011-2013 included two surveys:

- MEDITs, Mediterranean International bottom trawl survey
- MEDIAS, Pan-Mediterranean pelagic survey

MEDITs

The 2012 Italian data collection program retained the Medits project with no modifications with respect to the standard protocol survey (Medits, 2007. International bottom trawl survey in the Mediterranean, Medits, Instruction manual. Version 5, Ifremer, Nantes 60 pp).

The Medits Program aims to conduct coordinated surveys from bottom trawling in the Mediterranean Sea. Parameters have been evaluated since 1994 so as to provide comparable results for all Italian seas and for the surveys conducted within the Medits projects in other Mediterranean countries (Geographical sub areas in the Mediterranean – Figure 1).

The Medits survey program produce basic information on benthic and demersal species, on the basis of an annual survey, in terms of population distribution, abundance, and size composition of an aggregate of around 38 species found in an area with a depth ranging from 0- to 800 m within the seas adjacent to Italy (around the 7 Italian GSA – maps of the MEDITS surveys conducted in each Geographical Sub-Areas (GSA) are provided in Annexes at the end of the Report).

The experimental design of sampling followed the modalities and the operational procedure set by the Medits project, updated to the current National Program.

753 hauls, in agreement with the Italian National Program, has been carried out during the period of the survey. Hauls have been allocated within the following bathymetrical strata: 0-50 m, 50-100 m, 100-200 m, 200-500 m and 500-800 m. All the planned hauls have been performed (Table 1).

All data, both on hauls (date, timings, latitude, longitude and so on) and relating to the processing of biological samples has been collected following the relevant procedure. Then, the information has been registered on paper-based documents and subsequently computerized.

Table 1 -Number of hauls required and performed from the different GSA during the Medits 2012

<i>GFCM Geographical sub areas (GSA)</i>	<i>N. of hauls required</i>	<i>N. of hauls achieved</i>
9 Ligurian Sea/Upper Tyrrhenian Sea,	120	120
10 Lower Tyrrhenian Sea	70	70
11 Sardinian	100	101
16 Sicilian Channel	120	120
17 Upper and Middle Adriatic	180	182
18 Lower Adriatic	90	90
19 W. Ionian Sea	70	70
Total	750	753

MEDIAS

MEDIAS survey (Figure 1) has been carried out for the first time in 2009. In 2012 the surveys have been conducted following the methodologies and protocols agreed by the first steering committee (Report of the steering committee for the coordination and harmonization of the 5 ongoing acoustic surveys in the Mediterranean, 25/26 February, Athens 2008).

The surveys in the Adriatic Sea (GSA 17 and GSA 18 – Figure 2a and 2b) and Sicilian Channel (GSA 16 – Figure 3) have been carried out without any problems. In the following figures are reported the areas covered during the Medias survey 2012.

Overall a total of 2389 nautical miles, 83 pelagic hauls and around 202 stations using the DTC sonde have been performed (Table III.G.1).

In the NP 2011-2013 version, submitted in October 2010, Italy has reported under Table III.G.1 the Medias survey divided into the different areas (GSA). In that version have been also added two areas, GSA 9 and GSA 10, where the survey was not foreseen (following Appendix IX EU Decision 93/2010). For this reason there are discrepancies between the number of planned fishing days reported in the NP and the ones correctly reported in the AR 2012.

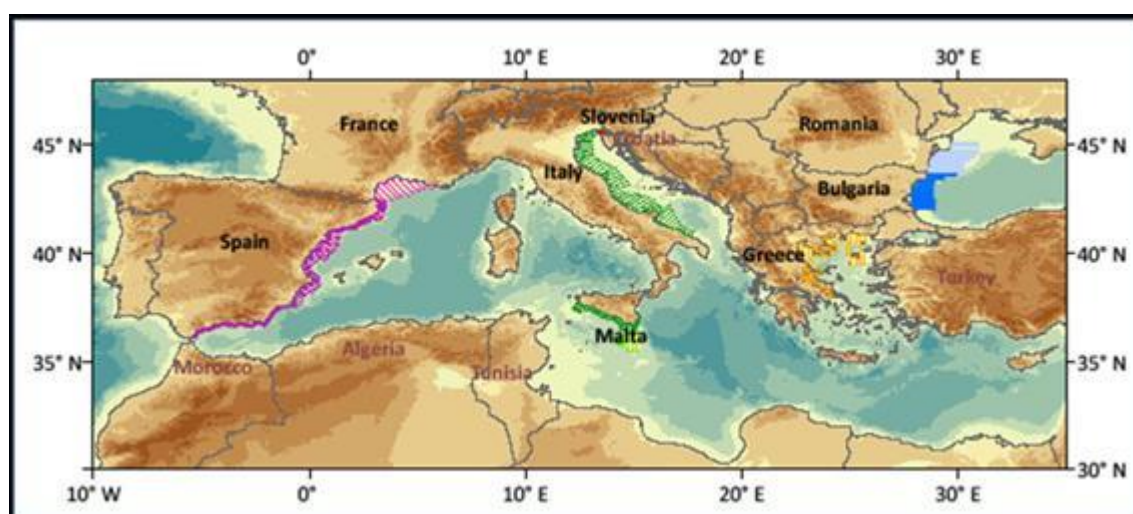


Figure 1 - MEDIAS acoustic surveys design.

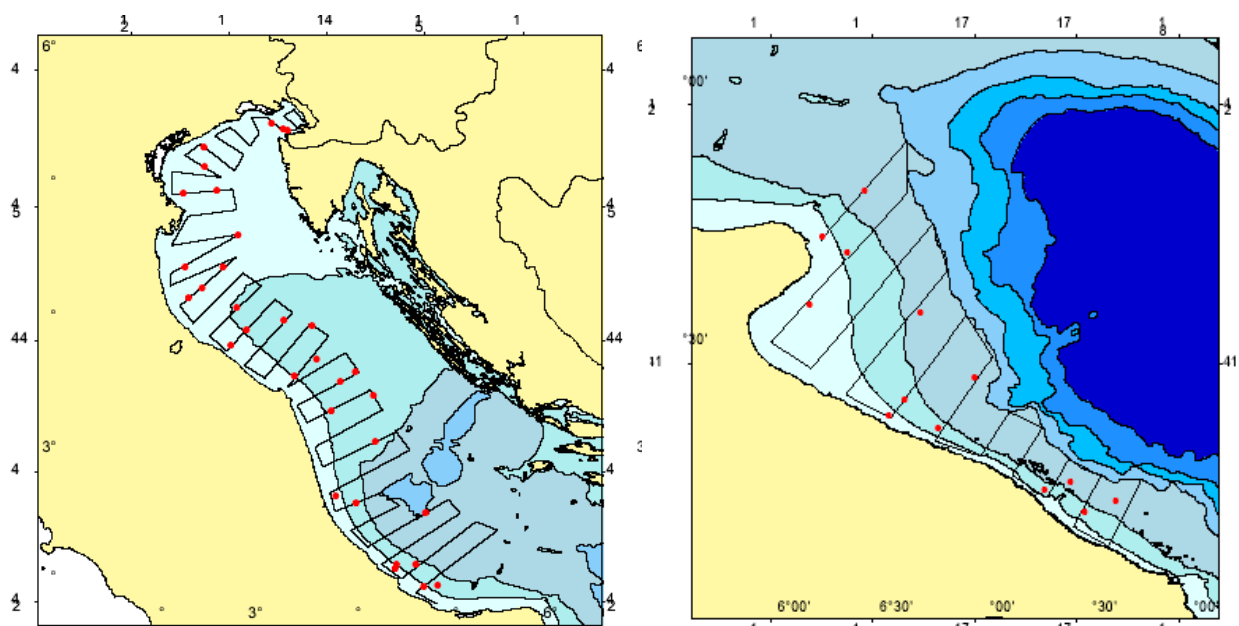


Figure 2a and 2b - Medias in the GSA 17 (North Adriatic) and in the GSA 18 (South Adriatic)

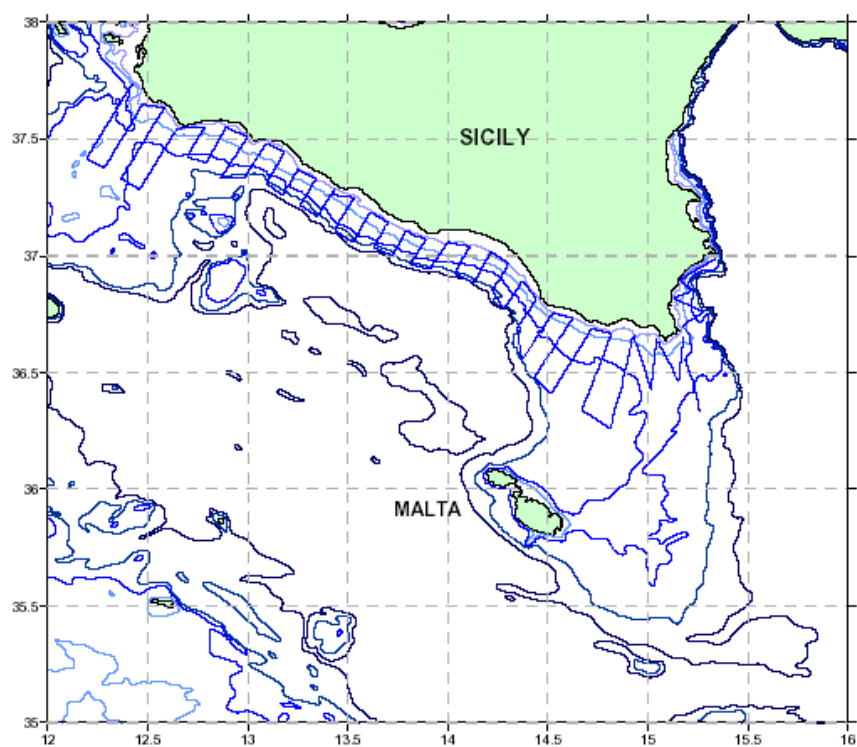


Figure 3 -Medias in the GSA 16 (Sicily Channel)

III G 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

For the time being both Medits and Medias data are stored in the JRC database. In the meanwhile both Steering Group are working in order to finalize a database for each specific survey.

Medits: Concerning the Medits database it is under implementation. Following the recommendations of the Regional Coordination Meeting of the Mediterranean and Black Sea, progresses were made towards the implementation of a common data base. The key concepts of the DB system under development are: Open source software, spatial data base, Reliable R-routines, Web based system. This is developed as a web-GIS-based information system, according to the most modern development standards for the web (HTML5, web service, scripting server-side, relational database, etc.). The system will be composed of two main entities: a Relational DataBase Management System (R-DBMS) for storage, retrieval and updating of MEDITS surveys data and a multi-component software, performing data acquisition and data analysis. Open source software is used for the implementation of all the components (not excluding proprietary file formats).

The main characteristics of the MEDITS common database will be:

- a simple database structure that can accommodate a wide range of data types, related to scientific surveys, easily linkable with GIS applications;
- capability to store, retrieve, update, manipulate and analyze trawl survey data, including spatially referenced information;
- capability to import and export data (or to download and upload data) in the consolidated format of TA, TB, TC, etc.

The system includes check routines allowing extensive quality control of data (internal and cross checks between tables) and data analysis and elaboration for different tasks linked to the DCF objectives, such as the estimation abundance and biomass indices, maps and ecosystem indicators throughout the Mediterranean.

Medias: concerning the Medias database, the steering committee group has been working in the framework of the Acousmed project (Contract MARE/2009/09 SI2.557652) in the “Standardization of a common format for an acoustic data database”. The aim of this task was the proposal of fields and algorithms for a common database that will serve the needs of acoustic surveys in order to fulfill DCF requirements and standardize the output of surveys estimations. For that reason, MEDIAS group revised the format of existing databases related to acoustic surveys per study area and MEDIAS partners.

III G 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

RCMMed&BS 2010 Recommendations	Actions
RCMMed&BS recommends to discuss and agree about the characteristics and methodological aspects for an autumn survey, for clarifying the objectives, geographical distribution, number of sampling stations and complementary sampling methods, in order to define a new survey complementary to spring MEDITS	Italy agreed with this recommendation and fully supported a second demersal survey (during autumn period) in the Mediterranean sea.
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendations	Actions
MEDITS survey - RCMMed&BS recommends to the next Medits steering committee the finalization of the MEDITS manual. This manual must be ready before the start of the 2012 Medits surveys.	This recommendation has been addressed by the Medits 2011 steering Committee (Slovenia, March 2011) and Italy will follow the agreement reached at Regional Level.
MEDIAS survey - RCMMed&BS recommends to the MEDIAS group to emphasize the current state of development of the Regional Database for MEDIAS surveys and report it to the	Italy will follow the output of the 2011 Medias steering committee and the following decision of the RCMMed&BS 2012

RCMMed&BS	
RCMMed&BS recommends to those groups which work under its umbrella (i.e. PGMed, MEDITS and MEDIAS steering groups) to clearly follow the Terms of References defined and to inform about the resulting discussion in their annual reports	This recommendation has been addressed both by the Medits and Medias steering Committee and Italy will follow the agreement reached at Regional Level.

III G 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

The project activities were specified in agreement with the reports foreseen by the national program.

IV Module of the evaluation of the economic situation of the aquaculture and processing industry

IV A Collection of data concerning the aquaculture

IV A 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

During 2012 (reference year 2011) data related to the production of the different aquaculture segments, in marine waters and fresh waters, have been collected. In addition, structural data have been also collected as foreseen by EU Reg. 762/2008 which requires to update structural data every three years (the first census was related to the reference year 2008 and the second one has covered the reference year 2011).

In addition, in 2012 economic data related to 2010 have been processed and compiled.

On the basis of the results of these activities, it has been possible to define the total population of enterprises which carry out aquaculture activities and it has been possible to segment this population on the basis of the species and the type of species / type of farming used and the prevailing technology. In the following table, all the segments included in the census are reported.

Codice	Segmento
2.2	Trout_on growing
2.3	Trout_combined
2.4	Trout_cages
3.1	Sea bass & Sea bream_hatchery nursey
3.2	Sea bass & Sea bream_on growing
3.3	Sea bass & Sea bream_combined
3.4	Sea bass & Sea bream_cages
4.2	Carp_on growing
5.2	Other freshwater fish_on growing
5.3	Other freshwater fish_combined
5.4	Other freshwater fish_cages
6.2	Other marine fish_on growing
6.4	Other marine fish_cages
7.2	Mussel_Long line
8.2	Oyster_Long line
9.3	Clam_Bottom

The minimum number of units required to consider a segment in the sampling plan has been set at 5 units. The companies in the segments 2.4, 3.1, 5.3, 5.4, 6.4, 8.2 were, therefore, excluded from the universe of reference as auto-representative of the same segment. In addition, companies in the segment 4.2 have been aggregated to the segment 5.2 because homogeneous from the point of view of the type of farming used. Following this approach, a total population of 598 units have been defined.

For the extraction of the sample of aquaculture farms for the year 2011 a stratified sampling plan was applied. The population was subdivided into subpopulations or strata, on the basis of some stratification variables. The choice of the stratification variables is aimed at minimizing the size of the sample; in fact the goal is to get segments internally homogeneous and heterogeneous between them.

Companies have been stratified according to classes of total production defined by the quartiles of companies in the 2011 Census. In particular we have defined 3 classes: small (less than the 1st quartile), medium (greater than or equal to 1 in the 2nd quartile and lower quartile) and large (greater than or equal to the 3rd quartile).

The methodology adopted for the allocation of sampling units among stratum has been the Bethel method that is an extension of Neyman approach for multivariate sample surveys.

The final number of sampling enterprises has been 180 units. The sampling plane is presented in the following table.

The sampling companies have been randomly extracted from the population.

CODICE	SEGMENTO	CAMPIONE	UNIVERSO	PESO	PERCENTUALE CAMPIONAMENTO (%)
2.2	Trout_on growing	30	118	3,9	25,4
2.3	Trout_combined	21	54	2,6	38,9
2.4	Trout_cages	-	1	-	-
3.1	Sea bass & Sea bream_hatchery nursey	-	1	-	-
3.2	Sea bass & Sea bream_on growing	9	22	2,4	40,9
3.3	Sea bass & Sea bream_combined	4	8	2,0	50,0
3.4	Sea bass & Sea bream_cages	9	22	2,4	40,9
5.2	other freshwater fish_on growing	22	53	2,4	41,5
5.3	other freshwater fish_combined	-	4	-	-
5.4	other freshwater fish_cages	-	1	-	-
6.2	other marine fish_on growing	9	19	2,1	47,4
6.4	other marine fish_cages	-	1	-	-
7.2	Mussel_Long line	41	159	3,9	25,8
8.2	Oyster_Long line	-	3	-	-
9.3	clam_Bottom	35	132	3,8	26,5
TOTAL		180	598		

In addition to activities related to data referred to 2011, all data for the period 2008-2010 have been reprocessed in order to take into account the recommendations of STECF working group on aquaculture and the Lisbon workshop (October 2012).

IV A 2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

National Program considered a sample of 180 companies on a total population of 598 units (2011 data). At present, data on economic variables are still under compilation.

Parameters in table IV.A.3 are not yet available because we are still in the phase of data collection and validation of primary data. Only at the end of this step, accuracy indicators will be calculated.

Discrepancies in achieved sample rate with respect to the NP are due to the necessity to monitor only companies operating exclusively in the segment foreseen in the sampling plane. Very often, national companies operate in different segments, with different technologies including also activities like processing and commercialization.

Requested data have been submitted to the 2011 data call.

IV A 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

No RCM recommendations

IV A 4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

In the implementation of the NP, several actions have been undertaken to solve some problems encountered in previous years. These actions can be summarized as follows:

- Updating of the population of aquaculture companies on the basis of EUROSTAT Census, in order to better represent the sector in relation to the collection of economic data.
- Selection of companies for each segment with balance sheets that are referred to only one economic activity and not cumulated with other economic activities as for instance processing and commercialization of other products. On the basis of a random selection, companies not under this principle are substituted.
- Collection of economic parameter on the basis of the balance sheets and further investigation with each company. For these reasons companies with short balance sheets have not been monitored.

Information on achieved n. sample and data quality are included in the tables.

IV B Collection of data concerning the processing industry

IV B 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

The collection of data related to the fish processing sector during the year 2012 (reference year 2011) has been carried out in conformity with what planned in the National Programme 2011-2013.

The collection of the data required by Annex XII of the DCF regulation has been carried out by mean of a specific sampling survey. The survey is mainly carried out by Type B. On 17 variables collected, only for 3 variables type A is used. Table IV.B.1 provides information on change of type of methodology for the different segments. The Italian data collection does not use segments. For this reason the main type of estimation methodology (B) is reported.

The reference list for the selection of the survey has been the list of all the firms declaring to exert the NACE economic activity now 10.20, updated at May 2012. The survey has been carried out in a double way:

1. for capital companies data have been collected by mean of queries on the database of the Chamber of Commerce in order to obtain the balance sheets and financial accounts of the sampled enterprises;
2. for firms constituted as partnerships (limited, ordinary or general partnerships) or individual firms – not subject to the commitment of publishing the balance sheets and financial statements - the survey has been carried out by mean of questionnaires sent by mail or face-to-face interviews.

The survey has allowed estimating the following parameters as required by Commission Decision 93/2010, Appendix XII:

- Turnover
- Subsidies
- Other income
- Labour costs
- Energy costs
- Raw material costs
- Other running costs
- Depreciation
- Financial costs, net
- Extraordinary costs, net
- Capital value
- Net investments
- Debts
- Employment
- Number of enterprises

Table IV.B.1 gives details on the sample size and on the sampling strategy.

The response rate reported in table IV.B.2 is 81%. The reply to the survey was on a voluntary basis.

IV.B.2 Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Enterprises which do not have fish processing as their main activity have not been considered, because it is impossible to clearly identify them from the database used to extract the reference population.

It was not possible to collect data on the non-main activity enterprises as information available on the business register does not allow to do it. If possible, during the collection of 2012 data, still on-progress, actions to avoid this shortfall will be taken both for 2011 and 2012 data. Furthermore, if possible, integration of 2011 data with information on the turnover and number of enterprises of the "non-main activity enterprises" will be provided for the current data call (deadline 30th September 2013).

IV.B.3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

No regional co-ordination has been planned and realised.

IV.B.4: Actions to avoid shortfalls

In order to give information on the total number of persons employed in the fish processing sector, missing data have been filled by imputing the national average per enterprise.

The current data collection methodology for the processing industry has allowed to overcome some lacks founded in the SBS survey - (number of firms, number employed, turnover, value added, gross investment, etc ...) performed by Italian Statistical Office (ISTAT) in compliance with the reg. (EC) 58/97 2701/98 recently updated by reg. (EC) 295/2008 reg. (EU) 251/2009. Under these regulations, ISTAT has provided data for the processing sector (as well as for other economic activities), but for confidentiality problems these statistics have not been published for the period 2003-2007. With the new classification of economic activities, ATECO 2007 (Italian version of the NACE Rev.2), the confidentiality problems have disappeared and this has made possible the public use of SBS related to the fish processing sector starting from the year 2008 and 2009, recently published.

In light of this, during 2012 (as well as in the previous year 2011) were carried out actions aimed at:

1. To compare the two types of data collection (DCF and SBS);
2. Investigate the possible use of SBS data and the possibility of integration of data required by DCF but not present in the Eurostat statistics.

In the light of this comparison it was decided to continue to use the approach described by the NP as far as 2011 data. For 2012 data (to be collected and analysed during 2013) the opportunity to integrate the data collected with the SBS will be examined.

V Module of evaluation of the effects of the fishing sector on the marine ecosystem

V 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

Environmental indicators listed in appendix XIII of the DCF have been estimated. During 2012, Italy has created a specific working group dealing with the implementation and the evaluation of appropriate methodology to calculate/estimate the ecosystem indicator and to propose a common approach.

The following table reports the different data sources used for each indicator:

Code specification	Indicator	Definition	Source
1	Conservation status of fish species	Indicator of biodiversity to be used for synthesizing, assessing and reporting trends in the biodiversity of vulnerable fish species	MEDITs/MEDIAS
2	Proportion of large fish	Indicator for the proportion of large fish by weight in the assemblage, reflecting the size structure and life history composition of the fish community.	MEDITs/MEDIAS
3	Mean maximum length of fishes	Indicator for the life history composition of the fish community	MEDITs/MEDIAS
4	Size at maturation of exploited fish species	Indicator of the potential “genetic effects” on a population	MEDITs/Biological sampling of catches
5	Distribution of fishing activities	Indicator of the spatial extent of fishing activity. It would be reported in conjunction with the indicator for ‘Aggregation of fishing activity’.	VMS data Vessel Register
6	Aggregation of fishing activities	Indicator of the extent to which fishing activity is aggregated. It would be reported in conjunction with the indicator for ‘Distribution of fishing activity’.	VMS data Vessel Register
7	Areas not impacted by mobile bottom gears	Indicator of the area of seabed that has not been impacted by mobile bottom fishing gears in the last year. It responds to changes in the distribution of bottom fishing activity resulting from catch controls, effort controls or technical measures (including MPA established in support of conservation legislation) and to the development of any other human activities that displace fishing activity (e.g. wind farms).	VMS data Vessel Register Other sources
8	Discarding rates of commercially exploited species	Indicator of the rate of discarding of commercially exploited species in relation to landings.	Biological sampling of catches
9	Fuel efficiency of fish capture	Indicator of the relationship between fuel consumption and the value of landed catch. It will provide information on trends in the fuel efficiency of different fisheries.	Economic data, see chapter III B of the NP

V 2 Actions to avoid shortfalls

The project activities were specified in agreement with the reports foreseen by the national program.

VI. Module for management and use of the data

VI 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

Management of the data

In order to comply with the provisions contained in Reg. (EU) 199/2008 and subsequent Reg. (EU) 665/2008, the NP 2009-2010 included the implementation of a Databank for the fishing sector directed toward the collection, storage, management and systemisation of data of an economic and biological nature pertaining to the sector, coming from different sources and intended for differentiated users.

During 2012, the project for the implementation of a Databank for the fishing sector have been finalised with the creation of a Web platform that, in addition to allowing the updating and loading of data directly by the suppliers, permits different degrees of access in compliance with the requirements of the Commission and the Central Administration, as well as providing for a level of less detailed data available for general use. The address of the Italian DCF website is: <http://raccoltadati.irepa.org/>.

In addition, activities of verification, review and validation of the database have been carried out.

Development of procedures aimed at quality control and testing of consistency of distributed data for the types of fishing technique was also implemented.

The “raccolta dati” website is hosted on a Linux (Ubuntu operating system) server with Apache Web Server for service. The database for aggregated data is a Postgres database. The website is in Italian only.

Different levels of access are possible

The public part of the “raccolta dati” website gives access to information on institutions participating in the data collection in Italy, documentation regarding the data collection regulations, national program, national reports, annual reports, RCMED meeting, STECF reports, international working group /workshops reports on future of the DCF, reports published using DCF data and finally methodological notes.

In addition to that public part, registered users (having then a login and password - The user's password is encrypted -) can run other functions and see more documents and data. Each user registered is associated to a given profile which can be:

- “Viewer”: can view economic and biological data and documents loaded on the website.
- “Focal point”: can use in addition, functions allowing updating data from the aggregated database.
- “Documents manager”: is in charge of updating the sections referring to documentation and can upload/Delete documents.
- “Administrator”: has access to all functions with all rights.

The database management system (DBMS) of the 199 database is Postgres, an object-relational database management system. It is designed with the PL/pgSQL, a loadable procedural language that can be used to create functions and trigger procedure.

Two documents were elaborated to describe the kind of data files the focal point should provide: « Vol 1_ Codifiche_Parametri_Data_Collection_Reg_199_2008 Versione 2012 » for biological information and the “Vol 2_ Codifiche_Parametri_Data_Collection_Reg_199_2008 Versione 2012” for economic, transversal, aquaculture and processing industry data. Each data file structure will correspond exactly to the structure of a specific storage table in the database. Therefore it will be easy to identify the table to be uploaded and to perform checks regarding the rights of the focal point to load the type of data.

The two documents contain also the dictionaries (Meta data) used for referencing coded information (ex: GSA, species coding).

In all database's tables for a given chapter (ex: Annex 1: "Codifiche per Pesca_dati economici" for economic data), there are some common fields (ex: nation, GSA, supra region, year, prevalent fishing gear, length class) which makes it possible to apply specific queries for combining different kinds of information stored in the tables related to the chapters. This data warehouse system is not optimal in terms of space but it presents the advantage of easily collecting the information and retrieving the most common request leaving nevertheless the possibility to apply more advanced queries allowing performing ad hoc aggregations.

Use of the data

Table VI.1 reports the information collected during the sampling year.

VI 2 Actions to avoid shortfalls

The project activities were specified in agreement with the reports foreseen by the national program.

VII Follow-up of STECF recommendations

According to recommendation from EWG 11-08, only previous year recs. should be reported. We followed this recommendation, so that in the following table we present recommendations from the following STECF WG:

- EWG 11-08: Evaluation of 2010 annual reports (DCF)
- EWG 11-18: Review of economic data
- EWG 11-19: Evaluation of 2012 NPs related to DCF

Several recommendations are addressed to EC, STECF, end users and so on. Only recommendations addressed to MS are reported in the following table.

In AR 2010 we already presented actions taken to fulfill recommendations from 2010 STECF WGs, such as:

- SG-RN 10-01: Evaluation of 2011-2013 National Programmes linked to the Data Collection Framework
- SG-ECA 10-03: Review of economic data collected in relation to the DCF, harmonization of sampling strategies
- SG-RN 10-02: Evaluation of 2009 technical reports related to the DCF
- SG-RN 10-03: Review of needs related to surveys

We would like to notice that these recommendations are not easily accessible and sometime they are also redundant. It would be very helpful to receive a full list of recommendations to be taken into account or to publish this list on data collection web site to have a correct reference.

All relevant recommendations are listed below:

EWG 11-08: Evaluation of 2010 annual reports (DCF)	Actions
EWG 11-08 recommends that pre-screening guidelines including traffic light indicator marks are implemented in order to ensure equal and consistent evaluation.	Not applicable to MS
EWG 11-08 recommends that information and description of the method/software used for calculation of CV's included (or referred to) in the AR if not	Methods used for calculation of CV are reported in the present AR

provided in NP	
EWG 11-08 recommends for the AR tables, Table II.B.1 (list of eligible meetings) that is provided by the Commission should be used and all meetings and not only the meetings attended should be provided	Italy compiled table II.B.1 according to this recommendation
EWG 11-08 recommends that STECF compiles the filtered LIST of recommendations by region (from the previous year) for use by Member States in compiling AR and NP. This list should be available on the DCF website. MS put in a filtered list of Recommendations and show what actions that have been taken to follow up recs. Amend the current guidelines to say only previous year recs. should be followed. (EWG 11-08 would point out that a recurring recommendation should be a guideline).	Only recs. From 2011 STECF WGs report are included
EWG 11-08 recommends that a table including derogations asked for and if granted or rejected to be included in the AR tables. Adjust Guidelines for AR to include this.	Guidelines have not been adjusted to include this rec.
EWG 11-08 recommends Table III.C.1 and III.C.2 III E 1 should not to be deleted from the AR. Maintaining the tables is what is expected. This should be included in the revision of the AR guidelines.	Required tables are reported in this AR
EWG 11-08 recommends that in cases that a research vessel is not available for carrying out a contribution to a DCF survey that MS in question should demonstrate that it made all necessary efforts to carry out the survey. MS must make provisions so that such problems do not happen e.g. seek assistance from other MS or charter a vessel).	Not applicable
EWG 11-08 recommends that for the calculation of Capital value, all MS shall use PIM (Perpetual Inventory Method) in the future. A Workshop has already explained the method (DCF Workshop on Capital Valuation, Naples June 2011). MS should use this report in next AR. Also explore the need for a Training Workshop. This Report should be made available on the on DCF WEB site	PIM method is currently used
EWG 11-08 recommends that biological parameters and their CVs should be calculated for shared stocks at a regional level. CVs on National data could still be provided but not evaluated	CVs on shared stocks are calculated at regional level
EWG 11-08 recommends that files with filters, hidden cells, track changes, colored cells etc. should not be submitted in AR	Italy follows this rec
EWG 11-08 recommends that non conformities in the tables of the AR needs to be explained in the text.	Italy follows this rec
EWG 11-18: Review of economic data	Actions
EWG 11-18 recommends that a digressive depreciation scheme should be applied and the replacement value should be considered as the proper basis for calculation of depreciation costs	Italy is following this approach

EWG 11-18 recommends MS to refer to paragraph “5.2 Best practices” of the final report of the capital WS as guidelines for capital estimation	Italy is following this approach
EWG 11-18 recommends MS to apply the method proposed by the “capital WS” and to give details on the average wages used in the Annual Report	See relevant section of the AR
EWG 11-18 recommends MS to keep the clustering scheme consistent over time, and if not to explain the reason in the AR	Italy is following this approach
EWG 11-18 recommends not to address DCF data quality requirements for data which is mandatory to be collected under a different EU legislation	Italy is following this approach
EWG 11-19: Evaluation of 2012 NPs related to DCF	Actions
According to Commission Decision 93/2010, all MS performing the ranking system should use the average values of the 2 previous years. EWG 11-19 recommends that MS (even if they submitted or not a revised version of the National Program) use the most update set of values (i.e. landing values, tons, fishing days) in order to select the métiers to be sampled.	Rec. applicable to NP proposal and not to AR. Italy is following this approach
EWG 11-19 noted that the handling of RCM recommendations in NP proposals differ between MS. In accordance with the present guidelines recommendations from the RCMs and follow up by MS should be presented in the different sections on regional coordination of the NP and not as one combined list in the report. EWG 11-19 recommends that all RCM recommendations and actions following them could be presented in one list. This issue needs to be discussed when the guidelines are updated. RCM recommendations that the MS already have acted upon should not be deleted when MS revise their NP <i>within</i> the programme period.	Rec. not addressed to MS. However, we fully support it.
EWG 11-19 recommends that when MS apply for derogation to sample certain métiers, it is of importance that the derogation is also put in a regional context. What is the importance of the metier in the regional view? Has RCM concluded that sampling is well covered by other countries? This kind of information is usually compiled in the RCM reports, and should be included in the NP proposal allowing the EWG to judge the potential consequences of a derogation. This issue should be addressed in the review of guidelines.	Rec. not addressed to MS. Guidelines not updated yet.
EWG 11-19 recommends that for on-shore sampling, MS should continue to sample the métiers and make sure to cover all the species/stocks where a demand is formulated by an end-user (or listed in Appendix VII of the Comm. Dec.), but the methodology used to achieve the goals remains at the discretion of the MS, provided that it is fully documented and approved within their NP proposal.	To be considered in the NP proposal and not in the AR

VIII List of acronyms and abbreviations

ALP	Archivio Licenza Pesca – Vessel Register
ASIA	statistical archives of active companies
ATECO code	Codification for sectors of economic activities
CPUE	Catch per Unit of Effort
DCR	Data Collection Regulation
DGPA	Direzione Generale Pesca e Acquacoltura
GFCM	General Fishery Commission for the Mediterranean
GRT	Gross Registered Tonnage
GSA	Geographical Sub Areas
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
ISTAT	National statistical institute
MEDIAS	Pan-Mediterranean pelagic survey
MEDITS	Mediterranean International Trawl Survey
MIPAF	Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policies
RINA	Registro Italiano Navale
SAC	Scientific Advisory Committee of GFCM

IX Comments, suggestions and reflections

X References

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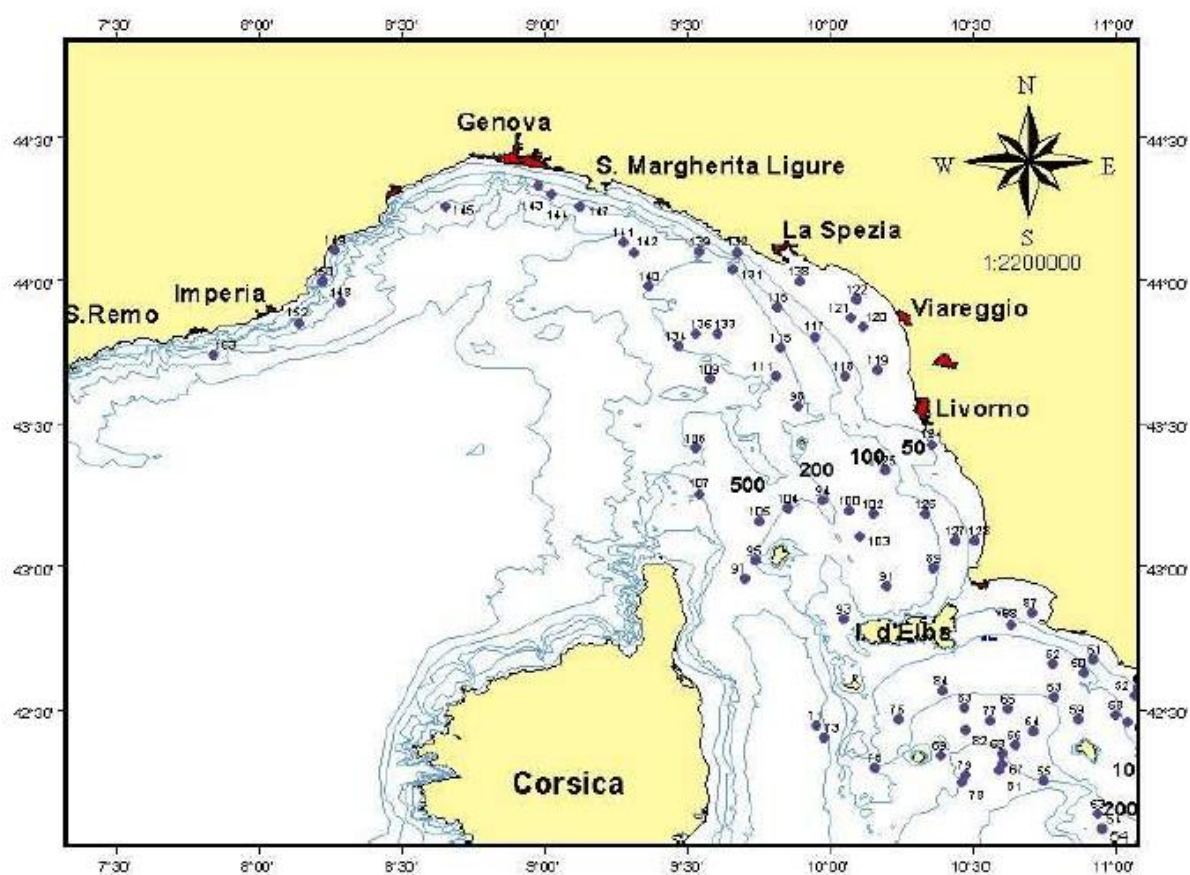
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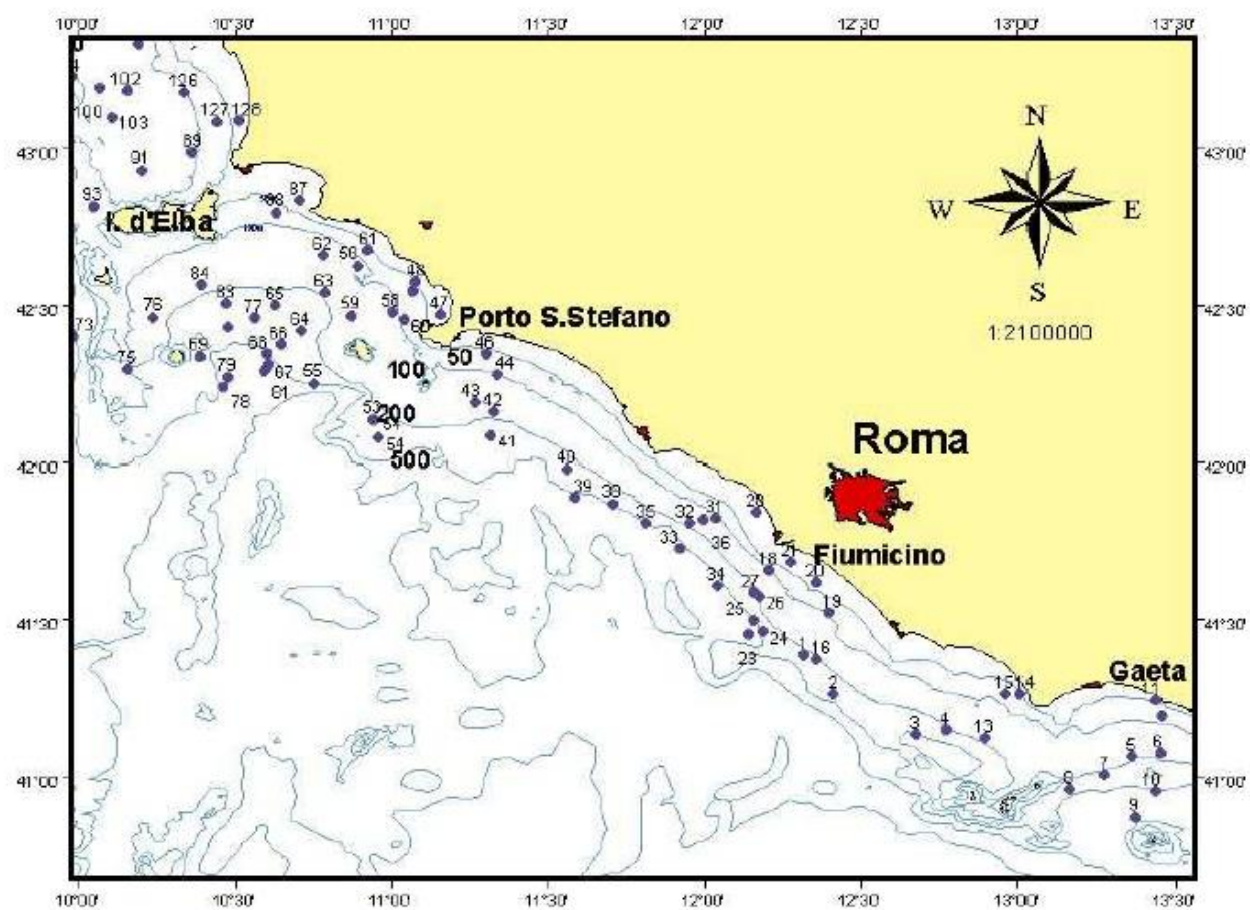
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ANNEX I - MEDITS SURVEYS: POSITION OF THE HAULS IN THE DIFFERENT ITALIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SUB-AREAS (GSA)

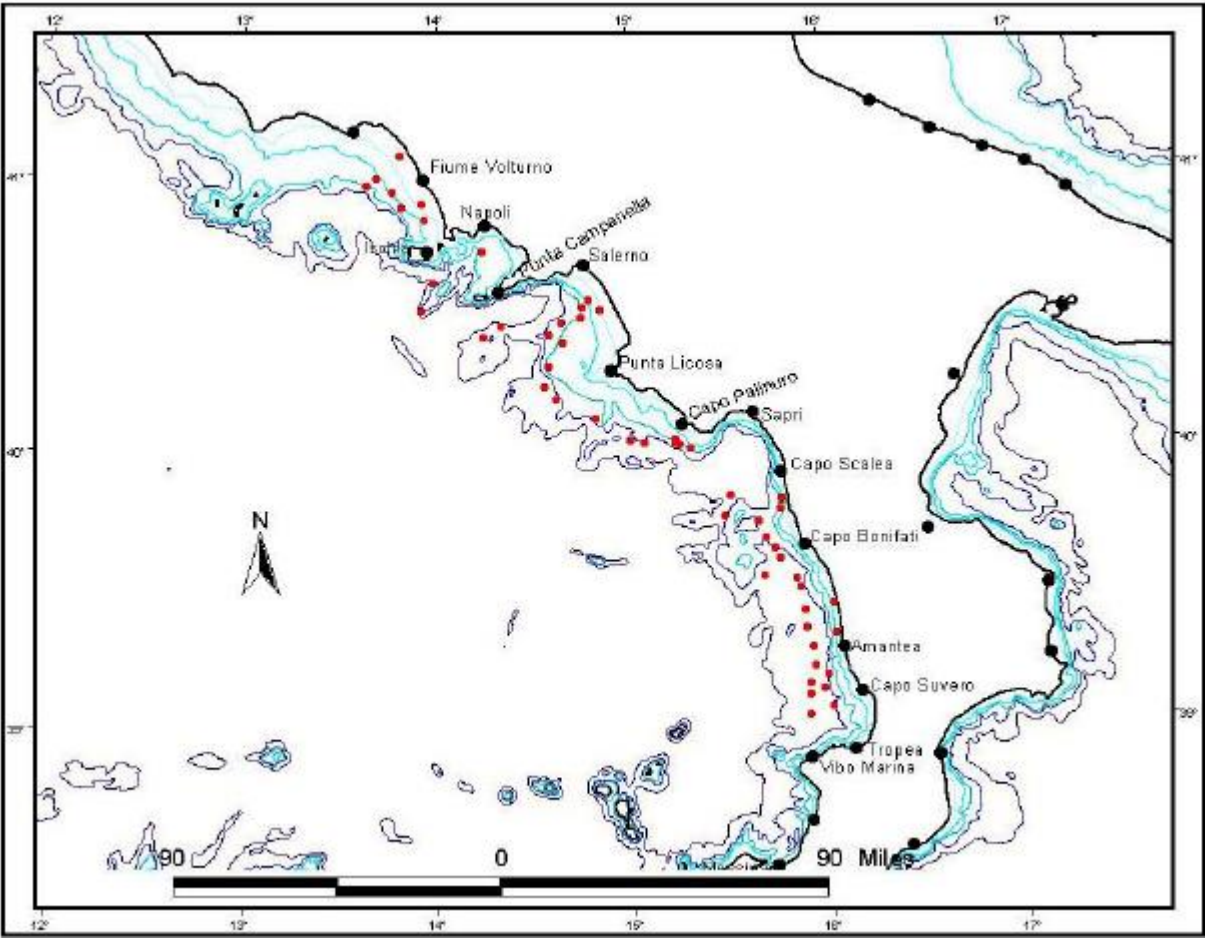
GSA 9/1 (Ligurian Sea/Upper Tyrrhenian Sea)



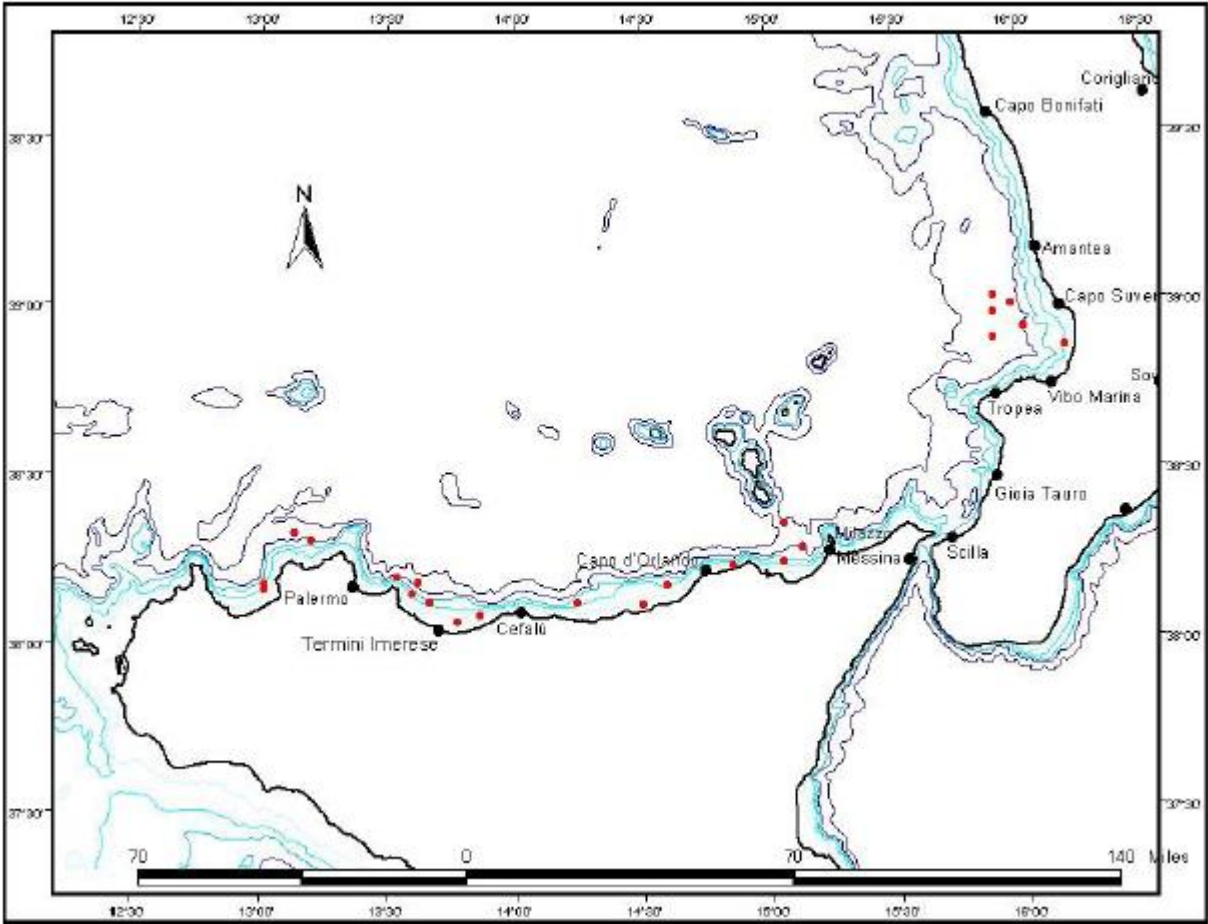
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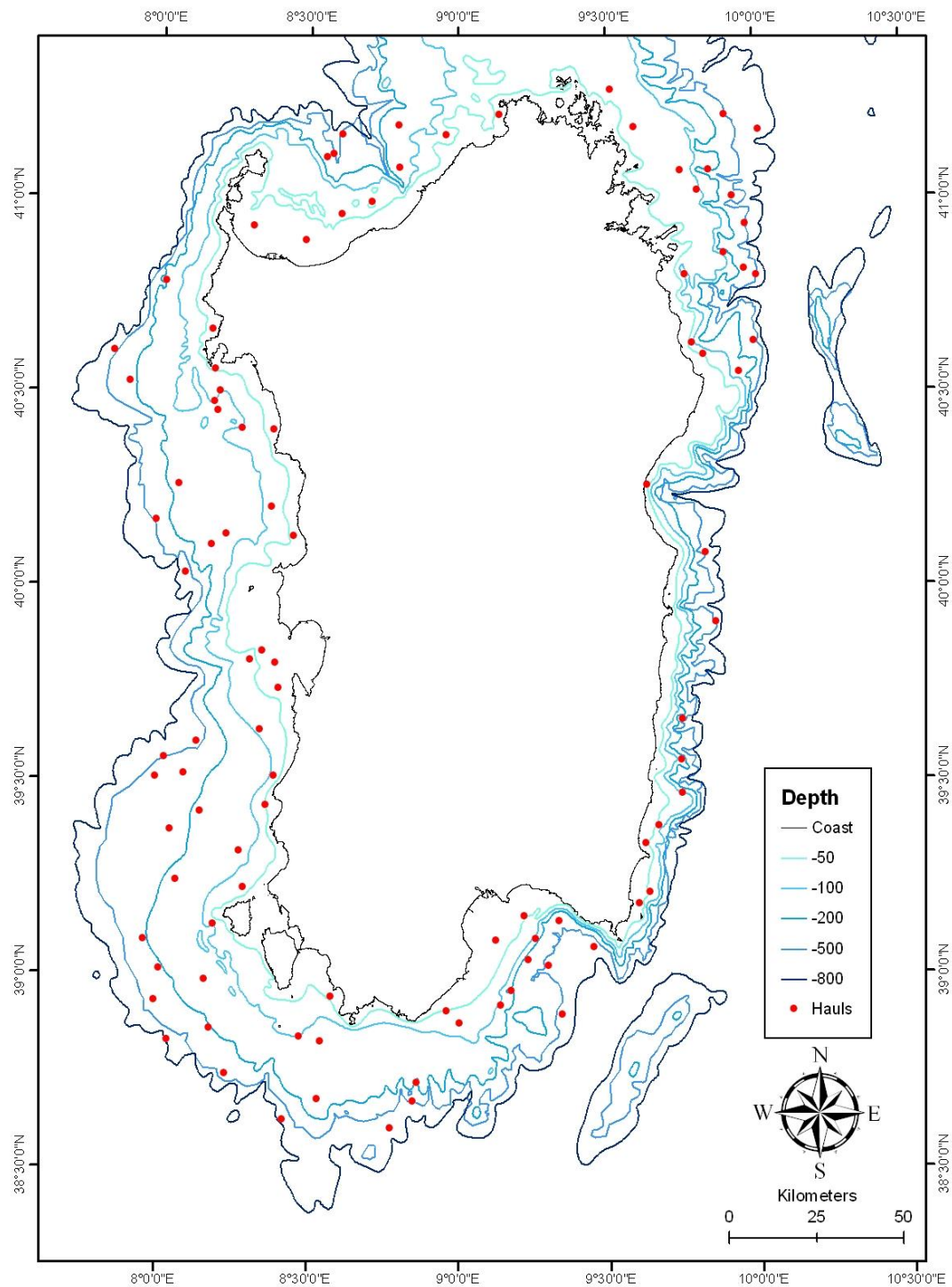
GSA 10/1 (Lower Tyrrhenian Sea)



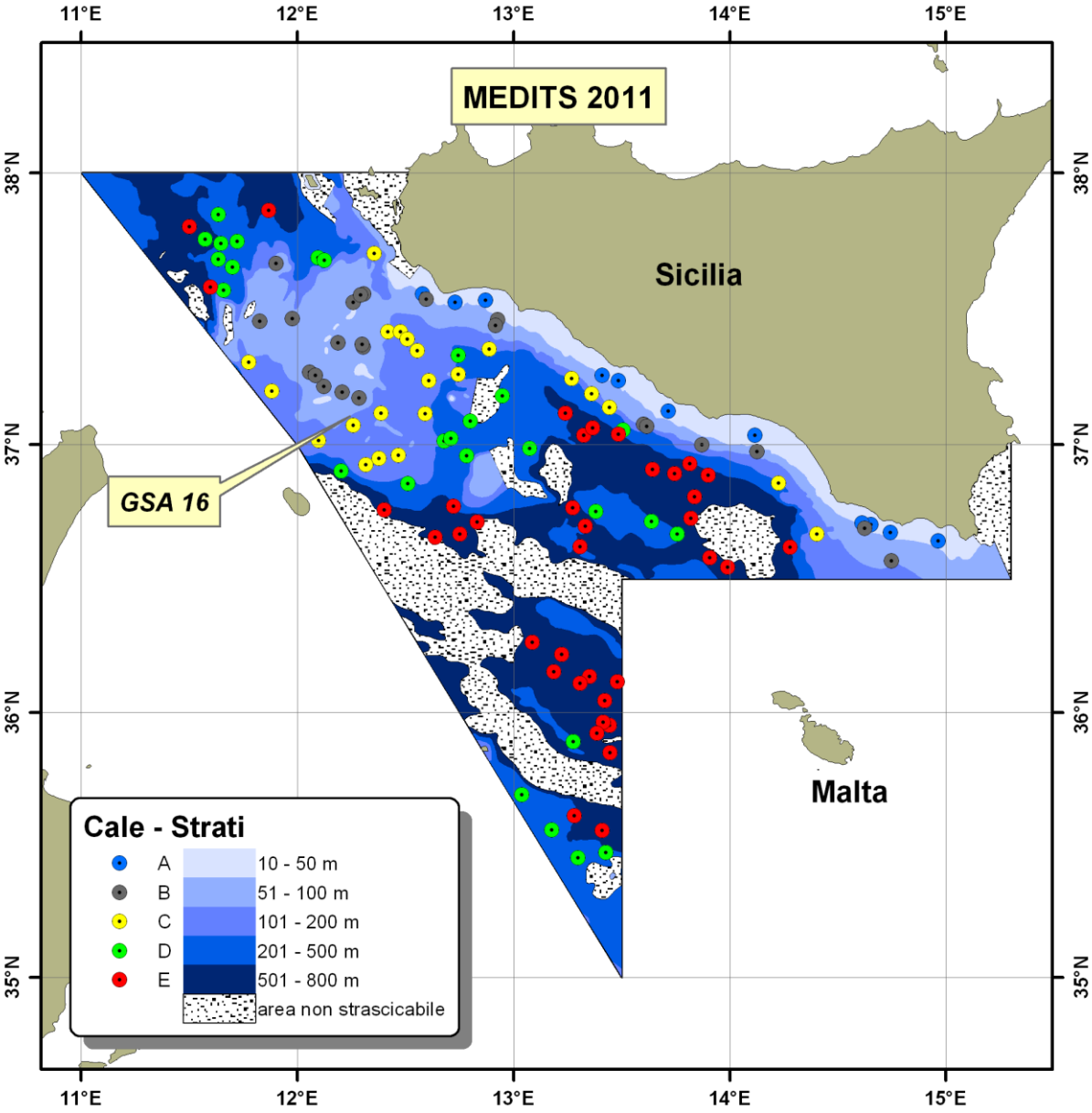
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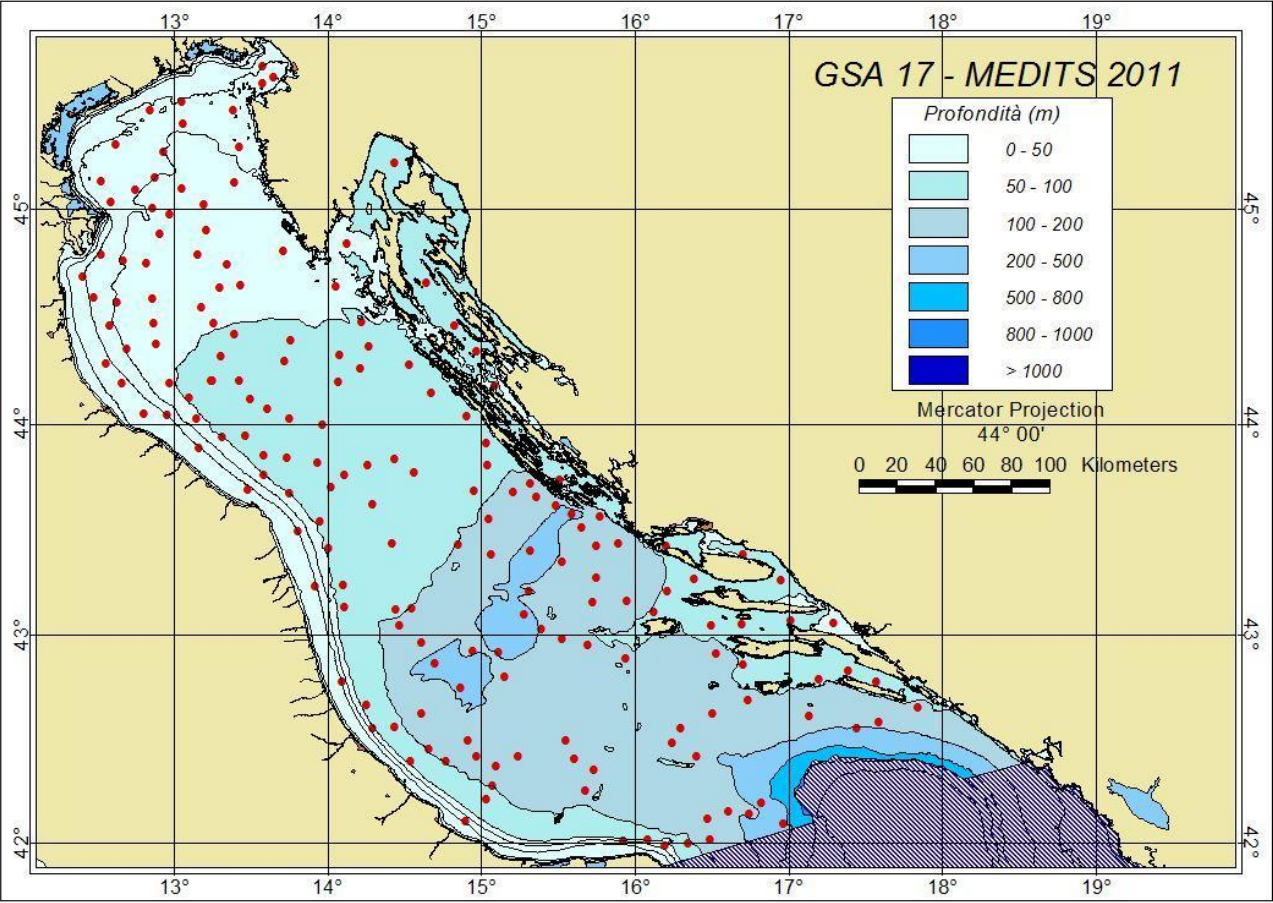
GSA 11 Sardinian seas



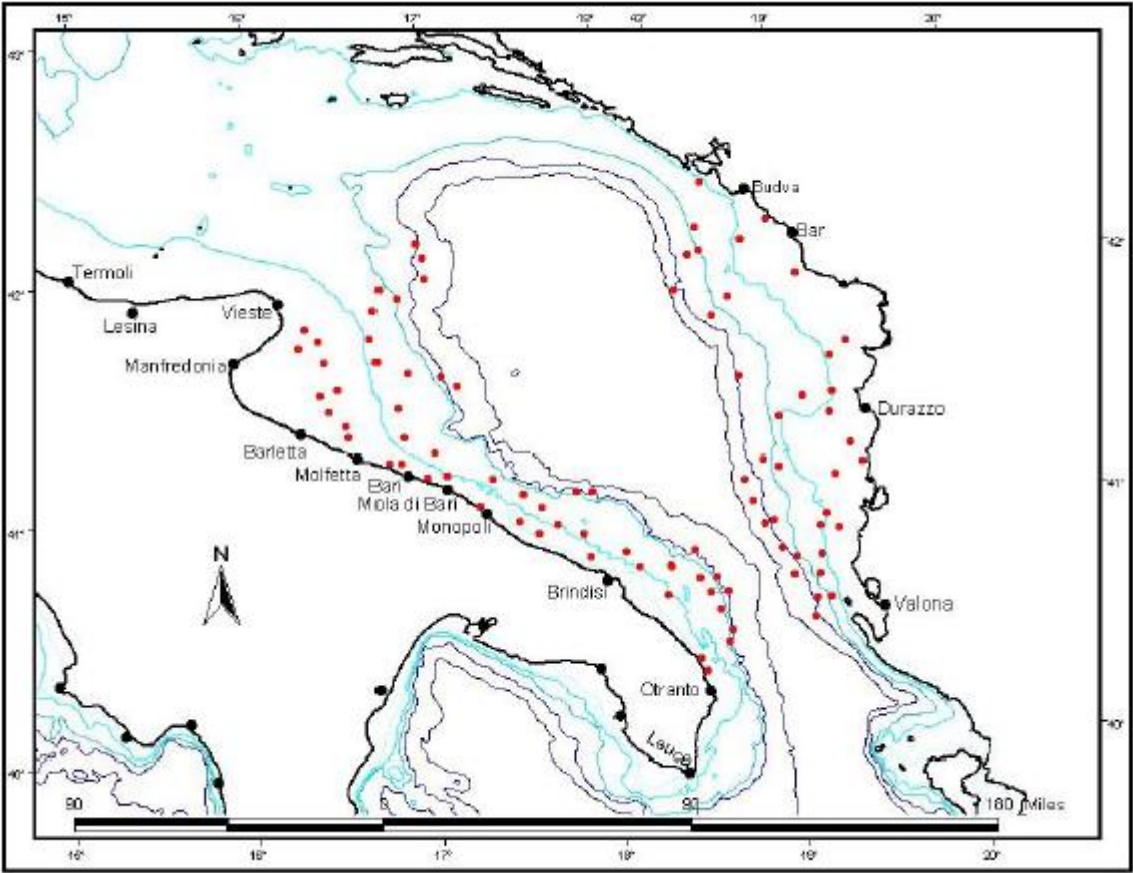
GSA 16 Sicilian Channel



GSA 17 Upper and Middle Adriatic



GSA 18 Lower Adriatic



GSA 19 Western Ionian Sea

