

SUMMARY OF THE VARIOUS ACTIONS AND MEASURES BY GFCM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (MARCH 2022)

1. GFCM Agreement

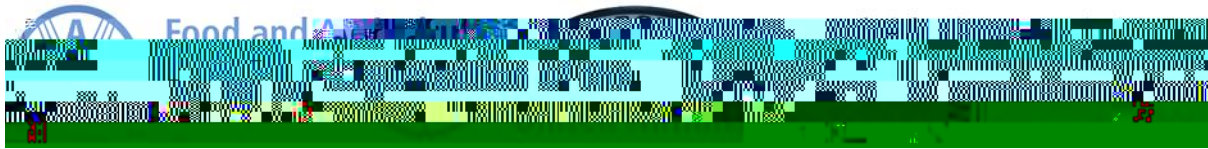
The ecosystem approach to approach as reflected in **Article 8(b)(iii) of the GFCM Agreement** (FAO 2016) according to which the GFCM shall formulate and recommend

- of the relevant subregions based on an **ecosystem approach to fisheries** to guarantee the maintenance of stocks above levels which can produce maximum sustainable yield, and consistent

Additionally, the central GFCM fisheries management subsidiary body features the ecosystem approach to fisheries in its **mandate** to direct its work (FAO 2016). In particular, the Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries shall *inter alia*

- ent advice on a technical and scientific basis to facilitate the adoption of recommendations concerning the sustainable management of fisheries and ecosystems at the regional and subregional levels, including on relevant biological, environmental, social and economic aspects, as well as on issues associated with the **ecosystem approach to fisheries**, the impact of IUU fishing on populations and ecosystems, and the assessment of biological and ecological implications under

2. GFCM instruments



establishment of a working group to examine and analyse possible climatic effects on European sprat in the Black Sea as well as an assessment of the biological, economic and social implications of implementing alternative management measures;

Recommendation GFCM/44/2021/10 on management measures for sustainable piked dogfish fisheries in the Black Sea, which aims to prepare the ground for a future multiannual management plan, in particular by filling information gaps through the implementation of a dedicated research programme.

- Concerning mitigation measures:

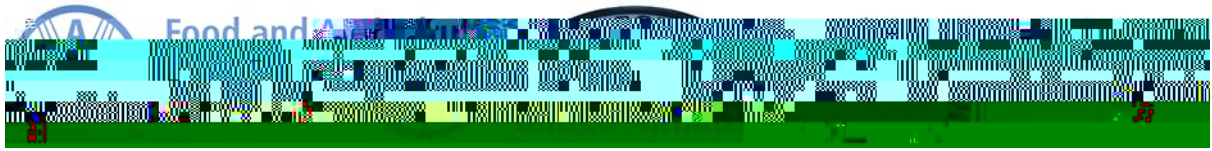
Recommendation GFCM/44/2021/13 on the mitigation of fisheries impacts for the conservation of seabirds in the Mediterranean Sea, which seeks to develop mechanisms ensuring that additional data are collected on the incidental catch of seabirds in fishing activities and establishes measures to improve the conservation status of seabirds and minimize, mitigate and, where possible, eliminate the unwanted interactions between fishing operations and seabirds.

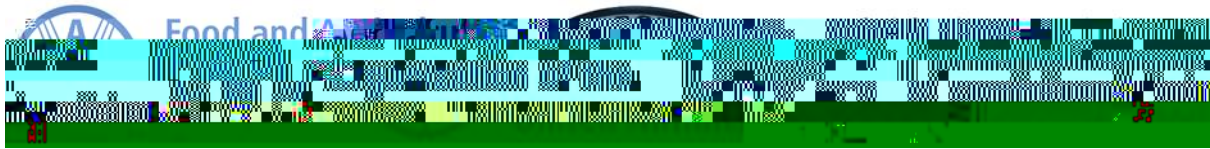
Recommendation GFCM/44/2021/14 on the mitigation of fisheries impacts for the conservation of sea turtles, which seeks to encourage further actions to improve the conservation status of sea turtle species and measures to mitigate or eliminate the risk of incidental catch of sea turtles in fishing operations and/or the associated mortality;

Recommendation GFCM/44/2021/15 on the mitigation of fisheries impacts for the conservation of cetaceans, which seeks to encourage further actions to improve the conservation status of cetacean species and make every effort to support global and regional actions to investigate on the most appropriate measures to mitigate bycatch and depredation and implement them, as necessary, in close collaboration with the fishing communities and other relevant stakeholders;

Resolution GFCM/44/2021/5 on mitigation of fisheries impacts for the conservation of sturgeons in the Black Sea, which foresees, within the BlackSea4Fish project, the implementation of a pilot project to address critical issues related to the marine part of the sturgeon lifecycle by compiling, assessing and evaluating all available data and information.

- **Resolution GFCM/44/2021/10** on flag state performance, which aims at the production of self-assessments in accordance with the performance assessment criteria set in the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance, whose objective is to





FAO. 2016. Basic texts of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean of the FAO. Rome. (also available at <https://www.fao.org/3/i5450e/i5450e.pdf>).

FAO. 2021. GFCM 2030 Strategy for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Rome. (also available at <https://www.fao.org/3/cb7562en/cb7562en.pdf>)