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MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA
The Director

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**MARINE PROTECTED AREAS: NETWORK(S) FOR
ENHANCEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES IN EU
MEDITERRANEAN WATERS**

MARE/2014/41

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS – MARE/2014/41

<MARINE PROTECTED AREAS: NETWORK(S) FOR ENHANCEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES IN EU MEDITERRANEAN WATERS>

1. INTRODUCTION – BACKGROUND

This call is published within the framework of a Pilot Project within the meaning of Article 54(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002¹.

The call is related to the Commission Decision C(2014) 6313 final of 12.9.2014 concerning the adoption of a financing decision for 2014 in the framework of the general budget of the European Commission for the financial year 2014 for a pilot project "Marine protected areas: network(s) for enhancement of sustainable fisheries in EU Mediterranean waters", a pilot project "support measures for small-scale fishing" and a Preparatory Action "Guardians of the Sea".

The Mediterranean Basin² is increasingly densely populated and one of the busiest tourist destinations with anthropic pressures on marine ecosystems and demand for sea-food which are expected to rise further over time. Climate change and increasing connection with the Red Sea biota through the enlargement of the Suez Canal, with foreseeable increasing migration and colonization by alien Lessepsian species, will add growing stresses and disturbances to the structure and functioning of the Mediterranean marine ecosystems which in turn will most probably affect its production potential for fisheries.

The maintenance and development of sustainable human activities in coastal areas will depend more and more on the health and resilience of marine biological resources and ecosystems.

The increasing demand for sea-food will have to be matched by a balanced exploitation of the production potentials of the fish stocks in line with the maximum sustainable yield approach (MSY). Most of the exploited Mediterranean biological resources are currently considered to be subject to overfishing well beyond MSY exploitation rates³ whilst their actual abundances are often unknown or below the levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield. Some exploited species are classified as high risk on the IUCN scale of threatened species.

Healthy conditions of exploited fish stocks are fundamental for sustainable fisheries. They depend, in addition to balanced fishing exploitation rates in line with maximum sustainable yield, on healthy marine ecosystems where bio-ecological abundance and processes are preserved to safeguard the composition, structure and functioning of the biological communities including, *inter alia*, sensitive and essential habitats for commercial fish species.

¹ OJ L298/1, 26.10.2012.

² Corresponding to the Western Mediterranean (Sub-area 37.1), the Central Mediterranean (Sub-area 37.2) and the Eastern Mediterranean (Sub-area 37.3) as defined in Regulation (EC) No 216/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the submission of nominal catch statistics by Member States fishing in certain areas other than those of the North Atlantic. OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p.1.

³ COM(2015)239 Final of 2.6.2015

Nowadays, considering that marine ecosystems' goods and services are affected by the cumulative impacts of multiple sources of disturbance and stressors, management for sustainable fisheries cannot any longer be conceived as completely disjointed from the overall status of marine environments. In fact, the life cycles and dynamics of fish stocks depend also on a range of widely separated coastal and offshore habitats and hydrographic conditions during the fishes' life spans.

Thus the proper conservation and protection of sea areas, both sea floor and water column, is also fundamental to maintain the exploited stocks in healthy conditions adequate to support sustainable and profitable fisheries.

In light of the above, the new Common Fisheries Policy⁴, and in particular Article 8 therein, promotes the establishment of fish stock recovery areas⁵ while taking due account of existing conservation areas and continuing to give additional protection to existing biologically sensitive areas. Moreover, the Article 11 therein stipulates specific procedures to facilitate the adoption and implementation of fisheries conservation measures necessary for compliance with obligations under Union environmental legislation.

Different types of area-based conservation measures have been established and implemented at national or regional level, going from strictly protected marine reserves, also known as no-take zones, to marine parks embracing areas with different degrees of protection and multiple uses. Spatial closures for fisheries can be static or dynamic depending on conservation goals and life-cycles of exploited stocks.

Marine reserves (i.e. no-take zones) and other types of protected areas have been shown to boost the abundance, diversity and size of populations, communities and individuals within their borders whilst also yielding positive effects in the surrounding areas even, in some cases, quite far from the specific protected area (spill-over effect of eggs, juveniles and adults).

Some of these protected areas have clear conservation objectives and are actively managed with monitoring, surveillance, evaluation and reporting systems whilst some others seem to be merely defined areas with no stated conservation benchmarks or with a lack of operational governance structure and organisation.

In addition, other areas prohibiting or limiting access to fishing activities have been actively implemented either through fisheries management rules (*e.g. fishing protected areas⁶, fisheries restricted areas⁷, cantonnement de pêche⁸, "zone di tutela biologica⁹", habitats protection (article 4)⁶ and prohibition to use towed gears or purse seiners in*

⁴ Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy. OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 22.

⁵ Fish stock recovery areas are biologically sensitive areas, including nursery areas and spawning grounds of fish stocks, which deserve protection and where fishing activities may be restricted or prohibited in order to contribute to the conservation of living aquatic resources and marine ecosystems.

⁶ Corrigendum to Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 of 21 December 2006 concerning management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean (OJ L 36, 8.2.2007, p.6.) as lastly modified by Regulation (EU) 2015/812 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2015 as regards the landing obligation (OJ L133, 29.5.2015, p.1.)

⁷ Regulation (EU) No 1343/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on certain provisions for fishing in the GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) Agreement area. OJ L347, 30.12.2011, p.44.

⁸ Established by the French Ministry in charge of fisheries management

⁹ Established by the Italian Ministry in charge of fisheries management

coastal areas at shallow depths (article 13)⁶, etc.) or because the presence of other human activities or human-induced grounds unsuitable for fishing exclude all or some fishing operations from a wider sea area around them (*e.g. oil-gas platforms, wind farms, communication cables or pipelines, shipwrecks, submerged breakwaters, artificial reefs etc.*).

Within this heterogeneous set of marine protected areas some are part of the European Union's Natura-2000 network, some are recognised only at national or regional level and others are already recognised or may be established by international multilateral bodies such as the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean or the SPA/BD¹⁰ Protocol of the Barcelona Convention.

In addition to already existing regulated areas, sea-floor topography, hydrographic characteristics, distance from the ports and the presence of hard habitats may generate unsuitable conditions for fishing with certain gears in certain areas (*e.g. steep cliffs, narrow convoluted canyons, rocky outcrops, etc.*).

As a result, these areas which are so far unsuitable or poorly used for fishing have become spatial refuges contributing to maintain, for the time being, the resilience of some exploited stocks against long-lasting overfishing. Any loss of these areas could further accelerate the deterioration of the state of several stocks with a consequent reduction in fishing yields and in stock sizes (*growth overfishing vs. recruitment overfishing*).

The presence and knowledge of these patchy areas is fundamental because fisheries technological development could rapidly reduce their extent. It is therefore important to understand whether and how these areas, irrespective of their current legal governance, could contribute to an extended coherent network of protected areas to counteract the risk or occurrence of recruitment overfishing and to sustain more productive fisheries.

The fact that these areas are somehow naturally off-limits to certain fisheries, at least for the majority of vessels, should also mean there will be less objection from fishermen should they become protected areas to prevent any future deterioration.

It has however to be kept in mind that scientifically sound evidence showing that the different kinds of protected areas deliver benefits to fishing activities, by increasing their overall yields and harvesting rates (*Catches Per Unit of Effort - CPUE*) over wider management areas and at stock scale, are not conclusive, because the scientific investigations, where performed, have been discontinuous and of a very local scope in the Mediterranean. It is therefore important to scientifically scrutinise the matter in a deeper and coordinated manner beyond the local scale.

Other elements to investigate with respect to the usefulness of protected areas for fisheries enhancement are linked to a likely simple spatial displacement of the fishing effort outside the protected areas without necessarily yielding a real reduction of the overall fishing pressure nor a substantial improvement of the exploitation pattern over a wide portion of the exploited stocks (*i.e. how fishing mortality interacts with the demographic structure of a stock*).

Differences between conservation scope and goals of existing protected areas are reflected in size and administrative heterogeneity. Further strengthening of the organizational and governance aspects is required to possibly turn a pool of currently

¹⁰ Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity in the Mediterranean

independent and heterogeneous protected areas, including areas so far unsuitable for fishing, into a coherent network able to deliver conservation results for sustainable fisheries over a much wider geographic range on the scale of the main fish stocks and fisheries.

The administrative, organizational and governance aspects are fundamental elements for proper enforcement and operational effectiveness of all protected areas as well as for the establishment of coherent networks which could have a cross-border dimension between some Member States.

It is pertinent to note that, under the Convention on Biological Diversity's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the global community has committed to conserve 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, by 2020, through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, integrated into the wider seascape. This has been reiterated subsequently in the outcome document from Rio+20.

Coherent networks of protected areas could be part of regionalised fisheries multiannual plans or of joint recommendations by Member States on measures to be proposed or adopted by the Commission. Moreover, Member States may be empowered to adopt legally binding acts in the domain of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), including conservation measures. Moreover, under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive Member States are required to include spatial protection measures in their Programmes of measures contributing to coherent and representative networks of marine protected areas.

However suitable characteristics of any network(s) of MPAs in support of sustainable and profitable fisheries, including their effectiveness with respect to the MSY, have not yet been definitively categorised and may vary depending on the stocks and fisheries at stake.

Enhanced scientific knowledge of the aforementioned issues is relevant to ensure a more efficient and effective use of area-based management tools for sustainable fisheries within an ecosystem approach to fisheries management. A scientific understanding of the issues at stake is also necessary to enhance the acceptability by the fishing sector and increasingly promote fishermen's engagement in Mediterranean conservation which is a key element supporting the regional cooperation between EU Member States as promoted by the new CFP.

Within this framework both the EU Member States and the European Commission have relevant coordinated roles to play through, in particular, the multiannual plans and the regional cooperation on conservation measures necessary for fisheries management or for compliance with obligations under Union environmental legislation.

The project of this Call, implemented through a maximum of 4 independent sub-regional pilot projects¹¹ (hereinafter referred to as "pilot project(s)"), links up with the Common Fisheries Policy in areas such as conservation and sustainable exploitation of marine

¹¹ A sub-regional pilot project should be preferably carried out in one, or in a part of one, Mediterranean sub-area as defined in Regulation (EC) No 216/2009 (e.g. the Western Mediterranean, the Central Mediterranean and the Eastern Mediterranean). Only in duly justified cases could a pilot project be straddling between two adjacent sub-areas.

biological resources, protection of the marine environment, support to regionalisation, improvement and dissemination of scientific knowledge and information.

2. OBJECTIVE(S) – THEME(S) – PRIORITIES

2.1. Overall objective

The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is *inter alia* oriented towards promoting the establishment of biologically sensitive protected areas, including nursery and spawning grounds of exploited stocks, in which all or certain fishing activities are temporarily or permanently banned or restricted in order to improve the exploitation and conservation of living aquatic resources and marine ecosystems. The Union shall continue to give additional protection to existing biologically sensitive areas. Moreover the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) requires Member States to identify the measures needed in order to contribute to a coherent and representative network of marine protected areas (MPAs) adequately covering the diversity of the constituent marine ecosystems with a view to delivering good environmental status.

The CFP shall apply the precautionary approach and shall implement the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management whilst ensuring that exploitation rates of living marine biological resources are able to restore and maintain populations of harvested species above levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield (MSY).

The adequate MSY exploitation rates are also related to the manner in which the production potentials of the stocks are actually harvested (exploitation pattern) - the less juveniles and small-sized adults are caught, the higher the MSY levels could be provided that the stock is not depleted.

Moreover, several fisheries exploit a mix of stocks with differing production potentials which would require different exploitation rates; with certain stocks needing to be fished at fishing mortality rates lower than others.

A properly designed and integrated network of different types of marine protected areas (in the wider sense), together with other area-based fisheries management rules (e.g. limits on using certain fishing gears at certain depths and distance from the coast or over certain protected habitats) could help in achieving a better exploitation pattern and addressing possible incompatibilities between MSY exploitation rates of differently vulnerable species caught by the same fishery.

MPAs could also help in protecting areas of permanent/seasonal spawning aggregations suitable to maintain adequate level of spawning stock biomass and reproductive success.

The pilot project(s) to be co-financed shall model and test (e.g. monitoring, experiments, simulations, meta-analysis, etc.) the bio-economic effects on fisheries of area-based management measures, in order to help achieve MSYs and to apply the precautionary approach to counteract growth overfishing and to avoid or reduce the risk of recruitment overfishing in the Mediterranean. These achievements will contribute to achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

The pilot project(s) shall help in identifying, over varying geographic spatial scales depending on the exploited resources and fisheries, likely coherent networks of already existing and (where duly justified) new protected areas which support area-based management for fisheries whilst enhancing cooperation amongst stakeholders and Member States' in the regionalised implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy.

2.2. Specific objectives of the project

The pilot project(s) aim at:

a) providing critical analyses of the bio-ecological, fisheries, technical, legal, economic and organizational matters at stake for an effective interplay between nature conservation and sustainable exploitation of the marine resources in line with the maximum sustainable yield objectives while taking into account knowledge about the interactions between fish stocks, fisheries and marine ecosystems.

The pilot projects will serve, in particular, to test and demonstrate possible bio-economic usefulness of networks of marine protected areas for the management and enhancement of sustainable fisheries with a view to harvesting marine biological resources at exploitation rates which contribute to restoring and/or maintaining populations of harvested stocks above levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield. This approach will also contribute to understanding effects on other marine ecosystems components within MPAs, in support of balanced management options;

b) identifying possible technical/governance solutions to establishing adequate networks of MPAs in support of the MSY objectives of the CFP while corroborating the MSFD's objectives related to MPAs and GES in the Mediterranean;

c) developing a participatory conservation which supports bottom-up approaches to fisheries conservation and management, with a view to feed into the regionalised processes on conservation measures under the CFP.

The pilot project(s) should be carried out through an adequate mix of case studies and, where needed, collection of new data in the field to carry out different kinds of bio-economic and environmental analyses, including experimental/modelling/simulation approaches to understand the effects of area-based management on the scale of the main fish stocks and fisheries.

The fish stocks and fisheries concerned by the project shall be in the Mediterranean EU waters as well as, where required or relevant, in the international waters immediately adjacent.

The activities which will receive the financial support are listed below by component (this list of activities can be fine-tuned by the applicants as considered relevant by them in order to achieve the objectives of this Call). Components 1 and 2 identify the main tasks to be carried out as well as the deliverables allowing distilling lessons and conclusions. Components 3 and 4 describe how the work of components 1 and 2 must be carried out.

Each project shall include all the components, though the various activities may have different weight depending on already existing knowledge and on the needs of each specific sub-regional pilot project, while taking into account ongoing studies and research projects.

The applicants should briefly provide some information on already existing knowledge concerning the activities proposed in their application and should indicate whether a specific activity will require ex-novo analyses or not.

The fish stocks (i.e. fin-fishes and/or shellfish) and fisheries concerned should cover a sufficiently representative proportion of the fisheries production over a sufficiently wide

geographical area including **more than two contiguous administrative regions (NUTS 2) within a Mediterranean sub-area¹² and preferably with a cross-border dimension.**

A description of the relative importance of the targeted fish stocks and fisheries must be provided in the application through some official statistics and/or estimated metrics¹³ from existing studies (e.g. catches and/or values and/or number of vessels with respect to the overall number of fishing vessels in the area, etc.).

The applicants should take into account the technical interactions between different multispecies and/or polyvalent Mediterranean fisheries so that a sufficiently representative subset of EU Mediterranean fisheries is considered including, if relevant, also the fisheries with mobile and towed gears.

The terms marine protected areas (MPAs) and network of MPAs shall be understood, for the scope of this call, in the wider sense, including protected areas established under different legal frameworks (e.g. EU nature and biodiversity policy; Common Fisheries Policy; national and regional legislations, etc...) as well as new areas, including where necessary areas which are so far unsuitable or poorly used for fishing but which, may require permanent or seasonal protection to ensure future enhanced fish stocks production and fisheries productivity.

2.2.1. *COMPONENT 1: Data gathering and modelling of the area-based management effects for the enhancement of fisheries towards MSY objectives*

- 1) To collate existing biological, ecological, fisheries, technical, legal, economic and organizational/governance information on stocks, fisheries, ecosystems/habitats, areas unsuitable or poorly used for fishing and related marine protected areas (MPAs);
- 2) To collect new data on biological, ecological, fisheries, technical, legal, economic and organizational/governance issues in relation to stocks, fisheries, ecosystems/habitats, areas unsuitable or poorly used for fishing and related MPAs;
- 3) To design and to execute a suitable scientific monitoring and control to test the effects of (a) coherent network(s) of protected areas on the populations of some major fish stocks and on their bio-economic effectiveness in terms of allowing fisheries to achieve the MSY objectives (e.g. BACI and beyond-BACI experimental designs; non-parametric multivariate procedures; multifactorial ecological experiments; age/-size-structured and spatially explicit population and fisheries dynamic models; GIS etc.). The applicants shall give due account to already existing information and knowledge on the status of the stocks and on levels of exploitation by fisheries¹⁴. where necessary, evaluations for not yet assessed stocks shall be carried out;

¹² As defined in Regulation (EC) No 216/2009 (e.g. the Western Mediterranean, the Central Mediterranean, and the Eastern Mediterranean). Only in duly justified cases could a pilot project be straddling between two adjacent sub-areas

¹³ e.g. EUSTAT <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>;
GFCM <http://www.fao.org/fishery/statistics/gfcm-capture-production/en>;
EUMOFA <http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/market-observatory/>
as well as regional official statistics etc.

¹⁴ <http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports>

- 4) To provide appropriate technical and scientific indicators and criteria to evaluate the biological, technical, economic and governance conditions which will ensure with high probability that the establishment of a coherent network of protected areas will have beneficial effects on the achievement of the MSY objectives for certain stocks and fisheries. The applicants are also required to consider, inter alia, the indicators and criteria which have been used by RAC/SPA¹⁵ and MedPan¹⁶ in their assessments of the MPAs networks;
- 5) To evaluate whether and how the establishment of no-take zones in either a representative sample or the whole of the protected areas would enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the area-based management towards achieving MSY objectives.

To evaluate whether and how the establishment of buffer zones (i.e. areas with limited fishing activities) around either a representative sample or the whole of the protected areas would reduce the fishing pressure on the borders (fishing-the-line) and enhance the spillover effects and protection of juveniles. The possible no-take zones and buffer areas shall also be described in terms of scope, position and size;

- 6) To compare, with respect to the overall MSYs objective, the bio-economic effects of establishing an adequate network of MPAs as alternative to, or as complement of, other conservation and fisheries management measures (e.g. fishing effort and/or catch limits management and/or exploitation pattern improvements, etc.) which are to be investigated and discussed as required for the purpose of this task;
- 7) To identify essential habitats for the life cycle of the targeted species that must be included in the network of protected areas for the enhancement of the stock status and fisheries yields in line with the MSY objectives. Empirical knowledge must be integrated, where relevant, with modelling for the spatial identification of the main fish stocks' nurseries¹⁷ and/or spawning aggregation areas which are considered sites to be affected by the establishment of a network of protected areas.

The applicants shall give due account to already existing information and knowledge about the presence of, and modelling for the identification of, the essential fish habitats;

- 8) To identify the occurrence and magnitude of spillover effects (e.g. spawning products, propagules, juveniles, adults) outside the network of marine protected areas, also in relation to prevalent hydrodynamics and the life cycles of the species. Evaluate whether, how and for which fisheries the fishing yields outside the protected areas are/could be enhanced over the long run by the spillover effect;
- 9) To evaluate the expected time-lag and varying spatial scales between the establishment of a fully integrated area-based management network and the appearance of possible positive effects, if any, on the different stocks and fisheries.

¹⁵ Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas <http://www.rac-spa.org/>

¹⁶ Network of marine protected area managers in the Mediterranean <http://www.medpan.org/en/mnp>

¹⁷ The identification of nurseries areas must take into account the reproductive biology of the relevant species as well as the presence of marine organisms whose dimensions are below the minimum conservation reference size specified in Annex III of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 of 21 December 2006 concerning management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean (OJ L 36, 8.2.2007, p.6.) as lastly modified by Regulation (EU) 2015/812 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2015 as regards the landing obligation (OJ L133, 29.5.2015, p.1.)

Due account shall be given to the biological characteristics of the stocks, the ecological interactions and possible needs to restore of essential fish habitats, as well as connectivity between protected areas;

- 10) To evaluate whether and how a system of dynamic marine protected areas (i.e real-time and/or seasonal fisheries closures) could complement the network of permanent marine protected areas and exert beneficial effects with regard to better exploitation patterns and short-term reductions of the fishing pressure towards the achievement of the MSY objectives;
- 11) To understand whether and how the network of marine protected areas could contribute to limiting the fishing pressure on certain fish stocks. To identify and evaluate the bio-socio-economic factors driving fleets dynamics as a consequence of an enhanced area-based management and integrate them into the modelling/simulation structure to the greatest extent possible;
- 12) To evaluate the possible effects on the redistribution of fishing efforts including possible congestion of zones remaining fully open to all fisheries (e.g. increase in conflicts between fishermen and with other users of the sea);
- 13) To evaluate the interaction between the sizes of, and the distances between, each and every protected area, with a view to enhance the fish stocks' status and fisheries yields towards MSY objectives;
- 14) To understand the spatial structure of targeted fisheries with respect to the spatial distribution and connectivity of the network(s) of marine protected areas;
- 15) To evaluate the possibilities of trophic cascades and their effects on the fish stocks targeted by the main fisheries;
- 16) To identify the recreational fisheries that affect the stocks under investigation in a certain region and the factors that could determine their interference with the expected MSY conservations objectives if not properly steered within a coherent management and control framework (which is to be investigated and discussed);
- 17) To identify and describe the GPS-Bluetooth-mobile vessel positioning installations suitable for ensuring real-time control systems for small-scale vessels and recreational vessels, and to provide technical and cost-benefit analyses for their implementation;
- 18) To identify and evaluate potential costs in the establishment, maintenance, monitoring and governance of a network of marine protected areas designed to deliver or to contribute to delivering the MSY objectives of the CFP in addition to the nature conservation and protection of biodiversity objectives;
- 19) To evaluate and design how the stakeholders (fishers, NGOs and public administrations) could participate and interact in the final establishment, monitoring, surveillance and governance of the network of marine protected areas. In this regard also good practices established in Natura 2000 sites should be taken into account;
- 20) To evaluate whether, and the extent to which, human activities other than professional and recreational fisheries may conceal or undermine the positive effects a network of marine protected areas may have on exploited biological resources and on fishing yields with respect to the MSY objectives.

2.2.2. *COMPONENT 2: Lessons learnt and conclusions*

Deliverables on lessons learnt/guidance should focus on:

1. Process and the experiences gained from the different tasks;
2. Operational good practices in terms of stakeholders, sectorial and cross-border cooperation;
3. Practical experience of collaboration between the fishery sectors, the nature conservation stakeholders, the entities governing existing marine protected areas and authorities competent to establish marine protected areas and to manage and to control fishing activities;
4. Practical experience of applying an ecosystem approach to fisheries management;
5. The technical, administrative and legal barriers identified in developing coherent network(s) of marine protected areas with a view to enhance fisheries towards MSY objectives. Likely solutions to mitigate or overcome these problems;
6. How the methodology was developed and could serve as starting point for further advancements in implementation;
7. Any other relevant observation about the constitution of cross-regionals and cross-border network(s) of marine protected areas reconciling fisheries and nature conservation
8. Overall conclusions and recommendations

2.2.3. *COMPONENT 3: Management and coordination of the project*

This component encompasses the activities related to the physical, administrative, legal and financial activities which are necessary to implement the project. This includes how the internal management of the project will be set up (e.g. monitoring and control of the incurred expenditure and preparation of Interim and Final Reports) and how the Partners coordinate their work throughout the project's duration (e.g. organisation of coordination meetings between the Partners and setting up working groups).

This component includes activities between the Partners to set up and execute data collation, data collection, inquiries and surveys, modelling and other quantitative analyses, mechanisms for the exchange of information and to set up governance implementation in support of the project (where feasible though strongly advisable) at a cross-sector and cross-border level that is viable and could last beyond the duration of the project.

The pilot project(s) will have to coordinate between themselves while taking into account and capitalizing on work already undertaken concerning area-based management for fisheries and nature conservation.

Knowledge of the projects, studies and actions on matters related to marine protected areas and participative management should be demonstrated in the application (e.g. EMPAFISH, COCONET, MYFISH, CREAM, PERSEUS, GAP 2, MAREFRAME, FishMPABlue, etc.). Close collaboration should be ensured in the project implementation to avoid useless overlaps and duplications whilst creating synergies and mutual benefits.

Due account shall be given to the already existing assessments of the Mediterranean stocks carried out by the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)¹⁸ or by the Scientific Advisory Committee of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (SAC-GFCM)¹⁹ as well as to stock assessments carried out under different scientific frameworks (research projects, local studies, etc.) provided that these have gone through a recognised and undisputable peer review process. Other studies relevant for the execution of the pilot project(s) are available at the DG MARE-Fisheries web site²⁰.

The Commission services will facilitate access, where appropriate for the purposes of the pilot project(s), to data collected by Member States under the different Data Collection Frameworks and the multi-annual Union programme for data collection established thereunder.²¹ A list of species subject to data collection in the Mediterranean is given in the ANNEX to this call.

2.2.4. *COMPONENT 4: Communication, dissemination and durability of the project's result*

One of the basic requirements of any publicly funded project is to demonstrate, at the application stage, that the results planned to be achieved within the project will not be lost at the end of the funding period. Therefore, applicants must explain how they envisage the durability of their project's achievements. In that context, due consideration should be particularly given to the procedures and requirements of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and how the project will help implementation towards MSY objectives in the medium and long-term.

Activities carried out under this component could be aimed at disseminating the project's activities and achievements within and outside the project to the relevant stakeholders and administrations with a view to feed into the regionalised decision-making process in support of the CFP. This could include the following activities:

- Organisation of a closing conference, as well as workshops during the implementation phase;
- Establishment of a website for relevant information about the project, which is regularly updated according to intermediate project results, and for document exchanges and communications between the Partners– an existing website of one of the involved partners can also be used to fulfil this objective;
- Publication and dissemination of reader-friendly leaflets, newsletters, or other information material supported by any format;

¹⁸ <http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports>

¹⁹ <http://www.gfcmonline.org/reports/technical/>

²⁰ http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/documentation/studies/stockmed/index_en.htm and <http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/documentation/studies/scientific-advice-mediterranean/>

²¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 1543/2000 of 29 June 2000 establishing a Community framework for the collection and management of the data needed to conduct the common fisheries policy

Council Regulation 199/2008 concerning the establishment of a Community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy and Commission Regulation 665/2008 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation 199/2008.

Commission Decision C(2013) 5243 of 13.8.2013 extending the multiannual Union programme for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector for the period 2011-2013 to the period 2014-2016

- Production of maps, tables, plans etc. to support the visualisation and dissemination of results;
- Elaboration of a repository of good practices and lessons learnt from the project.

In conclusion, the pilot project(s) shall examine, test and demonstrate the possible usefulness of adequate network(s) of MPAs, either within multiannual plans²² and/or as independent conservation measures, in delivering or helping to deliver the MSY objectives for relevant fisheries and stocks in the Mediterranean.

The project outcomes should also serve as basis to foster participative and adaptive management frameworks for several fisheries in support of regional cooperation on conservation measures as stipulated by the CFP. Attention should be given to a sufficiently broad spectrum of demersal fisheries and fish stocks of the coastal areas as well as of the continental shelf and, where necessary, of the continental slope.

2.3. Partnership and implementation

2.3.1. *Steering Committee*

Each sub-regional pilot project must include a Steering Committee, chaired by the Coordinator of the pilot project, which will provide the overall strategic guidance and facilitate internal dialogue and coordination of the project. It will review the work plans and reports, review the progress, accept deliverables²³ and take decisions regarding the interaction between the pilot project and the overall implementation. An adequate representation of the Partners is required.

Representatives of local, regional or national administrations, involved in fisheries and or marine protected areas, of Member States where the action takes place, and representatives of the existing marine protected areas involved in the project, should participate in the Steering Committee as required for the proper implementation of the project.

European Commission representatives may participate in the Steering Committee.

Ideally, it should meet at least once every 6 months and work through video-conferencing to the fullest extent possible.

The Steering Committee is expected to set up and implement a monitoring and evaluation system in order to carry out its tasks. The progress towards the achievement of the project's objectives is assessed mainly through the output and result indicators. The monitoring system can also cover the following issues:

- Effectiveness and efficiency of implementation: is the action progressing in line with the initial time plan presented in the application form? Is the budget plan being implemented and are allocations per budget categories being observed? How do the action's achievements relate to the encountered expenditure (costs/benefits)?

²² Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy. OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 22; Articles 9, 10 and 18 therein.

²³ The acceptance of deliverables by the project Steering Committee is without prejudice to the final acceptance of deliverables by the Commission services.

- Quality of the management and coordination: are management and coordination procedures efficient and are the resources used in this process sufficient?

In parallel to the Steering Committee, other coordination bodies (e.g. task forces, advisory groups) may also be established to coordinate the day-to-day running of the project, to fulfil specific tasks or to carry out certain activities. It is, however, recommended that the coordination and management procedures remain as transparent and simple as possible.

The monitoring and decision-making processes mentioned above must be clearly documented in the action proposal. The inclusion of a chapter describing specific working arrangements is recommended. In order to allow for appropriate discussion and feedback concerning action execution, the Coordinators may want to include provisions for regular contacts with the Commission including a kick-off meeting.

With a view to facilitating timely dialogue and exchanges of good practices, the Coordinators of the successful sub-regional projects, together with DG-Mare services, will ensure that there are mechanisms for closer cooperation between the approved sub-regional pilot projects.

2.3.2. *Partnership composition*

For the purpose of this Call each sub-regional pilot project must be organised in a Partnership and involve scientific institutes or bodies and relevant stakeholders, including fishermen's cooperatives/associations, environmental organizations and representatives of bodies/entities directly implicated with the governance and management of fisheries and marine protected areas which are, or potentially would be, involved in the project.

Partners from at least two Mediterranean EU Member States bordering the relevant sea subarea covered by the feasibility project and/or participating in the fisheries concerned should be involved.

Participation of Partners from other EU Member States which are relevant for the regionalised implementation of the Common Fishery Policy or for the formulation of scientific advice for fisheries management or for nature and biodiversity conservation is recommended.

A balanced representation of the Partners is recommended and should be reflected in the involvement of Partners in the project's activities and through their respective financial contribution. The budget of a Partner must also be in line with the level of costs in the relevant country. Any major differences between the budgets of the Partners must be clearly justified in the application form.

The core project Partnership can only involve contributing Partners, including their relevant affiliated entities which all have to be listed in the application.

However, it is possible for other relevant parties to participate with an observer status, e.g. public bodies from EU Member States from other sea basins than the Mediterranean or other regional or international organisations active in the area. Observer status in this context means that participation in any activity or meetings will be at the observers' own expense (e.g. travel costs for observers are not eligible under this project). Furthermore, observers will not receive any European Union co-financing and will not join or sign any statements in relation to this call.

Any organisation that contributes to the implementation of the project and receives European Union funding has to be listed as a formal Partner of the project. In all other

cases, any form of participation in the project would be considered as sub-contracting by one of the formal Partners and therefore requires the respect of national and European procurement rules and a full payment from the Partner on the basis of a contract and invoices.

2.3.3. *Role of Coordinator*

One entity from amongst the Partners who carry out the action is appointed to act as Coordinator and thus form the link between the Partners and the European Commission.

In addition to the obligations set under Article II.1.3 of the grant agreement, the Coordinator shall:

- a. Sign and submit the application form on behalf of the partnership,
- b. Should the project be approved, sign the grant agreement with the European Commission for the total amount of the grant;
- c. Obtain a power of attorney in writing from each project Partner
- d. Have full responsibility for ensuring that the action is implemented in accordance with the grant agreement;
- e. Agree the grant rules with the other Partners, respecting the EU grant rules established under the call and under the grant agreement;
- f. Be responsible for the efficient management, communication, implementation and coordination of activities and tasks amongst the Partners, and ensure these are fulfilled in compliance with the application form and the grant agreement through an effective control system;
- g. Inform the Partners of any event of which the Coordinator is aware that is liable to substantially affect the implementation of the action;
- h. Ensure that the reports are delivered timely and correctly to the Commission;
- i. Inform the European Commission of payments made to partners, the distribution of the EU financial contribution between the partners and of the date of transfer within 60 days from the balance payment.

The full administrative responsibility for the project therefore lies with the Coordinator. It is recommended that the following professional staff be appointed by the Coordinator for the sound management of the project:

- a contact person

The contact person is responsible for the organisation of the action's work. The contact person shall be qualified or have relevant experience in European project management, as well as in the thematic priority of the action. The contact person shall be able to act as a driving force in the Partnership and to mobilise the Partners in order to achieve the objectives laid down in the application within the given time.

- a financial manager

The financial manager is responsible for the accounts, financial reporting and the internal handling of EU funds and national co-financing. The financial manager shall work in close contact with the contact person and the Partners in order to enable efficient financial management of the action and respect of the related contractual provisions. The financial manager shall be familiar with accounting rules, international transactions, EU and national legislation for the management of EU funds, public procurement and financial control.

The contact person and financial manager should be fluent in English which should be the language used for all communication with the European Commission.

2.3.4. *Cooperation arrangements within the Partnership*

At the submission of the application, the Coordinator and the Partners shall have agreed upon and concluded an **internal cooperation agreement** regarding their internal operation for the proper performance of the action.

In addition to the obligations set under Article II.1.2 of the grant agreement, the partners bound to as co-beneficiaries of the grant, shall:

Provide the coordinator with a power of attorney in writing through a mandate signed for that purpose²⁴. The mandate shall fully empower the coordinator to act on the Partners' behalf in the context of the grant agreement.

The grant agreement binds the coordinator and the partners in the terms expressed under the power of attorney provided by each partner to the Coordinator.

The empowerment mandate shall not compromise or change in any manner the Coordinator's and the Partners' rights and obligations set under this call for proposals.

2.3.5. *Monitoring arrangements*

Project outcomes should be measured against a certain number of pre-defined output and result indicators. Applicants should consider the appropriate indicators suitable for their proposed projects and include a list of relevant indicators in their application.

Outputs are all tangible results, milestones and specific activities that were achieved in order to complete the project. They report on what the main products delivered by the project are. They do not lead to a qualitative judgement of the project's outcome.

Results are direct and clearly identifiable effects resulting from the project and its output that the result indicators should be able to assess and measure preferably in quantified terms.

3. **TIMETABLE AND DELIVERABLES**

The indicative planning foresees:

	Stages	Date and time or indicative period
a)	Publication of the call	July 2015

²⁴ A template for this Mandate is included as Annex IV to the draft grant agreement published together with this Call.

b)	Deadline for submitting applications	8 October 2015- 16:00
c)	End of evaluation period	End October 2015
d)	Information to applicants	First half November 2015
f)	Signature of grant agreement	End November 2015
g)	Starting date of the action	As of signature of grant agreement
h)	Pre-financing payment (40%)	December 2015
i)	Kick-off meeting	December 2015 within two weeks from signature of the grant agreement
j)	Inception report	End January 2016
k)	1 st Interim report	6- months after signature (May-June 2016)
l)	2 nd Interim report	December 2016
m)	Interim payment (20%)	End January 2017
n)	3 rd Interim report	At latest by November 2017
o)	Interim payment (20%)	Within two months from the adoption of the 3 rd interim report and at latest by end January 2018
p)	Final joint workshop	At latest by November 2018
q)	Draft Final report	At latest by December 2018
r)	Final payment (20%)	Within two months from the adoption of the Final report and at latest by March 2019

The action may run for an overall maximum duration of thirty-seven months (37 months) although, depending on the knowledge already available in a specific sub-area and the tasks that will be actually implemented, shorter duration can be agreed.

The reporting and payments will be finally scheduled according to the calendar agreed in the signed Grant Agreement which will take into account the timetable provided in the application.

Payments will be made according to the following scheme:

- A pre-financing payment of 40% of the total amount of the grant agreement by the end of 2015.
- A second interim payment of 20% of the total amount after delivery and approval by European Commission-DG MARE of the 2nd interim report.
- A third interim payment of 20% of the total amount after delivery and approval by European Commission- DG MARE of the 3rd interim report.
- A balancing payment of 20% of the total amount after delivery and approval by European Commission-DG MARE of the final report.

3.1. **Deliverables and meetings**

3.1.1. *Deliverables*

The beneficiary needs to deliver the following reports:

3.1.1.1. *Inception report*

The draft inception report shall be submitted no later than **seven (7) weeks** after the signature of the grant agreement. Its aim is to refine, improve and finalise the methodology, the work plan and the management structure outlined in the proposal made by the beneficiary. The beneficiary and DG MARE will decide on the precise table of contents of the inception report at the kick-off meeting, which will take place within **two weeks** from the signature of the grant agreement.

It should contain at least:

- A detailed roadmap of the work, based on the call for proposals, the beneficiary's proposal, and the documents and information received from DG MARE at the kick-off meeting.
- A draft final methodology to carry out the tasks, analyses and evaluations for addressing all the envisaged actions and questions, including an intervention logic, an overall logical approach and a breakdown of each evaluation question into evaluation criteria, indicators, data collection strategy (sources of information), analysis to be carried out and judgment criteria to evaluate the achievement of the expected results.
- A draft final version of all the tools to be used in the evaluations (e.g. questionnaire guides, survey templates, experimental design, statistical models and software packages and tools, etc.).
- A draft outline of the likely governance structure for the implementation of an empirical approach to the feasibility study.

3.1.1.2. *Interim reports*

Three interim reports are envisaged. The 1st interim report shall be submitted no later than six (6) months after the signature of the grant agreement; it will contain a detailed presentation:

- of the up-to-date knowledge on the fisheries and stocks concerned,
- of the already established and planned protected areas,
- the final methodology, including detailed planning of data gathering, sampling design and analyses to carry out the tasks and evaluations in order to address all the envisaged actions and questions (including the relevant management and governance aspects to operationally involve the different stakeholders in the execution of the project).

It shall provide a detailed description of the first surveys, data gathering, analyses and administrative steps carried out since the start of the project.

The subsequent 2nd and 3rd interim reports will be submitted according to the schedule defined in the signed Grant Agreement and at the latest not later than December 2016 and November 2017 respectively. They will contain the state of advancement of the different tasks including the consolidated first results for some items, which will serve as basis for subsequent tasks and further progress in the achievement of the final objective. They

will also contain a critical analyses of possible problems encountered in the execution of the projects as well as mitigation measures undertaken to overcome them.

3.1.1.3. *Draft final report*

The draft final report should be submitted to the Commission according to the schedule defined in the signed Grant Agreement and at the latest no later than December 2018.

The draft final report shall provide the complete detailed description of the tasks, methods and full evaluation results responding to the overall and specific objectives of the proposal. It should also contain the lessons learnt from the evaluation (Component 2 in section 2.2.4 of the Call). In addition, full empirical and bibliographical data shall also be provided. The report shall be presented in a clear and understandable way (e.g. using tables, graphs, annexes and bullet points for clarity when presenting key points).

The results must be fully explained whilst at the same time being kept clearly separated from the evaluator's interpretations/judgements. The results shall be presented in such a way that they always allow the reader to be able to trace back to the analyses conducted during the evaluation and to the original data used.

The conclusions must be clearly based on evidence generated through the analyses, and the evaluation and the evaluator's interpretations and/or judgements provided should be clear and explicit. Conclusions should directly give rise to specific recommendations and to broader lessons learnt.

All reports shall be submitted in English, with the exception of the executive summary which must be made available both in English and in French. The reports shall be written in clear and easily understandable language and shall meet commonly recognised standards for documents intended for publication.

A draft executive summary of no more than 10 pages must also be submitted at this stage.

A final report will be subsequently completed and submitted after the draft final report has been reviewed by a steering group established by DG MARE and comments have been issued to the beneficiary. The beneficiary shall take into account for the final report all the comments made by DG MARE. The final report shall be formally approved by DG MARE.

The final report shall be prefaced by an executive summary (including the main findings, conclusions and recommendations) of no more than 10 pages presented in both English and French. The summary must be written in a clear, unambiguous and comprehensible style, and must not use highly specialised terminology. It must be possible to use the summary independently of the main report.

The beneficiary shall also present the framework, the methods, the results and the conclusions in the form of a slide presentation in English and French of maximum 30 minutes. The content of this presentation must be submitted together with the final report.

The final report, executive summary and slide presentation shall be submitted in three paper copies (including one "master" for reproduction) as well as in electronic format (Word, PDF and Powerpoint for the presentation).

3.1.2. *Meetings and video conferencing*

Five meetings are scheduled to be held in the Commission premises in Brussels:

- A kick-off meeting organised immediately (not later than two weeks) after signature of the grant agreement during which the general work plan and methodology will be discussed;
- A second meeting may take place within 3 weeks after the submission of the inception report (if required);
- A third meeting will take place within 5 weeks after the submission of the 2nd interim report; and
- A fourth meeting will take place within 5 weeks after the submission of the 3rd interim report;
- A final meeting will take place within 6 weeks after the submission of the draft final report.

Video conferencing could be used to replace physical meetings as required.

4. BUDGET AVAILABLE

The total budget earmarked for the co-financing of the pilot project is estimated at € 2.000.000 (two millions Euros), and shall be financed from budget line 11 06 77 07 of the General Budget of the European Union for 2014.

The Commission expects to fund 3 or 4 proposals for sub-regional projects: 2 in the Western Mediterranean, 1 in the Central Mediterranean and 1 in the Eastern Mediterranean²⁵.

The indicative grant per sub-regional project could be between € 400.000 (four-hundred thousand Euros) and € 700.000 (seven-hundred thousand Euros) depending on the actual content of each individual proposal and the overall number of proposals eligible to be funded.

The Commission reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available.

5. ADMISSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Applications must be sent no later than 8 October 2015 at 16:00;
- Applications must be submitted in writing (see section 14), using the application forms provided as part of this Call for Proposals;
- Applications must be written in one of the EU official languages. Submission also in English or French, either directly or as a translated version of the original applications, will speed up the evaluation process;
- Submitted proposals can only have one Coordinator

Failure to comply with these requirements will lead to the rejection of the application.

²⁵ The sub-region corresponds to one of the Mediterranean Subareas as defined in Regulation (EC) No 216/2009 (e.g.). Only in duly justified cases could a pilot project straddle two adjacent sub-areas.

6. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

6.1. Eligibility criteria

Proposals will only be evaluated if they comply with the following eligibility criteria:

- All documents mentioned in section 14 of this Call are submitted
- The project must address the objectives and components defined in section 2 above and meet the requirements of this Call

6.2. Eligible applicants

The following types of entities are eligible to participate in the call, in accordance with the objectives to be achieved:

- universities, research centres and educational institutions (private or public);
- public authorities (national, regional, local administrations);
- public or semi-public bodies;
- profit or non-profit making private or public bodies;
- other interested associations, such as:
 - o Advisory Councils within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013;
 - o Fishery Producer Organizations and Associations of Producer Organizations within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013;
 - o Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014,;
 - o Non-governmental environmental organizations, fishermen's cooperatives and associations as officially recognised by EU Member States.

Affiliated entities: Legal entities having a legal or capital link with applicants, which is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation, may take part in the action as affiliated entities, and may declare eligible costs as specified in section 11.2. For that purpose, applicants shall identify such affiliated entities in the application form.

All applicants and consortium members must fill in the "Legal entity form" (if they are not already registered as service providers of the Commission). The applicants (or the single point of contact in case of consortium) must provide the "Financial identification form" available at the following addresses:

Legal entity form:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/legal_entities/legal_entities_en.cfm

Financial information form:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/financial_id/financial_id_en.cfm

In order to assess the applicants' eligibility, the following supporting documents are requested:

- **private entity:** extract from the official journal, copy of articles of association, extract of trade or association register, certificate of liability to VAT (if, as in certain countries, the trade register number and VAT number are identical, only one of these documents is required);
- **public entity:** copy of the resolution or decision establishing the public company, or other official document establishing the public-law entity;
- **consortium:** in addition to the supporting documents referring to their legal status, consortium members will submit letters confirming their participation to the project,
- **entities without legal personality:** documents providing evidence that their representative(s) have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf.
- Affiliated entities shall demonstrate their legal/capital link with applicant

To be considered as a public entity, the applicants and affiliated entities shall fulfil all of the following criteria:

- The entity has been created by a public authority or is governed by private law with a public service mission,
- The public interest of the entity must be explicitly mentioned in the relevant legal or administrative act(s),
- The entity is financed totally or to a large extent (more than 50%) by public sources,
- In the event that the entity stops its activities, all rights and obligations including financial rights and obligations will be transferred to a public authority.

6.3. Eligible activities

Eligible activities shall be those foreseen in Section 2 of this Call. Other activities proposed by the applicants may be considered eligible provided that are instrumental and commensurate to achieve the objective of the Call.

7. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

7.1. Exclusion from participation:

Applicants will be excluded from participating in the call for proposals procedure if they are in any of the following situations:

- (a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- (b) they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment of a competent authority of a Member State which has the force of res judicata;

- (c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify including by decisions of the EIB and international organisations;
- (d) they are not in compliance with their obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of Commission or those of the country where the grant agreement is to be performed;
- (e) they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering or any other illegal activity, where such an illegal activity is detrimental to the Union's financial interests;
- (f) they are currently subject to an administrative penalty referred to in Article 109(1) of the Financial Regulation (FR).

7.2. Exclusion from award:

Applicants will not be granted financial assistance if, in the course of the grant award procedure, they:

- (a) are subject to a conflict of interest;
- (b) are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the Commission as a condition of participation in the grant award procedure or fail to supply this information;
- (c) find themselves in one of the situations of exclusion, referred to in section 7.1.

The same exclusion criteria apply to affiliated entities and members of consortium.

Administrative and financial penalties may be imposed on applicants, or affiliated entities where applicable, who are guilty of misrepresentation.

7.3. Supporting documents

Applicants must sign a declaration on their honour certifying that they are not in one of the situations referred to in articles 106(1) and 107 to 109 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Union²⁶, filling in the relevant form attached to the application form accompanying the call for proposals.

8. SELECTION CRITERIA

8.1. Financial capacity

Applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period during which the project is being carried out or the year for which the grant is awarded and to participate in its funding. The applicants' financial capacity will be assessed on the basis of the following supporting documents to be submitted with the application:

- a declaration on their honour and,
 - the profit and loss account, the balance sheet for the last financial year for which the accounts were closed;

²⁶ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 547/2014 - [O.J.L 163 of 29/05/2014](#)

- for newly created entities, the business plan might replace the above documents.

On the basis of the documents submitted, if the Commission considers that financial capacity is not satisfactory, it may:

- request further information;
- propose a grant agreement without pre-financing;
- propose a grant agreement with a pre-financing paid in instalments;
- propose a grant agreement with a pre-financing covered by a bank guarantee (see section 11.3 below);
- where applicable, require the joint and several financial liability of all the co-beneficiaries;
- reject the application.

The verification of financial capacity does not apply to public bodies (Article 131(3) FR).

8.2. Operational capacity

Applicants must have the professional competencies as well as appropriate qualifications necessary to complete the proposed project. In this respect, applicants have to submit a declaration on their honour (see Annex V), and the following supporting documents:

- curriculum vitae and description of the profile of the persons and entities primarily responsible for managing and implementing the project;
- where appropriate, the organisations' last activity report;
- a description of the technical equipments, tools or facilities at the disposal of the applicants;
- an inventory of natural and economic resources involved in the project;

9. AWARD CRITERIA

The Grant will be awarded to the proposals which reaches the highest score on the basis of the following award criteria and which demonstrates efficiency and cost-effectiveness. A maximum of 100 points will be awarded for the quality of the proposal. The minimum overall score required is 60 points; the minimum for each criterion is indicated in the respective bullet points below. The criteria for the assessment of the quality are:

– **Relevance (minimum required 10 points - maximum 20 points):** relevance of the proposal to the objectives of the call. Applicants must describe how they understand the objectives of the project and how their proposal addresses these objectives. The applicants must demonstrate how the action will impact on current and future implementation of the CFP in the Mediterranean EU waters and in the international waters immediately adjacent with a view to implementing the ecosystem approach to fisheries management in support of the MSY objectives;

– **Added value and innovation (minimum required 10 points - maximum 20 points):** Applicants must clearly demonstrate the added value of the proposed project compared to the existing knowledge and experience about the development of efficient and effective mechanisms to implement the ecosystem approach to fisheries management in support of the MSY objectives. They must demonstrate the usefulness of the proposal, and in

particular the extent to which the project will generate results that can be directly used by stakeholders, Member States and the Commission to establish, where necessary, suitable networks of marine protected areas in line with the CFP objectives and to feed into the CFP's regionalised implementation;

- **Methodology (minimum required 8 points - maximum 15 points):** Applicants must describe their proposed working and analytical methodologies to achieve a timely and successful implementation of the project in order to meet its overall and specific objectives. Due account shall be given to the operational, governance and administrative gaps that must be addressed to implement the project;

- **Means of implementation of the project (minimum required 8 points - maximum 15 points):** Applicants must demonstrate that the resources (personnel, equipment, financing etc.) that will be mobilised are adequate to achieve a timely and successful implementation of the project. In particular, applicants must demonstrate that their implementation means are scientifically up-to-date, cost-effective and promote synergies between the different stakeholders which could intervene in the process of establishing MPAs (e.g. scientists, fishers, other stakeholders, public authorities, etc.);

- **Project management (minimum required 8 points - maximum 15 points):** Applicants must demonstrate that the organisation and management structure proposed for the project is sufficient and adequate to achieve the required quality, meet the deadlines and establish a real partnership between the different stakeholders which could intervene in the processes of establishing MPAs and related networks. The applicants must refer to risks involved in project implementation, how these risks might affect the objectives and outcomes of the action and how they could be mitigated;

- **Dissemination, visibility, sustainability and transferability (minimum required 8 points - maximum 15 points):** Applicants must describe their dissemination and communication plan; how sustainability will be secured once the action has been completed; and how the results of the project can be optimally used by others, particularly in support of the regional cooperation on conservation measures as stipulated by the CFP.

Since assessment of the calls will be based on the quality of the proposed services, calls must elaborate on all points addressed by these specifications in order to score as many points as possible. The mere repetition of mandatory requirements set out in these specifications, without going into details or without giving any added value, will only result in a very low score. In addition, if certain points of these specifications are not expressly covered by the call, the Commission may decide to give a zero mark for the relevant qualitative award criteria.

10. LEGAL COMMITMENTS

In the event of a grant awarded by the Commission, a grant agreement, drawn up in euro and detailing the conditions and level of funding, will be sent to the beneficiary, as well as the procedure in view to formalise the obligations of the parties.

The 2 copies of the original agreement must be signed first by the beneficiary (where appropriate, the coordinator on behalf of the consortium) and returned to the Commission immediately. The Commission will sign it last.

Please note that the award of a grant does not establish an entitlement for subsequent years.

11. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

11.1. General Principles

a) Non-cumulative award

An action may only receive one grant from the EU budget.

In no circumstances shall the same costs be financed twice by the Union budget. To ensure this, applicants shall indicate the sources and amounts of Union funding received or applied for the same action or part of the action or for its functioning during the same financial year as well as any other funding received or applied for the same action.

b) Non-retroactivity

No grant may be awarded retrospectively for actions already completed.

A grant may be awarded for an action which has already begun only where the applicant can demonstrate the need to start the action before the grant agreement is signed or the grant decision is notified.

In such cases, costs eligible for financing may not have been incurred prior to the date of submission of the grant application

c) Co-financing

Co-financing means that the resources which are necessary to carry out the action or the work programme may not be entirely provided by the EU grant.

Co-financing of the action or of the work programme may take the form of:

- the beneficiary's own resources,
- income generated by the action or work programme,
- financial contributions from third parties.

Co-financing may also take the form of in-kind contributions from third parties, i.e. non-financial resources made available free of charge by third parties to the beneficiary or to the consortium. The corresponding costs are not eligible.

d) Balanced budget

The estimated budget of the action or work programme is to be attached to the application form. It must have revenue and expenditure in balance.

The budget must be drawn up in euros.

Applicants which foresee that costs will not be incurred in euros, are invited to use the exchange rate published on the Inforeuro website available at http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/inforeuro/inforeuro_en.cfm

e) Implementation contracts/subcontracting

Where the implementation of the action or the work programme requires the award of procurement contracts (implementation contracts), the beneficiary must award the contract to the bid offering best value for money or the lowest price (as appropriate), avoiding conflicts of interests and retain the documentation for the event of an audit.

Entities acting in their capacity of contracting authorities in the meaning of Directive 2004/18/EC²⁷ or contracting entities in the meaning of Directive 2004/17/EC²⁸ shall abide by the applicable national public procurement rules.

Sub-contracting, i.e. the externalisation of specific tasks or activities which form part of the action/work programme as described in the proposal must satisfy the conditions applicable to any implementation contract (as specified above) and in addition to them the following conditions:

- It may only cover the implementation of a limited part of the action, i.e. a maximum of 25%;
- It must be justified having regard to the nature of the action and what is necessary for its implementation;
- It must be clearly stated in the proposal.

11.2. Funding forms

The EU grants are calculated on the basis of a detailed estimated budget indicating clearly the costs that are eligible for EU funding. The grant amount may neither exceed the eligible costs nor the amount requested. Amounts are indicated in euros.

➤ **Maximum amount requested**

The EU grant is limited to a maximum co-funding rate of 90% of **eligible costs**.

Consequently, part of the total eligible expenses entered in the estimative budget must be financed from sources other than the EU grant (see section 11.1c).

➤ **Contributions in kind**

The external co-financing may be made up of contributions in kind in order to cover other costs necessary to carry out the project. Such contributions must not exceed:

- either the costs actually borne and duly supported by accounting documents;
- or, in the absence of such documents, the costs generally accepted on the market in question.

In-kind contributions shall be presented separately in the estimated budget to reflect the total resources allocated to the action. Their unit value is evaluated in the provisional budget and shall not be subject to subsequent changes.

In-kind contributions shall comply with national tax and social security rules.

➤ **Eligible costs**

Eligible costs are costs actually incurred by the beneficiary of a grant which meet all the following criteria:

- ✓ they are incurred during the duration of the action or of the work programme, with the exception of costs relating to final reports and audit certificates;

The period of eligibility of costs will start as specified in the grant agreement.

If a beneficiary can demonstrate the need to start the action before the agreement

²⁷ Directive 2004/18/EC on the coordination of procedures for the award of public work contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts.

²⁸ Directive 2004/17/EC coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors.

is signed or the grant decision is notified, expenditure may be authorised before the grant is awarded. Under no circumstances can the eligibility period start before the date of submission of the grant application (see section 11.1b).

- ✓ they are indicated in the estimated budget of the action or work programme;
- ✓ they are necessary for the implementation of the action or of the work programme which is the subject of the grant;
- ✓ they are identifiable and verifiable, in particular being recorded in the accounting records of the beneficiary and determined according to the applicable accounting standards of the country where the beneficiary is established and according to the usual cost accounting practices of the beneficiary;
- ✓ they comply with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation;
- ✓ they are reasonable, justified, and comply with the requirements of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency.

The beneficiary's internal accounting and auditing procedures must permit direct reconciliation of the costs and revenue declared in respect of the action/project with the corresponding accounting statements and supporting documents.

The same criteria apply to the affiliated entities.

Eligible direct costs

The eligible direct costs for the action are those costs which, **with due regard for the conditions of eligibility set out above**, are identifiable as specific costs directly linked to the performance of the action or the work programme and which can therefore be booked to it directly, such as :

- the costs of personnel working under an employment contract with the applicant or equivalent appointing act and assigned to the action, comprising actual salaries plus social security contributions and other statutory costs included in the remuneration, provided that these costs are in line with the applicant's usual policy on remuneration. Those costs may include additional remuneration, including payments on the basis of supplementary contracts regardless of their nature, provided that it is paid in a consistent manner whenever the same kind of work or expertise is required and independently from the source of funding used;
- subsistence allowances (for meetings, including kick-off meetings where applicable, conferences etc.) provided that these costs are in line with the beneficiary's usual practices,
- costs of travel (for meetings, including kick-off meetings where applicable, conferences etc), provided that these costs are in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel,
- depreciation cost of equipment (new or second-hand): only the portion of the equipment's depreciation corresponding to the duration of the action/project and the rate of actual use for the purposes of the action may be taken into account by the Commission,
- costs of consumables and supplies, provided that they are identifiable and assigned to the action/project;
- costs entailed by implementation contracts awarded by the beneficiaries for the purposes of carrying out the action/project, provided that the conditions laid down in the grant agreement or grant decision are met;
- costs arising directly from requirements linked to the implementation of the action/project (dissemination of information, specific evaluation of the action, translations, reproduction);

- costs relating to a pre-financing guarantee lodged by the beneficiary of the grant, where required;
 - costs relating to external audits where required in support of the requests for payments;
- Value added tax ("VAT") is not eligible.

Eligible indirect costs (overheads) :

- a flat-rate amount of 7% of the total eligible direct costs of the action, is eligible under indirect costs, representing the beneficiary's general administrative costs which can be regarded as chargeable to the action/project.

Indirect costs may not include costs entered under another budget heading.

Applicants's attention is drawn to the fact that in the case of organisations receiving an operating grant, indirect costs are not eligible under specific actions.

➤ **Ineligible costs**

- return on capital;
- debt and debt service charges;
- provisions for losses or debts;
- interest owed;
- doubtful debts;
- exchange losses;
- costs of transfers from the Commission charged by the bank of a beneficiary;
- costs declared by a beneficiary and covered by another action receiving a European Union grant. In particular, indirect costs shall not be eligible under a grant for an action awarded to a beneficiary who already receives an operating grant financed from the Union budget during the period in question;
- contributions in kind from third parties;
- excessive or reckless expenditure;
- others (in accordance with the relevant legal base).

➤ **Calculation of the final grant amount**

The final amount of the grant, within the limits of the overall amount indicated under section 4 and the co-financing rate indicated under chapter 11.2., to be awarded to the beneficiary is established after completion of the action or work programme, upon approval of the request for payment containing the following documents, including relevant supporting documents where appropriate:

- a final report providing details of the implementation and results of the action/work programme ;
- the final financial statement of costs actually incurred,
- a certificate on the beneficiary's compliance of the cost accounting practices.

EU grants may not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit within the framework of the action or the work programme of the beneficiary. **Profit shall be defined as a surplus of the receipts over the eligible costs incurred by the beneficiary**, when the request is made for payment of the balance. In this respect, where a profit is made, the Commission shall be entitled to recover the percentage of the profit corresponding to the Union contribution to the eligible costs actually incurred by the beneficiary to carry out the action or work programme.

11.3. Pre-financing guarantee

In the event that the applicant's financial capacity is not satisfactory, a pre-financing guarantee for up to the same amount as the pre-financing may be requested in order to limit the financial risks linked to the pre-financing payment but it is not automatic.

The financial guarantee, in euro, shall be provided by an approved bank or financial institution established in one of the Member State of the European Union. Amounts blocked in bank accounts shall not be accepted as financial guarantees.

The guarantee may be replaced by a joint and several guarantees by a third party or by a joint guarantee of the beneficiaries of an action who are parties to the same grant agreement.

The guarantee shall be released as the pre-financing is gradually cleared against interim payments or payments of balances to the beneficiary, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the grant agreement.

12. PUBLICITY

12.1. By the beneficiaries

Beneficiaries must clearly acknowledge the European Union's contribution in all publications or in conjunction with activities for which the grant is used.

In this respect, beneficiaries are required to give prominence to the name and emblem of the European Commission on all their publications, posters, programmes and other products realised under the co-financed project.

To do this they must use the text, the emblem and the disclaimer available at: http://europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information/symbols/flag/index_en.htm .

If this requirement is not fully complied with, the beneficiary's grant may be reduced in accordance with the provisions of the grant agreement or grant decision.

12.2. By the Commission

With the exception of scholarships paid to natural persons and other direct support paid to natural persons in most need, all information relating to grants awarded in the course of a financial year shall be published on an internet site of the European Union institutions no later than the 30 June of the year following the financial year in which the grants were awarded.

The Commission will publish the following information:

- name of the beneficiary
- address of the beneficiary when the latter is a legal person, region when the beneficiary is a natural person, as defined on NUTS 2 level²⁹ if he/she is domiciled within EU or equivalent if domiciled outside EU,
- subject of the grant,
- amount awarded.

Upon a reasoned and duly substantiated request by the beneficiary, the publication shall be waived if such disclosure risks threatening the rights and freedoms of individuals concerned as protected by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union or harm the commercial interests of the beneficiaries.

²⁹ European Union Official Journal L 39, of 10 February 2007.

13. DATA PROTECTION

The reply to any call for proposals involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CV). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any personal data required to evaluate the application in accordance with the specifications of the call for proposal will be processed solely for that purpose by DG MARE – Advisor D. Details concerning the processing of personal data are available on the privacy statement at: http://ec.europa.eu/dataprotectionofficer/privacystatement_publicprocurement_en.pdf.

Personal data may be registered in the Early Warning System (EWS) only or both in the EWS and Central Exclusion Database (CED) by the Accounting Officer of the Commission, should the beneficiary be in one of the situations mentioned in:

- the Commission Decision 2008/969 of 16.12.2008 on the Early Warning System (for more information see the Privacy Statement on: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/legal_entities/legal_entities_en.cfm),

or

- the Commission Regulation 2008/1302 of 17.12.2008 on the Central Exclusion Database (for more information see the Privacy Statement on http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/management/protecting/protect_en.cfm)

14. PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Proposals must be submitted in accordance with the formal requirements and no later than the 8 October 2015 at 16:00.

No modification to the application is allowed once the deadline for submission has elapsed. However, if there is a need to clarify certain aspects or for the correction of clerical mistakes, the Commission may contact the applicant for this purpose during the evaluation process.

Applicants will be informed in writing about the results of the selection process.

➤ Submission on paper

The application form, annexes and relevant documents can be obtained via: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/contracts_and_funding/calls_for_proposals/index_en.htm

Applications shall be submitted on the correct form, duly completed, dated, showing a balanced budget (revenue/expenditure), submitted in 5 copies (one original clearly identified as such, plus 4 copies), and signed by the person authorised to enter into legally binding commitments on behalf of the applicant organisation.

Applications must be submitted as follows:

The date must be the same in both cases

either sent by post (registered mail) or by courier service no later than 8 October 2015 at 16:00 to the following address:

Post:

European Commission

Courier service:

European Commission

Directorate-General for
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
Directorate MARE/D
Mediterranean and Black Sea
(Ref. MARE/2014/41)
B – 1049 BRUSSELS

Directorate-General for
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
Directorate MARE/D
Mediterranean and Black Sea
(Ref. MARE/2014/41)
Avenue du Bourget 1
B – 1140 BRUSSELS (Evere)

In this case, the evidence of the date of dispatch shall be constituted by the postmark (registered mail) or the date of dispatch on the deposit slip (courier service).

or delivered by hand (by the tenderer in person or by an agent) to the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
Directorate Mediterranean and Black Sea
Directorate MARE/D (Ref. MARE/2014/41)
Avenue du Bourget 1
B – 1140 BRUSSELS (Evere)

No later than 16:00 on 8 October 2015. In this case, a receipt must be obtained as proof of submission, signed and dated by the official in the Commission's central mail department who takes delivery.

The department is open from 08.00 to 17.00 from Monday to Thursday, and from 8.00 to 16.00 on Fridays. It is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Commission holidays.

➤ Contacts

All questions related to the call may be sent by electronic means (e-mail) to: MARE-D@ec.europa.eu, indicating the subject title 'Marine protected areas: network(s) for enhancement of sustainable fisheries in the EU Mediterranean waters'.

Such questions, together with their answers, if of a general interest, will be published on: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/contracts_and_funding/calls_for_proposals/2014_41/index_en.htm.

In addition, important information for the applicants may, if need be, be published on this website. Applicants are thus strongly recommended to consult this website regularly.

In order to ensure equal treatment, questions will only be answered if submitted no later than 11 September 2015.

➤ Documents to be found on the website:

- Application form
- Model grant agreement
- Legal entity form
- Financial information form
- Estimated budget form
- Public entity declaration

ANNEX: list of species subject to data collection by Member States in the Mediterranean
(excerpt of Appendix VII of Commission Decision 2010/93/EC)

List of Biological variables with species sampling specification

(Y= Yearly; T= every three years)

Species (Engl.)	Species (Latin)	Area/Stock	Species group(a)	Age no/1000t	Weight	Sex	Maturity
Bigeye thresher shark	<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>	All areas	G1				
Thresher shark	<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	All areas	G1				
European Eel	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	all areas	G1	(b)	T	T	T
Giant red shrimp	<i>Aristeomorpha foliacea</i>	all areas	G1		Y	Y	Y
Red shrimp	<i>Aristeus antennatus</i>	all areas	G1		Y	Y	Y
Bogue	<i>Boops boops</i>	1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2	G2		T	T	T
Sandbar shark	<i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i>	All areas	G1				
Sand tiger shark	<i>Carcharias taurus</i>	All areas	G1				
Gulper shark	<i>Centrophorus granulosus</i>	All areas	G1				
Basking shark	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	All areas	G1				
Dolphinfish	<i>Coryphaena equiselis</i>	all areas	G2				
Dolphinfish	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	all areas	G2	500(c)	T	T	T
Kitefin shark	<i>Dalatias licha</i>	All areas	G1				
Sea bass	<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>	all areas	G2	100	T	T	T
Blue skate	<i>Dipturus batis</i>	All areas	G1				
Longnosed skate	<i>Dipturus oxyrinchus</i>	All areas	G1				
Horned octopus	<i>Eledone cirrosa</i>	1.1, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1	G2		T	T	T
Musky octopus	<i>Eledone moschata</i>	1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1	G2		T	T	T
Anchovy	<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	all areas	G1	50	Y	Y	Y
Velvet belly	<i>Etmopterus spinax</i>	All areas	G1				
Grey gurnard	<i>Eutrigla gurnardus</i>	2.2, 3.1	G2	250	T	T	T
Tope shark	<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>	All areas	G1				
Blackmouth dogfish	<i>Galeus melastomus</i>	All areas	G1				
Spiny butterfly ray	<i>Gymnura altavela</i>	All areas	G1				
Sharpnose sevengill shark	<i>Heptranchias perlo</i>	All areas	G1				
Bluntnose sixgill shark	<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>	All areas	G1				
Squid	<i>Illex spp., Todarodes spp.</i>	all areas	G2		T	T	T
Billfish	<i>Istiophoridae</i>	all areas	G1		T	T	T
Shortfin mako	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	All areas	G1				
Porbeagle	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	All areas	G1				
Sandy ray	<i>Leucoraja circularis</i>	All areas	G1				
Maltese skate	<i>Leucoraja melitensis</i>	All areas	G1				
Common squid	<i>Loligo vulgaris</i>	all areas	G2		T	T	T
Black-bellied angler	<i>Lophius budegassa</i>	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 3.1	G2	250	T	T	T
Anglerfish	<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 3.1	G2	250	T	T	T
Hake	<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	all areas	G1	125	Y	Y	Y
Blue whiting	<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	1.1, 3.1	G2	250	T	T	T
Grey mullets	<i>Mugilidae</i>	1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1	G2				
Red mullet	<i>Mullus barbatus</i>	all areas	G1	125	Y	Y	Y
Striped red mullet	<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>	all areas	G1	125	Y	Y	Y

Species (Engl.)	Species (Latin)	Area/Stock	Species group(a)	Age no/1000t	Weight	Sex	Maturity
Starry smooth-hound	<i>Mustelus asterias</i>	All areas	G1				
Smooth-hound	<i>Mustelus mustelus</i>	All areas	G1				
Blackspotted smooth-hound	<i>Mustelus punctulatus</i>	All areas	G1				
Common eagle ray	<i>Myliobatis aquila</i>	All areas	G1				
Norway lobster	<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	all areas	G1		Y	Y	Y
Common octopus	<i>Octopus vulgaris</i>	all areas	G2		T	T	T
Smalltooth sand tiger	<i>Odontaspis ferox</i>	All areas	G1				
Angular roughshark	<i>Oxynotus centrina</i>	All areas	G1				
Pandora	<i>Pagellus erythrinus</i>	all areas	G2	125	T	T	T
White shrimp	<i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i>	all areas	G1		Y	Y	Y
Caramote prawn	<i>Penaeus kerathurus</i>	3.1	G2		T	T	T
Blue shark	<i>Prionace glauca</i>	All areas	G1				
Smalltooth sawfish	<i>Pristis pectinata</i>	All areas	G1				
Common sawfish	<i>Pristis pristis</i>	All areas	G1				
Blue stingray	<i>Pteroplatytrygon violacea</i>	All areas	G1				
Starry ray	<i>Raja asterias</i>	All areas	G1				
Thornback ray	<i>Raja clavata</i>	1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1	G1		T	T	T
Brown ray	<i>Raja miraletus</i>	1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1	G1		T	T	T
Undulate ray	<i>Raja undulata</i>	All areas	G1				
Blackchin guitarfish	<i>Rhinobatos cemiculus</i>	All areas	G1				
Common guitarfish	<i>Rhinobatos rhinobatos</i>	All areas	G1				
White skate	<i>Rostroraja alba</i>	All areas	G1				
Atlantic bonito	<i>Sarda sarda</i>	all areas	G2	50 (c)	T	T	T
Sardine	<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	all areas	G1	50	Y	Y	Y
Mackerel	<i>Scomber spp.</i>	all areas	G2	50	T	T	T
Small-spotted catshark	<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i>	All areas	G1				
Nursehound	<i>Scyliorhinus stellaris</i>	All areas	G1				
Cuttlefish	<i>Sepia officinalis</i>	all areas	G2		T	T	T
Sharks	<i>Shark-like Selachii (d)</i>	all areas	G1		T	T	T
Sole	<i>Solea vulgaris</i>	1.2, 2.1, 3.1	G1	250	Y	Y	Y
Gilthead sea bream	<i>Sparus aurata</i>	1.2, 3.1	G2		T	T	T
Scalloped hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	All areas	G1				
Great hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	All areas	G1				
Smalleye hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna tudes</i>	All areas	G1				
Smooth hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	All areas	G1				
Picarels	<i>Spicara smaris</i>	2.1, 3.1, 3.2	G2	100	T	T	T
Spiny dogfish	<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	All areas	G1				
Longnose spurdog	<i>Squalus blainvillei</i>	All areas	G1				
Sawback aculeata	<i>Squatina aculeata</i>	All areas	G1				
Smoothback angelshark	<i>Squatina oculata</i>	All areas	G1				
Angelshark	<i>Squatina squatina</i>	All areas	G1				
Mantis shrimp	<i>Squilla mantis</i>	1.3, 2.1, 2.2	G2		T	T	T
Albacore	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	all areas	G2	125 (c)	T	T	T
Bluefin tuna	<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	all areas	G1	125 (c)	T	T	T
Spotted torpedo	<i>Torpedo marmorata</i>	All areas	G1				

Species (Engl.)	Species (Latin)	Area/Stock	Species group(a)	Age no/1000t	Weight	Sex	Maturity
Mediterranean horse mackerel	<i>Trachurus mediterraneus</i>	all areas	G2	100	T	T	T
Horse mackerel	<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>	all areas	G2	100	T	T	T
Tub gurnard	<i>Trigla lucerna</i>	1.3, 2.2, 3.1	G2		T	T	T
Clam	<i>Veneridae</i>	2.1, 2.2	G2		T	T	T
Swordfish	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	all areas	G1	125 (c)	T	T	T

(a) See section Chapter III section B/B1/3. (1) (f)

(b) Age analysis for European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) shall be set at a minimum of 5 individuals per cm length intervals. A minimum of 100 individuals shall be analysed per management unit as specified in Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 for yellow and silver eels separately.

(c) To be defined by species according to landing, survey or catch data.

(d) Periodicity for age is every three years (first year starting in 2009) and shall be carried out together with weight, maturity and sex estimates.