



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



General Fisheries Commission
for the Mediterranean
Commission générale des pêches
pour la Méditerranée

Overview of GFCM Fisheries Restricted Areas

GFCM Secretariat

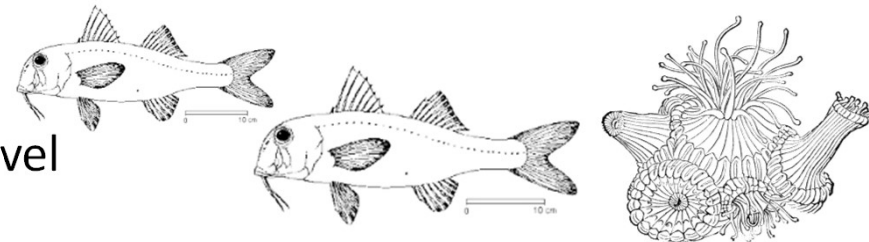
**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON “OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MEASURES” IN
NORTH AFRICA AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
10-11 February 2020**

GFCM Fisheries Restricted Areas

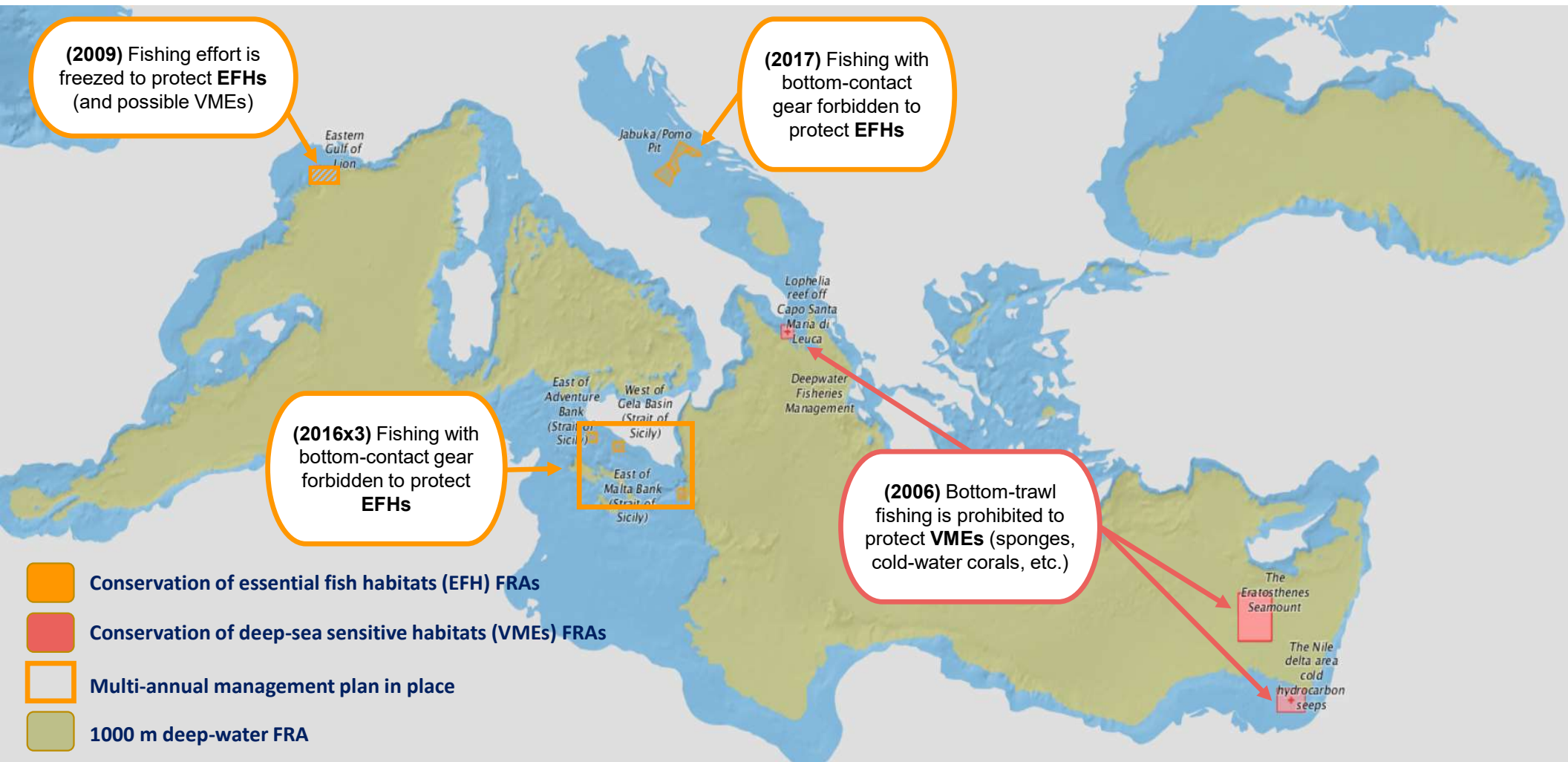
Definition by SAC

“... a geographically-defined area in which all or certain fishing activities are temporarily or permanently banned or restricted in order to improve the exploitation and conservation of harvested living aquatic resources or the protection of marine ecosystems...”

- A FRA can be established to protect any **kind of marine resource and ecosystem** (including VMEs) **from potentially harmful fishing activities**
- Yet in 2005 the GFCM was a pioneer in establishing a deep sea **large FRA encompassing all sea bed below 1000 m depth (bottom trawling prohibited)**
- Other **8 FRAs** were established **from 2006 to 2018**
- New FRAs proposals are under discussion at SAC level



GFCM Fisheries Restricted Areas



GFCM Fisheries Restricted Areas

How does it work?

- **The initial FRA proposal can be submitted to GFCM by any stakeholder, e.g.**

Institutions, scientists, policy-makers, NGOs, private sector

- **Through an *ad-hoc* form available on the GFCM website**

providing information on the area, e.g. *site description, biological features, human activities and impacts, legal status, objective of the FRA*, etc.

- **Process**

FRA Proposal → **Expert GFCM groups / Subregional Committees** → **SAC** → **Commission**

Technical consultations

Institutional consultations



General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean - GFCM

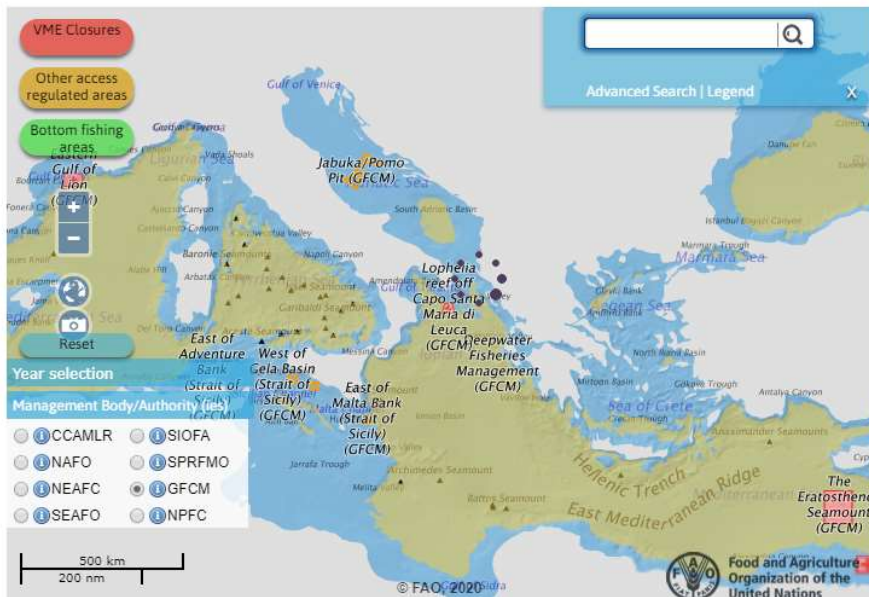
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Data & Info > Maps > FRAs

Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs)

As an RFMO, the GFCM is entitled to adopt spatial management measures that regulate and/or restrict fishing activities in its area of application, e.g. by establishing total closures or prohibiting the use of some fishing gear.

Since 2006, seven FRAs have been established to ensure the protection of deep-sea sensitive habitats and of essential fish habitats (EFH) in well-defined sites. In addition, in 2005, the GFCM prohibited the use of towed dredges and trawl nets in all waters deeper than 1000 metres to protect little-known deep-sea benthic habitats in the Mediterranean. In 2016, this large protected area below 1000 metres was officially declared a FRA by the Commission.



GFCM FRAs are included in the FAO database on VMES

**STANDARD FORM FOR THE SUBMISSION OF
PROPOSALS FOR GFCM FISHERIES RESTRICTED
AREAS (FRAs) IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE
BLACK SEA**

Proposal revised by (SAC technical group/subregional committee):

Date of endorsement:

|

Name of the FRA

Submitted by (institution, scientists, GFCM contracting parties, etc.):

Date of submission:

**Standard Form
adopted by the
Commission to
request the
establishment of a
FRA**

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Thank you for your attention

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