

JOINT DECLARATION OF

CNPMEM (Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Elevage Marins) - **CRPMEM Corse** (Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Elevage Marins) - **CRPMEM PACA** - **CRPMEM OCCITANIE** - **OP du SUD** - **OP du LEVANT** - **OP SATHOAN**
(France)

AGCI Agrital – FedAgriPesca - **Legacoop Agroalimentare** - **UNCI Agroalimentare** - **Coldiretti Impresa Pesca** - **Federpesca**
(Italy)

UNACOMAR (Unión Nacional De Cooperativas Del Mar)
CEPESCA (Confederación Española De Pesca)
FNCP (Federación Nacional De Cofradías De Pescadores)
FNCCP (Federació Nacional Catalana De Confraries De Pescadors)
FAAPE (Federación Andaluza De Asociaciones Pesqueras)
ANMUPESCA (Asociación Nacional De Mujeres De La Pesca)
FACOPE (Federación Andaluza De Cofradías De Pescadores)
FBCP (Federació Balear De Confraries De Pescadors)
Federación Murciana De Cofradías De Pescadores
(Spain)

HGK (Croatian Chamber of Economy)
HOK (Chamber of Trade and Crafts)
Croatian Trawlers Coordination
(Croatia)

ETF (European Transport Workers Federation)

IN VIEW OF THE 47TH SESSION OF THE GFCM (4-8 NOVEMBER 2024) AND THE AGRIFISH COUNCIL ON 9 AND 10 DECEMBER 2024

The undersigned European Organisations and European Transport Workers Federation, in view of the 47th session of the GFCM, scheduled in Rome from 4 to 8 November 2024, and of the EU *AgriFish* Council of Ministers, scheduled in Brussels on 9 and 10 December 2024, share the following joint statement on fisheries management in the Mediterranean basin concerning the stocks and fishing trades under the responsibility of the GFCM and the EU and affecting the fleets of their respective countries;

The undersigned organisations also agree to send this joint statement to their respective Ministers responsible for fisheries and aquaculture affairs, to the Executive Vice-President, Mr Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, and the Commissioner-pre-designate for Fisheries and Oceans, Mr Kostas CADIS, so that they may take it into account during the negotiations that are currently underway and will be concluded with the adoption of decisions in the GFCM and the EU within the next few weeks.

As you know, on 16 September the EU Commission adopted the proposed fishing opportunities for 2025 in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. It will incorporate the decisions on the Western

Mediterranean and those to be taken during those mentioned above 47th annual session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM); the contents of these decisions will also take into account the new scientific advice expected in November from the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF).

The Commission's proposal indicates that the MAP for demersal stocks in the Western Mediterranean will enter its **permanent phase** on 1 January 2025, after the end of the **five-year transitional period**.

However, it should be pointed out that the two phases of the 'transitional' and 'permanent' period are never mentioned in the current European regulation of the multiannual plan for the Mediterranean, whereas they appear for the first time in the [Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council "Sustainable Fisheries in the EU: State of Play and Orientations for 2025,"](#) published on 7 June 2024.

In the submitted proposal, the Commission therefore proposes to continue applying all fishing measures stemming from the MAP.

These measures include fishing effort limits for trawlers and longliners, catch limits for deep-water prawns, and a compensation mechanism for trawlers.

It is hardly worth mentioning that we are talking about fishing trades that supply most fish markets, satisfying the demand for fish of entire communities, not only coastal ones.

The Euro-Mediterranean fishing sector, after having reduced the fishing effort in the WestMed by 40% (*together with complementary measures such TAC for giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp, space-time closure, closed seasons, mesh sizes, pelagic doors, and so on...*), believes that there is no further room for a reduction in the fishing effort, but that a totally new and different approach compared to the past needs to be defined, to finally take into due consideration the economic and social components together with the environmental ones, declined according to a correct ecosystem approach that has been repeatedly invoked.

The European Commission, on the other hand, has stubbornly decided to pursue a reduction without giving precise indications of what the permanent period entails and without any indication of the timeframe and quantity of this strategy.

This means that the EU Commission intends to propose a **further limitation of the fishing effort** (going beyond the 40% reduction already implemented on the basis of a 2022-2023 assessment of resources) especially for those stocks considered not yet in balance, without having - *in our opinion* - any legislative authorization on the base of the current *westmed* regulation.

This is an approach that, in addition to expressing serious doubts in terms of correctness and regulatory legitimacy, is extremely unsustainable for businesses and once again painful for the sector we represent.

Similar concern and censure are also expressed here with regard to the Adriatic, Ionian, and Strait of Sicily areas, for which further measures to reduce the fishing effort and the maximum annual catch levels of those quotas subject to catch limits are being outlined (through the GFCM shortcut, again at the proposal of the EU Commission).

Our organisations believe it is necessary to invert the course followed so far in fisheries management in the Mediterranean in order to seek new models capable of ensuring an effective balancing of the various interests at stake, safeguarding biological resources, fishing enterprises,

and jobs; the compensation measures positively tested in the West MAP must be emphasised, exporting them to the other GSAs; it is also necessary to wait for the results of the fishing effort limitation policies adopted so far in all the Mediterranean GSAs, which will not be fully available before 2027; likewise, it is necessary to improve the analysis of the socio-economic impacts that show, from some studies conducted within MEDAC and in the last STECF report, clear signs of a general and further retreat with exacerbating social and economic consequences.







This is why we call for the fishing effort, for each segment and for each GSA, to be frozen at 2024 levels, also to give the new Von der Leyen Cabinet time to enter into full office.

Lastly, the necessary changes to Regulation (EU) 2021/1139 FEAMPA must be put in place so that fishermen communities can take advantage of the important financial resources made available by the fund to ensure truly resilient, sustainable, and environmentally neutral fishing, starting with the removal of the financial odds that prevent to face the needs shown by fishery sector, for instance, by the very high number of scrapping requests, as evidence of the hard crisis level.

21 October 2024

Signatures:

CNPMEM	
CRPMEM CORSE	
CRPMEM PACA	
CRPMEM OCCITANIE	
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OP DU LEVANT	
OP SATHOAN	<p> Société Coopérative Agraire des Pêcheurs de la Côte du Littoral de l'Est 10000 SATHOAN www.sathoan.fr / sathoan@orange.fr 04 67 00 00 00</p>
AGCI AGRITAL	
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LEGACOOOP AGROALIMENTARE	
UNCI AGROALIMENTARE	<p> UNCI AGROALIMENTARE DI PRESIDIO Dipartimento di Economia Università del Piemonte Orientale Alessandria</p>
FEDERPESCA	
COLDIRETTI IMPRESA PESCA	
UNACOMAR	
CEPESCA	

FNCP	
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FAAPE	
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FBCP	
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HGK	 
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CROATIAN TRAWLERS COORDINATION	
ETF	