



# Potential fishery- OECMs from the GFCM area



Based on the report of the GFCM expert meeting on fisheries-related OECMs in the Mediterranean.  
On-line 16-17 February 2022



# The 1000m FRA (map)



Source: GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean). 2022. GFCM fisheries restricted areas web map application. In: *FAO*. Rome. Cited 20 November 2022. [www.fao.org/gfcm/data/maps/fras/en](http://www.fao.org/gfcm/data/maps/fras/en)



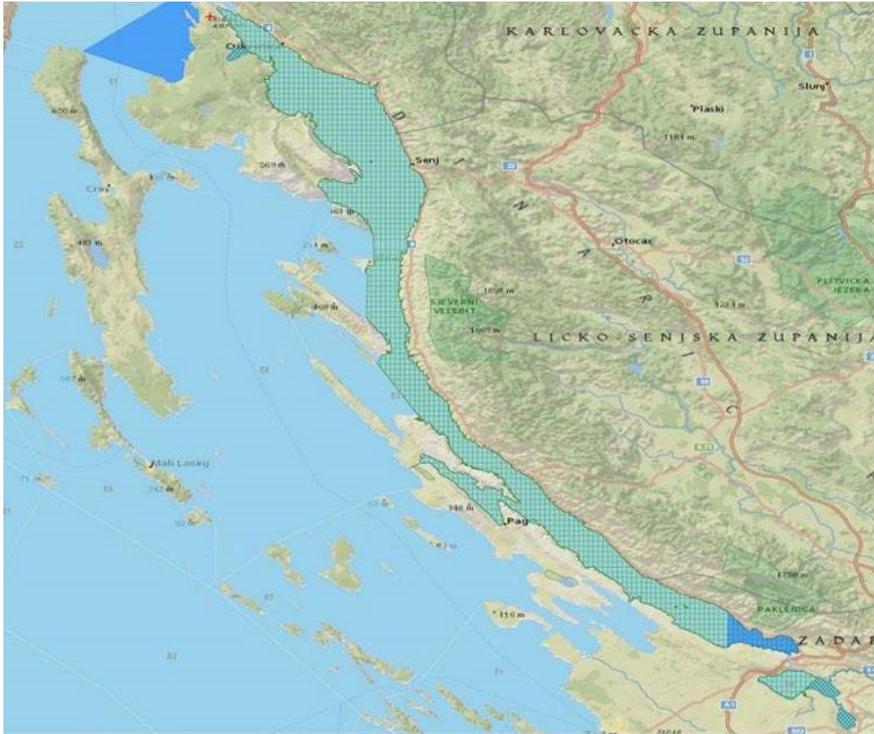
Criteria	Whole FRA<1000 m	Within 12 miles
Geographically defined space?	YES	YES
Recognized as a protected area?	NO: but possible overlaps with MPAs. Also with EBSAs	No: but may contain national MPAs
Has a legitimate governance authority?	YES: GFCM	YES: shared between GFCM and national authorities
Contributes to in situ biodiversity conservation?	YES: according to the 2004 report by UCN and WWF	YES: based on the 2004 report by IUCN and WWF
any existing or anticipated threats?	YES: currently and potentially: climate change, chemical and plastic pollution, oil & Gas, other human uses	Same but States in a better state to assess and mitigate them in their waters
Any monitoring?	Not systematic (high cost). Satellite monitoring possible. No fishing exists. No compliance problem detected/reported	Not beyond fished areas. Monitoring by States could be implemented
Supports ecosystem services	Carbon sequestration, nursery grounds, biodiversity support	Carbon sequestration, nursery grounds, biodiversity support

# The 1000 m FRA conclusions





# Velebit Channel demersal fishing ban (Croatia)



1. Important nursery area for many resources
2. Managed through EU regulations and Natura 2000 protections.
3. Monitored year-round: fisheries, biodiversity, water quality
4. There is good evidence of biodiversity benefits
5. There are also some threats



# Velebit Channel demersal fishing ban (Croatia)

Criteria	Response
Geographically defined space?	YES. By National ordinance
Recognized as a protected area?	NO, but overlaps with Natura 2000 MPA areas to protect reefs and seagrass. The OECEM could easily be delineated to avoid double counting.
Has a legitimate governance authority?	YES: Croatian Ministry of Agriculture
Contributes to in situ biodiversity conservation?	YES. as shown before. Seems also to contribute to maintaining ecosystem functions and services. Since the fishing ban, the demersal community improved significantly. Also protects rare, threatened, or endangered species: picked dogfish, blue shark and angel shark.
any existing or anticipated threats?	YES: Abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear, invasive species, marine litter, microplastics and climate change. Pollution is possible, diffused, but low and non-significant
Any monitoring?	YES. Heavily monitored for biodiversity conservation
Supports ecosystem services	YES: provisioning though SSFs. Strong local socioeconomic value (rare livelihood opportunities). Also cultural, recreational and educational services, as fishing tourism. Also ecosystem support services through protected habitats. Need more in-depth analysis.





# Additional overall conclusions



## **There is a need:**

1. For a better definition & understanding of biodiversity and its conservation
2. To study the links between possible OECEMs and what surrounds them, including non-fisheries related threats
3. To identify what constitutes activities with significant adverse impact
4. To find ways to manage threats to enhance protection
5. To look at the specificities of the Mediterranean governance structure and consider a further involvement of coastal communities in the fishery-OECM discussions.



Thanks for your  
attention.  
Any questions?



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