

DELIVERABLE D5.3.3

Sustainability certification application for SSF of GSA 17

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| Project ID | 10045781 |
| Project acronym | Adri.SmArtFish |
| Project full title | Valorisation of SMall-scale ARTisanal FISHery of the Adriatic coasts, in a context of sustainability |
| WP5 | Policy making and shared management |
| Activity 5.3 | Harmonisation of Regulation Framework |
| Partner in charge | PP9 |
| Partners involved | PP1-8 |
| Status | Final |
| Distribution | Public |
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The pre-assessment activity presented in deliverable D4.2.3 identified the main strengths of the Adriatic SSF sector that put it on track to obtain quality certification. At the same time, the present state of the Adriatic SSF sector resulted to be not sufficient to obtain the sustainability certification. Indeed, the pre-assessment analysis has highlighted certain weaknesses. In particular:

Principle 1 – Stock status

Both stocks are assessed quantitatively, and reference points are estimated. But while the Cuttlefish stock is healthy at MSY levels, the same cannot be said for the Mantis shrimp stock, which is not at MSY levels, but recovering. Furthermore, the harvest strategy is not responsive to stock status and there are no explicit HCRs.

Principle 2 – Minimising environmental impacts

According to stakeholders, interactions with non-targeted species are highly unlikely. Besides, impacts on habitats are considered low. Despite this, information on potential impacts (if any) with ETP species is scarce.

Principle 3 – Effective management

The legal framework and management system are well defined and consultation, roles and responsibilities are well established at national and regional levels. It was also positively highlighted how the overarching objectives of Italian fisheries are based on the CFP to guide decision-making and there is reasonable expectation and confidence that MCS measures are effective. Furthermore, some evidence shows that the number of non-compliances in the area is quite low and that the applied sanctions are effective. On the other hand, the absence of clear short- and long-term fishery-specific objectives and of clear harvest control rules for target species have been noted. Because of this, the management decisions cannot be responsive to

serious and important issues. The management system tries to resolve disputes to avoid judicial trials and only the most serious cases go to the judicial system. However, Italian justice remains the slowest in Europe. Also information about the frequency and regularity of the internal review mechanisms is absent.

In order to improve the performance of Adriatic SSF and thus make it eligible for sustainability certification, it is recommended that:

- Harvest Control rules are implemented for the cuttlefish and mantis shrimp fisheries
- Adriatic SSF implements a regular review of alternative measures to minimise its impact on non-target species.
- Adriatic SSF ensures that stocks used as bait are above MSY sustainable levels.
- Adriatic SSF implements a recording system for interactions with secondary, out of scope, and ETP species.
- information is gathered in relation to Vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) present in the fishing grounds and its overlap with fishing gears (if any). Information on benthic impacts by fyke nets and traps would also be helpful during a full assessment.
- the client records and classifies infringements by the UoC members.