

The Common Fisheries Policy

Conservation and management measure for sustainable fisheries in the Mediterranean”

Franco Biagi

Directorate General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs

Conservation Policy Directorate
European Commission

Council Regulation (EC) No 1626/94

laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean

- Harmonization of certain conservation measures
- Prohibit fishing methods polluting the environment or damaging certain habitats
- Mediterranean waters under sovereignty and jurisdictions of MS. All Community vessels outside those waters
- Not apply to pools and lagoons

NEW CONTEXT

Overall production and catch rates → decreasing (>50%)

High levels of discards (decreasing)

poor state of several stocks: low levels of SSB

inadequacy of the current exploitation pattern and high F

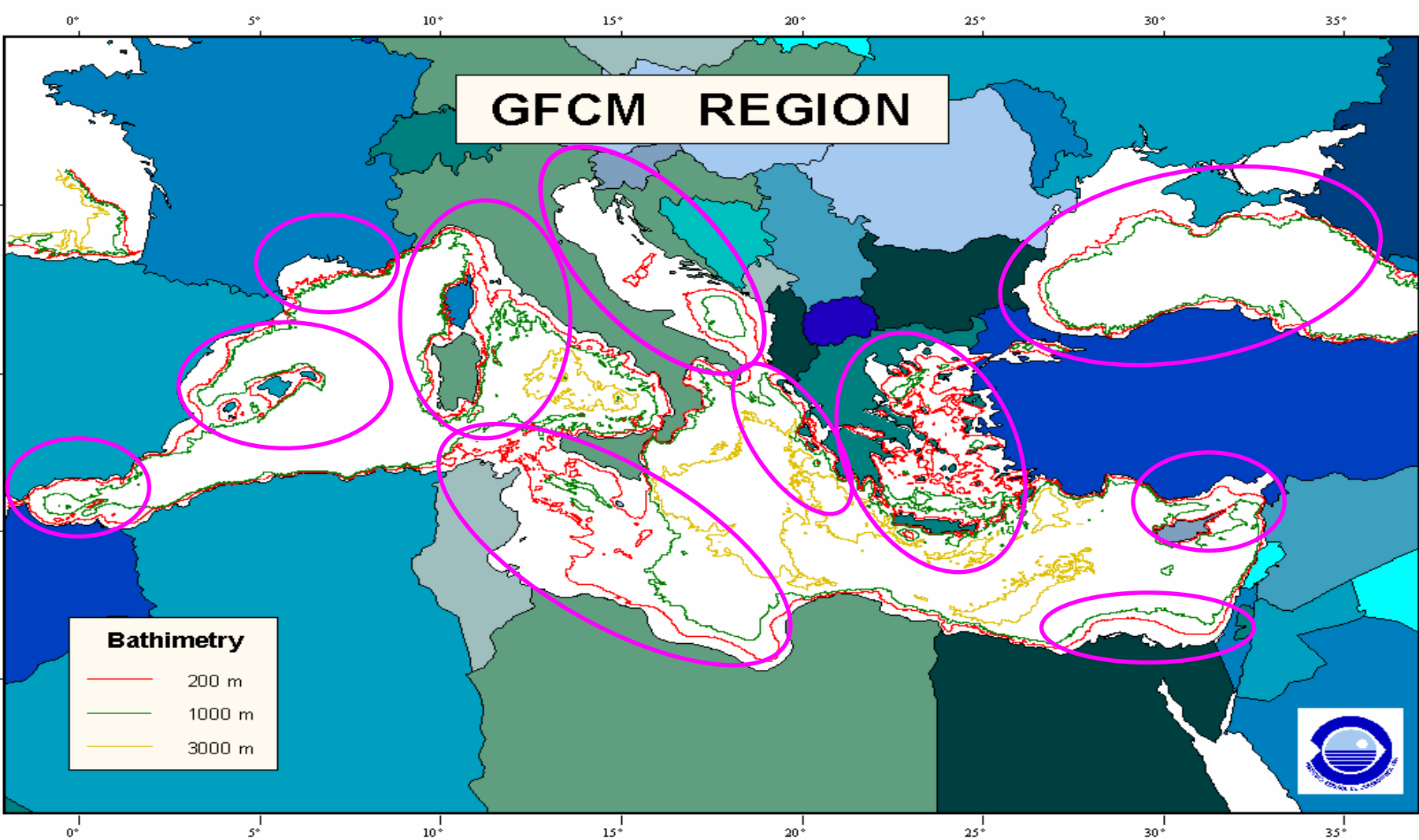
poor economic performances

**Fishing down to 800 - 1000 m → No more spatial opportunities to exploit
fisheries catching similar targeted mix of species**

diverse fishing gears → Fishing all species and sizes

Increasing level of fishing effort of non EU countries

RECONCILE the sustainable exploitation of the aquatic living resources
in both the historical rights of EU traditional fishing Countries and the
legitimate aspiration of the other Countries to further develop their fishing
capacities



Areas where shared stocks of demersal and small pelagic species are located.

New Proposal: VISION AND OBJECTIVES

- Regulation 1626/94 technically inadequate and lack a comprehensive management framework
- A consistent and integrated framework for sustainable exploitation: adaptive and precautionary vs reactive
- Greater integration of environmental concerns
- Management level: Community vs national
- Long-term management: multiannual plans
- Combat (I) IUU fishing in the region
- International dimension: multilateralism and co-operation
- Harmonization of management measures
- Support the development of responsible fisheries
- Protect the small scale nature of Mediterranean fisheries

**the European Union is the biggest fishing player
in the area: responsibility and leadership**

→ October 2002 (COM(2002)535 Action Plan

→ October 2003 COM(2003)589 final

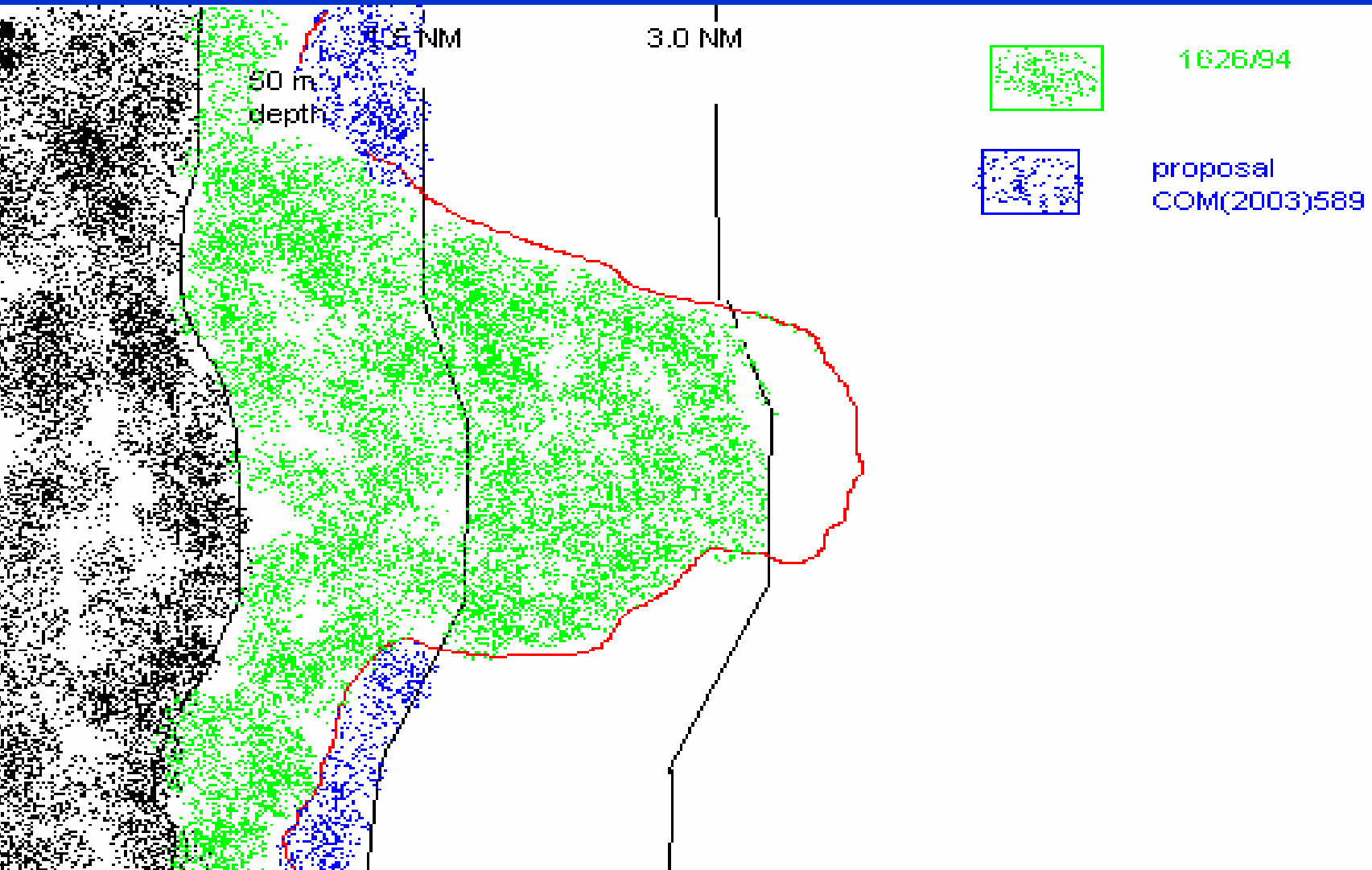
**Proposal for a Council regulation concerning management
measures for the sustainable exploitation of fisheries
resources in the Mediterranean Sea and amending
Regulations (EC) No2847/93 and (EC) No973/2001**

Council Regulation (EC) No 1626/94

(Article 2) Prohibition to use:

- explosives
- toxic, soporific or corrosive substances
- electric shock generators
- towed gears for harvesting corals
- pneumatic hammers or other percussive devices to collect molluscs bivalve digging within the rocks
- Shore seines (from 1 January 2002)

Use of trawls, seines or similar nets is prohibited within 3 NM or 50 metres isobath (Article 3. 1)



rogation to 3.0 NM minimum distance is allowed

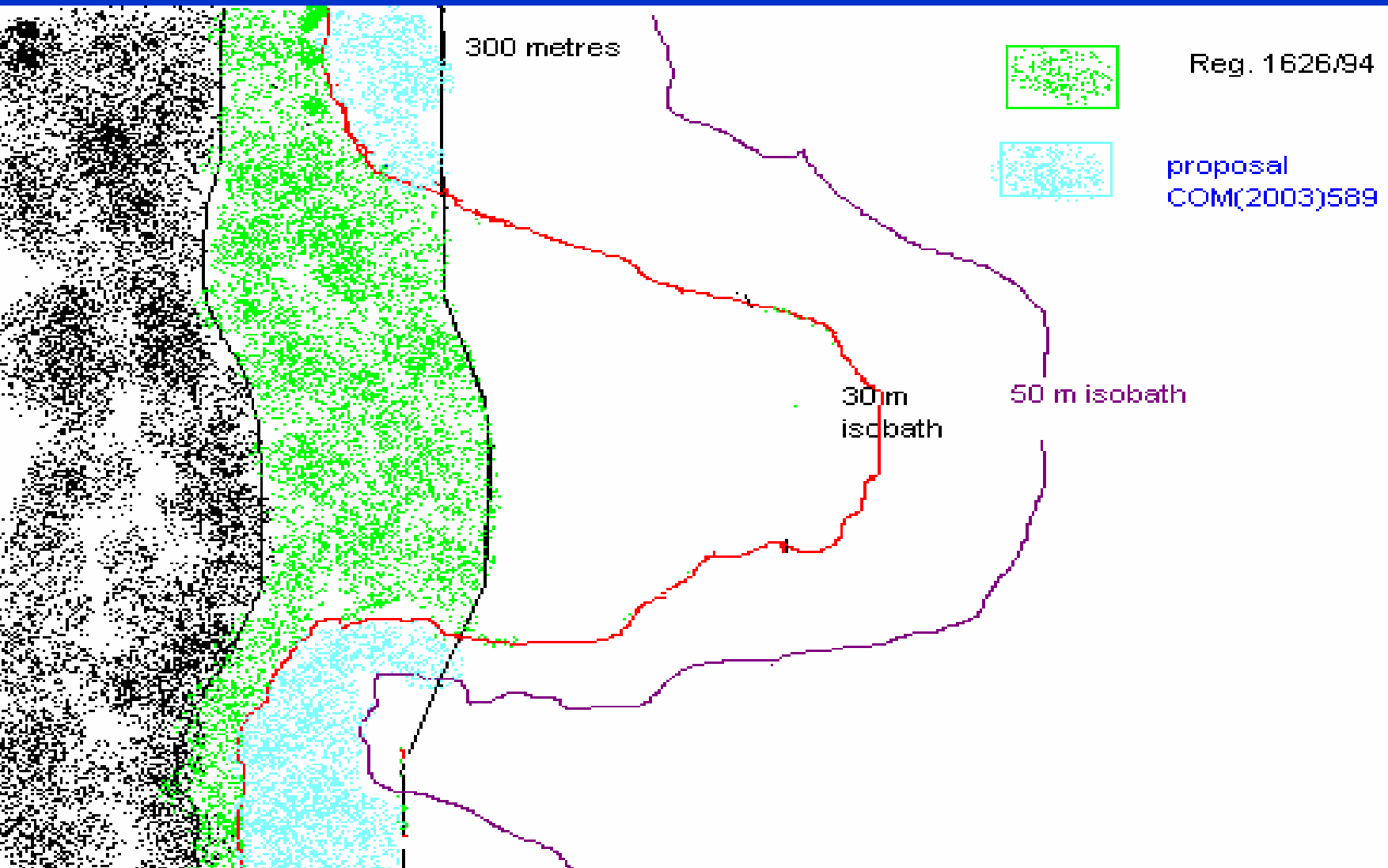
if already authorized in national legislation in respect
a 3 NM beyond the territorial waters

if already authorized in national legislation before 1
January 1994 and provided that:

- * prohibition to fishing with active gears on Posidonia
meadows is not jeopardised
- * **target** species are not subject to a MLS
- * **by-catch** of species subject to a MLS is minimal
- * fishing does not interfere with activities of small scale
fisheries
- * vessels are subject to special fishing permits

no dredges for catching shellfish (no more than 10 % of by-
catch)

Prohibition to use encircling nets within 300 m from the coast or within 30m isobath. No derogations (article 3.4)



Areas of restricted access to fishing activities
“protected zones”: community obligation but
establishment and rules left to Member States (article 4)

New Commission proposal (pipeline acquis): more clear
and compulsory procedure to establish either
community or national fishing protected areas with
deadlines. Commission right to verify and propose
changes of national protected areas

Technical characteristics of fishing gears (articles 5 and Annex II): minimum requirements

Attachment of devices to the trawl codend is limited to those authorized in Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3440/84

Dredges (finfish and shellfish): maximum breadth of 4 m

Encircling nets (purse seine) for small pelagic and demersal species 800 m length and 120 m drop

Bottom set nets: 5000 m length and 4 m drop

Bottom set longlines 7000m

Surface longline 60 km

MESH SIZE (Article 6 – Annex III)

powered nets	demersal species	40 mm
powered nets	small pelagic species	20 mm
encircling nets		14 mm

Derogations allowed

- if already authorized in national legislation before 1 January 1994 and provided that:

- * **target** species are not subject to a MLS
- * **by-catch** of species subject to a MLS is minimal
- * vessels are subject to special fishing permits

on board, landed, stored, sold, displayed or offered for sale

FISH	1626/94	new proposal
<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>	23 cm	25 cm
<i>Diplodus</i> spp	15 cm	12,18,23 cm
<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i> (110/kg)	9 cm	9 cm
<i>Epinephelus</i> spp	45 cm	45 cm
<i>Lophius</i> spp	30 cm	---
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	20 cm	20 cm
<i>Mugil</i> spp	16 cm	---
Mulls spp	11 cm	11 cm
<i>Pagellus</i> spp	12 cm	15,17, 33 cm
<i>Pagrus pagrus</i>	18 cm	18 cm
<i>Polyprion americanus</i>	45 cm	45 cm
<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	18 cm	18,18 cm
<i>Solea vulgaris</i>	20 cm	20 cm
<i>Sparus aurata</i>	20 cm	20 cm

Minimum legal size (Article 8 Annex IV)

FISH	1626/94	new proposal
Trachurus spp	12 cm	15 cm
Lithognathus mormyrus	-	20 cm
Sardina pilchardus	-	11 cm (55/kg)
CRUSTACEANS		
Homarus gammarus	85 mm CL	105 mm CL 300 mm TL
Nephrops norvegicus	20 mm CL 70 mm TL	20 mm CL 70 mm TL
Palinuridae	240 mm TL	90 mm CL
Parapenaeus longirostris	---	20 mm CL
MOLLUSCS		
Pecten spp	100 mm	100mm
Venerupis spp	25 mm	25 mm
Venus spp	25 mm	25 mm

25-mile management zone around Malta (Article 8a)

Fishing effort control:

ONLY Fishing vessels < 12 OAL other than towed gears

Ref. lev. 2000-2001: 1950 vessels, 83000 kW, 4035 GT

DEROGATIONS

Trawlers ≤ 24 m operating only in 14 identified areas

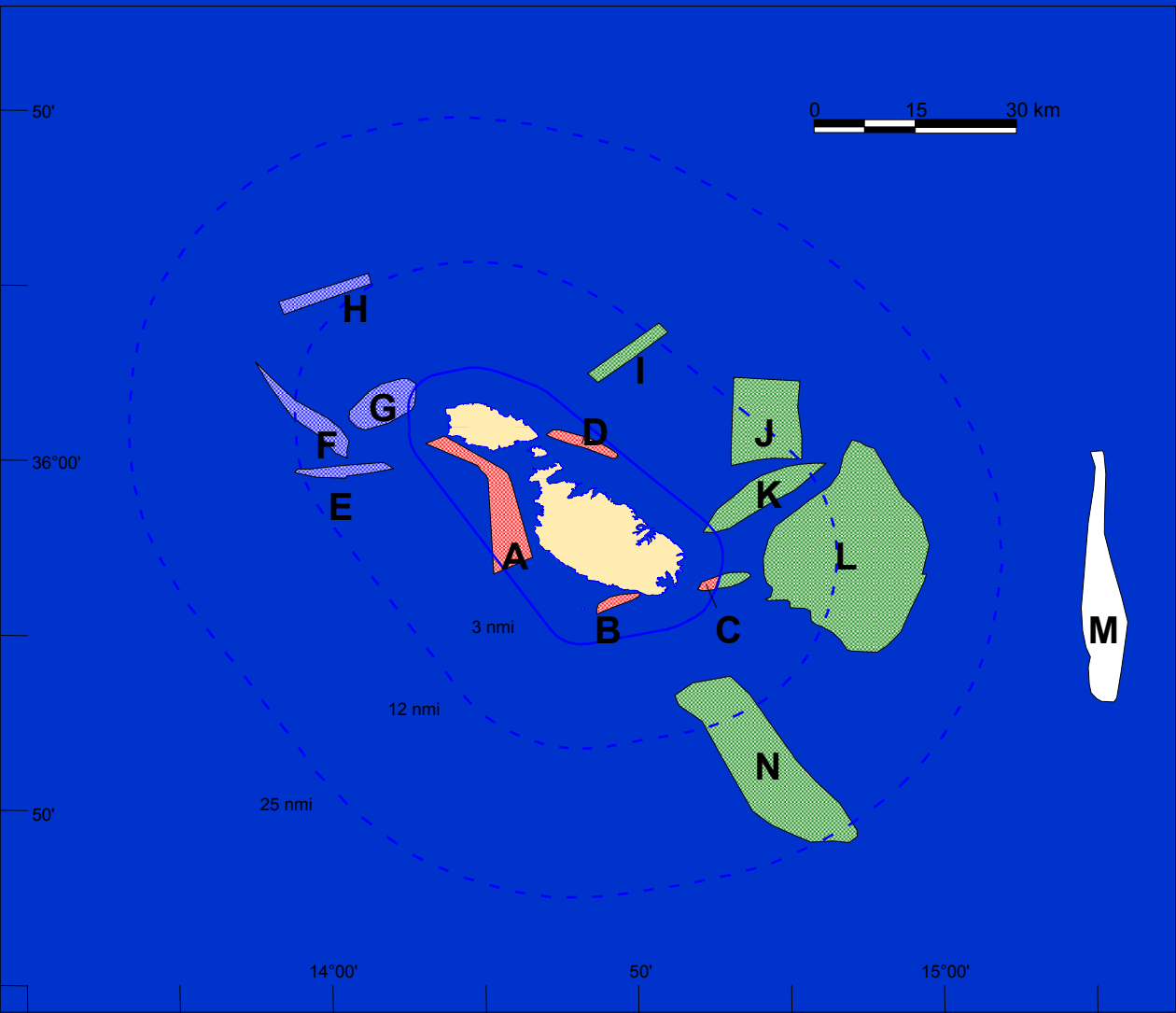
Maximum fishing capacity 4800 kW (Ref.00-01: 3600 kW)

Depths < 200 m only vessels < 185 kW

Special fishing permits (Regulation 1627/94) and list of authorized vessels

Allocation criteria

VMS; entry-exit signal



Trawlable areas to the approaches of the Maltese Islands and species of fish caught

Zones

- Protected
- Deep zones
- Shallow Zones

Area in sq km

- A - 108.09
- B - 10.89
- C - 16.79
- D - 19.67
- E - 24.56
- F - 48.41
- G - 64.85
- H - 32.42
- I - 33.70
- J - 158.45
- K - 83.34
- L - 633.45
- M - 192.33
- N - 350.03

Figure

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
 Barriera Wharf
 Valletta.
 Tel : 225236 225238
 Fax : 231294



25-mile management zone around Malta (Article 8a)

DEROGATION: purse seines, longlines, fishing vessels for dolphinfish

Special fishing permits (Regulation 1627/94)

List of authorized vessels

EU vessels other than Maltese may operate beyond 12NM

25-mile management zone around Malta

Dolphinfish (Coryphaena spp) fishery (Article 8b)

FADs fishing is prohibited from 1 January to 5 August

Number of fishing vessels \leq 130 Vessels

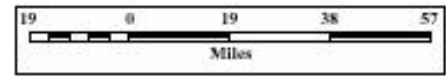
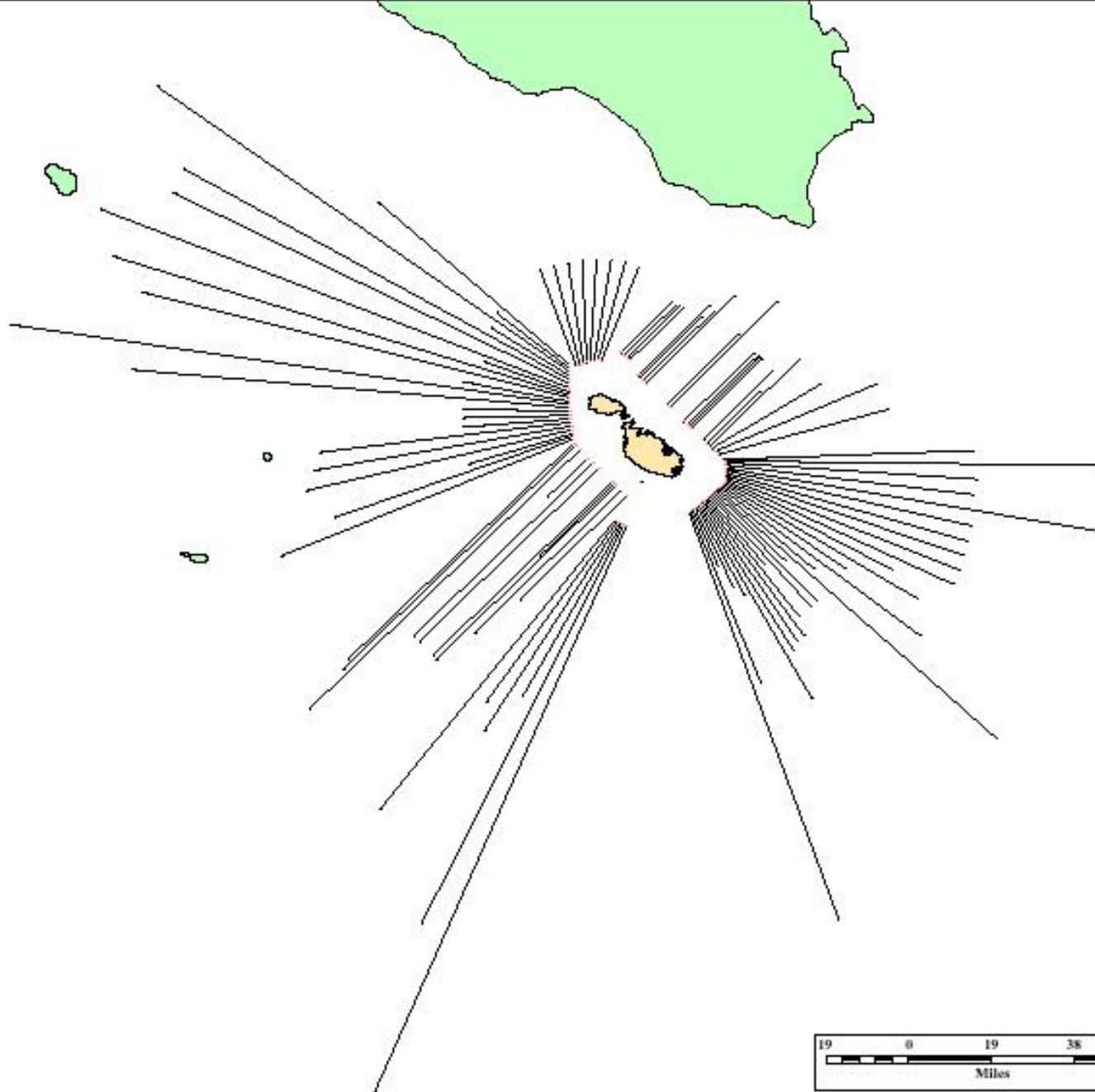
Allocation criteria to assign 130 course lines

Special fishing permits (Regulation 1627/94) also
vessels < 10 m OAL

List of authorized vessels

EU vessels other than Maltese may operate beyond
12NM

**Dolphin Fish Fishing Zones
Malta 2000**



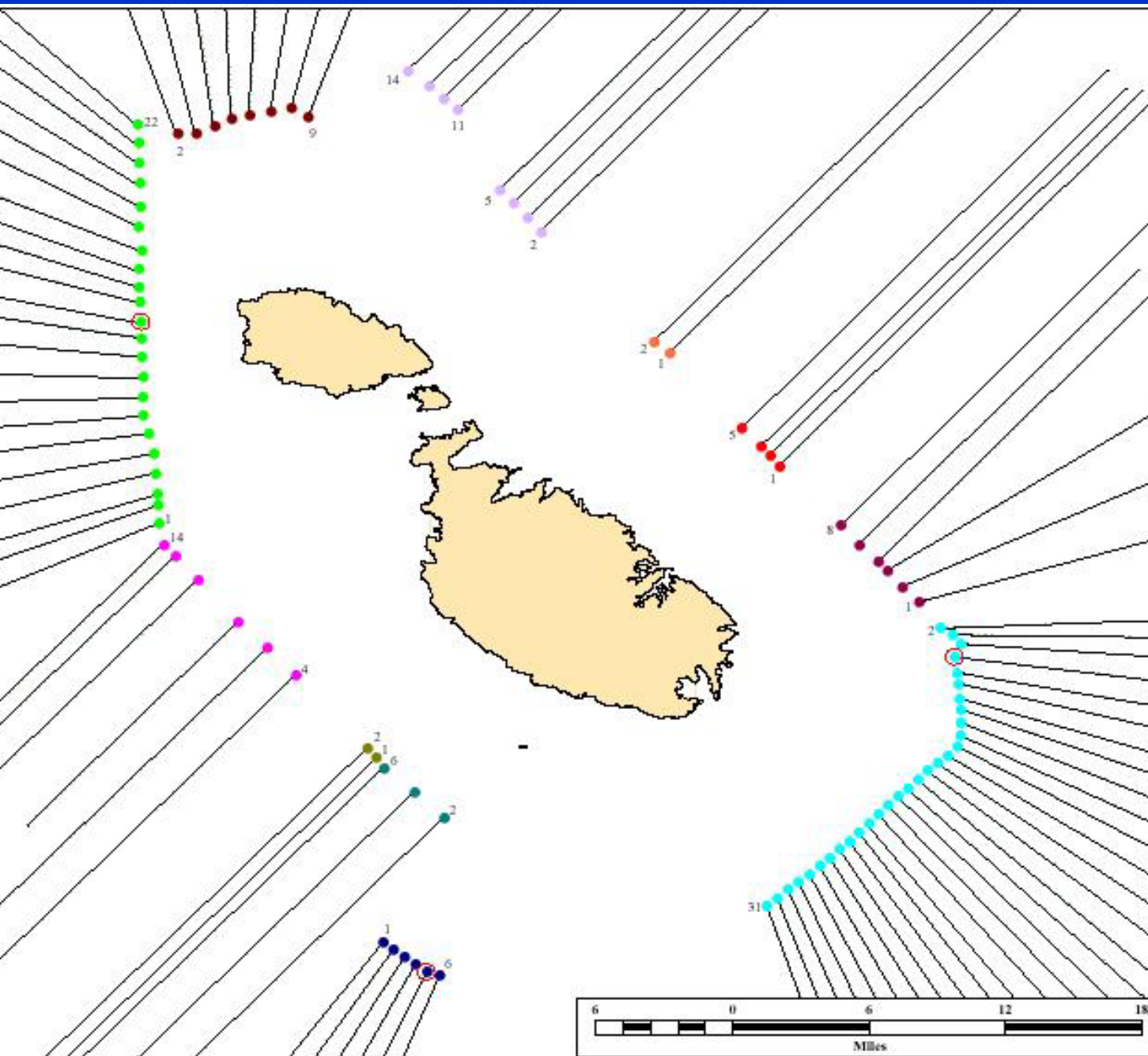
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Dolphin Fish F.A.D. Distribution Malta 2000

- 1st F.A.D. of Site
- F.A.D.
- Site chosen for Biological Sampling

District (No. of Site)

- M'Xlokk S.W. (1 - 6)
- Zarrieq (2, 4, 6)
- Gnejna (1 - 2)
- Mgarr S.W. (4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14)
- Xlendi (1 - 22)
- Marsalforn (2 - 9)
- Mgarr N.E. (2 - 5, 11 - 14)
- San Pawl Il-Bahar (1 - 2)
- Valletta (1 - 3, 5)
- M'Scala (1 - 4, 6, 8)
- M'Xlokk S.E. (2 - 31)



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STRUCTURE - CONTENT OF THE NEW PROPOSAL

COM(2003)589 final COM(2003)589 final

Protected species and habitats (art. 3&4): extend obligations of the Habitats Directive to international waters. Prohibits certain fishing gears to operate over phanerogames beds, Macroalgae, bryozoans and depth beyond 1000 m.

Protected areas (art. 5&6): introduces a procedure for establishing temporary or permanent closures of areas to specific fishing methods, either in Community or international waters.

Non-commercial fishing (art 15): introduces provisions to ensure that leisure fishing is conducted in a way that reduces interference with professional fishing and does not jeopardize sustainability of certain resources. The use of certain nets is prohibited to the recreational and sportsman fishermen

Restrictions concerning fishing gears (art. 7 to 12): conditions for the use of certain fishing gears to protect the environment as well as ensuring minimum conditions of selectivity to protect juveniles and reduce discarding:

to improve the selectivity of the current 40 mm mesh size of trawl nets, without immediately increasing of the mesh size of seines for boat and shore seines if undertaken within a management plan

change of the minimum mesh size of trawl nets either 40 mm square or 50 mm diamond from 2008

technical specifications on the rigging of the trawl nets: no cod-end; square mesh panels; strengthening bag mesh size 1.2 times and 1.3 times;

STRUCTURE - CONTENT OF THE PROPOSAL

COM(2003)589 final COM(2003)589 final

- minimum hooks and gillnets mesh sizes targeting the red-
eam

limits the overall sizes of certain fishing gears that aff
hing effort: maximum drop and length;

strengthens the current ban on the use of towed gears in coa
as: 3 NM and 50m; trawl nets never at less than 1.5 NM of
ast; **Derogation** under identified conditions and if underta
thin a management plan

purse seines prohibited within 300 m of the coast or within
isobath; **Derogation** under identified conditions and if underta
thin a management plan

STRUCTURE - CONTENT OF THE PROPOSAL

COM(2003)589 final COM(2003)589 final

Management plans (art. 16 & 17): provide for the adoption of Community or national management plans combining the use of port management with technical measures.

Member States are required to implement first management plans by a certain date for fisheries conducted by boat seines, shore seines, encircling nets and dredges that usually catch “national species”

Control measures (Art. 18 - 21)

catch composition, Transshipment, Designated ports, Monitoring of catches

5 miles management zone around Malta (Art.23-24)

the provisions as 1626/94

ANY QUESTIONS?