

MANUAL ABOUT RECREATIONAL FISHING ACTIVITIES CLOSE TO THE MARINE PROTECTED AREA OF KARABURUN-SAZANI

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INTRODUCTION

The coastal marine environment of the Mediterranean Sea, and particularly that of MPAs, is facing increased levels of disturbance by recreational activities, including fisheries, which overshadows the impacts of commercial fisheries (e.g. Badalamenti et al. 2000; Lloret&Riera 2008). Recreational and artisanal (professional) sectors often compete for limited coastal resources and therefore coastal management plans need to incorporate both sectors, for which an understanding of the human and fishery dimensions of each is needed. Despite numerous studies on artisanal fisheries in Mediterranean coastal waters (e.g. Colloca et al. 2004; Morales-Nin et al. 2010), the studies on recreational fisheries are lacking in comparison to artisanal fisheries. In the Mediterranean Sea, artisanal fisheries are characterized as commercial fishers operating in small boats, exploiting areas near the coast, using a large number of gears and techniques (which change seasonally), typically manned by a single or a pair of fishermen and targeting a high diversity of species (Gómez et al. 2006). These fisheries have historically been a major source of food, employment and economic benefits to the inhabitants of Mediterranean coastal villages.

Although small-scale fishing is still important for some communities (about 80% of the Mediterranean fleet is made of small vessels measuring less than 12 m in length; European Commission 2018), this type of fishery is declining in many parts of the Mediterranean (Colloca et al. 2004; Gómez et al. 2006). Recreational fishing (RF) in the Mediterranean is a popular outdoor activity in coastal areas, where an increasing number of local inhabitants and tourists fish for pleasure and have a large impact on the

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local and regional economies (Lloret et al. 2008; Cerdà et al. 2010; Font & Lloret 2011).

RECREATIONAL FISHING ACTIVITIES

In general, RF can be defined as a non-commercial (i.e. not for sale, barter, or trade) subset of capture/harvest fisheries; motivated by catching fish for fun, pleasure, or sport. More formally, Cacaud (2005) defined RF as “all types of fishing activities including sport fishing activities undertaken by any individual, with or without a boat, for leisure purposes, and does not involve the selling of fish or other aquatic organisms”. This definition further assumes that RF activities are not motivated by a dependence on fish for food. Within this broad definition, one may further categorize RF into amateur, tourism, and sport/competition recreational fishing; each having their own associated goals and defined as follows:

Amateur fishing, for the purposes of this review, is defined as unorganized hobby fishing. Unorganized in the sense that it is not associated with specific events or competitions. Catches from amateur fishing are either released (catch & release) or are retained for private consumption.

Sport fishing is described as “an organised activity involving free competition between fishermen to catch the largest fish of certain species, the largest number of specimens or the largest total weight depending on the rules of each particular competition” (SFITUM, 2004).

Tourism fishing can be understood as a fishing activity carried out by a third party

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who organizes a fishing expedition for tourists. Tourism fishing can be conducted by commercial fishermen (*pescaturismo*) or by recreational fishing professionals (“charter”); one main difference being the type of the boat used (commercial fishing boat vs. leisure boat). The aim of charter fishing is mainly to fish; whereas, with the concept of *pescaturismo*, the purpose is not only fishing but also to practice snorkelling, to eat on board fish cooked in a traditional way and just enjoy a day on a boat in middle of the sea.

In addition to the goal-based classification of RF provided above, RF may also be categorized by the location and tools used in the activity. In marine RF, one observes four basic groupings: *pêche à pied*, shore-based, boat-based and underwater fishing; with multiple further sub-divisions (as presented in Figure 1).

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Figure 1. Marine recreational fisheries categorization in the Mediterranean countries; adapted by Cacaud, 2005 and Giakoumi et al., 2017.

Recreational fishing is defined as the **“fishing of aquatic animals (mainly fish) that doesn’t constitute the individual’s primary resource to meet basic nutrition needs and are not generally sold or otherwise traded on export, domestic or black markets.”** RF operate within a competitive sphere among commercial fisheries, which

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may harvest from the same stock. RF can provide diverse revenues and opportunities; with a widely promoted catch and release policy within this sector, RF allows for a multiplication of value per fish actually harvested.

Mismanagement of RF can cause several conservation issues, including: high stock exploitation, selective harvest of 'trophy fish' (and therefore shifts in population structure), habitat destruction, unwanted catch and release mortality/disease, introduction of non-native species and disturbance of the environment. With these concerns, it is therefore necessary to orient the RF sector towards environmental sustainability on an international level, through various means such as the licensing of anglers and boats, establishing closed seasons and developing size and bag limits.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

On the Albanian national level, the first law on fisheries is represented by the Law on Fishery and Aquaculture, N. 7908, dated on 05.04.1995, which was repealed by the Law on Fisheries N. 64 and dated on 2012. In the first law, two categories of fishing activities are stated in the law, which are represented by the professional fishing (according to the law definition) means the fishing for economical purposes and the sport fishing – the fishing for recreational and entertainment purposes.

In the actual (2019) law “Law on Fisheries”, the article 28 (the types of fishing activities) states that the fishing activities are categorized as follows:

- a) **Commercial fisheries** (in Albanian language: peshkimtregtar);
- b) **Recreational-entertainment fisheries** (in Albanian language: peshkimçlodhës-argëtues);
- c) **Scientific studies purpose fisheries** (in Albanian language:

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peshkimpërqëllimestudimore dhe shkencore), where the commercial fisheries is further sub-categorised (in the Article 29, types of the commercial fisheries) into

- 1) **Professional Commercial Fisheries** (in Albanian language: PeshkimTregëtarProfesional) and
- 2) **Commercial Artisanal Fisheries** (or Small-Scale Fisheries; in Albanian language: PeshkimTregëtarArtizanal)

In this manual is included all the relative parts of the national legislation about the recreational/sport fishing and related activities.

According to regulation No 1 date 29.03.2005 - for application of the legislation on fishery and aquaculture are reported the articles about recreational/sport fishing:

Licenses of sport fishing- Article 61

1. The licenses of sport/recreational fishing by fishing boats (according to article 23 of the law) may be given to sport fishing associations or to interested persons, who satisfy the above mentioned criteria in point 3 of this article, in these regulation.
2. A sport fishing license, issued on the basis of the above mentioned point (1), may authorize the exercising of sport fishing with more than one fishing boats. In this case has to be specified in the license:
 - a. The maximal number of the fishing boats authorized to exercise this activity.
 - b. The maximal number of fishing days to be exercised by every fishing boat during the year.

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- c. The maximal number of persons boarded in each fishing boat during the exercising of sport fishing.
3. Associations or organizations authorized to exercise sport/recreational fishing on the basis of the respective license issued by the ministry, are obliged:
 - a. to present in the directorate the document for every fishing boat that mean to use for sport fishing;
 - b. to provide with a copy of the legislation on sport fishing for every fishing boat they have and is authorized to exercise this activity;
 - c. to present the certificates of driver qualifications for sailing means which they will exercise in sport fishing;
 - d. to present statistical data of their catches during sportive fish exercising for each boat.
4. In every case a sport-fishing license determines the area where this activity will be exercised.
5. **It is prohibited the trade of water organisms catches during sport fishing.**

Equipment allowed in sport fishing – Article 62

Sport fishing is allowed to be exercised only **with hooks, fish rod and sea guns**. For under water **fishing by gun is allowed only mask and tube**.

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Prohibitions in sport fishing – Article 63

1. in sport fishing:

a. it is **not allowed to use more than five hooks** (fishing poles) for a fisherman **in the sea water** and three hooks (fishing poles) in other waters different from marine waters;

b. it is **not allowed to use a form of fishing with light sources, except of a hand light or lamp for underwater fishing**;

c. **In the sailing means is not allowed any kind of fishing equipment or net used in professional fishing** or using of bottom trawl net, surrounding nets, drags, gathering nets and single gillnets, **set long lines for migratory fish species**.

d. It is **not allowed** for fishing using of **harpoons** in all water categories.

e. It is **not allowed** to fish **during the day** a quantity of **more than three kg** fish for every fisherman, **except the cases when the weight of a single sample exceeds this limit**:

f. It is **not allowed** the fishing of **mollusks, crustacean and other kinds**, which are **prohibited from the by law acts issued from ministry**.

2. **All the prohibitions foreseen for professional fishing also apply to sport fishing.**

In the updated Law on Fisheries (law nr. 4/2019, date 07.02.2019) regarding the recreational fisheries are included these articles:

Recreational fisheries – Article 38

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1. The recreational fisheries consist on fishing/collecting of a determined quantity of fish and other aquatic organisms by using permitted instruments and equipment for the recreational fisheries, which never aims selling/exchanging or marketing the caught fish.
2. In no cases and for no reason, the recreational fishing activities should not influence, obstacle, put in risk or create difficulties for the commercial fisheries.

Categories of recreational fisheries – Article 39

The recreational fisheries is subdivided in three particular categories, as follows:

- a) *Amateur fisheries*, free time fishing activity, with hooks and other gears, non-commercial fishing, not-organized and linked to events or determined competitions, without sailing vessels.
- b) *Sport fishing*, organized fishing, which includes free competitions between the fishers for catching the biggest individual (of fish) of several species, highest number of individuals or highest general weight in relation to the particular competitions determined regulations.
- c) *Touristic fishing*, fishing performed by the professional fishers or professional recreational fishers, who are considered as third party, which is responsible for organizing fisheries expedition.

Authorization for recreational fisheries – Article 40

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1. The local community members and/or foreigners (different nationality) who are active on recreational fisheries, except those who involved in the sport fishing are provided with the authorization for fishing.
2. **Type, maximal number of authorizations** for each village/municipality/national region, during the solar year, together with the **criteria** to meet for providing/getting the authorization for fishing is determined by the **Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development**.
3. For the **amateur fishing**, the institution responsible for the **verification of the criteria** for providing the authorization are represented by the **local administrate authority**.
4. The **criteria, which should be meet by a sailing vessel** in order to be considered as touristic vessel is determined by the classifying authority – determined by the respective legislation.
5. The **authorization for amateur fishing** is provided by the competent local administrate authority.
6. The **authorization for touristic fishing** is provided by the **Ministry or any other** authorized entity.
7. **It is exempted from point 6** of this article, the authorizations for amateur fishing activities in the inner waters, which have been previously declared as co-management areas, **(authorizations) which are provided by the organizations responsible for the co-management**.

Type of authorization for the amateur and touristic fishing – Article 41

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1. **Authorization for amateur fishing** can be **short term** or **long-term** authorization.
2. **Authorization for touristic fishing** is **short-term** authorization.
3. Authorization is considered as long-term one, when the validity is extended along a solar year, from the time of release. The right for applying to get the authorization for amateur fishing is exclusively toward the Albanian or foreign citizens, who are members of the national associations of recreational fisheries.
4. Authorization is considered as short-term on, when the validity is extended along a time period no longer than 30 days. This time period starts from the releasing date of the authorization.
5. The foreign citizens have the right to be apply and provided only with the short term authorization.

Obligations by the authorization for recreational fisheries – Article 42

1. Authorization for recreational fisheries is used only for the authorized person (namely authorized).
2. The holder of the authorization, during the conducting of the recreational fisheries activities is obliged to keep with him/her-self the corresponding authorization and let it show to the authorized persons in accordance to this law, upon request.

The fee for getting the authorization for recreational fisheries – Article 43

1. In order to be provided with the authorization for recreational fisheries should be

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payed the determined fee.

2. Depending from the relative fishing activities, the **fees** are determined with a common order by the Ministers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Finance, respectively.

Fishing gears/equipment/instruments used for recreational fisheries (changed in point 1 of the law n. 4/2019, date 07.02.2019) – Article 44

1. **Instruments/equipment/gears** used for recreational fisheries and the way of providing with authorization is determined with an **order/directive** by **Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development**.

2. **Minister** determines even the **maximal quantity of fish**, which the authorization holder, for that type of fishing could fish during a day (**24 hours**).

Prohibitions in the recreational fisheries – Article 45

During the conducting of the recreational fisheries activities, it is forbidden:

- a) to fish from the **sunset** up to **sunrise**;
- b) to fish with **spear gun** by the persons **under 16 years old**;
- c) **to sell** the fish caught by conducting this fishing activities.

Inspection of the authorizations for recreational fisheries – Article 46

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The **national association of recreational fisheries** (with local branches along the territory), the **competent authority at local level** and the **Fisheries Inspectorate** coordinate the work for **inspecting/monitoring** the proper realization of the relative conditions as stated in the authorization for recreational fisheries.

Monitoring of the recreational fisheries – Article 47

1. All the **protecting and management measures**, which are applied for the **commercial fisheries** in the sea and inner waters, are **equally applied to the recreational fisheries**.
2. **The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development** is responsible for putting into action the measures for **monitoring/inspecting the recreational fisheries** in all the territory of the Republic of Albania.
3. The data emerged during the inspections are stored in a specific database.
4. The **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development**, if **notes (during the evaluation)** that the impact coming from the recreational fisheries is considerable, after the consulting with (**consultative and scientific commission in the Ministry**) **KKKSHTE**, can **decide the application of particular measures** regarding the **authorizations and the declared fishing catches**.

MPA, FISHERIES AND BIODIVERSITY

In order to create and promote the sustainable fishing activities in Karaburuni-Sazani MPA, it is essential that professional, artisanal fishers and future generation’s fishers

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(including the recreational fishing activities) have sufficient knowledge regarding regulations and the law on fisheries, which are summarized in Table 1 and 2.

Table 1. List of national legislation about sustainable fisheries relevant for the MPA of Karaburun-Sazani.

National legislation	Year	Objectives and implication relevant to the PA management
Law No. 64/2012, dated 31.05.2012, "On Fisheries"	2012	Regulates fisheries, its management, provides protection for marine life and internal waters, and regulates "fishing protected areas"
Regulation No 1, dated 29.03.2005, "For application of the legislation on fishery and aquaculture"	2005	Prohibits fishing around river mouths, fishing and aquaculture in the outer part of Karaburuni (up to 1 nm or up to 50 m depth), trawl and pelagic trail nets in Vlora bay, fishing in the lagoon channels

Table 2. Summary of areas protected from fishing articles and regulations.

Regulations and Articles	Areas protected from fishing	Map legend	Area (km ²)	% of territorial waters
Reg. No. 1, 2005: Art. 43/3/j	Buffer zone in the distance of 1 NM shoreline or 50 m isobaths, outer part of Karaburuni shore from Kepi iGjuhezes until Rrugët e Bardha	Total fishing ban	6,50	0,11%

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Reg. No. 1, 2005: Art. 45/1	buffer zone with 2 km radius from the mouth of sea lagoon communication channels	Lagoon channels	45,00	0,76%
Reg. No. 8, 2009: Art. 12/2	buffer zone of 0,3 nautical miles from shoreline where the use of hydraulic dredges is prohibited	No use of hydraulic dredges	220,00	3,69%
Reg. No. 8, 2009: Art. 12/3	300 m buffer zone from shore line where fishing of every kind gillnets and purse seine is prohibited	No use of gillnets/purse seine	143,00	2,40%

Furthermore, below are integrated all the relevant articles from the regulations and the updated Law on Fishery, which aims to develop sustainable fisheries in the MPA. According to the *regulation No 1 date 29.03.2005 - for application of the legislation on fishery and aquaculture, in the chapter VII are included all the Prohibitions in Fishing:*

Areas protected from fishing - Article 43

1. In protected waters areas (marine and inland waters) is prohibited to exercise every activity that could damage environmental characteristics preservation of such areas and/or future initiatives of their proclaiming.

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Particularly, is prohibited:

- a. Fishing, gathering and damaging of animal and plant species as well as mineral & archeological values excavation;
- b. Using trawling gears, other encircling nets in a distance of 1 (one) marine mile from protecting area border.
- c. Transformation of geophysics habitats, water chemical and hydro biological characteristics.
- d. Publicities activity meanings;
- e. Weapons introduction, explosive and deleterious matter and whatsoever fish falling in ruin stuff.
- f. Sailing by engine means;
- g. Every garbage (solid or liquid ones) throwing;

...

j. Is prohibited every fishing & aquaculture activity in outside part of Karaburuni shore from Kepi iGjuhezes until rruget e Bardha (Palase) in the distance of 1 marine mile shoreline or 50 m isobate in the case when this depth could be in smaller distance.

k. The Ministry Agriculture and Rural Development collaborates with Environment Ministry, based on the studies of water biodiversity, marine and inland waters, approves and proclaims new fishing protected areas.

l. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development collaborates with Environment

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Ministry with aim of transforming the fishing protected areas to the Marine Parks/
Inland Water Parks.

Prohibited fishing - Article 48

1. It is forbidden to fish, carry in board, to transit on the boat/ship, purposed landing and trading, in every period, area with whatever means and tools the following species:

- Sharks – *Cetorhinus maximus*, *Carcharodon carcharias*.

- Giant devil ray – *Mobula mobular*.

- Date mussel – *Lithophagalithophaga*.

2. It is forbidden to **fish in every period, area and with whatever means or tools the sea mammals** (dolphins, whales, seals, etc).

5. Is forbidden bottom trawl/ sailing fixed nets using in fishing of species:

- White tunas (*Thunnusalalunga*),

- Red tunus (*Thunnusthynnus*),

- Lance fish (*Xiphias gladius*),

- Sharks (*Hexanchus griseu*, *Cetorhinus maximus*, *Alopiidae*; *Carcharhinidae*; *Sphyrnidae*; *Isuridae*; *Lamnidae*).

6. Is forbidden fishing by bottom trawl and trailing dredge in area more than 1000 m depth.

7. Is forbidden using for fish and carried on board of long lines by hooks of less than 10

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cm length and less than 4, 5 cm width for such fishing boats that use pallangare/long-lines and lands or carry in board a certain quantity of lance fish (*Xiphias gladius*) more than 20% of live fish catches.

8. *Is forbidden using of driftnets for big pelagic fishing.*

9. Is forbidden fishing with **pelagic long lines from October 1 until January 31** of species: white tunes (*Thunnusalalunga*), Red tunus (*Thunnusthynnus*), lance fish (*Xiphias gladius*), sharks (*Hexanchusgriseu*, *Cetorhinus maximus*, *Alopiidae*; *Carcharhinidae*; *Sphyrnidae*; *Isuridae*; *Lamnidae*).

The prohibition to fish some kinds in certain periods and areas Article 49

It is forbidden to fish by every fishing gears and means, carrying on a board, transition on a boat, purposed landing of following species in the respective periods and areas:

...

8. Fishery Directorate determine by a special order the timetable of bivalve mollusk fishing.

9. Is forbidden fishing activity of the **bivalve mollusks during Saturdays and Sunday, official holidays**, all over the year.

10. Is forbidden in longer period, **within beach areas**, in particular cases, **vongole and cardium** fishing from May to September.

Measuring of water organisms dimensions - Article 50

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1. The length of the fish is measured from the **top of the head** (by closed mouth) to the **lobe longest extremity** or of the tale (**caudal**) when this does not consist on two lobes.
2. The length of the crustaceans is measured from the beginning of the eye (*carapace*) to the posterior extremity of the body, including the tale.
3. The dimensions of the bivalve mussels refer to the maximal length or to the maximal diameter of their shell.

The minimal dimensions of the water organisms -Article 51

1. It is forbidden to fish and to sell water organisms with dimensions less than the following for every separate kind:

a. Fish

- European hake, *Merlucciusmerluccius* 20 cm
- Blue whiting, *Micromesistiusspp.*, 20 cm
- Triglididae, *Trisopteruspp*, *Gaidropsarus spp.*, 20 cm
- Seabass, *Dicentrarchuslabrax* 25 cm
- Mullet, *Mugil spp.*, *Liza spp.*, *Chelonspp* 20 cm
- Seabream, *Sparusaurata* 20 cm
- Red Porgy, *Pagruspagrus* 20 cm
- Seabream, *Diplodus spp.* 15 cm
- Common Pandora, *Pagellus spp.*, 12 cm
- Dentex, *Dentexspp.* 25 cm
- Bogue, *Boopsboops* 10 cm

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- Salema, *Sarpasalpa* 12 cm
- Striped mullet, *Mullus*spp. 11 cm
- Grouper, Wreck fish, *Epinephelus*spp, *Polyprion* spp. 45 cm
- Sciaenidae, *Sciaena* spp., *Umbrina* spp. 25 cm
- Atlantic horse, *Trachurus* spp. 12 cm
- Amberjack, *Seriola*spp 30 cm
- Leerfish, *Lichia*amia 30 cm
- Atlantic mackerel, *Scomber* spp. 20 cm
- Atlantic bonito, *Sardasarda* 30 cm
- European pilchard, *Sardinapilchardus* 10 cm
- Anchovy, *Engraulisencrasicholus* 10 cm
- Sardinella, *Sardinellaaurita* 12 cm
- European sprat, *Sprattussprattus* 10 cm
- Picarel, *Spicara*spp 8 cm
- Atlantic bluefin tuna, *Thunnusthynnus* 70 cm
- Albacore, *Thunnusalalunga* 40 cm
- Little tunny, *Euthynnusalletteratus* 30 cm
- Broadbill swordfish, *Xiphias gladius* 100 cm
- Smoothhound, *Mustelus* spp. 30 cm
- Sharks, *Squalus*spp, *Scyliorhinus*spp, *Prionace* spp. 40 cm
- Ray, *Raja* spp. 30 cm
- Angel shark, *Squatina* spp. 40 cm
- Electric fish, *Torpedo* spp. 30 cm
- European conger, *Conger conger* 30 cm

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- Guitare fish, *Rhinobatos* spp. 30 cm
- Sole, *Solea* spp. 20 cm
- European flounder, *Platichthysflessus* 15 cm
- Bothus spp., *Arnoglossus* spp. 30 cm
- Turbots, *Scophthalmusspp*, *Psettasp*, *Lepidorhombus* spp. 30 cm
- Silver scabbardfish, *Lepidopuscaudatus* 40 cm
- Harpoon fish, *Sphyraenaspp* 25 cm
- John dory, *Zeus faber* 15 cm
- Triglididae, *Triglaspp.*, *Aspitriglia* spp. 15 cm
- Anglerfish, *Lophiuspiscarorius* 30 cm
- Sand smelt, *Atherinaspp* 8 cm

b. Crustacean

- Triple-grooved shrimp, *Panaeuskerathurus* 7 cm
- Red and Blue Shrimp, *Aristeusantennatus* 7 cm
- Red Shrimp, *Aristaemorphafoliacea* 6 cm
- Deep-water pink, *Parapenaeuslongirostis* 10 cm
- Norway lobster, *Nephropsnorvegicus* 30 cm
- European lobster, *Homarus* spp. 30 cm

c. Cephalopod mussels

- Common squid, *Loligo* spp. 25 cm
- Totanet, *Ilex* spp 30 cm
- Cuttlefish, *Sepia officinalis* 20 cm

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- Common octopus, *Octopus vulgaris* 0.5 kg

d. *Bivalve mussels*

- Mussels, *Mytilus galloprovincialis* 5.0 cm
- Striped venus, *Venus gallina* 2.3 cm
- Warty venus, *Venus verrucosa* 2.7 cm
- Wedge clam, *Donax trunculus* 2.2 cm
- Groves carpet shell, *Ruditapes decussatus* 3.6 cm
- Vongolafilipine, *Ruditapes semidecussatus* 3.0 cm
- Oysters, *Ostrea spp.* 6.0 cm
- Bicaku, *Solen spp.* 8.0 cm
- Great scallop, *Pecten jacobaeus* 10.0 cm
- Smooth callista, *Challistachione* 6.0 cm

2. Fishes of small dimensions caught by purse seine nets, like sardines, anchovy, papalina and bleak is allowed that in total catch having up to 20 % under minimal respective dimensions (point 1 of this article), but not less than 7 cm in length.

3. In every fish production confection is allowed a **tolerance of bivalve mollusks** with dimensions less from those foreseen, **but not more than 10%**, counted in base of point 1 of this article.

The maximum daily quantities for bivalve mollusks - Article 52

1. The maximal daily catches for fishing boat, according article 53 are determined as

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follow:

- Striped venus e European prickly cockle in total, *Venus gallina* 600 kg
- Smooth callista, *Challistachione* 500 kg
- Wedge clam, *Donaxtrunculus* 100 kg
- Horse mussel, scallop in total 300 kg
- Oysters, *Ostreaspp* 100 kg

2. For every professional fisherman equip by license on bivalve mollusksgathering in the sea and coastal lagoons, **it is forbidden to exceed the following daily quantities:**

- Razor clam, *Solen spp.* 10 kg
- Smooth callista, *Challistachione* 50 kg
- Mediterranean scallop, *Pectenjacobeus* 20 kg
- Mussels, *Mytilusgalloprovincialis* 80 kg
- Oysters, *Ostreaspp* 30 kg
- Warty venus, *Venus verrucosa* 10 kg
- Wedge clam *Donaxtrunculus* 50 kg
- Striped venus, *Venus gallina* 40 kg
- Groves carpet shell, *Ruditapesdecussattus* 40 kg
- Vongolafilipine *Ruditapessemidecussatus* 10 kg

3. The maximal daily quantity determination for every subject will be done in each license in dependence of the resources in each area.

4. The products from aquaculture are excluded from point 1 and 2.

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Prohibitions for some fishing forms and equipment - Article 58

1. It is forbidden using for fishing or carried on ship/boat board of the toxic, narcotic, corrosive matter, of substances which in case of their association could cause explosion, of equipments that can cause electrical power or explosion.
2. It is forbidden to fish by trawl nets, dredge, etc. in inland waters.
3. It is forbidden to fish by trawl nets, dredge in form of *gabia* in marine and inland waters
4. It is forbidden to put fixed equipment that closes completely or along the river stream to the sea as well as in fresh water flow of lagoons.
5. It is forbidden to gather (fish) bivalve mussels with sailing means of the turbo sifting type.

Juveniles and other marine organisms are protected under Article 10, which establishes the *minimum size of fish*. Special regulations establish the minimum dimensions of fish and other marine and inland water species, including anadromous and catadromous species, below which catching, keeping or transiting on board, intentional landing, marketing or consumption are prohibited.

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Notwithstanding established sizes, the Minister may allow the catch of juveniles, fish species and other marine organisms unable to reproduce, in a specified period using specific fishing gear, aiming at repopulating for the protection of species and research activity.

Updated prohibitions and limitations in regards of fishing gears, fish species, minimum sizes, etc., are currently under preparation. The proposed minimum sizes are shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3. (N. 402, date 08/05/2013 concerning Management Measures for the Sustainable Exploitation of Fishery Resources in the Sea) which establishes the minimal dimensions of marine organisms (TL – General length; CL – Carapace length).

Species (scientific name)	Albanian Name	English name	minimum size in cm
1. Fish			
<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>	Levrek	European seabass	25 cm
<i>Diplodus annularis</i>	Sargubishtzi	Annular seabream	12 cm
<i>Diplodus puntazzo</i>	Sharan	Sheephead bream	18 cm
<i>Diplodus sargus</i>	Sargu	White seabream	23 cm
<i>Diplodus vulgaris</i>	Sargua	Common two-banded sea bream	18 cm
<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i> ¹	Acuga	European anchovy	9 cm
<i>Epinephelus</i> spp.	Kerrat	Groupers	45 cm
<i>Lithognathus mormyrus</i>	Murra	Sand steenbras	20 cm
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i> ²	Merluc	European hake	20 cm
<i>Mullus</i> spp.	Barbunët	Striped red mullet	11 cm

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<i>Pagellusacarne</i>	Mormuriieger	Axillary seabream	17 cm
<i>Pagellusbogaraveo</i>	Spalce e kuqe	Blackspot seabream	33 cm
<i>Pagelluserythrinus</i>	Spalce e kuqe	Common pandora	15 cm
<i>Pagruspagrus</i>	Pagri	Red porgy	18 cm
<i>Polyprionamericanus</i>	Kerr fundi	Atlantic wreckfish	45 cm
<i>Sardina pilchardus</i> ³	Sardelja	European pilchard	11 cm
<i>Scomber spp.</i>	Skumri	Scomber mackerels	18 cm
<i>Solea vulgaris</i>	Gjuhezkanali	Common sole	20 cm
<i>Sparusaurata</i>	Kocja	Gilthead seabream	20 cm
<i>Trachurus spp.</i>	Stavridhët	Jack mackerels	15 cm
2. Crustaceans			
<i>Hommarussgammarus</i>		European lobster	105 mm CL 300 mm TL
<i>Nephropsnorvegicus</i>	Skampi	Norway lobster	20 mm CL 70 mm TL
<i>Palinuridae</i>	Aragostat	Spiny lobsters	90 mm CL
<i>Parapeneuslongirostris</i>	Karkalecirozë	Deep-water rose shrimp	20 mm CL
3. Molluscs bivalve			
<i>Pectenjacobeus</i>	Midhja freskore	Mediterranean scallop	10 cm
<i>Venerupis spp.</i>		Carpet shells	25 mm
<i>Venus spp.</i>		Venus shells	25 mm

Hake: Even the limit tolerance of 15 percent individuals weight of hake to be including in the length between 15 and 20 cm, this tolerance limit can be respected by fishing vessels in open sea

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area or in landing area, as well as in first sale fish markets after landings. This limit will be applicable even in each further market transaction at the national and/or international level.

In order to protect certain fish species and other marine organisms, under Article 11, the Council of Ministers may declare protected areas for fishing purposes, aiming to provide favourable conditions for natural reproduction of fish and growth of juveniles and other marine organisms. The boundaries and designation of marine protected areas for fishing purposes, as well as measures for their protection and development are defined by decision of the Council of Ministers, prior consultation of scientific institutions specialized in fisheries, environment and other interest groups, in accordance with the legislation in force.

Furthermore, the Article 37 of the Law on Fisheries (updated in the law nr 80/2017, date 04.05.2017) states that it is forbidden to fish, keep on the vessel board, do trans boarding, purpose landing and marketing or consume, in any season, area and with any equipment and vessel (point 1), these aquatic organisms (only the marine species are included in this manual):

Corals (*Corallium* spp.);

Sharks - *Cetorhinus maximus*, *Carcharodon carcharias*;

Giant devil ray - *Mobulamobular*;

Date mussel - *Lithophagalithophaga*;

Sea sponges (*Spongidae*);

Cetaceans (whales, dolphins and seals);

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Sea turtles (*Carrettacarretta*, *Cheloniemydas* and *Dermochelyscoreacea*);

Seabirds.

With a decision by the Council of Ministers to the list are added other species, which have been previously evaluated as endangered.

The fishing vessels captains should immediately release the seabirds, which have been caught accidentally by the fishing gears.

The previously mentioned specimens, which have been caught accidentally by the fishing vessels, should be treated with care on the board of the vessel and released in the water alive and without damaging them.

The fishing vessels captains are not permitted to land the previously mentioned species, except in the cases when these species are included in an approved program for saving and protecting them or in the case when it is required to create the possibility for their curing, when they are injured, after the fishing inspectorate has been informed and before the fishing vessel enters in the port.

All the protected aquatic species are exempted by the point 1, if they are included in the Article 30 of the Law on Aquaculture, nr. 103/2016.

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