

**ECOREGION**      **Widely distributed and migratory stocks**

**SUBJECT**            **Informal clarification regarding ICES advice in 2014 for red (= blackspot) seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) in Subarea IX**

**Request**

ICES has received a question from the European Commission for clarification of the advice given in 2014 regarding red seabream in Area IX (ICES, 2014a):

« ... some questions have arisen about ICES' work on Red Seabream in Area IX, and we would be very obliged to get an (informal) clarification of them:

1. In the WGDEEP report ICES lists Moroccan catches in area IX. Where do these figures come from?
2. What are the allocated catches referred to in the advice?
3. The advice (table 9.3.22.2.3) estimates cpue from sales sheets and VMS data. Can you explain what the difference is and how this leads to different figures? «

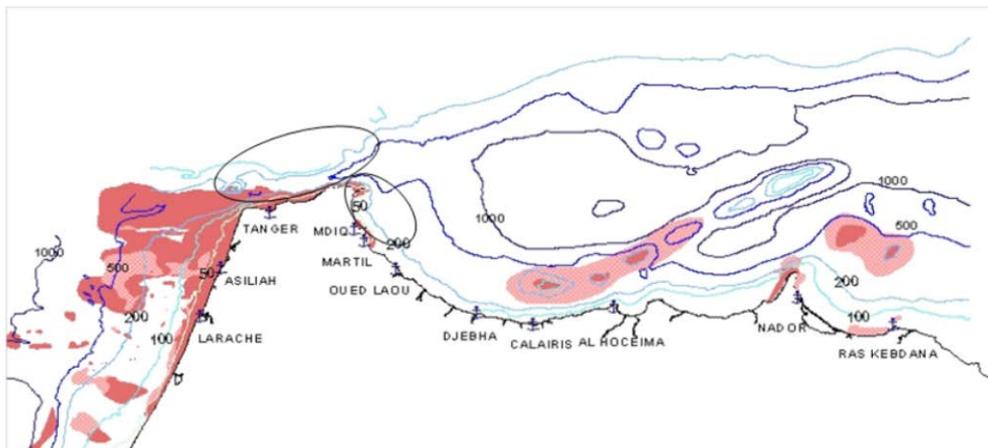
**ICES response**

ICES can offer the following clarification:

**1. In the WGDEEP report ICES lists Moroccan catches in area IX. Where do these figures come from??**

There are no Moroccan catches reported from ICES Subarea IX.

Moroccan catches included in Table 13.3.1 in the WGDEEP report (ICES, 2014b) are from the GCFM area (Mediterranean Sea, East of 5°30' West) and the CECAF area (Atlantic, south of 36°N). Figure 1 shows where the Moroccan red seabream fisheries take place.



**Figure 1** Morocco red seabream fisheries: Circles present the most important fishing grounds in the Strait of Gibraltar (from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the CopeMed II Working Group on blackspot seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) of the Strait of Gibraltar area between Spain and Morocco: WGPG, 19–21 March 2012 (CopeMed II, 2012)).

Moroccan catches of red seabream are supported by the same stock as catches in ICES Subarea IX. Tagging data show that Red seabream migrates between the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic. The red seabream stock of the Strait of Gibraltar straddles across the limit of the ICES, CECAF and GCFM areas. The catches given in the

Table 13.3.1 are therefore wrongly labeled catches in Subarea IX. The figures are estimated catches of the Subarea IX red seabream stock.

Morocco information about the Red seabream fishery of the Strait of Gibraltar came from the 2nd Meeting of the FAO CopeMed II Working Group on blackspot seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) of the Strait of Gibraltar area between Spain and Morocco (WGPG) held in the Atlas Hotel of Tangier (Morocco) from 19 to 21 March 2012, following a recommendation of the GFCM's Scientific Advisory Committee (Budva, Montenegro, 25–29 January 2010) for the joint assessment by Morocco and Spain of the Strait of Gibraltar red seabream stock.

The Report from this meeting is available on line at:

[http://www.faocopemed.org/pdf/publications/CopeMedII\\_ArtFiMed\\_TD26.pdf](http://www.faocopemed.org/pdf/publications/CopeMedII_ArtFiMed_TD26.pdf)

Information about catch data and assessment trials from this meeting were presented to the 2011 ICES WGDEEP and to the GFCM as well.

## **2. What are the unallocated catches referred to in the advice?**

This question is understood as referring to unallocated catches in Table 9.3.22.2.2 of the advice sheet. The 92 tons from 2012 are unofficial catch in the Strait of Gibraltar area. The reason of that unallocated figure is stated below:

Since 2012, The Spanish Authority for Fisheries (Secretaría General de Pesca, SGP), which is also the National authority for the Data Collection Framework, established a new policy and general approach for the provision of official data on catches and fishing effort. This new plan, including the control of fishing activity, has been developed in agreement with the corresponding European Commission authorities. Before 2012, the SGP has had an agreement with the Spanish research institutions IEO and AZTI for the provision of all the catch, effort and biological data in ICES area.

As a result, all Spanish landings data provided in 2013 are official catches which for some stocks may not match the scientific estimates. This may cause a problem where there are significant discrepancies between official data and scientific estimates which could affect the coherence of stock historical series. Official statistics are based on logbooks and Auction sheets. It is expected that over time the differences found for some stocks will diminish and official data converge with scientific estimates. To get the best possible assessment of the stock status, the WG considers useful to use unallocated catches as adjustments (positive or negative) to the official catches made for any special knowledge about the fishery for which there is firm external evidence (from 2013 ICES WGDEEP Report).

## **3. The advice (Table 9.3.22.2.3) estimates CPUE from sales sheets and VMS data. Can you explain what the difference is and how this leads to different figures?**

CPUE from sales sheets is the quantity sold at auction market divided by the number of sales. There is one sale sheet for each fishing trip where the species was caught. Vessels do one single fishing trip per day. Fishing trips where the species is not caught do not result in sale sheets. Since 2009 VMS was used to estimate the total number of fishing trips where the species was targeted. Unlike sales sheets, fishing days from the VMS include unsuccessful (i.e. with no red seabream catch) fishing trips. The VMS-based CPUE is the quantity sold at auction markets divided by the number of fishing trips. The proportion of trips with no catch increased in recent years, so the two CPUE series depart from each other.

## **Sources**

CopeMed II. 2012. Report of the Second meeting of the CopeMed II Working Group between Spain and Morocco on blackspot seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) of the Strait of Gibraltar area. CopeMed II Technical Documents N°26 (GCP/INT/028/SPA – GCP/INT/006/EC). Málaga, 2012. 37pp.

- ICES. 2013. Report of the Working Group on Biology and Assessment of Deep-sea Fisheries Resources (WGDEEP), 14–20 March 2013, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2013/ACOM:17. 963 pp.
- ICES. 2014a. Red (= blackspot) seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) in Subarea IX. Report of the ICES Advisory Committee 2014. ICES Advice, 2014. Section 9.3.22.2
- ICES. 2014b. Report of the Working Group on the Biology and Assessment of Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources (WGDEEP), 4–11 April 2014, ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen. ICES CM 2014/ACOM:17.