

S1 Table. Data source, methods applied and threshold lengths used for recruits identification of 11 commercial species of demersal fish and shellfish in Mediterranean geographical sub-areas (GSA).

Species	GSAs	Data source	Method used	Mean threshold length (TL mm)
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	1	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	97
	5	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	87
	6	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	90
	7	DCF/MEDITS	Bhattacharya	100
	9	Bartolino et al., 2008 ¹	Fixed threshold length	140
	10	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	129
	11	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	130
	15, 16	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	145
	17	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	132
	18	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	127
	19	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	125
	20	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	100
<i>Mullus barbatus</i>	22, 23	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	100
	17	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	71
<i>Pagellus erythrinus</i>	18	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	86
	10	MEDITS	Cut-off size calculated as mean length of individuals at maturity stage 1 in all the years.	146
	11	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	122.7
	17	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	77
<i>Raja clavata</i>	18	MEDITS	Cut-off size calculated as mean length of individuals at maturity stage 1, years: 1995-2010	140
	11	MEDITS	Fixed threshold length	354
<i>Galeus melastomus</i>	15, 16	MEDITS	Fixed threshold length	410
	1	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	186
	5	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	192
	6	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	201
	7	DCF/ MEDITS	Fixed threshold	180
	9	DCF/ MEDITS	Bhattacharya	180
	10	MEDITS	Cut-off size calculated as mean length of individuals at maturity stage 1 in all the years	266
	11	MEDITS	Fixed threshold length	250
	15, 16	MEDITS	Fixed threshold length	285
	17	Relini et al., 1999 ²²	Fixed threshold length	280
<i>Solea solea</i>	18	MEDITS	Cut-off size calculated as mean length of individuals at maturity stage 1 in all the years	271
	19	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	175
<i>Aristaeomorpha foliacea</i>	17	SoleMon survey	Bhattacharya	190
	1,5,6	MEDITS	Fixed threshold length	20
	10	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	30
	11	MEDITS	Fixed threshold length	28
	15, 16	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	30
	17	Relini et al., 1999 ²	Fixed threshold length	30
	18	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	31
	19	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	25
20	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	23	

¹ Bartolino V., Ottavi A., Colloca F., Arduini G.D., Stefansson G. 2008. Bathymetric preferences in hake juveniles (*Merluccius merluccius*). ICES J. Mar. Sci. 65: 963-969. 228.

² Relini G., Bertrand J., Zamboni A. (eds.). Sydem 1999. Synthesis of the knowledge on bottom fishery resources in Central Mediterranean Italy and Corsica. Biol Mar Medit., 6 (suppl. 1): 868 pp

Species	GSA	Data source	Method used	Mean threshold length (TL mm)
	22, 23	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	20
	1	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	14.1
	5	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	11.4
	6	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	13.5
	9	DCF/MEDITS	Bhattacharya	14.5
	10	MEDITS	Cut-off size calculated as average of Bhattacharya mean length from the years 1994, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2003, 2004	14.5
	11	MEDITS	Fixed threshold length	16.2
	15, 16			19.5
	17	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	16
	18	MEDITS	Cut-off size calculated as average of Bhattacharya mean length from the years 1994, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2003, 2004 from GSA 10	14.5
	19	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	20
	20	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	10
	22, 23	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	10
	1, 5, 6	Orsi-Relini et al., 1998 ³		13
	7	DCF/MEDITS	Maturity ogives	27
	8	DCF/MEDITS	Maturity ogives	30
	9	DCF/MEDITS	Fixed threshold length	20
	10	MEDITS	L ₂₅ of the maturity ogive	27
	11	MEDITS	Fixed threshold length	25
	15, 16	DCF	Fixed threshold length	26
	17	Piccinetti et al., 2012 ⁴	Fixed threshold length	20
	18	MEDITS	L ₂₅ of the maturity ogive	23
	19	MEDITS	Fixed threshold length	20
	20	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	25
	22, 23	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	20
	1, 5, 6	MEDITS	Fixed threshold length	30
	7	DCF/MEDITS	Bhattacharya	50
	9	DCF/MEDITS	Bhattacharya	35
	10	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	45
	11	MEDITS	Fixed threshold length	37.6
	18	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	53
	19	MEDITS	Fixed threshold length	50
	15, 16	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	48
	17	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	43
	20	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	40
	22, 23	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	40
	1	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	72
	5	MEDITS	Fixed threshold length	62
	6	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	69
	9	DCF/MEDITS	Bhattacharya	60
	10	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	90
	11	MEDITS	Fixed threshold length	115
	18	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	95
	19	MEDITS	Fixed threshold length	90
	15, 16	MEDITS	Fixed threshold	90
	17	Piccinetti et al., 2012 ⁴	Fixed threshold length	60
	20	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	100
	22, 23	MEDITS	Bhattacharya	100

³ Orsi Relini, L., Zamboni, A., Fiorentino, F. & Massi, D., 1998. Reproductive patterns in Norway lobster *Nephrops norvegicus* (L.), (Crustacea Decapoda: Nephropidae) of different Mediterranean areas. *Sci. Mar.* 62, 25–41

⁴ Piccinetti C., Vrgoč N., Marčeta B., Manfredi C. 2012. Recent state of demersal resource in the Adriatic Sea. *Acta Adriatica. Acta adriatica monograph series*, 5.

