



Georgia

Country Report Presentation

Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
of Georgia



**Agency of
Natural
Resources**

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About Georgia

- Georgia is situated in Eastern Europe, in the central and western parts of the Caucasus.
- The country is bordered by Russian Federation from the north, Turkey from the South-West, Armenia from the South, Azerbaijan from the East and the black sea from the west side.



- Georgia has an area of 69,875 km²;
- Total population of Georgia is almost – 4 700 000;
- The capital City of Georgia – **Tbilisi**.





There are in Georgia:

- More than 26,000 rivers and streams;
- 850 lakes with a total surface area - 170 square kilometers;
- 12 reservoirs with a total surface area 107 square kilometers;
- The country borders the black sea to the west.

- Many climatic zones are present in Georgia including subtropical and semi-arid regions;
- Alpine climate starts at about 2,100 meters from the sea level;
- Relief of Georgia is made of unity of mountains, hills and valleys;
- From the north it is surrounded by the Caucasus mountainous system;
- From the south – by the mountainous part of the Lesser Caucasus and the volcanic mountains of the South Georgia.



The Black Sea



- The Black Sea is a sea in south-eastern Europe;
- An internal European sea most isolated from the world ocean;
- About 87-90% of the water is anoxic;
- The catchment area of the Black Sea basin comprises 2million km², which is five times more than the area of the sea itself

The most important ports for the Georgian fisheries fleet are **Poti and Batumi**

Fishery Sector Institutions in Georgia



The most responsible governmental agency for management and supervising of the fishery sector -



Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Georgia

LEPL Agency of Natural Resources

- Carrying out the policy of management and usage of natural resources – including fish resources;
- Issuing fishing licenses;
- Control of conditions of fishing licenses;
- Approving management plan, quotas of fish resources;
- Performs state controls of usage Natural Resources, including illegal use of Natural Resources;
- Developing strategies, and taking all the necessary measures for the proper management of this sector.

Fishery Sector Institutions in Georgia



Structural subdivision of
LEPL Agency of Natural Resources –
Black Sea Division

- Performs state control in Georgia's inland sea waters, ports, the territorial sea, the continental shelf and in special economic zone;
- Prevents, reveals and prohibits the pollution of the Black Sea;
- Prevents, reveals and prohibits any illegal usage of the natural resources;
- Controls the fulfillment of the international obligations taken by Georgia.





The other authorities whose activities are connected to the fishery sector

- Ministry of Environmental Protection - organizes a system for monitoring the water objects (including Black Sea);
- Black Sea's monitoring centre of Batumi – Conducts scientific research of the black sea biodiversity.
- Ministry of Agriculture - supporting agricultural, food and processing industry in the country;
- Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Maritime Transport Agency - Flag State Control, Survey of the Vessels flying under Georgian Flag, Maintaining of Port State Control etc.
- Scientific institutions;



There are three types of fishery in Georgia:

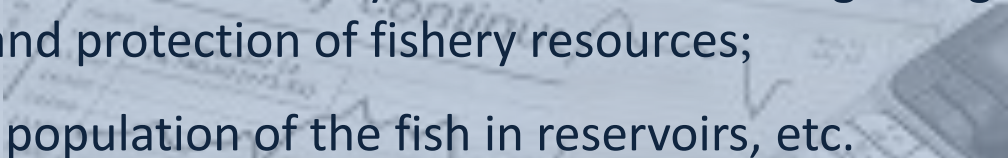
- **Sport and amateur fishing** - is free of charge for all inhabitant of Georgia. It does not need the fishing licenses. This type of fishing is permitted for personal use only;
- **The Scientific fishery** - does not need also fishery license, but it needs assent from corresponding administrative authority.
- **Capture fishery in internal waters and in the Black Sea 300 metres and more far from the shore is subject to licensing.**



Capture fishery in internal waters

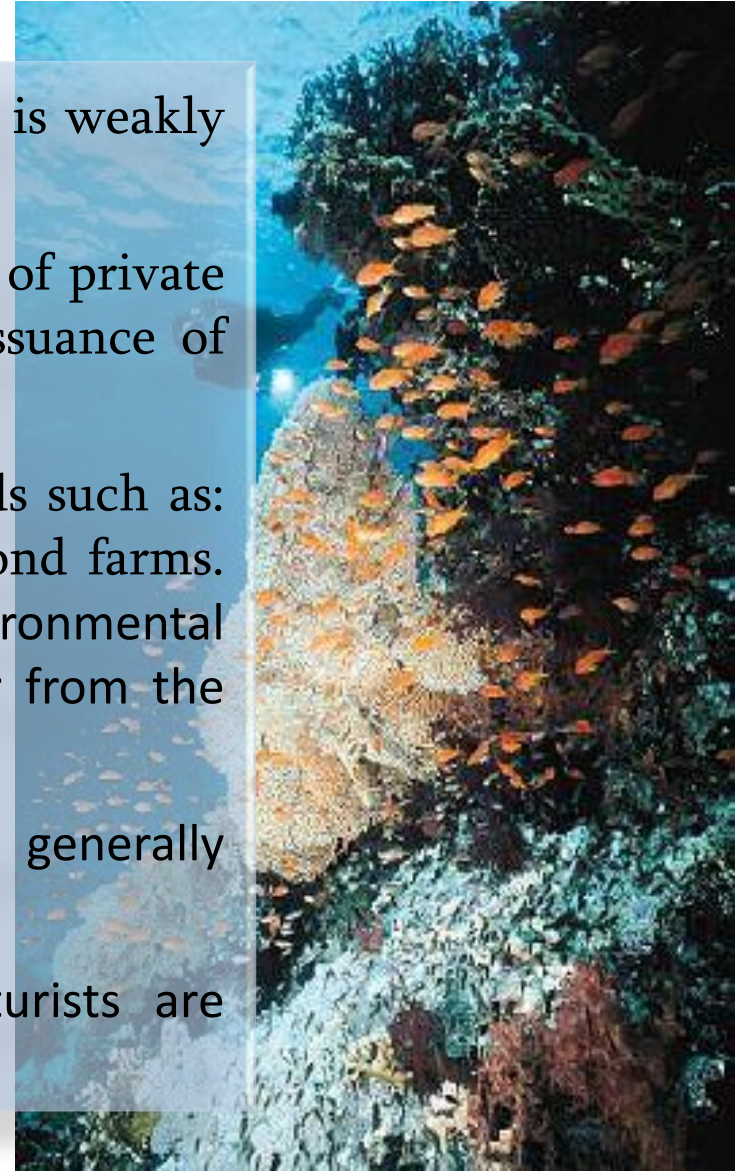
Currently the fishing licenses for the period of 20 years are issued in internal reservoirs.

According to the conditions of the fishing licenses (in the internal waters) the holders are obliged:

- To protect the water object, to observe the fishing terms, quotas and rules adopted by the Ministry;
 - To retain diversity and livability of population of fish with high conservation value and other hydrocoles;
 - To keep the capture journal according to the adopted form, as well as to maintain internal accountancy documentation regarding usage, reproduction and protection of fishery resources;
 - To ensure increase of population of the fish in reservoirs, etc.
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Aquaculture and Mariculture

- The aquaculture and mariculture in Georgia is weakly developed (in certain cases);
- For maintenance of fish farms in the ponds of private ownership is not subject to licensing or issuance of permit;
- Fish farms are maintained in artificial ponds such as: trout farms, fish reproduction farms and pond farms. Such objects are only subject to the environmental technical regulations on extraction of water from the objects of surface water;
- Fishmeal for the production of fish feed is generally imported from Turkey, Denmark etc.
- Most of the fingerlings used by aquaculturists are produced in Georgia.



Capture fishing in the Black Sea



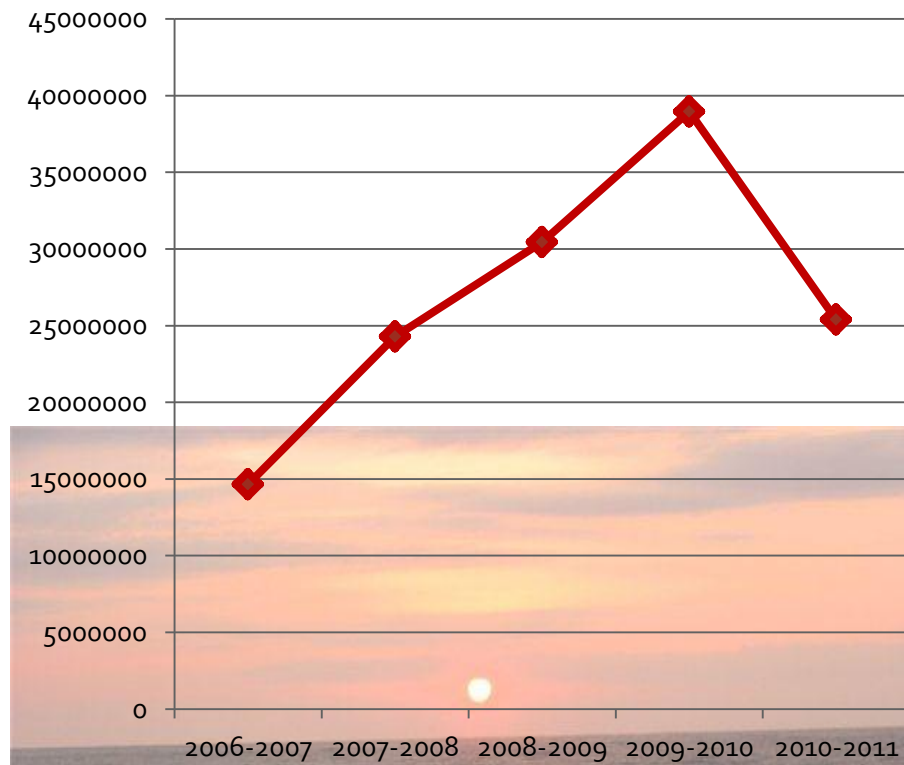
Fishing in the Black Sea 300 metres and more far from the shore is subject to licensing.

Currently Seven fishing licenses are issued on fishing 300 metres and more far from the shore according to the current legislation (validity term 2006-2015). The holders of the licenses are obliged:

- *To allocate 10% of their quota to the owners of the fishing vessels registered in Georgia;*
- *To process two thirds of the obtained resources during the first 5 years of the validity term of the license on the territory of Georgia;*
- *According to the current data, four fish processing plants are operating in the City of Poti, which mainly process Anchovy;*

Dynamic based on actual fishing (kg) by year and species according the report submitted by the fishery licenses in the **Black Sea**

Fish species	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Engraulis encrasiholuse	17 446 796,0	25 972 831,0	31 338 338,0	39 857 275,0
Trachurus trachurus	5 3 229,5	10 018,0	295 330,1	100 617,0
Odontogadus merlangus	40 967,5	19 798,0	17 030,5	6 843,0
Mullus barbatus	3 778,5	55,1	757,5	-
Squalus acanthias	2 368,3	41,0	140,0	26,0
Clopeonella	1 320,0	25,0	7 437,0	-
MMugilidae	270,0	513,0	326,0	8 159,0
Gobius	57,0	1,7	60,7	-
Pomatomus saltratrix	48,0	68,0	101,9	-
Belone belone	36,6	-	-	-
Glupeidae	25,0	17,0	671,0	252,0
Spicara smaris	24,0	55,0	-	-
Mugilidae	-	44,0	282,5	1 524,0
kalkan	-	-	10,60	-
Uranoscopus scaber	-	-	2,0	-
Dasyatis	-	19,0	5,0	-
Leptagonus decagonus	-	-	1,5	-



Dynamics based on fishing (kg) by year and species according the fishery licenses (6 unit) in **internal reservoirs**

Fish species	2010-20011	2011-2012
Varicorhinus capoeta	6 800	6 000
Hypophthalmichthys molitrix	900	375
Cyrinus carpio	10685	5650
Carassius carassius	110 505	81475
Coregonus peled	-----	30 000
Coregonus albula	10 000	9 500
Gobius	1100	-----
Coregonus lavaretus	2060	-----



Information on export of fish resources in raw or frozen condition captured in **black sea.**

(First 5 years term-only 1/3 for export)



No	Years	Exported fish Resources (kilos)
1.	2007-2008	1,793,466
2.	2008-2009	9,750,805
3.	2009-2010	10,801,643
4.	2010-2011	8,061,044

Fish-capturing equipments in the Black Sea



The following fishing nets and equipment are used in the Black Sea for the capture purposes:

- ✓ **Sack net,**
- ✓ **Pelagic trawl,**
- ✓ **Installed net, etc.**



Post-harvest Use of fishery resources In the black sea:

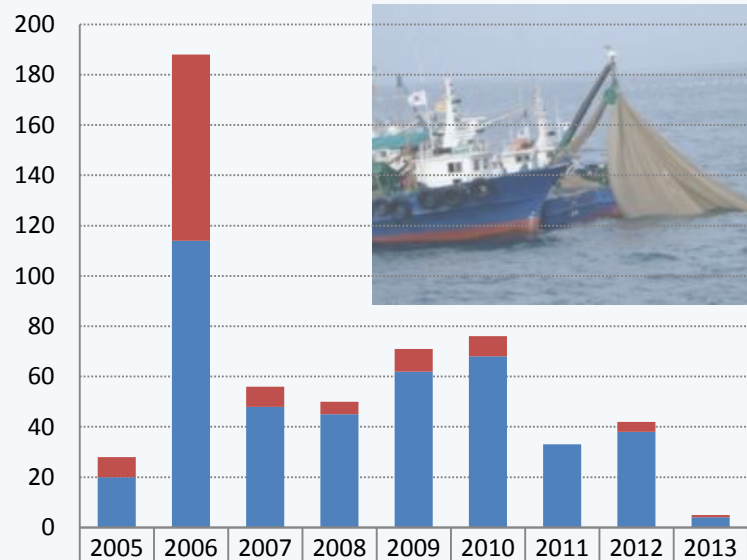
- A part of resource captured in the Black Sea is exported, one part is sold on the internal market, and the remaining part is processed in the fish processing plants existing in the country.
- Nowadays four processing plants are operating in Georgia;
- They are mainly processing Anchovy therein and flour and oil is obtained as a result.



Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

The Black Sea Service of the Agency of Natural Resources is responsible for the prohibition and prevention of illegal fishing in the Black Sea:

Dynamics of illegal fishing and other delinquencies on the Black Sea



The Black Sea Service also authorized to:

- *To prevent, reveal and prohibit the pollution of the Black Sea and to prevent and prohibit any illegal usage of the natural resources;*
- *To perform control on the fulfillment of the international obligations;*
- *Visually inspect the objects and items;*

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

Black Sea Service is authorized to:

- *Inspect and check the fishing equipments and facilities according to the established procedure.*
- *Stop transport facilities, including sailing transport facilities according to the procedures established by law.*
- *Dispossess the law-breaker's illegally obtained resource and/or the equipment used for illegal action.*

Black Sea Service is also allowed to:

- *Perform the measures specified by the code of delinquency.*
- *In case of revealing any signs of the criminal offense, the Black Sea service employees are authorized to hand all the materials of the case and other evidences to the Georgian police forces.*

Administrative Measures

- **Fishery issues in the Black Sea are regulated under the Code of Administrative Offences of Georgia, namely, by Article 86. Under the paragraphs IV and V of the named article, it is not allowed:**
 - ✓ Catching of fish or other living organisms using prohibited fishing gears, methods, and shipping facilities of 100 tones and less, which are more than 8 meters is subject to fine, with confiscation of illegally caught fish, fishing gears and transport vessels, or without it.
 - ✓ Catching of fish or other living organisms by violating rules defined in Georgian Legislation, using shipping facilities of more than 100 tones, is subject to fine, with confiscation of illegally caught fish and other living organisms.
- **Under this article violation of license conditions by the owners is also subject to penalty.**

Criminal Measures

Under the Criminal Code of Georgia fishery issues are regulated by Article 300. Under the aforementioned article, Illegal catching of fish or other aquatic organisms is not allowed and in case of:

1. **Illegal catching of fish or other aquatic organisms in Georgia's continental shelf, territorial waters, special economic zone or internal waters by means of fishing or mechanical transport facilities, electric current or other banned instruments, explosives or venomous substances or means of mass extermination of fish and other aquatic organisms, after previously being imposed an administrative sanction for the same offence -**

➤ Person will be punished by a fine or correctional work for a term of up to one year, or imprisonment for a term of up to one year.

Criminal Measures

2. **Illegal catching of fish or other aquatic organisms in Georgia's continental shelf, territorial waters, special economic zone or internal waters by means of fishing or mechanical transport facilities, electric current or other banned instruments, explosives or venomous substances or means of mass extermination of fish and other aquatic organisms, that caused significant damages, or committed in a national reserve, or conservation area, or in a prohibited place and at prohibited time or during environmental emergency situation or in the area of environmental disaster, or against fish or other aquatic organisms enlisted in the Red Book of Georgia,**

➤ shall be punished by a fine or correctional work for a term of up to two years, or imprisonment for a term of up to three years

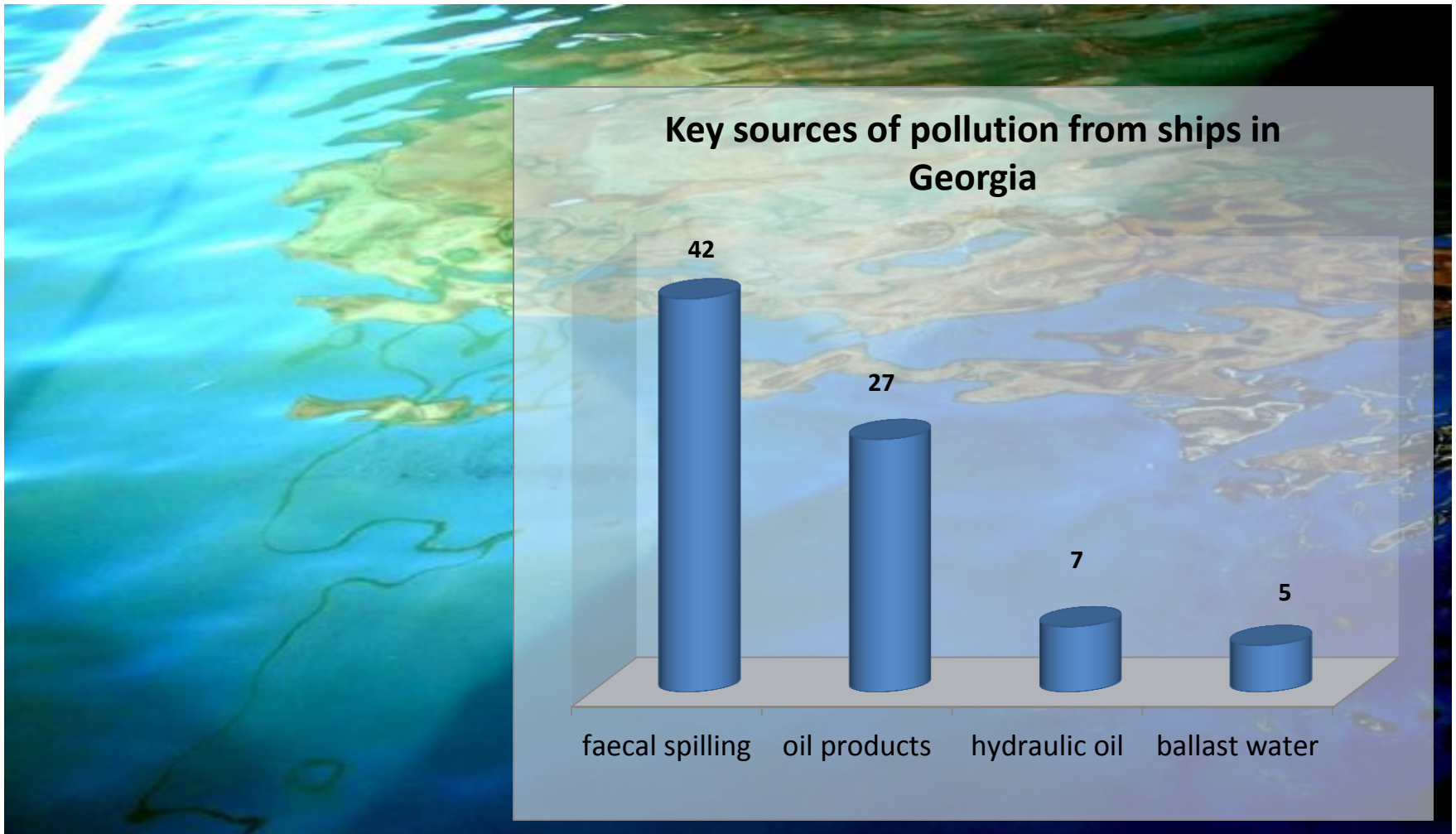
General Problems in the Black Sea

- Illegal and unregulated fishing decreases fish resources in the Black Sea.
- Existence of the Markets with illegally obtained fish resources, promotes illegal fishery.
- Lack of the sufficient equipment and staff makes it more difficult to fight against illegal fishing.
- Despite the activities for supporting sustainable capture of fish by government, high level of illegal fishery, spreading of invasive species in the Black Sea and lack of qualified staff in the appropriate government and scientific bodies are still significant problems for the sector.
- Despite the existing potential, mariculture is not developed appropriately in Georgia.
- Eutrophication is also problem for the Black Sea.

NOTE: All these General Problems in the Black Sea, including Invasion and Eutrophication are included in the **National Environmental Action Plan** and **National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan** of Georgia;

(Strategy and action Plan/Programme for direction – Black Sea)

Main threats for the Black Sea - Eutrophication



Invasion

Out of 26 invasive species of the Black Sea, 6 affects its ecosystem to a great extent.

These species are:

- Mnemiopsis leidyi;
- Rhithopanopeus harrisi;
- Rapana;
- Molusk - Cunearca cornea;
- Fish Mugil soiuy (Liza haematochelius).



Mnemiopsis leidyi

Some of the main multinational treaties concluded by Georgia with other states for supporting regional cooperation in the sphere of protection of the Black Sea

Name of the Treaty/Protocols	Date of Entry into Force for Georgia
Convention on Biological Diversity	August 31 st , 1994
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	December 12 th , 1996
Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution and the Black Sea commission (BSC)	January 15 th , 1994
Protocol on the Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation of the Convention on the protection of the Black Sea against Pollution	September 26 th , 2009
Convention for Prevention of Pollution from Ships "MARPOL"	July, 19 th , 1994
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wildlife	June 1 st , 2000
Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)	June 1 st , 2001
Convention on Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitat	March 1 st , 2010
European Landscape Convention	January 1 st , 2011
International Maritime Organization (IMO)	1993

Upcoming Changes in the Field

✓ It should be noted that in 2011 the issues in connection to management and usage of natural resources and maintenance of the state control of the field was transferred to the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Georgia.

✓ Currently the issues of the management and regulation of natural resources are still subordinated to the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Georgia, though it is planned to delegate the above-mentioned functions to the Ministry of Environment in the nearest future.

- **At the mean time there are 41 draft-laws sent to the parliament of Georgia for consideration.**
- **New series of reforms are about to begin in the nearest future in Georgia.**

Conclusions

- Illegal fishing might be the source for satisfying one's economic needs, though the economic profit derived from this kind of activity is of minor importance if compared with damage the Black Sea ecosystem can suffer from;
 - It is a well-established fact that illegal fishing is in most cases conducted by neglecting well established rules and requirements of the fishery sector (period of fishing, nets and equipments, the size of fisheries, etc) and thus creates the problems which must be solved ASAP.
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- The main ways of resolving the issue are:
 - ✓ To perform preventing measures;
 - ✓ To reinforce the potential of the controlling organ;
 - ✓ To strengthen the coordinated activities of the controlling organ with other state organs;
 - ✓ To ensure harmonization of Laws and regulations with EU standards.
 - ✓ To work in partnership with the Black Sea states in order to solve the existing problems;
 - ✓ To offer some alternative means, for instance - develop aquaculture and mariculture in the way which will be also acceptable from the environmental viewpoint.

Fishery Sector development

Needs

- Institutional capacity building and preparation and practical training of the staff from responsible governmental agencies;
- Plus, add agency staff and supply the agencies with sufficient equipment;

- Work in partnership with the Black Sea states in order to solve the above-mentioned problems together and define common strategy for fighting with IUU

- Create permanent working group and regularly exchange data among Black Sea Countries;



- Institutional capacity building of the fishery sector, Aquaculture and Mariculture;

- Regular Monitoring of all markets to stop selling illegally captured fish and other Black Sea products.

“The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope.”

John Buchan



Thank you for your attention