



**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN
COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES POUR
LA MÉDITERRANÉE**



**GFCM Workshop on artificial reefs in the Mediterranean and Black Sea
27 September 2013, Izmir, Turkey**

in collaboration with the FAO EastMed Project



and with the

**10th International Conference on Artificial Reefs and Related Aquatic Habitats (CARAH)
(23-27 September 2013, Izmir, Turkey)**



Information note

Background

Research on artificial reefs (ARs) has a long tradition in the Mediterranean: France was the first country to show interest in this issue (1960s), followed by Italy (1970s), Israel and Spain (1980s). International cooperation in the Mediterranean region started in the late 1980s, when a Working Group on Artificial Reefs and Mariculture was created, coordinated by CNR-ISMAR Ancona, Italy. The first session of this Working Group took place in Ancona in 1989, under the auspices of FAO/GFCM, and addressed a few relevant aspects, such as the definition and ecology of ARs, their bio-ecological and fishing aspects, their relationship with environment, open-sea aquaculture, etc. The scope of this Working Group was to promote the exchange of information among Mediterranean scientists and to encourage common initiatives. During the second half of the 1990s, the newly established concerted action “European Artificial Reef Research Network (EARRN)” provided useful information to formulate guidelines that were further developed by UNEP-MAP and OSPAR.

The issue on ARs was reconsidered at Mediterranean level in 2009, during the 10th meeting of the GFCM Subcommittee on marine environment and ecosystems (SCMEE) which took place in Malaga, Spain (November 2009). On that occasion, Tunisia and France presented studies related to the status of ARs. Following a debate on this issue, the SCMEE concluded that: a) a comprehensive review of the literature dealing with artificial reefs in the Mediterranean would be needed in order to evaluate their effects on Mediterranean fisheries and ecosystems, and b) there was a need to identify possible technical and economic conditions to improve the effectiveness of artificial reefs. This issue was taken up again during the 11th meeting of the SCMEE in Malta (November 2010).

In 2012, the GFCM organized the first ad hoc workshop on artificial reefs, with a view to gathering information on ARs, providing evidences of increased productivity and/or the gathering of biomass at ARs and reviewing monitoring strategies and statistical approaches to study ARs in the Mediterranean

and Black Sea. This workshop recognized the positive outcomes of the use of ARs in the region as a tool to avoid illegal trawling, reduce conflicts between fisheries and increase productivity at the first and second levels of the food chains. The workshop noted that the non-effectiveness of ARs mainly depended from a lack of adequate management and control measures and that they would be mainly appropriate for the management and diversification of small-scale fisheries activities, contributing to shifting a part of the fishing effort from overexploited species towards alternative resources.

Recently, the First GFCM Framework Programme (2013-2018) identified the uses of artificial reefs to protect marine ecosystems and their resources as one of the main tools to improve governance and fisheries management in the GFCM area, in line with the integrated maritime approach. In this context, draft guidelines for artificial reefs applications in the context of an integrated maritime approach in the Mediterranean and Black Sea have been prepared by Ms Gianna Fabi (researcher at CNR in Ancona, Italy, and GFCM consultant) and should be presented during the second GFCM Workshop on Artificial Reefs, due to be held in September 2013 in Izmir, Turkey on the occasion of the 10th International Conference on Artificial Reefs and Related Aquatic Habitats (CARAH).

Main targets of the workshop

- 1) To review the status of artificial reefs the Mediterranean and Black Sea
- 2) To discuss the Draft Guidelines for artificial reefs applications in the context of an integrated maritime approach in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

Methodology

This workshop is intended to be **both informative and participative**. The morning and afternoon sessions will be balanced between a review of national and regional experiences on artificial reefs discussions on future guidelines for their use. Participants will be invited to deliver presentations during the morning session and to discuss the Draft Guidelines during the afternoon session. Participants will also have the opportunity to provide contributions and inputs in order to develop these guidelines.

Participants

This workshop is more particularly addressed to:

- Experts from universities and national research institutions from the Mediterranean and Black Sea, whose technical capacity and direct involvement in ARs-related matters is considered to be useful for the workshop;
- Other stakeholders, including national administrations, partner organizations, NGOs and the private sector.

Participants are invited to register at <http://10thcarahturkey.org/>

Publications

Selected papers will be published together with those presented during the 10th International Conference on Artificial Reefs and Related Aquatic habitats (CARAH) in the *Journal of Applied Ichthyology* and/or in a special issue of the *Ege Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*.

Languages

The joint workshop will be carried out in English.

Date and place

27 September 2013, Izmir, Turkey
Ege University Atatürk Culture Exhibition Center

Websites

www.gfcm.org and <http://10thcarahturkey.org/>

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