

## CONTACTS AND LINKS

For any further information about the symposium, please visit the website:  
[www.ssfsymposium.org](http://www.ssfsymposium.org)

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boats in Filicudi Island, Italy, ©Nicolò  
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fisherman with a bucket of fish, ©FAO/  
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preparing to set out to sea to fish, port of  
Dikky, Morocco, ©FAO/Abdelhak Senna,  
**(bottom)** Women collecting clams in  
the sea shallows, Tunisia, ©FAO/Giulio  
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FAO/General Fisheries Commission  
for the Mediterranean



**First Regional Symposium on Sustainable Small-Scale  
Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea**  
27–30 November 2013, St. Julian's, Malta







## SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES: A LONG-STANDING TRADITION IN THE REGION

Small-scale fisheries traditionally represent an important share of the fisheries sector in the Mediterranean and Black Sea and their considerable role in the region has long been recognized. They have the potential to contribute significantly to food security, economic growth and rural development and to provide valuable employment opportunities. This is why there is a genuine and widespread interest in securing their sustainable development in the whole region.

Small-scale fisheries are characterized by a great diversity and represent different values and ways of life. They are important vectors of local knowledge and good practices for co-management and they have a relatively low environmental impact. However, there is sparse information at the regional level on their production volumes and socio-economic dimension as well as on their contribution to sustainable development and to the preservation of marine ecosystems.



## EFFORTS TOWARDS SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

At a time when the fisheries sector is experiencing a systemic crisis and many countries are going through a transitional period which may have implications for small-scale fisheries, the need for concerted efforts and strategies is becoming quite urgent. There is no doubt that regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), such as the GFCM, can play an important role in this process. As early as in 1980, the GFCM recognized the need to include small-scale fisheries in a regional management process calling for “*the definition of a national strategy indicating in particular the place of artisanal fisheries in management schemes*” (Resolution GFCM/15/1980/1).

Recently, the FAO has launched a consultative process involving governments, regional and civil society organizations, small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities to develop voluntary *International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries* (SSF Guidelines). This legal instrument aimed at providing advice and recommendations and establishing principles and criteria should complement the FAO *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*. Its final text is expected to be adopted in 2014.





## WHY A SYMPOSIUM ON SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES?

Building upon the participatory approach used for the development of the FAO SSF Guidelines, the GFCM intends to provide, at the regional level, a platform where the main recurring issues related to small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea could be duly addressed and all interested stakeholders could bring their opinions, ideas and expertise to the fore.

The symposium will constitute the building block to steer strategic and programmatic actions with a view to improving the livelihood of local communities engaged in small-scale fisheries in the region through the sustainable exploitation of living marine resources.

## PARTNERS OF THE SYMPOSIUM



Government of Malta



## OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the symposium are:

- to renew and foster political commitment towards small-scale fisheries
- to agree upon a possible roadmap for the gradual implementation of tasks in support to the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries
- to discuss the establishment of a regional cooperation project on small-scale fisheries
- to lay the foundations for a platform where stakeholders could be directly involved and participate in the management of small-scale fisheries

These objectives will be the starting point of a reflection on how to ensure a common policy for sustainable small-scale fisheries, in light of existing synergies among organizations and stakeholders.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW: OVERARCHING THEMES

**Thematic session I – Current situation of small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea: strategies and methodologies for an effective analysis of the sector**

- Stocktaking of existing information and data on small-scale fisheries to assess their potential in production and socio-economic terms
- Identification of key elements directly or indirectly linked to small-scale fisheries for planning and management purposes
- Identification of existing data and information gaps at different levels (biological, socio-economic, environmental)
- Definition of common methodologies to monitor the regular collection of relevant data



## Thematic session II – Management and co-management options for small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea

- Management and co-management: actual co-management versus participatory advisory schemes
- Overview of traditional fisheries management schemes implemented by stakeholders in the region
- Transferring executive management powers from stakeholders to State agencies: recent developments
- Contemporary schemes including co-management elements in the field of fisheries
- Fishers, fisheries agencies, scientists and civil society as co-managers: who should qualify to co-manage?
- A legal framework for fisheries co-management: how does co-management fit in national and regional legal frameworks?
- Relevant options for co-management: area-based management; access limitation; limitation of fishing opportunities; time/area management; monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS)
- Functioning of co-management committees (e.g. the case of the co-management committee of the Catalan sand-eel fishery)
- Identification of capacity-building needs for fisheries co-management



### Thematic session III – Integration of small-scale fisheries in marine protected areas (MPAs)

- Overview of different types of MPAs in the GFCM area: from fisheries management tools to conservation and multipurpose MPAs
- Assessing MPAs impacts on small-scale fisheries
- Involving small-scale fishers in MPAs: from participation to co-management
- Promotion of small-scale fisheries and potential of reconversion in and around MPAs





## Thematic session IV – Enhancing small-scale fisheries value chains in the Mediterranean and Black Sea

- Outline of the small-scale fisheries sector, its value chains and economic accounts in light of the current economic crisis
- Main components of local, national and international value chains related to small-scale fisheries production
- Costs and earnings analysis of small-scale fisheries and reasons for differences
- Analysis of small-scale fisheries production through the value chain method
- Investing in quality improvement: quality of life of small-scale fishers, etc.
- Assessing existing structural and community needs and socio-economic approaches towards diversification and multi-functionality
- Valorization of the main small-scale fisheries production
- Innovative measures to enhance production and market: capacity-building and institutional strengthening
- Options to maximize the price of small-scale fisheries catches at time of sale, including specific certification requirements



## Thematic session V – Setting up a regional platform to promote the implementation of the voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries

- Challenges and opportunities for the small-scale fisheries sector in the Mediterranean and Black Sea
- Human rights-based approach: current situation and needs in terms of access to basic economic, social and cultural rights
- Social and economic development for fishers, fish workers and fishing communities to enhance the sustainability of small-scale fisheries, including the post-harvest sector, and their contribution to food security and poverty alleviation
- Review of national experiences in terms of collective action and organizations (e.g. fishers cooperatives and associations) and how to strengthen them, including through capacity development and the creation of regional or sub-regional associations

### PARTICIPANTS

The symposium is open to representatives of national administrations, interested international organizations, NGOs, fishers associations and communities, stakeholders and civil society.

### HOW TO REGISTER?

Participants are invited to register online and fill-in the registration form on the symposium website.

## STEERING AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The steering and scientific committee will be responsible for ensuring the overall success of the event. It will oversee the coordination, organization and moderation of the symposium and supervise reporting activities during and after the symposium. It is composed of the following focal points appointed by each partner:

GFCM: *Mr Abdellah Srouf and Mr Nicola Ferri*

FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department: *Ms Nicole Franz and Mr Carlos Fuentevilla*

WWF: *Mr Sergi Tudela*

MedPAN: *Ms Marie Romani*

CIHEAM Bari: *Mr Biagio Di Terlizzi*

FAO Regional Projects: *Mr Juan Antonio Camiñas*

## CALL FOR PAPERS

When registering, participants willing to submit a contribution to the symposium should take into account the following:

The deadline for the submission of abstracts is *15 October 2013*.

The deadline for the submission of full contributions is *25 October 2013*.

All abstracts will be reviewed and authors will be informed in due course whether their contributions are accepted or not as well as on specific arrangements related to discussions and thematic sessions.

## OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

The symposium will be held in English, French and Arabic. Simultaneous interpretation services will be provided. Contributions and slides should be written in English or French exclusively.

## VENUE

The symposium will be held on 27–30 November 2013 in St. Julian's, Malta. It will be hosted by the Maltese Government at the Corinthia Hotel St. George's Bay. Practical information including accommodation details are available on the symposium website.