

# National Artisanal Fisheries Dependent Data Collection Program: FLOUCA Web

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## Introduction:

Artisanal fishery is an ancient practice in Lebanon that dates back to the Phoenicians. The fisheries sector in the country is artisanal in nature. Historical fisheries data are sporadic and the country lacks information on stocks, by-catch and discards. Nevertheless, the past few years have seen the launching of several initiatives to address the problems plaguing the sector. The project “Pilot Survey on Fisheries Dependent Data Collection in Lebanon Including Training” funded by the FAO-EastMed Project and implemented by the Marine Resources and Coastal Zone Management Program (MRCZM), Institute of the Environment (IoE), University of Balamand (UoB) aims at developing the “National Artisanal Fisheries Dependent Data Collection Program” in Lebanon and at providing technical support for the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) including training and capacity building.

One of the essential components of the Data Collection Program is the FLOUCA Web utility (Fish Landings Operational Utility for Catch/Effort Assessment - Web) which handles Catch/Effort data with the purpose of regularly producing monthly estimates on catch, fishing effort, prices, values and average fish size.

## Objectives



Figure 1: Artisanal fishing fleet of Lebanon

The main objective is to contribute to the improvement and implementation of the “National Fisheries Dependent Data Collection Program” in Lebanon.

## FLOUCA Web

### Description:

FLOUCA Web utility handles fisheries Catch/Effort data gathered from landing sites along the Lebanese coastline. The original FLOUCA (patented by UoB), running since 2005, is being reconfigured and updated into FLOUCA Web to meet national and GFCM Task 1 reporting needs.

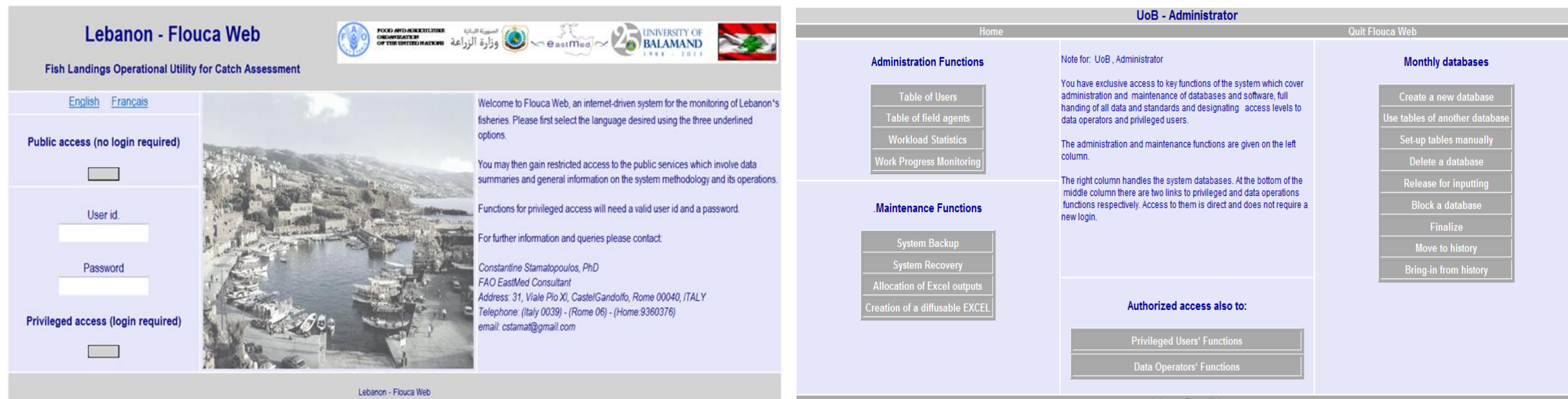


Figure 2: FLOUCA Web

FLOUCA Web package includes:

- A simple data conversion interface for feeding the Catch/Effort component of FLOUCA Web with boat counts organized by site and boat/gear category.
- A special interface program that converts the estimated Catch/Effort onto GFCM Task 1 record formats.
- Data collection protocols assuring acceptable levels of sampling accuracy.

### Data Collection/Entry:

FLOUCA Web is fed through the web from several posts with data collected by the rangers of the MoA using Catch/Effort Data Collection forms covering the national reporting needs and GFCM Task 1 requirements.

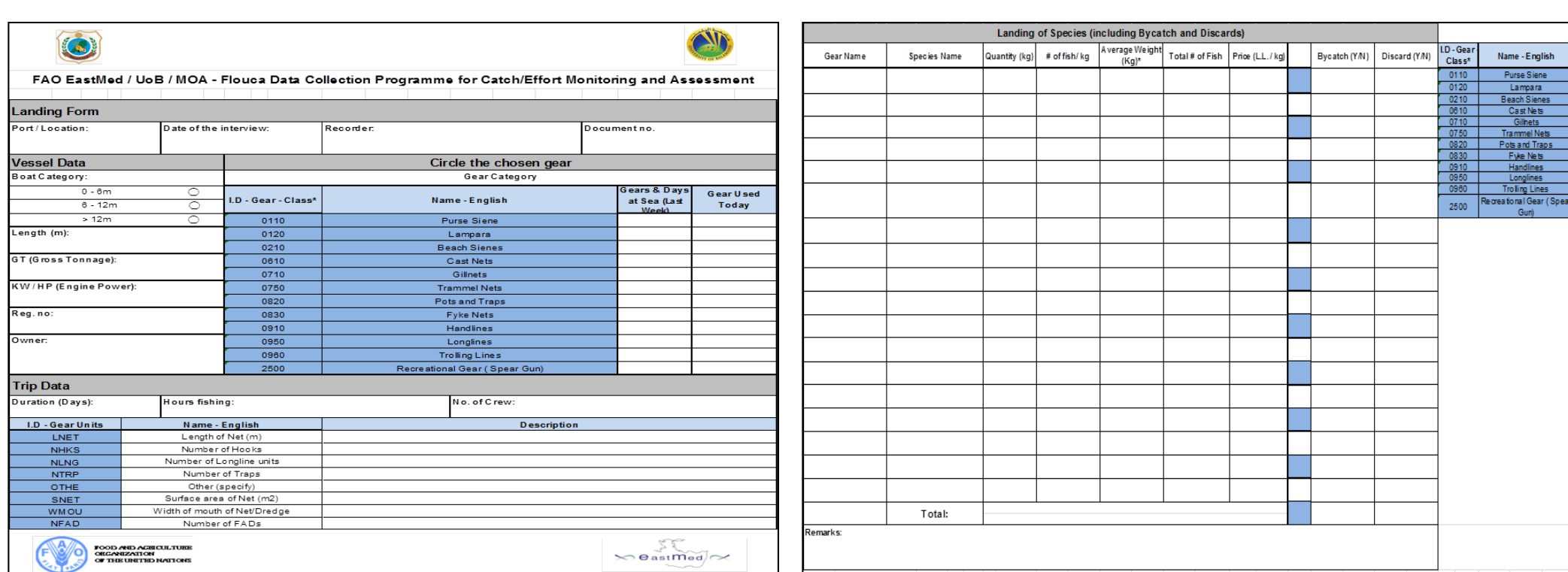


Figure 3: Catch/Effort form used for data collection

## Study Area

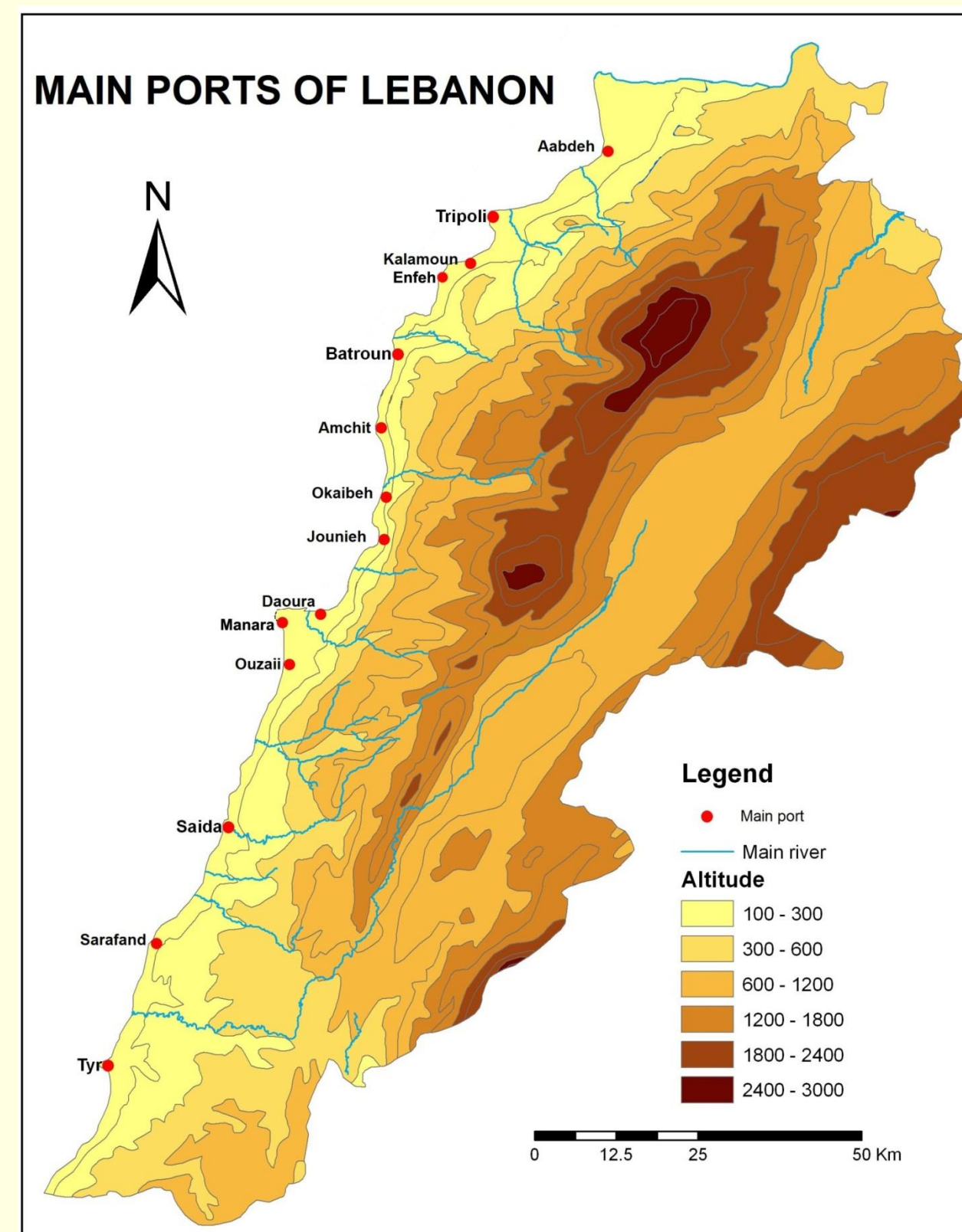


Figure 4: Targeted ports on the coast of Lebanon

Fourteen ports were chosen:

1. Abdeh
2. Tripoli – Al Mina
3. Qalamoun
4. Enfeh
5. Batroun
6. Amchit
7. Okaybe
8. Jounieh
9. Beirut –Al Dora
10. Beirut -Al Manara
11. Ouzzaii
12. Saida
13. Sarafand
14. Sour



Figure 5: Selected ports along the coast of Lebanon

## Training and Capacity Building

Training and building the capacity of the MOA rangers on:

- Fisheries monitoring and data collection
- Data entry using FLOUCA Web
- Generating related reports using FLOUCA Web

## Data Analysis / Reporting

- FLOUCA Web system is fed with data that produces monthly estimates on catch, fishing effort, CPUE, prices, values and average fish size.
- FLOUCA Web offers a wide variety of statistical diagnostics that are in line with the latest requirements demanded by regional and international fisheries bodies (specifically FAO and GFCM Task 1) such as:
  - Recording and maintaining data using data forms.
  - Running predefined queries.
  - Producing predefined reports.
  - Running ad hoc queries.
  - Producing ad hoc reports
- FLOUCA Web acts as a corner stone in the formulation of policy to regulate the fishing sector and promote sustainable use of marine resources. Provision of such data sets is also expected to expand on existent, as well as generate new research activities in the management of coastal marine resources in the country.
- Interpretation of the FLOUCA Web generated reports is considered as a major step towards creating a sustainable policy for managing marine resources in Lebanon based on the ecosystem approach.
- Management of such resources will translate into improving the livelihoods of the artisanal fishermen and maintain this special cultural heritage.

## Conclusions:

Through the support of the FAO-EastMed Project, the experience of the MRCZM-IOE-UOB team and the dedication of the MOA team, the Lebanese MOA will be in possession of a fully functional “National Artisanal Fisheries Dependent Data Collection Program” that functions through the Web using the FLOUCA Web utility. This will allow the MOA to report on the sector through the collection of empirical data and make decisions to manage the sector based on solid scientific grounds.