



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



General Fisheries
Commission for
the Mediterranean



Funded by
the European Union

IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE BLACK SEA

FAO's General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) is responsible for ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture, in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. The overall objective of this Action was to continue supporting the implementation of select activities approved by the GFCM at its annual sessions and within the framework of its strategies (2017-2020), with a view to ensuring the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries and aquaculture.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The specific objectives of the Action were achieved through:
(i) support for sustainable small-scale fisheries (SSF) and recreational fisheries, including through the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (RPOA-SSF), (ii) strengthening of scientific advice using a subregional approach and through enhanced fisheries research, (iii) assessment and countering of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, (iv) monitoring of unwanted interactions between fisheries and marine ecosystems and environment, (v) promotion of sustainable aquaculture development, (vi) support for strategic initiatives relating to GFCM commitments and (vii) support for the BlackSea4Fish Project.

IMPACT

The project achieved measured progress towards implementing select activities of the strategies towards the sustainability of fisheries and the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
EUR 4 800 000

Duration
March 2020–February 2024

Resource Partners
Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG-MARE) of the European Commission

Partners
General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) of FAO

Beneficiaries
Riparian countries of the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea, national administrations in charge of fisheries and aquaculture, national institutions and national fisheries and aquaculture sectors

ACTIVITIES

- Small-scale fishers offered a platform, through SSF Forum workshops, to further develop their capacities and skills on a number of topics linked to sustainable SSF and livelihoods.
- First meeting of the GFCM Working Group on Recreational Fisheries held, kick-starting a participatory approach to recreational fisheries monitoring.
- Key stocks in the Mediterranean and Black Sea assessed.
- Management advice updated for priority species across all subregions.
- First phase of the red coral and European eel research programmes launched in March and June 2020, respectively.
- GFCM joint demersal trawl surveys-at-sea carried out in four countries to promote standardized at-sea monitoring of resources.
- 2020 edition of “The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries (SoMFi 2020)” prepared and published.
- Second edition of the Fish Forum organized in Türkiye in February 2024, providing a unique space for more than 400 experts and participants from 47 countries to discuss the latest developments in fisheries science.
- A modular approach to monitoring, control and surveillance furthered through particular attention to data exchange, underpinning the pilot regional vessel monitoring system.
- Increased geographical coverage ensured for the second phase of the bycatch monitoring programme conducted in six countries.
- GFCM-georeferenced database on sensitive benthic habitats and species developed and launched in July 2020.
- First assessments of the vulnerability of fisheries across the Mediterranean carried out.
- At-sea tests to collect marine litter from the sea bottom launched with a dedicated fishing gear.
- Qualitative information compiled on the abundance and distribution of non-indigenous species in the GFCM area.
- Black Sea aquaculture market profiles developed thanks to data collection and analysis in the context of the Black Sea Observatory.
- Innovative aquaculture practices promoted through the activities of the Aquaculture Demonstration Centres, which were further equipped to underpin multidisciplinary training.
- First scientific standardized rapa whelk beam trawl survey launched in five Black Sea countries in autumn 2020.
- Capacity development initiatives on stock assessment methodologies, survey data and age-reading techniques coordinated regionally and supported in the Black Sea by the BlackSea4Fish project.
- Communication and visibility actions developed and launched to underpin the launch of the GFCM 2030 Strategy, including a rebranding of the GFCM to mark the Commission’s 70th anniversary.

Project Title

Select activities of the strategies towards the sustainability of fisheries and sustainable aquaculture development implemented in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea”

Project Code

FAO: MTF/INT/943/MUL Baby 31
Donor: SI2.819226

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Partnerships and Outreach

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