



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



General Fisheries  
Commission for  
the Mediterranean

# Pilot project to improve the conservation status of sturgeon species (Acipenseridae)

Sturgeons in the Black Sea - Online Seminar 27 March 2023

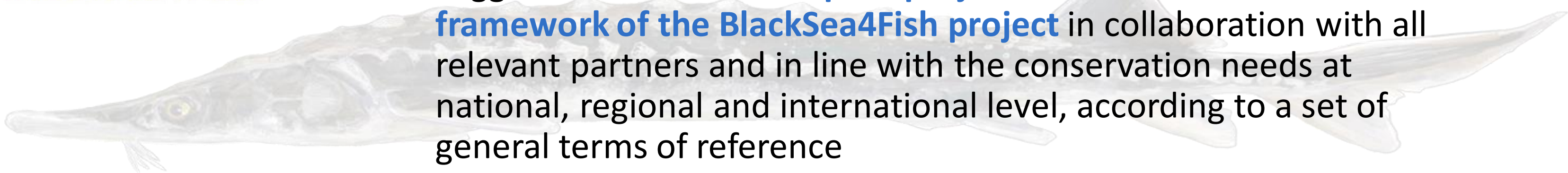
# BACKGROUND



**BlackSea4Fish**

## Ninth meeting of the Working Group on the Black Sea (WGBS) - 2021

- + noted the **extremely critical situation of sturgeons** whose management was significantly complicated by its peculiar life cycle
- + suggested the need for a **pilot project** to be conducted under the **framework of the BlackSea4Fish project** in collaboration with all relevant partners and in line with the conservation needs at national, regional and international level, according to a set of general terms of reference



## 44<sup>th</sup> annual session of the GFCM - 2021

- + adopted **Resolution GFCM/44/2021/5 on the mitigation of fisheries impacts for the conservation of sturgeons in the Black Sea (geographical subarea 29)**
- + **AIM** → considering the adoption of further measures to mitigate fisheries impacts at the 46<sup>th</sup> annual session

# BACKGROUND



**BlackSea4Fish**

## Ninth meeting of the Working Group on the Black Sea (WGBS) - 2022

- + Postponed
- + **Guidelines for the implementation of the project**, based on the terms of reference outlined in Resolution GFCM/44/2021/5, were drafted in 2022 and presented to the

## 45<sup>th</sup> annual session of the GFCM - 2022

- + **Endorsed the concept note for a pilot study** to address critical issues related to the marine portion of the sturgeon lifecycle

# WORK PLAN TIMELINE

- + Three work packages
- + 13 months duration: December 2022 – Jan 2024;
- + Results: be shared in the next WGBS meeting

			Period (months)												
			2023/24												
WPs	Tasks	Partner(s) responsible	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
WP1: Networking and awareness-raising	Task1: Creating networks through an online seminar	BlackSea4Fish project team and the GFCM Secretariat				x									
	Task2: Awareness-raising and fisher engagement	BGR, GEO, ROU, TUR		x	x	x					~40%				
WP2: Collation of information	Task1: Collation of existing information	TBD													
	Task2: LEK-Exploring fisher knowledge	BGR, GEO, ROU, TUR		x	x	x					~40%				
WP3: Analysis and proposed future actions	Formulate a plan for the future management of sturgeons	TBD													

# WORK PACKAGE 1: Networking and awareness-raising



**BlackSea4Fish**

- + **Transversal work package**

- + **Objectives:** Create a network of scientific experts and raise awareness on the conservation status and critical issues related to the marine part of the sturgeon life-cycle

## Task1: Creating networks

- + **Objective:** Creation of a **network of scientific experts** working on sturgeons on the Black Sea and in Europe more widely
  - ensure **cross-border and long-lasting scientific collaboration** in the Black Sea
  - create a **database of existing scientific projects and activities** related to sturgeons in the Black Sea

## Task2: Awareness-raising and fisher engagement

- + **Objective:** conduct awareness-raising campaigns for fishers to facilitate increased collaboration and awareness towards combating IUU fishing, among others



# WORK PACKAGE 2: Collation of information



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+ **Objectives:** collate all available information

## Task1: Collating existing information

- + **Objective:** Collation of information from relevant scientific literature, research projects, surveys-at-sea, monitoring programmes, and national and international legislation in the Black Sea
  - Literature review
  - Black Sea scientific database

## Task2: Exploring fisher knowledge

- + **Objective:** Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK) study to gather complementary information from fishers
  - Bycatch
  - Distribution
  - Seasonality
  - Perceived IUU

# WORK PACKAGE 3: Analysis and proposed future actions



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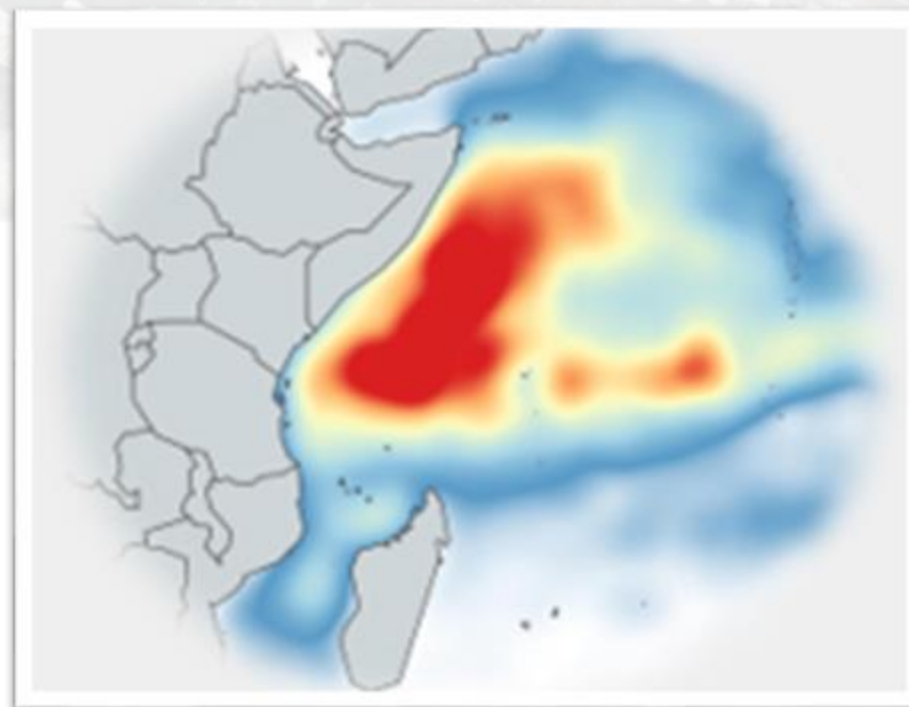
## + Objectives:

- **integrated analysis** of all the information gathered under WPs 1 and 2 towards
- identifying **potential management measures** for the marine part of the sturgeon life-cycle as well as gaps in knowledge and proposing actions to fill the gaps

## Potential outcomes:



Developing more selective fishing gears



Mapping bycatch hotspots



Training fishers and fisheries observers

# Thank you for your attention

Yunus Emre Fakıoğlu

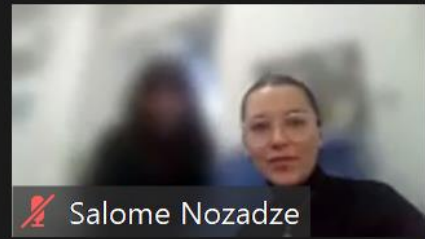
Expert in bycatch and gear technology

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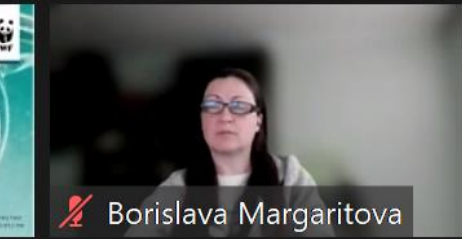
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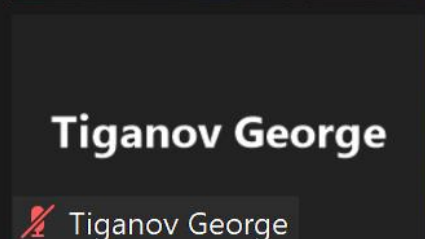
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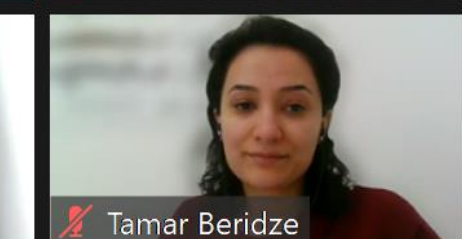
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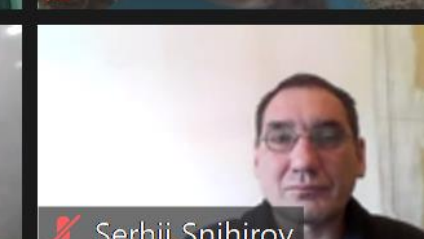
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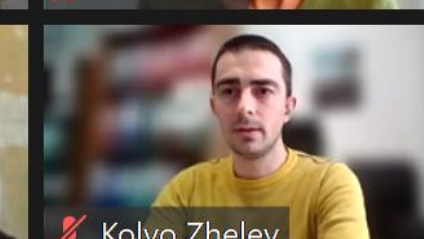
Sergii Bushuiev



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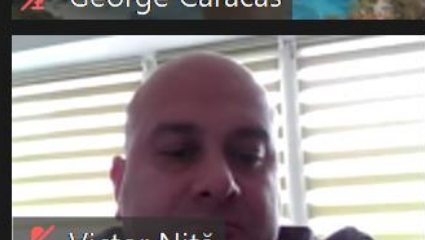
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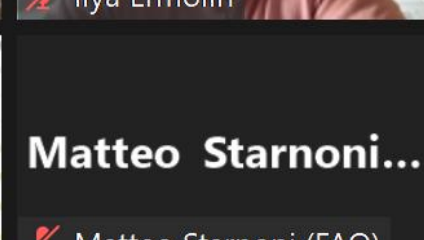
Kolyo Zhelev



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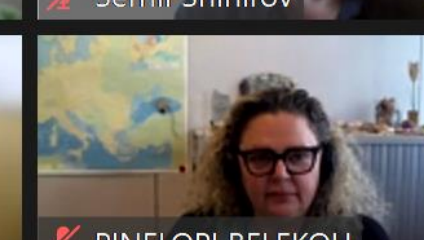
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Daniela Holostenco



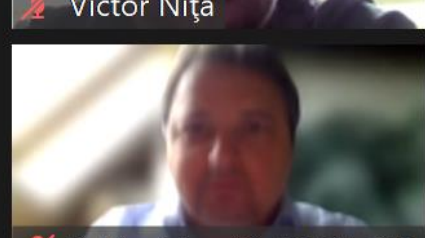
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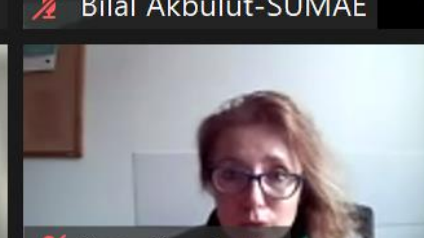
Radu Suci



Balázs Horváth WWF-CEE



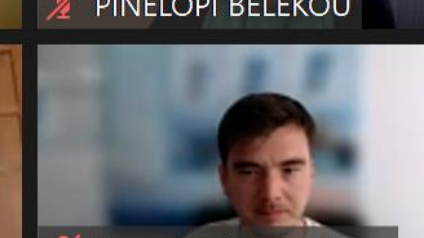
İlhan AYDIN



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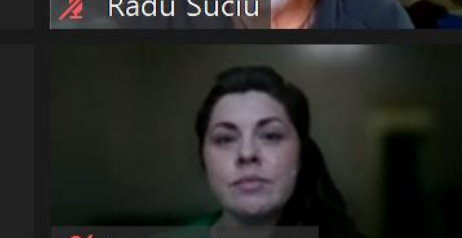
Arne Ludwig



Romulus-Marian Paiu



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Bianca Roberts



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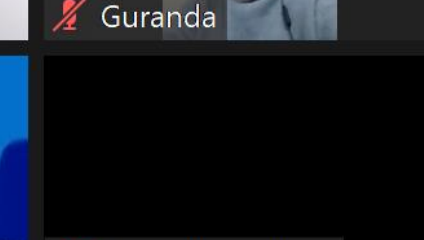
Galın Nikolov



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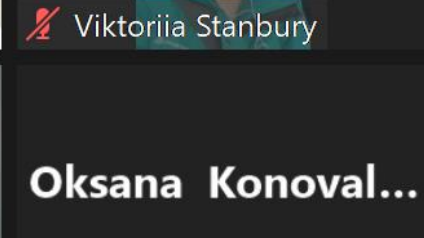
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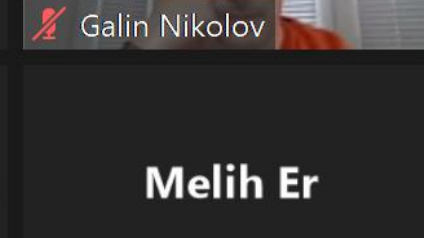
Marina Mgeladze



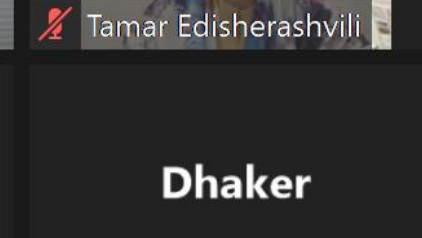
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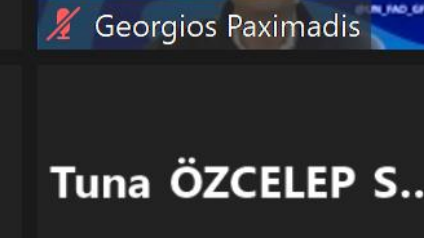
Oksana Konovalenko



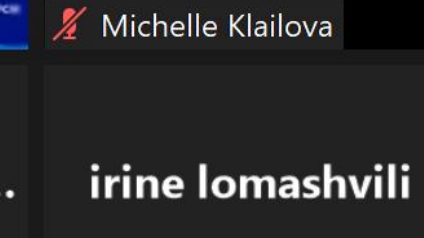
Melih Er



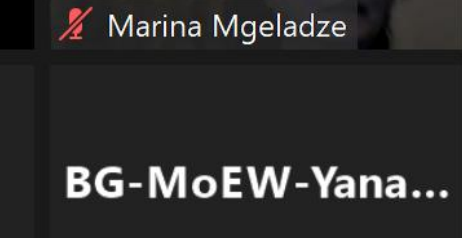
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Tuna ÖZCELEP SUMAE



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