



# GFCM High-level conference on MedFish4Ever initiatives:

Transformative actions to address new challenges

3–4 October 2023, Malta

## PROGRAMME

Tuesday 3 October 2023

### Multidisciplinary panels: transformative actions in Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries and aquaculture

Moderated by: Mr Miguel Bernal, Executive Secretary, GFCM

9.30–12.30

#### Welcome by the host country and general introduction

The Hon. Ms Alicia Bugeja Said, Parliamentary Secretary for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Animal Rights, Malta

#### SESSION 1

#### Adapting to change: towards long-term sustainability and resilience for Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries and aquaculture

Moderated by Ms Alexandra Cousteau, Explorer and Ocean Advocate

##### + Keynote address

Ms Zakia Driouich, Secretary General for Maritime Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests, Morocco

##### + Expert panel

Ms Susan Steele, Executive Director, European Fisheries Control Agency

Mr Ali Cemal Gücü, Professor, Middle East Technical University, Türkiye

Ms Patricia Ricard, President, Institut océanographique Paul Ricard, France

##### + Discussion



**SESSION 2**

**Fishers of the future: attracting a new generation of professionals to the fishing sector**

Moderated by Mr Marco Costantini, Fisheries Regional Manager, WWF Mediterranean Initiative

**+ Keynote address**

Ms Charlina Vitcheva, Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission

**+ Expert panel**

Mr Šime Barić, Cooperative Manager, Velebit Champions, Croatia

Mr Ramazan Özkaya, President, Sür-Koop, Türkiye

Ms Giusy Donato, Fisher, Italy

**+ Discussion**

---

12.30–14.30

**Lunch**

---

13.15– 14.15

**Side event: Discovering pathways to sustainable Mediterranean fisheries: MedPath's transformative and participatory approach**

Organized by **Marine Stewardship Council**

**Side event: The importance of protecting the deep sea – the case of Cabliers Bank**

Organized by **Oceana**

14.30–17.30

**SESSION 3**

**Transforming our aquatic food systems: towards socially viable and ecologically sustainable value chains**

Moderated by Mr Eric Banel, Director General of Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture, France

**+ Keynote address**

Mr Carlos Fuentevilla, Fishery Officer, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, FAO

**+ Expert panel**

Ms Mervat Sabrin, Assistant to the Minister for Social Solidarity, Egypt

Ms Ismini Bogdanou, Director of Communications and Public Relations, Hellenic Aquaculture Producers Organization

Mr Giampaolo Buonfiglio, Vice-Chairperson, Mediterranean Advisory Council

**+ Discussion**

---



## Wrap-up session and take-away messages

Mr Roland Kristo, Chairperson, GFCM

Ms Alexandra Cousteau, Explorer and Ocean Advocate

Mr Marco Costantini, Fisheries Regional Manager, WWF Mediterranean Initiative

Mr Eric Banel, Director General of Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture, France

## Closing address

Mr Karmenu Vella, Special Advisor to the European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries

---

17.30–18.30

**Side event:** [Calling for decisive action to strengthen transparency, compliance, and the enforcement of measures to end illegal bottom trawling](#)

Organized by **Med Sea Alliance**

---

20.00

## Celebratory event

**Presentation of awards on innovative practices in fisheries and aquaculture**

**Official dinner**



Wednesday 4 October 2023

## High-level segment: accelerating commitments

Moderated by Ms Charlina Vitcheva, Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission

9.30–12.30

### Welcome speech

The Hon. Mr Anton Refalo, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights, Malta

### Keynote address

Mr Karmenu Vella, Special Advisor to the European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries

### Scene-setter video

### Advances on MedFish4Ever initiatives

Mr Miguel Bernal, Executive Secretary, GFCM

### High-level dialogue: transformative actions to accelerate commitments

H.E. Anila Denaj, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Albania

H.E. Ahmed Badani, Minister for Fisheries and Fishery Production, Algeria (TBC)

Major General Mr Alhussein Farahat, Executive Director, Lakes and Fish Resources Protection & Development Agency, Egypt (TBC)

H.E. Eleftherios Avgenakis, Minister for Rural Development and Food, Greece

H.E. Abbas Hajj Hassan, Minister for Agriculture, Lebanon

The Hon. Ms Alicia Bugeja Said, Parliamentary Secretary for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Animal Rights, Malta

Mr Karmenu Vella, Special Advisor to the European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries

Mr Mansour bin Hilal Al Mushaiti, Vice Minister for Environment, Water and Agriculture, Saudi Arabia

Mr Zdravko Tušek, State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Croatia

Mr Patrizio Giacomo La Pietra, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry, Italy (TBC)

Mr Ridha Gabouj, State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries, Tunisia

Mr Costas Hadjipanayiotou, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Cyprus

Mr Eric Banel, Director General of Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry of the Sea, France

Ms Zakia Driouich, Secretary General for Maritime Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests, Morocco



**Ms Katarina Burzanovic**, Director, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Montenegro

**Ms Isabel Artime García**, Secretary General for Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Spain

**Mr Mustafa Altuğ Atalay**, Director-General, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Türkiye

**Mr Nir Froyman**, Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Israel

### **Closure of the conference**

**The Hon. Mr Anton Refalo**, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights, Malta