



GFCM High-level conference on MedFish4Ever initiatives:

Transformative actions to address new challenges

3-4 October 2023, Malta

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Tuesday 3 October 2023

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

9.30 – 12.30

Welcome by the host country and general introduction

SESSION 1

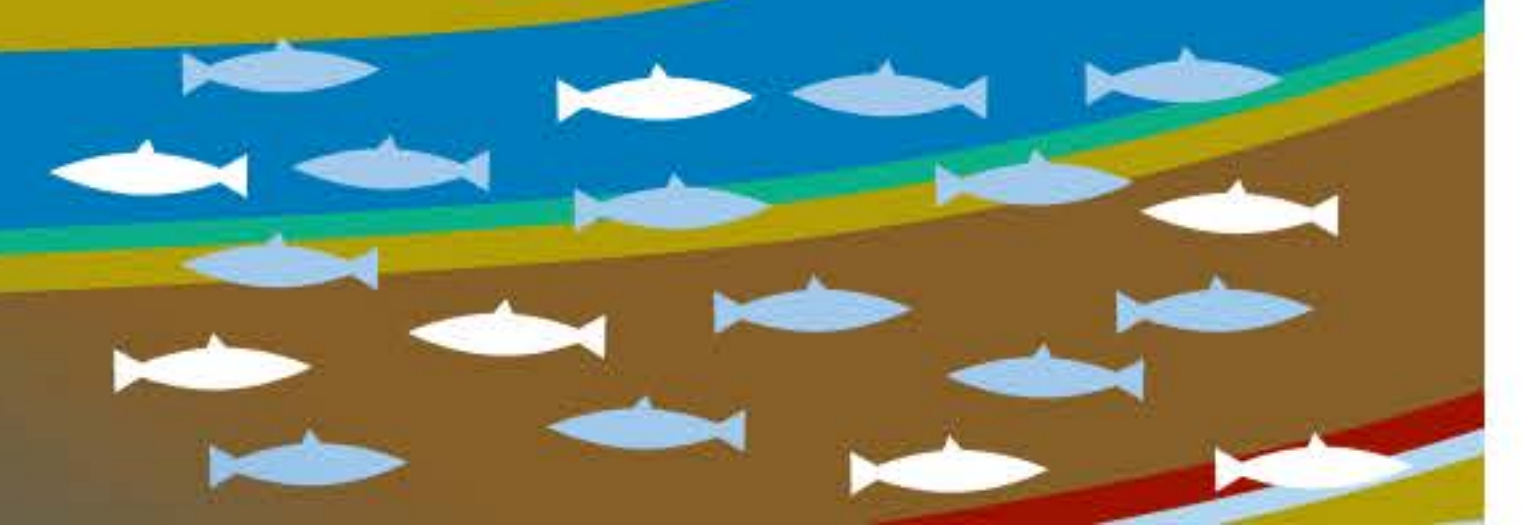
Adapting to change: towards long-term sustainability and resilience for Mediterranean and Black Sea fishing and aquaculture

Fisheries and aquaculture have been rooted in the cultural heritage of the Mediterranean and Black Sea for millennia. The region is a hotspot for biodiversity, but also for some of the biggest global challenges facing the global ocean. Accelerated climate change and the proliferation of non-indigenous species pose increasing threats to regional biodiversity and marine ecosystems, which have already been under pressure from other factors for years, undermining conservation efforts.

+ Keynote address

+ Expert panel: Building on lessons learnt, this panel will discuss solutions for improved regional governance, aiming at an ecological transition of the sector while developing its sustainability and profitability. It will also explore innovative management approaches and technological solutions, including the decarbonization of the fishing industry and integrated marine spatial planning.

+ Discussion



9.30 – 12.30

SESSION 2**Fishers of the future: attracting a new generation of professionals to the fishing sector**

In recent years, the fishing sector has been faced with successive crises and the accelerated impacts of climate change, which have highlighted its vulnerabilities. Any vision for the future of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea should secure the fishers' rightful place at sea, in the wider maritime context, and contribute to the global goal to protect the marine ecosystem.

+ Keynote address

+ Expert panel: This panel will discuss how to develop blue jobs, blue skills and ocean literacy, encouraging innovative technologies and entrepreneurial development to attract a new generation of professionals who combine traditional and new skills. It will also explore solutions to actively engage fishers in participatory management models and knowledge-building activities, reinforce the full respect of conservation and management measures and strengthen the culture of compliance.

+ Discussion

12.30 – 14.30

Lunch

14.30 – 17.30

SESSION 3**Transforming our aquatic food systems: towards socially viable and ecologically sustainable value chains**

Moving towards a blue transformation of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquatic food systems is a priority and it will require a comprehensive and multifaceted approach. It is urgent to accelerate the transformation of the region's fisheries and aquaculture sector as a pillar for coastal community livelihoods, ensuring their contribution to food security, promoting the role of women and addressing wider issues. The long-term sustainability of aquatic food systems requires a significant increase in investment targeting environmental, social and governance and looking beyond short-term financial returns.

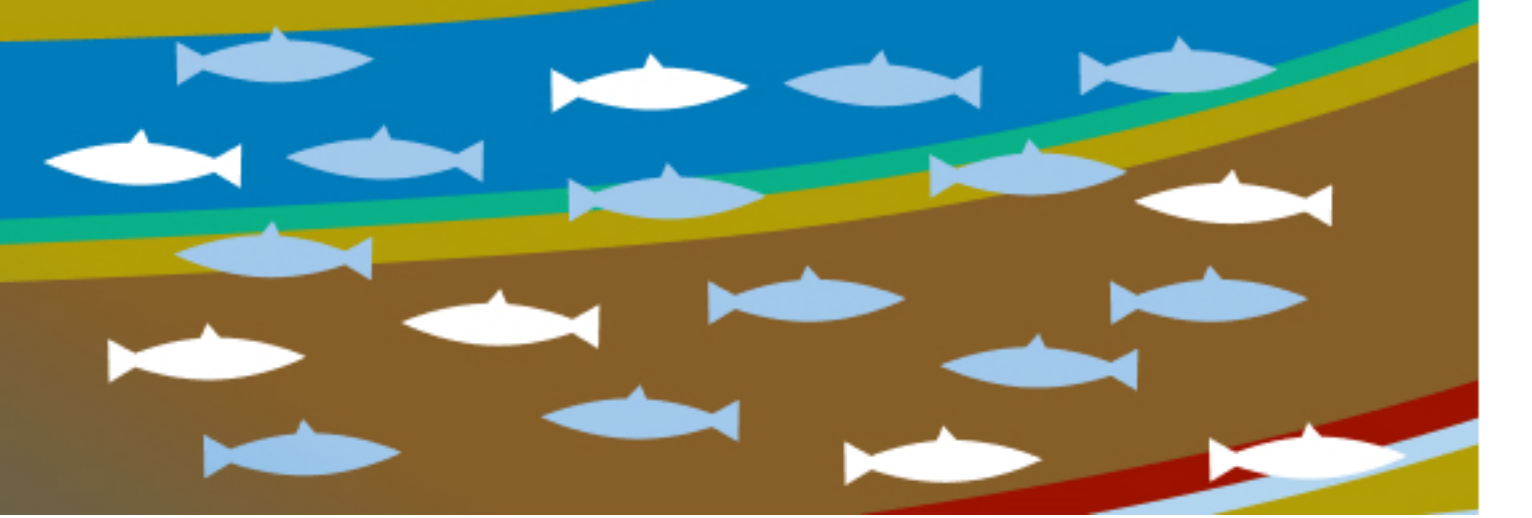
+ Keynote address

+ Expert panel: This panel will address responsible investment, technological adaptation as well as inclusive and collaborative governance, geared towards solidarity, food security and better nutrition. It will explore the need for responsible private/public investment to ensure fishing fleets and aquaculture enterprises are efficient, safe, innovative and profitable so that aquatic food production becomes a more attractive sector for the next generations and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices are promoted across the region.

+ Discussion**Wrap-up session and take-away messages****Closing address**

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

9.30 – 13.30

Welcome speeches

Keynote address

Scene-setter video

Advances on MedFish4Ever initiatives

A presentation will be delivered on the state of play and progress achieved at the subregional and regional levels in the implementation of the MedFish4Ever Declaration.

High-level dialogue: transformative action to accelerate commitments

Ministers and high-level representatives will express the ideas and propose solutions to ensure the strategic targets set out in the declaration are successfully and timely met, reflecting on how to combine effective governance, collaboration and sustainability to support fishers and fish farmers of the future.

Closure of the conference