

Conclusions

High-level event on advancing the RPOA-SSF in the context of the GFCM 2030 Strategy

30 June 2021

To advance on the implementation of the RPOA-SSF, there is a need to:

- Reaffirm the role of the RPOA-SSF as the reference guide to shape COVID-19 recovery plans for stronger resilience of coastal livelihoods and long-term sustainable Blue Transformation
- Promote new financial strategic initiatives to address current and future challenges – including promoting the role of women and facilitating the access of young generations to the sector – capitalizing on new opportunities arising from the COVID-19 recovery
- Ensure small-scale fishers are considered in national dialogues in view of the development of economic recovery plans and investments by raising awareness on SSF concerns
- Enhance the development of participatory mechanisms and co-management plans at local level supporting long-lasting sustainable solutions
- Facilitate access to social protection programmes, including for example social insurance, unemployment schemes and health services, towards strengthening the resilience of coastal communities to respond to current (e.g. COVID-19) and future (e.g. climate change) crises
- Support the creation of multiannual management plans to ensure a level playing field and enhance the sustainability of SSF
- Support the systematic and complete collection and reporting of data on catches and landings, to support scientific monitoring and advice on improving the sustainability of SSF
- Develop viable economic alternatives and market opportunities to improve fishers' livelihoods as well as strengthening shorter value chains and direct selling
- Ensure regular and full reporting on RPOA-SSF implementation, in line with the adopted RPOA-SSF monitoring framework, to take stock of advances and assess the identification of evolving needs and priority actions.
- Celebrate and raise awareness about the vital role of SSF for food security, livelihoods and cultural heritage of Mediterranean and Black Sea coastal communities, including in the context of celebrations for the UN International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) in 2022