

Regional Ocean Governance in Practice: the Mediterranean Experience

Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly resolution 69/292: Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

31 August 2016 (UN HQ, New York)

Gaetano Leone

Coordinator, UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan
Barcelona Convention Secretariat

Abdellah Srour

Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the General Fisheries
Commission for the Mediterranean

Outline of the presentation

- I. Cooperation between RSCs and RFMOs against the background of UNGA related processes
- II. The Mediterranean Sea: Mare Nostrum
- III. Mediterranean Sea governance: background information on UNEP/MAP
- IV. Mediterranean Sea governance: background information on GFCM-FAO
- V. 2012 Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP-MAP and GFCM-FAO
- VI. Implementation of the 2012 MoU
- VII. Case study: joint efforts to implement the Ecosystem Approach
- VIII. Conclusions



General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

Commission générale des pêches pour la Méditerranée

I. Cooperation between RSCs and RFMOs against the background of UNGA related processes

- “[...] develop a comprehensive global regime to better address the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction” - UNGA Res 69/292
- A global universal governance structure could better support the implementation of:
 - **SDG14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” - A/RES/70/226**
 - Common key targets for RSCs and RFMOs addressing common challenges: pollution (14.1), habitats, ecosystems, MPAs (14.2, 14.5), ocean acidification (14.3), fisheries, including overfishing, IUU, destructive fishing practices (14.2, 14.6, 14.7b), knowledge and technology transfer, small scale fisheries, implementation of legal obligations (14.7a, 14.7b and 14.7c)
 - **Rio +20: “The Future We Want” - A/RES/66/288**
 - Oceans and Seas related follow-up actions relating to common challenges (paras 158-177)
 - **UNGA ongoing work on oceans**
 - Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, consultations on occasion of the ICP, etc.
 - **UNGA annual resolutions**
 - Enhanced cooperation between RSCs and RFMOs (see para 145 of resolution A/RES/70/75 on sustainable fisheries encouraging RFMOs to strengthen integration, coordination and with RSCs)

II. The Mediterranean Sea: Mare Nostrum



III. Mediterranean Sea governance: background information on UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention (the RSC for the Mediterranean Sea)

Background	Objectives	Milestones
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• adopted in 1975 by the Mediterranean countries and the European Community• first regional sea to adopt an Action Plan under UNEP• evolved in light of the results of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro 1992)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• assess and control marine pollution• ensure sustainable management of natural marine and coastal resources• integrate the environment in social and economic development• protect the marine environment and coastal zones through prevention and reduction of pollution and as far as possible elimination of pollution whether land or sea-based• protect the natural and cultural heritage• strengthen solidarity among Mediterranean coastal States and• contribute to the improvement of the quality of life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2008 : implementation of the Ecosystem Approach and adoption of roadmap to reach Good Environmental Status• 2012: adoption of 11 priority Ecological Objectives to ensure a healthy Mediterranean• 2016:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Six main Themes for the MTS:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Governance• Pollution• Biodiversity• Land-sea Interactions• ICZM• Sustainable Consumption and Production• Climate Change Adaptation• A package of strategic documents at COP 19

IV. Mediterranean Sea governance: background information on GFCM-FAO (the RFMO for the Mediterranean Sea)



- The GFCM is the regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) with competence over the Mediterranean (and the Black Sea)
- 1949 Constitutive Agreement under Article XIV of FAO
- Amended agreement endorsed in May 2014 (38th session of the Commission)
- 24 Members and 3 cooperating non-Members (BiH, Georgia, Ukraine)
- Objective: to ensure the conservation and sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of living marine resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture
- Power to adopt recommendations binding upon its Members, consistent with United Nations and FAO policies, including on the following issues:
 - sub-regional multiannual management plans
 - data collection and analysis
 - small-scale fisheries, including their socio-economic role
 - establishment of fishing restricted areas
 - fight against IUU fishing, including port State measures

V. 2012 Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP MAP and GFCM-FAO (1/2)

- UNEP-MAP and GFCM-FAO have been informally cooperating for many years
- With a view to provide a legal framework to this cooperation, bilateral discussions took place on 2011-2012 to draft a memorandum of understanding, according with the rules and procedures of UNEP and FAO
- On May 2012, on occasion of the 36th Session of the GFCM, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the two organizations (already approved of internally by the COP of UNEP-MAP)
- The MoU includes 5 areas of cooperation:
 - Promotion of ecosystem based approach for the conservation of marine ecosystems and the sustainable use of marine living resources
 - Mitigation of the impacts of fisheries and aquaculture on the marine habitats and species
 - Identification, protection and management of marine areas of particular importance in the Mediterranean Sea
 - Integrated maritime policy with a special emphasis on marine and coastal spatial planning
 - Legal and policy cooperation

V. 2012 Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP MAP and GFCM-FAO (2/2)

2012 Memorandum of Understanding

A technical annex with the activities relating to the areas of cooperation was also included. Among the numerous activities in the annex some are worth singling out given the need to reduce existing governance gaps:

- Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme development (EcAp-MEDI, EcAp-MEDII and MedSuit Projects supported)
- Development of key regional strategies to integrate the environmental dimension in social and economic development, especially in relation to fisheries and aquaculture
- Harmonization of existing respective criteria for the establishment of SPAMIs FRAs, in particular those located partially or wholly on ABNJ
- Coordinated inputs to the UNEP-MAP Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD 2016-2023)
- Cooperation in joint projects and mutual participation in respective meetings

VI. Implementation of the 2012 MoU (1/2)

- The MoU is to be implemented over a multiannual period and it is subject to renewal
- In order to ensure its smooth implementation, three bilateral meetings have already taken place already (last one in April 2016)
- A matrix is annually developed based on the technical annex to the MoU, listing the activities relating to the 5 areas of cooperation, to monitor its implementation
- Activities foreseen can be implemented progressively and outcomes achieved are reported under each activity by the Secretariats - progress made or lack thereof - and presented to the Parties of both organizations

AREA OF COOPERATION	ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT/ONGOING	OUTCOMES/PLANS THUS FAR
<u>Promoting ecosystem based approaches for the conservation of the marine and coastal environment and ecosystems and the sustainable use of its living and natural resources</u>	Contribute to the formulation/implementation of a regional framework strategy based on the ecosystem approach and on agreed indicators and reference points (ecological, biological, etc.) to monitor the status of the marine environment and coastal ecosystems and that of marine living natural resources (ONGOING)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First MedSuit Regional Workshop (November 2014) which led to the proposal of common indicators to measure GES for commercially exploited fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea. - GFCM inputs to the EcAp process in relation to EO3.

VI. Implementation of the 2012 MoU (2/2)

- The MoU has already led to several tangible results:
 - Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment (supported by EcAp-MEDI, EcAp MEDII and MedSuit Projects)
 - Integration of environmental concerns in the context of social and economic development, especially in relation to fisheries and aquaculture, through a joint regional strategy, also involving other partner organizations (i.e. ACCOBAMS and IUCN)
 - Harmonization of existing respective criteria to identify Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) and Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs), in particular those located partially or wholly in areas beyond national jurisdiction (Res. GFCM/37/2013/1 “on area based management of fisheries, including through the establishment of FRAs and coordination with the UNEP-MAP initiatives on the establishment of SPAMIs”)
 - Joint participation in relevant international fora to raise awareness on the positive results stemming from enhanced cooperation between RSCs and RFMOs

VII. Case Study: Joint Efforts to implement the Ecosystem Approach

- The implementation of the Ecosystem Approach has been - and continues to be - a major focus both for UNEP/MAP and GFCM. This includes:
 - Assisting and building capacity of Southern Mediterranean Countries to implement IMAP
 - Cooperating towards a Quality Status Report (QSR) for the Mediterranean, by 2017, which will be based on the IMAP common indicators
 - In line with the Ecosystem Approach and with the overall aim to achieve, inter alia, the Aichi 11 target, coordinating further with ACCOBAMS, IUCN-Med and MedPAN on Spatial-based Protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity (preparation of a draft Joint Strategy is ongoing)
 - Contributing to SDG 14 via a regional strategy which has been adopted by the GFCM, including specific regional targets tantamount to those in SDG 14, to be implemented jointly (active involvement of UNEP-MAP)

VIII. Conclusions

Building on the existing MoU, UNEP-MAP and GFCM will seek to attain:

- Closer, strategic and operational cooperation in order to strengthen regional ocean governance in the Mediterranean Sea and particularly to:
 - implement SDG14 and meet its specific targets in an effective manner
 - achieve Aichi 11 and closer cooperation on management of SPAMIs
 - collaborate for implementation of IMAP, especially in relation to EO3 and exchange of data for the purpose of assessment
 - strengthen the common Contracting Parties' efforts and capacities to implement their existing legal obligations under the respective frameworks of GFCM and UNEP MAP/Barcelona Convention (especially SPA/Biodiversity Protocol, ICZM Protocol, Marine Litter Regional Plan, SAP/BIO, further work on implementing the Ecosystem Approach, the IMAP and the Joint Strategy) through coordinated/joint activities
- Regular monitoring of achievements and sharing of information on implementation of MoU with other organizations
- Enhancement of cooperation in light of recent decisions taken at the international level, including UNGA related processes

Thank you for your attention!

United Nations Environment Programme
Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan
Vassileos Konstantinou 48, Athens 11635
Greece
<http://www.unepmap.org>

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
Palazzo Blumenstihl, Via Vittoria Colonna 1, Rome, 001293
Italy
<http://www.fao.org/gfcm>



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



General Fisheries Commission for the
Mediterranean
Commission générale des pêches pour la
Méditerranée