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**RECREATIONAL FISHERIES IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES: A REVIEW
OF EXISTING LEGAL FRAMEWORKS**



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GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

**RECREATIONAL FISHERIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES: A REVIEW
OF EXISTING LEGAL FRAMEWORKS**

by

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

The importance of recreational fisheries in the Mediterranean has been emphasized by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) during its thirtieth Session (2006). The Commission mandated its Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) through the Sub-Committee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS) to undertake a series of studies on the legislative and socio-economic aspects of recreational fisheries in the Mediterranean.

The purpose of this study is to provide a snapshot of recreational fisheries legal frameworks within the Mediterranean with a view to initiating discussion and experience sharing throughout the basin with the longer term intent to promote homogenous and comprehensive recreational fisheries management in the Mediterranean. To be of use over time, this preliminary document would need to be updated regularly with information provided to the GFCM Secretariat, especially on the enactment of any new law or regulation, or amendments of texts in force, in order to facilitate this process.

The document was prepared by Charline Gaudin (Legal Assistant) and Cassandra De Young (Fishery Planning Analyst), Development and Planning Service, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department.

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to provide a snapshot of recreational fisheries legal frameworks within the Mediterranean with a view to promoting homogenous and comprehensive recreational fisheries management in the Mediterranean. The study reviews the existing laws and regulations concerning recreational fisheries adopted by Mediterranean countries. It provides first an overview of relevant international initiatives regarding the management of recreational fisheries and a summary of marine recreational fisheries within the Mediterranean basin. The core of the study focuses on a comparative analysis of the main management measures adopted by States, including: (i) access regimes to fisheries resources; (ii) conservation measures; (iii) special recreational fisheries regulations; and (iv) monitoring, control and surveillance of recreational fisheries.

CONTENTS

Preparation of this document	iii
Acknowledgements	iii
Abstract	iv
Abbreviations and acronyms	vii
1. Introduction	1
2. Background	3
2.1 International initiatives guiding recreational fisheries management in the Mediterranean	3
2.2 Recreational fisheries in the Mediterranean context	6
2.2.1 Definitions of recreational fisheries	6
2.2.2 Targeted species in Mediterranean recreational fisheries	8
2.2.3 Socio-economic impacts of Mediterranean recreational fisheries	11
2.2.4 Recreational fisheries stakeholders and their role in management	15
2.2.5 Recreational fisheries policies	16
2.2.6 Legal frameworks	19
3. Management measures	22
3.1 Access regimes	22
3.1.1 Categories of licences	23
3.1.2 Special authorization/licences	25
3.1.3 Duration of licence	25
3.1.4 Licence fees	25
3.1.5 Licence transferability	26
3.1.6 Licence eligibility restrictions	26
3.1.7 Licence issuing institution	27
3.2 Conservation measures	27
3.2.1 Prohibition of sale	29
3.2.2 Limitations on fishing modalities and tackles	30
3.2.3 Catch limits/daily bag limits	31
3.2.4 Protection and conservation of juveniles	32
3.2.5 Prohibited species	34
3.2.6 Fish reserves	34
3.2.7 Temporal restrictions	36
3.2.8 Other recreational fishing restrictions	36
3.3 Special recreational fisheries regulations	37
3.3.1 Underwater recreational fishing regulations	37
3.3.2 Sport fishing competition regulatory frameworks	38
3.3.3 Competition authorizations	39
3.3.4 Tourism/charter recreational fishing	40
3.4 Monitoring and control of recreational fisheries	42
3.4.1 Monitoring and control bodies	43
3.4.2 Monitoring and control measures	43
References	50
Appendix 1. Licence regimes for recreational fisheries in the Mediterranean	53
Appendix 2. Main management measures of recreational fisheries in the Mediterranean	57
Appendix 3. Minimum sizes of the species potentially concerned by recreational fisheries	71
Appendix 4. Example of marine reserves with impacts on recreational fishing in the Mediterranean	75
Appendix 5. Underwater recreational fishing regulations in the Mediterranean	83

List of figures and tables

	Page
Figure 1. Example of recreational fisheries stratification	8
Figure 2. Examples of recreational fisheries licences found in the Mediterranean	23
Figure 3. Recreational and commercial fisheries zoning in 24 Mediterranean MPAs	36
 Table 1. Common recreational fisheries-targeted species in Egypt, France, Malta, Spain and Turkey	10
Table 2. Main recreational fishing regulations in the Mediterranean countries	20
Table 3. Management measures in use for recreational fisheries in the Mediterranean countries	28

Abbreviations and acronyms

BFT	Bluefin tuna
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
CF	commercial fishing
EEZ	exclusive economic zone
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
UNCLOS	United Nations Law of the Sea Convention
MCS	monitoring, control and surveillance
RF	recreational fisheries
RFMOs	regional fisheries management organizations
TAC	total allowable catch
UN	United Nations