



COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

Intersessional Meetings of Aquaculture and Fisheries Subject Groups

Seventh Meeting of the Aquaculture Subject Group (AS) and Twenty-eighth meeting of the Fisheries Subject (FS)

2 – 5 November 2021

GFCM activities report to CWP

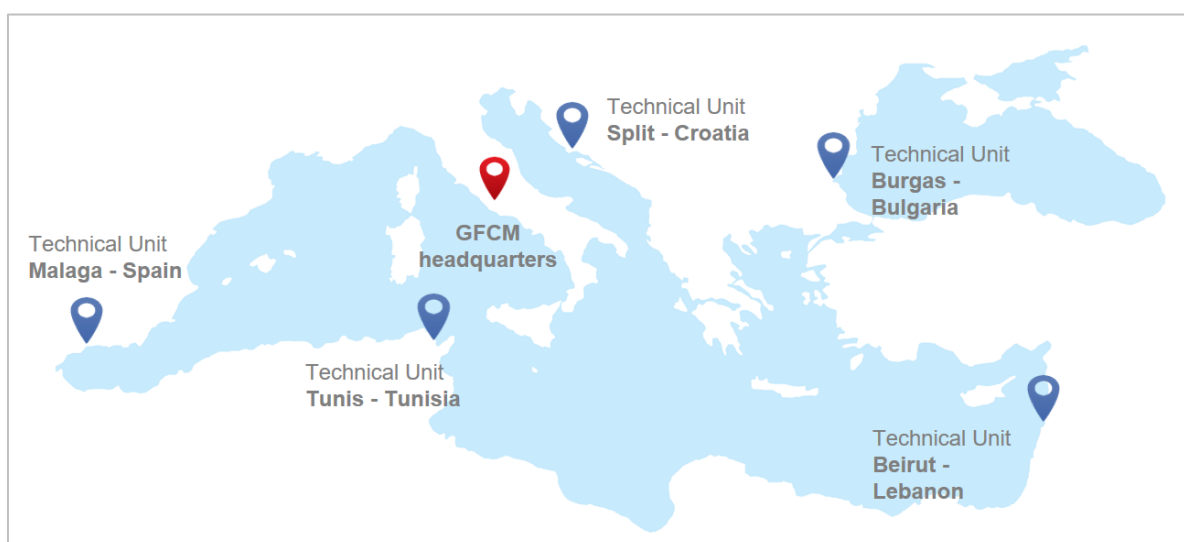
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General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)¹

- The FAO regional fisheries management organization for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, established in 1949 under the provisions of Article XIV of the FAO Constitution

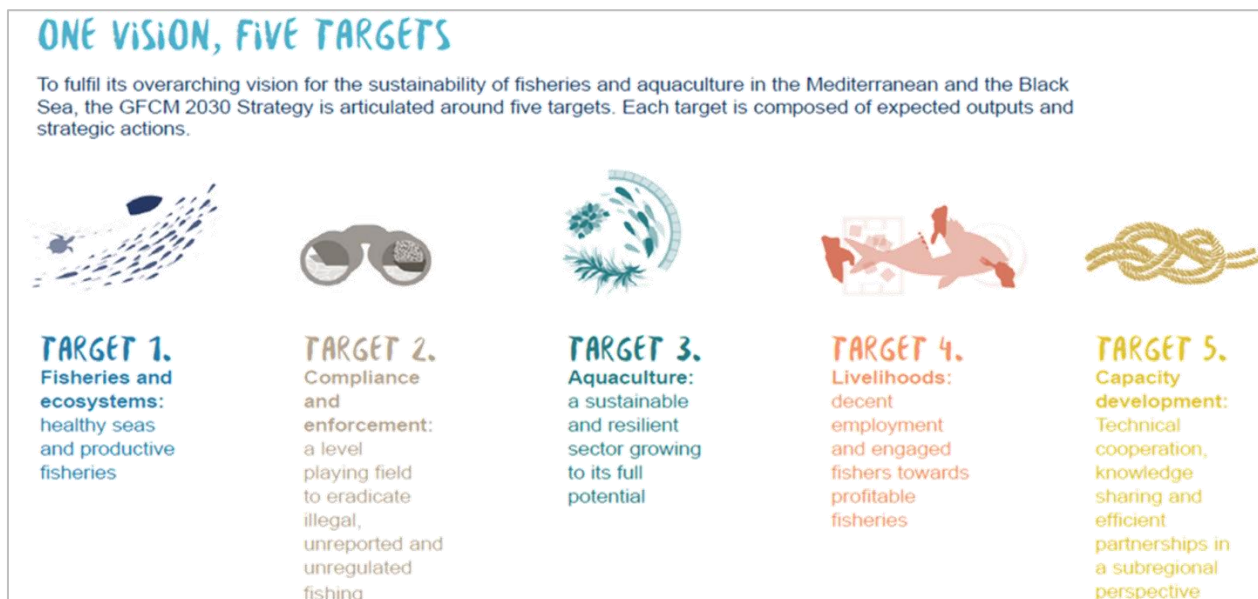
OBJECTIVE	MEMBERSHIP	KEY FUNCTIONS
Federate efforts of countries towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources at all levels (biological, social, economic and environmental) • the sustainable development of aquaculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 Contracting Parties: 9 Mediterranean states, 3 Black Sea states, and European Union • 5 Cooperating non-Contracting Parties: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Jordan, Moldova and Ukraine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt binding Recommendations for fisheries and aquaculture governance; • Contribute to marine spatial planning and level playing field.

- 5 Technical Units have been established in each subregion of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.



¹ <https://www.fao.org/gfcm/about/en/>

- **GFCM 2030 Strategy** – Building together a new strategy for **Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries and aquaculture**. Its five targets are in alignment with blue transformation, a pillar of FAO’s new Strategic Framework



I. GFCM - Fisheries

- Improvement of the fisheries **Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF)**² of the GFCM as an instrument supporting the identification and timely collection of fisheries-related data by its contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties (CPCs) necessary to improve the formulation of sound scientific advice by relevant GFCM subsidiary bodies in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.
- Progress on the implementation of **data quality standards**, including fisheries quality indicators on the DCRF online platform³, and related checks workflows to enhance the overall quality of fisheries data in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.
- **Assessment** of more than 80 **stocks** (74 in the Mediterranean and 8 in the Black Sea in 2021). Progress towards a modern dissemination via the GFCM website of **Stock Assessment Forms (SAFs)** as validated by the GFCM subsidiary bodies for relevant Mediterranean and Black Sea species. Development of a new GFCM framework to organize **Stock Assessment Results (STAR)** which streamlines and automates the information flow from stock assessments to scientific advice, strengthens quality assurance and data dissemination
- Analysis of the baseline status of the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (**RPOA-SSF**) in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, and development of an interactive **SSF mapping tool**⁴ on the GFCM website in view of promoting awareness of and building synergies among relevant past, present and future projects.
- Development of **protocols** (discards, incidental catch of vulnerable species, scientific surveys) with the aim to provide a harmonized methodological framework for data collection that is applicable to the context of different countries and enables the comparison of data at the regional and subregional levels.

² www.fao.org/gfcm/data/dcrf

³ www.fao.org/gfcm/data/dcrf/platform

⁴ <https://www.fao.org/gfcm/activities/fisheries/small-scale-fisheries/mapping-tool>

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- Conducted **selected activities** at national and subregional level: demersal trawl surveys-at-sea, pelagic acoustic survey, beam trawl surveys, pelagic surveys, socio-economic survey pilot studies for recreational fisheries, discards monitoring programme, as well as specific actions on the incidental catch of vulnerable species.
 - Launching of the GFCM **Database on sensitive benthic habitats and species** (with currently 586 records of the bamboo coral and useful analysis tools).
 - Publication of the third issue of *The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries (SoMFi 2020)* in December 2020, together with its *At a glance* version – translated in all GFCM official languages – and a digital version⁵.
 - Finalization of a number of **GFCM publications**, covering mitigation measures, incidental catch of vulnerable species, recreational fisheries and non-indigenous species, and preparation of two analyses of the COVID-19 impacts on fisheries and aquaculture during the initial months of the pandemic.
 - Release of the **GFCM Capture Production 1970-2019**⁶ under Regional Capture Statistical Collections of FAO in close collaboration with the FAO Statistics Team (NFISS) of Fisheries Division.
 - Enhancement of **data transparency** on the GFCM website⁷ through updated interactive dashboards for an advanced user experience to consult those public data that are gathered in accordance with relevant GFCM recommendations.

II. GFCM - Aquaculture

- Improvement of the Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (**SIPAM**)⁸ in support of relevant GFCM activities through the provision of an exhaustive overview of aquaculture production in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.
- Progress on the SIPAM platform to enhance **online submission procedures** of aquaculture information (production statistics, production centres, and market data) by CPCs through their National Focal Points (**NFPs**), officially appointed by their authorities, as an obligation in line with Recommendation GFCM/41/2017/1.
- Enhancement of the GFCM **aquaculture data collection system** through the consolidation of aquaculture production statistics in the SIPAM database in close collaboration with NFPs by leveraging on selected data validation mechanism.
- Capacity-building and knowledge sharing promoted through Aquaculture Demonstrative Centres.
- Progress on the support of allocated zones for aquaculture (AZA) implementation within marine spatial planning (MSP) by defining specific road maps to improve data collection and the coordination between different stakeholders involved.
- Promotion of market-oriented production and social acceptability with a focus on market data.
- Environmental services of aquaculture highlighted.

⁵ <https://www.fao.org/3/cb2429en/online/cb2429en.html>

⁶ www.fao.org/gfcm/data/capture-production

⁷ <https://www.fao.org/gfcm/data/en/>

⁸ www.fao.org/gfcm/activities/aquaculture/sipam