

# STUDIES AND REVIEWS

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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**

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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.

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**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