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Продовольственная и
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Organización de las
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منظمة
الأمم المتحدة
للإغذية والزراعة

COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

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GFCM activities report to CWP

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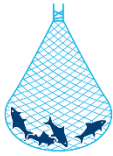
- RFMO established in 1949 under the provisions of Article XIV of the FAO Constitution.
- AREA OF APPLICATION: The Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea.
- MEMBERSHIP
 - 24 Contracting Parties: 9 Mediterranean states, 3 Black Sea states, European Union and Japan
 - 5 Cooperating non-Contracting Parties: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Jordan, Moldova and Ukraine
- OBJECTIVE
 - Ensure the conservation and sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of living marine resources in the GFCM area of competence;
 - Ensure the sustainable development of aquaculture in the GFCM area of competence.
- KEY FUNCTIONS
 - Adopt binding Recommendations for fisheries and aquaculture governance;
 - Contribute to marine spatial planning and level playing field.

I. GFCM - Fisheries

- **Mid-term strategy (2017–2020)**¹ towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries contributes to achieving United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in

¹ www.fao.org/gfcm/activities/fisheries/mid-term-strategy

particular relevant target of **SDG 14** on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources.



1. Reverse the declining trend of fish stocks

- Strengthened scientific advice
- Multiannual management plans
- Assessed socio-economic impacts



2. Support livelihoods for sustainable small-scale fisheries

- Livelihood diversification, market access and decent working conditions
- Participatory mechanisms
- Profitable fisheries



3. Curb illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing

- Modular monitoring, control and surveillance
- Regional standards for vessel monitoring and control practices
- Reinforced inspections



4. Minimize and mitigate unwanted interactions

- Focus on climate change, marine litter and non-indigenous species
- Enhanced gear selectivity
- Spatial management measures



5. Enhance capacity building and cooperation

- Science-policy interface
- Synergies with relevant international organizations
- Training and technical assistance

- Fisheries **Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF)**² of the GFCM as an instrument supporting the implementation of the mid-term strategy among the GFCM contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties (CPCs).
- Progress on the operationalization of the **DCRF** to ensure a timely collection and provision of comprehensive and reliable information by CPCs in support of the formulation of scientific advice by relevant GFCM subsidiary bodies.
- Improvement on the integrated **DCRF online platform**³ encompassing data transmission procedures from CPCs, in line with the DCRF of the GFCM, including but not limited to stock assessment input data.
- Progressive implementation of **data quality standards** and related checks workflows to enhance the overall quality of fisheries data in support in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.
- Release of the 2018 edition of The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries (**SoMFi 2018**)⁴, the flagship publication of the GFCM, which brings together the most exhaustive, up-to-date and reliable data and indicators, providing a comprehensive overview of regional and subregional trends in Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries, with a view to supporting decision-making. Similar to the FAO global reference series, The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA), SoMFi is a tool for measuring progress in meeting the targets set by the UN SDG 14.
- Release of “**GFCM Capture Production 1970-2016**”⁵ under Regional Capture Statistical Collections of FAO in close collaboration with the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics and Information Branch (FIAS).
- 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 www.fao.org/gfcm/publications/somfi/2018

⁵ www.fao.org/gfcm/data/capture-production and www.fao.org/fishery/statistics/gfcm-capture-production/en

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- Work on the application of the “Matrix for the characterization of fishing activities”, a tool for characterizing Small-scale fisheries (SSF), in the GFCM area of application.

II. GFCM - Aquaculture

- **Strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture**⁶ (Resolution GFCM/41/2017/1) to secure equal terms of competition and discuss minimum common criteria in order to address cross-cutting and transboundary issues in relation to aquaculture in Med&BS riparian countries.
- **SDGs** of particular relevance for Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture: SDG 14 on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, SDG 2 on food security, SDG 6 on safe and accessible water, SDG 8 on sustainable economic growth and decent employment, SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production, SDG 13 on climate action, SDG 15 on biodiversity, forests and desertification and SDG 17 on global partnership.
- Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (**SIPAM**)⁷ 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 data (production statistics and centres) by CPCs through their National Focal Points (**NFPs**), officially appointed by their authorities, as an obligation in line with Recommendation GFCM/41/2017/1 (deadline shifted from 30 June to 31 December).
- Lunch of the first data call for national **market data** at GFCM level, including information on import/export of fingerlings, fish feeds and their origin, or importance because of pathology risks.
- Improvement of **data validation mechanism** by leveraging on the collaboration with NFPs being also performed through the use of ad hoc dashboard, before confirmation and treatment of the data.

⁶ www.fao.org/gfcm/activities/aquaculture/strategy

⁷ www.fao.org/gfcm/activities/aquaculture/sipam