



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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

GFCM contribution to a plastic-free Mediterranean Sea

Miguel Bernal, GFCM Secretariat



A Plastic-free healthy Mediterranean
Sea: operationalizing the BLUEMED
R&I Pilot Action

20 January 2020, Venice, Italy

A tailor made approach to semi-enclosed seas

- The Mediterranean and Black Seas are **semi-enclosed basins**; **special marine environments more susceptible to human impacts (UNCLOS)**
- Cumulative impacts require integrated approach and collaboration between all actors



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“We need to maintain healthy ecosystems to allow for productive and sustainable fisheries”

Mediterranean and Black Sea: challenges

Multispecies, multigear fisheries



86 500

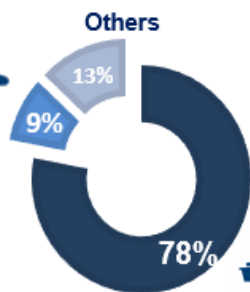
VESSELS OPERATE
IN TOTAL



Mainly small-scale vessels



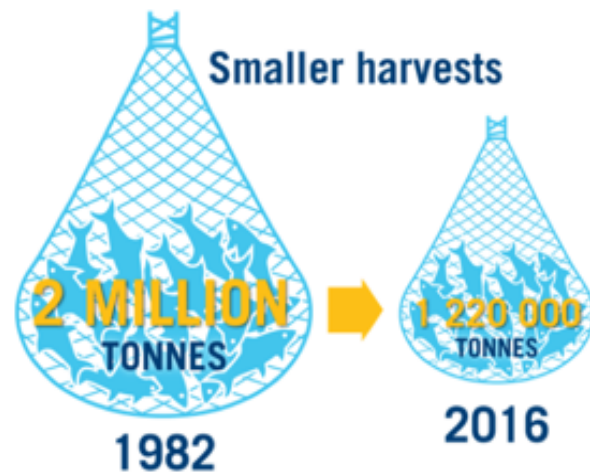
Demersal trawlers



Mediterranean



Small scale



High overexploitation of resources

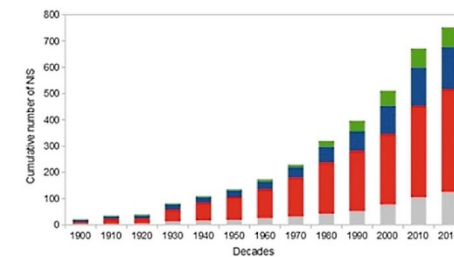


High prevalence of IUU



Highly populated
Pollution (plastic)
Degraded habitats

Climate change Increasing NIS



275 000 tonnes discarded

Reports of incidentally-caught vulnerable species

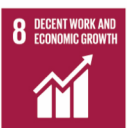


The GFCM response: The mid-term strategy

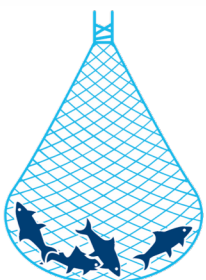
Taking strategic action in direct response to the SDGs:
Improve, by 2020, the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development



The mid-term strategy contributes to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular relevant targets of **SDG14:**



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

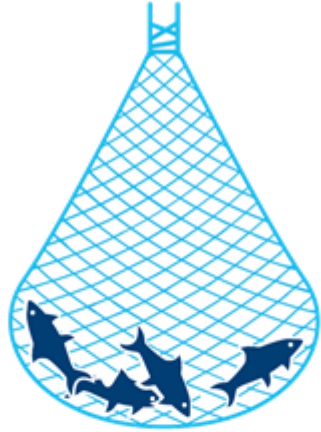
- Focus on climate change, marine litter and non-indigenous species
- Enhanced gear selectivity
- Spatial management measures



5. Enhance capacity building and cooperation

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

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1. Reverse the declining trend of fish stocks

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

- Manual for surveys at sea includes dedicated indications for the harmonized collection of information on plastic abundance and distribution
- Surveys are being carried out through all the Mediterranean (dedicated GFCM action + FAO regional projects activities + EU MEDITS programme); regional analysis expected in 2020 / 2021

GFCM Contribution to plastic free Mediterranean



2. Support livelihoods for sustainable small-scale fisheries

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

- Regional plan of action for Small Scale Fisheries (RPOA - SSF) includes specific activities for marine (and plastic) litter such as:
 - Promoting the participation of fishers in the circular economy, including schemes for compensating fishers for collecting marine litter
 - Combatting ghost fishing by promoting the recovery of nets as well as SSF gear traceability

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

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

- Adoption of decisions towards better identification and management of fishing gears (in line with FAO guidelines)
- Adoption of decisions requiring the use of more environmentally friendly fishing gear

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4. Minimize and mitigate unwanted interactions

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

- Alternative fishing gears, including degradable FADs and tailor made fishing gears for “fishing for litter” being tested
- Information collected during the strategy (2017 – 2020) expected to inform an **adaptation plan for marine litter and fisheries**

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5. Enhance capacity building and cooperation

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

- Strong collaboration with UN Environment / MAP, including on the implementation of regional plan for marine litter
- Ongoing training activities in Mediterranean countries (implementation of manuals for the collection of scientific information on plastic, monitoring control and surveillance, etc.)

+ plastic-free meetings policy adopted



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Thank you for your attention



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