

**One Mediterranean:**  
practices, results and strategies for a common Sea

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*BlueMed CSA Final Conference*  
Feb. 22-24, 2021

# Strategic Action: Biodiversity and Resources

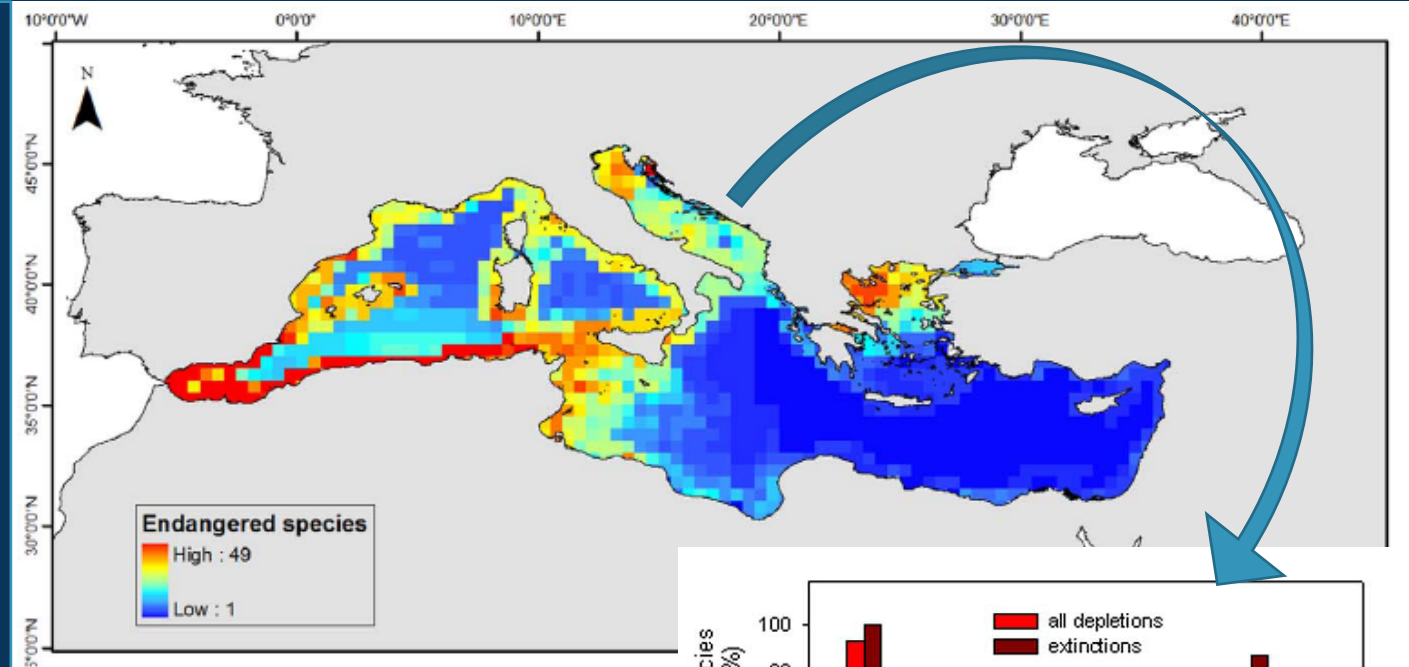
*PRIORITY 2: SUPPORT SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF  
FOOD FROM THE SEA*

Pablo Abaunza - IEO- Spain

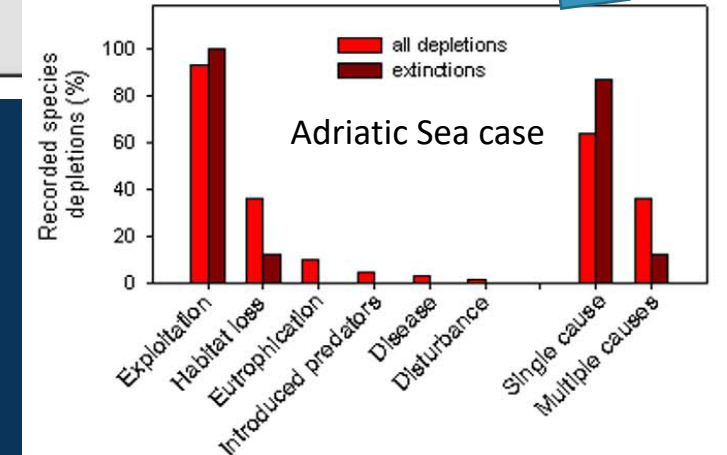
**blue****ed** Research and Innovation  
for blue jobs and growth  
in the Mediterranean Area

## The Mediterranean Sea: a hotspot of biodiversity under threat

- 17 000 species and 20%-30% are endemic
- Heterogeneity in species richness and species composition throughout the basin
- Represents the highest proportion of threatened Marine Areas in Europe (32%)
- The main threats to biodiversity are essentially human driven:
  - Habitat modification and loss
  - Pollution - eutrophication
  - Overexploitation
  - Others: alien species, climate change,

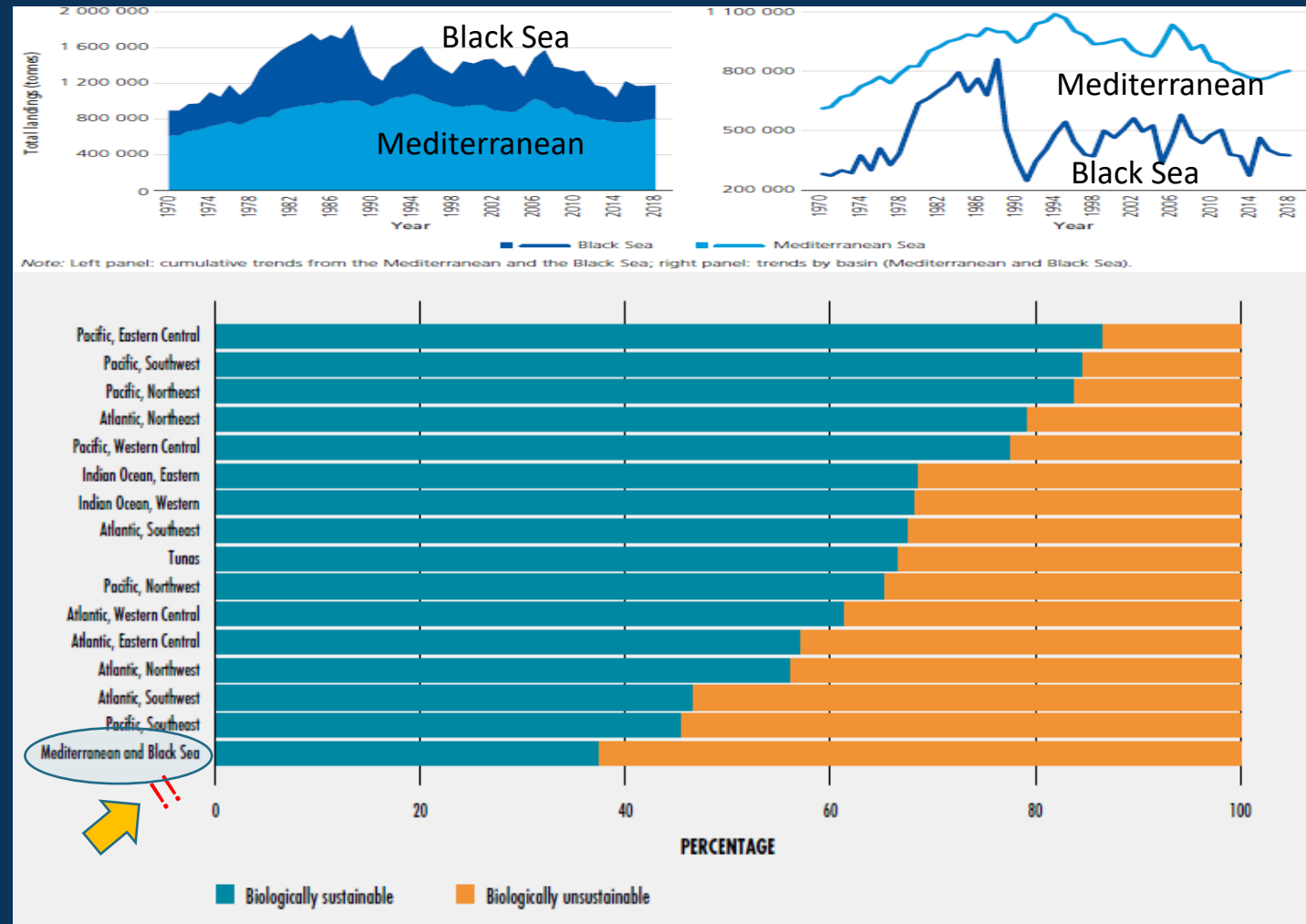


Source: Coll et al. 2010. Plos One, 5(8): e11842



## Urgent need to reverse the overexploitation of fisheries resources

- More than 60% of fishery resources are being exploited unsustainably. It is the worst figure in the world.
- Small-scale boats (> 51,000) are the majority and also employ the most people. The revenue is higher in the industrial fleet (trawlers).
- The total catch in 2018 was 1.3 million t. 53.8% coming from anchovies, sardines and the like. Turkey was the main country (23.3%)
- Aquaculture grows progressively and is approaching to wild capture



Source FAO, 2020

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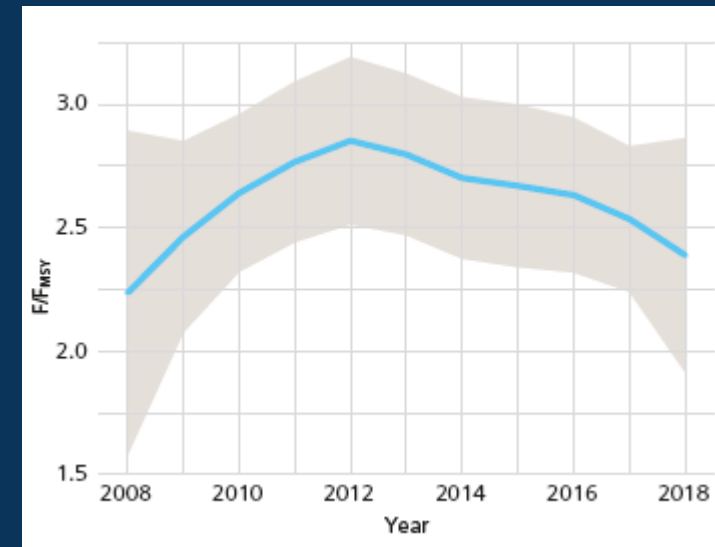
## OBJECTIVES

- Establish a medium-long-term plan (2030) to protect the marine environment and reverse degraded marine ecosystems and marine biodiversity, including the control of alien species.
- Achieve in the medium term the exploitation of all fishery resources under the MSY regime . Revaluing artisanal fisheries.
- Set up sustainable food production from the sea (fishing and aquaculture) and sustainable consumption under the blue growth framework.
- Improve society behaviors for a better consumer practices.
- Comprehensive analysis of the management and conservation alternatives that are best adapted to sustainability in a climate change scenario.



*Red Corals in the Mediterranean Sea.*  
Source: Ocean Foundation

*Get  $F/F_{MSY}$  to approach "1" and not exceed it. Figure shows the case of Mediterranean stocks*  
Source: FAO, 2020



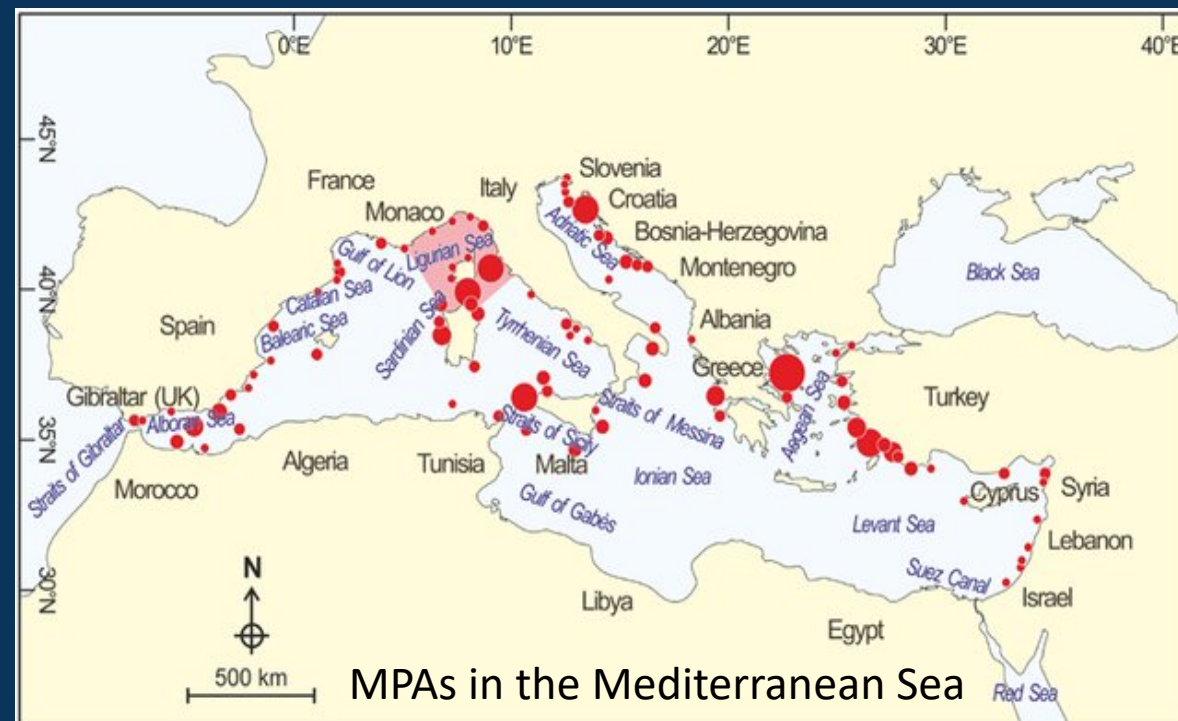


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## IMPLEMENTATION

- Clear relationship with the work under European Framework Directives: MSFD, MSP, Habitats, Birds, WFD, and Common Fisheries Policy and with our priorities: P1, P3, P5, P7 and all cross-cutting ones.
- Apply and promote the ecosystem approach in environmental and fisheries management including the definition and effective management of MPAs.
- **Timing (start):** 2022
- **Proposed funding and instruments:** Horizon Europe – Mission Areas: Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters. ‘Farm to fork’ initiative through Research and Innovation funding; EMFF; Life Program; FAO supporting actions; Convention on Biological Diversity; JPI Oceans; JRC; European Marine Board; Maritime Clusters; Era-nets.

**Promotional actions:** UN Global Compact; Unesco-IOC; EIT-Food; ONGs (WWF, Oceana, IUCN, Birdlife); Specific Workshops.



Source: Bianchi et al. 2012. pp: 1-55

