

MALTA MEDFISH4EVER DECLARATION STRENGTHENING FISHERIES GOVERNANCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

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The challenges in the Mediterranean

The Mediterranean Sea has a very distinct geographical, climatic and biological nature that makes it very different from other sea basins

The challenges in the MED - 1

- ❑ **Biodiversity:** *greater number of commercial species in the MED, with generally smaller individuals compared with other EU waters*
- ❑ **Complexity of the marine ecosystem:** *greater number of species, with greater potential interactions between them as well*
- ❑ **Presence of invasive species:** *phenomenon in the eastern MED, with a high number of invasive species coming from the Red Sea through the Suez Canal*

The challenges in the MED - 2

- ❑ ***Issues with the definition of EU waters***
- ❑ ***Shared stocks with third countries***
- ❑ ***International management of fisheries:***
Fisheries on shared stocks are managed by two regional fisheries organisations: ICCAT/GFCM

The challenges in the MED – 3

- ❑ **Daily activity of boats:** *the vast majority of fishing vessels come back to port every day, with catches mixing several species. Species usually below the 50 kg threshold set by the Control Regulation, catches are not declared*
- ❑ **Fleet composition:** *most of the vessels are less than 10 m long, not covered by the rules on registering catches, many catches are unrecorded*

The challenges of the MED - 4

- ❑ ***Small-scale operations involving small vessels*** represent 80 % of the MED fishing fleet, 60 % of jobs and 23 % of landings
- ❑ ***Economic performance:*** bad economic performance. In sharp contrast to many EU fleets of other regions, which showed steady improvement, EU fleets in the MED did not improve their economic performance

State of play

- ❑ *The stocks in the MED are in a terrible state; scientists have consistently assessed that more than 90% of the main stocks are overfished. It is the same for EU stocks as for stocks shared with third countries*
- ❑ *This decline is putting the very future of hundreds of thousands of persons at risk whose livelihood depends on fisheries across the basin (more than 300.000 direct jobs – landing values approx. 3 billion USD)*

Catania Process

- ❑ *The momentum for action is growing since the beginning of 2016. We convened a high-level seminar on the status of stocks in Catania in February 2016 and a Ministerial conference in Brussels in April 2016, where the riparian countries agreed to increase efforts and cooperation to restore healthy fisheries*
- ❑ *We were convinced that change can happen by establishing new governance*

The MEDFISH4EVER Declaration - 1

- ❑ *A common declaration on the future of Mediterranean fisheries*
- ❑ *An act of concerted political ownership and governance*
- ❑ *Sets objectives and targets and requests **SPECIFIC** actions, in line with the international legal framework, for flag, coastal, port and market States*

The MEDFISH4EVER Declaration - 2

- ❑ *A text building on **GFCM 2017-2020 multi-annual strategy***
- ❑ *A text consulted with Member States – NGOs – other DGs (NEAR, LS, ENV, SG, EEAS) – MEDAC – GFCM - third countries*
- ❑ *13 countries signing up to now (8 MED MS, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, Albania, Montenegro) – 3 countries supporting (Algeria, Egypt, Israel)*
- ❑ *Covering more than 75% of the fishing fleets in the MED*

Overall Objectives - 1

- ❑ *Improve level playing field for fisheries in the Mediterranean*
- ❑ *Improve the situation for small-scale fisheries*
- ❑ *Fight IUU fishing*
- ❑ *Have better data collection, scientific advice and conservation measures*
- ❑ *Help improve the situation in South Mediterranean riparian States with targeted capacity building/technical assistance actions*

Overall Objectives - 2

- Address the impact of other human activities (e.g. pollution, transport) on fishing resources*
- Support direct and indirect employment in fishing industry*
- Offer possibilities for diversification in other blue economy activities*

Detailed commitments to implement - 1

Enhance data collection and scientific evaluation:

- cover key MED stocks by 2020*
- common guidelines/working rules on data/stock assessments to ensure reproducibility (GFCM recommendation by 2019)*

Detailed commitments to implement -2

Ecosystem-based fisheries management framework:

- implement by 2020 regional capacity plan*
- manage by 2020 key MED stocks with MAP; establish GFCM calendar with qualified objectives to set up MAPs*
- fisheries restricted/MPAs for at least 10% of MED by 2020 and establish relevant GFCM calendar*
- set by 2020 baseline rules for recreational fisheries*
- ensure protection of vulnerable species*

Detailed commitments to implement

-3

Develop culture of compliance to fight IUU fishing:

- by 2020 have adequate legal framework and capabilities to ensure control*
- GFCM to help the implementation by countries of measures of the **new regional plan of action to fight IUU***
- develop at sub-regional basis Joint Schemes of International Inspection of high seas*
- by 2018 establish at GFCM compliance indicators for IUU*
- attribute by 2020 IMO numbers for vessels above 24 meters*

Detailed commitments to implement -4

Support sustainable small-scale fisheries and aquaculture:

- ❑ *as from 2018 set up **regional plan of action for SSF** (key issues: fisheries co-management, law impact techniques/fishing gears, social inclusion including **role of women and young people in employment**, valorisation of catches, diversification, contribution to environmental protection)*
- ❑ *implement new GFCM multi-annual strategy for aquaculture*

Detailed commitments to implement -5

Greater solidarity and coordination:

- by 2018 GFCM network for cooperation/technical assistance*
- in 2018 GFCM work programme on spatial planning*
- collaboration with regional organisations on environment/economic/social sustainability on MED*

What's next

- ❑ *Achieve signatures of other third countries on the Declaration*
- ❑ *Work plan for the next 10 years in the MED*
- ❑ *Implement the **specific measurable actions***
- ❑ *Collaborate with regional organisations on environment/economic/social sustainability in the MED*

GFCM perspectives

***Use GFCM to make effective
implementation and to monitor
through the GFCM 2017-2020
multiannual plan***

*Increase funding for GFCM through EU
voluntary contribution*



GFCM mid-term strategy for 2017-2020

TARGET 1: REVERSE THE DECLINING TREND OF FISH STOCKS THROUGH STRENGTHENED SCIENTIFIC ADVICE IN SUPPORT OF MANAGEMENT

TARGET 2: SUPPORT LIVELIHOODS FOR COASTAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

TARGET 3: CURB ILLEGAL UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING, THROUGH A REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION

TARGET 4: MINIMIZE AND MITIGATE UNWANTED INTERACTIONS BETWEEN FISHERIES AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND ENVIRONMENT

TARGET 5: ENHANCE CAPACITY BUILDING AND COOPERATION

100 % of key Mediterranean stocks are subject to adequate data collection

- ❑ Development of a **new Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF)**
- ❑ **GFCM Forum on Fisheries Science (GFCM FishForum)**, expected to act as a hub for collecting in a more comprehensive manner experiences and scientific information/data
- ❑ **Regional surveys at sea**, including acoustic surveys for pelagic species as well as trawl surveys for demersal fisheries
- ❑ **Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation**

Effective unity of action of scientific activities

- ❑ Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC) to issue a proposal **for common working rules** to be then submitted to the GFCM annual session in 2019 for adoption as Recommendation
- ❑ Towards a Framework for Collaboration between scientific bodies working on stock assessments in the Mediterranean and Black Seas (**Meeting on 3rd May 2017, with SAC and STEFC**)

100 % of the key fisheries with a multi-annual management plan

- ❑ GFCM during its 2018 annual session to agree on **the list of key fisheries** for which a multi-annual management plan should be implemented and on a progressive calendar with yearly quantified objectives to **set-up management plans by 2020**
- ❑ **implementation of a bycatch monitoring programme**
- ❑ implementation of effective management measures to improve the **selectivity of fisheries**
- ❑ Come up with **regional capacity plan**

New fisheries restricted areas (FRAs)

- ❑ The promotion of the **identification and establishment of new FRAs** to protect priority areas within ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), VMEs, etc
- ❑ This action should aim to achieve at least the protection of **10% of the coastal and marine areas**, as expressed in Aichi Target 11
- ❑ The CPCs should be closely involved in the definition of new FRAs

Fight against IUU fishing

- ❑ **Organization and celebration of an international day for the fight against IUU fishing**
- ❑ **Assessment** of the quantity, magnitude and characteristics of IUU fishing in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea
- ❑ **Regional plan of action to fight IUU fishing**
- ❑ Promotion of **training of national inspectors**
- ❑ **Mutual assistance system** to facilitate exchange of information between flag states and port states, **regional information system** to exchange port State measures related data, **regional VMS**

Small scale fisheries

- ❑ Implementation of a **regional survey on small-scale fisheries**
- ❑ Permanent **Working Group on Small-Scale and Recreational Fisheries – regional plan of action for SSF**
- ❑ Development of **indicators** to monitor the socio-economic status of small-scale fisheries and the management of recreational fisheries
- ❑ **Regional platform to engage and promote dialogue** among small-scale fishing associations
- ❑ Endorsement of the principle of **decent work**

GFCM Strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture

- ❑ **From 2017**, the implementation of the **GFCM Strategy** for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture which will support, inter alia, farming of food fish products, market access and trade, thereby creating employment opportunities and reducing the current stress on marine capture fisheries
- ❑ In line with the FAO Strategic Objective 2, **strengthened coordination with the FAO** Fisheries and Aquaculture Department and FAO regional projects

Cooperation and technical assistance

- ❑ A **permanent network for cooperation and technical assistance will be established within GFCM by end 2018**, taking into consideration FAO existing projects, to ensure an optimal coordination of the actions undertaken to develop the scientific and administrative capabilities of riparian countries
- ❑ The launch of a **regional programmes for education and training**
- ❑ Organization of a high-level conference on **fisheries governance**

Eco- system based fisheries management framework

- adoption of a comprehensive **regional management plan for red coral**
- adaptation strategy to cope with potential effects of **invasive species** and climate change on fisheries
- adaptation strategy to cope with potential effect of **marine litter** on fisheries

Spatial planning

- ❑ GFCM to present a work programme on spatial planning with a pre-identification of priority areas during its 2018 annual session. This work programme will be based on the result of consultations with riparian countries and relevant regional organisations and instruments

Some links

Press release: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-770_en.htm

Press Statement:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2014-2019/vella/announcements/press-statement-meiterranean-fisheries-conference-malta_en

Commissioner Vella speeches:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2014-2019/vella/announcements/ministerial-conference-mediterranean-fisheries-malta_en

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2014-2019/vella/announcements/ministerial-conference-mediterranean-fisheries-closing-remarks-malta_en



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Thank you!