

Half of Mediterranean fish catches are by Mediterranean Partner Countries

Fisheries production by Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs) was 2.8 million tonnes in 2006: 73% of production was from capture fisheries of which 42% came from the Mediterranean Sea. Pelagic species were the most prominent in the catches, and aquaculture accounted for 27% of total production. MPCs accounted for 54% of fish caught in the Mediterranean, and the EU-27 for 35%. The total catches by the MPCs in the Mediterranean increased by 47% in the period 1990-2006. Fisheries in the internal waters of the MPCs accounted for 11% of total production and for 15% of production from capture.

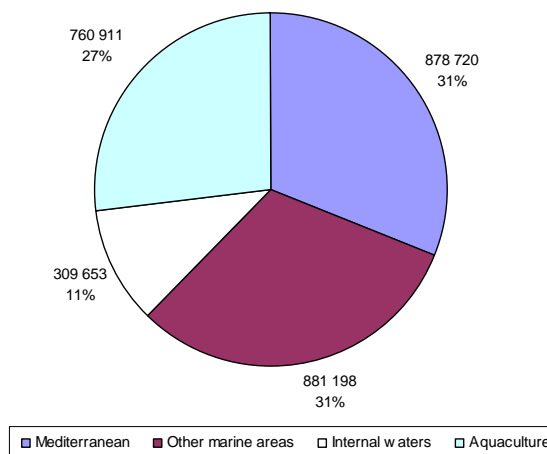
42% of MPCs fish catches from the Mediterranean

The total production (i.e. capture fisheries plus aquaculture) of fish by Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs)¹ in 2006 was 2.8 million tonnes (see Figure 1). Of these, 2.1 million tonnes (73%) were from capture fisheries and about 0.8 million tonnes (27%) from aquaculture. The three largest producers were Egypt (971 thousand tonnes, 34% of the total), Morocco (885 thousand tonnes, 31%) and Turkey (662 thousand tonnes, 23%).

Of the fishery products from capture fisheries, 878 thousand tonnes (42%) were from the Mediterranean and Black Seas² with 881 thousand tonnes (43%) taken from other marine areas – mainly by Morocco (834 thousand tonnes) in the

Eastern Central Atlantic (FAO major fishing area 34) and by Egypt (47 thousand tonnes) in the Western Indian Ocean (FAO major fishing area 51). Fisheries in internal waters only accounted for 310 thousand tonnes (15%) of the total catch.

Figure 1: MPCs fish production in 2006 (tonnes live weight)



¹The MPCs are Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, occupied Palestinian territory, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

²In this report the term Mediterranean will include the adjacent Black Sea and Sea of Azov.

The MPCs were responsible for 54% of the total catch of 1.6 million tonnes from the Mediterranean in 2006, with one of these countries alone (Turkey) accounting for 30% (489 thousand tonnes) of the total (see Table 1). EU-27 Member States caught 565 thousand tonnes – 35% of the total.

The remaining 11% (175 thousand tonnes) were mostly caught by other coastal states. The non-coastal states fishing in the Mediterranean (Japan, Korea and Taiwan) were principally targeting tuna and other large pelagic species.

Table 1: Catches in the Mediterranean in 2006 (tonnes live weight)

MPCs	878 720	EU-27	564 577	Others	175 381
Algeria	145 764	Bulgaria	5 628	Albania	3 287
Egypt	72 667	Greece	92 549	Bosnia	5
Israel	2 145	Spain	130 723	Croatia	37 830
Jordan	-	France	32 306	Georgia	2 948
Lebanon	3 541	Italy	298 307	Japan	161
Morocco	48 815	Cyprus	2 135	Korea Rep	68
Occupied Palestinian territory	2 324	Malta	1 330	Libya	40 297
Syria	3 395	Portugal	54	Monaco	1
Tunisia	110 903	Romania	614	Montenegro	501
Turkey	489 166	Slovenia	931	Russian Fed.	31 850
				Serbia	-
				Taiwan	9
				Ukraine	58 424
1 618 678					

General upward trend of catches by MPCs in the Mediterranean

The general trend in the catches by MPCs in the Mediterranean in the period 1990 – 2006 has been upward, though there have been considerable fluctuations (see Table 2). The total catches

increased by 47% in this period, with three of the Eastern coastal states (Egypt, Lebanon and Syria) showing the greatest relative increases of 105%, 148% and 113%, respectively.

Table 2: Catches by MPCs from the Mediterranean in 1990-2006 (tonnes live weight)

	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
DZ	90 196	105 879	113 160	133 628	134 325	141 530	113 464	126 260	145 764
EG	35 443	43 702	54 873	59 625	59 620	46 974	47 482	56 722	72 667
IL	3 941	3 577	3 966	3 618	3 444	2 961	2 103	2 680	2 145
JO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LB	1 430	4 065	3 646	3 650	3 673	3 613	3 601	3 523	3 541
MA	35 661	39 676	31 443	24 319	28 517	33 338	36 234	43 665	48 815
PS	...	1 229	2 623	1 950	2 379	1 507	2 994	1 818	2 324
SY	1 591	1 950	2 581	2 322	2 823	3 060	3 077	3 677	3 395
TN	88 055	82 931	94 744	97 655	95 862	89 403	110 510	107 929	110 903
TR	341 889	585 995	460 531	484 413	522 744	463 074	504 897	380 381	489 166
TOTAL	598 206	869 004	767 567	811 180	853 387	785 460	824 362	726 655	878 720

MPCs fisheries are coastal in nature

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) has divided the Mediterranean Sea into divisions and subdivisions, for statistical purposes, see Figure 2 and Figure 3. Table 3 shows that the MPCs catches in the Mediterranean are all in the statistical divisions adjacent to their coastlines, i.e. MPCs fisheries are largely coastal.

Catches from GFCM Division 1 contributed 25% to the total catches for which the area of catch is

recorded and were made by Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. The catches in GFCM Division 2 (9% of the total) were made by Tunisia, those in Division 3 (18% of the total) by the six coastal states (Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Israel, occupied Palestinian territory and Egypt) and those in GFCM Division 4 (47% of the total) were made by Turkey. Catches of tuna and tuna-like species are not recorded by the area of capture.

Table 3: Catches by MPCs by divisions of the Mediterranean in 2006 (tonnes live weight)

		DZ	EG	IL	JO	LB	MA	PS	SY	TN	TR
GFCM division	1	142 567	-	-	-	-	47 994	-	-	30 839	-
	1.1	142 567	-	-	-	-	47 994	-	-	-	-
	1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30 839	-
	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79 964	-
	2.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79 964	-
	3	-	70 685	2 056	-	3 152	-	2 246	2 894	-	78 407
	3.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61 878
	3.2	-	70 685	2 056	-	3 152	-	2 246	2 894	-	16 529
	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	410 759
	4.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70 409
	4.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	340 350
	4.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Unknown	3 197	1 982	89	-	389	821	78	501	100	-

Figure 2: Total catches of MPCs by GFCM division in 2006 (tonnes live weight)

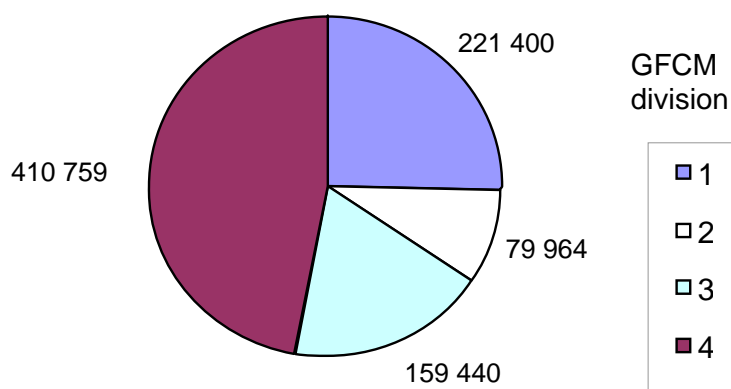
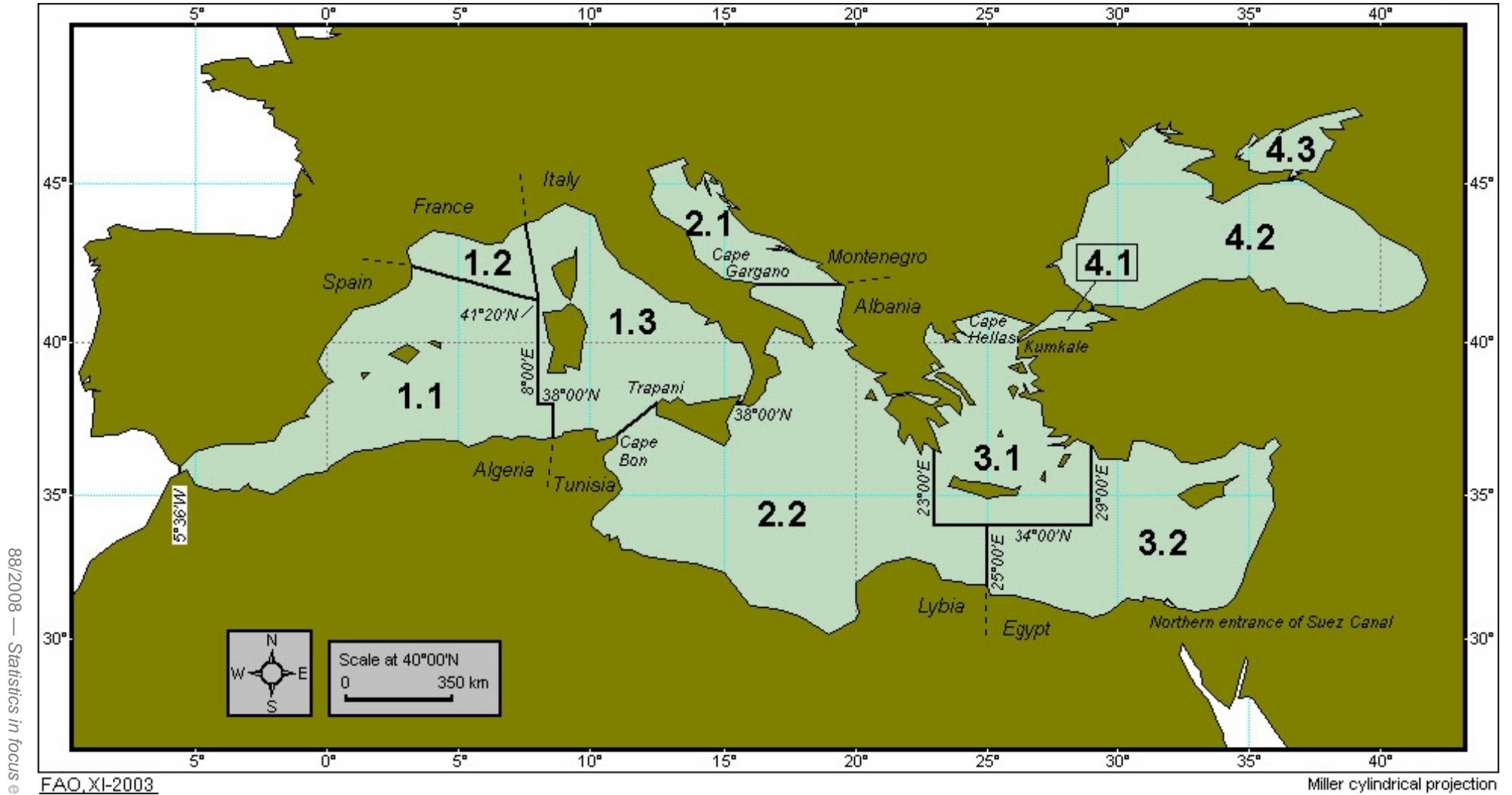


Figure 3: Map of the Mediterranean showing the GFCM divisions



Pelagic species dominant in the catches of MPCs

In the MPCs as a whole, two species - the European anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) and the European pilchard (*Sardina pilchardus*) - made up 47% of the total Mediterranean catch of nearly 140 reported species (see Table 4). These two species of the closely related pelagic Sardinellas (*Sardinella* spp) dominated the catches in each of

the four GFCM divisions.

This situation is reflected in the individual countries with the three above-mentioned species playing the most important roles, while certain other pelagic species (including tunas) are of relatively minor, though significant, importance.

Table 4: Major species caught in the Mediterranean by MPCs in 2006 (tonnes live weight)

Total MPCs		Catch	% of total
ANE	European anchovy - <i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	273 578	31
PIL	European pilchard (Sardine) <i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	140 970	16
Western divisions (GFCM 1)			
PIL	European pilchard (Sardine) <i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	107 394	49
SIX	Sardinellas nei - <i>Sardinella</i> spp	26 838	12
Central divisions (GFCM 2)*			
PIL	European pilchard (Sardine) <i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	10 439	14
SIX	Sardinellas nei - <i>Sardinella</i> spp	10 344	14
Eastern divisions (GFCM 3)*			
SIX	Sardinellas nei - <i>Sardinella</i> spp	16 422	13
PIL	European pilchard (Sardine) <i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	15 648	13
Black Sea (GFCM 4)*			
ANE	European anchovy - <i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	134 433	54
BLU	Bluefish - <i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i>	17 406	7

* 2005 data

Algeria			
PIL	European pilchard (Sardine) <i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	83 928	58
SIX	Sardinellas nei - <i>Sardinella</i> spp	23 527	16
Egypt			
SIX	Sardinellas nei - <i>Sardinella</i> spp	14 764	20
FIN	Marine fishes nei - <i>Osteichthyes</i>	11 369	16
Israel			
CEP	Cephalopods nei - <i>Cephalopoda</i>	235	11
MUL	Mullets nei - <i>Mugilidae</i>	183	9
Lebanon			
CLU	Clupeoids nei - <i>Clupeioides</i>	580	16
TUX	Tuna-like fishes nei - <i>Scombroidei</i>	389	11
Morocco			
JAX	Jack & horse mackerels nei - <i>Trachurus</i> spp	15 304	31
PIL	European pilchard (Sardine) <i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	15 293	31
Occupied Palestinian territory			
SIX	Sardinellas nei - <i>Sardinella</i> spp	500	22
CRA	Marine crabs nei - <i>Brachyura</i>	60	3
Syria			
SIX	Sardinellas nei - <i>Sardinella</i> spp	426	13
MAC	Atlantic mackerel - <i>Scomber scombrus</i>	330	10
Tunisia			
PIL	European pilchard (Sardine) <i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	24 802	22
SIX	Sardinellas nei - <i>Sardinella</i> spp	13 619	12
Turkey			
ANE	European anchovy - <i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	270 000	55
SVE	Striped venus - <i>Chamelea gallina</i>	29 690	6

Fisheries in internal waters are generally of minor importance

Fisheries in the internal waters of MPCs contribute 11% to the total fisheries production, though 15% to the production from capture fisheries in 2006 (see Fig. 1). Egypt (256 thousand tonnes) and Turkey (44 thousand tonnes) contributed the major parts to the total catch of 310 thousand tonnes (83% and 14% respectively). Egypt's catch from

internal waters was 68% of the total of its capture fisheries.

The major identified species in these inland fisheries are the tilapias (*Oreochromis* spp) - with the major contribution being made by Egypt – and the carp family (*Cyprinidae*) (see Table 5).

Table 5: Catch of major species groups from internal waters of MPCs in 2006 (tonnes live weight)

	Carp family	Tilapias	Mulletts	Other fishes	Freshwater crustaceans	Freshwater molluscs	Total
DZ	-	-	-	0	-	-	0
EG	31 814	90 177	31 791	97 653	2 591	2 262	256 288
IL	1 159	180	260	1	-	-	1 600
JO	-	-	-	350	-	-	350
LB	25	-	-	245	-	-	270
MA	680	-	-	250	-	-	930
PS	-	-	-	0	-	-	0
SY	-	-	-	4 869	-	-	4 869
TN	-	-	-	1 087	-	177	1 264
TR	14 698	-	12 926	14 199	797	1 462	44 082
Total	48 376	90 357	44 977	118 654	3 388	3 901	309 653

Aquaculture accounts for 27% of MPCs fisheries production

The MPCs production from aquaculture in 2006 was 761 thousand tonnes (27% of total fisheries production). The biggest contributor was Egypt with a production of 595 thousand tonnes (78% of the MPCs total), followed by Turkey (129 thousand tonnes, 17%). Aquaculture was responsible for 61% of Egypt's fisheries production. This proportion was approached by Jordan (54%) and Syria (52%) and even exceeded by Israel (85%) but, in comparison, the absolute quantities were of minor significance.

The MPCs aquaculture production in brackish waters was 509 thousand tonnes (67% of the total).

However this figure is strongly influenced by Egypt, the MPCs' largest aquaculture producer, and by their high concentration of aquaculture in brackish waters (507 thousand tonnes, 85% of the national total).

The major species cultivated in the marine environment are sea-bass (Family *Serranidae*) and sea-breams (Family *Sparidae*). In brackish waters, tilapias (*Oreochromis* spp) and mulletts (Family *Mugilidae*) dominate and in freshwaters, trouts (Family *Salmonidae*) and the carp family (Family *Cyprinidae*)

Table 6: Aquaculture production by MPCs in 2006 (tonnes live weight)

	Environment			Total
	Freshwater	Brackish	Marine	
DZ	337	54	-	391
EG	88 189	506 841	-	595 030
IL	18 838	653	2 725	22 216
JO	240	320	-	560
LB	803	-	-	803
MA	870	240	51	1 161
PS	-	-	-	-
SY	8 902	-	-	8 902
TN	1 086	1 319	370	2 775
TR	56 694	-	72 379	129 073
Total	175 959	509 427	75 525	760 911

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

For the purposes of this publication the Mediterranean includes the adjacent Black Sea and Sea of Azov. This combined area is equivalent to the FAO Major Fishing Area 37.

For statistical purposes the Mediterranean and Black Seas are divided by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) into 4 divisions (GFCM divisions 1-4) - see Figure 2 and Figure 3.

Catch statistics and aquaculture production data are reported to Eurostat by the national authorities of EU Member States under the terms of Council Regulations no. 2597/95 and 788/96, respectively. The national authorities of other countries report catch statistics for the Mediterranean to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the GFCM on the FISHSTAT NS1 and STATLANT 37A questionnaires. Aquaculture production data are reported to FAO on the FISHSTAT AQ questionnaire.

The authors gratefully acknowledge the contribution of FAO and the GFCM to these data and for their assistance in the quality control of the data.

2006 is the most recent year for which data are available. Where full data were not available from FAO or GFCM, estimates covering a minor part of

the production have been made based largely on data for earlier years.

Pelagic species spend most of their lives swimming in the water column with little contact or depending on the bottom (source: FAO fisheries glossary).

The production is reported in the live weight equivalent of the product. For molluscs this includes the weight of the shell.

A report on the Mediterranean fisheries of EU Member States may be consulted in *Statistics in Focus: Agriculture and Fisheries no 4/2007*.

Abbreviations:

DZ:	Algeria
EG:	Egypt
IL:	Israel
JO:	Jordan
LB:	Lebanon
MA:	Morocco
PS:	occupied Palestinian territory
SY:	Syria
TN:	Tunisia
TR:	Turkey
MPCs:	Mediterranean Partner Countries

This document has been prepared under the responsibility of MEDSTAT II by Mr David CROSS, Fisheries expert, and Mr Dominique KONG, Agriculture expert in MEDSTAT II, the EU-funded regional Euro-Mediterranean Statistical Co-operation programme.

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- Enhance the quality of services offered to users by the National Statistical Institutes and their partner organizations involved in the production of statistics.

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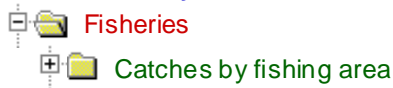
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