



Mediterranean Fisheries and Biodiversity

Developing Ecosystem Approach Solutions in a unique environment



Marine National Park of Zakynthos, Greece. © Claudia Amico / WWF Mediterranean / FishMPABlue

marine capture fisheries directly employ
248,000
people on-board fishing vessels

75%
stocks fished outside sustainable limits

230,000
tonnes per year discards
18%
of total catch

76,300
vessels
82%
Small-Scale Fisheries

FISHERIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Mediterranean fisheries have played an essential role in the region's economy, culture and traditions for centuries. The dramatic changes particularly concerning biodiversity loss and the overall decline of fishing captures witnessed over recent decades are a testimony to the need for sustainable mitigation measures in Mediterranean fisheries management.

- Fishing fleet consists of an estimated 76,300 vessels, of which approximately 82% are considered Small-Scale Fisheries (SSFs)¹ and 7.9% trawlers;
- 75% stocks² fished outside sustainable limits;
- Marine capture fisheries directly employ just under a quarter of a million people (248,000) on-board fishing vessels;
- Volume of fishery discards amounts to around 230,000 tonnes per year in the Mediterranean (around 18 percent of total catch).

If Mediterranean marine wildlife and ecosystems as well as fisheries productivity is to be sustained, our society needs to shift to more sustainable management and question its demands.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE IUCN MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMME?

Our aim is to ensure that marine ecosystems are maintained, sustainably used, and restored, working hand in hand with governments, communities and the private sector in an integrated management approach by:

Designing collaborative programmes for adopting **ecologically sustainable practices** in fisheries (e.g. bycatch monitoring and mitigation)

Bringing the knowledge, design best guidelines to **reduce the impacts of fisheries on vulnerable marine ecosystems**

Build stakeholder's networks for the **restoration and rehabilitation of critical habitats**

Partnership with government, community and stakeholders and raise their capacities for **implementing sustainable fishing practices**

Strengthen the frameworks of fisheries regulations and supporting development of national and regional action plans to bring a **positive impact to conservation**

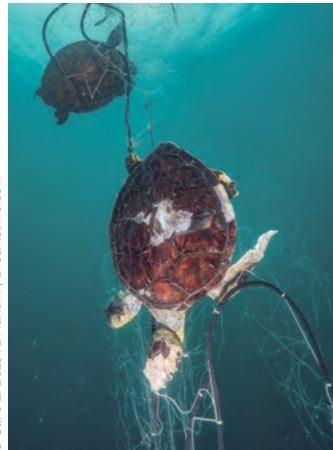
Reach the above objectives by bringing awareness and a sustainable adaptation to the Mediterranean seafood demand and consumption.

¹ Small-scale vessels with/out engines using passive gear and polyvalent vessels of less than 12 m length overall.

² State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries (SoMFi) 2020. FAO/GFCM.

WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED SO FAR?

- Enhanced knowledge and policy steer change for preventing significant adverse impacts on deep-sea vulnerable marine ecosystems.
- Developed the first collaborative programme on multi-taxa fisheries bycatch of vulnerable species with regional and local partners to monitor and mitigate bycatch of cetaceans, birds and sea turtles, but also endangered species of sharks, rays, corals and sponges.
- Supported in the establishment and effectiveness of spatial and temporal measures (MPAs, local management areas) to protect marine resources and ecosystems, including Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems and Sensitive Habitats from potentially harmful fishing activities; as well as the development of management policies to assess their effectiveness and compliance.
- Testing different management approaches and incentives for artisanal fisheries in Marine Protected Areas.
- Deployment of a grant scheme with Civil Society Organizations in North Africa countries (Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) to strengthen the technical, administrative and financial capacity for sustainable management of natural resources.
- Support to surveillance programme for gathering valuable information on fisheries (e.g. Lebanon), to address adequate fisheries management regulations with stakeholders.



OUR PRIORITY GOALS ENCOMPASS THE GOALS OF:

- Mediterranean Action Plan. Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of Biological diversity.
- GFCM 2030 Strategy for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean.
- Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 1, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 13, SDG 14.



WHAT CAN WE ACHIEVE TOGETHER

- Identify, support new and strengthen the use of **efficient** area-based conservation **measures** and technical and nature-based solutions (including in the fishery sector).
- Assess, develop and implement **recovery plans** to conserve threatened species among them those for imperiled sharks and rays.
- Developing efficient bycatch **mitigation techniques** that can be implemented for different fishing operations.
- Improve governance and capacities for the implementation of the **policies and monitoring, control and management measures** based on ecosystem based fisheries management.
- Enhance **socio-ecological resilience** in fishers' communities (including youth generation of fishers and women's roles).

Help us ensure an effective long-term management plans for coastal and deep-sea.

...goals by 2024