



## Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC)

### Report of the first meeting of the Working Group on Small-Scale and Recreational fisheries (WGSSF)

FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy, 12–13 September 2017

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Working Group on Small-Scale and Recreational Fisheries (WGSSF)<sup>1</sup> of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) was held on 12–13 September 2017 at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) headquarters in Rome, Italy. The meeting reviewed progress in the implementation of the mid-term strategy (2017–2020) towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries, with a view to providing technical advice on small-scale and recreational fisheries, including the development of elements to be included within a regional management plan on small-scale fisheries. In this respect, the working group reviewed ongoing work to develop indicators to characterize small-scale fisheries and reviewed the proposed methodology for the regional socio-economic survey for all fleet segments including small-scale fisheries. With a view to moving towards an assessment of recreational fisheries in the GFCM area of application, the working group also reviewed a proposed roadmap to pilot recreational fisheries assessments towards the development of a harmonized regional methodology. To support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, the working group reviewed progress made to map small-scale fisheries (SSF) organizations and perform a capacity needs assessment, and approved a roadmap towards enhancing engagement of SSF organizations. Furthermore, progress towards enhancing monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) for small-scale fisheries was discussed and potential collaboration on this issue with SSF organizations was identified. In discussing the future of the WGSSF, it was determined that, considering the separate characteristics and challenges of small-scale and recreational fisheries, and the importance of accelerating the provision of advice on these topics, a different expert group should be created for recreational fisheries (WGRF), with a mechanism for also holding joint sessions to discuss common issues, if needed. Finally participants agreed on a workplan in support of the provision of advice on SSF, including actions to assess the biological, technical, spatial and socio-economic characteristics of SSF towards the preparation of technical elements to support discussions on the management of this sector. Regarding recreational fisheries it was agreed that the WGRF would proceed with the development and piloting of a harmonized methodology towards assessing recreational fisheries, with a view to ultimately improving available data on recreational fisheries and facilitating their integration into stock assessments.

#### WORKSHOP ARRANGEMENTS AND OPENING SESSION

1. The first meeting of the Working Group on Small-Scale and Recreational Fisheries (WGSSF) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was held on 12–13 September 2017 at the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. Representatives and experts from twenty Mediterranean and Black Sea countries and from the European Union (DG MARE) were in attendance, as well as seven international and non-

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<sup>1</sup> This meeting was supported by the European Union under grant agreement no SI2.741730.

governmental organizations and representatives from FAO and the GFCM Secretariat. The list of participants is reproduced in Appendix 2 of this report.

2. Mr Abdellah Srour, Executive Secretary of the GFCM welcomed participants and noted the importance of both small-scale fisheries (SSF) and recreational fisheries within the Mediterranean and Black Sea region. Furthermore, he drew the attention of the participants to the importance of filling in the data gaps for these sectors and moving towards more accurate and timely advice on SSF, to serve as a basis for discussions on eventual management plans, including in upcoming fora, such as the high-level meeting on SSF and the subsequent Commisison.

3. Mr Miguel Bernal, GFCM Fishery Resources Officer, also welcomed participants and provided practical arrangements regarding the organization of the agenda. He stressed, in particular, the important tasks ahead of the WGSSF in seeking to begin providing technical advice to the Scientific Advisory Committee on fisheries (SAC).

4. Ms Lena Westlund, GFCM-FAO consultant on small-scale fisheries, was nominated Chairperson of the WGSSF. She recalled the terms of reference of the WGSSF and noted the objectives of the meeting, particularly in relation to overseeing the implementation of Target 2 of the mid-term strategy (2017–2020) towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries (mid-term strategy) specifically relating to SSF and recreational fisheries.

## **PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TARGET 2 TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE MID-TERM STRATEY RELATED TO SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES**

5. Ms Anna Carlson, GFCM Secretariat, presented an overview of current characteristics and definitions of SSF within the GFCM area of application. The presentation noted that there is no globally agreed definition of SSF and, indeed, FAO recognized SSF as a very diverse sector, best described on a range of characteristics rather than through a strict definition. At the same time, it was acknowledged that the majority of contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties (CPCs) have at least a limited formal or informal description of SSF, based on length characteristics (typically under 12 metres) and their use of passive gears. However, it was noted that further information was needed to better characterize SSF in the GFCM area of application. To this end, the GFCM Secretariat put forth a draft conceptual framework towards characterizing SSF, which proposed indicators, beyond what is typically collected through GFCM fisheries data requirements.

6. Participants welcomed the proposed framework put forth by the GFCM Secretariat and agreed that improving available information on the proposed indicators would be crucial for characterizing SSF in the region. The participants provided suggestions of additional indicators to be included. In particular, participants suggested including effort, engine power, distance from base port where small-scale fishing activity occurs, sector profitability, tenure and access rights characteristics, labour mobility, demographic characteristics (including of fishing households), remuneration, depreciation and interest, and characteristics of vessel ownership. A modified draft conceptual framework towards characterizing SSF, with comments integrated, is reproduced in Appendix 3.

7. Mr Fabio Grati, researcher at CNR-ISMAR, presented work by the AdriaMed project's Working Group on Small-Scale Fisheries on "a participatory approach to map the fishing effort of small-scale fisheries in the Adriatic Sea". He explained that this activity had been carried out in response to a need to better understand the spatial distribution of SSF in order to include the sector in marine spatial planning. Using a participatory approach that engaged fishers, a database was being created that allowed for the drawing of maps, based on the GFCM statistical grid, of fishing effort distribution by gear type. Mr Grati noted it was being considered to expand the study, in the future, to other characteristics such as soak time. The abstract of this and other presentations are reproduced in Appendix 4.

8. The working group noted the utility of the results presented by Mr Grati and encouraged similar studies in other subregions. Mr Luca Ceriola, FAO MedSudMed regional project, noted that the same method as used in the Adriatic would also be tested in the central Mediterranean area on a pilot scale to see if results could be replicated and to test the feasibility of using this approach in the Strait of Sicily. The GFCM Secretariat reminded participants of the very clear indications within the GFCM Data

Collection Reference Framework (DCRF) on measuring effort and noted the importance of following this common methodology to ensure results could be comparable.

9. Ms Sandra Mallol, researcher at the Spanish Oceanographic Institute – Oceanographic Centre of the Balearic Islands, Spain, gave a presentation on the “Artisanal fisheries in the Northwestern Mediterranean: Characterization of métiers, by-catch, discards and measures to improve efficiency and reduce ecosystem impacts”. After an overview of these very diverse fisheries – consisting of 30 different métiers – and of their high level of efficiency, Ms Mallol talked about two recent initiatives: experiments to improve the exploitation pattern and reduce impacts of the trammel net lobster métier and a review of changes to artisanal fishery métiers after the implementation of a marine reserve. In the trammel fishery, changes in gear (net material) aimed at improving selectivity and reduced soak time, showed, among other things, potential positive effects on quality and yields of marketable spiny lobster. With regard to the marine reserve Marina de Levante de Mallorca-Cala Ratjada, fisheries showed positive changes in fishing patterns and in the number of métiers.

10. The GFCM Secretariat presented the progress made towards the execution of the socio-economic survey; in particular, the survey methodology and data collection arrangements were presented, as detailed in the survey methodological note (Appendix 5), and the GFCM Secretariat recalled that the survey would address all fleet segments, including the small-scale fleet segments. Noting that data relevant to the survey may already exist, but may not typically reach the GFCM, it was explained that the survey would first attempt to recover existing, reliable and relevant data, while reserving the use of sampling to recover data that could not otherwise be obtained. The methodology proposed for data collection through sampling was that of the *Handbook for fisheries socio-economic sample survey: Principles and practice* (FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper 613). Reference was made to the presentation on the framework for characterizing SSF and it was proposed that the survey, when possible, gather dynamic information, such as demographic trends and labour mobility. Furthermore, it was put forth that the survey could, in select countries and based on feasibility, be used to link fleet performance with resource performance, connecting the resource to the rent it is capable of generating. It was stressed that specific details for survey implementation would be managed bilaterally with each national focal point.

11. The working group supported the proposed survey methodology and survey arrangements. Within the context of incorporating the collection of more dynamic information on fisheries, the working group recalled the discussions on the conceptual framework towards characterizing SSF in the GFCM area of application and proposed, when feasible, the collection of additional information through the socio-economic survey, in line with the indicators proposed by the working group to be included within the framework. Furthermore, the working group supported, when feasible and pending resource availability, the use of the socio-economic survey to assess resource rent and the potential impacts of management measures. It was agreed that preliminary information from the socio-economic survey, together with ongoing work to develop indicators to characterize SSF, could be used as the basis for discussion and expert validation of preliminary elements for a prospective SSF management plan.

## **PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TARGET 2 TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE MID-TERM STRATEGY RELATED TO RECREATIONAL FISHERIES**

12. Mr Vahdet Ünal, former Coordinator of the Subcommittee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS), gave an overview of past GFCM work on recreational fisheries from when it first appeared in a SCESS report in 2004 until the thirteenth session of the SCESS in 2013. He noted that significant work had been carried out, including an overview of recreational fisheries and related management measures in the GFCM Studies and Reviews No.81 in 2007, discussions on recreational fisheries in GFCM statutory bodies and technical meetings, including the important outcomes of the Transversal Workshop on Monitoring of Recreational Fisheries in the GFCM Area (Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 20-22 October 2010), and the publication of the FAO Technical Guidelines No.13 on recreational fisheries in 2012. In particular, he underlined that a definition of recreational fisheries had been agreed by the SCESS at its eleventh session, specifying that recreational fisheries was for non-commercial purposes and that it included both leisure and sport activities. Mr Ünal noted the importance of building on past work and

taking steps to further improve knowledge and better monitor recreational fisheries towards improved management.

13. The GFCM Secretariat presented the results of the questionnaire on recreational fisheries, providing an overview of the baseline information provided by the nineteen countries that responded to the questionnaire. The information presented was related to national definitions, types of recreational fishing activity, target species and gear, location and frequency of recreational fishing, relevant national legislations and recreational fishing organizations. It was noted that the information presented represented a summary of the official responses submitted by CPCs, however, it was recognized that some of the information may have been incomplete or in need of further details.

14. The working group participants highlighted certain gaps in the information presented, particularly with regard to target species and gear, national legislations and the list of recreational fishing organizations. National experts noted specific sources where this information could be found for certain countries and expressed their willingness to provide the GFCM Secretariat with additional information to fill in identified gaps. Mr Yassine Skandrani, General Secretary of the Maghreb Platform of Artisanal Fishing<sup>2</sup>, also noted the importance of providing more specific details of recreational fishing regulations, including specifying which authorities (local, subnational, national, etc.) are responsible for managing recreational fisheries. It was agreed that the GFCM Secretariat would provide members of the working group with a mechanism for submitting comments and providing further data, to eventually be submitted for validation at a later date.

15. Mr Paolo Carpentieri, GFCM Secretariat, presented the work that has been carried out “Toward draft guidelines for assessing recreational fisheries”. He noted that the recreational fisheries questionnaire results provided an overview of the status of recreational fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea but that there are still important data gaps. Hence, further work was suggested towards the creation of a methodological framework, allowing countries in the region to develop suitably harmonized sampling and survey monitoring schemes for recreational fisheries. The roadmap for this work, presented in further detail in Appendix 6, includes pilot studies in selected countries to underpin a further review of recreational fisheries management in the region.

16. In the ensuing discussions, the GFCM Secretariat reminded the working group of its mandate to work towards an assessment of recreational fishing pressure on stocks and understand the economic impacts of this activity. The working group agreed that recreational fisheries were significant in the region and that a harmonized methodology for its assessment was crucial in order to build better information on the number of recreational fishers by type of fishing activity, their pressure on stocks and their socio-economic impact. WGSSF participants debated whether a licensing system should be encouraged in all countries as part of a key component for assessing recreational fisheries. While some participants noted the role a licensing system would play as a minimum legal framework helping to raise awareness among recreational fishers of resource management issues, others noted that a licensing system was not necessary for the accurate assessment of recreational fisheries and therefore should not be a priority in a harmonized methodology.

17. Mr Oscar Sagué, from the Mediterranean Advisory Council (MEDAC), noted that much work had already been carried out in other fora, such as the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the Center for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), towards assessing recreational fisheries and that it was important to build on existing methodologies, also taking into account methods to assess the impact and efficiency of different management scenarios based on different levels of data availability.

18. Mr Hacene Hamdani, President of the Algerian Network of Small-Scale Fisheries Organizations<sup>3</sup>, raised concerns about the reliability of data sources to be used for assessments, considering that CPCs did not currently provide official data submissions on recreational fisheries. The GFCM Secretariat noted that the question of data quality and reliable sources for the collection of

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<sup>2</sup> Plateforme Maghrébine de la Pêche Artisanale

<sup>3</sup> Réseau Algérien des Associations de la Pêche Artisanale (RAAPA)

recreational fisheries data would be explored through the pilot study, and that an ad hoc system would be necessary, based on the data availability in each country. It was underlined that ultimately, the most important thing at this stage would be to have data reported through the same reporting format so that it could be comparable.

19. Mr Khalid El Alloussi, from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests of Morocco, gave an overview of the current state of recreational fisheries in his country. Focusing on recreational fisheries in marine waters, he outlined some of the current challenges and information gaps for supporting the sector and improving its regulatory framework, i.e., that there was a need to identify the relevant actors and the target species and to better understand possible synergies with the tourist sector. Mr El Alloussi also explained that sport fishing competitions constituted an opportunity for improving knowledge and gave the example of an event organised in 2013 on marlin fishing allowing scientists to better understand the biology of this migratory species. He noted that Morocco was currently implementing a programme to both manage recreational fisheries while also fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, with data collection on this subject foreseen in the coming year.

20. Mr Grati presented work by the AdriaMed project's Working Group on Small-Scale Fisheries to provide an overview of "Recreational and sport fisheries in the Adriatic Sea". He noted that recreational fisheries form an integral part of the Adriatic coastal life and that the sector was of cultural and economic importance to the six countries of the subregion (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia). He acknowledged that recreational fisheries constituted a significant component of coastal tourism and catches could be high but they generally remained unreported and data were scarce. The different countries of the sub-region had different practices and regulations and work was on-going to collect best practices and to develop suggestions for improved recreational fisheries management. In response to Mr Grati's presentation, WGSSF participants noted that a mapping exercise, similar to what was carried out in the Adriatic for SSF, could be useful, and that recreational fishing organizations could be a key source of information for such an exercise.

21. The working group participants acknowledged the important progress being made at the individual country level and at the subregional level and supported the proposed roadmap towards developing and promoting a harmonized approach for data collection at the regional level. They agreed to proceed, according to the roadmap, with the development of a harmonized methodology towards assessing recreational fisheries, with a view to ultimately improving available data on recreational fisheries, facilitating their integration into stock assessments and improving management advice.

## **INTERACTIONS BETWEEN SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES AND RECREATIONAL FISHERIES**

22. The WGSSF Chairperson introduced the session on interactions between SSF and recreational fisheries, noting that it would also be important to determine an approach for future work on these topics within the context of this GFCM working group.

23. Mr Kostiantyn Demianenko, from the State Agency of Fisheries of Ukraine, made a statement on the state of SSF and recreational fisheries in Ukraine. He noted the importance of SSF for Ukraine, providing up to 65 percent of fish consumed, however that data collection systems needed to be improved and that real values were likely much higher. He also acknowledged that IUU fishing was likely prevalent and that work was underway to improve regulations on catch certification and traceability, in collaboration with the EU. Similarly, with a view to reporting all catches, he further noted that the use of licenses were being considered for recreational fisheries in Ukraine. He concluded that improving data and reporting was crucial to avoid hiding illegal catches (including from SSF and recreational fisheries) through other sectors such as aquaculture.

24. Mr Tomás Vega Fernández, researcher at CNR (Italy), made a presentation on SSF and recreational fisheries in the context of marine spatial planning (MSP). He noted the MSP was an important tool for resource allocation in the marine and coastal space, and amelioration of conflict among users through negotiation. Depending on the spatial scale, there were several different sectors among which there could be potential conflicts: recreational, small and large-scale fisheries but also "big players" (i.e. those which contribute the most to gross domestic product) like oil and gas, the

renewable energy industry and tourism. He explained that the scene was further complicated by external drivers and threats, such as climate change impacts, which add further uncertainty to the future of SSF. He argued that although much attention was focused on the interactions between SSF and recreational fisheries, their interactions with emerging marine industries were equally, if not more, important. He proposed that through the valuation of ecosystem goods and services in an MSP process, it was important that the added value of fisheries, in terms of ecological sustainability, aesthetics, inspiration, traditional knowledge, cultural heritage, community tradition and identity, were brought to the negotiation table in order to avoid big players overriding SSF in the decision making process.

25. Mr Atif Megahed, from the General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD) in Egypt, provided an overview of “small-scale and recreational fisheries in Egypt”. GAFRD together with the EastMed project had conducted socio-economic studies of two segments of SSF and identified challenges they faced, including interactions with larger-scale vessels, reduced net profits because of decreased fuel subsidies, pollution and lack of management plans. With the overall growth of the tourist sector, recreational fishing activities were expanding and there were concerns about their impact on fish stocks and hence interactions with commercial fisheries. Lack of data on recreational fisheries was a constraint but efforts were underway to better regulate the recreational fishing sector.

26. Mr Sagué gave a presentation on “MEDAC advice on recreational fisheries: A regulatory framework for the Mediterranean and interactions with other small-scale fisheries”. This presentation included an overview of the MEDAC assessment of the status of different types of interactions between recreational fisheries and SSF as presented in the MEDAC opinion paper dated 10 November 2016, which showed that two main areas of conflicts between small-scale and recreational fisheries appeared to be with regard to fisheries management and fishing pressure. MEDAC’s current work plan included looking into the ecology of and main threats to three most endangered species of the inshore ecosystems, with a view to suggesting solutions and management measures.

27. In discussions on interactions between SSF and recreational fisheries, many participants, particularly those representing SSF organizations, noted that in some countries the sale of catches by recreational fishermen was common and this created conflicts with the SSF sector. The working group discussed this issue in depth and adamantly concluded that such activity was to be considered IUU fishing, as the definition of recreational fisheries clearly states that the sale of catches was forbidden. It was agreed therefore that this illegal activity should be addressed within the context of the fight against IUU fishing. Mr Horst Schneider, President of the European Federation of Sea Anglers, reiterated that recreational fishers should not sell their catch and that recreational fishing organizations should assist in enforcing this among their members.

28. In concluding the session, the WGSSF Chairperson noted that work to assess SSF and recreational fisheries required different approaches and proposed that the working group discuss whether it would be advantageous, moving forward, to create a dedicated working group for each topic. It was acknowledged that current tasks of the working group sought to build knowledge and understanding about both topics and that the approach for carrying this out varied between recreational fisheries and SSF. Therefore the working group concluded that these efforts should be carried out independently of one another. As such, the participants overwhelmingly supported the creation of separate working groups for SSF and for recreational fisheries. At the same time, they noted the importance of maintaining a forum for addressing commonalities between SSF and recreational fisheries and therefore participants agreed that the two working groups might be held back-to-back with the option of organizing, when needed, a joint session. Furthermore, participants also agreed that, in order to allow time for progress to be made, it was reasonable that the working groups be held every two years. Draft ToRs for these working groups are presented in Appendix 7.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SSF GUIDELINES IN THE GFCM AREA OF APPLICATION**

29. The WGSSF Chairperson presented the background paper on “Mapping SSF organisations and capacity needs assessment”. She summarised the results of a questionnaire that had been carried out asking questions with regard to the overall status of SSF and general relevant institutional processes as well as on the existence of SSF organisations. While this questionnaire should be considered a good starting point, it was noted that, overall, there was a lack of reliable information on SSF organizations.

Still, some countries had a certain level of institutional structures and processes, including SSF organisations, and there was scope for learning from existing experiences. A draft roadmap towards strengthening SSF organizations structures and engagement in decision-making processes, which specifies continued work on this topic, was proposed (see Appendix 8). It was envisaged that the roadmap would be further developed through consultations over the following year in preparation for the high-level meeting on SSF to be held in September 2018. The WGSSF chairperson explained that the draft roadmap suggested regional consultation with SSF organization representatives, as well as more in-depth work in a select number of countries and building on ongoing initiatives being carried out by partner organizations. It was also suggested that within the framework of the mid-term strategy, output 2.2 on the establishment of a regional platform, the focus in the short term should be on engagement with SSF actors through a bottom-up and participatory approach to strengthening their capacities to participate in decision-making, rather than immediately striving to build a region-wide platform.

30. Some experts present noted that some of the information presented through the questionnaire was incomplete and could be complemented with additional details. As with the questionnaire on recreational fisheries, it was noted that the questionnaire on SSF organizations served to collect available baseline information from official sources, however that additional data would be welcomed. The GFCM Secretariat agreed to send the questionnaire to the participants of the working group so that they could provide additional information.

31. Regarding the roadmap for continued work to promote SSF organizations, Mr Samir Majdalani, from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife of the Ministry of Agriculture in Lebanon, supported the proposal to carry out in-country consultations and requested that these take place in as many countries as possible. The GFCM Secretariat proposed that broad coverage by these consultations was envisaged through strong coordination with partner organizations, within the context of the mid-term strategy. The relevant organizations present, in particular WWF, agreed to contribute to such an effort and that ongoing activities in support of SSF organizations would be compiled and mapped, as included in Appendix 9.

32. Representatives of the SSF organizations present supported the proposed roadmap stressing the need to work closely with existing SSF organizations in this process. Mr Skandrani and Mr Hamdani, noted that many organizations currently existed throughout the region, however that there was not a mechanism for connecting organizations and exchanging information at the regional level. He noted that the GFCM was the appropriate forum for such exchange. Furthermore, Ms Mimoza Cobani of Albania highlighted the importance of national SSF organizations in facilitating the integration of SSF issues into national decision-making processes. To this end, the GFCM Secretariat noted that the work of the GFCM in relation to SSF organizations responded to requests to integrate SSF organizations into GFCM decision-making processes at the regional level and that this supported the important work national administrations were carrying out at the national level.

33. Mr Essam Yassine Mohammed, from the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), updated the working group on the status of the study on “Enhancing the understanding of social protection for small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean region”. This work was being undertaken by the IIED for the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department in collaboration with the GFCM. He noted the role that social protection can play in supporting food security, nutrition and rural development outcomes, but also in supporting resource management. The work in the GFCM region consisted of conducting diagnostic study in five pilot countries (Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia) to enhance the understanding of institutional and technical capacities, as well as enabling and disabling factors of social protection programmes. He explained that the study sought to disseminate existing good practices and increase awareness among policy-makers of social protection tools that can support sustainable livelihoods for SSF while also supporting improved resource management. He noted that the results of the study were foreseen by mid-2018.

34. Ms Nicole Franz, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, presented an overview of the work currently carried out by the department with regard to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. She explained that the implementation mechanism was built around partnerships and that FAO played

a dual role as both a provider of technical support through specific activities and as a catalyst raising awareness and enhancing knowledge on the SSF sector and the SSF Guidelines. Some examples of activities with potential relevance to the Mediterranean and Black Sea region were provided, including a review and update of the World Bank/FAO/WorldFish 2012 publication *Hidden Harvest: the Global Contribution of Capture Fisheries*; the development of a monitoring system to help guide SSF Guidelines implementation and to facilitate learning, experience sharing and identification of good practices; the provision of thematic guidance and capacity development through workshops, training and handbooks (on the human rights based approach – HRBA, gender, indigenous peoples, etc.); and national level workshops (including in Tunisia) focusing on developing practical guidance on the SSF Guidelines chapters on social development, postharvest and gender. In other regions, work was also underway both at regional and national levels, such as in Central America with the Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuicola del Istemo Centroamericano [OSPESCA]), in Southeast Asia with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), and in Costa Rica, Cambodia and Tanzania. She noted that there would likely to be opportunities for experience sharing with the countries in the GFCM region.

35. In response to requests for clarification by the participants, the GFCM Secretariat noted that technical work towards the implementation of the SSF Guidelines was incorporated into Target 2 of the mid-term strategy, whereas the GFCM counted on the work and partnership of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department to address elements of SSF Guidelines implementation which fell outside the scope of the GFCM mandate.

36. Mr Marcelo Vasconcellos, EastMed Project; Mr Imad Lahoud, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Lebanon; Mr Matthieu Bernadon, FAO consultant; and Mr Vahdet Ünal, Fisheries Department - Ege University, Turkey presented a joint project “Recent experiences with Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) management planning in small-scale fisheries in Lebanon, Tunisia and Turkey”<sup>4</sup>. The study piloted EAF in three SSF case studies: small pelagic purse seine fisheries in Lebanon, SSF in the El Biban lagoon in Tunisia and SSF in Gökova Bay in Turkey. The lessons learned from these pilot studies were shared with the working group, namely: (i) pilot studies were a good way forward to put the EAF concept into practice for SSF; (ii) EAF had the potential to enhance the understanding of capacity needs for the implementation of the SSF guidelines while promoting the use of management plans as a tool for SSF management; (iii) pilots also provided opportunities for strengthening communication between government and SSF communities and to find synergies among stakeholders within a framework of applying a participatory approach to SSFs management; (iv) EAF management plans can provide clear pathways and traceable targets for managing SSFs and for capacity development action; and (v) that there was still much to be learned regarding implementation and therefore continued support was important.

37. Mr Hamdani explained the role of the Algerian Network of Small-Scale Fisheries Organizations, which covers fisher associations along the whole Algerian coast. The network aimed at sharing experiences and promoting sustainable and responsible fishing. Mr Hamdani explained that they encouraged co-management and stressed the need for partnership approaches involving fishers, fisheries administrations, researchers and civil society.

38. Mr Yessine Zahri, from the National Institute for Fisheries Research (INRH) of Morocco, shared experiences of the INRH with regard to monitoring of SSF activities in the Mediterranean. He detailed the three main programmes of INRH in this respect: (i) the national framework programme for SSF monitoring; (ii) the SuiviCOM project at the Al Hoceima marine protected area (MPA); and (iii) the programme for establishing a fishery and environment SSF observatory (Observatoire Halieutique et Environnemental de la Pêche Artisanale [OHEPA]). Mr Zahri noted that these experiences showed that the involvement of fishing communities in data collection was a requirement for ensuring data quality and that participation would also facilitate SSF fisheries management.

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<sup>4</sup> Based on work by Hanem Djabou, Erdinç Guneş, Othman Jarbouï, Imad Lahoud, Samir Majdalani, Manal R. Nader, Mumtaz Tirasin, Vahdet Ünal, Matthieu Bernadon, Mark Dimech.



39. Ms Susana Sainz-Trápaga, from the Directorate General of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs of the Government of Catalonia, Spain, presented “Fisheries governance in Catalonia”. She explained that there had been a shift towards co-management based on an understanding that management needed to be tailored to a scale that matters and that empowerment of stakeholders increased buy-in of rules and compliance. It was also felt that management plans must include a socio-economic programme to establish economic and social objectives and monitor their progress. The Catalan co-management experience thus far addresses shrimp, sand eel and hake fisheries. At present, in the context of the Illes Formigues, the government was designing an ambitious co-management process in order to protect the area and provide solutions to current user conflicts. A new maritime strategy of Catalonia was also under development, which was expected to include strategic actions with regard to, among other things, co-management.

40. The working group acknowledged the important progress being made at both national, subregional, regional and global levels towards stakeholder consultation and the integration of small-scale fisheries actors in decision-making processes and noted the importance of this work towards the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea region. They approved taking action in line with the roadmap towards strengthening SSF organizations and encouraged continued collaboration with the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture department, including on studies such as the social protection project. Within the context of such consultations, it was agreed that they should address concrete actions, such as consultation on draft elements in support of a future management plan or the implementation of vessel monitoring system (VMS) for SSF.

#### **OTHER RELEVANT WORK**

41. Mr Nicola Ferri, GFCM Legal and Institutional Officer, provided an overview of ongoing work within the GFCM to enhance MCS in SSF. In particular, he explained the modular approach being taken for implementing VMS and related control systems and the technical assistance activities being carried out by the Secretariat to help bridge gaps in implementing national VMS. In relation to SSF, Mr Ferri noted that the SSF Guidelines specifically supported the establishment of appropriate MCS for SSF, while the GFCM working group on VMS (Greece, May 2017) highlighted the need to broaden the ongoing pilot study to also encompass SSF.

42. Mr Etienne Klein, from Collecte Localisation Satellites (CLS), provided an overview some forms of electronic solutions which could be particularly appropriate for SSF. He noted that simple, low cost VMS systems designed for SSF could be used not only to support data reporting but also to improve safety, providing an additional incentive for their use among small-scale fishers. He indicated that CLS would be willing to support test cases, including within the remit of the GFCM pilot study.

43. Mr Paul Piscopo, Secretary General of the Koperattivi Malta and member of MEDAC, suggested that an important way to move forward with engaging SSF organizations may also be to work with them on concrete topics. To this end, he noted the importance of improving the use of VMS for SSF vessels and suggested that this could be an important case study in connection with the roadmap for engaging SSF organizations (Appendix 8). The GFCM took note of this interest, as well as that expressed by other SSF organizations such as LIFE, and agreed that the piloting of VMS in collaboration with SSF organizations would be an excellent way to move forward, especially considering the importance of stakeholder input and collaboration in the piloting of this technology.

44. The GFCM Secretariat provided an overview of activities being implemented under Target 2 of the mid-term strategy with a view to discussing the objectives for the high-level meeting on SSF (TBC, September 2018) and the WGSSF contribution to this objectives. It was agreed that the WGSSF would support the high-level meeting on SSF by providing technical advice to support discussions on SSF management. Ms Valérie Lainé, European Commission – DG MARE, noted the importance that this advice be prepared and validated in a timely fashion so that it may be considered by decision-makers ahead of the high-level meeting on SSF and ultimately the forty-second session of the Commission. It was agreed that technical advice could be validated through participatory consultation, including with SSF organizations, and subsequently validated by the twentieth session of the SAC.

## **WGSSF WORK PLAN FOR 2018–2019**

45. The following activities of relevance to the WGSSF and for the implementation of the mid-term strategy were identified, reviewed and adopted by the WGSSF as listed below:

### **TARGET 2, Output 2.1:**

#### *Implementation of a regional survey on small-scale fisheries*

- Compile socio-economic fisheries data, including on small-scale fisheries, in line with the agreed socio-economic survey methodology and roadmap for data collection, in view of providing accurate, timely and complete baseline data on fisheries to be integrated in management advice.

#### *Assessment of the impacts of recreational fisheries*

- Compile expert inputs and collect additional available information on recreational fisheries to complement the information received through the questionnaire on recreational fisheries and to be submitted for validation by countries.
- Carry out pilot studies towards the development of harmonized guidelines for monitoring recreational fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, in line with the proposed roadmap (Appendix 6).
- Countries, NGOs and other experts are invited to carry out technical, scientific and socio-economic research on GFCM priority species targeted by recreational fisheries and impacts of recreational fisheries on these species.

### **TARGET 2, Output 2.2:**

#### *Development of national plans of action for the implementation of the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines (SSF Guidelines)*

- Countries, NGOs and experts should carry out additional studies on the biological, technical, spatial and socio-economic characteristics of SSF (i.e. mapping of SSF activity) in support of generating improved knowledge of the sector.
- Carry out in-country work and finalize the results of the social protection project in order to provide decision makers with further tools and best practices for supporting livelihoods in SSF while also improving natural resource management.

#### *Establishment of a regional platform to engage and promote dialogue among small-scale fishing associations*

- Compile additional information, to be provided by WGSSF experts together with relevant references and sources, to complement the results of the questionnaire on SSF organizations and update the background paper on mapping small-scale fisheries organizations and capacity needs assessment accordingly so that it may be submitted to countries for validation.
- Commence work in accordance with the draft roadmap on the mapping of small-scale organizations and capacity needs assessment (Appendix 8).

#### *Organization of a high-level meeting to generate political will in small-scale fisheries*

- Provide technical advice in support of the discussions within the high-level meeting towards the management of small-scale fisheries, based on information submitted by countries and in line with the mid-term strategy and the mandate provided by the GFCM.

### **TARGET 3, Output 3.3:**

#### *Operationalization of a regional VMS and control system*

- Test the use of MCS technology for small-scale fisheries through pilot cases, in coordination with SSF organizations.

WGSSF Meeting	Place/Date
High-Level Meeting on Small-Scale Fisheries	TBC September 2018
Working Group on Small-Scale Fisheries (WGSSF)	TBD 2019
Working Group on Recreational Fisheries (WGRF)	TBD 2019 (Back-to-back with WGSSF)

## ANY OTHER MATTER

46. The GFCM Secretariat provided an overview of the outcome of the informal coordination meeting on small-scale fisheries (FAO headquarters, 11 September 2017), which was attended by representatives from the GFCM Secretariat, WWF, the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, MEDAC, LIFE, MedPAN, CIHEAM and the FishMPABlue2 project. The meeting sought to identify synergies and cooperation opportunities among ongoing projects on small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. All in attendance noted their support for developing a regular mechanism for coordination on small-scale fisheries in the region. As next steps, it was decided to begin consolidating knowledge on ongoing work in the region and to create an online space for sharing progress and mapping existing and planned case studies. It was agreed to hold a follow-up meeting in the near future in order to better refine the coordination mechanism.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Small-scale fisheries

47. The WGSSF acknowledged the need to provide comprehensive indicators to characterize SSF activity at the subregional and regional levels in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. To this end, the draft framework put forth was endorsed, with the suggested additional components including but not limited to: effort, engine power, distance from base port where SSF activity occurs, sector profitability, tenure and access rights, labour mobility, demographic characteristics, remuneration, depreciation and interest, and characteristics of vessel ownership (as included in Appendix 3).

48. The WGSSF supported the compilation of information on ongoing and planned case studies on SSF, as carried out by the GFCM and partner organizations. Also, the WG agreed that further technical studies should be encouraged, and existing studies replicated in other subregions, towards improving the understanding of SSF characteristics (i.e. mapping of SSF activity, etc.)

49. The WGSSF expressed support for the proposed objectives and methodology of the socio-economic survey (Appendix 5). In particular, the working group encouraged the collection of key socio-economic information for the small-scale fleet segment, as feasible and as proposed in discussions on the draft framework for characterizing SSF.

### Recreational fisheries

50. The WGSSF acknowledged that a clear definition of recreational fishing exists (defined as: “Fishing activities exploiting marine living aquatic resources for leisure or sport purposes from which it is prohibited to sell or trade the catches obtained” as agreed by the eleventh session of the SCESS in 2010), however that in the practical implementation of the activities, there are grey areas in delineating which activity a fisher may be carrying out in a given moment.

51. The WGSSF noted the questionnaire on recreational fisheries carried out through the GFCM national focal points provided an overview of the recreational fisheries sector in the GFCM area of application. However, it was noted that there were gaps in the data provided and it was agreed that:

- The experts at the WGSSF meeting would provide, as available, additional data to complement the questionnaire information, with a view to revising the background paper for validation by countries.

- A broader range of stakeholders would be involved in the continuation of data collection on recreational fisheries.

52. The WGSSF endorsed the proposed roadmap (Appendix 6) for developing and promoting a harmonized approach for collecting data on recreational fisheries and with a view to eventually establish a suitable survey scheme in the region.

### **Interactions between small-scale fisheries and recreational fisheries**

53. The WGSSF noted that while interactions may arise from the use of shared fishing areas and targeting of the same species, conflicts most notably arise due to illegal activity. The issue of illegal fishing, particularly in relation to recreational fisheries, was raised and discussed and the working group strongly noted that illegal fishing was detrimental to all kinds of fishing, therefore noting that extra effort is needed to ensure adequate control on different categories of fishing activity.

54. Although the working group recognized some areas of overlap between small-scale fisheries and recreational fisheries, it was also recognized that the two sub-sectors have separate characteristics and challenges and it was hence suggested that, moving forward, the WGSSF should be divided in two groups, one for small-scale fisheries and one for recreational fisheries, with a mechanism for also holding joint sessions between the two groups to discuss common issues.

55. It was agreed that the meetings of the groups should be held at a regular basis, it was suggested no more than once every two years, and that revised ToRs for these groups will be submitted to the Commission for consideration.

### **Implementation of the SSF Guidelines**

56. With regard to the results of the questionnaire on small-scale fisheries and mapping of organizations and capacity needs assessment, the WGSSF appreciated the value of the information collected but noted that there were gaps and missing information. The same recommendations as for the recreational questionnaire were given:

- Experts will provide additional information
- A broader set of stakeholders should be involved in replying to the questionnaire

57. The WGSSF supported the main contents of the roadmap for the continuation of the work on mapping of small-scale fisheries organizations and capacity needs assessment (Appendix 8) but noted that:

- A representative number of case studies should be analyzed in order to have a broad understanding on these issues, and therefore GFCM partners were invited to work together to ensure a wide and timely implementation of the roadmap. In this context, a map of ongoing and planned case studies was to be compiled, and organizations agreed to work together towards this objective.
- The emphasis should be on strengthening the engagement and dialogue with small-scale fisheries in relevant processes. The establishment of a regional platform, as mentioned in the mid-term strategy, may be something for the future but the starting point should be existing organizations and be based on a bottom-up approach.

58. The WGSSF suggested that a practical approach for capacity development could be to work with selected organizations on specific issues, e.g., improving MCS in small-scale fisheries by using appropriate technologies (GPS, mobile phones). Several countries and organizations expressed interest in discussing potential future collaboration with the GFCM in this respect.

59. The WGSSF supported the work carried out by the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department in collaboration with the GFCM on an inventory and diagnostic of social protection in five selected countries (Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia).

### **Enhancing MCS in small-scale fisheries**

60. The WGSSF highlighted the importance of implementing adequate MCS to the small-scale fleet segment and pilot studies testing MCS for SSF were encouraged.

61. Recognizing the integral role that small-scale fishers play in the success of MCS systems for SSF, the working group suggested to pilot the use of VMS for SSF in cooperation with specific fisher organizations, also within the context of the roadmap on engaging SSF stakeholders. Certain organizations expressed potential interest and bilateral discussions will be initiated to define this effort.

#### **CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

62. The WGSSF Chairperson closed the meeting, underlining the very fruitful discussions and thanking the participants for their input.

63. The conclusions of the meeting were adopted on 13 September 2017, whereas the report of the meeting was adopted via e-mail.

**Agenda of the meeting**

1. Opening and arrangements of the session
2. Progress in the implementation of Target 2 technical activities of the mid-term strategy related to:
  - a. small-scale fisheries;
  - b. recreational fisheries
  - c. interactions between small-scale fisheries and recreational fisheries
3. Implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the GFCM area of application
4. Presentations on other relevant on-going work
5. WGSSF work plan for 2018–2019
6. Any other matter
7. Date and venue of next meeting
8. Conclusions and recommendations and closure of the meeting

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### Conceptual framework towards characterizing small-scale fisheries in the GFCM area of application

It is important to build a series of indicators and data components to help develop an improved understanding of small-scale fisheries (SSF). Furthermore, there is a need to measure and track progress being made within the sector to ensure that potential policy interventions target the right aspects and therefore, baseline characteristics of the sector are needed. To this end, a conceptual framework has been proposed towards characterizing the SSF sector in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (see table below) and has been refined through the expert inputs within the Working Group on Small-Scale and Recreational Fisheries (12-13 September 2017, FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy). This framework puts forth components which would help to characterize SSF, beyond what is typically covered through regular data submissions, and serve as a useful point of departure for identifying potential targets of policy intervention. The proposed framework is composed of four categories: biological characteristics, technical characteristics, spatial characteristics and social and economic characteristics, which are further broken down into associated indicators which were updated based on discussions held during the WGSSF.

Type of characteristic	Component	Indicator
<b>Biological characteristics</b>	Target species	Species name, landings, size, frequency
<b>Technical characteristics</b>	Gears	Gear type, frequency of use/seasons
	Vessels	LOA (under 12 m?), effort, engine power
<b>Spatial characteristics</b>	Depth	Depth at which SSF activities take place (insight into environmental interactions)
	Distance	Distance from shore and distance from base port where SSF activity takes place (insight into expenditures for fishing)
<b>Social and economic characteristics</b>	Economic vulnerability to risks/shocks	% household income derived from SSF, household debt, remuneration, tenure, vessel ownership
		Availability of alternative employment opportunities
		Contribution to food security (protein consumption)
	Demographic trends	Migration into/out of the SSF sector
	Value chain	Profitability, access to markets, role of post-harvest, capital costs, depreciation, interest

## List of abstracts\*

**A participatory approach to map the fishing effort of small-scale fisheries in the Adriatic Sea**

(by Fabio Grati, Luca Bolognini, Arian Palluqi, Mimoza Çobani, Jerko Pavlicevic, Samir Muhamedagic, Aleksandar Joksimović, Mirko Đurovic, Zdravko Ikica, Tomaz Modic, Bojan Marceta, Nedo Vrgoc, Pierluigi Carbonara, Maria Teresa Spedicato, Branko Dragičević, Jakov Dulčić, Sanja Matić-Skoko, Enrico Arneri, Nicoletta Milone)

The increasing demand for maritime space for different purposes requires integrated planning and management. Marine spatial planning (MSP) therefore contributes to the effective management of marine activities and the sustainable use of resources. Small-scale fisheries represent a crucial issue for MSP as they represent around 80 percent of the Mediterranean fishing fleet and their activity is mainly carried out inside the coastal area, where a number of sensitive and priority habitats are located and where several spatial conflicts occur between SSF and other human activities (i.e. trawling, dredges, recreational fisheries, aquaculture, etc.). Furthermore, reliable maps of the spatial distribution of SSFs don't exist. This study therefore aims to draw maps of the distribution of fishing effort per métier in the Adriatic Sea, using a participative approach. The variables to be mapped include the number of fishing operations or length of set gears (i.e. gillnets, trammel nets, longlines, etc.), fishing time, etc. The participative approach relies on fishermen to indicate their fishing ground on a grid. Next steps in the study include the creation of a geo-database, the creation of a user-friendly interface to simplify data input and the creation of maps of fishing effort distribution.

**Artisanal fisheries in the Northwestern Mediterranean: Characterization of métiers, by catch, discards and measures to improve efficiency and reduce ecosystem impacts.**

(by Sandra Mallol, David Díaz and Raquel Goñi - Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO), Centro Oceanográfico de Baleares)

Small scale fisheries (SSF) are characterized by a high diversification of gears and techniques, spatio-temporal rotation of their activity and reliance on a multispecies catch. Because they operate mainly in heterogeneous coastal ecosystems, SSF have developed high technical heterogeneity of fishing methods. Despite being the largest fisheries sector, some aspects of SSF have been poorly studied due to the difficulty of obtaining reliable quantitative data. This lack data arises from the difficulties of establishing efficient, representative onboard sampling programs that persist in time and allow making meaningful management proposals for SSF.

In order to shed light on understudied aspects of traditional Mediterranean SSF, we implemented a long-term onboard sampling program and carried out studies aimed at characterizing SSF métiers, their bycatch and discard patterns and at exploring measures to improve efficiency and reduce ecosystem impacts of traditional Western Mediterranean SSF.

We characterized the representative métiers in the SSF of the Balearic Islands (Western Mediterranean, Spain) for species diversity of the catch and the fractions retained and discarded. On the basis of that information we assessed their efficiency in terms of abundance and biomass for the eight most prevalent métiers: trammel nets for cuttlefish (*Sepia officinalis*), surmullet (*Mullus surmuletus*), red scorpion fish (*Scorpaena scrofa*) and European spiny lobster (*Palinurus elephas*), and gillnets for John Dory (*Zeus faber*) and longlines for Grouper (*Epinephelus marginatus*), common dentex (*Dentex dentex*) and Sparidae species. Target species efficiency in number is high for the European spiny lobster (*Palinurus elephas*) trammel net métier, while for the more coastal métiers where bycatch is a major component, like cuttlefish and red mullet trammel nets and sparidae longline, most of the multispecies catch is retained. John Dory and cuttlefish trammel net métiers stand out as the most efficient in terms of target species biomass. Overall, about 70% of the catch of the main SSF métiers is commercialized.

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\* Abstracts included are as sent by authors



Given that the long-term survival of nearshore fisheries relies on healthy fishing grounds a second line of our SSF research focuses on assessing and improving their exploitation pattern. Our aim was to improve fishing practices and gear technology to minimize unwanted impacts of fishing activities on target and non-target species, with special attention to structural, habitat forming species. Although artisanal fishing has always been considered a low impact activity, mitigation measures on the widespread, less specific trammel-net gear are needed. In the western Mediterranean, the spiny lobster (*P. elephas*) trammel net fishery contributes the largest annual income of artisanal fishermen, especially in the Balearic Islands and other archipelagos. After several unsuccessful attempts by the local administration to reinstate lobster pots, abandoned more than two decades ago, we assessed mitigation measures (changes in the gear material and soak time) on trammel-net operations targeting this species. Preliminary results on different soak time reductions suggest that shorter soak times can reduce the bycatch discards up to 75% and reduced losses of damaged spiny lobster almost 40%. Experiments with a different new fishing net material showed a significant reduction (65%) of entanglement of structural species and of undersized lobsters, however at the cost of a 40% drop of commercial lobster catch rates.

Finally, establishing marine protected areas (MPAs) is one of the most significant measures governments can take to halt the degradation of marine ecosystems and fisheries overexploitation. Although MPAs can be created with the support of current stakeholders, mainly fishers, implementation of spatial restrictions and of no-take zones in particular, force adjustments to the existing fisheries. We conducted a study on a large MPA (Llevant de Mallorca-Cala Rajada) based on onboard observer data of the existing SSF (métiers, their seasonality and spatial distribution of effort in the area before (2003-2007) and after (2008-2012) MPA designation. We illustrate how fishing restrictions and regulations changed the structure and dynamics of local fishery métiers. The main effort regulations involved inshore fishing restrictions that forced reallocation to offshore fishing grounds farther from port. These MPA restrictions affected mainly coastal métiers – proportionally impinging most on the smaller boats and the oldest fishers, who are the most knowledgeable of the gears, species and habitats, and promoted the expansion of métiers that use newer boats, manned by younger, less experienced fishermen. Studies like this are needed to inform the design of future fisheries spatial management measures for Mediterranean artisanal fisheries that take into account foreseeable socio-economic outcomes and loss of knowledge.

### **Current state of recreational fisheries in Morocco**

*(by Khalid El Alloussi)*

The presentation will provide an overview of the current state and institutional framework of recreational fishing in Morocco. It will include a presentation of the new regulation on recreational fishing in Morocco and will review the challenges for better organizing recreational fishing activity in Morocco.

### **Recreational and sport fisheries in the Adriatic: the state of the art**

*(by Fabio Grati, Luca Bolognini, Sabrina Colella, Arian Palluqi, Mimoza Çobani, Jerko Pavlicevic, Samir Muhamedagic, Aleksandar Joksimović, Mirko Đurovic, Zdravko Ikica, Tomaz Modic, Bojan Marceta, Nedo Vrgoc, Pierluigi Carbonara, Maria Teresa Spedicato, Branko Dragičević, Jakov Dulčić, Sanja Matić-Skoko, Enrico Arneri, Luca Ceriola, Nicoletta Milone)*

Ongoing work through AdriaMed seeks to provide an overview of recreational fishing practices and regulations in the Adriatic Sea, with a view to collecting best practices and suggesting improved recreational fisheries management. Overall, recreational fisheries in the Adriatic are an integral part of Adriatic coastal life and coastal communities, serving as a cultural milestone and economic driver for all countries, contributing significantly to coastal tourism. Catches can be high and are generally unreported, as such data and studies on recreational fisheries in the Adriatic are still scarce and incomplete. Through this review, a management model is suggested for recreational and sport fisheries, based on an analysis of strengths and gaps of the state of play in the Adriatic and the best practices identified.

## **Competition between small-scale and recreational fisheries, and the contextualization of such competition under the paradigm of Maritime Spatial Planning**

*(by Tomas Vega)*

Evidence from the effects of fishery reserves and marine protected areas on socio-ecological systems clearly points to the scale-dependance of conflict identification. Indeed, setting progressively wider spatial and temporal scales results in the stepwise inclusion of successively bigger stakeholders entering the decision-making process. Such process is based on negotiation that, being presently based on monetary quantification in terms of contribution to the gross domestic product, can be easily distorted by powerful stakeholders acting at upper scales. This has been empirically observed in small scale fishery and recreational one being displaced by bottom trawl fishery, and the latter being in turn displaced by the oil industry. Those findings are projected in the scenario of a maritime territory where emergent green and blue marine industries claim for large areas of the sea, eventually encompassing actual fishing grounds. The observed trend raises the need to change the terms used to value each activity at sea. The different fishery sectors are called to make a joint effort to ask for the inclusion of non-monetary assets and identity considerations in the valuation of maritime activities, in order to avoid traditional fishing grounds being grabbed by upcoming marine industry expanding under the “blue growth” paradigm.

## **The status of and interactions between small-scale fisheries and recreational fisheries in Egypt**

*(by Atif Megahed and Abdelrazek Mohamed)*

The presentation provides a brief description of the status of small-scale fisheries in Egypt, including their economic status. It is noted that SSF in Egypt typically occurs within three nautical miles of the coast and primarily targets grey mullet, shrimp, meager and seabream using trammel and gill nets, while targeting European seabass, golden grouper, meager and red porgy using long lines. SSF is sometimes in conflict with small trawlers, that at times fish within 3 nautical miles of the coast, despite it being forbidden. The presentation will also present the results of socio-economic studies, conducted by GAFRD in cooperation with the FAO EastMed Project, on the socio-economic status of Egyptian Mediterranean vessels, including two segments of SSF. Main challenges for the SSF sector are highlighted, including the impact of reductions in fuel subsidies, the effects of pollution and the need for a management plan for the coastal area. Recreational fisheries and their impact on small-scale fisheries is also presented, noting that this activity is growing in importance in Egypt, particularly due to the growth of tourism. Regulations for recreational fisheries are discussed and the challenges for better data collection are presented.

## **Advice on recreational fisheries: a regulatory framework for the Mediterranean and interactions with other small-scale fisheries**

*(by Oscar Sagué)*

During 2016, the MEDAC Working Group on Recreational Fisheries produced two documents of advice. The first one devoted to apply the FAO 2012 Technical Guidelines on Recreational Fisheries in order to suggest a regulatory framework for the Mediterranean from the stakeholders' point of view. The second one, gathered opinions from small-scale and recreational fishermen in order to identify main interactions and problems between both stakeholders and suggest solutions. Both documents and 2017 working plan will be presented.

## **Recent experiences with EAF management planning in small scale-fisheries in Lebanon, Tunisia and Turkey**

*(by Matthieu Bernandon<sup>1</sup>, Hanem Djabou<sup>2</sup>, Erdinç Guneş<sup>3</sup>, Othman Jarbou<sup>2</sup>, Imad Lahoud<sup>4</sup>, Samir Majdalani<sup>4</sup>, Manal R. Nader<sup>5</sup>, Mumtaz Tirasin<sup>6</sup>, Vahdet Ünal<sup>7</sup>, Mark Dimech<sup>8</sup>, Marcelo Vasconcellos<sup>8</sup>)*

The SSF Guidelines recognize the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) as a guiding principle for the sustainability of small-scale fisheries livelihoods. The EAF, which flows from and is consistent with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, is an integrated approach to fisheries that strives to balance diverse societal objectives in the exploitation of aquatic ecosystems. The practical application of the EAF has the potential to enhance the understanding of capacity needs for the implementation of the SSF guidelines while promoting the use of management plans as a tool for small-scale fisheries management. Since 2016, pilot studies on the application of EAF to small scale fisheries are being supported by FAO Mediterranean Regional Projects in three countries (Lebanon, Tunisia and Turkey). They include the small pelagic purse seine fishery (Lebanon), small-scale fisheries in Gökova Bay (Turkey) and in El Biban lagoon (Tunisia), which however are at different stages of development. In this presentation, we will describe the characteristics of the fisheries, the identified challenges and discuss the expectations and preliminary results obtained through the implementation of EAF.

## **Co-management with small-scale fishing organizations: the case of the Algerian Network** *(by Hacene Hamdani)*

The Algerian Network of Small-Scale Fisheries Organizations (RAAPA) is a group of fisher associations that seek to raise awareness of and give value to the importance of the artisanal fishing profession, while at the same time promoting the conservation of the marine resources upon which the profession depends. The main purpose of the Algerian Network is to share our diverse experiences among various actors and stakeholders and seek the means and solutions for sustainable and responsible fishing. The RAAPA brings together associations approved by the new law of associations (06/12) throughout the Algerian coastal strip from East to West. The presentation will provide an overview of the organization's mission and legal structure and an explanation of its collaborative and participative approach towards co-decision making, co-management and co-responsibility.

## **The experience of INRH in monitoring artisanal fishing activity in the Moroccan Mediterranean** *(by Mohamed Malouli Idrissi & Yessine Zahri)*

To meet the sustainable management needs of small-scale fisheries in Morocco, the National Institute for Fisheries Research (INRH) has set the objective of producing scientific advice on fisheries, based on reliable and regular information that is accepted by both the fishery administration and fishing professionals. INRH has thus conducted a national framework programme for monitoring small-scale fisheries and the SuiviCOM-AI Hoceima Programme, developed and implemented jointly with FIRF-FAO at the Al Hoceima National Park. These programs made it possible to obtain indicators relating to the various components of the fishery (exploitation, socio-economic and biological information), which can be disaggregated by métiers. The SuiviCOM-AI Hoceima Programme, carried out with the effective participation of the fishing community, also provided information on IUU fishing, recreational activities and environmental events. These experiences show the importance of

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community monitoring to ensure the availability of quality information that is accepted by all and to build capacity of fishers. Currently, INRH is in the process of setting up a Fisheries and Environmental Observatory for Artisanal Fisheries to ensure sustainable monitoring of the fishery. This monitoring will be based on the regular and continuous collection of data by the fishing communities.

### **The governance model for fisheries and the promotion of participatory processes for SSF in the case of Catalonia**

*(by Susana Sainz-Trápaga)*

Fisheries governance in Catalonia is a model fully committed to implementing the SSF Guidelines and is based on the successful principles of co-management. After five years of Catalan co-management for shrimp, saneeel and hake fisheries, the main experiences and lessons learned, together with the main achievements will be presented. The presentation will also introduce an upcoming decree on national fisheries governance, which is based on the principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, the precautionary approach, scientifically recommended biological reference points, adaptive management and bioeconomic and social management. The “revolutionary” nature of co-management committees, which serve as the cornerstone of the new management model, will also be discussed in depth, citing how such a model is useful even beyond fisheries management.

### **Electronic solutions for small-scale fisheries**

*(by Etienne Klein)*

CLS is the leading satellite services provider for fishery administrations and fishermen. Created in 1986 by the French Space Agency (CNES), CLS provides for more than 30 years satellite-based services for geo positioning and environmental data collection. CLS has 650 employees and is present in 26 sites around the world. CLS is owned by the CNES, IFREMER (French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea) and ARDIAN. The Business Unit sustainable management of marine resources provides solutions to public and private stakeholders working in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. During the presentation, CLS will introduce its electronic solutions used in more than 40 countries for the fishery monitoring and control and CLS will introduce as well its brand new innovative solution for security and tracking of small-scale fishermen using satellite and low cost coastal connectivity.

**Methodological note:**

**Comprehensive regional survey on the socio-economic characteristics of fisheries, including small-scale fisheries, in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea**

Stephen Cunningham  
DRAFT SEPTEMBER 2017

***Purpose of the survey***

In order to undertake the survey, the terms of reference specify as the first step:

*Develop methodology guidelines (including a sampling design), which addresses both socio-economic data collection needs (as foreseen in the GFCM's Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF) and as necessary to analyze potential socio-economic impacts of implementing management measures in select case studies as requested by the Commission) as well as transversal data such as catch and effort, based on existing methodologies in use at the sub-regional level and based on input from the FAO Regional Projects*

The aim therefore is to address socio-economic data collection needs for a variety of purposes that imply somewhat different methodological approaches

1. Support the collection and submission of socio-economic data on fishing activities in accordance with existing fisheries data requirements of the GFCM and in line with the principles of the GFCM's Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF): this framework concentrates on the annual economic performance of the fishing fleet addressed by geographical subarea (GSAs) and in terms of fleet segments;
2. Enable analysis of potential socio-economic impacts of implementing management measures in select cases: such measures typically focus on the fish resource so a wider interpretation of economic impact may be necessary even if the data collected under point 1 will be an important input;
3. Complement transversal data such as catch and effort: this requires complementarity with other GFCM's fisheries data requirements also in line with the DCRF.

The key focus of the methodology guidelines will be to ensure that point 1 is achieved. One issue with focussing on annual performance is that it gives a static view of the sector, at least until a number of years of data submissions based on the same methodology have been built up. Some additional elements will therefore be added to elucidate, to some extent, the dynamics of the different segments.

Additional data will also be needed to move towards point 2. It may not be possible to achieve this everywhere and a pilot-based approach may be required.

***The Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF) of the GFCM***

The manual of the DCRF (Version 2017.1), which outlines the DCRF principles by encompassing all the necessary indications for the collection of the fisheries-related data that are requested as per existing GFCM Recommendations and are necessary for relevant GFCM subsidiary bodies to formulate advice in accordance with their mandate, is organised into a set of seven Tasks:

- Task I: Global figures of national fisheries
- Task II: Catch (landing and catch per species)
- Task III: Incidental catch of vulnerable species
- Task IV: Fishing fleet
- Task V: Fishing effort (by fleet segment, fishing gear, CPUE)

#### Task VI: Socio-economics

Task VII: Biological information (stock assessment, length data, size at first maturity, maturity data, dolphin fish, red coral, European eel)

The main objective of the socio-economic information to be collected under Task VI is to monitor the economic status of the fishing sector. The data can then be used to:

- contribute to the development of appropriate policies and strategies, especially in relation to promoting the long-term sustainability of resources and fleets;
- assess the economic consequences of different management options on the varying groups, based on the incentives that these create.

The data to be reported relate to a single year of activity by GFCM geographical subarea (GSA) – there are 30 GSAs, see map of the GFCM area of application (DCRF manual, version 2017.1, p8) – and by fleet segment.

The mandatory requirements are set out in 3 tables:

- Table VI.1: capacity, number of vessels, total landing values and total days at sea.
- Table VI.2: personnel costs, fuel consumption and price, and other operating costs.
- Table VI.3: volume and value of landing by commercial species.

Ideally all data are to be submitted annually and this is mandatory for Table VI.1. However, if a country does not undertake an annual economic survey, Tables VI.2 and VI.3 data may be submitted on a biennial basis.

Table VI.4 sets out other data requirements including things such as subsidies and crew age structure but for the moment reporting of these data is optional.

Data transmission deadlines are:

- Table VI.1 by 30 November of year N, reporting year N-1 (for instance, 30 November 2017 for 2016 data)
- For the other tables by 31 May of year N reporting year N-2 (for instance, 31 May 2018 for 2016 data).

#### ***Data sources***

One common difficulty with fisheries-related socio-economic data is that data collection is not always designed with fisheries management in mind and therefore there may be issues ensuring the necessary data reaches the appropriate fisheries management authorities. For this reason, sample surveys are often undertaken to generate the required data.

In the case of this socio-economic survey, wherever possible data should be obtained from existing reliable data sources, particularly fish sales data (especially sales notes that record taxes and duties to be paid since these tend to be highly reliable) and, depending on species, on customs data. Reliable data on other important variables such as fuel costs for instance are also likely to be available from third party sources. An important task for the fisheries administration will be to identify such data sources and develop databases to collate the information. Protocols for the electronic transfer of information should be negotiated to avoid the inevitable errors that arise when data have to be entered anew.

The objective should be to ensure that sample surveys only collect data that cannot be recovered in any other way.

In order to maximise the use of existing FAO methodologies, it is proposed to base the DCRF element of the survey on the “Handbook for fisheries socio-economic sample survey: Principles and practice” FAO Fish Tech Pap 613.

Annexe 1 of this handbook proposes a questionnaire which will be used as the basis for the sample survey.

The precise implementation of the sample survey in terms of, for example, the sample size and the frequency of sampling will be determined on a case-by-case basis following discussion with the national focal points and their teams. Sampling requirements may vary from one country to the next and even from one segment to the next within a given country. It is likely that greater effort will be required in the case of small-scale fishing which is the activity for which the least data are usually available.

### *Some dynamic issues*

Presenting data on a reference year gives a static view of economic performance until a number of years are available. It would be useful to explore with national focal points whether there are particular issues where some idea of the dynamics would be useful and could be obtained without going to the expense of a quantitative sample survey, using an expert-opinion approach or some other qualitative methods.

One area that may be particularly relevant to small-scale fishing concerns labour mobility. This kind of fishing is sometimes presented as “an employer of last resort”, at other times as the “engine of the coastal economy” and at yet others as “the bond that holds communities together”. Possibly it is all these things at different places and times. A, if not the, key variable in such discussions is labour mobility and it would be interesting to document the extent of such mobility with information both on where people come from when they enter fishing and where they go to when they leave. This latter point is of particular interest but seems seldom to be addressed, presumably because of the difficulty of finding and interviewing the ex-fishers. This mobility issue is of interest both in a physical sense (are people recruited locally or from outside the region) and professionally (what economic activities were they doing before and after fishing).

Other dynamic aspects can also be included. One aim of the September 2017 WGSSF meeting is to discuss the social and economic characteristics of small-scale fishing to improve understanding of the kind of information that would be most useful. In addition to demographic trends and labour mobility, the discussion will include issues related to economic vulnerability (i.e. dependency on small-scale fishing for income, food, etc. and availability of other employment options). These may be other aspects to be considered through the survey.

### *Analysis of socio-economic impacts of management measures*

Although the GFCM fisheries data requirements in line with the principles of the DCRF will enable analysis of the economic performance of the fishing fleets, management measures generally aim to improve the economic return obtained from the fish resource (including ensuring sustainability as one aspect of such a return). In this case, the fisheries data requirements omit an important aspect which relates to the resource rent that the fish resource is capable of generating.

For instance, in “Economics for fisheries management” (2006, p5), Grafton et al<sup>1</sup> argue that the “key to understanding the economics of fishing is the concept of Maximum Economic Yield (MEY) which provides a benchmark to compare current with potential economic performance in fisheries.”

They point out that fishing at MEY provides a surplus that can be used to purchase desirable goods and services elsewhere in the economy. Rather than achieving this, many fisheries have seen transfers in the opposite direction where either subsidies have been given to support “fisheries development” or welfare payments have been made to fishers made unemployed following stock declines or collapses.

They cite the example of some rents in Iceland being spent on schools and hospitals showing how the economic performance can impact social capital investment rather than simply making money available to spend on goods and services.

These rents are also a crucial link between the fisheries sector and the wider macro-economy and hence they inform the potential role of marine capture fisheries in a Blue Growth strategy.

It is proposed therefore to go beyond the data requirements in line with the DCRF, at least in some pilot cases, and to attempt to distinguish between fishing enterprise profits and resource rents.

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<sup>1</sup> Q Grafton, J Kirkley, T Kompas, D Squires (2006) Economics for fisheries management Ashgate, Aldershot, UK

In a recent paper, Flaaten et al (2017)<sup>2</sup> propose a methodology for undertaking these calculations. This methodology will be used in the eventual case studies.

In discussions, a number of potential cases were identified including:

- Rapa whelk (*Rapana venosa*) in the Black Sea
- Turbot in the Black Sea
- Small pelagics (sardine and anchovy) in the Adriatic Sea
- The mixed hake-red shrimp demersal fishery in the Strait of Sicily
- Black spot sea bream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) in the Alboran Sea (shared fishery between Spain and Morocco, management plan to be prepared)

A decision about which of these cases could be developed will be taken in discussion with GFCM and the national focal points concerned, based also on logistical questions and available resources .

In addition to their direct commercial exploitation, fish resources may generate cash returns from at least two other directions:

1. They may be exploited recreationally which in some cases can generate substantial returns, in excess even of commercial fishing.
2. The fishing activity may generate some value due to its very existence, for instance it may impact positively on the extent of and expenditure associated with coastal tourism.

It may be of interest to include these two factors at least in some places, particularly if work to estimate their importance already exists. This can be discussed with national focal points.

#### ***Complement transversal data such as catch and effort***

This point needs to be discussed in collaboration with the other Tasks.

#### ***Key questions for National Focal Points***

1. What are the fleet segments?
2. Is there a reliable and up-to-date vessel registry for each segment? If yes, the registry can be used to draw random samples for the sample survey? For those segments where there is no registry, what information do you have on the segment (e.g. has a frame survey been undertaken in the past? If so, when?). *This relates to TASK IV of the DCRF*
3. What technical data are recorded for each segment? (E.g. vessel owner and contact details, vessel length, vessel power etc.). *This relates to TASK IV of the DCRF*
4. What landings data are vessel owners required to submit in each segment? (E.g. landings per species per day's fishing in weight and value?). *This relates to TASK II of the DCRF but only weight data are mandatory*
5. Do vessel owners in each segment keep reliable written records of their fishing activities? If they do, and if they are convinced of the usefulness of the survey, then information can be obtained from these records on an annual basis. If they don't, more frequent sampling may be needed because of the need to rely on recall.
6. What are the representation arrangements for each segment? Is there a national Federation or a series of smaller Federations or both or some other organisations? (NOTE: Prior to the survey it will be important for national focal points to discuss it with these Federations and organisations so that they can stress upon their members the importance of collaborating and providing reliable information. To do this, it will be necessary for the focal points to explain the goals of the survey: (i) to meet statutory needs (DCRF), (ii) to ensure that correct information

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<sup>2</sup> O Flaaten, K Heen and T Matthiasson (2017) "Profit and resource rent in fisheries" Marine Resource Economics 32(3): 311-328



is available on the important role played by the fishing sector, (iii) to ensure as a result that appropriate investments are made in support of the sector. It is also important to stress that no individual vessels will be identified in the results and that this is not part of a tax investigation.)

### *Timing issues*

It is recognized that the DCRF is in an initial, provisional phase and that discussions will continue at the forty first session of the Commission towards the adoption of a recommendation on the submission of data on fishing activities in the GFCM area of application (repealing Task 1 statistical matrix) and in line with the principles of the DCRF. In anticipation of this adoption, the socio-economic survey is being designed to align with the aforementioned data submission requirements. However, should the new recommendation not move forward as planned, in line with the adopted mid-term strategy (2017-2020), data collection through the socio-economic survey will continue to be carried out, albeit elements of this methodology may be re-examined.

The intention of this survey is to obtain data for reference year 2018, with specific focus on those countries where an annual economic survey is not undertaken. According to data submission requirements in line with DCRF principles, countries have until 31 May 2020 to submit their socio-economic data for that year, except for Table VI.1 which should be submitted by 30 November 2019.

For the countries where socio-economic data collection is already in place, it is expected to receive this data through official submissions to the GFCM in line with the fisheries data requirements of the GFCM. Based on the data submission deadlines noted above, this data would therefore be received by 31 May 2020 in most cases, or for Table VI.1, by 30 November 2019.

Therefore, as the intention is to complete data collection and report writing in 2019, it may be necessary to use 2017 data.

This would suggest using a 2-pronged approach:

1. Work in the first half of 2018 with those countries without annual economic surveys to obtain 2017 data on the best basis possible using a retrospective approach. Add data for 2017 from official submissions once available for those countries with annual economic surveys. Write up the 2017 results in the second half of 2019.
2. Work with those countries without annual economic surveys throughout 2018 to develop a closer-to-real-time economic data collection system. This could be based on a series of surveys or other methods depending on data that is already available and can be identified with national focal points.

**Draft roadmap towards the development of harmonized sampling and survey monitoring schemes for recreational fisheries**

***Proposal***

Following the outputs of the *GFCM Questionnaire on National Marine Recreational Fisheries*, it could be feasible to launch pilot studies for monitoring recreational fisheries in some Mediterranean and Black Sea countries, within the context of the GFCM mid-term strategy. Thereafter, based on the outcomes of the pilot studies, guidelines could be defined and future data collection methods, which are coordinated and standardized at the marine region level, could be proposed.

The management of recreational fisheries should be further reviewed in light of these pilot studies and decisions made on how to proceed.

***Objectives***

The principal goal of this proposal would be to provide a methodological framework to allow Mediterranean and Black Sea countries to develop suitably harmonized sampling and survey monitoring schemes for recreational fishery.

The pilot studies should further permit:

- to determine the number of recreational fishermen in selected countries;
- to monitor fishing activity in terms of gears/equipment used and time dedicated to this activity;
- to collect some basic information on recreational catches: species, weight and number;
- to collect macro-data on the overall economic impact of the activity.

This will permit:

- to provide a comprehensive description of the marine recreational fisheries including the potential magnitude of recreational catches and effort by country;
- to provide baseline for appropriate statistical sampling schemes, protocols, and associated data analysis;
- to estimate the value of recreational fisheries;
- to estimate the share of catches from recreational fisheries in relation to commercial catches;
- to better understand for which species, data from recreational fisheries could potentially improve overall assessments.

***Roadmap***

In 2018 methods and approaches will be defined and tested. In 2019 the pilot study is foreseen to continue with field data collection activities and data analysis. Results are expected to be available and presented by the end of 2019, with discussion and consultation on these results foreseen in order to better define the design and the extent of future regional/sub-regional surveys on recreational fisheries.

Pilot study on Recreational fishery												
	2018				2019				2020			
quarters periods	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Identification of Countries involved in the pilot studies implementation												
Identification of responsables in the identified countries												
Drafting methodologies												
Coordination Secretariat/Responsible/Countries (analysis of needs and requirements)												
Finalize the methodologies												
Field activities												
Analysys of the results												
Define and harmonize the design and the extent of future regional/sub-regional surveys on recreational fisheries.												

### ***Methodology and expected outcomes of pilot study***

During the testing phase (2018), it will be important to develop data collection methods, sampling designs, and estimation methods for effective surveys of marine recreational fishing effort and catch, and to determine appropriate target populations and sampling frames. Based on the identified countries, populations of recreational fishers to be sampled can be very large, diffusely distributed and in most cases of unknown magnitude. Depending on the selected countries, there may be few or no lists such as licenses or vessel registries to identify populations to be randomly sampled. Therefore, methodology may require different approaches.

The methodology to implement the pilot study could be based on *off-site* and *on-site* surveys, as already carried out in other areas:

- The off-site methods could be consider by mail, by postal questionnaires, by telephone surveys, as well as by trip-record reporting surveys that utilize logbooks and/or diaries.
- The on-site methods could include sampling trips to access points to interview fishermen directly, and to work in collaboration with cooperatives, angling associations, angling clubs.

Further, new approaches could be represented by the use of smartphone applications (“apps”). The feasibility of developing recreational fishery data collection through apps, in collaboration with stakeholders, could be further explored. Several apps that allow anglers and other recreational fishers to record the details of their fishing trips and catches, have emerged during recent years. These apps vary greatly in content and purpose, however, it is clear that these apps hold great potential to inform fisheries managers in a cost-effective way and provide scientific insight at a scale that would not be possible using tradition scientific data collection (Venturelli *et al.*, 2016). The development of such a data collection tool would require good consultation and collaboration with recreational fishing organizations in the GFCM area of application, as well as translation into all national languages of the region, in order to ensure stakeholder buy-in and effectiveness of the app.

### **Draft terms of reference (ToRs)**

#### **Draft ToRs of the Working Group on Small-Scale Fisheries (WGSSF)**

The main objective of the Working Group is to coordinate technical, scientific and socio-economic activities relating to small-scale fisheries in order to fill the main data gaps relating to this sector, to produce advice for consideration and validation by the SAC and WGBS and to support the sustainable management and development of small-scale fisheries within a Blue Growth perspective. To this end, the WGSSF shall:

- Provide advice on the implementation of technical outputs of Target 2 of the mid-term strategy;
- Provide advice on the implementation of technical aspects of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) in the GFCM area of application;
- Promote the use of the GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF) as a data collection tool for small-scale fisheries;
- Measure the biological and ecological impacts of small-scale fishing activity on fish stocks, particularly for priority species, and on the marine environment;
- Develop indicators to measure the economic and social impacts of small-scale fishing activity on coastal communities in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. Assess the access of small-scale fishers to resources and markets, in light of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.b., and examine the interaction of small-scale fishing with related sectors, particularly fish processing, marine recreational fisheries and tourism;
- Identify interactions between small-scale and recreational fisheries, with a view to assessing potential conflicts, including competition for resources, competition for space and gear interactions.

#### **Draft ToRs of the Working Group on Recreational Fisheries (WGRF)**

The main objective of the Working Group is to coordinate technical, scientific and socio-economic activities relating to recreational fisheries in order to fill the main data gaps relating to this sector, to produce advice for consideration and validation by the SAC and WGBS and to support the sustainable management of recreational fisheries within an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries perspective. To this end, the WGRF shall:

- Provide advice on the implementation of technical outputs of Target 2 of the mid-term strategy in relation to recreational fisheries;
- Measure the biological and ecological impacts of marine recreational fishing activity on fish stocks, particularly for priority species, and on the marine environment;
- Measure the socio-economic impact of marine recreational fishing activity on coastal communities in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, including its interaction with related sectors such as tourism and small-scale fisheries;
- Harmonize methodologies for assessing recreational fisheries, towards improved data collection in support of sustainable recreational fisheries management;
- Identify interactions between recreational and small-scale fisheries, with a view to assessing potential conflicts, including competition for resources, competition for space and gear interactions.

**Draft roadmap toward strengthening SSF organizational structures and engagement in decision-making processes****Conclusions from the questionnaire and considerations for way forward**

The results from the questionnaire indicate that there is an apparent lack of reliable information on the small-scale fisheries (SSF) sector and that the relevant institutional structures and processes vary considerably from one country to another. It also seems that it is difficult to collect information on many of the aspects of SSF through a standardized questionnaire as concepts and terminology – and the interpretations and understanding of these – are likely to vary between countries.

Still, there are indications that some countries already have a certain level of institutional structures and processes and that there is scope for learning from existing experiences. It would be useful to investigate more in detail what good practices exist and what would be needed for strengthening organizational structures, where they exist, and how to go about creating them where they do not exist.

While the output of the mid-term strategy is the ‘establishment of a regional platform to engage and promote dialogue among small-scale fishing associations’, it would appear important that – in parallel with assessing capacity development needs and subsequently providing support for the strengthening of organizations – also look into existing mechanisms through which small-scale fishers and fish workers contribute to decision-making processes as well as what mechanisms and processes would be desirable to ensure that SSF actors are able to participate in fisheries governance and development in line with the provisions of the SSF Guidelines.

Hence, for the continuation of the work, an approach combining a review of existing good practices and needs assessments for support to both strengthening of SSF organizational structures and the development of mechanisms and processes for allowing SSF actors to engage in decision-making processes is recommended. This support needs to have both a regional and a national level dimension. It is also important to take a value chain approach in the sense that postharvest actors are not overlooked as well as to ensure a gender perspective.

It is suggested that the work is carried out in different phases starting with a selected number of countries in the first phase (first year). The criteria for selecting countries will include:

- Apparent existence of experiences that can be explored as good practices for other countries in the (sub)-region or a documented need to establish organisational structures and mechanisms (and the political will to do so).
- The capacity of SSF representatives (whether organised or not) and relevant government officials to engage in the process.

It is suggested that a total of four countries are selected and that both EU and non-EU countries be represented. In addition, collaboration with partners will be sought to broaden to work to additional countries to ensure that a representative number of countries and cases are included in the work.

## Roadmap

For the next year, i.e., up to the high-level meeting on SSF scheduled for 2018, the following activities are suggested:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Date</i>
Develop proposal (by WGSSF chair) for which countries to include during the first year and discuss with partners (e.g. WWF) on collaboration to broaden the country coverage	December 2017
Decision on scope of work and selected countries (by GFCM Secretariat)	January 2018
Identify organizations and individuals in each of the selected countries, in particular government and SSF representatives but also other partners (e.g., in academia).	February 2018
Develop work plans and assess resource needs for carrying out detailed participatory reviews of existing organizations and mechanisms as well as needs assessments for future support in the selected countries. Existing SSF CSOs (including at regional and global levels, as appropriate) should be part of developing these work plans and related methodologies for participatory assessments.	March 2018
Hold a consultation meeting among heads of SSF organizations, in advance of the High-Level Meeting on Small-Scale Fisheries	April 2018
Carry out the work plans at the national level and develop plans for capacity development (organizational and institutional structures and mechanisms).	May 2018
Review the results of the national level assessments and capacity development plans with the participating countries and relevant regional and global institutions and organizations. Draw up suggestions for actions in the selected countries and for activities in other countries and at the regional level.	June 2018
If time permits, start implementing suggested actions.	July – August 2018
Prepare report for the high-level SSF meeting soliciting advice with regard to the continuation of the work.	September 2018

## Compiled list of ongoing activities in support of SSF organizations by partner organizations

<i>Partner organization name</i>	<i>Description of ongoing work to support SSF organizations</i>	<i>Location</i>
CIHEAM-BARI	<p>NEMO PROJECT - Cross-Border Rural Coastal Communities Development in Libya and Neighbouring Countries</p> <p>Promote a sustainable development process for coastal rural communities in Libya-Tunisia-Egypt to enhance their resilience and prosperity.”</p> <p><i>Promoting sustainable socio economic development process for coastal communities in Medenine</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-purpose traditional fishing center in Zarzis</li> <li>• Micro-credit for fishermen and associations (8 groups of fisherman involved - around 1000 fisherman; 223 Individual projects have been selected and financed; 6 collective projects financed; € 180,000 assigned; € 250,000 expected to be assigned)</li> <li>• Infrastructures port near Libyan border (Jdaria-Biben) (Creation of a new fishermen association composed by 100 fishermen; Implementation of a little harbor)</li> <li>• Sustainable management of Biben lagune (Jdaria-Biben) (Fish stock evaluation by acoustic sonar; Manual for the lagune sustainable management -Biben)</li> <li>• Capacity Building (26 trainers have been trained in Italy; 12 woman belonging to 5 fishermen group have been trained in Italy; 5 Atelier involving more than 250 beneficiaries focused on different topics related to the fishing and sea food processing and preparation)</li> <li>• Brand creation and traceability system (1 Brand of «Fish products of Medenine Governorate»; Implementation of the traceability system of Fish products , 1 manual and code; 1 android application for the traceability; 8 fishermen groups and associations are involved with more than 1000 beneficiaries)</li> </ul>	TUNISIA (Medenine)
CIHEAM-BARI	<p>NEMO PROJECT - Cross-Border Rural Coastal Communities Development in Libya and Neighbouring Countries</p> <p>Promote a sustainable development process for coastal rural communities in Libya-Tunisia-Egypt to enhance their resilience and prosperity.”</p> <p><i>Increasing capacity and consciousness of rural coastal communities of Sallum-Matrouh and Barrani to enhance their institutional, multifunctional and territorial roles.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socio economic Assessment of Local Communities in Sallum, Barrani and Marsa Matrouh.</li> </ul>	EGYPT (Sallum-Matrouh and Barrani)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish value chain enhancement (1 Brand “Product of Matrouh Fishermen; 1 Protocol for the Small Scale Fishery Value Chain; 1 Guidelines for Brand use and regulations)</li> <li>• Supporting the marketing and promotion of the fishermen product and ensuring freshness and quality to the consumer (1 Refrigerated Truck for the Fishermen Association; 60 Fishermen trained in Fishery sustainability and Hygiene Issues; Ice machine)</li> <li>• Procurement of outboard motors for small scale boats</li> <li>• Valorization of local products and marketing (1 Agricultural Cooperative legally established; Business Plan; Training and seminars)</li> </ul>	
CIHEAM-BARI	<p>NEMO PROJECT - Cross-Border Rural Coastal Communities Development in Libya and Neighbouring Countries</p> <p>Promote a sustainable development process for coastal rural communities in Libya-Tunisia-Egypt to enhance their resilience and prosperity.”</p> <p><i>Assistance and support to coastal communities of the Mediterranean countries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping of Sustainable Relevant Initiatives of small scale activities in the South and East Mediterranean countries”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Morocco: Nador lagoon system</li> <li>- Algeria: the Qasba fishing port system</li> <li>- Tunisia: Zarzis coastal fishing system</li> <li>- Egypt: Marsa Matrouh tourist fishing area</li> <li>- Lebanon: Tiro harbor and coastal system</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Study on “Coastal development program of the Mediterranean region: analysis, strategy and perspectives”. It is a <i>baseline</i> for the identification of pilot actions in Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia</li> <li>• WEBPORT, a media facility for the Mediterranean Coastal Communities. Organization of Webinar for supporting the South to South exchange of experience and best practices.</li> </ul>	<p>ALBANIA (Himara-Porto Palermo)</p> <p>ALGERIA (Algeri)</p> <p>EGYPT (Marsa Matrouh)</p> <p>ITALY (Tricase)</p> <p>LEBANON (Tyro)</p> <p>MOROCCO (Nador)</p> <p>TUNISIA (Zarzis)</p>
CIHEAM-BARI	<p>COASTAL MASTER PLAN</p> <p>Elaboration of a Sustainable development Master Plan for a sustainable socio-economic development of coastal area</p>	LEBANON
Federparchi – Europarc Italy	<p>FishMPABlue2 project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To test the “Governance toolkit for small scale fishery” in different typologies of MPAs, in order to have an upgraded version of it (WP3)</li> <li>• To disseminate the tested toolkit among the maximum feasible number of Med MPAs (WP4)</li> </ul>	<p>CROATIA (Telašćica*)</p> <p>FRANCE (Côte Bleue, Cap Roux, Bonifacio)</p> <p>GREECE (Zakynthos)</p> <p>ITALY (Portofino, Egadi Islands, Torre Guaceto)</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enhance integration of principles and recommendations in national and international policies to ease informal/formal engagement of stakeholders in small scale fishery management within MPAs (WP5)</li> </ul> <p>Project being carried out in 11 pilot MPAs from 6 Mediterranean countries</p>	<p>SLOVENIA (Strunjan*)</p> <p>SPAIN (Cabo de Palos, Es Freus)</p> <p><i>*Carried out with WWF-Mediterranean</i></p>
LIFE	<p>3 year programme of work (expected to commence at the beginning of January 2018) focusing on two marine geographies. A number of case studies are being planned in these areas to document the characteristics of SSF, the extent of traditional ecological knowledge, the main threats to sustaining SSF livelihoods, and economic performance. An array of activities are planned with LIFE members and other fishing communities in these areas.</p>	<p>FRANCE &amp; SPAIN (Alboran Sea)</p> <p>ITALY &amp; MALTA (Strait of Sicily)</p>
MEDAC – (project partners: UNIMAR and MEDAC)	<p>EastMed project (end date 31 March 2017)</p> <p>Main objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to contribute to strengthen the participation of small-scale fishing into the decision-making and advisory process, in particular within the MEDAC, and support the participation of small-scale fishing in national and local professional associations;</li> <li>to support the exchange of information among the stakeholders, in order to increase the participation of small-scale fishing sector in advisory and decision-making processes.</li> </ul> <p>One of tasks was to deliver actions aimed to directly involve the fishers and draw attention on the role of representation (case studies in Croatia, Italy and Slovenia- GSA17). We have organised 3 mutual-learning Events -October 2016- in Venice (Veneto, Italy), Izola (Slovenia), Poreč (Istria, Croatia) - total 135 attendants. 1 brochure printed in Italian, Slovenian, Croatian and English aimed to the involvement of the stakeholders. 1 database of the questionnaires data. The website <a href="http://www.artfishmed.eu">www.artfishmed.eu</a>, online for the next 3 years, containing all the project details and results.</p>	<p>CROATIA, ITALY, SLOVENIA (GSA 17)</p>
WWF – Mediterranean Marine Initiative	<p>“Transforming Mediterranean Small Scale Fisheries” Project (2017-2022)</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop in at least four Mediterranean countries (Turkey, Croatia, Italy and Greece) co-management schemes leading to sustainable small scale fisheries management.</li> <li>To develop in 50% of fisheries stakeholders (including cooperatives, fisheries delegates and associations), in Turkey, Croatia, Italy and Greece, the capacity to implement sustainable small scale fisheries management.</li> <li>To improve income and livelihoods through better seafood product marketing, greater market access, and enhanced cooperation with the tourism industry and local retailers in at</li> </ul>	<p>ALBANIA (Karaburun-Sazan, Cape Rodon)</p> <p>ALGERIA (El Kala)</p> <p>CROATIA (Telaščica*, Lastovo, Velebit Channel)</p> <p>FRANCE (Gulf of Lion, Les Calanques)</p> <p>GREECE (5 sites in the Northern Cyclades)</p> <p>ITALY (Patti, Porto Cesareo, Sinis)</p>

	<p>least 9 small-scale sustainably-managed fisheries in at least four Mediterranean countries (Turkey, Croatia, Italy and Greece).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To significantly improve the knowledge of the status of small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean.</li> <li>• To strengthen the dialogue and the consequent networking among small scale fishers and stakeholders at the Mediterranean regional level.</li> </ul>	<p>SLOVENIA (Strunjan*)</p> <p>SPAIN (Mar Menor, Balearic Islands + 5 sites along the Mediterranean costs)</p> <p>TUNISIA (Tabarka, Gabes)</p> <p>TURKEY (Ermil, Kas Kekova, Foca)</p> <p><i>*Carried out with FishMPABlue2 project</i></p>
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*Map of ongoing case studies by partner organizations:*

