

CONCEPT NOTE & AGENDA

High-level event on advancing the
RPOA-SSF in the context of the
GFCM 2030 Strategy

30 June 2021 | 9.00 – 12.00
(Online)



OBJECTIVES

Noting that the GFCM 2030 Strategy for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (GFCM 2030 Strategy) places important emphasis on ensuring resilient fisheries-based livelihoods and, in this context, calls for the full and efficient implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (RPOA-SSF), it is necessary to:

- Review early successes and lessons learned in implementing the RPOA-SSF and discuss topics for which increased focus is needed, particularly in light of changing priorities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Assess if additional (political, financial, field) efforts are needed and advise on implementing the RPOA-SSF in the context of the GFCM 2030 Strategy.
- Recognize the RPOA-SSF as a means for coping with the COVID-19 crisis in coastal areas and renew overall commitment towards reaching the targets set forth within the Malta MedFish4Ever Declaration, the Sofia Declaration and the RPOA-SSF
- Promote new financial, strategic, synergic and inclusive initiatives to react and adapt new challenges, as well as capitalize on new opportunities, posed by the COVID-19 recovery in view of further supporting the successful implementation of the RPOA-SSF

CONTEXT

The [RPOA-SSF](#) was adopted as a Ministerial Declaration on the occasion of a High-level conference on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (Malta, September 2018). The RPOA-SSF represents a political commitment to implement concrete actions over ten years (until 2028) in order to strengthen and support sustainable SSF, advancing the commitments set out through the [Malta MedFish4Ever Ministerial Declaration](#) and the [Sofia Declaration](#), as well as tailoring the implementation of the [SSF Guidelines](#) to the Mediterranean and Black Sea region (read more about the road to the RPOA-SSF adoption [here](#)).

The RPOA-SSF prescribes concrete and coherent objectives, principles and actions to address the challenges and reinforce opportunities for the SSF sector, in view of ensuring their long-term environmental, economic and social sustainability. In particular, the RPOA-SSF puts forth actions to be taken in line with nine key topics: **Scientific research; Small-scale fisheries data; Small-scale fisheries management measures; Small-Scale fisheries value chain; Participation of small-scale fisheries in decision-making processes; Capacity-building; Decent work; Role of women; Climate and environment.**

Two and a half years after the signing of the RPOA-SSF, progress has been made in its implementation, yet setbacks have also been experienced, particularly in light of the spread of a global pandemic which, in 2020, radically changed the global context in which SSF operate. 2021 marks some signs of recovery from the pandemic. With this recovery comes a crucial political moment: economic recovery plans are being developed, and new investments, financing and subsidies are being discussed that will shape the economy of the future in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region. In this context, it is crucial to reaffirm the future role of small-scale fisheries and the RPOA-SSF as the means to accelerate the needed sustainability transition in coastal areas.

ORGANIZATION

- The High-level event is being organized by the **WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative** and the **GFCM**, in collaboration with the **European Commission**
- The event will be held **online (Zoom platform)** on **30 June 2021** from **9.00 – 12.00**
- Simultaneous **interpretation** will be provided for the event in: **Arabic, English, French and Spanish**

AGENDA

A panel of high-level speakers, decision-makers, small-scale fishers and coastal community members from across the Mediterranean and Black Sea region are foreseen to discuss priorities, challenges, opportunities and future needs to implement the RPOA-SSF in the region.

The conclusions of this event will contribute to the discussions on the implementation of the GFCM 2030 Strategy, helping to drive priority actions, as well as shaping the Mediterranean and Black Sea region's celebration of the [International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture \(IYAFA\)](#) in 2022.

9:00 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- Abdellah Srour, Executive Secretary, GFCM

9:20 OPENING DISCUSSION ON A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE FOR SSF

- Marco Lambertini, Director General, WWF International
- Manuel Barange, Director, Fisheries Division, FAO
- Lena Andersson Pench, Director of Fisheries Policy Mediterranean and Black Sea, DG MARE, European Commission

9:45 NATIONAL EXPERIENCES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

- Mario Jurašić, Head of Sector for Market Information Systems in Fisheries and Aquaculture, Directorate of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Croatia
- Ridha M'Rabet, Director General, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries, Tunisia
- Doaa Hammam, General Manager of Agreements Administration, General Authority for Fish Resources Development, Egypt
- Mohammed Malouli Idrissi, Head of the National Institute for Fisheries Research (INRH) Tangier Center (Mediterranean), Morocco
- Sassi Alaya, President of Ghnnouch/Gabes Small-Scale Fishers Cooperative, Gabes, Tunisia
- Antonio Đivoje, President of the Lastovo fishers association, Lastovo, Croatia
- Giovanni Colelli, Small-scale fisher, Porto Cesareo, Italy

11:00 NATIONAL EXPERIENCES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE BLACK SEA

- Nino Tandilashvili, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia
- Mustafa Altug Atalay, Director General, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Directorate General of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Turkey
- Elitsa Petrova, Director, Institute of Fish Resources, Bulgaria
- Laurentiu Mirea, President, Federation of Black Sea Fishers' Organizations

11:45 CONCLUDING REMARKS

- H.E. Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner of Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, European Commission (via video message)

11:50 WRAP-UP AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING