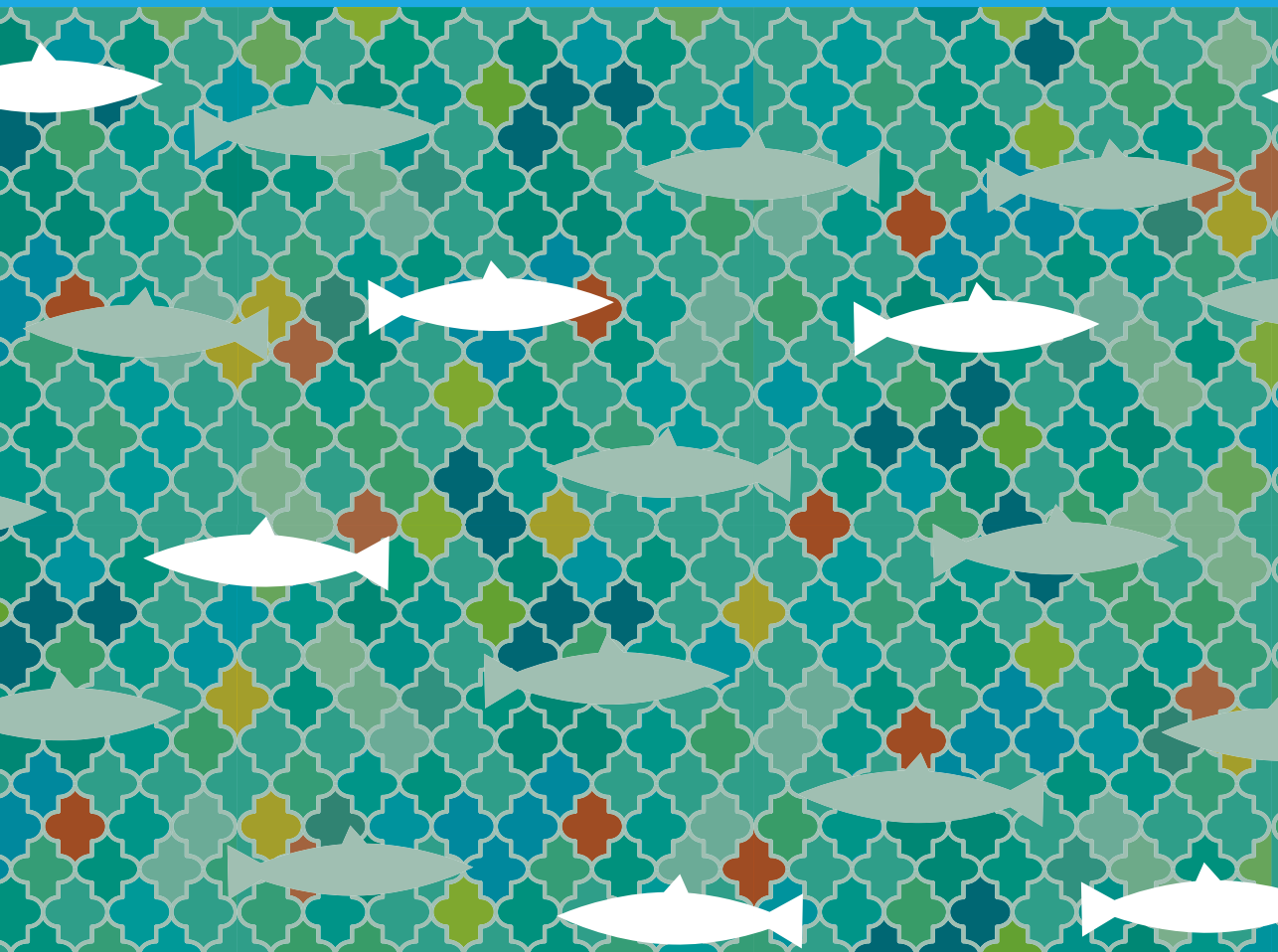


Provisional
Programme

GFCM High-level conference on MedFish4Ever initiatives: Advances and renewed commitments

11-12 June 2019, Marrakech, Morocco



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Provisional Programme

11 June 2019

SPECIAL SESSIONS: TAKING STOCK OF ADVANCES IN MEDFISH4EVER INITIATIVES

Welcome by the hosting country and general introduction

Session 1

Joining efforts towards enhanced fisheries management in the GFCM area of application

The aim of this session is to highlight efforts to modernize fisheries management in the GFCM area of application, including improving area-based management, enhancing the role of science, ensuring regular, reliable and timely data collection, and implementing holistic approaches to fisheries management, such as the ecosystem approach to fisheries and co-management.

- **Setting the scene**
- **Expert panel:**
 - Area based management and sensitive habitats
 - Ecosystem and environmental dimension of fisheries
 - Socio-economic dimension of fisheries
 - Enhancing science to support fisheries management
 - Institutional dimension of fisheries, including co-management
- **Q&A**

Session 2

The key role of international cooperation for the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing

Within the context of the International Day for the Fight against IUU Fishing, celebrated on 5 June every year, this session aims to demonstrate that cooperation at the global and regional level among organizations with different mandates and a shared goal – that is the prevention and deterrence of illegal fishing activities, including crime in the fisheries value chain and its negative consequences for the market – is arguably the most efficient way to tackle IUU fishing. Institutions involved in this session may include: ATLAFCO, EFCA/ European Commission, FAO, ICCAT, NEAFC and UNODC.



9.00 – 12.30 hours

Interpretation
in Arabic,
English and
French

- **Setting the scene**
- **Expert panel:**
 - The role of port state measures
 - Combatting crime in the fisheries sector
 - Tracking IUU fishing: catch traceability and vessel monitoring
 - Exchange of information on alleged IUU fishing cases
 - Cooperation on inspection schemes
 - Best practices in international cooperation
- **Q&A**

Session 3

Sustainable aquaculture: recent challenges and prospective development

This session focuses on progress made towards sustainable aquaculture development, in particular as regards governance and social responsibility, aquaculture products, environmental concerns, animal and human health, market access and trade, supporting local communities, improving social acceptability of aquaculture, capacity-building and the role of aquaculture farmer organizations.

- **Setting the scene**
- **Expert panel:**
 - Facilitating investment in the aquaculture sector
 - Boosting markets and product innovation
 - Ensuring a healthy environment in support of sustainable aquaculture activities
 - The role of farmer organizations
- **Q&A**

12.30 – 14.00 hours

Lunch break

SIDE EVENT

Best practices on transparency and measures to fight IUU fishing in RFMOs: a call for action (organized by the EU IUU Coalition: Environmental Justice Foundation, The Pew Charitable Trust, Oceana, The Nature Conservancy, WWF)

14.00 - 17.30 hours

Interpretation
in Arabic,
English and
French

SPECIAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DECENT WORK: REDUCING VULNERABILITIES OF SMALL- SCALE FISHING COMMUNITIES

Panel 1

Social protection: challenges, best practices and the way forward

This session aims to discuss the role of social protection in ensuring more resilient and sustainable small-scale fishing communities. The outcomes of the study on social protection for SSF and the conclusions from the dedicated workshop on social development will be presented and discussed. In particular, these conclusions are expected to put forward concrete priority actions towards implementing the relevant sections of the RPOA-SSF (decent work, social protection, role of women, youth employment, etc.) and launch the GFCM summer school initiative towards enhancing capacity-building for fishers.

- **The role of social protection in supporting small-scale fisheries: best practices and recommendations from the regional review** (by FAO-GFCM)
- **Conclusions from the workshop “Advancing social development for the future of small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea”** (10 June 2019, Marrakech, Morocco)
- **Panel discussion on priority actions to address social aspects of the RPOA-SSF implementation**
 - Social protection: the importance of policy coherence and coordination
 - Informal social protection: the role of fisher organizations and civil society
 - Enhancing decent work
 - Ensuring the visibility of women in fisheries
 - Supporting youth employment
- **Q&A**

Panel 2

Ensuring decent work: Improving working conditions and addressing fisher needs

The aim of this session is to discuss health and safety needs, as well as labour rights along the value chain, towards ensuring decent working conditions for fishers and fish workers. In particular, the session will highlight the importance of the ILO C188 Work in Fishing Convention.

- **Introduction by ILO (TBC)**
- **Expert panel:**
 - ILO C188 Work in Fishing Convention
 - Social sustainability along the fisheries value chains
 - Occupational health concerns for fishers
- **Q&A**

Panel 3

Promoting fair income and employment opportunities for small-scale fishers: value chain enhancement and livelihood diversification within a blue economy context

The aim of this session is to present the role of the blue economy concept in promoting resilient livelihoods for small-scale fishers. In particular, the FAO Blue Hope initiative will be presented and the potential of a region-wide project aimed at making fisheries value chains more productive and sustainable, as well as at unlocking investment opportunities linked to the blue economy, will be discussed.

- **Introduction by FAO**
- **Expert panel:**
 - The Blue Hope initiative
 - Emerging blue economy initiatives
 - Value chain innovations
 - Livelihood diversification
- **Q&A**

Evening gala: celebrating the International Day for the Fight against IUU Fishing

The evening gala is organized in celebration of the International Day for the Fight against IUU Fishing. Keynote speeches will set the scene and awards will be presented for best practices in the fight against IUU fishing focusing on scientific research, technological innovation for vessel tracking (including for SSF) and awareness raising on the negative effects of IUU fishing.

- **Speeches from high-level personalities**

20.30 hours

**By special
invitation only**



12 June 2019

10.00 - 13.00 hours

Interpretation
in Arabic,
English and
French

HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE

Welcome addresses

- H.E. Mr Aziz Akhannouch, Minister for Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests, Morocco (TBC)
- Mr José Graziano Da Silva (or representative), Director-General, FAO (TBC)
- Mr Roland Kristo, Chairperson, GFCM

Introduction to the MedFish4Ever initiatives

- H.E. Mr Karmenu Vella, Commissioner of Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission

Opening video

Advances since the adoption of the Malta MedFish4Ever Declaration*

- Achievements of MedFish4Ever initiatives since the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration in 2017 (by Mr Abdellah Srour, GFCM Executive Secretary)

Announcements of renewed commitments for the Malta MedFish4Ever Declaration**

High-level representatives (organizations and countries) are invited to announce commitments towards reaching the targets set by the Declaration. Commitments should take the form of concrete actions and/or investments that are underway or being launched in relation to the main topics of the Malta MedFish4Ever Declaration.

High-level panel – Looking to the future: addressing the challenges to come

- Discussion topics: social development, climate change, fisheries management, marine spatial planning, small-scale fisheries, sustainable aquaculture, etc.
- Potential panelists may include ministers from Albania, Algeria, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, and an ATLAFCO country (TBD), as well as the EU Commissioner and a representative of the FAO

The panel will conclude with a presentation by Morocco on the Blue Belt Initiative

13.00 - 13.30 hours

Press conference

* A questionnaire is being circulated among GFCM contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties to take stock of the implementation of the MedFish4Ever Declaration

** Countries that have not yet signed the MedFish4Ever Declaration are invited to sign



10 June 2019

9.30 – 17.30 hours

Interpretation
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PRE-CONFERENCE PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

- **Advancing social development for the future of small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea** (organized by FAO/GFCM)
- **Science to action: embracing scientific research, fisheries and marine conservation through ecosystem-based planning** (organized by WWF)^{***}

12.45 – 14.00 hours

SIDE EVENT

Aquaculture under a blue economy perspective

(organized by GFCM/CIHEAM/EUROFISH/INFOSAMAK – TBC)

^{***}WWF is directly managing invitations, registration and related arrangements for this workshop. For further details please contact mgomei@wwfmedpo.org.