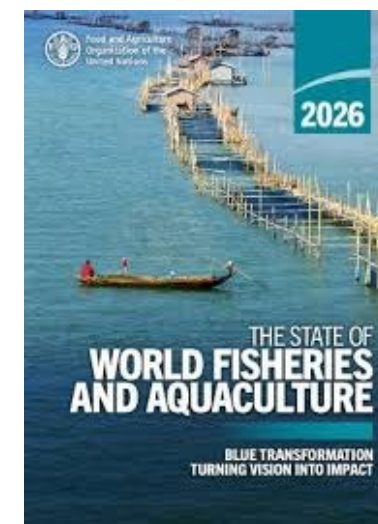




- 6th edition of The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries
- Prepared by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Data and information up to 2023
- Based mainly on official submissions from Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)
- Scientifically validated by GFCM advisory bodies

Purpose

- Assess status and trends
- Support evidence-based decision-making
- Monitor progress towards the GFCM 2030 Strategy



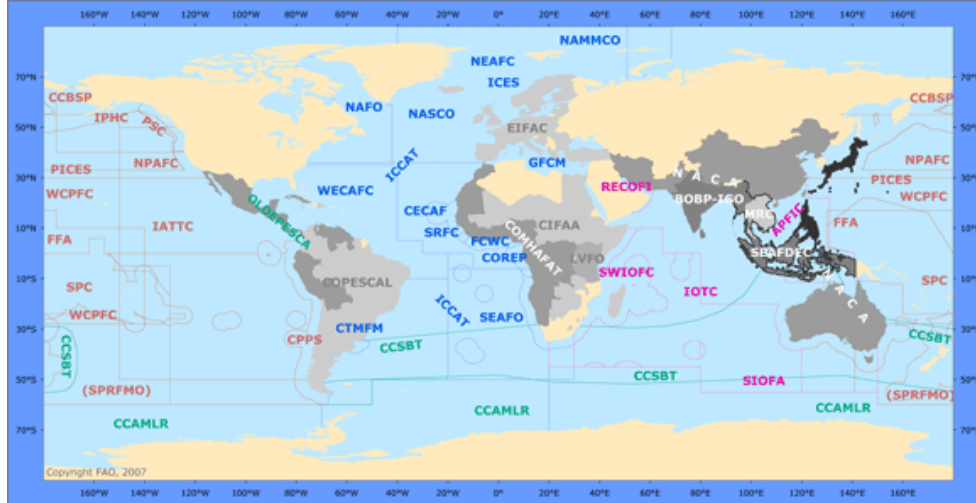
GFCM as a Regional Fisheries Body



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



General Fisheries
Commission for
the Mediterranean



Established in 1949

24 Members :

- 19 Mediterranean states · 4 Black Sea states · European Union



Subsidiary bodies:

- the Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC)
- the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Black Sea (ACBS)
- the Scientific Advisory Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ)
- the Compliance Committee (COC)
- the Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF).

Content

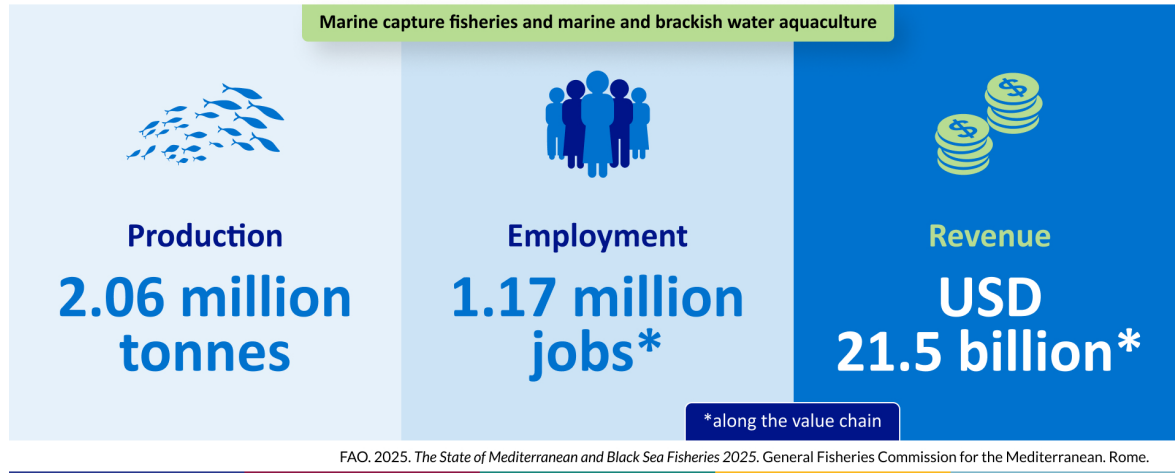
Part 1. Status and Trends of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries and Aquaculture

- Overview. Aquatic Food Systems in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea in a Nutshell
- Chapter 1. Capture Fisheries Production
- Chapter 2. Bycatch: Discards and Incidental Catch of Vulnerable Species
- Chapter 3. Status of Fishery Resources
- Chapter 4. Aquaculture Production
- Chapter 5. Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

Part 2. Management of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries and Aquaculture

- Chapter 6. Fisheries Management
- Chapter 7. Aquaculture Management

Overview of Aquatic Food Systems



- 83 075 fishing vessels.
- Aquaculture accounts for 46% of total aquatic food production
- More than 35 000 aquaculture enterprises

Key Findings

- Aquaculture is the main driver of growth in aquatic food production
- Fisheries management measures are contributing to stock recovery and improved sustainability
- Despite positive trends, more than half of assessed stocks remain overexploited
- Aquatic food production needs a 14% increase to meet the demands

Trends

- Aquatic food production increased by 25% over the last decade
- Capture fisheries production remained broadly stable

Chapter 1. Capture Fisheries Production

Status

1.12 million tonnes of capture fisheries landings from about 83 000 vessels

Top producers: Türkiye, Algeria, Tunisia, Italy and Morocco

Small pelagic species: European anchovy, Sardine, Sprat, Chub mackerel, Horse mackerels

Key Findings

Stable production achieved alongside improving stock status

Recovery trends evident for several assessed stocks. Included:

- Common sole (*Solea solea*) in the Adriatic Sea
- Turbot (*Scophthalmus maximus*) in the Black Sea
- European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) in the Adriatic Sea and in the Strait of Sicily
- Red mullet (*Mullus barbatus*) across assessed Mediterranean stocks [

Marked differences between the Mediterranean and Black Sea:

Mediterranean: more diverse fisheries, larger number of commercial species, generally lower catches per stock

Black Sea: catches concentrated on a few species, particularly small pelagics, with stronger influence of environmental variability and shared-stock management

Trends

Regional landings remained broadly stable over the last decade

Small-scale fisheries continued to dominate the fleet

Fleet ageing remains a widespread challenge

Chapter 2. Bycatch: Discards and Incidental Catch of Vulnerable Species

Status

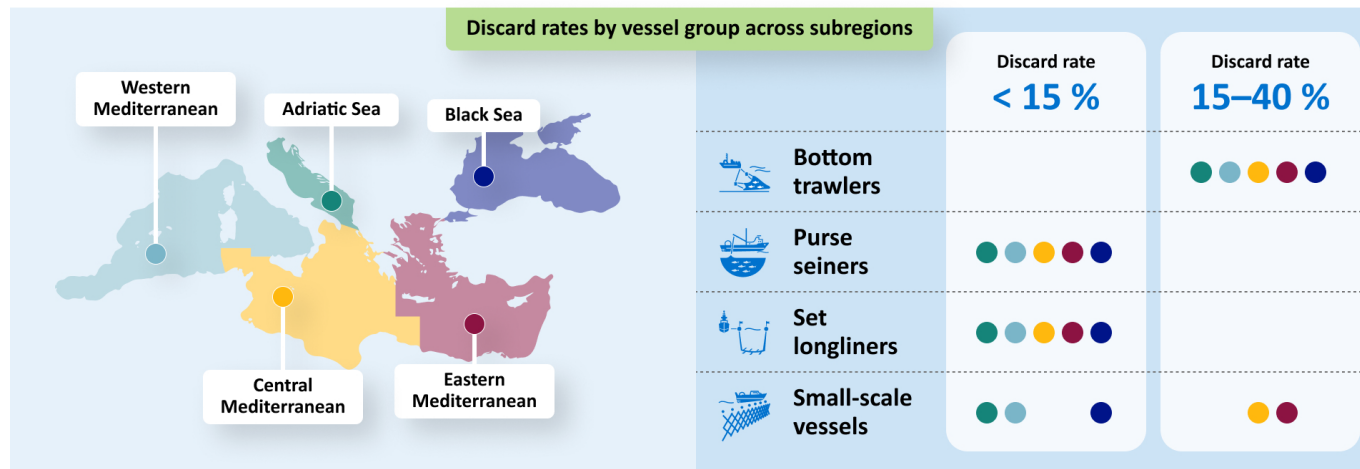
- Bycatch remains a significant challenge across the region
- Bottom trawls account for the highest discard rates
- Most affected groups: Sharks and rays, Sea turtles, Seabirds, Marine mammals

Key Findings

- Bycatch levels vary considerably among fishing gears and areas
- Vulnerable species interactions are concentrated in specific fisheries and locations
- Improved data collection is supporting more targeted management actions
- Ecosystem considerations are increasingly integrated into fisheries management

Trends

- Expanded observer programmes and monitoring systems
- Improved knowledge of bycatch distribution and hotspots
- Growing use of mitigation measures and best practices



FAO. 2025. *The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries 2025*. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. Rome.



Chapter 3. Status of Fishery Resources Status

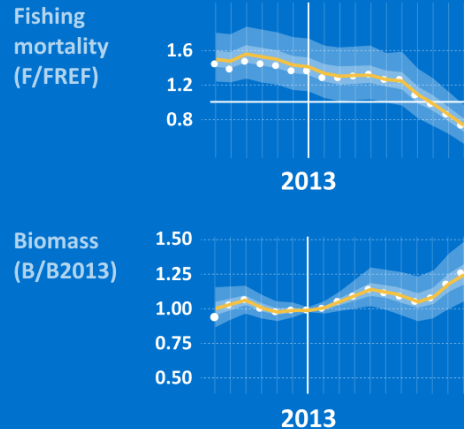
Fisheries resources in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

Average fishing mortality is reaching sustainable levels, proving that effective fisheries management works.

Fishing mortality
50% decrease

Biomass
25% increase

Since 2013, when management plans started being implemented



Stocks in overexploitation

87%
In 2013

52%
In 2023

Species under management measures

Now sustainable

common sole
(Adriatic Sea)

-42% **+64%**
Fishing mortality Biomass

Since 2019

European hake
(Adriatic Sea)

-50% **+40%**
Fishing mortality Biomass

Since 2013

turbot
(Black Sea)

-86% **+310%**
Fishing mortality Biomass

Since 2013

Overall biomass levels

Anchovy, deep-water rose shrimp, common sole stocks
Within sustainable levels

Red mullet, giant red shrimp stocks
Close to sustainable levels

FAO. 2025. *The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries 2025*. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. Rome.

Key Findings

- Lowest level of overexploitation recorded in the SoMFi series
- Clear recovery trends for several commercially important stocks
- Recovery remains uneven across species and subregions

Trends

- Fishing pressure reduced substantially since 2013
- Share of sustainably exploited stocks steadily increasing
- Scientific assessments expanded both in coverage and quality

- Stocks assessed: 45 in 2008. 120 in 2023
- Biomass of assessed stocks increasing

Chapter 4. Aquaculture Production

Total production

Production volume
2 970 000 tonnes

58% Freshwater
36% Marine water
6% Brackish water



Revenue
USD 9.3 billion

Marine and brackish water aquaculture

Revenue
USD 5.2 billion

63% increase
Since 2013

Jobs
113 000
directly employed
17% of jobs held by women

Production volume
940 000 tonnes

100% increase
Since 2013

Type of structure



83% Marine cages
9% Suspension culture
8% Others

Group of species



86.1% Finfish
13.7% Molluscs
0.2% Crustaceans and algae

FAO. 2025. *The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries 2025*. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. Rome.

Key Findings

- Main driver of aquatic food production growth
- Major contributor to food security and livelihoods
- Innovation boosting productivity
- Climate, disease and environmental challenges increasing

Trends

- Production more than doubled since 2013
- Expansion of marine cage farming
- Increasing species diversification

- producers: Türkiye, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Spain
- Main species: seabream, seabass, mussel



Chapter 5. Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

Status

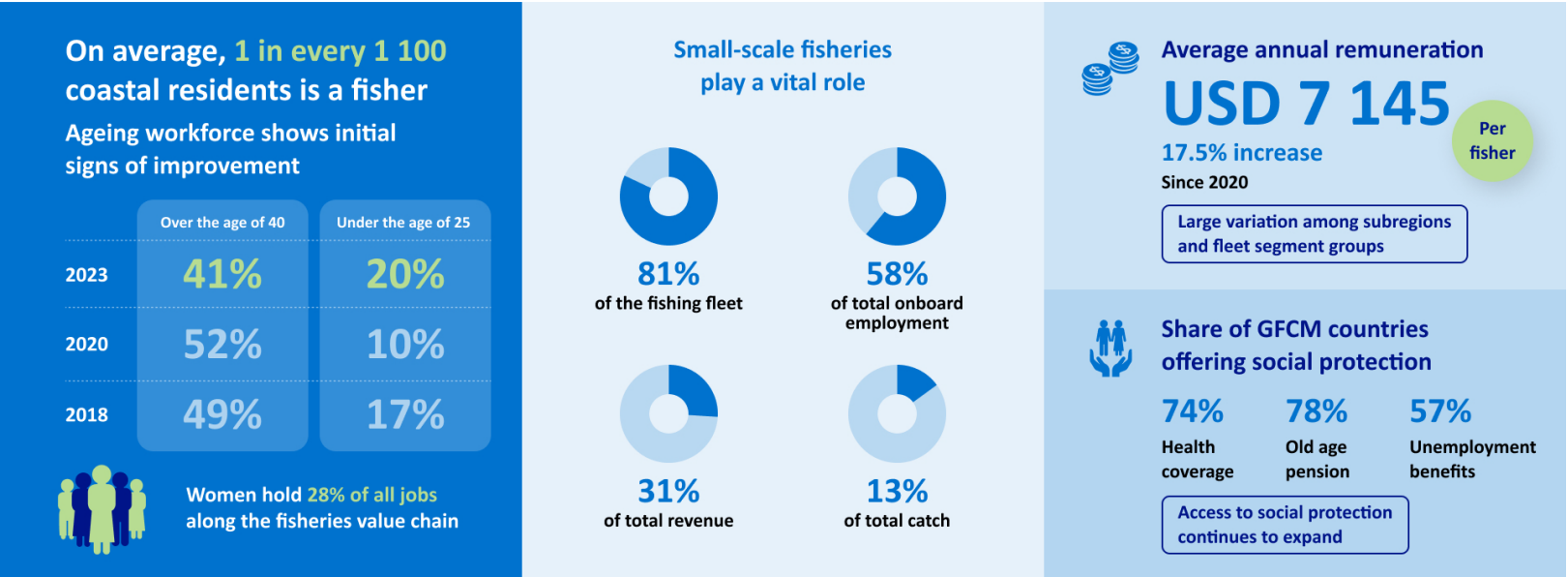
- 1.17 million jobs across the value chain
- Fisheries and aquaculture employment
 - Pre-harvest: 9 % ; harvest 26 %; post-harvest: 65%
 - Women: 29%; young people less than 7%
- USD 3.1 billion fisheries first-sale value
- USD 5.2 billion aquaculture production value

Trends

- Aquaculture's economic contribution increasing
- Aging workforce across the sector
- Low youth participation in many countries
- Continued importance of small-scale fisheries

Key Findings

- Major contribution to livelihoods and coastal economies
- Strong role in food security and employment
- Economic performance varies across fisheries and aquaculture segments
- Need for greater youth engagement and gender inclusion



Chapter 6. Fisheries Management Status

Status

Management plans in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

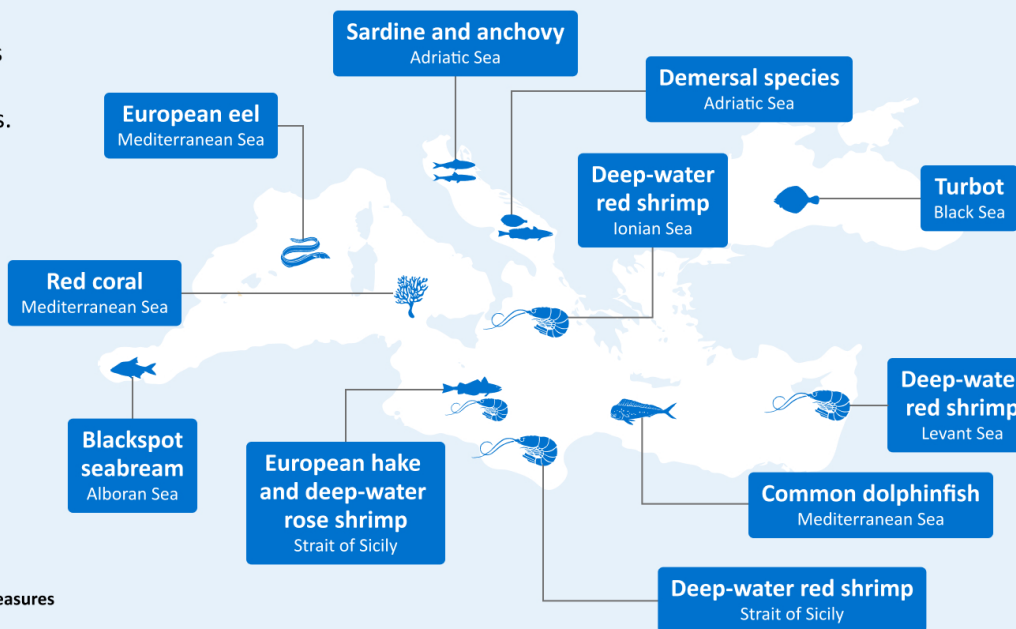
Management plans are the most concrete tool for guiding fisheries towards sustainability through adaptive and resilient approaches.

11

management plans
involving 6 351 vessels

Key measures

-  Catch and/or effort limits
-  Spatial and/or temporal measures
-  Technical measures
-  Data reporting
-  Management control and surveillance measures



FAO. 2025. *The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries 2025*. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. Rome.

Key Findings

- Management plans supporting stock recovery
- Fisheries restricted areas strengthening fisheries and biodiversity protection
- Greater use of harvest strategies and control rules
- Improved monitoring, compliance and data systems
- Stronger small-scale fisheries participation and data collection
- average overall fishing pressure declined by 50% percentage of sustainable stocks doubled
- biomass increased by 25 percent.

Trends

- Expansion of management and conservation measures
- Stronger science-policy integration
- Greater stakeholder participation
- More attention to small-scale fisheries

11 management plans

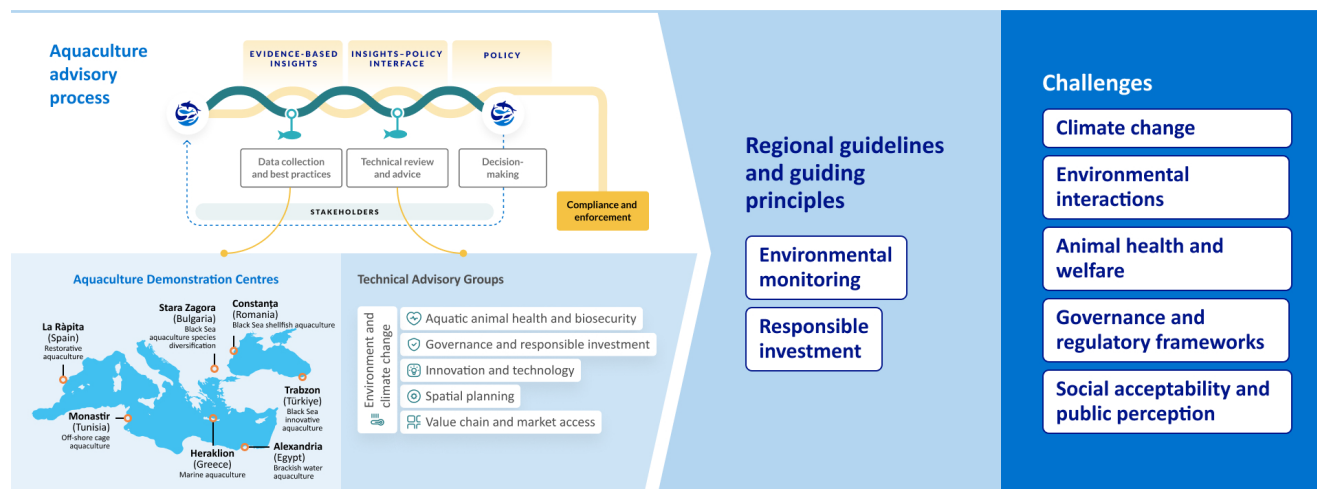
11 fisheries restricted areas.

Chapter 7. Aquaculture Management Status

Status

Aquaculture management in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

Aquaculture is the fastest-growing component of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquatic foods. It requires national and regional measures to fulfill its potential, while ensuring environmental sustainability.



FAO, 2025. *The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries 2025*. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, Rome.

- Improved aquaculture governance frameworks
 - Need for more actions for licensing and legislative frameworks climate-change actions, aquatic health management and biodiversity
- Wider use of Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZAs)
- Expanded environmental monitoring and planning tools
- Progress with financing mechanisms, infrastructure upgrades and improved traceability
- State aids for modernization

Key Findings

- Stronger governance and planning supporting sustainable sector growth
- Environmental performance and monitoring improving
- Innovation and investment increasingly encouraged
- Licensing, financing and climate risks remain constraints

Trends

- Stronger regulation and spatial planning
- Increased regional cooperation and knowledge sharing
- Growing focus on sustainability and climate resilience