



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



General Fisheries
Commission for
the Mediterranean

State of Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea

Transforming Fisheries Through Regional Cooperation

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GFCM Fisheries officer,
Subregional coordinator for the Adriatic Sea

GFCM's mandate, membership and collaboration

- + Regional Fisheries Management Organization **under FAO**
- + Adopts binding decisions for **fisheries** and **aquaculture** that apply **in all marine waters of the Mediterranean and Black Sea**
- + Ensures compliance and effective enforcement
- + Provides capacity building

Federate efforts of countries towards:

- + the **conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources** at all levels (biological, social, economic and environmental)
- + the **sustainable development of aquaculture**



24 contracting parties



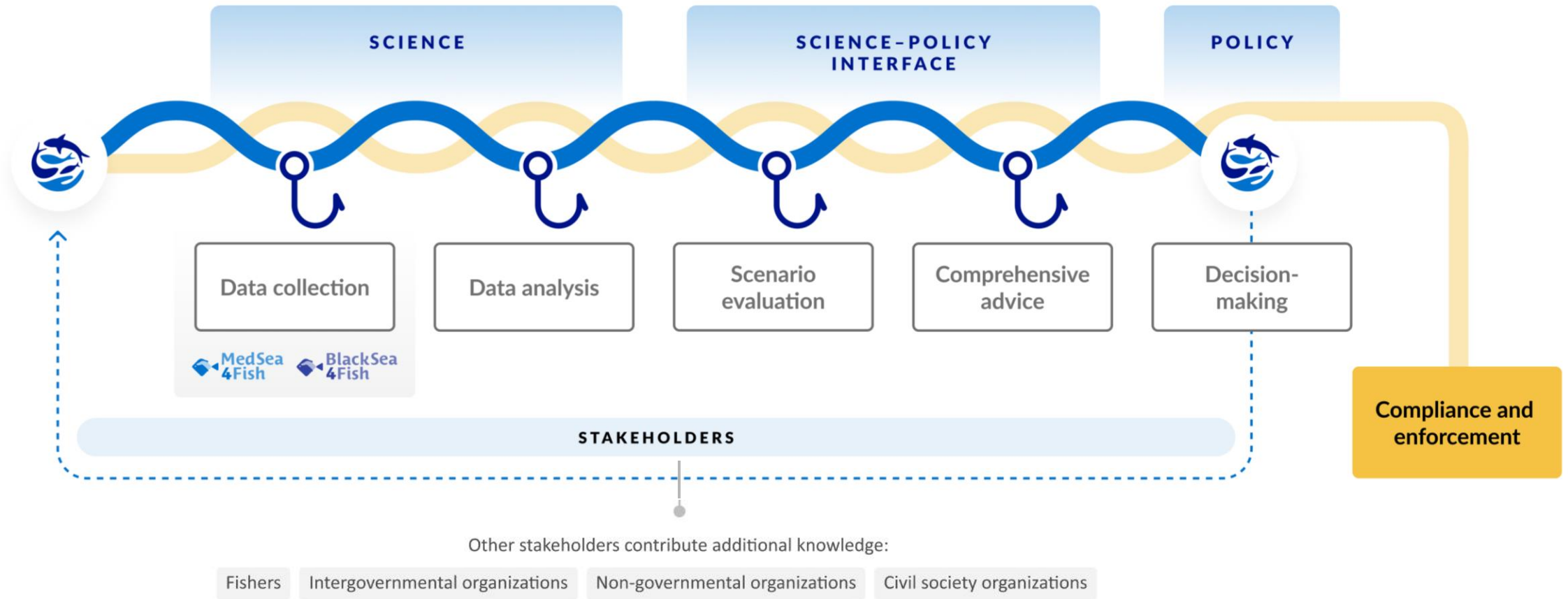
and 5 cooperating
non-contracting parties

Cooperation:

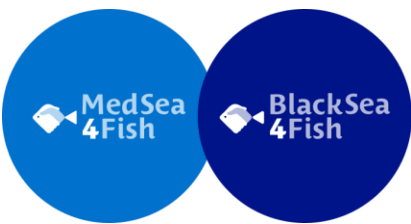
International (UNGA processes,
International agreements)

Regional (UNEP/MAP, UfM,
ACCOBAMS, ...)

The GFCM fisheries advisory process and recommendations



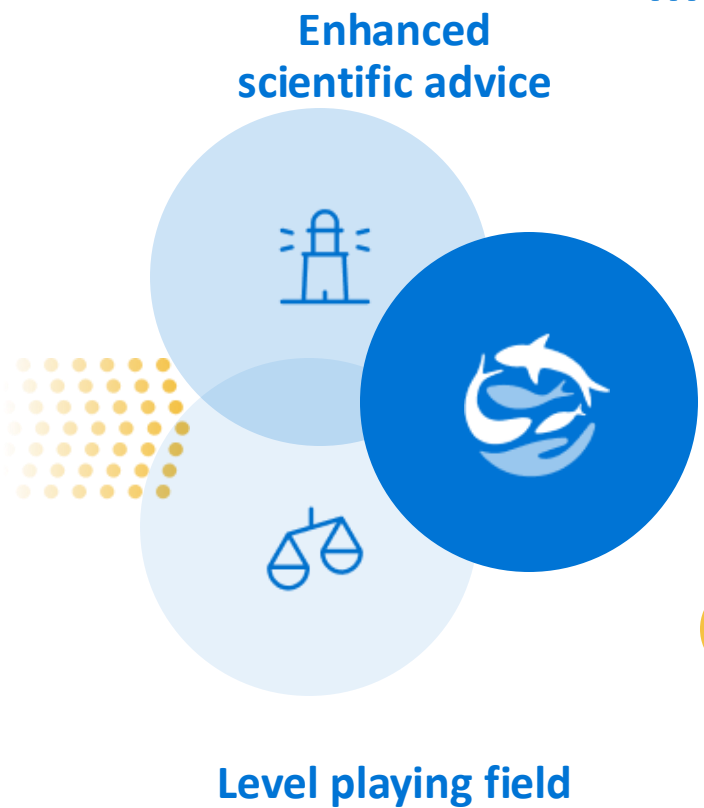
The GFCM capacity development programme for Mediterranean fisheries



REGIONAL STRATEGIES



NATIONAL PRIORITIES



Increasing management through different tools including:

- Management plans
- Spatial measures
- Technical measures
- Research programmes
- Pilot projects

Fisheries management in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

The regional governance framework is delivering tangible results for key commercial species. Scaling up and strengthening these efforts will be essential to secure long-term sustainability.

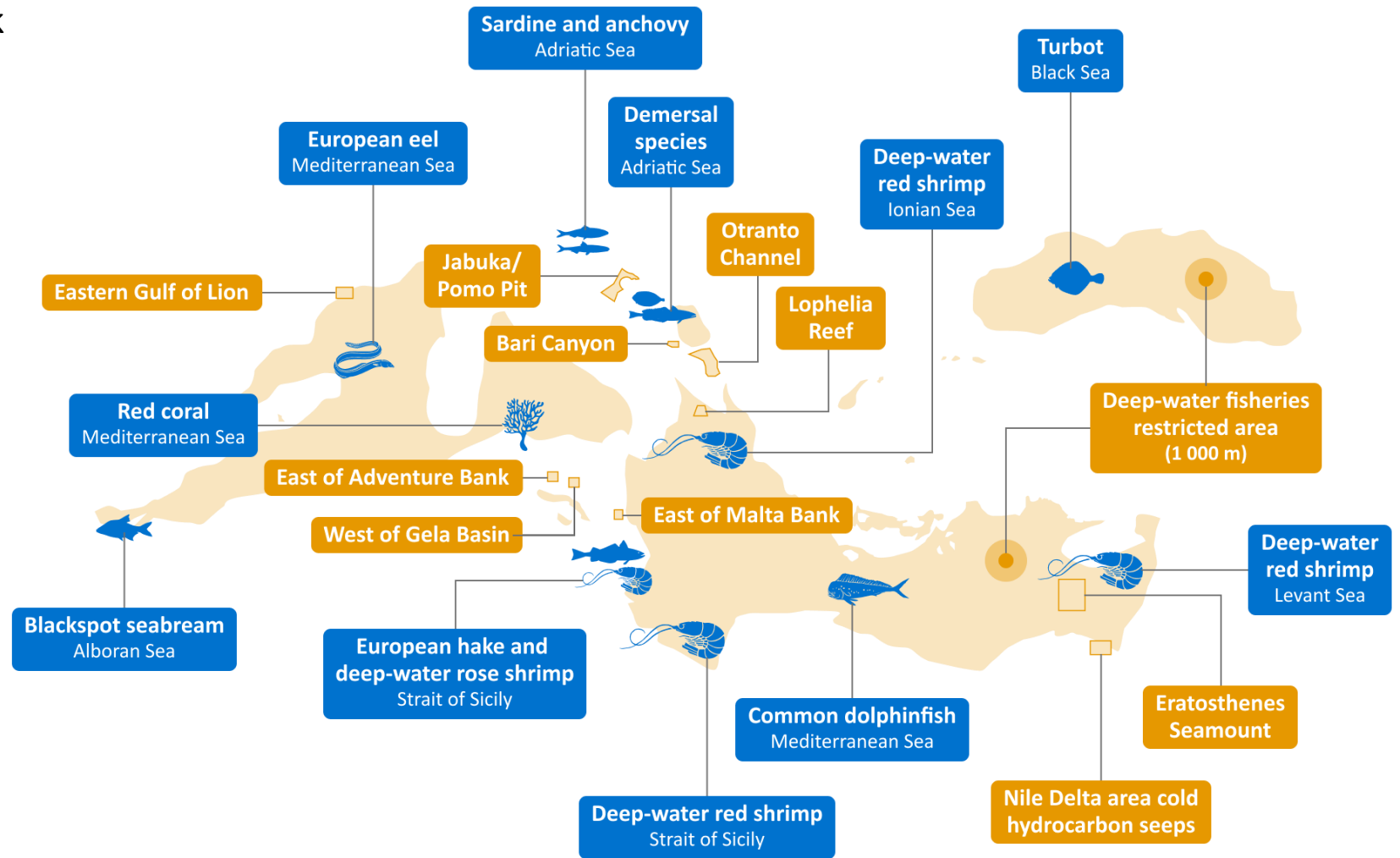
11

management plans
involving 6 351 vessels

11

fisheries restricted areas
covering 1 760 000 km²

-  Management plan
-  Fisheries restricted area



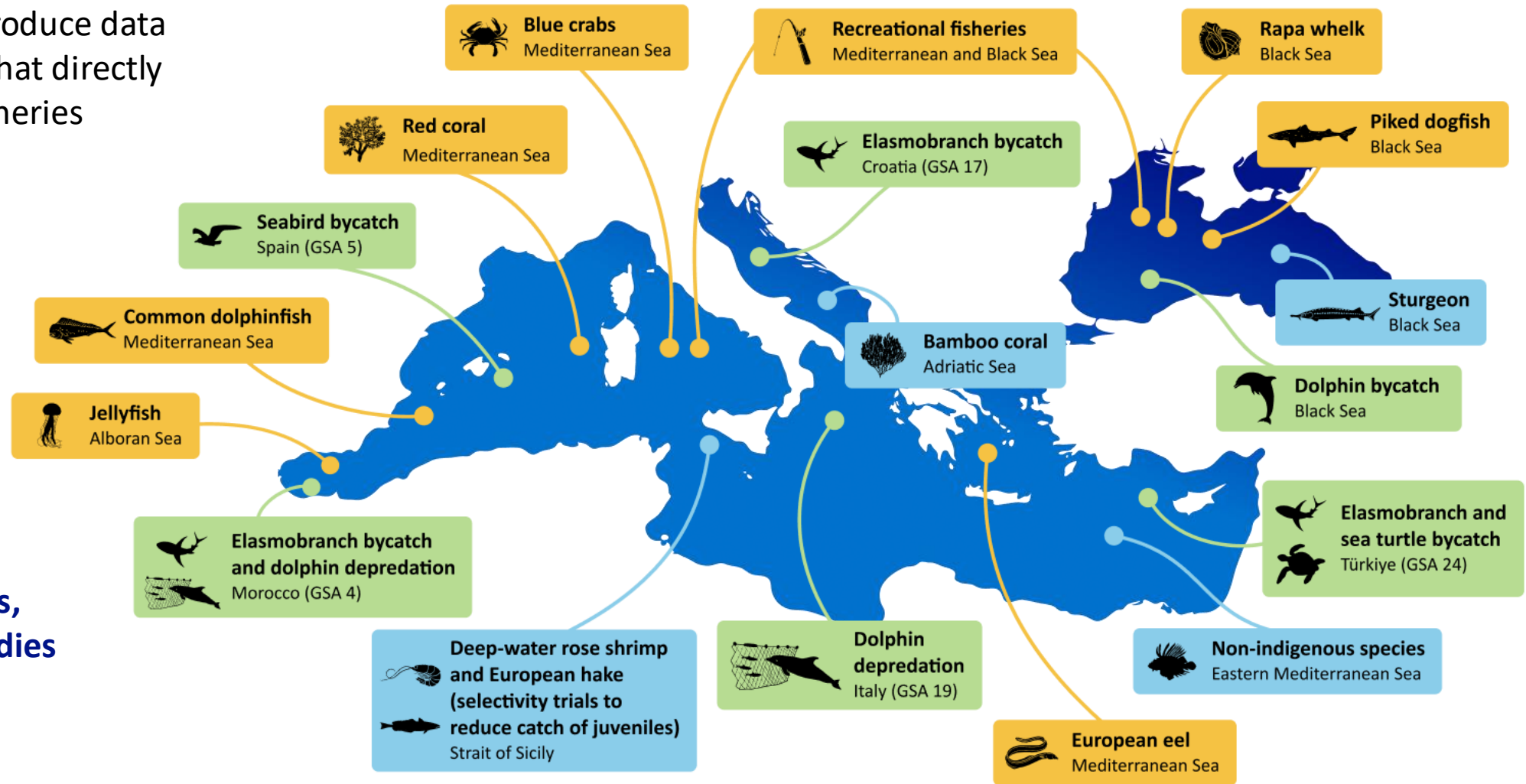
Management-oriented research in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

Research initiatives produce data and scientific advice that directly inform sustainable fisheries management.

18

Research programmes,
pilot projects and studies

- Research programmes
- Pilot projects and studies
- Mitigation trials





Results and trends in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

Snapshot from SoMFi 2025

Fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

Together, fisheries and aquaculture make significant contributions to food security, livelihoods and economies in the region: they have a vital role to play in ensuring a sustainable future.

Marine capture fisheries and marine and brackish water aquaculture



Production

**2.06 million
tonnes**



Employment

**1.17 million
jobs***



Revenue

**USD
21.5 billion***

*along the value chain

Snapshot of fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea

With landings, revenues and jobs stabilizing, fisheries continue to play a vital role in supporting food production, livelihoods and the economy.



72 200

Vessels



81%

of the total fleet is composed
of small-scale vessels



Revenue

USD

7.28 billion

Estimated total contribution
to the regional economy

USD 2.8 billion

Direct revenue at first sale



Jobs

680 000

Along the value chain

174 500

Jobs on board

11% increase

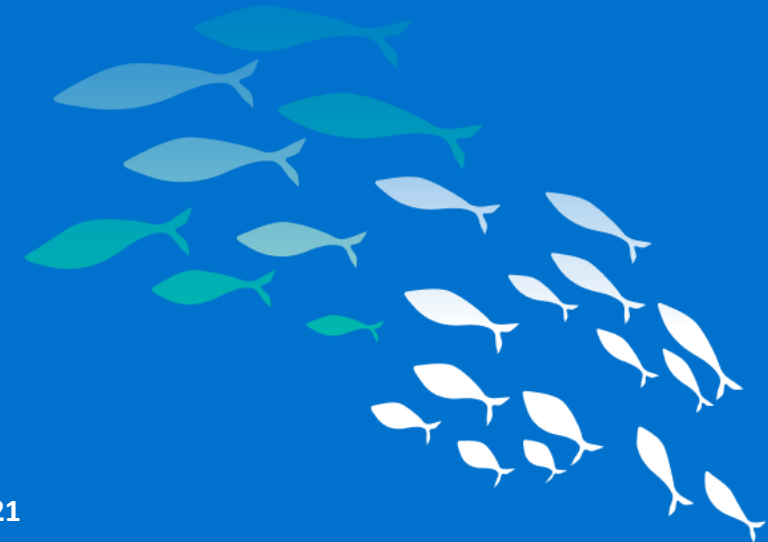
Onboard employment since 2021



Average total annual catch
(2022–2023)

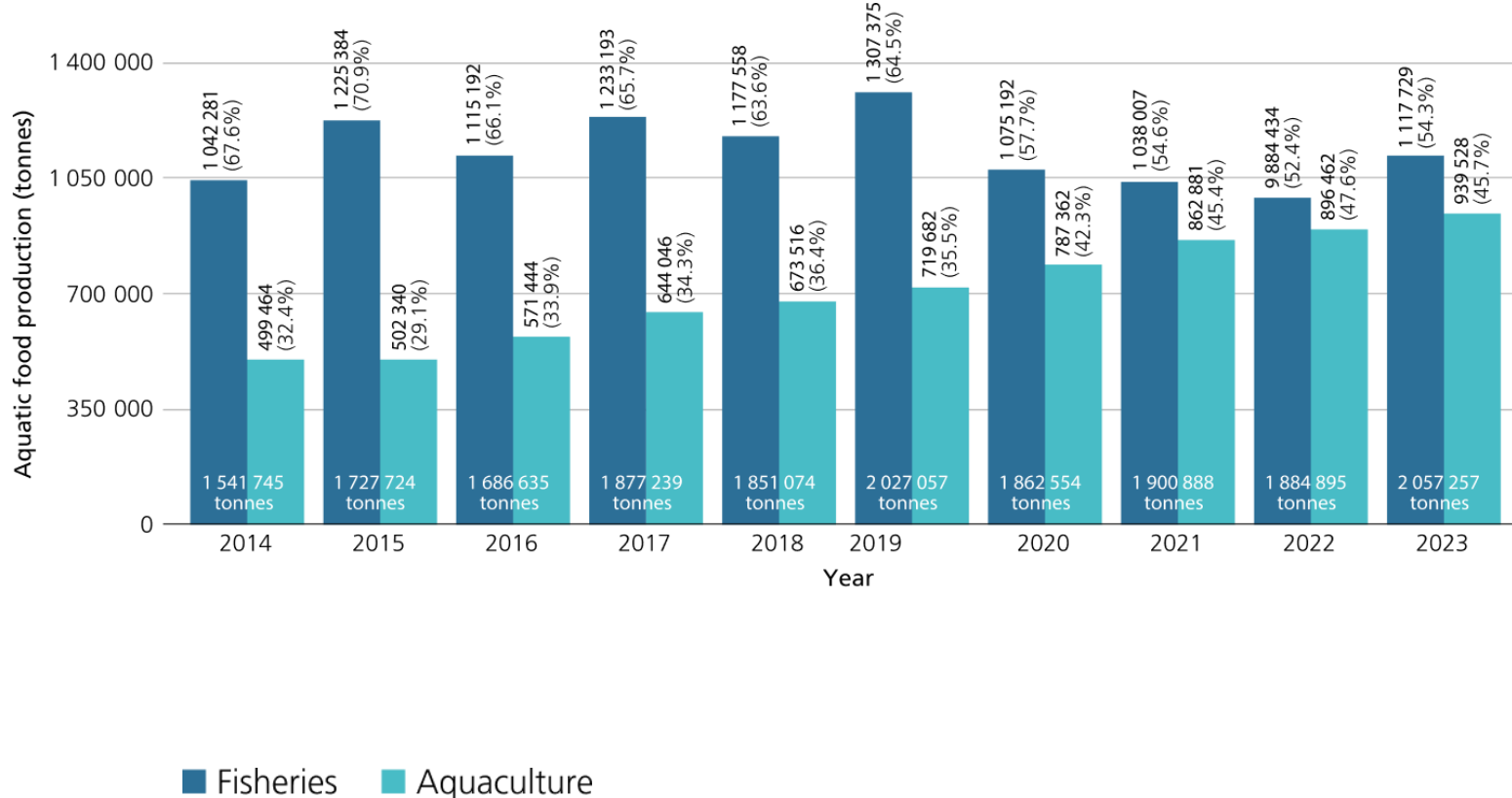
636 747

tonnes



Aquaculture production fueling food security

Aquatic food production by sector in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, 2014–2023



940 000 tonnes

100% increase
Since 2013

Group of species



86.1% Finfish
13.7% Molluscs
0.2% Crustaceans and algae

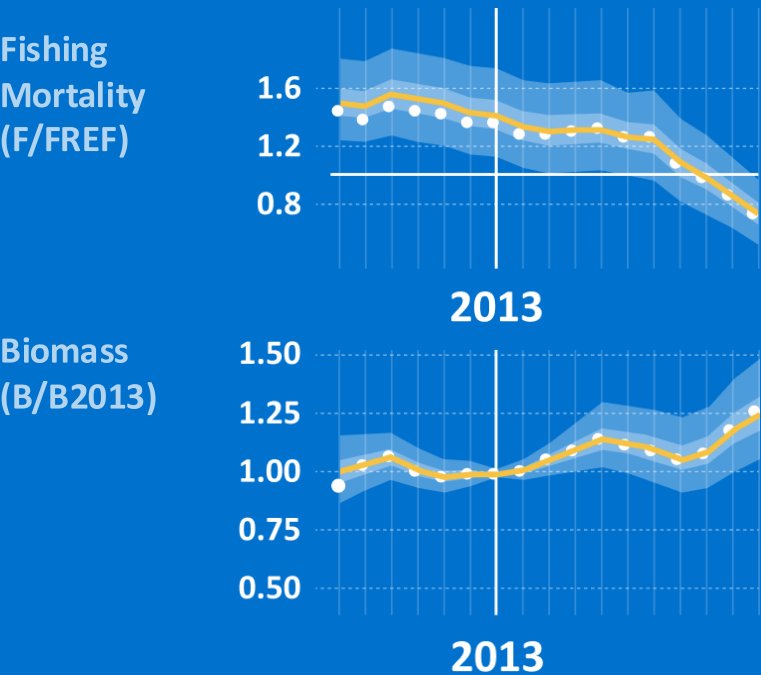


Fisheries resources in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

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

Fishing mortality Biomass
50% decrease **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

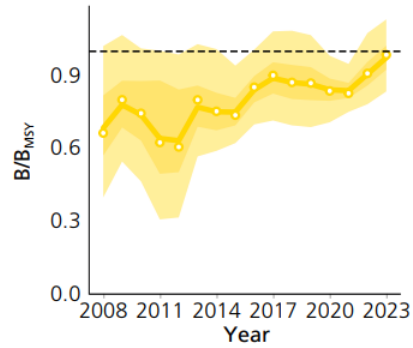
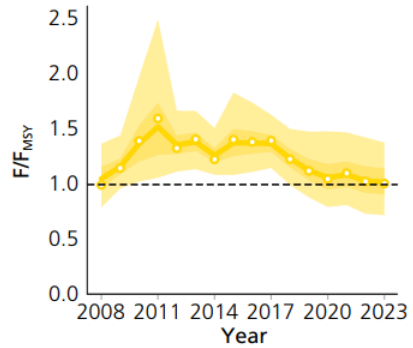


Anchovy, deep-water rose shrimp, common sole stocks
Within sustainable levels

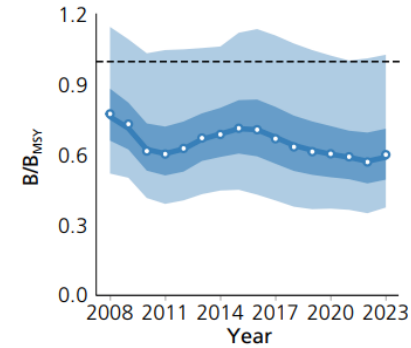
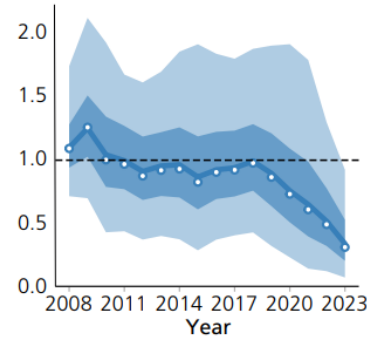
Red mullet, giant red shrimp stocks
Close to sustainable levels

Trends in exploitation (F/F_{MSY}) and biomass (B/B_{MSY}) ratios of select priority species, 2008–2023

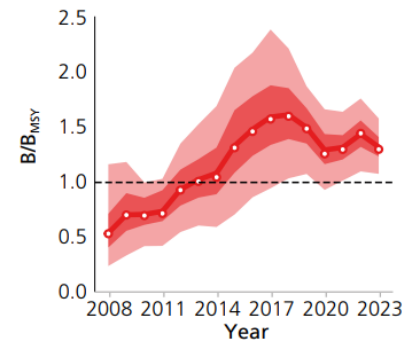
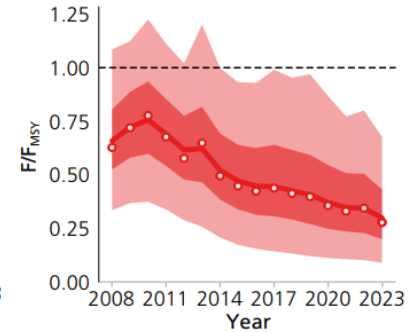
Giant red shrimp



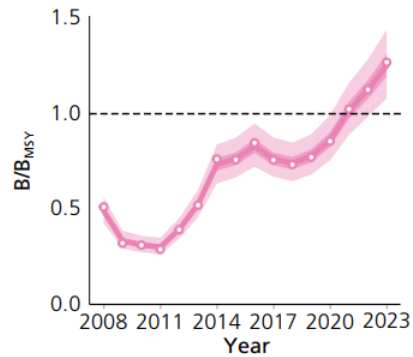
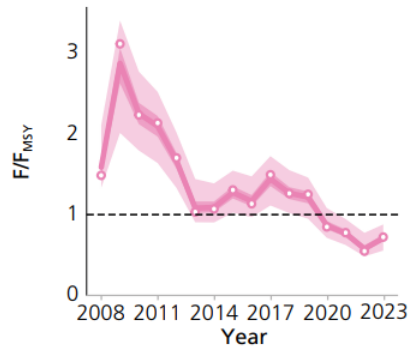
Sardine



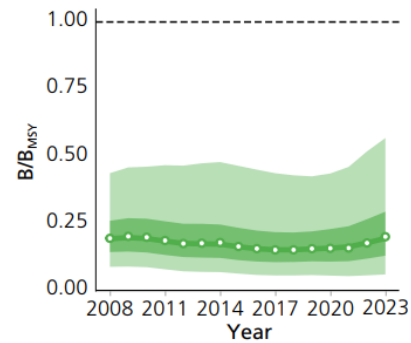
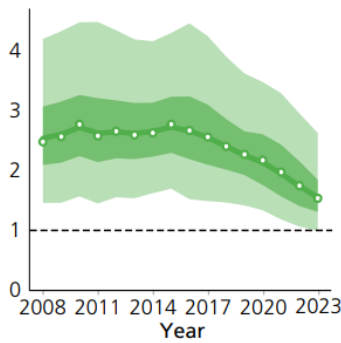
European anchovy



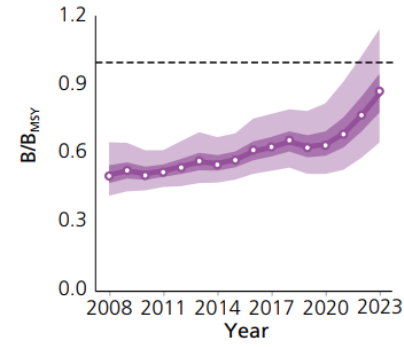
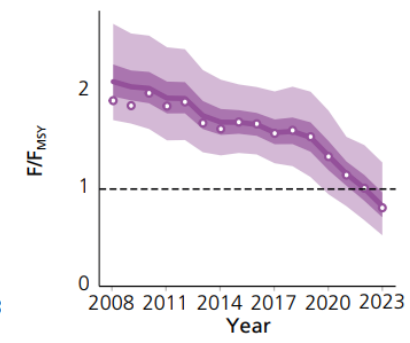
Common sole



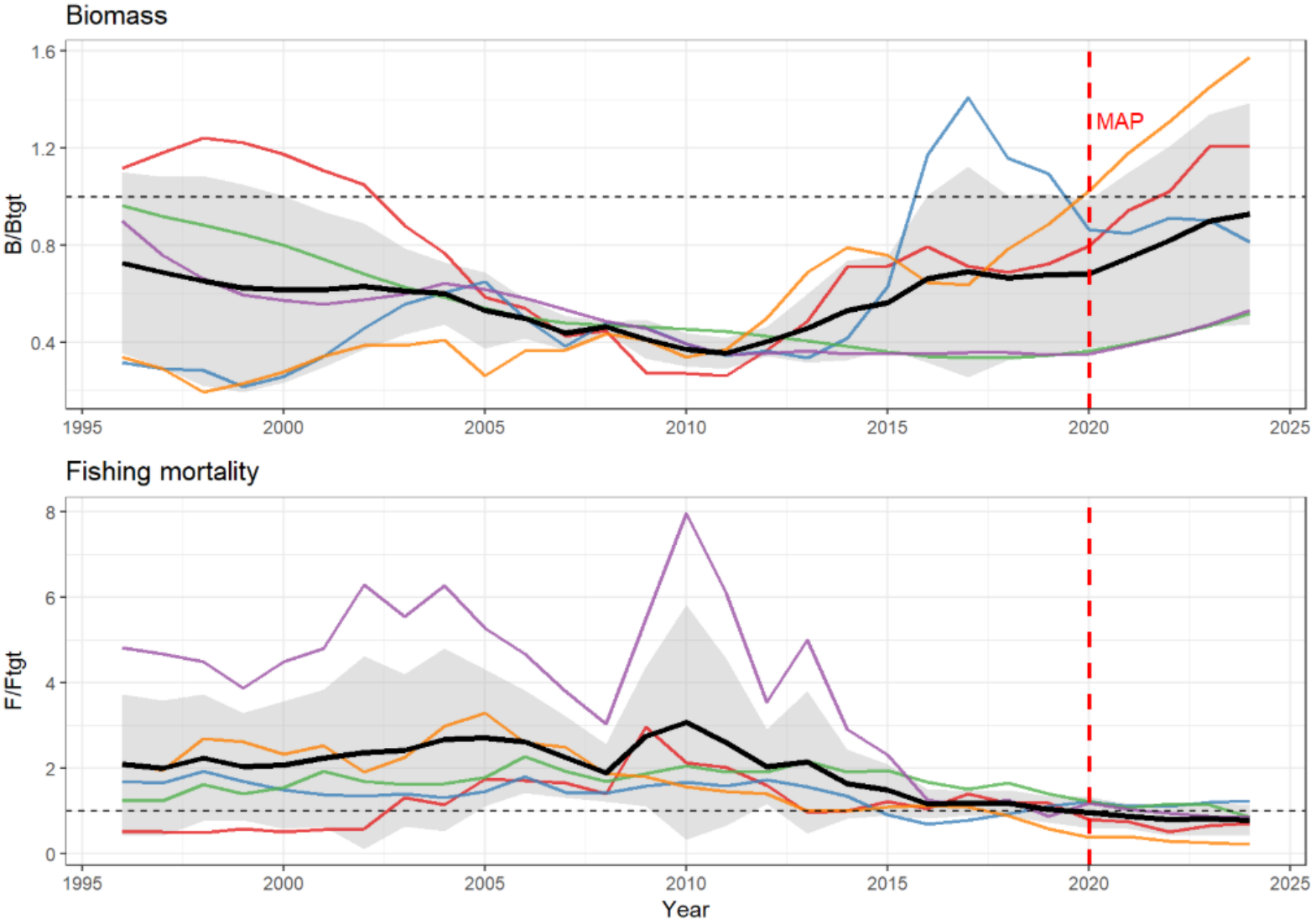
European hake



Red mullet



Trends in exploitation (F/F_{MSY}) and biomass (B/B_{MSY}) ratios of key demersal species in the Adriatic Sea, 1995–2024



Time series of stock-specific biomass (B/B_{tgt}) and fishing mortality (F/F_{tgt}) for the five Adriatic demersal stocks under the MAP. Colored lines show individual stock trajectories, the solid black line represents the unweighted annual mean, and the grey shaded area indicates $\pm 1SD$ among stocks. Horizontal dashed lines denote the relative target reference points, and the vertical red dashed line marks the implementation of the Multiannual Management Plan (MAP) in 2020

The human dimension of fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea

Fisheries provide vital livelihoods for both men and women and remain integral to the social and economic fabric of coastal communities, underscoring the need for inclusive and sustainable policy support.

On average, **1 in every 1 000** coastal residents is a fisher

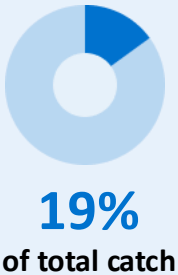
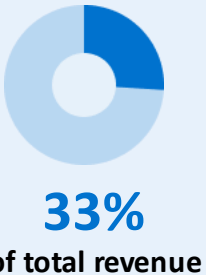
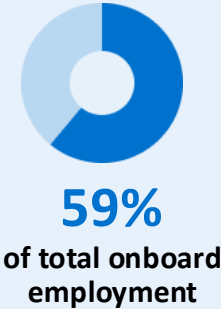
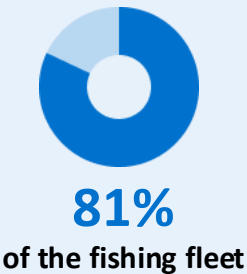
Ageing workforce shows initial signs of improvement

	Over the age of 40	Under the age of 25
2023	39%	22%
2020	54%	10%
2018	47%	18%



Women hold **25%** of all jobs along the fisheries value chain

Small-scale fisheries play a vital role



Average annual remuneration

USD 7 700

11.6% increase
Since 2020

Per fisher

Large variations among subregions and fleet segment groups



Share of GFCM countries offering social protection

79%
Health coverage

79%
Old age pension

63%
Unemployment benefits

Access to social protection continues to expand

Integrating climate change into the GFCM fisheries advisory process

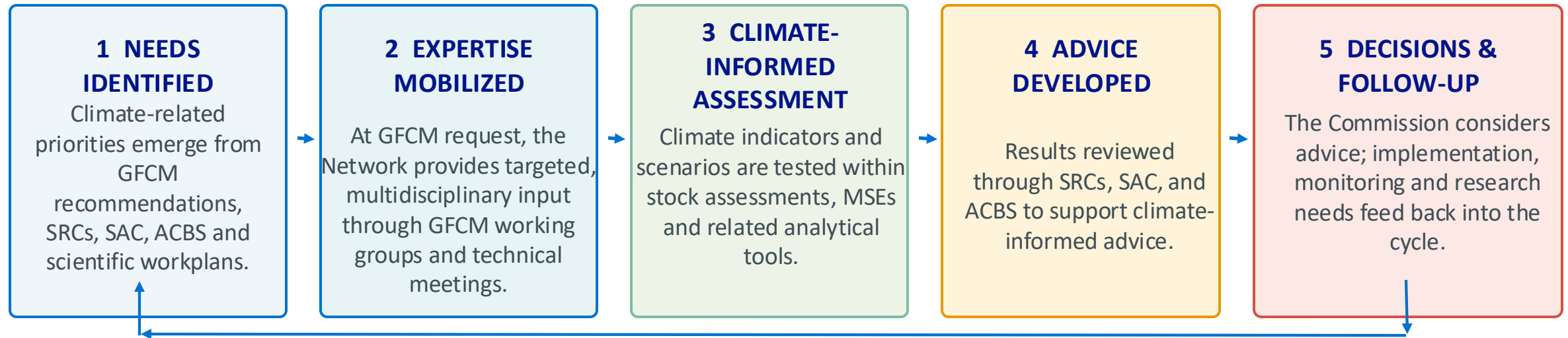
GFCM 2030 STRATEGY (2021)

Climate adaptation and mitigation recognized as a cross-cutting priority (Target 1 and 3)

Climate change is being integrated within the existing GFCM Advisory process, not treated as a parallel process.

GFCM NETWORK OF EXPERTS ON FISHERIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Operationalized in 2025



FIRST PILOT APPLICATION European sprat in the Black Sea: exploring how climate indicators can enter the existing assessment and advisory framework, with further validation before operational use in advice.

Climate considerations are progressively becoming part of how GFCM develops fisheries advice.

Final words

SoMFi shows that the regulatory and capacity-building framework established over the last decade has:

- significantly reduced overexploitation
- advanced fish stock rebuilding
- facilitated the development of aquaculture

Fisheries and aquaculture governance through the GFCM aligns with the Sustainable Blue Economy principles.

SoMFi facilitates targeted action and strategic updates to reinforce aquaculture and fisheries as a **key Sustainable Blue Economy Sector**.

**Thank you for
your attention**

Marin Mihanović
GFCM



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