



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



General Fisheries Commission
for the Mediterranean
Commission générale des pêches
pour la Méditerranée

GFCM priorities, strategies, actions and institutional setting

*Workshop 5: Promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in
the Mediterranean*

Naples, 29 November 2017

Structure of this talk

- **Introduction**
- **Evolution of the GFCM**
- **GFCM Structure**
- **IUU fishing**
- **Mediterranean fisheries, including challenges and achievements**
- **The mid-term strategy**
- **Conclusions**

Introduction

The General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean

- **Year of establishment**

1949 (Agreement amended in 2014 to incorporate new elements such as focus on subregional aspects and multiannual management plans)
- **Objectives**

Ensure the conservation and sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of living marine resources

Ensure the sustainable development of aquaculture
- **Area of application**

The Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea
- **Membership**

24 Contracting Parties: 19 Mediterranean States, 3 Black Sea States, EU and Japan

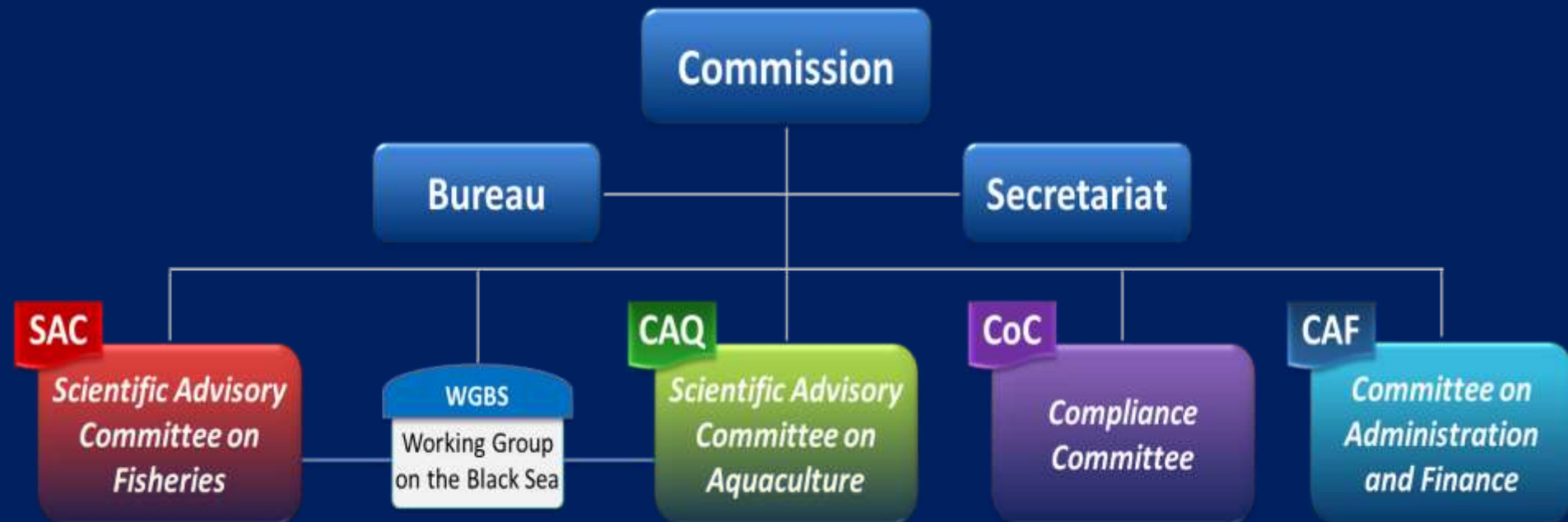
4 Cooperating non-Contracting Parties: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine
- **Key functions**

Adopts binding recommendations

Contributes to marine spatial planning, blue growth and level playing field

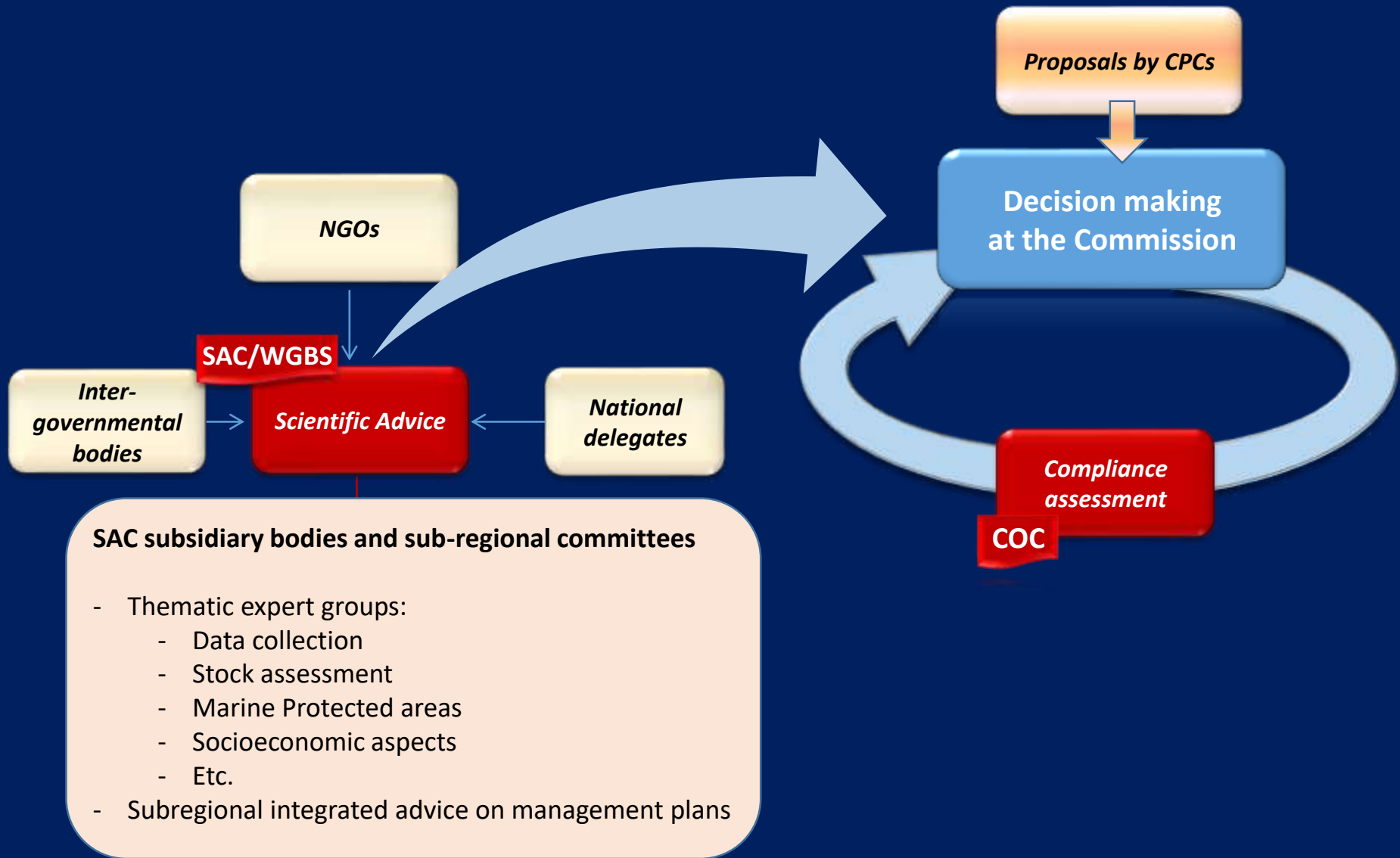


GFCM Structure

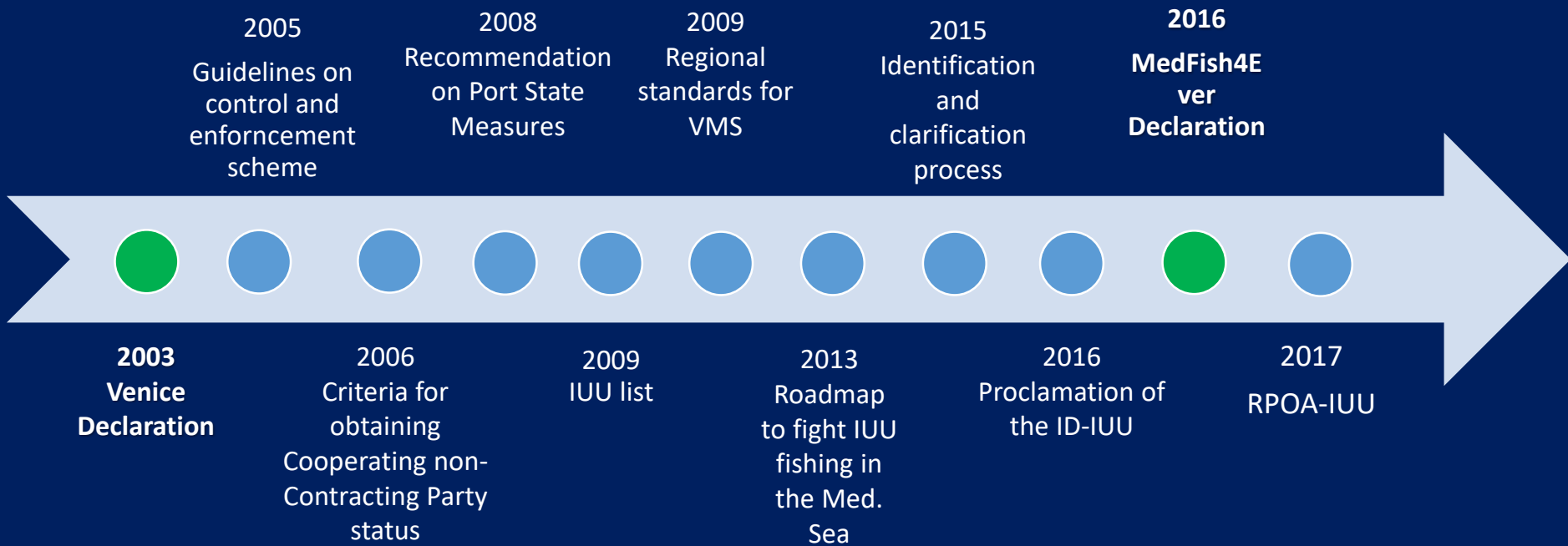


N.B. As of the fourth amendment of the GFCM Agreement a subregional approach is now in place. This entails the establishment of sub-regional committees, including one for the Western Mediterranean, which are expected to have coordinators and autonomous technical units

Decision making within the GFCM



GFCM and the fight against IUU fishing



Forum on fisheries science in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

www.fao.org/gfcm/FishForum2018



FISHFORUM²⁰₁₈

- ❖ Seeks to better incorporate all scientific knowledge in view of policy making
- ❖ Aims at building a **lasting network**, discuss **research trends**, integrate **scientific knowledge in decision-making** and identify **research priorities** for the coming decade through three interdisciplinary themes:

BETTER SCIENCE FOR BETTER ADVICE

- Improving knowledge on **stock status**
- Innovative **strategies to provide advice**
- The effectiveness of **area based management**

HEALTHY SEAS & SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

- Addressing **climate change** as a priority issue
- Tackling pressing **environmental challenges**
- The interaction between **vulnerable species** and human activities

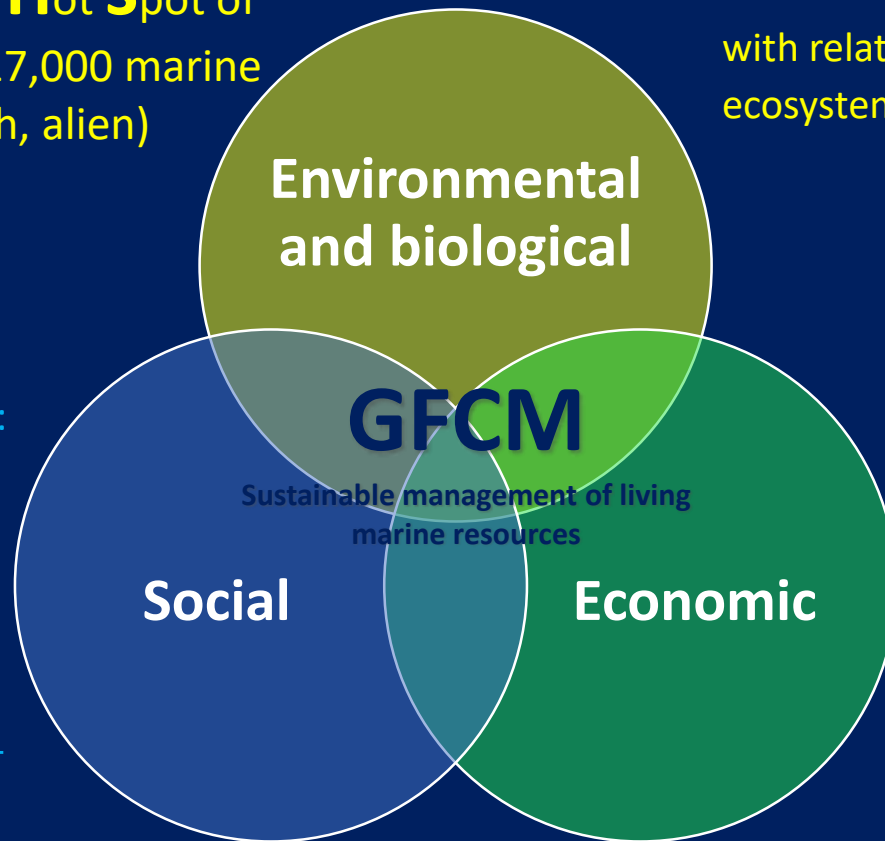
ECONOMIC ANALYSIS & TECHNOLOGY FOR SOCIETAL BENEFIT

- Improving knowledge on the **social and economic impact** of fisheries
- Mapping **value chains**
- Marine **technology** promoting economic and environmental sustainability of fisheries

Characteristics of Mediterranean fisheries: current challenges

Fisheries operate in a **Hot Spot** of biodiversity: around 17,000 marine species (3.3% of which, alien)

The majority of the fleet is 'artisanal' with relative **Low-Impact** on the ecosystems



Important source of food: average protein consumption from fish 88 g/capita/day roughly

Livelihoods : some 220,000 people employed onboard fishing vessels

Around 89,120 vessels (80% small-scale vessels)

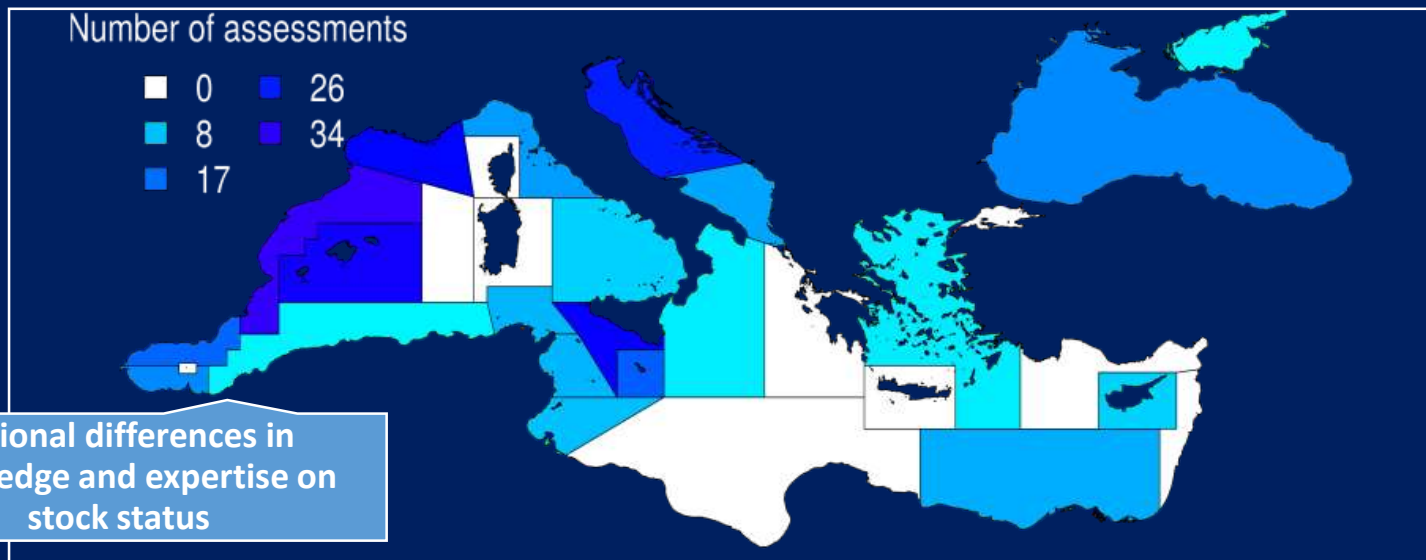
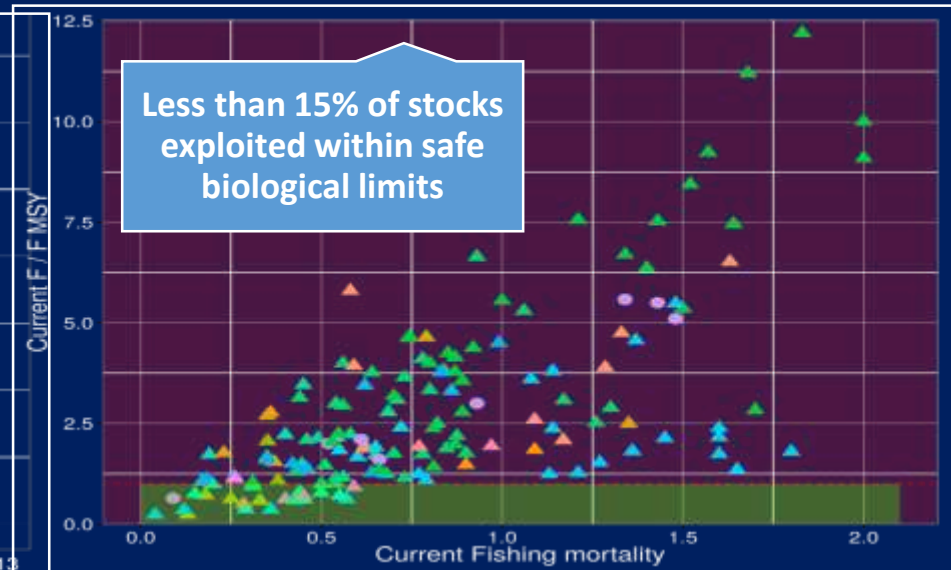
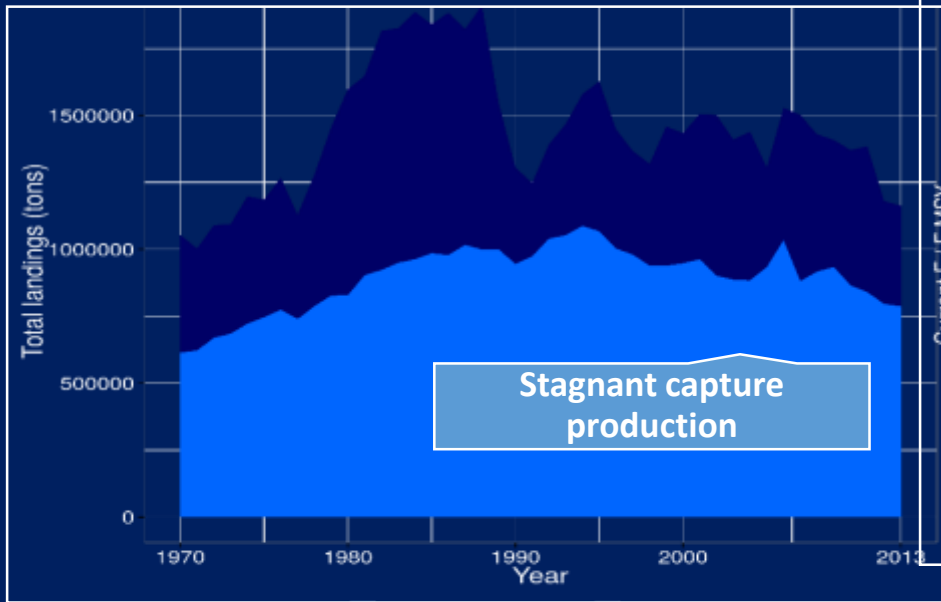
Average of 1,350,000 tonnes landed annually in Mediterranean between 2000-2013

Total value at First Sale: €2.52 billion

Total value of Exports of fish products by Mediterranean countries: €5.25 billion

High dependency on Imports

The challenge of sustainable exploitation



Environmental challenges



Reduce discard rates



Decrease incidental catches of vulnerable species



Protect existing Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems



Mitigate the effects of pollution and ghost fishing on ecosystems



Address IUU impacts on ecosystems

Social challenges



Ensure food security



Support sustainable coastal livelihoods through Blue Growth



Promote the role of women



Enhance data collection on related sectors: tourism, recreational fisheries, etc.

Economic challenges



Increase profitability of fisheries, especially SSF



Boost value chain for fishery products



Better integration of economic information in the management of fisheries



Address the impact of recreational fisheries

GFCM Mid-term strategy (2017–2020)

SDG 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”

+
FAO SO 2
+
National strategies
+
MedFish4Ever Ministerial Declaration



TARGET 5
Enhance capacity-building and cooperation

TARGET 1
Reverse the declining trend of fish stocks through strengthened scientific advice in support of management

Improve, by 2020, the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries

TARGET 2
Support livelihoods for coastal communities through sustainable small-scale fisheries

TARGET 4
Minimize and mitigate unwanted interactions between fisheries and marine ecosystems and environment

TARGET 3
Curb IUU fishing through a regional plan of action



TARGET 1
Reverse the declining trend of fish stocks through strengthened scientific advice in support of management

Output 1.1 - Improved knowledge on fisheries

- GFCM Forum on fisheries science
- Regional surveys at sea

Output 1.2 – Incorporate Socio-economic information on advice

- regional socio-economic indicators
- Advice on socioeconomic implications

Output 1.3 - Enhanced science-based GFCM regulations

- dedicated approach for the provision of advice
- New management plans



TARGET 2


Support livelihoods for coastal communities through sustainable small-scale fisheries

Output 2.1 – improved **information on the impact of small-scale and recreational fisheries** on coastal communities

- regional survey
- permanent working group on small-scale and recreational fisheries
- assessment of the impacts of recreational fisheries

Outputs 2.2 – **FAO SSF Guidelines** tailored to GFCM area of application

- national plans of action to implement SSF Guidelines
- regional platform to engage and promote dialogue among small-scale fishing associations
- endorsement of the principle of decent work
- organization of a high-level meeting



TARGET 3
Curb IUU fishing
through a regional
plan of action

**Output 3.1 –
quantification of
IUU fishing**

- assessment of the magnitude and characteristics of IUU fishing
- evaluation of the adequateness of national legislations relating to IUU fishing

**Output 3.2 –
Reinforced
inspection
procedures**

- training of national inspectors
- information exchange on port state measures related data

**Output 3.3 –
Enhanced MCS
at the regional
level**

- operationalization of a regional vessel monitoring system (VMS)



TARGET 4
Minimize and
mitigate unwanted
interactions between
fisheries and marine
ecosystems and
environment

Output 4.1 –
Reduced bycatch
rates in
Mediterranean and
Black Sea fisheries

- bycatch monitoring programme
- awareness on the negative impacts of bycatch
- management measures to improve the selectivity of fisheries
- proposal of measures to reduce catches of vulnerable species
- mitigation measures to address the interaction between cetaceans and fishing gear

Output 4.2 –
Healthier
marine
ecosystems
and more
productive
fisheries

- promotion of the establishment of new FRAs
- regional management plan for red coral
- adaptation strategy to cope with invasive species and climate change on fisheries
- adaptation strategy to cope with the potential effect of marine litter on fisheries



TARGET 5

Enhance capacity-
building and
cooperation

Output 5.1 –
Improved
**national
capacity**

- capacity building for GFCM CPCs
- technical assistance mechanism
- regional programme for education and training

Output 5.2 –
Strengthened
**fisheries
governance**
in the Black
Sea

- high-level conference on fisheries governance
- regional, scientific and technical cooperation project for the Black Sea

Output 5.3 –
**Increased
cooperation**
with relevant
actors

- operationalization of existing MoU and adoption of new MoU

Conclusions

- The ongoing work on Blue Growth provides an opportunity to boost sustainable development in the Mediterranean Sea along the lines of the MedFish4Ever Declaration
- The role of fisheries and aquaculture in sustaining Blue Growth should be better reflected including in national and international policies
- Cooperation is needed to achieve common goals, including at sub-regional level (e.g. Western Mediterranean) and among competent organizations and regional bodies

Thank you for your
attention!

Naples, 29 November 2017