



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط



15th UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy

Brussels - 27 June 2024

Annual reporting by Ministerial priority:

Progress on the Roadmap for the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on SBE – **Spain**

Country reporting template: aim and objectives

- This “country reporting template” has been created with the aim to gather data and information at national level to feed the **2021 UfM Ministerial on SBE Roadmap’s Monitoring, reporting and evaluation system**.
- As reflected in the “[Stand-alone document on the Monitoring system of the Roadmap / 2021 UfM Ministerial on SBE](#)” and its related Annex on “[Sector-specific indicators](#)”, the process kick-starts every year with the **delivery of presentations by the countries** (UfM Focal Points on Blue Economy) in the context of the **Regional Platform on SBE meetings**.
- By filling in this template, countries’ crucial inputs will feed current and future updates of the Roadmap and contribute to analyse progress over time in the implementation of the SBE Ministerial Declaration.
- Instructions to fill in this template are provided in the next slide.

How to fill in this template

- This template contains **one slide per each of the SBE Ministerial Declaration Priorities** and related progress. Three open questions have also been included at the end of the document.
- For each of the Ministerial Declaration priorities, a simple **table** should be completed by the countries, with the following information:
 - Policies, strategies and plans in place at national (and sub-national) level
 - Projects and initiatives at national in place at national (and sub-national) level
- Please fill in these tables to the best of your knowledge and feel free to enrich with **hyper-links** to key documents, publications, videos, etc. as needed.
- In case of questions, please don't hesitate to send an email to: alessandra.sensi@ufmsecretariat.org and adriana.salazar@ufmsecretariat.org
- These presentations will be delivered orally by each Focal Point on the UfM Regional Platform Meeting, and should be submitted to the UfM Secretariat team **no later than June 19th, end of day.**

Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Development of socioeconomic observatories	National Basic Data Programme for the Fisheries Sector. Outstanding research surveys on board research vessels (e.g. MEDITS; MEDIAS).	UfM Regional Platform in Research and Innovation, BlueMED Initiative, EMSEA, PRIMA, UNESCO, Mediterranean New Chance (MedNC), PELAGOS, Blue Growth Community, BlueBioMed, EMBRC, JPI Oceans, MISTRAL
Clusters development	Spanish maritime Cluster and regional clusters	SEMED, MISTRAL, MED BESP, 4 HELIX+
Training activities		BlueSkills, DEEP BLUE, Mediterranean New Chance (MedNC), HOMERe Programme , Toward a Mediterranean Water Knowledge Platform Summer School / Master School, Blue Biotechnology Master for a Blue Career, Youth Employment in Ports of the Mediterranean, MedSkippers, BAPSI, EMUNI, UNIMED, European Universities of the Sea, <u>Sustainability and global dimension of European Research Infrastructures</u> , BlueFishing Training, DIGIPESCA,
Other		<u>operAtional seNsing lifE technologies for maRlne ecosystemS</u> - ANERIS, ROMANCE, REVALSEA, OCEAN NIGHT, OBAMA-NEXT, BLUETOOLS, AI-PhytoClim, JMPMB, NOVAFOODIES, DIVERGEN, B-USEFUL, REVALSEA

Sustainable food from the sea: fisheries and aquaculture

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
<p>Establishment of Marine Protected Areas and Fisheries Restricted Areas</p>	<p>Designation of a PSSA in the North Western Mediterranean Sea</p> <p>Establishment of MPAs and marine strategies</p> <p>Continue adaptive, science-based and participatory management of marine reserves of fisheries interest (Fisheries Act).</p> <p>Establishment of spatio-temporal closures (fisheries restricted areas), according to the multianual management plan for demersal resources in the West Mediterranean Sea (EU Regulation 2019/1022 of the European Parliament and the Council. At the national level by Ministerial Order APA/423/2020, Annex III, as last amended by Order APA/499/2024)</p> <p>Commitment to achieve, by 2025, the effective protection of 25% of marine waters under national jurisdiction as an intermediate step for the fulfillment of the 30x30 objective</p>	<p>Spain is investing (EMFAF) in the development of other green infrastructure that helps the conservation of marine habitats, the protection of biodiversity, the resilience of coasts and will support the management and monitoring of Marine Protected Areas (MPA), with the objective of increasing the coverage of MPAs from 13% today to 30% of its national waters by 2030.</p> <p>Marine protected areas declared in December 2023 (Ministerial act) therefore reaching the protection of 21% of marine jurisdictional waters.</p> <p>Draft ministerial Act under development for declaring new MPA in order to contribute to the marine protection commitments.</p> <p>Development of management plans of MPAs ensuring sustainable activities in MPAs, including fisheries and aquaculture</p>
<p>Tackling Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU)</p>	<p>National Security Strategy.</p> <p>New fight IUU fishing act in 2025.</p>	<p>FIUUFRA project</p>
<p>Support to Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF)</p>	<p>Royal Decree 277/2016 and Royal Decree 956/2017 about small producers organisations</p> <p>Marine Reserves of Fisheries Interest</p>	<p>Mainstreaming Small Low Scale Low Impact Fisheries in the Mediterranean, LabMAF, FishMPABlue2, MINOUW,</p> <p>Spain is supporting the National Maritime Tourism Network that was</p>

Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution maritime transport and ports

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
<p>Setting up an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides in the Mediterranean Sea</p>	<p>COP22 Barcelona Convention endorsed a SECA that will entry into force the 1st January 2025.</p>	<p>Spain is supporting adaptation of port facilities, increased decarbonisation and energy efficiency actions across the board.</p>
<p>Development of alternative and transitional fuels</p>	<p>Decarbonisation efforts: As regards support to the fishing fleet and infrastructure, Spain is advancing on investments (EMFAF) in energy efficiency, decarbonisation and green energy transition and digitalisation of activities and to reduce production costs by using more energy efficient production methods, thereby reducing the sector’s dependence on fossil fuels and increasing the share of renewable energy through onboard and onshore investments.</p> <p>Resilience efforts: Spain aims at addressing resilience through support to adaption and restructuring of the fleet (notably actions on health and safety), by supporting adaptation of port facilities, introducing innovative solutions for the processing and marketing of fish, fishers on foot, increased decarbonisation and energy efficiency across the board, and improving the skills of professionals of the sector overall to guarantee generational renewal and full access of women to the sector. Permanent and temporary cessation of fishing activities will also contribute to the resilience of the sector by adjusting the fleet capacity and reducing fishing activities, combined with a fair remuneration for professionals in the sector.</p>	<p>LOCATIONS, <u>PASSAGE</u>, <u>SEAFIRE</u></p> <p>WestMED WG Fishing vessel decarbonization prototypes</p>
<p>Digitalisation of the sector</p>	<p>Digitalization efforts: Digitalisation is well covered in the Spanish programme with types of actions in fisheries, control and data collection, processing and marketing, aquaculture and small-scale fisheries. Important efforts on digitalization at fleet level and for fisheries control are foreseen</p>	<p>DataPorts</p>

Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Prevention measures and circular approaches	Dumping Protocol, LBS Protocol, SPA & Biodiversity Protocol, GEF, IUCN, ECAP-MED, MSSD EU4OCEAN Coalition	CIRCAZUL
Raising awareness and addressing marine litter including microplastics	Marine Litter Monitoring Strategy (MSFD), Marine Litter Program of Measures (MSFD)	Plastic Busters CAP, Plastic Busters MPA, MED MARINE LITTER, MEDSEALITER, ACT4LITTER, CLAIM, <u>MOANA</u> , <u>BioBream</u> , <u>TRANSEATION</u> Marine Litter Monitoring Strategy (MSFD), Marine Litter Program of Measures (MSFD)
Other	BlueMedInitiative, ACCOBAMS, DIGICIRC, transposition of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Spanish Marine Strategies	



Coastal and maritime tourism

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Eco-tourism, slow tourism and reduction of carbon emissions of the industry	Athens Declaration for Sustainable Tourism	CEnTOUR, Med Sustainable Tourism Community, TouriSME, MEDPEARLS, MEDUSA, MEDFEST, BLUEISLANDS, ALTER ECO, MEDCYCLETOUR, CO-EVOLVE, CONSUME-LESS, TOURISMED, CASTWATER, ShapeTourism, SIROCCO, COASTING, INHERIT, HERIT-DATA, DESTIMED PLUS, INCIRCLE, LABELSCAPE, SSUTOWNS, BLUETOURED_C3, BEST MED, SMARTMED, CAST, <u>TWINNEDbySTARS</u>
Promotion of the digitalisation of the sector	Digital Transformation Plan for Tourist Destinations, which aims to develop new tools for the Network of Smart Tourist Destinations. Among them, a modular platform will be created that will allow all tourism agents to interact with tourists in a digital, intelligent and scalable way, allowing the progressive development of new shared solutions.	DIGIPESCA
Other		Newly formed WestMED TG on Sustainable Tourism MEET NETWORK, TRAMES, Social tourism for SMES and municipalities of the Medierranean coast, TOURBAN, MED GAIMS, iHERITAGE, FIT4BLUE, TunaRoute, MedCoast4BG, CIVITAS DESTINATIONS, Emblematic, BLUEMED, DESTIMED, MITOMED, WINTERMED, PANORAMED

Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Stakeholder engagement, consultations or establishment of MSP plans	<p>MSP-MED, transposition of the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive 2014/89/EU</p> <p>Adoption of five Marine Spatial Plans by Royal Decree in 2023 including priority use areas and high potential areas.</p> <p>Currently undergoing the monitoring of MSP Plans and their strategic objectives</p>	<p>SIMWESTMED, MSP-LSI, Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP); MSP4BIO, REGINA, B-USEFUL, MPA EUROPE</p>
Other	<p>Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) on Maritime Spatial Planning in the Western Mediterranean, ICZM Protocol, MEDPAN, COAST GAP, EMODNET</p> <p>Establishment of new MPA as an effective tool to implement MSP</p>	<p>COEVOLVE4BG, COEVOLVE, PEGASCO, POSBEMED, MPA-Engage</p> <p>WestMED Community of Practice</p> <p>Technical Group on MSP Data</p>



Marine Renewable Energies

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Research and innovation on MRE technologies		GREENCAP, LOCAL4GREEN, TROPOS, MARIBE, off-coustics , Farm-noise
Specification of licensing procedures		
Other	<p>Spanish National Energy and Climate Plan (2021-2030): capacity targets set for 2030 to achieve 74% of electricity generation coming from renewable sources including 50GW of wind on and offshore, 80GW of other renewable technologies</p> <p>Roadmap for the Development of Offshore Wind and Marine Energy in Spain: sets specific objectives for offshore wind and marine energies for 2030 including 1-3GW offshore wind, 40-60GW of marine energies</p> <p>Maritime Spatial plans 2023</p> <p>Non-binding agreements on goals for offshore renewable generation in 2050</p> <p>Mediterranean Association of National Agencies for Energy Management</p> <p>MedReg, Observatoire Mediterranéen de l'Énergie, BLUEDEAL</p>	<p>BGC Working Group on Marine Renewable Energy</p> <p>Marina Platform</p>

Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Development of training activities	ECGF	
Exchange of information, expertise, technical assistance and best practices	MedCGFF, EFCA, EMSA, IMO, REMPEC, EUMSS, Frontex, CISE, CMS Service,	MED OSMoSiS, SHAREMED, WestMOPoCo, E-FishMED
Other	Emergency Protocol, Prevention and Emergency Protocol	EUCISE 2020, PROteuS



Open questions

1 – Related to the priority on Governance and the future of sea basin strategies in the Mediterranean region: **Is there any overarching blue economy strategy in your country? Or any process initiated leading to the elaboration of such a strategy? There is no National Blue Economy Strategy in Spain at this moment but The Maritime Spatial Plans, approved in 2023, include an specific measure to develop a National Blue Economy Strategy. The contracting procedure to commission this task is in process.**

. There are some regional Blue Economy Strategies (i.e. Canary Islands and Catalonia) and others that are currently under development (Andalucia, Valencia, Cantabria, Galicia, Murcia). Under the Maritime Spatial Planning Plans there is a specific objective for starting to develop a National Blue Economy Strategy, but it has not yet started. We are in contact with the MITECO who would be leading this.

2 – Related to the priority on Sustainable investments in the blue economy: **is there any national funding/financing scheme related to the blue economy (or any of its sectors) promoted by your country? If yes, please specify. Blue Economy in Spain is mainly funded by EMFAF funds (National Contribution 2021 – 2027 program up to now is of 453,789,396 EUR), Recovery and Resilience Funds, Next Generation Funds (Ports 4.0; PERTEs, et.) and other Environmental and/or Biodiversity-related funds such as those coming from the Hacienda (Interreg and Cohesion Funds), Fundación Biodiversidad and other research and innovation mechanism.**

3 - **What are the main challenges, issues or bottlenecks for the implementation of the SBE Ministerial Declaration in your country? Developing a National Blue Economy Strategy in Spain would require from the collaboration and agreement amongst various ministries. An interministerial group on Blue Economy could be created for such to**