



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



18th UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy
Brussels, 15-16 October 2025

***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 collect 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 SBE) 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 analyze 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 for projects and one for initiatives, including different sections for 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 sections, a simple **table** should be completed by the countries.
- 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 07 October, end of day.**

Major updates on progress at national level on the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on SBE

- Spain announced at UNOC3 that 25% of coastal marine areas will be shortly under any form of protection (Natura 2000, MPAs), aiming to reach the agreed 30% by 2030.
- Spain was among the first EU Member States to ratify the BBNJ agreement.
- In 2025 Spain has pledged €8.5 million to the Blue Fund for Mediterranean Cooperation.
- Spain is beginning to support the investment on offshore renewables, as well as different decarbonization initiatives, and blue skills programs.
- Additionally, Spain enhances its cultural heritage in coastal areas, promotes the implementation of renewable energies in landscapes linked with cultural values, and actively works to restore coastal cultural and identity landscapes affected by catastrophes and contamination.



Initiatives at national (and sub-national) level within the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on SBE

Ministerial Declaration Priorities	Initiatives at national/sub-national level
Food from sea: fisheries and aquaculture	Fishmongers 4 Blue Aquaculture Growth” (F4BAC). Initiative led by Fedepesca /Association of Spanish fish retailers), in collaboration with Fundación Biodiversidad (Ministry for Ecological Transition), consisting of a promotional campaign, aiming to: - promote and support sustainable aquaculture practices. - boost the marketing of aquaculture products, contributing to the EU's food security by raising awareness and improving knowledge among key stakeholders. “Llena tu mesa de mar” (‘Fill your table with seafood’), initiative led by the General Secretary of Fisheries, is a promotional campaign to encourage fish consumption through institutional communication, included in the Estrategia de Alimentos de España (‘Food from Spain’ Strategy). Aims to highlight the quality and nutritional benefits of fishery products and is specifically targeted at young people, emphasizing the different ways to prepare and enjoy fish. - Spanish PM announced at UNOC3 that 25% of coastal marine areas will be shortly under any form of protection (Natura 2000, MPAs), aiming to agreed 30% by 2030. Spain was among the first EU Member States to ratify the BBNJ agreement. - Spain has pledged €8.5 million to the Blue Fund for Mediterranean Cooperation.



Initiatives at national (and sub-national) level within the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on SBE

Ministerial Declaration Priorities	Initiatives at national/sub-national level
Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution transport and ports	An addendum to the Collaboration Agreement for the FAO Blue Ports Initiative between the Ministry of Agriculture, Puertos del Estado, the Port Authority of Vigo, and the Xunta de Galicia has been signed, modifying the existing collaboration agreement, formalizing a new joint financial contribution to the FAO's Blue Ports Initiative Training Programme, while maintaining the original operational framework. The main targets of the Agreement are: - Strengthen the collaborative framework among the participating institutions. - Secure funding for the international seminar of the Training Programme (to be held in Vigo in 2025). - Ensure continued Spanish support for FAO's strategies on port sustainability and the blue economy.
Coastal and Maritime Tourism	Sun&Blue Congress. Organized in the city of Almería, Sun&Blue is southern Europe's most important annual conference on tourism and the blue economy, bringing together more than 1,000 professionals from the public, private, scientific and academic sectors. Side event: “La pesca como motor turístico: cultura, territorio y futuro” (“Fishing as a driver of tourism: culture, territory and future”, at the Sun&Blue Congress). General Secretary of Fisheries. The session will feature a discussion that explores the fishing sector not only as a productive activity, but also as a key element in the tourism, heritage, and cultural narrative of the Spanish coastline, positioning fishing as a key component of coastal tourism appeal, exploring strategies to strengthen the connection between fishing and tourism, guided by principles of sustainability, and promoting fishing heritage as a cultural asset and a distinctive element of territorial identity. PROTECTION OF THE LIGHTHOUSES OF THE COASTAL AREAS. The Ministry of Culture is protecting the lighthouses for making them historic landmarks and to stimulate the cultural tourism in these areas.

Initiatives at national (and sub-national) level within the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on SBE

Ministerial Declaration Priorities	Initiatives at national/sub-national level
Marine Renewable Energies	Under the Coordination of the Ministry of Culture, a Protocol for the implementation of renewable energies in landscapes with cultural values (integrating the maritime areas), is being developed. The Ministry of Ecological Transition has published the Royal Decree 962/2024, of 24 September, that regulates the offshore electricity production from renewable sources, establishing a regulatory framework applicable to offshore wind and other renewable sources, aligned with the Maritime Spatial Planning. The Ministry of Ecological Transition is also working on the establishment of the regulatory bases for granting aid to investment projects for the physical adaptation of national port infrastructure in Ports of General Interest for the deployment of offshore wind and other marine renewables in Spain (PORT-EOLMAR Aid Programme).
Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy	The Ministry of Ecological Transition has continued to participate within the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, both in defining the European position in the relevant working groups and in participating in the two sessions held in 2024. At national level, a new regulation has been approved in 2024 that addresses, among other issues, the financing of the costs of cleaning up litter of tobacco products with filters and filters marketed for use in combination with tobacco products; one of the items most found in marine litter.
Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities	



Initiatives at national (and sub-national) level within the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on SBE

Ministerial Declaration Priorities	Initiatives at national/sub-national level
Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment	REDAQUA. General Secretary of Fisheries. This initiative looks forward to strengthening networks, professional development, and training in the aquaculture sector through innovation and knowledge transfer. This project is part of Pleamar Program. Spanish Network of Knowledge Spaces for the Blue Economy (REECEA). General Secretary of Fisheries. A permanent and consultative working group that coordinates the knowledge spaces for the Blue Economy, integrating science, innovation, administration, and the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, looking to encourage Cooperation of relevant stakeholders to protect and sustainably utilize marine resources, promote the transfer of knowledge, encourage open dialogue on the economic, environmental, and social sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture, and Identify key research areas that support holistic and sustainable management from economic, social, and environmental perspectives. CultiVA: Spanish Aquaculture Observatory. General Secretary of Fisheries. This is a mentorship initiative designed to help trainees expand their professional horizons in the aquaculture sector. The program fosters the exchange of experiences, knowledge, and guidance. Trainees are viewed not as students, but as future professionals, while mentors provide support in career development, offering advice on job searching and orientation. <u>Training Program for Scientific Observers.</u> General Secretary of Fisheries. Aim: Enhancing the skills and qualifications of surface longline observers. <u>Training activities on board the Intermares.</u> General Secretary of Fisheries. Aim: Promote sustainability within the fishery sector. I contains different modules, including basic and advanced courses on fishing gear and technology, as well as specialized training on the use of selective fishing gear, the application of biodegradable materials, and strategies to reduce and eliminate accidental catches. Blue Twinning. General Secretary of Fisheries. An environmental awareness project that connects schools from inland regions with coastal. The initiative aims to introduce fishing culture to schools in Madrid and Castilla-La Mancha.

Initiatives at national (and sub-national) level within the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on SBE

Ministerial Declaration Priorities	Initiatives at national/sub-national level
Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management	The Ministry of Ecological Transition developed and adopted the different Marine Spatial Planning Schemes (POEMS) in February 2023. The revision process aims to deliver the 2nd MSP in December 2027. This process will incorporate updated spatial data, best available knowledge, and lessons learnt from 1st plans. Interadministrative coordination and stakeholders participation in place from first stage and on-going. 11 international meetings (OSPAR, Barcelona, WestMed, and the Atlantic Cooperation Initiative). 14 at the European level (MSEG, projects, French POEM, various Commission interviews)-34 at the national level (ad hoc technical groups, the Canary Islands wind energy board, and coordination with administrations). The Ministry of Culture delivers data about underwater archeological sites in the seabed and protected coastal areas. The Ministry of Ecological Transition has continued to participate within the framework of the MSP GLOBAL project, as well as in the European group of the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive. It has also participated as a partner in the MSP-OR project and as a member of the Steering Committee of the MSP GREEN, REGINA-MSP and REMAP projects. These projects include partners from various European Union Member States and are focused on supporting the maritime spatial planning process of these States. Participation has also taken place, within the framework of the Barcelona Convention, in the informal group on maritime spatial planning for the update of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. <u>Joint Proposal for Marine Spatial Planning of Aquaculture.</u> General Secretary of Fisheries. - Promoted with Junta Nacional Asesora de Cultivos Marinos within the framework of the Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014, establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning. Aligns with EU Strategy for a Sustainable Blue Economy. - It is a document to promote a sustainable and competitive development of the sector, aiming to provide aquaculture a clearer and more stable framework for access to maritime space, to enhance the



Projects at national (and sub-national) level within the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on SBE

Ministerial Declaration Priorities	Projects at national/sub-national level
Food from sea: fisheries and aquaculture	
Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution transport and ports	SOIL DECONTAMINATION PROJECT FOR THE PORT OF PORMAN AND THE SIERRA MINERA DE CARTAGENA. The Ministry of Ecological Transition is recovering, at an environmental level, this area affected by heavy mining from the last decades of the XIXth century till the early years of the 1990s. The Ministry of Culture is taking part in the project due to the restoration, as cultural heritage, of the oldest mining structures as testimonies of the industrial heritage. The total budget is around 670 million euro. https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/prensa/ultimas-noticias/2025/febrero/el-gobierno-impulsa-la-recuperacion-de-la-sierra-minera-de-carta.html LAW OF THE MAR MENOR. The Mar Menor has been granted a legal framework and status, being the first European ecosystem area with considered legal entity with rights. Essential to the region's identity, local tourism, small-scale fishing and unique flora and fauna, the Mar Menor has been recognized as an UNEP World Restoration Flagship, thanks to an ambitious intervention through the Framework of Priority Actions to Recover the Mar Menor (MAPMM), launched by the Spanish Government.
Coastal and Maritime Tourism	RECOVERY OF LA ALBUFERA OF VALENCIA. After the floods of 2024, the Council of Valencia and the Regional Government are restoring the Albufera the landmark, in terms of cultural landscapes, in the Region of Valencia.
Marine Renewable Energies	

Projects at national (and sub-national) level within the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on SBE

Ministerial Declaration Priorities	Projects at national/sub-national level
Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy	
Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities	
Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment	CONSELL DE MALLORCA: ALCUDIA TECH MAR. A former thermal power plant was purchased in 2023 by the local government of Mallorca for making a pioneer center dedicated to the research of the decarbonization of the sea. Alcudia aspires to become the international capital of marine decarbonization and the Alcanada power plant will look like once converted into the new environmental innovation center. https://alcudiatechmar.org/
Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management	MINISTRY OF CULTURE + GENERALITAT DE CATALUNYA: CASA GOMIS PROJECT. Last february, the Ministry of Culture of Spain purchased Can Gomis (Gomis House), an architerctural icon from the late fifties, located near to El Prat Airport (Barcelona) in a area of natural interest beside the coast. The idea is to make a cultural center for boosting the possibilities between contemporary art and nature, giving visibility to the ecological and cultural values of the area. Casa Gomis will be attached to the Museu Nacional de Arte de Catalunya (MNAC), one of the referents in Europe. https://www.cultura.gob.es/va/actualidad/2025/05/250509-cesion-casa-gomis.html / https://www.museunacional.cat/en/article/ministry-culture-transfers-management-casa-gomis-museu-nacional-dart-de-catalunya

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?**

Spain currently has developed different sectorial strategies nationwide in relation with the blue economy and additionally, given the competence distribution among regional and national governments, different regional blue economy strategies and plans have been also developed.



Open questions

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.

There are different sector-oriented schemes applying in Spain. For example, the 'RENMARINAS DEMOS' Aid Programme in Spain was launched in December 2022 by MITECO. The progress of the actions of this programme will improve our knowledge of the marine environment, while will allow to study its interactions with Renewable Energy technologies.

The target of this 'technological development aid program' is to grant investments in actions devoted to the creation and reinforcement of testing platforms and infrastructures for offshore renewables and to Renewable technology demonstrators as well, when they are in real operating conditions, within the port or maritime-terrestrial public domain.

Final Resolution was published on 25th of October 2023, eventually awarding 147 million euros in grants which will mobilise investments of around €384 million, including relevant actions in the mediterranean regions of Catalonia and Valencia. RENMARINAS DEMOS Programme has allocated grants amounting to €147 million, which will mobilise investments of around €384 million.

3 - What are the main challenges, issues or bottlenecks for the implementation of the SBE Ministerial Declaration in your country?

Spain is fully committed to the effective implementation of the SBE Ministerial Declaration and has made great progress towards it. A greater degree of interaction within different economic sectors, sectorial stakeholders and Administrations working within the blue economy, is being reinforced.

