



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



General Fisheries
Commission for
the Mediterranean

Sustainable food from the Sea
Fisheries and Aquaculture
State of Mediterranean and Black Sea
Fisheries (SoMFi)

Miguel Bernal
Executive Secretary, GFCM

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, ...)

Cooperation and science-based decisions

Increasing management through different tools including:

Management plans (since 2013)

Spatial measures

Research programmes, pilot projects and studies

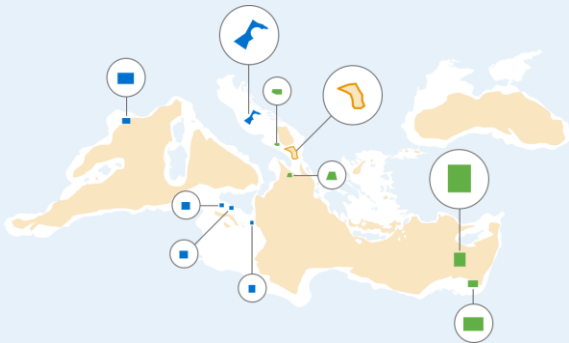
Support to sustainable aquaculture practices

Promotion of efficient aquaculture governance

Other technical measures

11

FRAs covering
1 760 000 km²



18

Research programmes,
pilot projects and studies



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

15

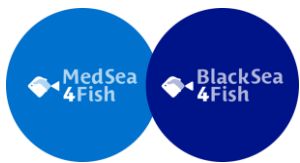
countries with allocated
zones for aquaculture

14

countries with environmental
monitoring programmes for
marine finfish cage farming

Cooperation and science-based decisions

Capacity development for fisheries



REGIONAL STRATEGIES



Knowledge

Fisheries and ecosystem monitoring

- Data collection
-
- Field and laboratory research
-
- Scientific and socioeconomic surveys



Expertise

Training and capacity development

- Expert meetings and exchanges
-
- Training of trainers
-
- Regional and subregional fora



Infrastructure

Provision of facilities and technology

- Procurement of equipment and services
-
- Enhancement of facilities
-
- Innovative solutions



NATIONAL PRIORITIES

MCS and legislation: level playing field & fighting IUU

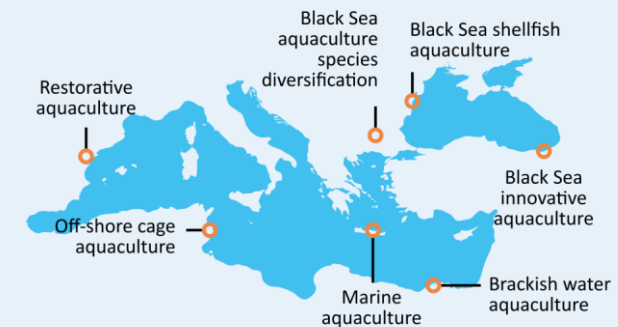
- Vessel monitoring system and related controls system
- Innovative MCS technologies
- Joint inspections and related trainings
- Revision of national legislation
- Port State Measures



Capacity development for aquaculture

- Allocated zones for Aquaculture
- Environmental Monitoring Programmes
- Restorative Aquaculture
- Innovative aquaculture systems
- Animal health and welfare

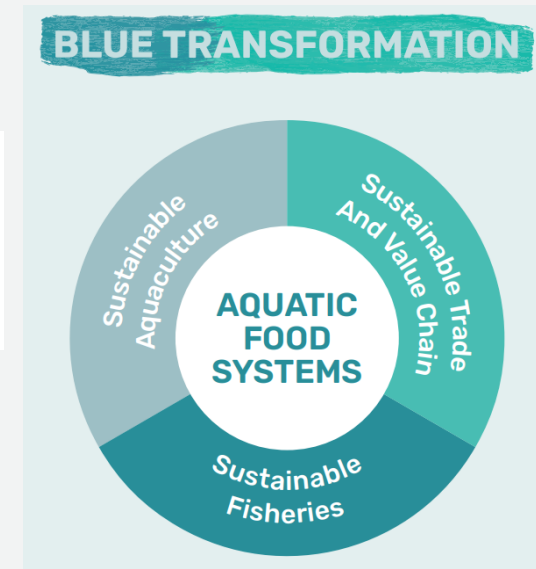
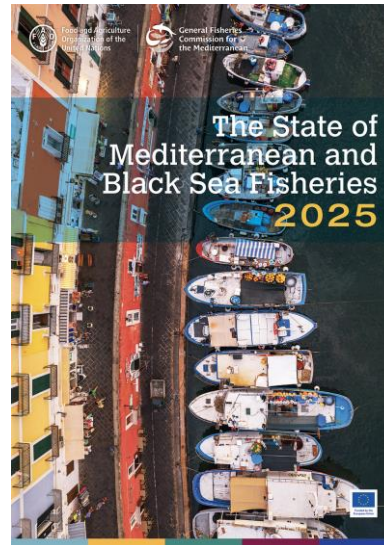
AQUACULTURE DEMONSTRATION CENTRES



The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries (SoMFi)

The SoMFi report is the authoritative source of data on the Fisheries and Aquaculture sectors. It is published every two years (last one in Nov 2025).

- Key management tool guiding the organization's work and measuring progress
- Fosters collaboration and knowledge exchange, feeding FAO global reports and regional partner assessments (e.g. UfM, UNEP-MAP)



Blue transformation roadmap:

- Sustainable aquaculture intensification and expansion satisfied global demand for aquatic food and distributes benefits equitably
- Effective management of all fisheries delivers healthy stocks and secures equitable livelihoods
- Upgraded value chains ensure the social, economic and environmental viability of aquatic food systems

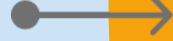
Three main takeaways from SoMFi 2025

- With consolidated management, Fisheries and Aquaculture are becoming ever more **sustainable pillars of the Blue Economy**;
- With increasing aquaculture production, the primary sector is providing **increased food security**;
- Both sectors sustain **livelihoods** and drive **economic activity**, so ensuring their profitability and attractiveness is essential.

Ever more sustainable pillars of the Blue Economy

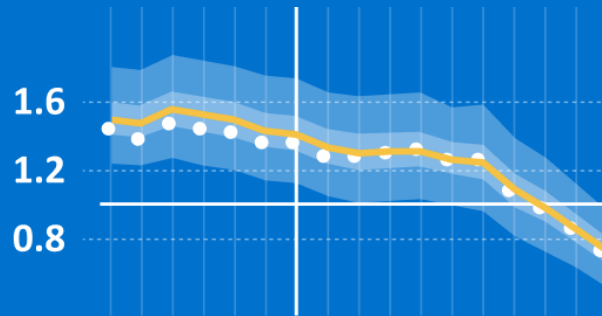
Stocks in overexploitation

87%
In 2013



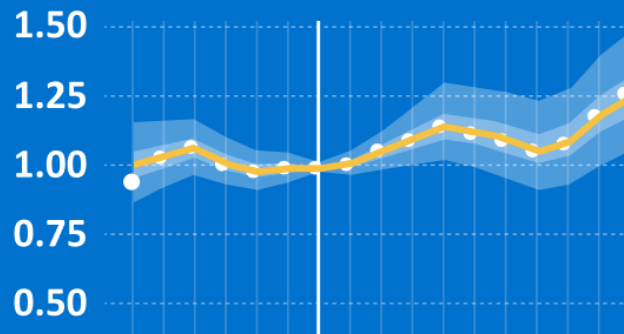
52%
In 2023

Exploitation



50% decrease

Biomass



25% increase

2013

Now sustainable

common sole
(Adriatic Sea)



-42%

Fishing mortality

+64%

Biomass

Since 2019

European hake
(Adriatic Sea)



-50%

Fishing mortality

+40%

Biomass

Since 2013

turbot

(Black Sea)



-86%

Fishing mortality

+310%

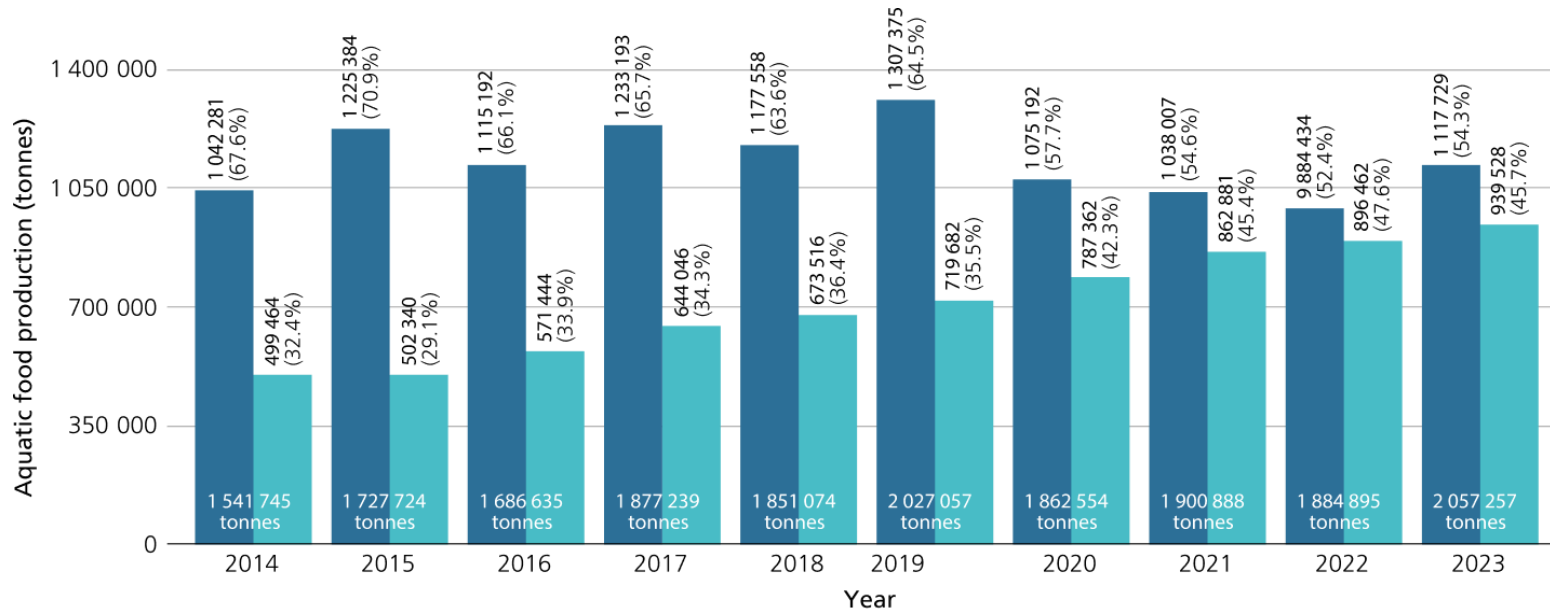
Biomass

Since 2013

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

Aquaculture production fueling food security

FIGURE 1.1.
Aquatic food production by sector in the
Mediterranean and the Black Sea, 2014–2023



■ Fisheries ■ Aquaculture



Volume

**940 000
tonnes**

**100% increase
Since 2013**

Group of
species



86.1% Finfish
13.7% Molluscs
0.2% Crustaceans and algae



Both sectors need to be attractive and profitable



Employment

1.17 million jobs*

*along the value chain

Fisheries

Jobs

750 000

Along the value chain

197 000

Jobs on board

8% increase

Onboard employment since 2021

Aquaculture

Jobs

420 000

Along the value chain

113 000

Directly employed

Both sectors need to be attractive and profitable

USD
3.1 billion

Direct revenue at first sale

USD
5.2 billion

63% increase

Since 2013

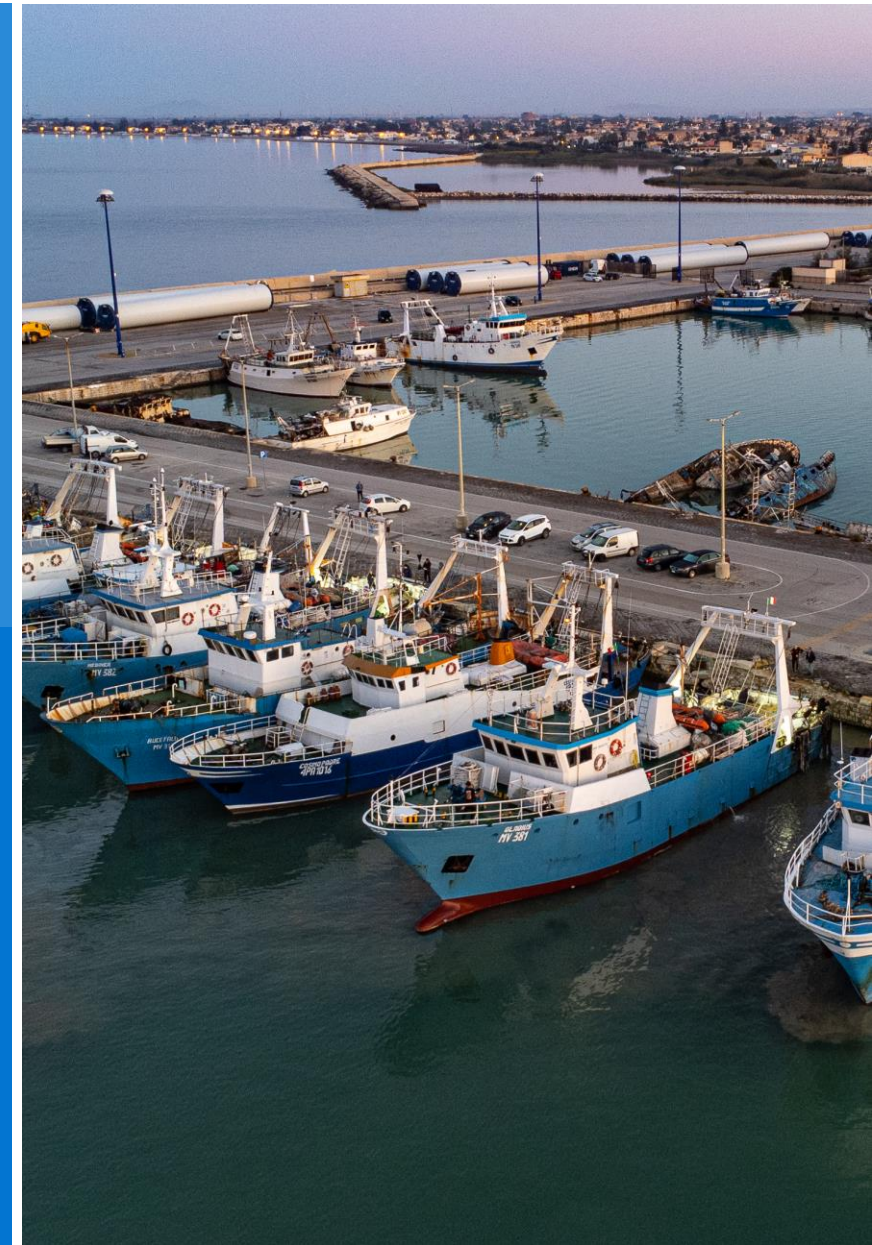
Fisheries

Aquaculture

Direct revenue

USD 8.3 billion

Estimated wider impact along the value
chain: USD 21.5 billion



Both sectors need to be attractive and profitable



Women hold only 28% of all jobs along the fisheries value chain

Ageing workforce shows some improvement

	Over the age of 40	Under the age of 25
2023	41%	20%
2020	52%	10%
2018	49%	17%

FIGURE 75
Gender-disaggregated aquaculture employment by region

Women Men

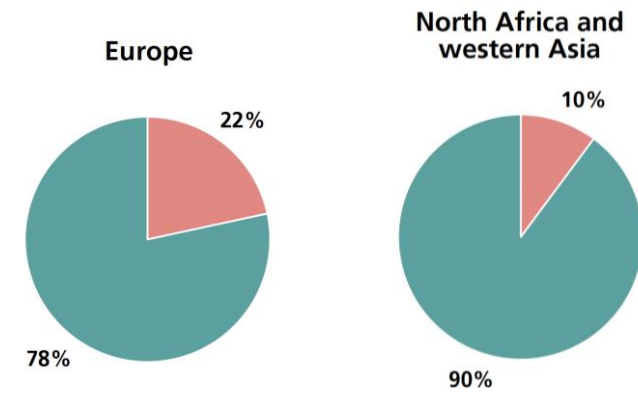
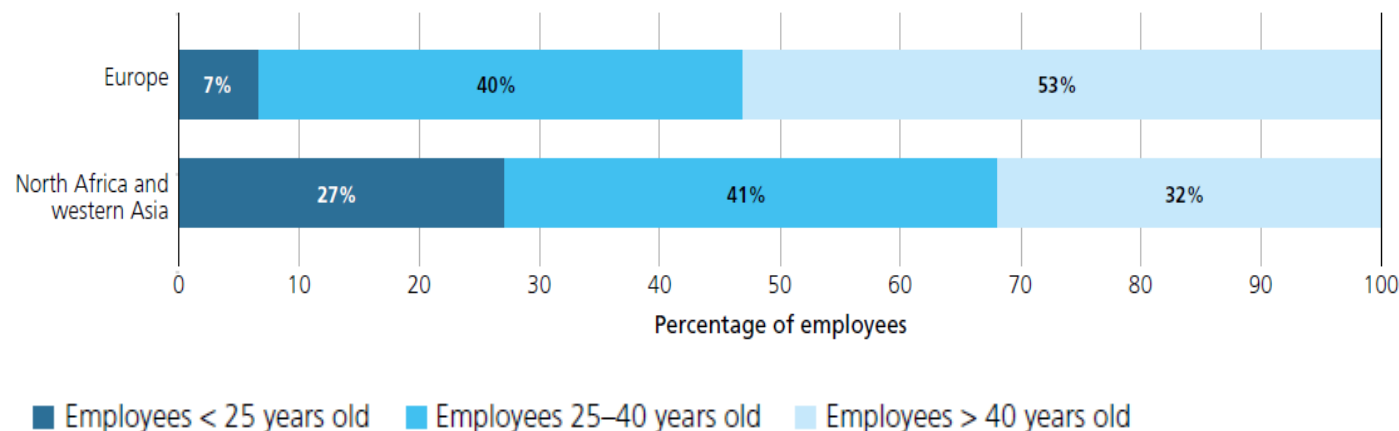


FIGURE 76
Age distribution of employment in the aquaculture sector by age group and region



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**

Miguel Bernal
Executive Secretary,
GFCM



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