



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



20th UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy meeting
Brussels, 14 -15 October 2026

***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 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 7th October 2026, end of day.**

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

During 2026 Spain has continued to advance in the implementation of the 2021 UfM on the different blue economy sectors, as fisheries, ports, renewable energies or marine spatial planning.

This 2026 Spain has taken advantage of the presidency and co-presidency of the EU Maritime Strategies that is part of (Atlantic and WestMED), enhancing and encouraging the synergies among seabasins, stakeholders and administrations in Spain, for the promotion of a sustainable blue economy.



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

Ministerial Declaration Priorities	Initiatives at national/sub-national level
Food from sea: fisheries and aquaculture	“Llena tu mesa de mar” (‘Fill your table with seafood’), initiative led by the General Secretary of Fisheries (SGP), 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. Second FAO international course on fisheries law enforcement – Celebrated on July 2026 in Spain, the FAO international course on Fisheries Law Enforcement combined theory and an applied approach with specialized training focusing on the Law of the Sea, public international law, fisheries management, fisheries law, monitoring, control and surveillance, and fisheries enforcement. Lectures and case studies were delivered by experts from FAO and the Spanish General Secretariat of Fisheries.
Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution transport and ports	FAO Blue Ports Initiative. Spain has maintained a strong institutional commitment to the FAO Blue Ports Initiative since 2022, supporting the sustainable development of fishing ports and the exchange of knowledge and good practices. In 2026, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Puertos del Estado, the Port Authority of Vigo and the Xunta de Galicia signed a cooperation agreement to support the FAO Training Programme. The General Secretary of Fisheries acts as the formal interlocutor with FAO. This commitment is part of Spain’s broader efforts to promote sustainable and innovative fishing ports. In February 2026, Vigo hosted the 7th Blue Ports Initiative Workshop, bringing together international experts to discuss sustainable port infrastructure. Spain, through the Ministry of Transports, is developing an ambitious programme valued on over 900 M€ until 2030 in order to install On-Shore Power Supply connections (OPS) in almost every Spanish port, reducing emissions and noises. The first systems are already online on, for example, Barcelona or Palma de Mallorca.
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. During the Congress, a side event entitled ‘Fishing as a driver of tourism: culture, territory and future’ was held promoted by the SGP. The session explored the fishing sector not only as a productive activity, but also as an important part of the tourism, heritage and cultural identity of Spain’s coastline. Collection and monitoring of data on fishing-tourism activities. The SGP of Fisheries is strengthening the monitoring and collection of data on fishing-tourism activities in Spain within the framework established by Royal Decree 239/2019 of 5 April. The Autonomous Communities maintain a register of vessels engaged in fishing-tourism activities and, at the end of each year, submit an annual report to the General Secretary of Fisheries and the Social Marine Institute. The report includes, at a minimum, the number of fishing-tourism trips per vessel, the number of tourists carried on board and the income generated by these activities. This provides a common basis for monitoring the development of fishing-tourism at national level and for improving understanding of this diversification activity within coastal fishing communities.

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

Ministerial Declaration Priorities	Initiatives at national/sub-national level
Marine Renewable Energies	The Spanish Ports Authority guarantees that the Spanish ports of general interest play an essential role in supporting the deployment of offshore renewable energy by facilitating prototype testing in their waters and developing the infrastructure needed to support both deployment and subsequent maintenance. The Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge (MITERD) has published the <u>Royal Decree 962/2024</u>, 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. MITERD held a public consultation (February 2026) on the ministerial order that will set the bases of the first competitive procedure for offshore wind under Royal Decree 962/2024. It should be noted that submissions were received from 153 interested parties, of whom 33% were individuals, 32% were companies and business associations, 14% were public sector bodies and organisations, and 14% were NGOs. The Roadmap target is 1–3 GW by 2030.
Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy	Spanish ports of general interest are deeply committed to the goal of ensuring that waste recovered by fishing vessels is brought to port, deposited on the docks, and managed in accordance with environmental sustainability measures. MITERD has continued to participate in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, both by contributing to the preparation of EU positions and lines to take and by participating in all the INC sessions, including INC5.2, INC5.3 and the two meetings of heads of delegation held in 2026. The Pleamar Programme managed by the Biodiversity Foundation (MITERD) in collaboration with the SGP, and co-funded by the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), supports projects linking marine litter prevention and management with sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and the blue economy. The 2025 call includes five projects specifically addressing wastes. The INTEMARES-Lost and abandoned fishing gear initiative developed common criteria for managing abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear and tested pilot actions in marine Natura 2000 sites. The INTEMARES-Fishing for Litter initiative promoted the involvement of the fishing sector in the collection and management of marine litter accidentally caught during fishing activities. The initiative supports the collection, landing and appropriate management of marine litter brought ashore by fishing vessels, while raising awareness among fishermen and contributing to the prevention of marine litter and the protection of marine ecosystems. The Second Programme of Measures of the Spanish Marine Strategies includes a range of measures addressing marine litter, with the objectives of improving knowledge and monitoring of marine litter, preventing and reducing inputs of waste into the marine environment, addressing areas of high accumulation, improving the management of abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear, and raising awareness of the impacts of marine litter.

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

Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment

REDAQUA. 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). The Spanish Network of Knowledge Spaces for the Blue Economy (REECEA) was formally created by Order APA/976/2025 as a permanent and consultative working group attached to the **SGP**. It brings together public and private Knowledge Spaces for the Blue Economy (ECEA), with the aim of strengthening cooperation among the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, public administrations, scientific and technological organisations and other relevant stakeholders. REECEA promotes knowledge exchange and transfer, collaboration and dialogue on the economic, environmental and social sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture, the identification of research needs, the development of innovative projects and consortia, and the dissemination of best practices and training activities. It also provides a national platform for connecting key actors in the blue economy and fostering synergies between science, innovation, public administration and the productive sector.

CultiVA: Spanish Aquaculture Observatory developed by the SGP. 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.

Training Program for Scientific Observers. Enhancing the skills and qualifications of surface longline observers. Programme led by the SGP.

Training activities on board the Intermares training ship. Programme by SGP Promoting sustainability within the fishery sector. 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.

Underline the training on fisheries control and management carried out during september 2026 in Mauritania in coordination with the National authorities.

Blue Twinning. 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.

WestMED Technical Group on Blue Skills. Spain participates in the WestMED Technical Group on Blue Skills, launched on 27 April 2026 to identify common priorities and develop a future roadmap on skills for the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean. Spain highlighted the need to integrate the BlueComp framework across maritime and marine-related training systems in order to foster innovation, competitiveness and generational renewal. The group addresses common challenges including digital and green skills, artificial intelligence, training of trainers, cooperation between education and industry, and the strengthening of links between sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture, coastal tourism, maritime transport, ports, logistics and marine renewable energy.

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

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. POEMs also include diagnosis, objectives and measures regarding land-sea interactions (LSI). Inter-administrative coordination, stakeholders participation and transboundary cooperation have been in place since the beginning of the implementation of the plans and are on-going, including international meetings (OSPAR Convention, Barcelona Convention, MSP Global, WestMed, the Atlantic Strategy, Communities of Practice of the Mediterranean and the Atlantic and the Partnership for Atlantic Cooperation), meetings at the European level (Member States Experts Group on Maritime Spatial Planning, transboundary cooperation projects, French POEM, various Commission interviews), more than 40 inter-administrative meetings at national and subnational level (ad hoc technical groups, the Canary Islands wind energy board, and coordination with administrations), and various in-person and virtual stakeholder engagement events. MITERD has continued participating within the framework of the MSP GLOBAL Initiative, as well as in the European group of the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive. It is also participating as a member of the Steering Committee of the MEDIGREEN project. This project includes partners from various EU Member States and is focused on supporting the maritime spatial planning process of these States. Participation has also taken place in the working group on maritime spatial planning of the Barcelona Convention, as well as in the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Offshore Renewable Energies of the OSPAR Convention. Joint Proposal for Marine Spatial Planning of Aquaculture. The General Secretary of Fisheries, in collaboration with the Junta Nacional Asesora de Cultivos Marinos and in line with the maritime spatial planning framework provided by the Directive 2014/89/EU, has launched a proposal aiming to promote a sustainable and competitive development of the aquaculture sector. This proposal provides a clearer and more stable framework for access to maritime space, enhancing the coexistence of aquaculture with other maritime uses and activities, facilitating investment, and supporting the sector's long-term growth. Integration of Fisheries into Maritime Spatial Planning. General Secretary of Fisheries: The integration of fishery resource protection areas and fishing activity areas, within the framework of Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning, to promote sustainable maritime economies, the sustainable development of marine areas, and the sustainable use of marine resources.

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

Ministerial Declaration Priorities	Projects at national/sub-national level
Food from sea: fisheries and aquaculture	
Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution transport and ports	HY2Fish Project – Project aims to develop procedures and technologies capable of reducing fuel consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by up to 40% compared to conventional vessel designs, on above 12m fishing vessels.
Coastal and Maritime Tourism	Spanish Fishing Tourism Network – Ministry of Industry and Tourism developed a webpage that brings together the different tourism activities and offers related with the fisheries sector available in Spain.
Marine Renewable Energies	PORT-EOLMAR Programme: On 19 December 2025, MITERD established 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. These regulatory bases had previously been launched for public consultation in July 2025. The purpose of this PORT-EOLMAR Aid Program is to strengthen Spanish and European strategic autonomy in the Offshore wind & ocean energy value chain, in particular by enabling only unique “infrastructure projects” by port authorities in strategic locations and with high capacity requirements, which significantly improve the logistical capabilities of port infrastructures both on land and at sea, through the construction or adaptation of docks and new operating areas in their rear zone, with all the necessary logistics for the deployment of offshore wind and other marine renewables energies and their value chain in Spain. The first call (€212 million) was resolved on 26 June 2026, awarding five port infrastructure projects covering six state-owned ports (A Coruña–Ferrol, Gijón, Las Palmas, Castellón and Tarragona). Each is linked to an industrial project, with about €470 million of private investment.
Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management	LIFE INTEMARES: This 2026 the results of ten years of efforts to improve the conservation and management of the marine environment in Spain have been presented by MITERD. The project has helped increase the area of marine protected areas from 8% in 2017 to the current 22.5%, putting Spain firmly on track to reach 30% by 2030. It has mobilized more than 45 million euros through 337 complementary projects funded by other national and European sources.



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?

Even though Spain has not developed yet an overarching national blue economy strategy, within the framework of the Maritime Spatial Planning Plans, a foresight Study and Socio-economic Characterisation of the Different Sectors of the Spanish Blue Economy is being developed. The objective is to provide the information necessary to elaborate a National Blue Economy Strategy.

Additionally, several Spanish regional authorities have developed blue economy plans and strategies within their competences.



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.

The funding/financing schemes in place do not cover the whole of the blue economy but are instead organized by economic sectors.

Different national and regional institutions canalize the funding and finance opportunities, as has been presented on this report.



Open questions

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.

