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# The strategic importance of small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean

Ms Anna Carlson (GFCM Secretariat)



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



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

# The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

- The Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) for the **Mediterranean and Black Sea** region

- Membership:

## *24 Contracting Parties:*

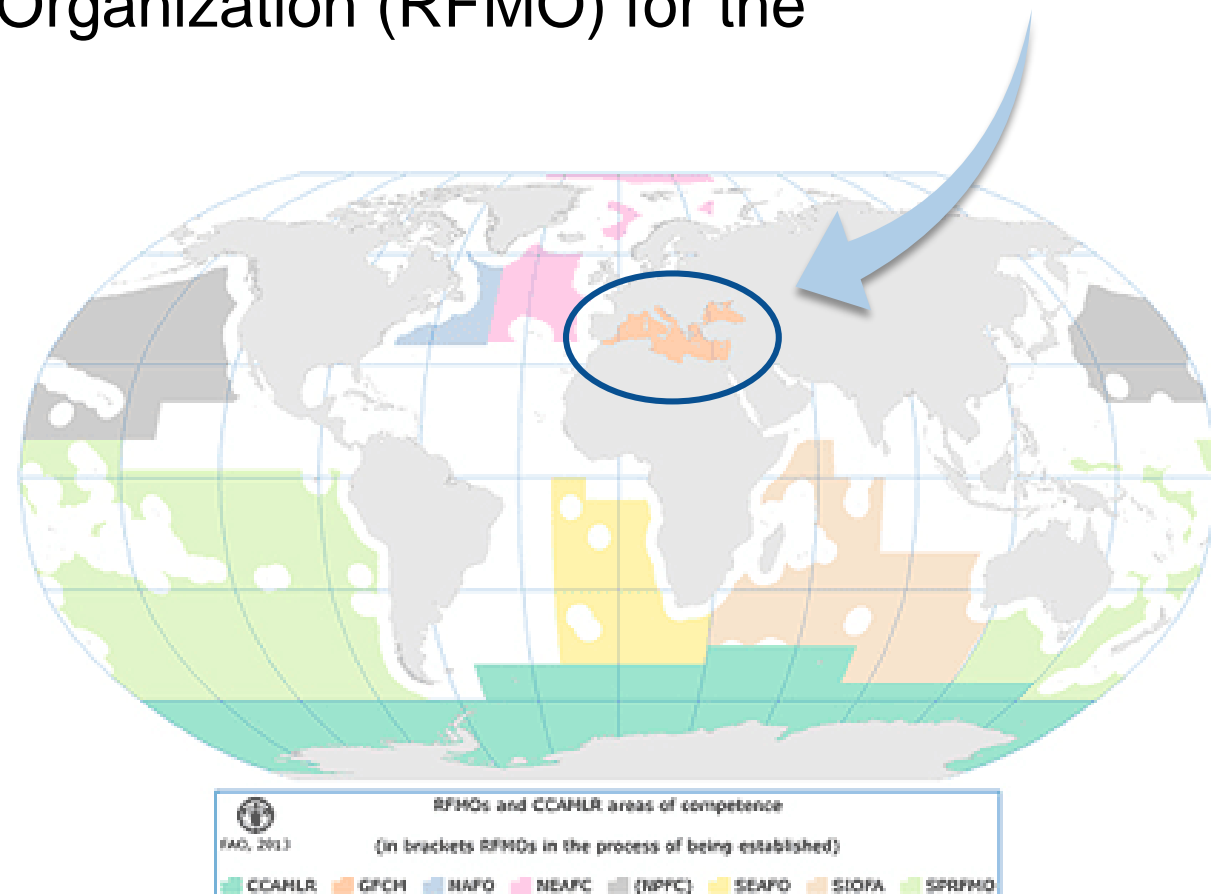
- 19 Mediterranean states, 3 Black Sea states, EU and Japan

## *4 Cooperating non-Contracting Parties:*

- Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

- Key functions:

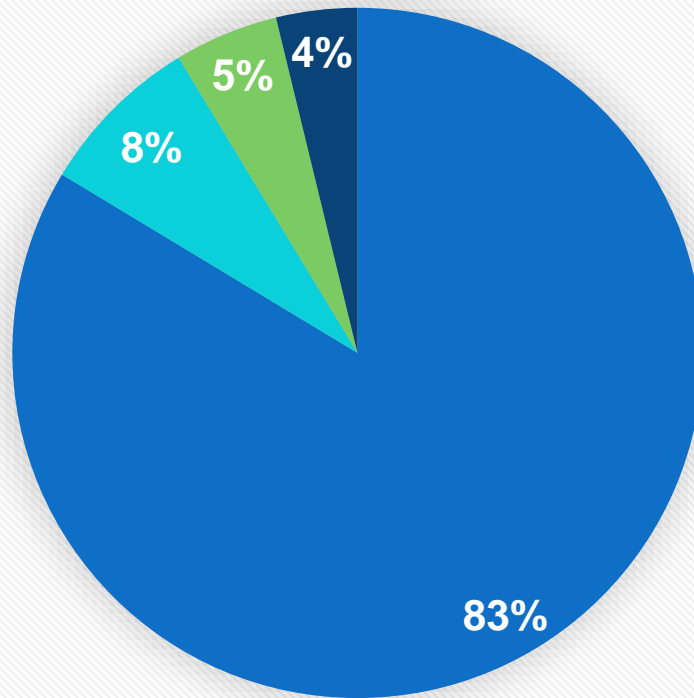
- Develop **technical advice**
- Adopt **binding recommendations** for fisheries and aquaculture governance
- Provide **technical assistance** to level the playing field
- Facilitate **intergovernmental cooperation**



# Importance of small-scale fisheries

# Characteristics of the sector: Small-scale fishing fleet

Mediterranean and Black Sea fleet



■ Small-scale ■ Trawlers ■ Purse seiners & pelagic trawlers ■ Others

- 83% of the region's fisheries are small-scale
- Average small-scale vessel age:
  - 28 years
- Average small-scale vessel LOA:
  - 6.9 metres

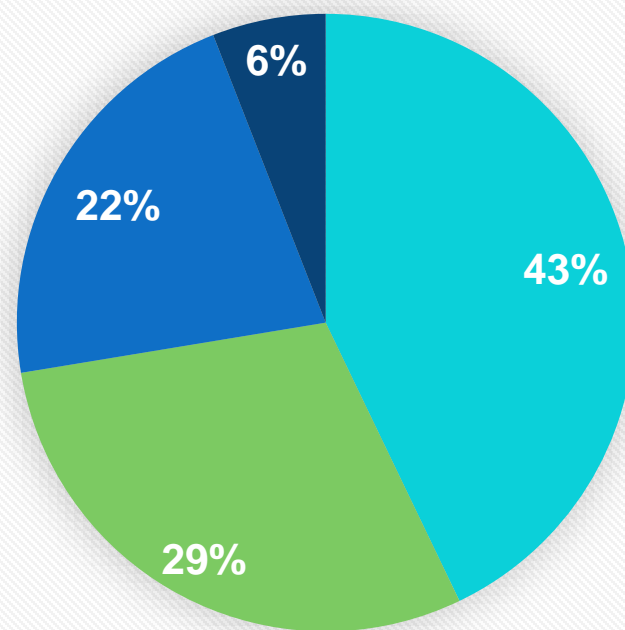


# Characteristics of the sector:

## Value of small-scale fishing

- Value at first sale from the SSF segment:
  - Approximately € 630,000,000
- Estimates suggest wider economic impact may be as much as 2.6 times the reported landing value
  - Sustain vulnerable coastal communities
  - Provide livelihoods
  - Ensure food security
  - Ripple effect to other sectors: important for tourism and restaurant industries
  - Cultural value

Landing value by fleet segment from capture fisheries

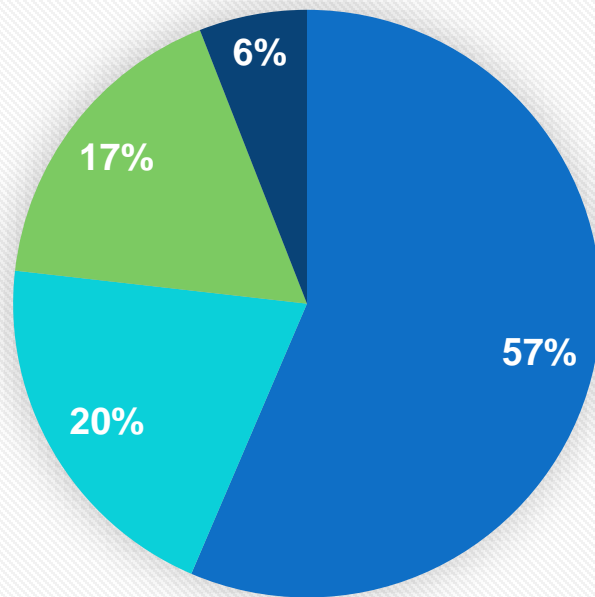


■ Trawlers ■ Purse seiners & pelagic trawlers ■ Small-scale ■ Others

# Characteristics of the sector:

## Employment in small-scale fishing

On-vessel employment by  
fleet segment



■ Small-scale ■ Purse seiners & pelagic trawlers ■ Trawlers ■ Others

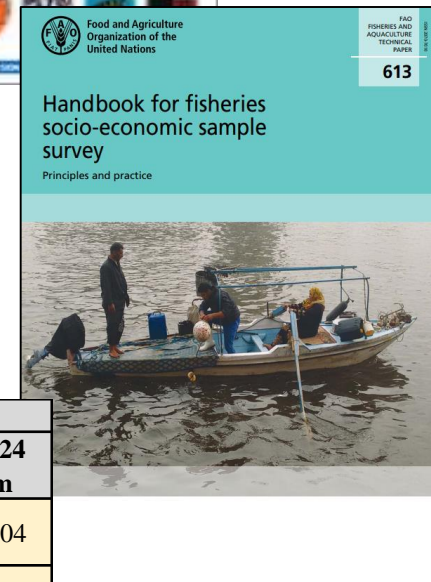
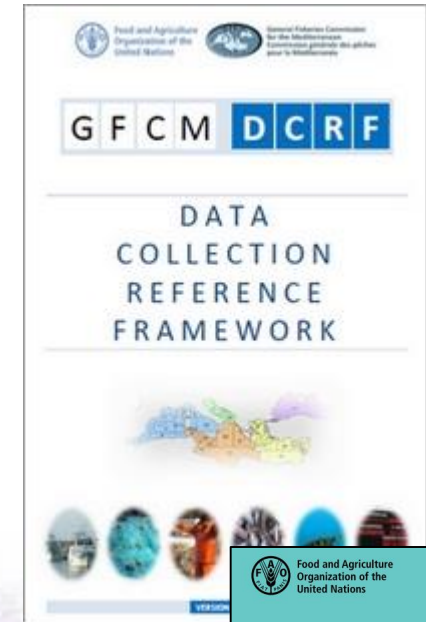
- On-vessel employment:
  - Average fishers per small-scale vessel: 2.6
  - Average fishers per industrial vessel: 8.1
- SSF characteristics:
  - Family-based fishery, owners typically directly involved in the fishing activity

# Strategic actions to support small-scale fisheries



# Improving knowledge

- Mid-term strategy
  - Working Group on Small-Scale Fisheries (WGSSF)
- Improve characterization of small-scale fisheries
  - Socio-economic survey
  - Matrix for the characterization of SSF



Vessel groups			Length classes (LOA)			
			< 6 m	6 – 12 m	12 – 24 m	> 24 m
Polyvalent	P	Small-scale vessels without engine using passive gears	P-01	P-02	P-03	P-04
		P-13				
		Small-scale vessels with engine using passive gears	P-05	P-06	P-07	P-08
		Polyvalent vessels	P-09	P-10	P-11	P-12
					P-14	

# Building capacity

- Enhancing regional coordination and partnerships
- Knowledge-sharing platform
  - Identify synergies and cooperation opportunities
  - Magnify the impact and dissemination of project results



Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund



# Strengthening political commitment

- First Regional Symposium on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (*Malta, November 2013*)
- Regional Conference on building a future for sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (*Algeria, March 2016*)
- High-level meeting on small-scale fisheries (*September 2018*)
  - High-level political discussions towards the adoption of a regional plan of action



# Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea

- Duration: 10 years (through 2028)
- Builds on previous international initiatives and instruments:
  - Conclusions of SSF Symposium (Malta, 2013) & SSF Conference (Algeria, 2016)
  - MedFish4Ever
  - Voluntary Guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries (FAO SSF Guidelines)
- Recognizes the importance of SSF in the Mediterranean and Black Sea
- Prescribes specific actions for supporting SSF:
  - a) Scientific research
  - b) Data
  - c) Management measures
  - d) Value chain
  - e) Associating SSF to participative decision-making processes
  - f) Capacity building
  - g) Decent work
  - h) Role of women
  - i) Climate and environment





# *Thank you for your attention*

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