



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



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

**The role of the GFCM in broadening  
cooperation in the field of fisheries and  
aquaculture in the Black Sea:  
the Bucharest Declaration**  
Plenary session, Global Fishery Forum

By Abdellah Srour, Executive Secretary GFCM-FAO  
*St Petersburg, 14 September 2017*

# Introduction

## The General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean

- **Year of establishment**

1949 (Agreement adopted pursuant to Article XIV of the FAO Constitution)

- **Objectives**

Ensure the conservation and sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of living marine resources

Ensure sustainable development of aquaculture

- **Area of application**

The Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea

- **Members:**

24 Parties: 19 Med. States, 3 Black-Sea States

Japan and the European Union

3 Cooperating non-Contracting Parties

Strong cooperation with the Russian Federation

- **Headquarters**

Rome



# Key facts and challenges in the Black Sea for implementing conservation and sustainable development of bio-resources



**Address decreasing and fluctuating catches**

**Mitigate pollution and the effect of alien species**

**Halt IUU fishing**

**Boost cooperation among riparian countries and build capacity**

# Effectiveness of existing conventions: landmark GFCM work and recent achievements in the Black Sea

- Implementation of a sub-regional approach (**Working Group on Black Sea** and **BlackSea4Fish project**)
- Adoption of **multi-annual fisheries management plans** to preserve commercial stocks of the Black Sea
- Roadmap to fight IUU fishing in the Black Sea
- **Mid-term strategy for fisheries (2017-2020)**
- **Specific strategy for aquaculture**
- Provision of technical assistance
- Federating efforts through common initiatives to enhance Cooperation in the Black Sea, including stakeholders' participation (e.g. **High-Level Conference**)



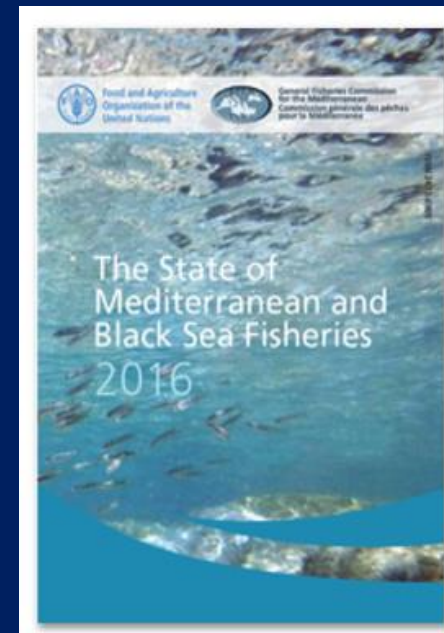
Black sea turbot fisheries and picked dogfish



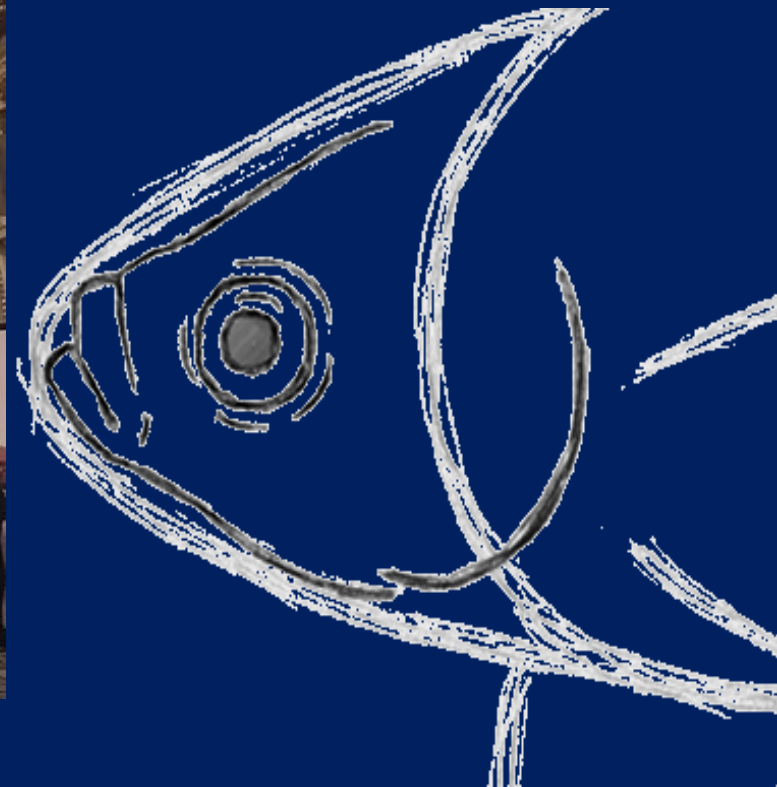
Regional Conference Aquaculture (Italy, 2014)



High-level conference on the Black Sea (Romania, 2016)



Balance between the interests of multiple stakeholders: the case of the Bucharest Declaration  
*(High-Level Conference on enhancing cooperation in Black Sea fisheries and aquaculture, 25/10/2016)*



# Bucharest Declaration: need for enhanced cooperation

- *The Bucharest Declaration calls for enhanced cooperation among riparian countries through:*
  - **Facilitating exchange of information among all countries**, including their national institutes and fishermen associations
  - **Strengthening the market dimension of Black Sea iconic commercial species** (e.g. turbot, anchovy, etc.)
  - Supporting coordinated efforts among various organizations on **cross cutting issues** (marine pollution)
  - **Stepping up efforts** to stop unfair competition due to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
  - **Boosting aquaculture** (promote the role of national markets and increase the value of Black Sea farmed products)
  - **Allowing for the views of different stakeholders in decision-making**

# The BlackSea4Fish project: a best practice

- In order to ensure the implementation of the Bucharest Declaration, the GFCM launched a regional cooperation project “BlackSea4Fish”
- The BlackSea4Fish project will set up and maintain a cooperative and technical regional network, including fishing associations in the region, to support the sustainable development of the fishing industry in the Black Sea
- BlackSea4Fish will facilitate UN/FAO policies at regional level on establishment of protected marine and fishing areas, balance between scientific and socio-economic interests, conserving marine ecosystems
- Participatory approach: government officials, scientists, experts in fisheries management, NGOs and industry can be involved in the work of the project
- Active involvement of the Russian Federation will be very beneficial

## Cooperation or Competition?

- *Considering the success of the BlackSea4Fish Project, replicate similar initiatives on different scales*
- *Taking advantage of existing international conventions for the conservation and development of bio-resources, support initiatives like that federate efforts among different actors*
- *Building upon existing international conventions for the conservation and development of bio-resources, foster strong cooperative and participatory networks to be effective*
- *Acknowledging the need to involve stakeholders from fishermen associations, conclude partnership agreements (GFCM has **14 memoranda of understanding** in place with different other organizations)*
- *Having regard to the importance of initiatives that document the position of stakeholders, launch the establishment of **platforms of fishermen***





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Thank you for your  
attention!

Спасибо!

<http://www.fao.org/gfcm/en/>