

**UPDATED ANNEX OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN**

**THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME IN ITS CAPACITY AS  
SECRETARIAT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (UNEP/MAP)**

**AND**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)/GENERAL FISHERIES  
COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (GFCM)**

## **ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE AREAS OF COOPERATION OF THIS MoU**

### **1. Promoting ecosystem-based approaches for the conservation of the marine and coastal environment and ecosystems and the sustainable use of its living and natural resources**

- Cooperate to ensure the interconnection and complementarity of both the Post-2020 SAP BIO governance tool content and the GFCM 2030 Strategy, particularly regarding the interaction between fisheries and marine and biodiversity and ecosystems as bycatch, fishing gears and ocean noise pollution impacts based on the ecosystem approach;
- Cooperate in undertaking assessments of the status of the marine environment, ecosystems and marine living resources including on the impact of their use for fishery and aquaculture purposes including socio economic aspects;
- Contribute to evaluate, the positive impact of the establishment of marine protected areas on marine living resources;
- Contribute to the implementation and further development of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP), based on agreed indicators and reference points (ecological, biological, etc.) to monitor the status of the marine environment and coastal ecosystems and that of marine living natural resources;
- Work together to integrate the respective protocols for incidental bycatch monitoring and data collection on vulnerable species consistent with the methodology to be used by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and the GFCM to monitor and collect bycatch data. Furthermore, expand this collaboration to bycatch data reporting by the Contracting Parties by ensuring interlinkages between IMAP and GFCM reporting information systems;
- Collaborate in order to identify, promote and strengthen synergies in spatial-based protection and management measures for marine biodiversity;
- Promote the establishment and sound management of fishery reserves and no-take-zones as effective management tools to restore marine ecosystems, fish biomass and community structure in areas depleted by overfishing and other marine areas;
- Collaborate in the formulation/development and implementation of key regional strategies to integrate the environment in social and economic development, especially in relation to fisheries and aquaculture in light of respective instruments in place.

### **2. Mitigating the impact of fisheries, aquaculture activities and NIS on the marine habitats and species**

- Collaborate in the elaboration and implementation, including extra-budgetary fundraising, of joint regional and sub-regional projects on the evaluation and mitigation of by-catch of endangered and non-target species and of the impact of fishing gears on marine habitats;
- Consider initiatives to develop and implement marine spatial planning in a manner that takes into account fisheries and aquaculture activities, activities for the preservation of marine habitats and associated species (including tools such as MPAs and FRAs), and possible conflicts as well as positive interactions between these activities and other uses of the sea (e.g. shipping, marine renewable energies, mining, oil rigs, etc.);
- Exchange data and information on NIS and their impact on biodiversity and living resources, and on deep sea habitats in order to further enhance knowledge of these habitats, their biodiversity and their living resources for better management purposes;
- Collaborate in initiatives that raise awareness and mitigate major impacts such as those related to reduce the amount of ghost fishing gear as marine litter;
- Exchange information on additional species to be included within the Annexes II and III of the SPA/BD Protocol and GFCM decisions and recommendations relative to their vulnerability to bycatch;
- Collaborate, as requested by Contracting Parties, towards the effective implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management, including its Action Plan and Timetable, and the 2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species (Biofouling Guidelines) (resolution

MEPC.207(62)) in the Mediterranean region;

**3. Identification, protection and management of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), other marine areas of particular importance (i.e. SPAMIs, hot spots of biodiversity, areas with sensitive habitats, essential fish habitats, areas of importance for fisheries and/or for the conservation of endangered species, coastal wetlands)**

- Enhance collaboration with other relevant organizations to maintain and update regional databases of sites of particular importance for biodiversity conservation and for fisheries management, including in a way which is complementary and coherent with the existing relevant UNEP/MAP databases;
- With regard to the Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) and the Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs), in particular those located partially or wholly in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), collaborate to harmonize existing respective criteria to identify those areas, for the cases where their location may be coincident and the selection of mechanisms needed for their establishment;
- Consult and coordinate with each other, and involve to the maximum extent possible the IMO, on the possible identification and designation of Particular Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs) in relation to Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) and Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs), also exploring the use of PSSA mechanisms to provide protection to fisheries which have significant social and economic attributes;
- Monitor the status of the species listed in Annexes II and III to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean and ensure that exploitation of all species included in Annex III is regulated to the maximum extent possible, consistent with Article 12, paragraph 4 of the SPA/BD Protocol;
- Exchange views on scientific and technical advice in the context of each other's scientific and technical bodies and working groups, such as the GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries, the SAP BIO Advisory Committee and Ad hoc Group of Experts on Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (AGEM) and other, as relevant;
- Cooperate in undertaking assessments of the state of coastal lagoons and other relevant coastal wetlands to be used for the formulation and dissemination of sustainable management measures and sustainable use of its living resources.

**4. Promoting a Blue Transformation, including through climate change resilience**

- Collaborate to study and assess the impacts of climate change on the marine environment and ecosystems and their marine living resources;
- Contribute to the formulation and adoption of appropriate fisheries and aquaculture adaptation and mitigation strategies to the impacts of climate change thereby enhancing knowledge and communication;
- Strengthening the formulation of scientific advice to Contracting Parties on emerging issues of common interest, such as ocean noise pollution;
- Collaborate in initiatives related to the implementation and monitoring of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) as processes based on cross-sectoral coordination and decision-making to support the use of ecosystem services and resources in a sustainable way;
- Collaborate in preparing and implementing projects that promote efficient use of marine resources and reduction of conflicts among the different uses of the oceans with the twofold objective of reaching/maintaining good environmental status and securing the long-term future of these industries.

**5. Cooperation in relation to Marine Litter**

- Collaborate for the implementation of the Marine Litter Management Regional Plan in the Mediterranean, with a particular focus on:

- supporting the implementation of fishing for litter schemes aiming at raising fishermen awareness about the negative impacts of inappropriate disposal and encourage them to take waste to port, including marine litter collected as by-catch;
- undertaking sub-regional pilots to test the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear (e.g. joint scheme with the FfL Pilots); and
- updating the 2016 UNEP/MAP Fishing-for-litter Guidelines and to distribute and disseminate them to all fisheries/fishermen associations;
- setting up a system to track lost gear and encourage fishermen to report their loss.
- Collaborate and contribute, where appropriate, to global processes addressing marine litter.
- Foster synergies with a view to enhancing cooperation and coordination in implementing relevant projects and initiatives that could contribute to the reduction of marine plastic litter including, but not limited to:
  - the implementation of the IMO Action Plan to address marine plastic litter from ships (resolution MEPC.310(73)) in the Mediterranean region; and
  - the application of relevant outcomes of the IMO-FAO-Norway GloLitter Partnerships Project in the Mediterranean region.
- Encourage the preparation of a GIS-based assessment on the types of fisheries being active in the Mediterranean Sea (e.g. small-scale fisheries, trawlers, purse seiners, longlines, nets, traps, etc.).

#### **6. Legal, institutional and policy related cooperation**

- Consult regularly on policy issues of common interest to identify institutional synergies in the context of relevant global and regional fora.
- Collaborate on issues related to information and data management and exchange, including through:
  - improving respective capacities for managing and sharing environmental data and information related to fisheries;
  - promoting exchanges of information and data, as appropriate;
  - facilitating interoperability, through definition and use of common standards and improving interconnections between the respective IT systems.
- Exchange views regarding the governance of the Mediterranean Sea and take part, where possible, to ongoing initiatives aimed at improving the said governance;
- Organize joint side events, where necessary and including together with other organizations, while being in attendance of meetings held in other international fora that could be relevant to further the promotion of the goals and objectives of this MoU;
- Promote cooperation and exchange of information at the level of their compliance committees, as set up under UNEP/MAP and the GFCM frameworks, to address issues of common concern.
- Be involved, as appropriate, in those projects implemented by the other Party;
- Collaborate on public information, awareness-raising, communication and advocacy on themes related to the scope and aims of the two organizations, and on disseminating results achieved and lessons learned, including via the updating of information in the respective websites related to themes and activities of common interest;
- Coordinate positions within international fora which involve both Parties.