



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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

Experiences of cross sectoral cooperation – fisheries and environment: the case of the GFCM

UNEP/EC Workshop on area-based management and regional
cooperation for the implementation of ocean related Sustainable
Development Goals

9-10 February 2017, Brussels, Belgium

Background information on GFCM-FAO



- The GFCM is the regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) with competence over the Mediterranean (and the Black Sea)
- 1949 Constitutive Agreement under Article XIV of FAO
- Amended agreement endorsed in May 2014
- 24 Members, including EU and Japan, and 3 cooperating non-Members (BiH, Georgia, Ukraine)
- Objective: to ensure the conservation and sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of living marine resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture
- Power to adopt recommendations binding upon its Members, consistent with United Nations and FAO policies, including on the following issues:
 - sub-regional multiannual management plans
 - data collection and analysis, including indicators, targets and GES
 - small-scale fisheries and their socio-economic role
 - fishing restricted areas, protection of VMEs and conservation measures

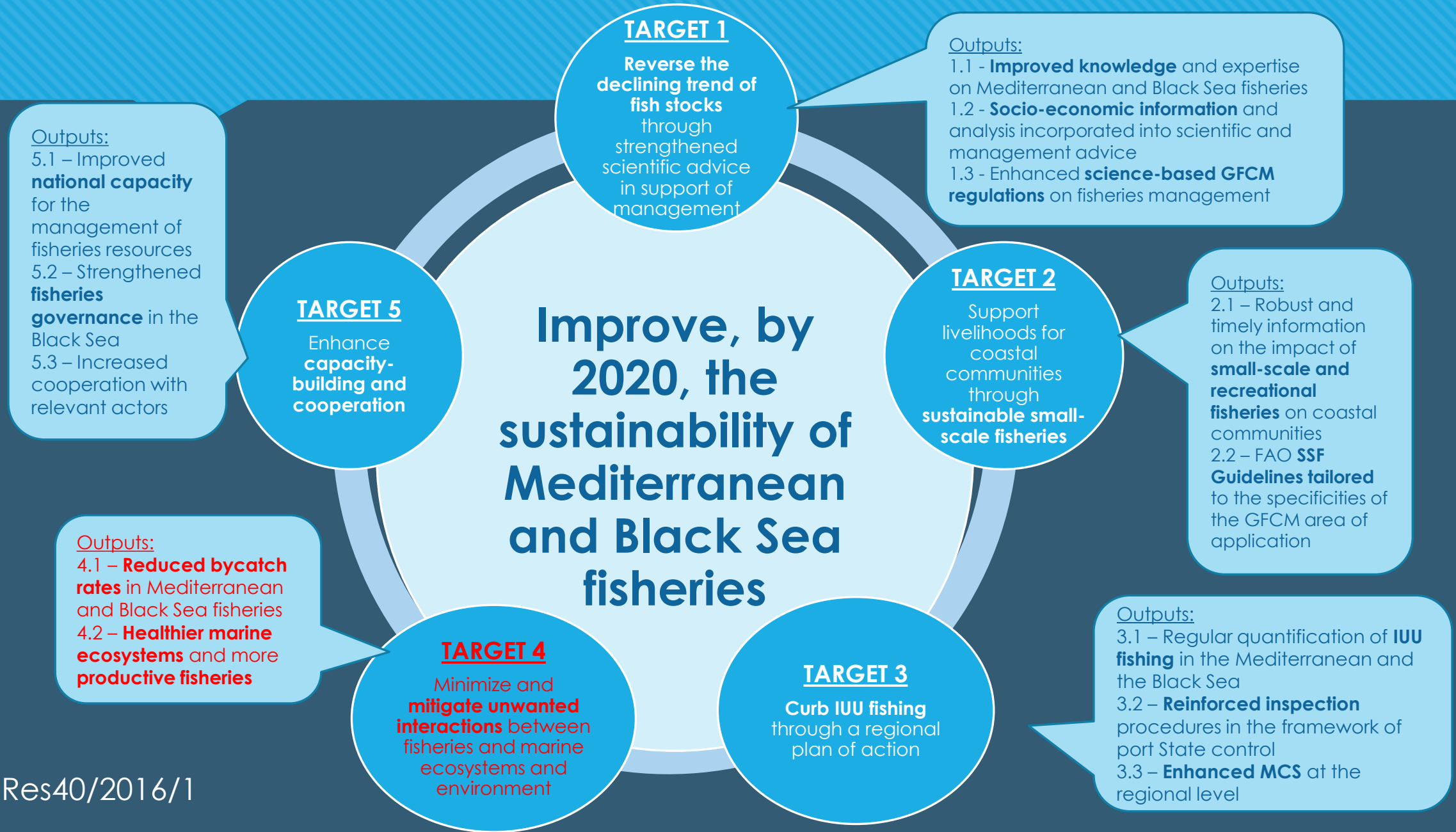
A tailored approach to SDG 14

- **SDG 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”** – fully-encompassing approach (fisheries + environment)
- **SOI Dialogue** (Seoul, September 2016): actions are needed at multiple scales to implement SDG 14;
- Main challenge to the implementation of SDG 14: lack of cross-sectoral coordination
- **40th session of the GFCM** (Malta, June 2016): *Resolution GFCM/40/2016/2 on a mid-term strategy (2017–2020) towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries*



- Thrust of the case study presented to this meeting: explain how the mid-term strategy will enable cross-sectoral cooperation at the Mediterranean and Black Sea level, supporting countries in assessing their progress towards SDG 14

The mid-term strategy



Why?

- Stocks under pressure, exhausted fisheries sector
- Need for regional action (beyond the reach of countries alone)
- Countries require support to comply with recommendations and international commitments

When?

- 2017 – 2020: the strategy should revert current negative trends and lay down the foundation towards sustainable fisheries
- More pressing needs already being addressed
- Alignment with the SDG 14 agenda

Who?

- Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian countries
- Partner organizations having entered into a MoU with GFCM
- Other relevant actors with interest on various aspects related to fisheries

How?

- Coordinated actions executed at various scales (national, sub-regional, regional)
- Supported by partners and targeted actions (Mediterranean & Black Sea)
- Cross-sectoral reach
- Coherence with relevant international initiatives



Cooperative network

○ Thirteen MoU have been concluded thus far by the GFCM and the list includes:

- ACCOBAMS
- ATLAFCO
- **BSC**
- CIHEAM-IAMZ
- Eurofish
- ICES
- Infosamak
- IUCN-Med
- MED-AC
- MedPAN
- OceanCare
- **UNEP/MAP**
- WWF-Med

Aquaculture
GES VMEs
Turtles Fisheries
Environment
Cetaceans MPAs Pollution
Advice IUU FRA
Small-Scale
Co-management
Elasmobranchs

GFCM – UNEP/MAP collaboration

Spatial
planning



Good
Environmental
Status



Environmental
interactions



Marine Litter



Scientific
Knowledge



GFCM – UNEP/MAP collaboration

Marine Spatial Planning

Joint RAC/SPA, GFCM and ACCOBAMS meeting on protection of marine areas in the Mediterranean and Black Sea

Partner of the Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, organized by MedPan and UNEP/MAP SPA/RAC

Joint Cooperation Strategy on Spatial-based Protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity among ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med, UNEP/MAP through SPA/RAC and in collaboration with MedPAN

Good Environmental Status

Indicators on Ecological Objective 3 (commercially exploited fish - EO3) developed by GFCM and adopted by Mediterranean Countries in the context of UNEP/MAP EcAP

Plan to participate in the assessment of EO3 as well as collaborate in EO1 (biodiversity), EO2 (non-indigenous species) and 04(Food webs)

Ongoing collaboration towards a joint Pilot study on Non-Indigenous Species

GFCM – UNEP/MAP collaboration

Environmental interactions

Project on mitigating interactions between endangered marine species and fishing activities

Marine Litter

Participation on the implementation of Regional Management plan on Marine Litter (abandoned fishing gear)

Scientific Knowledge

Participation of UNEP-MAP in GFCM Forum on Fisheries Science: session on Climate change, alien species, etc.



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Thank you for the attention!

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