



WORKING TOGETHER
FOR SUSTAINABLE
SMALL-SCALE
FISHERIES



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

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



WITH THE TECHNICAL CONTRIBUTION OF:



FRIENDS OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

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THE CHARTER

Since ancient times small-scale fishers have played a crucial socio-economic and cultural role in the Mediterranean and Black Seas. Still today they represent 84 percent of the fishing fleet and secure jobs for over 300,000 people. But decades of overfishing have severely reduced the marine resources of both regions, threatening the survival of the whole sector and the livelihoods of many coastal communities.

The Friends of Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) Platform aims to promote transnational collaboration and coordination among the regional stakeholders in order to secure a sustainable future to people and marine ecosystems in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

The Platform members commit to:

- increase knowledge on SSF and support the gathering of data at the local, national and Mediterranean and Black Sea level;
- develop initiatives (e.g. projects) to better define, share and then implement sustainable environmental and socio-economic solutions, identified by members, researchers, decision makers and by SSF actors and their organizations;
- support and improve the application of strategies, recommendations, resolutions, declarations, action plans and proposals published by the GFCM;
- share project and field activity (e.g. case studies) results with the other members in order to keep updated the mapping and visual WEB representation of all ongoing initiatives on SSF, with a view to sharing good practices throughout the Mediterranean and the Black Sea;
- develop shared concepts and proposals that may be useful for the scientific and socio-economic debate currently in progress (e.g. data collection or knowledge sharing);
- assure that the best SSF knowledge reaches decision makers, GFCM working groups and statutory bodies to be considered in the formulation of advice on SSF.

All activities of the Platform will support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (also known as "SSF Guidelines") adopted by FAO, as well as the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (RPOA-SSF), the Mid-term Strategy (2017-2020) towards the Sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries adopted by the GFCM-FAO, the Malta MedFish4Ever Declaration and the Sofia Ministerial Declaration.

THE FRIENDS OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

Mr Abdella Srour

Executive Secretary - General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Mr Demetres Karavellas

Chair - WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative (MMI)

Mr Giampaolo Buonfiglio

President - Mediterranean Advisory Council (MEDAC)

Mr Manaila Marian Sorinel

Chairman - Black Sea Advisory Council (BISAC)

Mr Jeremy Percy

Executive Director - Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE)

Mr Massimo Zuccaro

Scientific Administrator - International Center for Advanced Mediterranean
Agronomic Studies, CIHEAM Bari
