



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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

FAO/GFCM/JRC Summer School in Quantitative Fisheries Stock Assessment

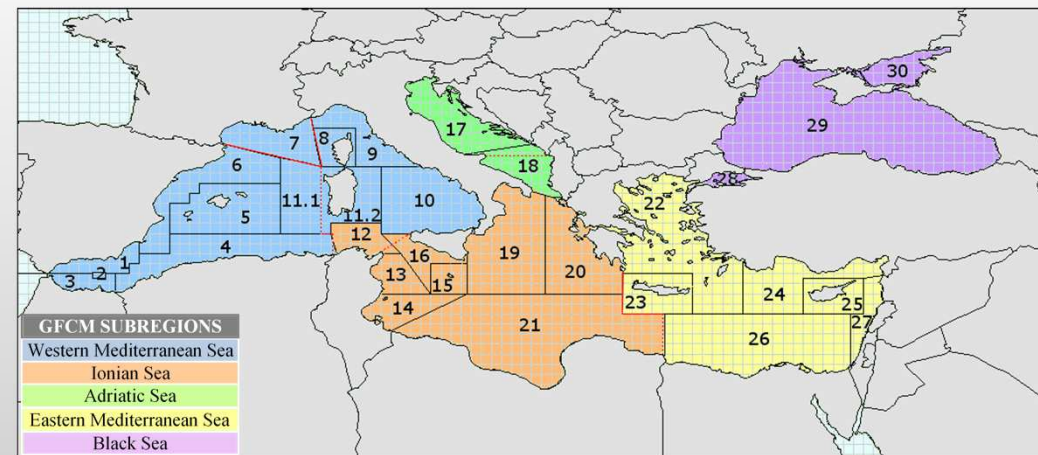
16-20 July 2018 – Capo Granitola, Italy

***The role of advice in support of
decision making within the GFCM***

GFCM Secretariat & FAO Fisheries Department

The role of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

- Established in 1949 in the framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN)
- **Objective:**
 - To ensure the conservation and sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of **living marine resources**
 - To ensure the **sustainable development of aquaculture**
- **Area of application:**
 - The **Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea**
- **Membership:**
 - 24 Contracting Parties:**
 - 19 Mediterranean states, 3 Black Sea states, EU and Japan
 - 3 Cooperating non-Contracting Parties:**
 - Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia & Ukraine
- **Key functions:**
 - Adopt **binding recommendations** for **fisheries and aquaculture** governance
 - Provide **technical assistance** and **level the playing field**



The need for advice

- Recent GFCM Recommendations strongly rely on advice from SAC or WGBS
 - If advice is not clear **difficult to reach consensus** between GFCM CPCs
 - Need to prioritize on which stocks require **urgent action**
 - A clear advice is needed; need to evolve from "reduce fishing mortality" to a more **concrete technical advice**:
 - When analytical assessment is possible:
 - Reference points required to estimate **how much reduction (catches, effort) is needed**
 - Simulations needed to provide assessment on **expectations under different situations** (recruitment, changes in the fishery, etc.)
 - When no analytical assessment is possible (data deficiencies) but indications of urgency to adopt management measures exist -> **Precautionary approach** (data limited stock assessment methods, precautionary management measures, etc.)

The need for advice

- Priority stocks

	Western Mediterranean	Central Mediterranean	Adriatic Sea	Eastern Mediterranean
Pelagic species	<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>
	<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	<i>Sardinella aurita</i>
Demersal species	<i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i>	<i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i>	<i>Mullus barbatus</i>	<i>Mullus barbatus</i>
	<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	<i>Saurida lessepsianus</i>
	<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>			
Species of conservation concern	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>			
	<i>Corallium rubrum</i>			



The need for advice

- For priority stocks under management plans:

Need to simulate the **potential effects of alternative management scenarios**:

- Scenarios should be previously defined based on **accepted principles** (MSY, precautionary biomass limits) or on agreement between scientist – national administrations
- A framework for the simulation of potential effects should be designed; **Management Strategy Evaluation** (MSE)



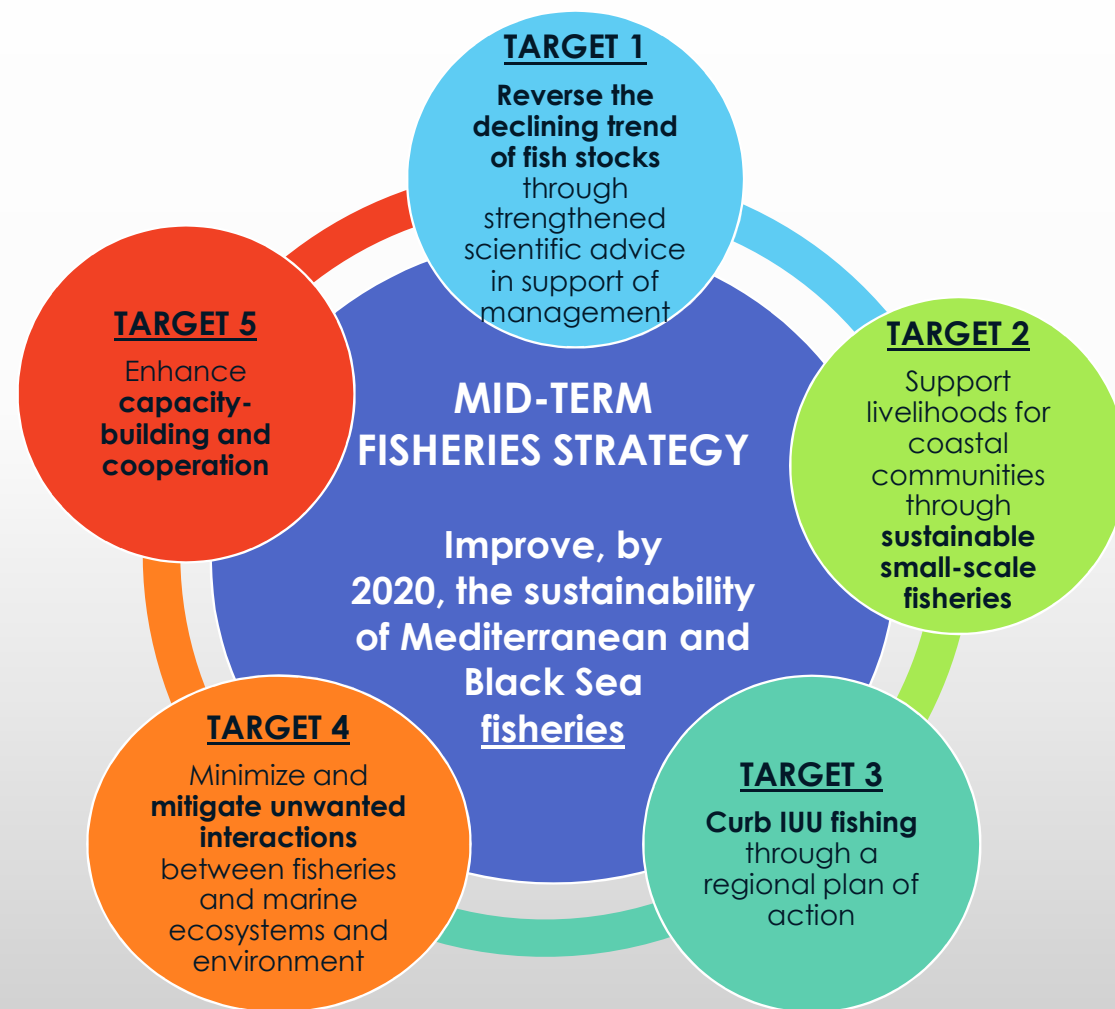
We need to continue improving our advice!

- Better **coverage** (more species, more areas)
- Better **assessment models** (more robust, more precise, better adapted to our fisheries)
- Better **simulations frameworks** (better understanding of stock recruitment, possibility to integrate socio-economic aspects, possibility to simulate more complex management scenarios)
- Better methods for **advice on data limited situations**

We need to continue improving our advice!

- Mediterranean and Black Sea countries are embarked in a Strategy to **improve the sustainability of fisheries**
- The improvement of advice is key to allow for the **adoption of better management measures**

WE need more and better experts like you!



An underwater photograph of sand dunes on the ocean floor, with a vertical decorative bar of a grid pattern separating it from the dark blue background.

Thank you for your
attention