



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



General Fisheries
Commission for
the Mediterranean

Draft concept note for a research programme on recreational fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea

GFCM Secretariat

MEDAC GL 4 – Recreational fisheries | 19 April 2023



In the Mediterranean (EU countries)

- 1.6% participation rate
- 8.7 Million fishers
- 77 Million fishing days per year
- 5.8 Billion Euro – yearly expenditures

Participation rate (%)

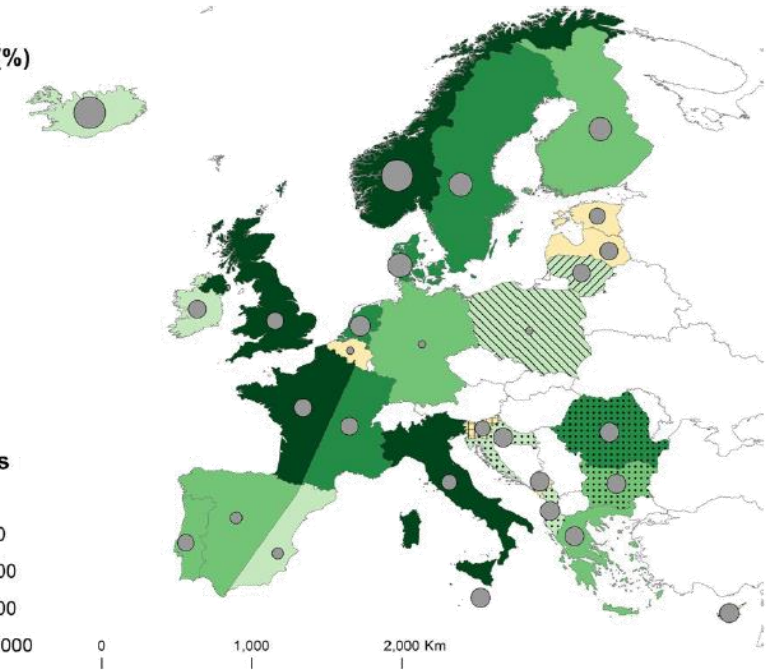
- 0.22–1.5
- 1.7–2.7
- 3.2–6.9
- 31–33

Extrapolation

- ▨ Germany
- ▨ Greece
- ▨ Italy
- ▨ Latvia

Numbers of fishers

- <50,000
- 50,001–150,000
- 150,001–300,000
- 300,001–750,000
- 750,001–1,500,000



Despite their socio-economic contribution, RF in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region are a data-poor sector.

Data collection programmes are limited and vary from one country to another, thus weakening proper consideration of RF in policy-making and undermining efforts towards sustainable fisheries management at the regional level.

Background

2017 WGSSF (small-scale & recreational fisheries)

2021 Handbook, WGRF 1

2022 Recommendation GFCM/45/22/12, WGRF 2

2023 Concept note, SAC 24th, GFCM 46th

2024 Research programme



Objectives

The Research Programme aims at improving knowledge on the impact of recreational fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, in order to facilitate sustainable recreational fisheries management.

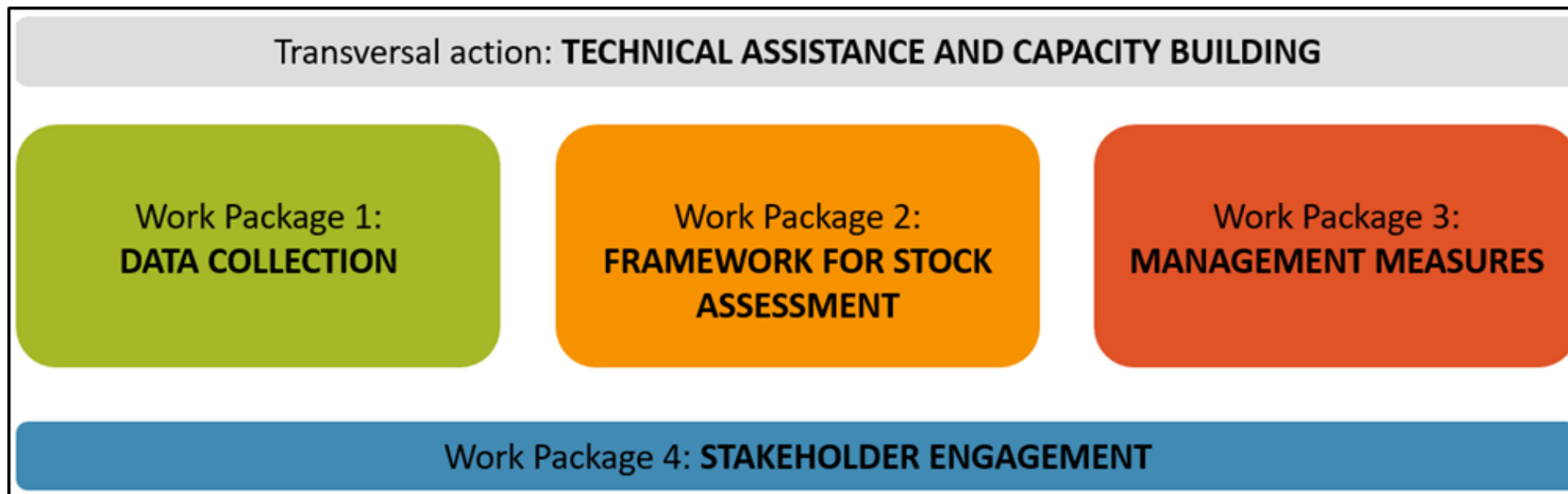
Four specific goals:

1. Enhance data collection.
2. Integration of data into stock assessments.
3. Identify and appraise existing management measures.
4. Facilitate engagement with relevant stakeholders.

The research programme is foreseen for 35 months (January 2024 / November 2026).



Work packages



It is foreseen that the research programme be executed through four work packages.

WPs are designed to address the main goals of the research programme, in view of the sustainable management of recreational fisheries in the region.

Work package 1

Work Package 1:
DATA COLLECTION

Objective: collect data on catches (i.e., including both the retained and the released fractions), fishing effort and socio-economic variables following the harmonized methodology described in the handbook.

Method:

- Phase 1: Identification of the target population.
- Phase 2a: Recall survey on a probabilistic panel of fishers.
- Phase 2b: Onsite survey and non-probabilistic panel.
- Data storage in KoboToolBox.

Deliverables:

- Estimation of number of fishers per country, fishing effort, number and weight of retained and released species, monthly expenditures, recreational value of different fishing sites or areas.
- Advice on potential future needs for data submission requirements (DCRF revisions).



Work package 2

Objective: improve integration of recreational fisheries data in stock assessment work.

Method:

Efforts under this work package will seek to prepare a catch reconstruction for select priority stocks and, where possible, trial data-poor stock assessment for select priority stocks. Even where it is not ultimately possible to include recreational fisheries footprints into models, the work package will aim to at minimum include some consideration regarding this specific fishery in the final advice and/or to provide guidance to facilitate the future integration of recreational fisheries into stock assessments.

Deliverables:

- Catch reconstruction for select species of interest to recreational fisheries.
- Concept note for a study on post-release mortality rates.
- Strategic framework/roadmap for stock assessment of recreational fisheries priority species, including first trial of data-poor stock assessment on selected priority stocks.

Work Package 2:
**FRAMEWORK FOR STOCK
ASSESSMENT**



Work package 3

Work Package 3: MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Objective: capture existing measures in place in CPCs and improve scientific advice on the effectiveness of these measures.

Method:

Compiling comprehensive information about existing recreational fisheries management measures in place and providing expert advice on the effectiveness of such management measures. Particular attention will be given towards: a) the sustainable exploitation of marine resources, b) specific regulation for adapting recreational fisheries to changes in fishing opportunities, c) development of strategies to mitigate conflicts with other sea uses (e.g., SSF), d) improvement of controls towards illegal fishing.

Deliverables:

- Toolbox of recreational fisheries management measures compiled (technical elements for management), providing expert guidance on existing measures in the region and the effectiveness of said measures.



Work package 4

Objective: boost a multidisciplinary and multi-actors dialogue between recreational fishers, researchers and decision-makers at the national and international level.

Method:

Mapping and categorization of the organizations in the region, collecting relevant contact information in order to begin engaging with relevant stakeholders. Efforts are foreseen to ensure data collection results (WP1), as well as preliminary outcomes from stock assessment efforts (WP2) and assessments of management measures (WP3) are reported back and discussed with stakeholders, providing stakeholders with the opportunity to provide input and react.

Deliverables:

- Mapping of recreational fisheries stakeholder organizations in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region.
- Dedicated stakeholder consultations at key stages of the research programme.



Partners & Institutional roles

Partners:

For each participating CPC the following roles are foreseen:

- an administration focal point;
- a scientific partner;
- a junior researcher (as needed).

CPCs will be asked to express their interest in participating in the research programme via a formal email request and/or discussion during relevant GFCM statutory meetings.

The role of the GFCM Secretariat:

Central coordination with the technical assistance of external experts where and if needed, including:

- administrative support following the production of agreements with the Partners, assisting Partners on administrative matters and financial reporting commitments;
- the organization of kick off and final project meetings, and WGRF;
- provision of support to the scientific coordinator.





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Thank you for your attention

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