



Small-scale fisheries (SSF):
Monitoring of the GFCM review of existing good
practices in the application of holistic and
participatory management approaches for SSF

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SSF Forum

WHAT IS THE SSF FORUM?

- The Small-Scale Fishers' Forum, or "SSF Forum", is a place for small-scale fishers and fish workers from the Mediterranean and Black Sea region to come together, share good practices and learn from one another.
- This initiative responds to the recommendations within the Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea ([RPOA-SSF](#)) to offer support to small-scale fishers and fish workers to further develop their capacities and skills with regard to sustainable small-scale fisheries and livelihoods.

SSF Forum

- **WHAT IS THE SSF FORUM?**

- This initiative further supports the implementation of the [SSF Guidelines](#), which strongly recommend facilitating capacity development of small-scale fishing communities and enabling their participation in decision-making and development processes.

2023-2024 SSF FORUM PROGRAMME

- The SSF Forum 2023-2024 programme is the result of a groundbreaking consultative exercise held in March 2023, which saw small-scale fisheries stakeholders from 13 countries attend a two-day brainstorming session at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. The goal was to create a pragmatic SSF Forum programme that reflects the current needs of people working in the sector.
- The SSF Forum 2023-2024 programme includes a series of four in-person workshops on the following topics, while also promoting the cross-cutting **themes of generational turnover** and gender equity.

2023-2024 SSF FORUM PROGRAMME

- 21-23 November | Non-indigenous species: from health and safety to marketing opportunities
- 18-20 April | Strong organizations: the basis for developing projects and funding requests
- Autumn 2024 | Marine pollution: impacts, interactions and solutions
- November 2024 | Selective fishing gear: from impacts to alternatives

2023-2024 SSF FORUM PROGRAMME

Non-indigenous species: from health and safety to marketing opportunities

Some Conclusions

- increasing presence of non-indigenous species in the waters where they fish over the past decade
- The arrival of NIS can disturb the balance of marine ecosystems, including affecting indigenous species targeted by commercial fisheries,

Necessity to:

- **Improve and better disseminate knowledge on NIS**
- **Strengthen marketing of NIS and raise awareness among consumers**
 - The marketing of consumable NIS can open up new market opportunities
 - Participants emphasized on the importance of following a bottom-up approach in the management of NIS
 - To ensure effective stakeholder engagement for the launch of the GFCM pilot study on NIS

COMMENTS

- Replication of process at different levels – NIS Polot, SSF forum etc
- Huge disparity between North Africa and rest of Mediterranean Countries (especially EU) in approach, understanding and management
- Should focus on expertise of different fishers organisations in management and promotion

THANKS