



**CIHEAM**

**COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AND FISHERIES**

**WORKING GROUP**

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**2020-2022**

**PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES**



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# THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

The Mediterranean is one of the richest areas in terms of biodiversity and yet one of the most threatened and degraded marine areas in the world from an environmental point of view.

This environmental vulnerability is a consequence of unprecedented anthropogenic pressures impacting our coastal areas and marine resources. They are the cause of habitat modification, coastal erosion, increased pollution and marine litter, and the introduction of invasive species, which are the main drivers of an ongoing change in Mediterranean biodiversity. They also alter our fisheries resources, impacting artisanal fisheries and the livelihood of coastal communities.

At the same time, fish plays a fundamental role in the Mediterranean diet. Fish (both fresh and preserved), provides precious nutrients such as proteins of high biological value, mineral salts, and omega-3 acids. However, despite an increase in seafood, Mediterranean countries are still net importers of fishery products. The resulting need to recover their fish stocks represents a lever for the promotion and development of a sustainable aquaculture sector.

The interest shown by multiple actors in the region and the adoption of new international policy frameworks highlights the common sense of urgency in addressing these challenges.

## INTERNATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORKS ON CZMF

- General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, by FAO, 1949
- The Mediterranean Action Plan, by UNEP, 1975
- The Blue Plan, by UNEP/MAP 1977
- The Barcelona Convention, 1995
- The UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, by UN General Assembly, 2015
- The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025, by Cop 19 Barcelona Convention, 2015
- The EU "Biodiversity Strategy for 2030", by EU, 2020
- Action Plan 2025 for the Mediterranean-CAPMED, by CIHEAM, 2016
- The 2021 EU strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture
- GFCM 2030 Strategy for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, 2021



# THE ACTION OF CIHEAM ON CZFM IN THE LAST TWO YEARS

CIHEAM ([www.ciheam.org](http://www.ciheam.org)) is an intergovernmental organization composed of 13 states and dedicated to food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and the development of rural territories.

CIHEAM has focalized its action on Coastal Management, Sustainable Fisheries, Aquaculture, Coastal Tourism, and the Marine Environment and has actively promoted the implementation of multilateral initiatives, adapting its lines of action to the consolidated and emerging challenges and priorities of the region with a multisectoral and bottom-up approach.

Within the framework of CAPMED 2025 and its pillars, CIHEAM contributes to the transition towards a sustainable blue economy through the implementation of several activities and a diverse toolkit.

## CIHEAM's TOOLS

Education	>>>	8	MASTERS & ADVANCED COURSES
Cooperation	>>>	14	PROJECTS & INITIATIVES
Research	>>>	14	PROJECTS & PUBLICATIONS
Policy Dialogues	>>>	5	INSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVES

### CAPMED PILLARS

- PROTECTION OF THE PLANET
- FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION
- INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT
- CRISES AND RESILIENCE

### 2020-2022 ACTIVITIES

- CREATION OF CORPORATE WORKING GROUP ON CZFM
- ANALYSIS OF THE PRIORITIES AND NEEDS FOR CZMF IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
- ORGANIZATION OF A WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AREAS AND FISHERIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



# THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Pursuing the model of a sustainable blue economy means developing strategies at parallel and complementary levels that promote economic growth, social inclusion, and the preservation or improvement of livelihoods while ensuring the sustainable management of marine resources.

Several Mediterranean countries and stakeholders have engaged in collective processes to identify pathways for a more sustainable blue economy in the region, starting from the definition of common regional priorities.

## MEDITERRANEAN COMMON PRIORITIES FOR A BLUE ECONOMY

Promote greater consumer awareness

Reduce anthropogenic-driven impacts, such as climate change, pollution, and eutrophication, and address biodiversity protection

Promote sustainable management of Mediterranean fisheries from a broad perspective, integrating social, economic, and environmental principles.

Increase employability and access to innovation in the sector, especially for women and young people

Improve national legislative frameworks on marine litter collection

Promote the sustainable development of aquaculture to meet fish demand



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**Basurco Bernardo - Zuccaro Massimo**

**Kalaitzidis Chariton - Zied Ahmed**

**Fersino Vincenzo - Naborre Giulia**

**For more info: [czfm@ciheam.org](mailto:czfm@ciheam.org)**

