



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



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

# THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN MEDITERRANEAN FISHERIES:

*Strategic view and activities in the region*

**CONSTANCE VERLHAC**  
**GFCM SECRETARIAT**

*General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)*  
*Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN*

# The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

**Regional fisheries management organization** (RFMO) established in 1949 under the provisions of Article XIV of the Constitution of the FAO

Mediterranean and Black Sea region

23 contracting parties including the EU

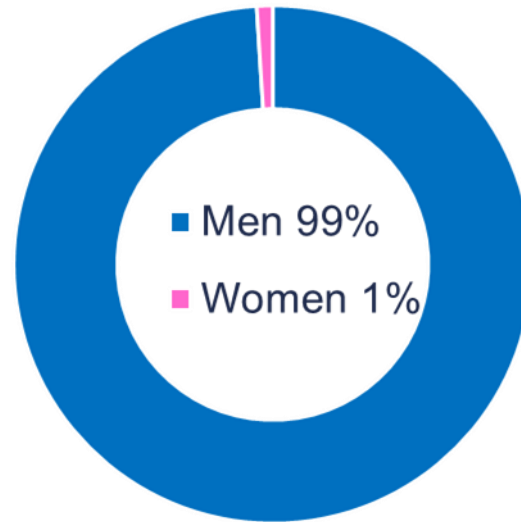
Main objective is to **ensure the conservation and the sustainable use of living marine resources** as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture

Critical role in **fisheries governance** and has the **authority to adopt binding recommendations** for fisheries conservation and management and for aquaculture development

# ROLE OF WOMEN IN MEDITERRANEAN FISHERIES

Total employment (onboard vessels) in the Mediterranean

**202 000** → **2 200**

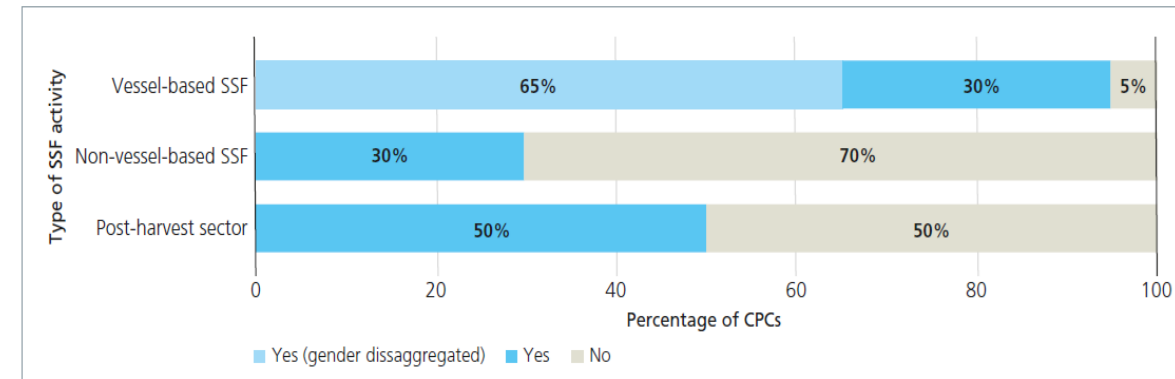


Excludes non-vessel-based employment:

- ✓ Pre-/post-harvest
- ✓ Gleaners / shore-based fishing
- ✓ “Invisible” work of women in the household

**2.5X onboard employment**  
= approx. **500 000**

FIGURE 85. Percentage of GFCM contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties collecting employment data on small-scale fishing activities





# GFCM 2030 STRATEGY: A STRATEGIC VISION FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

## ONE VISION, FIVE TARGETS

To fulfil its overarching vision for the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, the GFCM 2030 Strategy is articulated around five targets. Each target is composed of expected outputs and strategic actions.



**TARGET 1.**  
**Fisheries and ecosystems:**  
healthy seas and productive fisheries



**TARGET 2.**  
**Compliance and enforcement:**  
a level playing field to eradicate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing



**TARGET 3.**  
**Aquaculture:**  
a sustainable and resilient sector growing to its full potential



**TARGET 4.**  
**Livelihoods:**  
decent employment and engaged fishers towards profitable fisheries



**TARGET 5.**  
**Capacity development:**  
Technical cooperation, knowledge sharing and efficient partnerships in a subregional perspective

**CROSS-CUTTING THEME:**  
illuminating the role of women and promoting gender inclusivity



# GFCM 2030 STRATEGY:

## ILLUMINATING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

### TARGET 4.

#### LIVELIHOODS:

DECENT EMPLOYMENT AND ENGAGED  
FISHERS TOWARDS PROFITABLE FISHERIES



### In particular...

Output 4.1 enhances sustainable livelihoods by fostering decent working conditions, including... **productive employment opportunities for men and women** in the fisheries sector

Output 4.2 strengthens the understanding of the socio-economic impact of fisheries... along the value chain... **sheds light on the role of women in fisheries**, including in gleaning activities as well as pre- and post-harvest activities.

**While calling to fully and efficiently implement the GFCM Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries**



# GFCM 2030 STRATEGY:

## IMPLEMENTING THE REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR SSF (RPOA-SSF)



**Regional plan of action  
for small-scale fisheries  
in the Mediterranean  
and the Black Sea**



Scientific research



SSF data collection



SSF management measures



Value chain enhancement



Participatory approach



Capacity building



Decent work and social  
protection



Strengthening the role of  
women



Climate & environment

### **Role of women**

- Enable women to engage in SSF activities
- Secure equal participation in decision-making
- Technology appropriate to the work of women in SSF


<http://www.fao.org/gfcm/activities/fisheries/small-scale-fisheries/rpoa-ssf>



# FROM STRATEGY TO ACTION: ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

## Enhancing knowledge:

- Socio-economic surveys with gender disaggregated data
- FAO Country Gender Assessments of the Agriculture and Rural Sector (including specific sections on Gender and Fisheries)



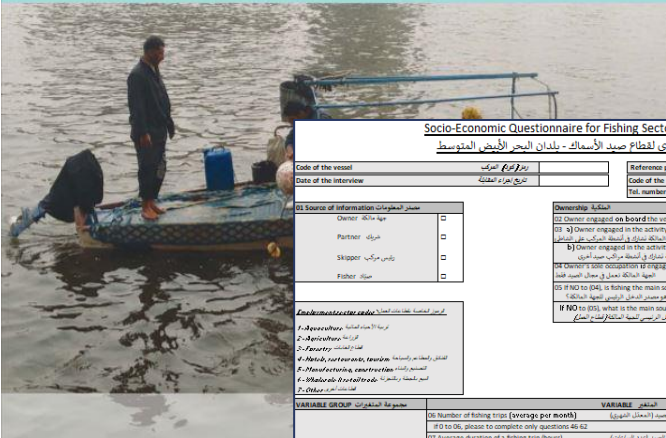
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### Handbook for fisheries socio-economic sample survey

Principles and practice



**Socio-Economic Questionnaire for Fishing Sector - MEDITERRANEAN**  
استبيان اجتماعي - اقتصادي لطعام صيد الأسماك - بلدان البحر الأبيض المتوسط

Code of the vessel رقم قارب الصياد	Reference period الفترة الزمنية المرجعية	2017
Date of the interview تاريخ يوم التفتيش	Code of the interviewer رمز مفتحي الاستبيان	
	Tel. number of the interviewer رقم هاتف مفتحي الاستبيان	

**Q1 Source of information** **مصدر المعلومات**

Owner ملاك القارب	<input type="checkbox"/>
Partner شريك	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skipper رئيس قارب الصياد	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fisher صياد	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q2 Owner engaged on board of the vessel** **المالك المتواجد على متن القارب**

Q2.1 Owner engaged in the activity of the vessel on-board المالك المتواجد على متن القارب في نشاطه	YES/NO نعم/لا
Q2.2 Owner engaged in the activity of other fishing vessels المالك المتواجد على متن قوارب صيد الأسماك الأخرى	YES/NO نعم/لا
Q2.3 Owner engaged in other activities المالك المتواجد في أنشطة أخرى	YES/NO نعم/لا

**Q3 If NO to Q2, is fishing the main source of income for the owner?** **إذا لم يكن الصيد المصدر الرئيسي للدخل للمالك؟**

Q3.1 YES/NO نعم/لا	YES/NO نعم/لا
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**Q4 If NO to Q3, what is the main source of income for the owner (employment sector)?** **إذا لم يكن الصيد المصدر الرئيسي للدخل للمالك، فما هو المصدر الرئيسي للدخل (قطاع التوظيف)؟**

1. Agriculture الزراعة	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Forestry الغابات	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Manufacturing, construction الصناعة، البناء	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Wholesale trade التجارة الجملة	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Other أخرى	<input type="checkbox"/>

VARIABLE GROUP	VARIABLE	UNIT
Effort مجهود الصيد	06 Number of fishing trips (average per month) عدد رحلات الصيد (متوسط الشهري)	times مرات
	07 Average duration of a fishing trip (hours) متوسط مدة رحلة الصيد (متوسط الساعات)	hours ساعات
	08 Days at sea (average per month) عدد الأيام في البحر (متوسط الشهري)	days أيام
	09 Average hours effective fishing at sea during a fishing trip (daily avg on 24 hours basis) متوسط عدد الساعات الفعالة للصيد في البحر خلال رحلة الصيد (متوسط اليومي على أساس 24 ساعة)	hours ساعات
Reference to FAO and D-PCSP مراجعة إلى الفاو والبرنامج الإقليمي لصيد الأسماك	10 Gear used during a fishing trip (average days per month) معدات الصيد المستخدمة خلال رحلة الصيد (متوسط الأيام في الشهر)	days أيام
	11 Specify gear حدد نوع المعدات	days أيام
	12 Specify gear حدد نوع المعدات	days أيام
	13 Specify gear حدد نوع المعدات	days أيام
Employment العمل	14 Engaged crew per vessel - daily average (including owner, if present) متوسط طاقم العمل على متن القارب - المتوسط اليومي (بما في ذلك المالك، إذا كان موجوداً)	persons شخص
	15 Number of different individuals working on the vessel throughout the year (including owner, if present) عدد الأفراد المختلفين الذين عملوا على متن القارب طوال العام (بما في ذلك المالك، إذا كان موجوداً)	persons شخص
	16 Working hours on board (800) avg on 24 hours basis ساعات العمل على متن القارب (متوسط اليومي على أساس 24 ساعة)	hours ساعات
	14 Number of people engaged in onshore activities (daily average) عدد الأشخاص الذين عملوا في أنشطة على البر (متوسط اليومي)	persons شخص
	15 Number of different individuals engaged in onshore activities throughout the year عدد الأفراد المختلفين الذين عملوا في أنشطة على البر طوال العام	persons شخص

# FROM STRATEGY TO ACTION: ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

## Awareness raising:

- Panel on women at 2018 RPOA-SSF conference and award for best practice
- Advocacy for women's organizations (partnership with AKTEA)
- Dedicated SSF Forum workshop on women
- Establishment of an online Community of Practice on Gender and Food Systems to facilitate exchange of knowledge and good practices





# FROM STRATEGY TO ACTION: ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

## Targeted projects:

- Gender-sensitive approach for SSF and training of trainers (FAO Morocco)
- Technical and vocational training, services and equipment; creation or strengthening of cooperatives; development of micro-projects for market access and income generation (Tunisia)





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