



# SUPPORTING FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN WESTERN AND CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

Various scientific studies have shown that many fish populations in the Mediterranean are subject to excessive exploitation, with signs of overfishing and overcapacity, degradation of living resources, loss of income for fishers, and reduction of marine resources in certain areas. Against this background, Phase II of the CopeMed project (the first phase was implemented from 1996 to 2005) aimed to strengthen science-based fisheries management through enhanced technical-scientific capacities, and the promotion of scientific cooperation among participating countries in the central and western Mediterranean subregions. The current project, which represented the ninth year of the second phase, aimed to consolidate and build on the achievements obtained so far. The participating countries were Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia.



## WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project successfully contributed to consolidating results achieved during Phase II of the CopeMed project. This included the establishment of regular working groups that met annually to assess stocks of interest to the subregion, such as hake, red mullet, deep sea pink shrimp, black spot seabream, dolphinfish, sardine and anchovy. In addition, training was provided on data collection and analysis and stock assessment methods; and methodologies were standardized in the whole region. The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) management was mainstreamed; and one of the key achievements of the project involved enabling fishers and other stakeholders to engage in the management of small-scale fisheries through the adoption of a participatory and holistic approach. Support was also provided for the active participation of experts from central and western Mediterranean countries in subregional and regional activities promoted by FAO regional projects, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and other regional organizations. The project interventions enhanced the participation of countries in subregional working groups, and improved the quality of technical inputs from national experts.

## KEY FACTS

### Contribution

USD 580 600

### Duration

January 2018 – April 2019

### Resource Partner

European Union (EU)

### Partners

Fisheries administrations and research institutes from the participating countries (Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia); General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) members

### Beneficiaries

*National level:* fisheries administrations, scientific institutions industry and fishery sector.

*Regional level:* GFCM and other regional organizations related to the conservation of marine resources and ecosystems in the Mediterranean

# IMPACT

The project contributed to enabling Western Mediterranean countries to implement responsible fisheries management measures for the sustainable use of resources, food security, and to benefiting fishing livelihoods.

# MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Assistance provided to scientists and administration of Algeria in domains of data collection for biological and socio-economic analysis, stock assessment, and fisheries monitoring in general.
- Technical and financial assistance provided to Morocco to carry out activities related to sampling and data collection, including biological sampling of blackspot seabream in Strait of Gibraltar.
- Assessments performed of hake, deepwater pink shrimp and sardine stocks in the western Mediterranean (Geographical Subareas [GSAs] 01 + 03 + 04).
- Compilation, analysis and standardization of data on blackspot seabream through dedicated meetings among Spanish and Moroccan experts, to improve assessment of the stock.
- Development of methodology and sampling procedures for the identification of stock units of hake, sardine and blackspot seabream in Alboran Sea.
- Training of 17 scientists from Algeria, Italy, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia on common methodology and sampling procedures for fish stock identification.
- Three working groups on stock assessment for demersal and small pelagic species established, and two technical workshops for the identification of stock boundaries in Alboran Sea carried out.
- Expert Meeting on Climate Change Implications for Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries organized in collaboration with FAO Regional Projects, GFCM and World Wildlife Fund (WWF), to take stock of available knowledge on potential effects of climate change on Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries, and to define methodological approaches and a road map for the assessment of the vulnerabilities of fisheries to climate change.
- Eight technical reports produced and published.

### Project Code

FAO: GCP/INT/317/EC  
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### Project Title

Coordination to support fisheries management in the Western and Central Mediterranean – CopeMed ECY9

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