Ref.122/2019 Rome, 14th May 2019

MEDAC CONTRIBUTION- QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MALTA MEDFISH4EVER DECLARATION

*Kindly submit the duly completed questionnaire via e-mail to the GFCM Secretariat (GFCM-Secretariat@fao.org) by **15 May 2019**.*

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION: Mediterranean Advisory Council - MEDAC

*Please list your country/organization's **most relevant achievements** in relation to the following main topics of the MedFish4Ever Declaration:*

A) Enhance data collection and scientific evaluation	
Main actions: • 100% of key Mediterranean stocks are subject to adequate data collection and scientifically assessed on a regular basis by 2020 • Convene a Forum on Fisheries Science	
Achievements:	• Specific projects and best practices already in place: ✓ In France National fishing fleet register for SSF is already established and the benchmarking on ERMS (electronic Reporting and Monitoring System) is ongoing; ✓ In EU countries SSF data collection is already implemented by EU Control Regulation and data are already available on sale notes; ✓ In Croatia logbook mobile app; ✓ In Andalusia, a System of Fishing Vessel Tracking, called "caja verde" (green box), has been implemented throughout the fleet including SSF ✓ According to some fishery organizations in EU Mediterranean waters data collection on socio-economic impact is already included in EU regulations; ✓ EU workshop on digital tools held in Brussels on December 2018 in order to improve data collection in SSF; ✓ Socio-economic analysis on SSF in three pilot sites concerning Alboran sea and strait of Sicily subregions (by LIFE); ✓ In Mediterranean EU countries a data collection system on different fisheries has been implemented according to EU regulations, but it doesn't reach the 100% of commercial stocks.
B) Establish an ecosystem-based fisheries management framework	
Main actions:	

- No later than 2020, establish and implement a regional capacity plan ensuring an adequate balance between resources and the fleet capacity
- No later than 2020, manage 100% of the key fisheries with a multiannual management plan
- Ensure adequate protection of vulnerable species and sensitive habitats
- Further develop fisheries restricted areas and marine protected areas ensuring an effective protection of at least 10% of the Mediterranean Sea by 2020
- Establish, by 2020 at the latest, a set of baseline rules to ensure an effective management of recreational fisheries across the Mediterranean

Achievements:	• In Balearic Islands spatio-temporal closures of the fleet are already based on scientific advices; • In Andalusia the preparation and enforcement of management plans are always positive processes. The only issue raised is related to exclusivity, because to manage fishing zones together is better than promote exclusive areas; • In France fisher's organization already cooperate and collect private funds in order to sustain scientific research and monitoring programs on coastal species • Specific projects and best practices already in place: ✓ in France SELPAL and REPAST projects on Selectivity of longlines -bluefin tuna (cooperation with scientific research and awareness of fishermen), UEGC and PELAMED project (improvement of methods to increase the knowledge on species targeted by SSF) and PEEXNAC project 2018 (growth and reproduction of *Nassarius mutabilis*); ✓ in Spain, Italy and Turkey ECOSAFIMED project aimed to establish management guidelines to improve ecosystem conservation and ensuring maintainance of acceptabe practice of SSF; ✓ Minouw project developed selective gears for SSF set and trammel nets; ✓ In Italy "Pomo pit" and "Sicily Channel" FRAs have been established as well as new SIC and protected areas.

C) Develop a culture of compliance and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

Main actions:

- Ensure by 2020 that all countries have an adequate legal framework and necessary human and technical capabilities to meet their control and inspection responsibilities. Support the development of national control and sanctioning systems.
- Establish, where appropriate, Joint Schemes of International Inspection by subregional area to ensure the monitoring of high seas
- Through the Compliance committee, set up and maintain compliance indicators
- By 2020, ensure the allocation of a unique vessel identifier (IMO number) to commercial fishing vessels of 24 metres and above

Achievements:	• Existing projects already aimed to improve cooperation among fisheries organizations/NGOs/scientific experts.

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">D) Support sustainable small-scale fisheries and aquaculture</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Main actions:
Set up a regional plan of action for small-scale fisheries
Commit to implementing the GFCM Strategy for the sustainable development of aquaculture
Support partnerships between producers and the marketing chain to enhance valorization of catches</td></tr>
<tr><td>Achievements:</td><td>In Spain the entire fleet is involved at all levels and all catches are valued through promotional campaigns, specific labelling, self-regulation of supply (mainly for species of high commercial value);
Existing projects to support information and/or awareness campaigns for consumers on the importance of responsible consumption of local products (in Almeria “Pescados con arte”), or enhancing valorization of catches (Project Synepesca, Diverso, freshfishalert, …), or developing a labeling scheme for Mediterranean small-scale and artisanal fisheries (LABMAF);
In Spain the involvement of SSF in the management decisions is similar to other fisheries;
The representation of SSF is guaranteed in fisher associations, but in the big organizations its participation should be improved.</td></tr>
<tr><th colspan="2">E) Greater solidarity and coordination in the Mediterranean</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Establish a permanent network for cooperation and technical assistance by 2018
Work programme on spatial planning
Formalization of cooperation through memoranda of understanding to avoid duplications and promote synergies</td></tr>
<tr><td>Achievements:</td><td>Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between MEDAC and GFCM signed on 14 May 2012</td></tr>
</table>

*Please list the **main challenges** foreseen for the future of the Mediterranean and **strategic actions** needed to address these challenges in 2021-2025:*

MAIN CHALLENGES
-) Adopt, as soon as possible, a characterization of small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, reflecting their socioeconomic relevance and specificities on the basis of a set of indicative criteria (vessel size, gear used, duration of fishing trip, non-vessel based fishing activities, etc.), such as ICCAT Definition (Rec. 18-02) Topic A) Data collection in SSF should be improved reporting all catches through new technologies Topic B) Support investments in small-scale fisheries to, among others, improve selectivity, preserve biodiversity, minimize bycatch and interactions with vulnerable species and predators and promote energy efficiency. Topic D) Promote decent work, the improvement of working conditions as well as social protection for all small-scale fisheries workers Topic E) Assist and support small-scale fisheries communities affected by climate change or natural and human-induced disasters -) Women have equal opportunities and rights in the sector. It is true that due to the durability of the profession, it has traditionally been more devoted to other tasks than being embarked, but not less important and necessary
STRATEGIC ACTIONS
-) Follow the mechanism of SSF characterization defined by Friend of SSF Platform Topic A: - Initiate an integrated regional research activity in order to collect accurate, valid and complete data on the value and socio-economic impact of small-scale fisheries; - Administrations should provide new technologies aimed to improve the management and reduce bureaucracy to the crew. Topic D) Ratification and enforcement of the "C188 ILO Convention" Topic E: - Improve research and share of knowledge on the alien species and the impact of climate change; - Management actions are needed, mainly focused to reduce fishing mortality due to plastics pollution and water acidification.