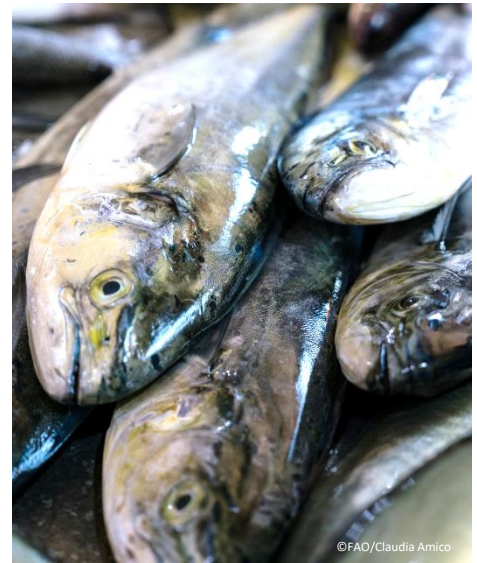




## ENHANCING FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN SUBREGIONS

Fisheries management in the Mediterranean is complex for several reasons, including, among others, fishing overcapacity; different levels of information development, in particular for biological and socio-economic data that were neither readily available nor standardized; insufficient and weak legal aspects and measures for monitoring, surveillance and control activities; and inadequate institutional frameworks for subregional fisheries management. Against this background, Phase II of the CopeMed project (the first phase was implemented from 1996 to 2005), which is cofunded by the European Union, sought 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, representing the eleventh year of the second phase, aimed to consolidate and build on the achievements obtained so far, towards strengthening regional cooperation in support to the sustainable management of fisheries; in particular, in three target countries, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.



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### WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project contributed to the creation and consolidation of an ever-growing cooperative network of national institutions (scientific research and administration). Following the approach applied in previous years, standardized technologies and methodologies were introduced, allowing the gathering and handling of fisheries-related data and information that were in line with international standards and requirements. The project continued to engage in capacity development, assessment and research, and regional cooperation, to strengthen the management of fisheries and the adoption of the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF). In this regard, local knowledge, capacity and good practices were considerably enhanced through the provision of training workshops, courses and webinars on data collection and analysis and stock assessment methods; the development and dissemination of technical documents; and the contribution of national data, knowledge and ideas of national experts in the international sphere of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). In addition, the project continued to support fisher folk and administrations in the target countries in applying the EAF to the development of management plans for small-scale fisheries, with particular success in Tunisia.

### KEY FACTS

**Latest Approved Budget**

USD 550 250

**Duration**

January 2020 – December 2021

**Resource Partner**

European Union

**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**

Fishery stakeholders (including fishers, fisheries industries, research institutes, Non-governmental Organizations [NGOs] and national fisheries authorities) in the countries bordering the Mediterranean basin, but more specifically in the Central and Western part, including Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia)

## IMPACT

The project interventions contributed to enhancing the sustainable management of marine fisheries in the central and western Mediterranean subregions. It is expected that this will contribute to enabling marine fisheries to provide support to national economies, and to protect the livelihoods of those involved in the fisheries sector.

## ACTIVITIES

- Pilot case studies on implementation of EAF for management of small-scale fisheries continued in Algeria and Tunisia, and one pilot case study initiated in Morocco.
- Biological sampling programmes for priority species, including sardine, hake and blackspot seabream, continued in countries bordering Alboran Sea and adjacent waters.
- Two CopeMed Working Group on demersal stocks and small pelagics in Alboran Sea meetings held, to advance in preparation of data for assessment of priority stocks in subregion.
- Joint data preparation meeting on dolphinfish organized, in collaboration with GFCM Subregional unit for Western Mediterranean and MedSudMed project.
- Three online training workshops organized to enhance capacity of scientists from Central-Western Mediterranean to conduct analysis of data and assessment of stocks.
- Thirteenth meeting of CopeMed II Coordination Committee held online (February 2021), attended by representatives from Algeria, Libya, Malta, Spain and Tunisia, staff of FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division and FAO Subregional Office for North Africa, FAO Regional Projects, and GFCM Secretariat.
- Climate-change vulnerability assessment completed for Western Mediterranean, and results integrated into synthesis document on vulnerability and adaptation measures and presented to Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of GFCM.
- Publication of several technical reports and scientific contributions in support of national and regional fisheries management processes.



### Project Title

CopeMed Year 11 - Co-ordination to Support Fisheries Management in the Western and Central Mediterranean. CopeMed Phase II (GCP/INT/362/EC)

### Project Code

FAO: GCP/INT/362/EC (Baby 02)  
Donor: SI2.819893

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