



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



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

# The use of ICTs for the rational management of fisheries in the GFCM area of application

GFCM Secretariat

**Information and Communication Technologies: What role in achieving  
sustainable fisheries in the ATLAFCO zone?**

**Tangier, Morocco, 4-5 July 2019**

# International Day for the fight against IUU fishing (ID-IUU)

- FAO is contributing to achieve the targets set by UN SDG 14 which vows, among others, to end IUU fishing by 2020
- On December 2017 UN GA welcomed the decision by FAO to declare the ID-IUU and officially proclaimed this day, inscribing its celebration among the official UN observances
- This initiative was launched by the GFCM in Marrakech on 2015 when it was decided that efforts will be promoted within FAO to declare the ID-IUU
- During the MedFish4Ever Conference, June 2019, Marrakech, Morocco, focused on best practices developed in the GFCM area of application



**GFCM High-level conference  
on MedFish4Ever initiatives:**  
Advances and renewed commitments  
11-12 June 2019 - Marrakech, Morocco

# Best practices presented at the ID-IUU 2019



# A simple solution to trace every boat in the Moroccan small-scale fleet

In Morocco, every small-scale fishing vessel has a permit, which serves to identify it, and which must always be kept on board. Now these vessels are each being fitted with a radio frequency identification device (RFID) containing information about the owner, registration and fishing licence information: this can be read by an inspector via a hand-held device.

- As a measure that improves the quality of data collection, as well as deterring illegal activities, using RFIDs in this way also contributes to the knowledge needed for the longterm sustainable fisheries. Achievement of this goal will provide clear socioeconomic benefits for the fishers on shore, as well as improving their catches at sea.
- Installation and usage of the RFID is a simple process, and smart technologies allow inspectors to easily access information in real time. Each vessel is automatically identified by its unique frequency, and its data is available immediately.
- Importantly, the project has taken a clear consultative approach with the artisan fishers from the very beginning. Involving them at every stage of the process has ensured their active participation and support



# Technology leads the way in Croatia's new traceability regime

Croatia is modernizing its national monitoring, control and surveillance system through the introduction of new fishery inspection technologies.

- **Traceability/digitalization of data**

More than 750 vessels (making more than 95% of all landings) are covered by a real-time electronic recording and reporting system which provides information on their activities, position, catch and landings.

- **Fishery monitoring centre**

Ten full-time employees in Zagreb provide round-the-clock backup to coordinate field activities, communicate with and monitor vessels, control crosschecking processes and ensure technical and IT support.

- **Controls at sea**

A well-equipped inspection fleet has two new speed boats, and is also equipped with underwater drones and stereoscopic cameras for monitoring blue fin tuna.

- **Air surveillance**

In 2018 the "Orbiter 3" drone system was introduced.



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# International cooperation puts monitoring and control of IUU activities at the heart of successful fisheries management

The GFCM Strait of Sicily Pilot Project (Pilot Project) implemented by EFCA puts commitments made under the MedFish4Ever declaration into action: specifically, it focuses on implementing monitoring, control and surveillance systems in high seas areas subject to IUU fishing.

In this instance it features as part of a GFCM multi-annual management plan for European hake and deep-water rose shrimp fisheries in the Strait of Sicily.

## **The Pilot Project combines a number of activities:**

- Exchange of best practice and common implementation of GFCM control rules ;
- Inspector training and capacity building ;
- Data/information exchange | Follow-up of inspections and aligned enforcement procedures ;
- Joint inspection and regional at-sea controls based on a risk assessment approach ;
- Exploring new control technologies and their applicability in the region.



# A traceability label improves market access for legitimate small-scale fishers

Sustainable artisanal products need good market access to be viable, and that's what Club Bleu provides. By guaranteeing the **traceability, quality and environmental** respect that characterize catches made under the scheme – in contrast to IUU activities, which by definition will not be able to prove their origin or legality – the label facilitates access to willing buyers and fair prices for the fishers.

This has clear social benefits for coastal communities, as well as supporting small-scale fishery sustainability.

## How it works

- Through the Club Bleu system, the fishers report their catches, which allows the people who buy their fish to use the Android application to trace it right back to the boat it came in on.
- The Club Bleu label is linked to the Tunisian village of Haouaria, close to the Zembra and Zembratta MPA. Much of the seafood caught in the region is used in the nearby tourist centre of Hammamet – and the Club Bleu team have been working to educate tourists and other consumers on how to eat fish responsibly.





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Thank you for your attention

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