



Representation of small-scale fisheries associations

How the voice of SSF is heard in MEDAC



MEDAC

MEDITERRANEAN
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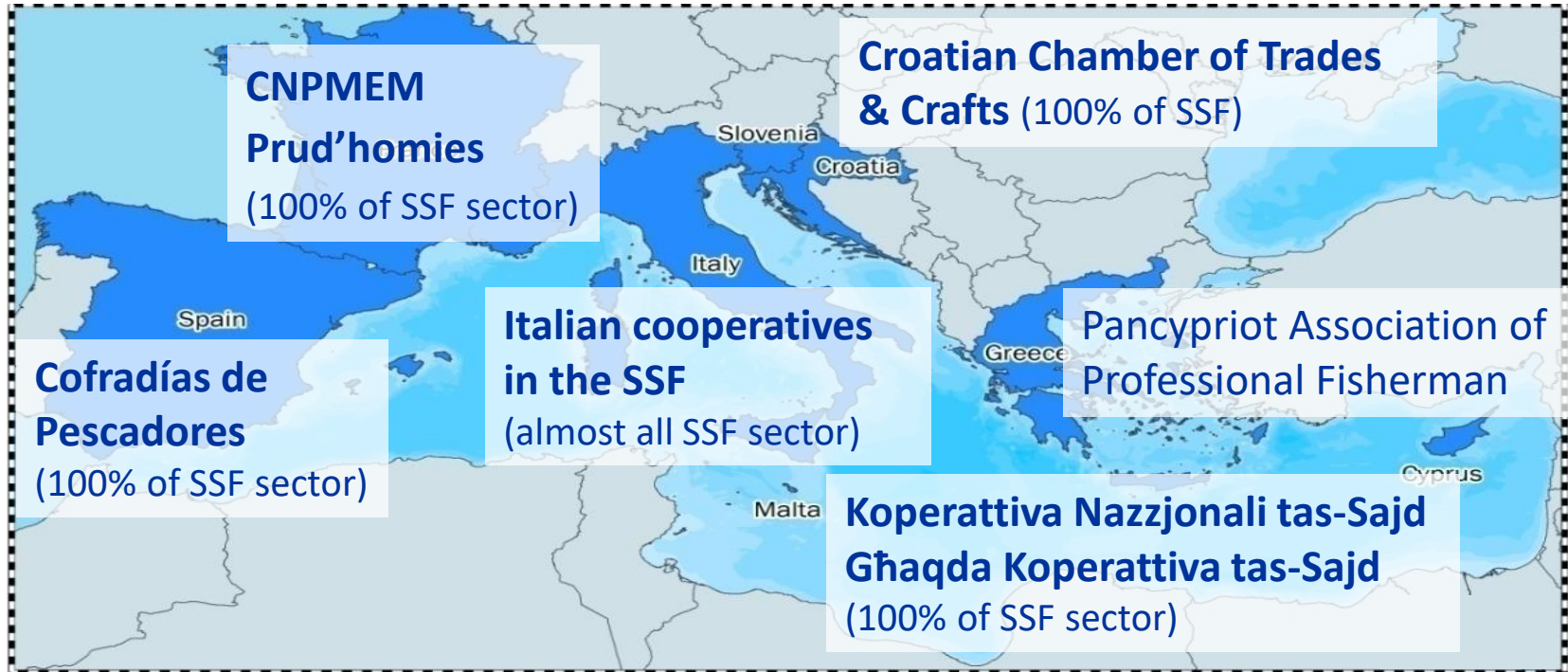
Importance of Small-scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean

- High social and cultural value
- Lower environmental impact compared to other fishing sector
 - Wide variety of capture gears and target species
 - Greater selectivity of the fishing gears
 - Lower level of fishing efforts
 - Seasonal nature
 - Expression of local knowledge and traditions
- Close connection with the existence of coastal communities



Predominance of SSF in the MED in terms of number of vessels and workers

SSF Associations in the Mediterranean



Moreover, the Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE) is member in the 60%

*MEDAC involves SSF in participatory approaches and decision-making processes, especially in **WG5 “SSF and socio-economic impact”, in WG1 “Reform of CFP” and WG4***

Importance of small-scale fishing in the MEDAC – A documentation analysis

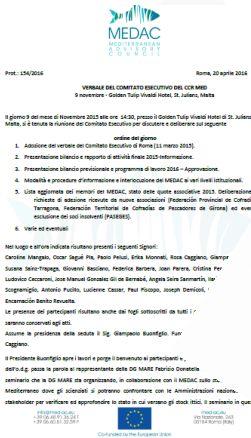
The last analysis of the MEDAC documentation carried out
(2016): 101 Opinions and Letters and 202 documents

Since 2010 the SSF topic



It was mentioned in the
16% of the opinions and
letters

It was discussed and/or
mentioned in the 36% of
the MEDAC meetings



Then, in the last years SSF management has been the main topic in the following MEDAC contributions:

- In 2016 **MEDAC “Opinion on the interactions between recreational fisheries and SSF in the Mediterranean waters”**



The debate started in 2014 concerning the most impacting conflicts between SSF and recreational fisheries

Other recent contributions on SSF agreed in the MEDAC

- In September 2018 MEDAC organized the **Side Event** at the «GFCM High Level Conference on SSF in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea», held in Malta, and titled «**Associating SSF to the participatory approaches and decision-making processes: the role of fishing organizations**»
- MEDAC started in 2018 the cooperation with the **Friends of SSF platform** (presented at the HLC in Malta in 2018). The platform is regional network aimed at **promoting transnational cooperation** and building synergies among ongoing work related to **SSF**.

Moreover, during the meetings held in Venice in February 2019 a **debate was started among the MEDAC members** on the **RPOA for SSF**, as requested by the EU in light of the GFCM WG meeting in Montenegro and the GFCM HLC **MedFish4Ever** Initiatives



- MEDAC consultation (published in April 2019) on GFCM actions to be tackled as a **priority in the short-term** in the Regional Plan of Action of SSF:

- Encouragement of **professional training** opportunities aimed to facilitate the generational turnover,
- **Equal opportunities** and rights of women (throughout the entire chain)
- Promotion of **decent work** (ILO 188)

There is not only one «small-scale fishery» definition. The status of the fishing activity varies according to the vessel, the type of fishery, the season, the fishing area and the enterprise structure.

- Frequent **conflicts** (especially with trawlers and recreational fisheries);
- Lack of compliance with on **board safety regulations**;
- **Lack of generational change**;
- A low level of capitalization, extreme difficulty in borrowing and lack of capacity for investment and innovation;
- **Obsolete vessels** (on average over 30 years old);
- **Low bargaining power on the market** (except for direct sales in port or restaurants)

Micro-enterprises with high costs linked to bureaucracy and very volatile values of profitability of the enterprises



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Thanks for your attention!

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