



European Committee  
of the Regions

Commission for  
Natural Resources

NAT

# Sustainable Fisheries in the Black Sea region Conclusions

07 June 2017



**European Committee  
of the Regions**

**7 June 2017** | European Committee of the Regions

**Commission for Natural Resources**

# **Sustainable Fisheries in the Black Sea region Conclusions and major points of discussion**

## **Background**

In the context of recent work by the European Committee of the Regions' (CoR) Commission for Natural Resources (NAT) in the field of fisheries and sustainable ocean governance, the CoR NAT Commission organised a conference on Sustainable Fisheries in the Black Sea on 7 June 2017.

Taking into account the common fisheries policy (CFP) goal to introduce multiannual ecosystem-based management tools for smarter and greener fisheries, the European Committee of the Regions supports the efforts of coastal communities in transition and has commented on numerous occasions on the challenges of the CFP.

The objective for this stakeholder event was to provide an overview of the situation on the ground for decision-makers and provide a voice for coastal communities and fishermen at European level.

## Major conclusions

- Fisheries are of great importance for coastal communities, in terms of both economic ecosystem and heritage; small scale fisheries are of considerable importance, especially for small towns, and have been the foundation of small coastal communities for literally thousands of years;
- A fine balance needs to be struck between environmental protection and social concerns, based on mutual trust between all the stakeholders;
- Policy makers should take informed decisions based on scientific research and extensive stakeholder consultation and territorial impact assessments;
- Successful practices from other regions should be adapted for the Black Sea also. Examples presented during the conference included the experience of the Spanish region of Galicia in diversifying income sources and successful FLAG projects, as well as a global overview delivered by the FAO.

## Important points from the discussion

**“BlackSea4fish”** – Black Sea fisheries project with the long-term objective of contributing to the management of fisheries in the Black Sea and protecting the livelihoods of those dependent on the fisheries.

**Importance of a trust-based approach in fisheries management** – All stakeholders involved in fisheries in the Black Sea have to live up to their commitments and implement concrete measures as soon as possible to ensure the sustainable development of fisheries in the area.

**General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)** – The EU will seek to ensure that the GFCM pays particular attention to its members’ and cooperating non-members’ compliance in implementing the measures established in the roadmap for combating IUU in the Black Sea, adopted in 2013, and the 2017-2020 mid-term strategy adopted by GFCM in 2016. In this context, it is urgent that the objectives of the “Bucharest Declaration” be achieved, notably on scientific advice, the development of a MAP for turbot and the fight against IUU.

**Key role for research and data** – The need for more and better data and research is a major challenge for the fishing sector, including improvements to data collection and scientific advice through cross-border regional cooperation. A key factor in the sustainable management of resources and the creation of suitable conditions for fishermen is success in integrating scientific advice and the socio-economic properties of the fishing sector in the region.

**Importance of regional characteristics of fisheries** – In order to ensure the sustainability of local communities and the coastal regions, policy- and decision-makers should take more account of the regional characteristics and the realities of the water basin when adopting management decisions, both in the framework of the GFCM and at EU Level.

## Event page with presentations delivered by panellists:

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/events/Pages/Sustainable-Fisheries-in-the-Black-Sea.aspx>





**European Committee  
of the Regions**


**NAT Commission**

Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 101  
1040 Bruxelles/Brussel  
BELGIQUE/BELGIË  
Tel. +32 22822211

[www.cor.europa.eu](http://www.cor.europa.eu)

 @EU\_CoR

 /european.committee.of.the.regions

 /european-committee-of-the-regions