



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



General Fisheries  
Commission for  
the Mediterranean



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
Ministry of Rural Development  
and Food

REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE

# Shaping the future of sustainable aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

4-5 DECEMBER 2024

HERAKLION, GREECE

## PROGRAMME



2021 United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
2030 for Sustainable Development

With the financial  
support of



# Tuesday, 3 December 2024

20.00

## Welcome dinner

Offered by Greece

# Wednesday, 4 December 2024

## High-level segment **Towards sustainable aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea**

9.00

### Welcome addresses

High-level representatives of Greece, the European Union, the GFCM and other relevant authorities will open the conference.

- H.E. Konstantinos Tsiaras, Minister for Rural Development and Food, Greece
- Charlina Vitcheva, Director General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission
- Nabil Gangi, Deputy Regional Representative for Europe and Asia, FAO

### Keynote address

#### **From Bari 2014 to Heraklion 2024: a journey towards sustainable aquaculture**

This presentation will explore the transformative decade-long journey from Bari to Heraklion, highlighting the substantial progress made, as well as the remaining and emerging challenges that must be met to fulfill the objectives of the GFCM 2030 Strategy.

- Miguel Bernal, Executive Secretary, GFCM

#### **Vision and commitments for a sustainable aquaculture sector by 2030**

High-level representatives from Mediterranean and Black Sea countries will assess progress and future priorities in their countries and present their visions, as well as their contributions to the objectives of the GFCM 2030 Strategy.

13.00

13.00

## Lunch break



# Thematic segment

## Setting goals and identifying means for sustainable and thriving aquaculture in a changing world

14.30

### Thematic session 1

#### Aquaculture food production systems of today and tomorrow

##### Keynote address

##### Helping coastal communities to fulfil the potential of the aquaculture sector in the region

- Elisa Ravagnan, Chief Scientist, Norwegian Research Center, Norway

##### Panel 1

##### Promoting food security in a changing world

- Emilia Gargallo Gonzalez, Policy Officer, European Commission
- Katia El Kabbout, Agricultural Engineer, Democratic Movement for Culture and Development, Lebanon
- Galin Nikolov, Associate Professor, Trakia University, Bulgaria
- Yasmin Abdallah, Technical Office Director, Suez Canal Aquaculture Company, Egypt

##### Panel 2

##### Promoting responsible investment for a thriving aquaculture sector

- Philippos Papageorgiou, Coordinator of the Technical Advisory Group on Governance and Responsible Investment, GFCM
- Samir Bachouche, Blue Economy Expert, WestMED Initiative
- Nino Chobaniani, Chairperson, Georgian Fish Farmers Association, Georgia
- Dilyara Bakhtieva, Policy Assistant, European Commission

17.30

17.30

### Side event

#### The FAO Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture

FAO, European Commission, National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology (Tunisia), Mersin University (Türkiye)

18.00

18.30

### Reception

Offered by the Hellenic Aquaculture Producers Organization



# Thursday, 5 December 2024

9.00

## Side event



9.30

### Artificial intelligence and aquaculture

Norwegian Research Centre (Norway), Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (Greece), BiOceanOr (France)

9.30

## Thematic session 2

### Advancing towards ecologically sustainable aquaculture food production systems

#### Keynote address

#### Restorative aquaculture and ecosystem health: innovative strategies designed to revitalize aquaculture practices and improve ecosystem well-being

- Mohamed Salah Romdhane, Director of the Fisheries and Environmental Engineering Department, National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia, Tunisia

#### Panel 3

#### Restorative aquaculture: nurturing ecosystem health

- Enric Gisbert, Head of the Aquaculture Programme, Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology, Spain
- Simona Paolacci, Head of Research, Development and Innovation, AquaBioTech Group, Malta
- Ioannis Karakassis, Professor of Marine Biology, University of Crete, Greece
- Magda Nenciu, Senior Scientific Researcher, National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa", Romania

#### Panel 4

#### Building resilient aquaculture in the face of a changing climate

- Javier Ojeda, General Secretary, Federation of European Aquaculture Producers
- Nikos Papandroulakis, Research Director, Institute of Marine Biology, Biotechnology and Aquaculture, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Greece
- Elisa Ravagnan, Chief Scientist, Norwegian Research Centre, Norway
- Tanja Šegvić Bubić, Research Scientist, Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Croatia

12.30



12.30

## Lunch break and side events

### Sharing knowledge and developing capacity

12.30–13.15

GFCM, Hellenic Center for Marine Research (Greece), University of Crete (Greece), European Union Reference Centre for Animal Welfare on Aquatic Species

### Empowering women and small-scale producers in aquaculture

13.45–14.30

Network of Women in Aquaculture, Hellenic Aquaculture Producers Organization (Greece), New Agriculture New Generation (Greece)

14.30

## Thematic session 3

### Navigating change: strategies facing current and emerging challenges

#### Keynote address

#### Strategies and insights for a transformative journey for the aquaculture sector to address existing and emerging challenges

- Lahsen Ababouch, Senior Fisheries and Aquaculture Expert

#### Panel 5

#### Blue Transformation as a catalyst for sustainable aquaculture development

- Lara Barazi-Geroulanou, President, Federation of European Aquaculture Producers
- Ismini Bogdanou, Director of Communications and Public Relations, Hellenic Aquaculture Producers Organization, Greece
- Alessio Bonaldo, Professor, University of Bologna, Italy
- Massad Ejbeh, Manager, Aquafarm, Lebanon

#### Panel 6

#### Ensuring the well-being of farmed aquatic species

- Nadia Cherif, Coordinator of the Technical Advisory Group on Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity, GFCM
- Anna Toffan, Veterinarian, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, Italy
- Michail Pavlidis, Director, European Union Reference Centre for Animal Welfare on Aquatic Species
- Mohamed Salah Azaza, Director of the Aquaculture Laboratory, National Institute of Marine Science and Technology, Tunisia

## Closing session

This session will summarize the main messages from the high-level segment and the thematic sessions, as well as the necessary follow up actions towards the development of sustainable aquaculture in the region.

17.30



## Partners

The Regional Aquaculture Conference counts on the support of several partners generously providing technical or financial support.



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Greek fish**



**NEW AGRICULTURE  
NEW GENERATION**



The Regional Aquaculture Conference “Shaping the future of sustainable aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea” is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to discuss the future of aquaculture in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region. Building on a decade of progress since the landmark 2014 Bari Conference, this event serves as a vital forum to highlight the importance of aquaculture within existing political commitments and generate insights and solutions to strengthen future actions towards a sustainable and resilient sector in the region. The outcomes will support the achievement of the objectives set within the GFCM 2030 Strategy for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, towards enhancing the sustainable development of the sector.



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about the Regional Aquaculture Conference

**#Aquaculture4Sustainability**