

Focus on Fisheries

Black Sea countries of the CMA focus on 5 priority actions

- 1 Support for fisheries **research** projects
- 2 Knowledge exchange and collaborative events on fisheries **sustainability**
- 3 Use of **innovative** marine technologies and IT monitoring tools
- 4 Capacity building and **training** activities for fisheries vessels, including small-scale fisheries
- 5 Valorisation of catches and diversification of activities to maximize **benefits** of fisheries

Priority actions include joint efforts in:

- Improving transnational collaboration in the region, after the actions set in the Sophia Declaration
- Actively addressing climate change and invasive species
- Protecting vulnerable species
- Maximising economic benefits and ensuring sustainable development of the sector and coastal communities

The FAO GFCM reports for 2020 follow the [Sophia Declaration in 2018](#) to ensure a sustainable future for Black Sea fisheries and aquaculture.

The Black Sea has a long history of fisheries and hosts emblematic species such as turbot (*Scophthalmus maeoticus*) or red mullet (*Mullus surmuletus*).



Snapshot of fisheries – Black Sea



Total Estimated economic contribution
USD 653 million



Total estimated annual revenue
USD 251 million



Total catch
387 800 tonnes



11 400
Total number of vessels



Every coastal village has a fisher

As many as 1 in every 100 coastal residents in some areas

Composition of the fleet

Small-scale



88.2%

Trawlers & beam trawlers



7.4%

Purse seiners & pelagic trawlers



2.4%

Other fleet segments



1.9%

Source: FAO/GFCM, The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries 2020



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Black Sea fisheries in a nutshell

Vessels

Port	Country	Vessels
Varna	Bulgaria	157
Samsun Merkez B.B.	Turkey	132
Sozopol	Bulgaria	105
Nesebar	Bulgaria	100
Ünye B.B.	Turkey	87
Pomorie	Bulgaria	75
Balchik	Bulgaria	71
Shabla	Bulgaria	69
Terme B.B.	Turkey	52
Kavarna	Bulgaria	41

Source FAO/GFCM (2020)

Ports

Seven out of ten of the most important ports are in Bulgaria, while three are in Turkey. These account for around 7.7% of fishing vessels operating in the Black Sea in 2018, contributing to 8% of total landings.

Port	Country	Landings (tonnes)	Percentage
Terme B.B.	Turkey	27 790	6.41%
Ünye B.B.	Turkey	26 045	6.01%
Samsun Merkez B.B.	Turkey	25 893	5.98%
Poti	Georgia	23 035	5.32%
Cide B.B.	Turkey	14 999	3.46%
Ardeşen B.B.	Turkey	10 957	2.53%
Kaynarca B.B.	Turkey	10 179	2.35%
Melenağzi	Turkey	9 539	2.20%
Bağırçanlı Limanı	Turkey	5 870	1.35%
Karasu Yenimahalle B.B.	Turkey	4 728	1.09%

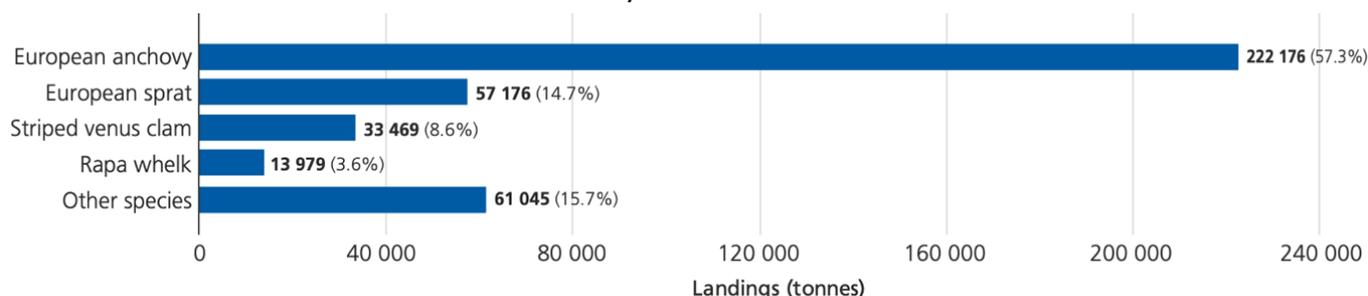
Source FAO/GFCM (2020)

Landings

In 2018 (2016-2018 average), nine of the main ports, in terms of the volume of landings, were Turkish and one was Georgian. Together, they account for around 37% of the total landings in this area.

Diversity

Anchovies are the largest catch, but high value species such as turbot, mullet and whelk illustrate the diversity of Black Sea fisheries.



Source FAO/GFCM (2020)



Adapting to invasive species : Rapa whelk was accidentally introduced in the Black Sea where it proliferated and is exploited commercially since the eighties, reaching value of USD 15 million (2018) mainly for exports to South Korea and Japan.

To go further

State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries (SoMFi2020) - [publication](#)

Impacts of COVID on Black Sea Fisheries sector - [publication](#)