Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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

FISHFORUM 2018

FORUM ON FISHERIES SCIENCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE BLACK SEA

10-14 December 2018 ● FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy

Bringing together the wider community of scientists and experts working on fisheries and the marine environment in the Mediterranean and Black Sea in order to build a **lasting network**, discuss **advancements in research**, integrate scientific knowledge in support of **decision-making** and identify **research priorities for the coming decade**.

Better science for better advice

Healthy seas and sustainable fisheries

Economic analysis and technology for societal benefit

Call for abstracts will open from end-November 2017

www.fao.org/gfcm/ FishForum2018

WHY A "FISH FORUM"?

To revert alarming trends in the status of Mediterranean and Black Sea fish stocks, in which roughly 90 percent of the scientifically assessed stocks are currently considered to be fished outside biologically sustainable levels, the demand for scientific and technical advice on fisheries management is ever increasing. At the same time, advancements in fisheries science are occurring with unprecedented speed, thanks to new technologies; it is therefore essential that the scientific community, policy makers and NGO representatives stay abreast of these developments, ensuring capacity and synergies to meet the region's challenges.

The Fish Forum 2018, the first event of its kind, will encompass oceanographic, social science and economic perspectives on fisheries research. It will therefore review leading work that has been carried out, while also addressing the pillars for the development of fisheries science. It will also take stock of progress made mainly towards achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, as well as other intrinsically interrelated SDGs, such as SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth and SDG 13 on climate action.

The Fish Forum 2018 aims to strengthen the voice of scientists and managers wherever decisions shaping the future of the Mediterranean and Black Sea are being made. It must be seen as a powerful tool to share and exchange information, but also as a catalyst to invigorate and organize a community with common interests in fish and fisheries sciences in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

As an outcome of the Fish Forum 2018, organizers expect to produce practical advice that is useful in decision-making, as well as a document shaping priorities for the next decade of fisheries science in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

WHEN AND WHERE?

- FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy
- 10-14 December 2018

TARGET AUDIENCE

The Fish Forum will be an opportunity to benefit from a wider range of expertise than typically reaches other regional conferences and will aim at removing barriers to sharing knowledge and information. It will provide an overview of the latest trends and achievements in ocean sciences and fishery technology and will explore future needs. The target audience is intended to be scientists, researchers, engineers, academics, practitioners, managers and decision makers that have fisheries and marine-related responsibilities. A call for abstracts will ensure that select renowned experts have the opportunity to disseminate their latest research findings and present them to the Fish Forum. The participation of early career scientists will also actively be promoted.

REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

To register as a participant and/or to submit an abstract for consideration, please visit www.fao.org/gfcm/FishForum2018 and complete the registration form with all relevant details, including the proposed abstract. Registration and the call for abstracts will open from mid-November 2017.

Deadlines:

- Submission of abstracts - 15th May 2018 (notification of acceptance of abstracts by 30th June 2018)
- Registration - 30th September 2018

WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

To propose a workshop or side event in line with the topics of the Fish Forum 2018, please submit a letter detailing your proposal to FishForum2018@gfcmonline.org

WHAT ARE THE FISH FORUM THEMES?

The Fish Forum will have an interdisciplinary focus, addressing the three interrelated themes listed below. **Thematic sessions** will highlight leading research in these areas based, among others, on contributions received through a call for abstracts. **Keynote speakers** will spotlight cross-cutting topics and **thematic panels** and **transversal panels** will offer opportunities for dynamic discussion on prominent issues. **Side events** are foreseen to complement the main thematic discussions and draw attention to innovative work, while **poster sessions** and **stands** will provide further opportunities to showcase relevant research.

THEME 1
BETTER SCIENCE FOR BETTER ADVICE

Improving knowledge on stock status
- Work to determine stock dynamics
- Improvements in stock assessment methodologies
- Incorporating estimates of discards and IUU fishing

Innovative strategies to provide advice
- Advances in modelling and scenario simulation, including Management Strategy Evaluation
- Developing precautionary advice for data limited stocks and fisheries

The effectiveness of area-based management
- Parameters for the identification of fisheries restricted areas

THEME 2
HEALTHY SEAS & SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Addressing climate change as a priority issue
- Adaptation to climate change in fisheries

Tackling pressing environmental challenges
- Non-indigenous species
- Marine litter

The interaction between vulnerable species and human activities
- Mitigating by-catch and depredation of marine mammals

THEME 3
ECONOMIC ANALYSIS & TECHNOLOGY FOR SOCIETAL BENEFIT

Improving knowledge on the social and economic impact of fisheries
- Incorporating Maximum Economic Yield
- Economic valuation of recreational fisheries

Mapping value chains
- Valuing the post-harvest sectors
- Innovations in traceability to counter IUU fishing

Marine technology promoting economic and environmental sustainability of fisheries
- GIS and other tools for marine spatial planning

EXPERT ROUND TABLES:

Promoting stakeholder dialogue:
Boosting the science-policy-stakeholder interface

The human impact on fisheries:
Effects on living marine resources and ecosystems

The technological future:
High-tech advancements in fisheries research, management and fleet modernization (satellite tracking, artificial reefs, fishing devices, etc.)

TRANSVERSAL PANEL:
Identifying research priorities for the coming decade

#FishForum2018

PRESIDENT OF THE FISH FORUM 2018

Stefano Cataudella, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Manuel Barange, Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Resources Division of FAO (FIA)

Anne Christine Brusendorff, General Secretary, International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

Serge Garcia, Chair, Fisheries Experts Group of the IUCN Commission of Ecosystem Management (IUCN/CEM/FEG)

Lasse Gustavsson, Vice President and Executive Director, OCEANA

Masanori Miyahara, Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency

Ernesto Penas-Lado, European Commission, DG MARE

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Michel Bariche, American University of Beirut, Lebanon
- Trond BJØRNDAL, Norwegian School of Economics, Norway
- Antonio CERVANTES, European Commission, DG MARE
- Marta COLL, Institute of Marine Science (ICM-CSIC), Spain
- Ali Cemal GÜCÜ, Institute of Marine Science, Middle East Technical University, Turkey
- Paolo GUIDETTI, Research Unit CoNISMa-Nice, University of Nice Sophia Antipolis, France
- Malouli IDRISSI, Institut National de Recherche Halieutique, Morocco
- Toshihide KITAKADO, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology
- Patrick LEHODEY, Collect Localisation Satellites (CLS), France
- Snejana MONCHEVA, Institute of Oceanology, Bulgaria
- Beatriz MORALES-NIN, Mediterranean Institute for Advanced Studies (IMEDEA)
- Chedly RAIS, Okeanos Foundation, Tunisia
- Evelina SABATELLA, Fisheries and Aquaculture Economic Research (NISEA), Italy
- Tamara SHIGANOVA, Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, Russian Federation
- Olivier THEBAUD, Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (IFREMER), France

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