BLUFISH, ITALIAN FISHERIES TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY PHASE 1: FISHERIES MAPPING

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The PPA model

Multi-fishery pre-assessment projects approach (PPA's) is a tool to increase accessibility to the MSC's programme. A pre-assessment project (PPA) is any project that uses the MSC's pre-certification tools in a strategic way to engage with multiple fisheries at the same time. Its intended impact extends beyond the immediate project and it has the purpose of influencing management at a more holistic level. Therefore, a PPA aims to involve not only the fisheries and NGO stakeholders, but notably also the management authorities, scientific advisory bodies and the supply chain interested in sourcing from these fisheries and regions.

The objective of each PPA is to achieve outcomes across the following objectives:

- Engage fisheries that have the potential of working within the sphere of influence of the MSC market-based program ("pull" / "market leverage");
- Engage fisheries that have the potential of using the MSC framework as a mechanism to transition to sustainability;
- Support government and other stakeholder efforts to build up the right enabling environment for sustainable fisheries management.

BluFish is a PPA focusing in Italy and particularly on the Islands and central-southern Italy. The phases and timeline of the project are reported in **Fig. 1**. This approach has already been successfully applied in other areas of the Mediterranean as well as in Australia, Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa, Japan and the United Kingdom.

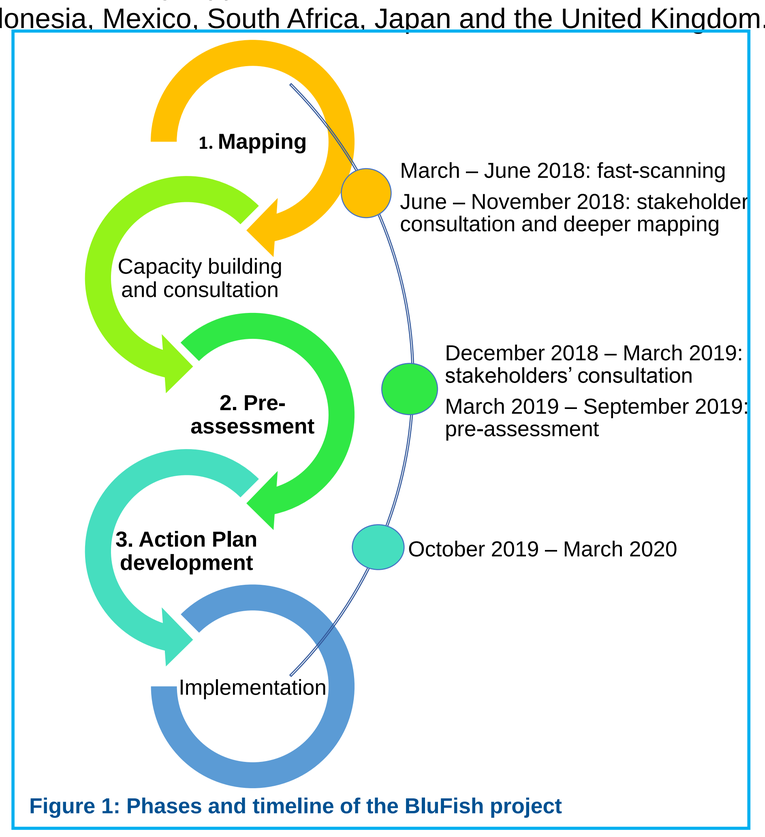

Figure 1: Phases and timeline of the BluFish project

Mapping results

During the mapping phase, all the Italian fisheries have been mapped for a total of 3,884 fisheries, of which 2606 in the area focus of the BluFish project (**Fig. 3**). For each fishery the following information have been collected:

- Target species;
- Fishing gear;
- Stock asssesment and exploitation rate (where available);
- Landings volumes and values;
- Fleet composition by fishing techniques (by GSA);
- Characterisation of the main fishing activities by port;
- List of the main landing ports;

In order to define the species which define the fisheries, the 75% ranking approach in term of landings volume and value has been applied (STECF/EWG 15-14; **Fig. 2**).

After the ranking a total of 174 fisheries have been selected. On the basis of objective criteria and inputs from local stakeholders a more in-depth analysis has been carried out for 50 selected fisheries (**Table 1**).

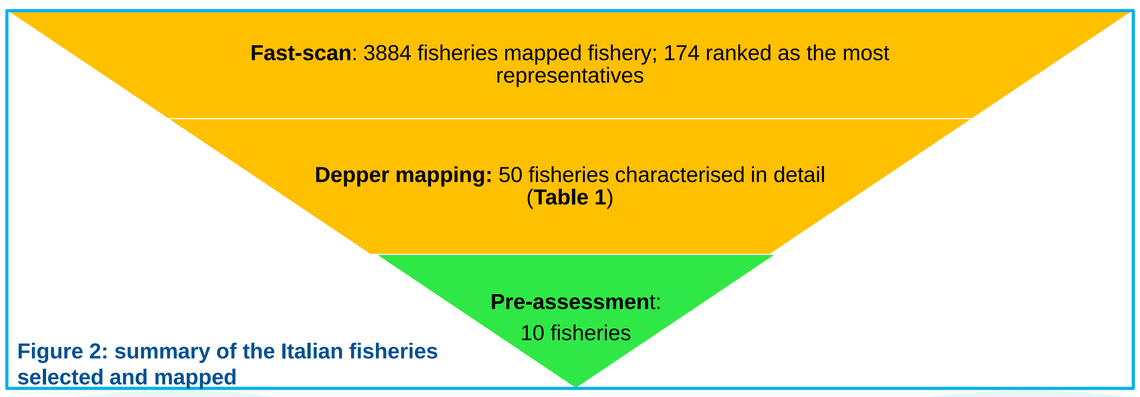

Figure 2: summary of the Italian fisheries selected and mapped

Scientific name	Common name	Gear by GSA					Total
		GSA 10	GSA 16	GSA 18	GSA 19	GSA 11	
Thunnus alalunga	Albacore	LLD			LLD		2
Engraulis encrasicolus	European anchovy	PS	PS	PS	PS		4
Palinurus elephas	Common spiny lobster					GTR	1
Parapenaeus longirostris	Deep water rose shrimp	OTB	OTB	OTB	OTB		4
Aristaeomorpha foliacea	Giant red shrimp		OTB		OTB	OTB	3
Aristeus antennatus	Blue and red shrimp		OTB		OTB		2
Coryphaena hippurus	Common dolphinfish	PS					1
Eledone cirrhosa	Horned octopus			OTB			1
Eledone moschata	Musky octopus		OTB			OTB	2
Merluccius merluccius	European hake	GNS & GTR	OTB	LLS & OTB			5
Squilla mantis	Spottail mantis squillid			OTB			1
Lepidopus caudatus	Silver scabbardfish	LLS					1
Xiphias gladius	Swordfish	LLD	LLD		LLD	LLD	4
Octopus vulgaris	Common octopus				GTR	GTR & FPO	3
Sardina pilchardus	Sardine		PS				1
Nephrops norvegicus	Norway lobster			OTB			1
Scorpaena elongata	Slender rockfish					GTR	1
Sepia officinalis	Common cuttlefish	GTR		GTR & OTB	GTR	GTR	5
Thunnus thynnus	Atlantic bluefin tuna		LLD				1
Illex coindetii	Broadtail shortfin squid	LHP-LHM					1
Mullus barbatus	Red mullet		OTB	OTB			2
Mullus surmuletus	Surmullet				GNS & GTR	GTR & OTB	4
	Total by GSA	10	10	10	10	10	50

Table 1: selected fisheries by GSA for deeper mapping (LLD: Drifting longlines; PS: purse seines; GTR: Trammel nets; OTB: Bottom otter trawl; GNS: Set gillnets (anchored); LLS: Set longlines; FPO: Pots; LHP-LHM: Handlines and pole-lines (hand-operated and mechanised))

Geographical subareas (GSA)

focus of BluFish project

GSA 10: Southern and Central Tyrrhenian Sea

GSA 11: Western and Eastern Sardinia

GSA 16: Southern Sicily

GSA 18: Southern Adriatic Sea

GSA 19: Western Ionian Sea

Figure 3: GSA focus of the BluFish proiect

Pre-assessment

This stage will consist of pre-assessments (PA) of 10 fisheries selected by the stakeholders from the 50 listed in **Table 1.** These PA will allow to have a gap analysis of each fishery environmental performances compared to the 28 performance indicators of the MSC fisheries standard v2.01 (**Fig. 4**). The analysis will be performed by a contractor selected from the currently MSC accredited assessors.

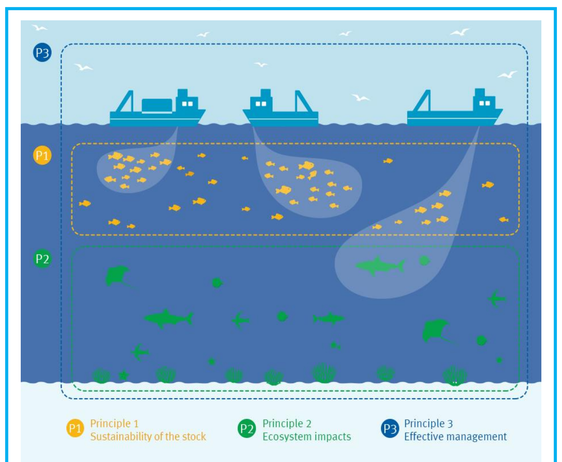

Figure 4: MSC Fisheries Starndards in a nutshell

MSC Fisheries Standards in a nutshell

Principle 1: Sustainable fish stocks - Fishing must be at a level that ensures it can continue indefinitely and the fish population can remain productive and healthy.

Principle 2: Minimising environmental impact - Fishing activity must be managed carefully so that other species and habitats within the ecosystem remain healthy.

Principle 3: Effective fisheries management - Fisheries must comply with relevant laws and be able to adapt to changing environmental circumstances.

BluFish preliminary considerations: The deeper mapping results combining available data, socio-economic analysis and inputs from the stakeholders have allowed the authors to drawn a series of preliminary considerations:

There is a limited availability of data for some species and for higher levels of disaggregation;

Overall, fisheries operators are aware about the need to valorise their product;

There is a general inefficiency of the distribution channels, in particular:

- few market structures, often not very efficient;
- conferment of the product to local wholesalers and traders;
- numerous disembarkation points and often uncontrolled;

Medium to long-term commercial planning strategies should be considered by the sector.

BluFish project deliverables and additional information available at: **www.msc.org/it/progetto-blufish**

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