



WWF

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WWF Mediterranean Initiative

Leading change for the Mediterranean Sea

Small-scale fishermen unite

“Designing and implementing management measures together, fishermen, scientists, civil society and governments can really make a difference”, says Susana Sainz-Trápaga, WWF Fisheries Advocacy Officer. Small-scale fisheries are often excluded from public policy processes and decision making, despite their socio-economic importance, but this is beginning to change and fishermen have started to join forces across the Mediterranean. At the First Regional Symposium on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, held in Malta in December, fishermen committed to establish a cooperation platform between the north and south of the Mediterranean to strengthen the sector and contribute to sustainability.

www.ssfsymposium.org/

vimeo.com/65467667



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Profile: “My job is highly diverse and exciting...”

Susana Sainz-Trápaga is Fisheries Advocacy Officer for the Mediterranean Initiative. After a PhD in Fisheries Oceanography at the University of Tokyo and working for well-known research institutions around the globe she joined WWF in 2006.

What inspired you to move from scientific research to conservation, and how would you define your job?

I wanted to contribute to filling the gap between sound science and decision-making. My job is highly diverse and exciting – I participate in policy processes within the European Union and international Regional Fisheries Management Organizations such as ICCAT and the GFCM. Convinced of the need to involve all fishery stakeholders in the political debate, I am also deeply involved in the Regional Advisory Council for the Mediterranean (currently as vice-president) which advises the European Commission on fisheries issues.

What would you highlight among the recent achievements of your team?

Promoting and participating in fisheries co-management committees where all stakeholders share management responsibilities has been among our most rewarding work. Experience in the field has shown that sustainability in fisheries together with decent incomes for fishers is possible and achievable when working all together through co-management.

mediterranean.panda.org/about/marine/fisheries/co_management/



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Susana with members of the Mediterranean Platform of Artisanal Fishers (MedArtNet), which gathers artisanal fishermen from Algeria, France, Greece, Italy, Morocco and Spain.

Monk seal facts and figures

Back in 350 BC when Aristotle first recorded marine mammals, monk seals (*Monachus monachus*) were considered sacred by the ancient Greeks and protected by Poseidon and Apollo. In the modern world, however, they are the most endangered mammal in Europe. Around the world only an estimated 550-600 animals remain. Half of the world's population of monk seals are found in Greek waters. WWF Greece recently began a project for the creation of an MPA around the Guaros islet, where the most important nuclei of Mediterranean monk seals live and breed.

www.cycladeslife.gr



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A victory for MPAs in Adria

The Mediterranean boasts some of the most beautiful seascapes in the world, yet a mere 1% of the Mediterranean Sea is currently protected. A recent key agreement in the Adria region (East Adriatic) saw the formal commitment of 8 countries (Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Slovenia, Kosovo and Macedonia) to include marine conservation targets in their regional accords, and the firm plan for new MPAs to be established by 2018 in Albania and Montenegro.

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Greece: an innovative alliance for fisheries

The Kavala Fisheries Improvement Project is working to reverse the decrease in fish stocks, safeguard the income of fishermen and provide consumers with traceable and sustainable seafood. It is the first time a fisheries project in Greece brings together all stakeholders – WWF Greece, a major supermarket chain, purse seine fishermen and scientists.

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Adriatic fishermen protect sea turtles

WWF Italy is part of an intensive information campaign to reduce the mortality of sea turtles, victims of by-catch. WWF is informing as many fishermen as possible in ports along the Adriatic coast of Italy about the onboard best practices to reduce post-release mortality of sea turtles incidentally caught in fishing gears.

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Which endangered marine species are found in the Mediterranean?

- the monk seal (*Monachus monachus*).
- the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and the 100 million-year-old loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), which nest on Mediterranean beaches.
- numerous cetacean species found in the Mediterranean are vulnerable and threatened; the pilot whale, the fin whale and the short-beaked common dolphin are endangered.



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Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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