3A Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels

Definition and scope

This indicator measures the percentage of global fish stocks that are at or above the abundance level capable of producing the maximum sustainable yield. No compilation for SDGs has yet taken place, only estimations at ocean/sea and global scale. This is part of SDG Target 14.4: By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics (14.4.1. Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels).

More:
https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-14-04-01.docx

3B Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP

Definition and scope

This indicator expresses the value added of sustainable marine capture fisheries as a proportion of gross domestic product (GDP). This is the current indicator for SDG Target 14.7: Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries.

More:
https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-14-07-01.docx

Factsheet rationale

3a: This indicator has the potential to be important in helping design sustainable fishing strategies and establish the maximum sustainable yield for each stock, but is currently only computed at the global level. 3b: Although SDG Target 14.7 promotes the sustainable use of marine resources "including [...] fisheries, aquaculture and tourism", this indicator as selected by the IAEG-SDGs focuses only on the sustainable use of marine resources by fisheries. The methodology proposed by the FAO thus measures sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP. Stocks that are fished at sustainable levels are able to support the communities and industries which rely on them, without compromising reproduction and long-term sustainability. By contrast, stocks that are exploited to the point that they cannot replenish themselves will ultimately provide sub-optimal long-term economic returns for stakeholders.

Current situation and progress in the Mediterranean region

Despite the established national statistics and reporting to GFCM (FAO), there is a need to further develop fit-for-purpose indicators to assess the degree of sustainable fisheries throughout the Mediterranean region. Linked to SDG Indicator 14.4.1, only global and regional values have been estimated to date, assessing the proportion of fish stock within biologically sustainable levels at around 35% for the Mediterranean and Black Seas. On the other hand, the lack of availability of additional data such as per GDP indicators is hampering assessment of this indicator.
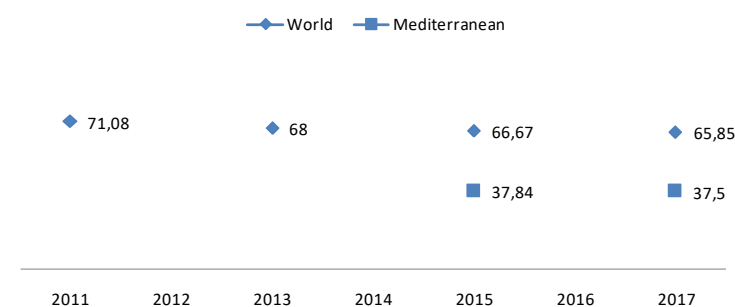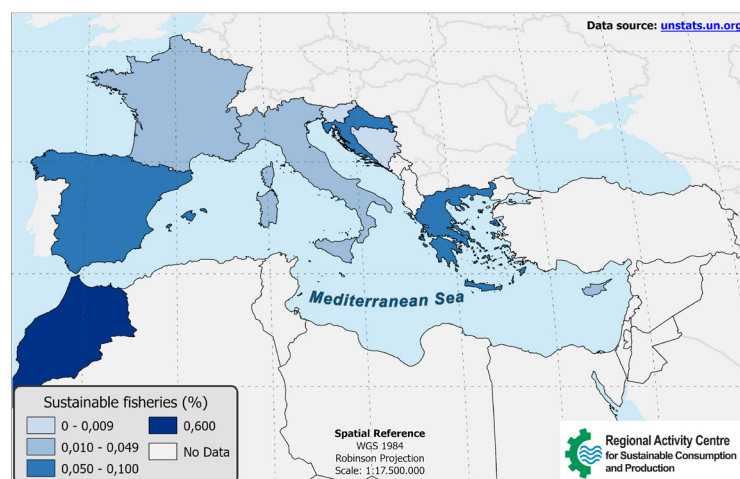
Sources
3a, 3b (new): UN SDGs – FAO

Links
https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/

Key message

The lack of data flows among the Mediterranean region countries currently prevents the elaboration of an accurate sustainable fisheries assessment from both ecological and economic perspectives.

World and Mediterranean proportion of fish stock within biologically sustainable levels (2011-2017)

◆ World   ■ Mediterranean

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
◆ 71,08		◆ 68		◆ 66,67		◆ 65,85
				■ 37,84		■ 37,5

Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP (2017)

Data source: unstats.un.org

Sustainable fisheries (%)
- 0 - 0,009
- 0,010 - 0,049
- 0,050 - 0,100
- 0,600
- No Data

Spatial Reference
WGS 1984
Robinson Projection
Scale: 1:17.500.000

Mediterranean Sea

Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production

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