



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

FAO's future plans for supporting and promoting fisheries OECMs

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Advancing progress towards the European
Green Deal: OECMs' implementation in the
fisheries sector

FAO's goals for OECMs

- 1) Promote the recognition and inclusion of OECMs in the fisheries sector
- 2) Provide support to FAO Members for area-based conservation of coastal and marine areas in the Post-2020 Framework:
 - Identification
 - Assessment
 - Reporting
 - Monitoring
- 3) Two-way street: want to help service States' needs and learn from them
- 4) Build awareness on contribution of fisheries ABMTs biodiversity conservation
- 5) Ensure countries have information/capacity needed





Developing Guidelines for the Fisheries Sector

- FAO COFI34 noted the relevance of OECMs to achieving a number of SDGs and global biodiversity targets, and **requested FAO to produce and disseminate practical guidelines to support Members in their identification and implementation**
- FAO's Fisheries and Aquaculture Division is initiating a process to develop such guidelines that will help countries in two ways:
 - Drafting multiple volumes
 - Regional workshops
 - Support FAO Members in applying guidance





Developing Guidelines for the Fisheries Sector

i. Preparing for an OECEM Assessment: What you need to know before you start an OECEM assessment:

- Background info on OECEMs and CBD decision,
- Typology of ABFM to consider,
- Data to be collected,
- Screening tool
- Opportunities and challenges in fisheries sector

ii. Undertaking an OECEM Assessment - a How to guide

- Steps for undertaking an OECEM assessment
- Suggested expertise to be involved
- Equivalence of criteria terminology in fisheries
- How to interpret CBD criteria in common ABFM
- Options for recognizing and reporting OECEMs
- Best practices for monitoring OECEMs



Developing Guidelines for the Fisheries Sector

These guidelines will be developed and tested through a series of shared-learning workshops with the following objectives:

- (1) To support countries and fisheries-related bodies at regional/national level in the application of the CBD criteria for identifying fisheries-related OECMs
- (2) To understand the challenges, opportunities and needs that arise in identifying fishery-related OECMs
- (3) Synthesise lessons learned and recommendations from country experiences in the application of the CBD criteria in the fisheries sector
- (4) Solicit country expertise to shape guidance for fisheries OECMs



ICES/ IUCN-CEM FEG Workshop on Testing OECM Practices and Strategies (WKTOPS)

- 40 experts from the North Atlantic and Mediterranean
- In-depth analysis of 6 cases of potential MSEs
- Confusion in terminology between Fisheries and Conservation language
- Need for guidance for the fisheries sector on how to interpret the criteria
- Workshop Report
<https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.8135>



Advancing marine OECMs in the Mediterranean Sea

Joint effort of several organisations contributing to the "area-based measures" strategy under the Barcelona Convention (IUCN Med, UNEP/MAP, GFCM, FAO, ACCOBAMS)

- A first information workshop to introduce the concept of OECMs to marine stakeholders (June 2021)
- A series of specialized sectoral workshops to provide in-depth guidance on how the CBD criteria are applied in each sector
- Joint FAO/GFCM workshops on fisheries related OECM planned in Dec2021 and Feb 2022
- A synthesis workshop - a roadmap for implementing the regional strategy (OECM component)





Helsinki Convention on the Protection of the Baltic Sea

- Start of process to identify OECMs - evaluation of experiences in the countries of the region by means of a questionnaire
- First workshop in February 2022 (involving a range of marine related sectors):
 - Agree on characteristics of OECMs in the Baltic region and a list of types of OECMs existing in the region
 - Document HELCOM countries' experience so far in identifying OECMs and stakeholder participation processes



Some takeaway points

- A national process is important to ensure coherence, and **coordinate sectors**.
- In the marine environment, a **regional process** (under a regional sea convention or an RFB) is useful. It should **catalyze** identification of OECMs by countries and enable **sharing experiences and feedback** from countries on their processes and the challenges they encountered.
- Agreeing on **thresholds** - the CBD decision highlights that the criteria should be applied “in a flexible manner and on a case-by-case basis”. Any guidance should help interpret how this flexibility can be applied while maintaining a coherence and a certain “threshold” of the OECM across sectors/nation/region.
- In marine environment, promoting **intersectoral dialogue** (at national and regional levels) is critical, OECMs should be linked to efforts towards Marine Spatial Planning
- OECMs process sparking a debate on enhancing effectiveness of MPAs – have equal “burden of proof” for both
- Keep it **practical!** Don’t get bugged into philosophical debates



Ultimately...

- Diverse biodiversity conservation discussions likely to impact fisheries
- Can't afford for fisheries to be left out Fisheries sector has a lot to offer biodiversity conservation
 - Achieve primary objectives for fisheries sustainability, while providing co-benefits for biodiversity
 - Reconciling food security, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development
 - Help achieve a number of the SDGs alongside the global biodiversity targets
- FAO is ready and willing to help its Members and the fisheries sector



Thank you

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