

The situation of small scale fisheries management in Turkey: Evaluation of approaches regulations and researches

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Turkey has coastlines on four different seas: the Black Sea, the Sea of Marmara, the Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean Sea and also known as a very rich marine biodiversity. In Turkish coast, which is an important spawning ground for some migratory pelagic fish species and others where the main fishery was targeted on small and medium pelagic and demersal fish.

Small scale fisheries (SSF) are one of the major economic activities along the Turkish coast. According to government statistics, Turkish fishing fleet is composed of 13727 vessels consisting of 88% vessels under 12 meters and mostly made of wood. More than 80% primarily are used passive gears such as gillnets, hook and lines, or pots and traps. Vessels over 8 m in length use more mobile gears such as dredges and beam trawls.

In this study, the data were collected from researches, fisheries projects and official statistics. In Turkey, the SSF is poorly known, statistics are limited and there is a lack of straightforward definition. In order to achieve of sustainable SSF in Turkey a number of issues need to be improved. For this purpose, in this work, we aimed to evaluate the small scale fisheries in Turkey, better understand the actual situation and propose recommendations for SSF in terms of sustainable fisheries management by the regulations.

Keywords: Small scale fisheries, management, Turkey.