

Tunisia blue swimming crab - traps

Overview

FIP Description

The blue swimming crab *Portunus segnis* (Forskål, 1775) (Portunidae family) is one of the earliest Lessepsian invaders of the Mediterranean Sea and has been recorded for several decades in various Mediterranean areas. However, its presence on the southeastern Tunisian coasts is relatively recent (2014). The Gulf of Gabès is the most important state for this fishery (83% of the national catches). Catch reports show that the region of Gabès produces about 47%, while Medenine contributes to 42% of the catches and only 11.5% comes from the region of Sfax. Exports were about 7561 T in 2021 with a value of \$23 million USD. From January to August 2022, exports reached 4400 T valued at \$15 million USD. Overall, the fishery has greatly intensified, resulting in an increase in production from 38 T in 2015 to 7600 T in 2021. Therefore, the critical issue actually facing this fishery is the record of overexploitation signs in heavily fished coastal areas, along with the harvest of undersized crabs and ovigerous females, and the lack of management plans and mitigation actions for the intensive fishing. The sustainability challenges facing this fishery will be addressed through the active involvement of FIP stakeholders and FIP participants. In this context, we will work on the improvement of the BSC fishery which uses traps.

How is this FIP Doing?

Current Status:



% of Indicators Tracked Basic FIPs may focus their workplans on a subset of the indicators. This shows the proportion of total indicators the FIP is working on.



Actions Progress This shows the proportion of actions in the workplan that the FIP has completed.

0%

Actions Overview This shows the proportion of actions that are behind schedule, on track, completed, or not yet started.

Behind	On Track	Complete	Future
0%	75%	0%	25%

Red Indicator Progress This shows the proportion of actions specifically addressing red indicators that are behind schedule, on track, completed, or not yet started. This helps users understand the progress the FIP is making on the biggest challenges in the fishery.

Behind	On Track	Complete	Future
0%	50%	0%	50%

FIP Objective(s)

By December 2028, the current FIP aims to:

- Improve the status of the stock (transition to sustainability, stock rebuilding).
- Define stock boundaries and status, and implement management measures.
- Propose and draft harvest control rules.
- Minimize the ecological impact of the BSC fishery.
- Change fishing practices (combat destructive and unsustainable practices).
- Decrease impacts on the fishery ecosystem (less bycatch, less damage to habitat..).
- Collect and analyze data on discards and ETP species interactions.
- Control the fishing pressure.
- Maximize the net incomes and contribute to secure the livelihoods of participating fishers.

FIP Type

Basic

FIP Stage

Stage 2: FIP Launch

Start and Projected End Dates

January, 2024 -
December, 2028

Species

Common Name

Blue Swimming Crab

Scientific Name

Portunus segnis (Forskål

Gear Type

[Trap Net](#)

Location**FAO Major Fishing Area**

[Area 37 \(Mediterranean and Black Sea\)](#)

Exclusive Economic Zones**Country**

Tunisia

Geographic Scope

Medenine area (Gulf of Gabès)

Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO)**High Seas Name**

Mediterranean Sea

Estimated Total FIP Landings

7561 metric tons

FIP Leads**Organization Name**

Gulf Union Marine Products

Organization Type

Industry

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