

**Contribution by the Republic of Turkey  
to the Fifteenth round of informal consultations of States Parties to the  
Agreement, focusing on the topic "Implementation of an ecosystem approach to  
fisheries management"**

**(17 to 19 May 2022)**

- Fishing activities directly or indirectly affect the ecosystems. Ecosystem-based fisheries management should be provided in order to use resources in a sustainable manner and to ensure sustainable fisheries in all marine areas and oceans.
- In the Mediterranean and the Black Sea; overuse of fish stocks, environmental effects of fisheries, increasing use and pressures on aquatic systems and impact of climate change require more integrated strategies for fisheries management.
- Since marine areas have different ecosystems, collecting data of a given region in terms of fisheries, stock studies, factors that threaten the ecosystem, hunting quotas, limitations on fishing gear, etc. studies are carried out by the relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMO) and decisions are taken accordingly.
- Turkey has prepared Action Plans to ensure that ecosystem-based fishing activities are carried out and to this end, protected areas are identified. There are a number of important scientific studies, institutional arrangements and jointly managed activities for fisheries management with an ecosystem-based approach in Turkey.
- Traditional fisheries management regulations such as closed period and closed area application, minimum length and minimum landing size, mesh size are updated in accordance with scientific studies and global developments. In legal arrangements, where scientific studies are a priority, needs, expectations and comments of fishermen are considered as much as possible, as well as socio-economic conditions.
- Researches/projects that will promote the implementation of the ecosystem-based approach in fisheries are supported.
- Common fisheries management and the use of traditional knowledge, which are the important elements of the ecosystem-based approach in fisheries, are better understood and developed day by day.
- Due to the diversity of marine ecosystems, cooperation between different fisheries management organizations is supported.
- In order to ensure sustainable fisheries, Turkey is contributing to the implementation of the decisions adopted at international and regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) where Turkey is a member, such as the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). Turkey is also fighting against illegal, unregistered and unregulated fisheries that poses a threat to marine ecosystems, on the basis of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.