



# TRAINING ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIES LANDED IN TUNISIA

## Trainers

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Placesh National Institute of Science and Technology of the Sea (Gabès & Monastir) and the Higher Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Bizerte.



## Introduction

The training on **the identification of species landed in Tunisia**, organized by the INSTM in collaboration with the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DGPA), will be carried out within the framework of the project "**Mediterranean Forum For Applied Ecosystem- Based Management, MED4EBM**". This training is part of the activities of the workpackage **WP5** of the project, called "**Capacity and competence building**". The **WP5** focuses on improving technical skills of stakeholders involved in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and aimed at the development and implementation of ecosystem-based governance tools and protocol (EB-ICZM). This specific training on the identification of landed species contributes directly to these efforts.

## Training context

The training stems from the recommendations generated by the analysis of the report of catch data in the ports of Mahrès, Zaboussa and Skhira during the period 2005-2020 and the cause-effect analysis, developed within the framework of the MED4EBM project. These analyses, carried out in close collaboration with stakeholders from the Ministry of Agriculture (DGPA and CRDA), were facilitated using the PROGES-ISP application, the ecological diagram and ecosystem indicators. These analyses revealed some errors/anomalies which may be due either to typing errors or to incorrect specific identification. The species concerned belong to the Mugilidae group (Confusing species are often identified as "Other muges") and small pelagics (Examples: confusion between sardinella, allache et sardine).

In addition to the species already identified within the framework of the MED4EBM project, recommendations have been made concerning other species belonging to the Thonidae and Sparidae groups. This also includes the identification of invasive species confused with native species, such as the case of the gray shrimp and the white shrimp. Hence the idea of expanding this training on a national scale, which was well received.

The training on the specific identification of species landed in Tunisia, carried out in partnership with the DGPA, illustrates a commitment to the sustainable management of marine resources. By broadening the skills and knowledge of stakeholders, this initiative contributes to better integrated coastal zone management.

## Objective

The main objective of this training is to enhance the capacity of participants in the identification of landed species, with emphasis on identification keys. This will be achieved by providing them with the different methodologies and tools necessary to guarantee correct specific identification, thus contributing to the reliability of fishing statistics. This improvement in data quality will be a key element for taking management measures and will promote the ecosystem approach to fisheries not only in our study area but also throughout Tunisia.

## Target audience

1. Fisheries Guards responsible for collecting catch data and carrying out inspections.
2. Fishing statistics officers.

## Training tools and methodology

During this training, special attention will be paid to species for which identification presents difficulties and confusion is common, which leads to errors in the data collected. The species concerned belong to five distinct groups: Thonidae, Mugilidae, Sparidae, Crustaceans and small pelagics. The training will be divided into five sessions that will take place on the same day, each focusing on one of these groups and delivered by a trainer. They will be based on presentations and concrete samples to demonstrate the identification keys. Participants will be divided into rotating groups to foster engagement and learning. In addition, two Quiz will be given to the participants: one before the training sessions and one after.

## Program

| <b>First day: September 05, 2023, at INSTM-Centre Gabès</b><br><b>Second day: September 06, 2023, at INSTM-Centre Monastir</b><br><b>Third day: September 07, 2023, at the Higher Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Bizerte</b> |   |
|---|---|
| 09h00 - 09h15   | Registration and reception of participants  |
| 09h15 - 09h45   | Opening session and presentation of the objectives of the training<br>⇒ <b>Dr. Amel Bellaaj Zouari, National Coordinator of the MED4EBM project</b><br>⇒ <b>DGPA representative</b>   |
| 09h45 - 10h15   | Quiz session  |
| 10h15 - 10h45   | Coffee break  |
| 10h45 - 13h30   | <b>Session 1:</b> General presentation of small pelagics and identification keys<br>⇒ <b>Dr. Sana Khmiri, INSTM</b><br><b>Session 2:</b> General presentation of Shrimps and Identification keys<br>⇒ <b>Dr. Olfa Ben Abdallah, INSTM</b><br><b>Session 3:</b> General presentation of Thonidae and Identification keys<br>⇒ <b>Dr. Ghaylen Hajjej, INSTM</b><br><b>Session 4:</b> General presentation of Sparidae and Identification keys<br>⇒ <b>Dr. Ines Haouas, INSTM</b><br><b>Session 5:</b> General presentation of Mugilidae and Identification keys<br>⇒ <b>Dr. Hanem Djabou, INSTM</b> |
| 13h30 - 14h00   | Quiz session  |
| 14h00 - 14h30   | Conclusion of the training and delivery of certificates   |
| 14h30 - 15h30   | Lunch   |