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Title:

**A critical overview of the multi-level policy framework in the Greek fisheries industry:
Any points of misalignment or conflict?**

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Abstract

The growing significance of the fisheries industry for the European economy and food security can be documented by several recent EU-level policies or financial instruments, such as the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) or the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF). Greece possesses several comparative advantages in this specific industry, being a leading producer and holding a dominant position in the EU market of Mediterranean fish, namely seabass and seabream. At the Mediterranean level, Greece implements the Mediterranean Management Plans of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), including fisheries restricted areas, focus on critical stocks and monitoring and control measures. Finally, at the national level, several policies for the development of aquaculture have been put in place, such as the “Fish from Greece” certification or the expansion of marine protected areas, but also non-governmental organizations’ initiatives. The purpose of the present study is to enrich the existing literature related to the way the above sustainability-driven policies affect the development prospects of the fisheries industry in Greece. The methodological aspect of this qualitative study essentially constitutes an in-depth overview of the goal setting and related measures of the above multilevel policies carried out or even announced in the Greek case, combined with a cross-comparison with other European Mediterranean countries. The overview of the related multi-level policy framework is expected to provide insights for policymakers by highlighting eventual points of misalignment or even of conflict between policy goals of different nature in the Greek case. The added value of the present research aims finally at a better understanding of the sectoral-level effects of EU- or nation-led policies on fisheries output and, therefore, exports, based on the 3-digit Standard International Trade Classification (SITC).