14.3.1 Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of the Oceans (Events)

2024/2025

College of Fisheries and Aquaculture Technology Staff Member participation in Fish Forum, 2024, Antalya, Turkey

On 23/02/2024, more than 400 participants gathered in Antalya, Türkiye, to scale up science for effective fisheries management at the second edition of the Forum on Fisheries Science in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (Fish Forum 2024). The event, organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) 's General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), is the region's most important scientific gathering on fisheries and related issues. Türkiye's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry hosted this year's edition, funded by the European Union. Across five days of lectures, panels, workshops and exhibitions, the conference provided a unique space for experts from 47 countries to discuss the latest developments in fisheries science, along with state-of-the-art environmental, oceanographic and socioeconomic research, and how best to apply this growing body of knowledge and tools to the real-world challenges facing the sector.

Dr. Reda M. Fahim, Head of the Fisheries Department at CFAT, participated in the International Scientific Committee (ISC), composed of high-level scientists from the GFCM region, which was established to support the overall scientific supervision of the GFCM Fish Forum 2024. In particular, the ISC was tasked with selecting scientific abstracts based on the technical quality of the documents and their relevance to the topics of the three thematic sessions. They also supported the GFCM Secretariat and technical partners with the overall program, including selecting side events and workshops.



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Fish Forum 2024 | General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean | FAO
linked in

In the World Fisheries Day: AASTMT–Damietta Dialogue on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation

Date: 21 November 2024 (World Fisheries Day)
Location: Damietta Governorate, Egypt
AASTMT Role: Institutional representative and prospective cooperation partner.
Representing AASTMT: College of Fisheries and Aquaculture Technology (CFAT).
Other Party: Governor of Damietta, Egypt.
Nature of Activity: Institutional meeting and discussion on fisheries and aquaculture development.

On 21 November 2024, coinciding with World Fisheries Day, representatives of the College of Fisheries and Aquaculture Technology (CFAT), Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT), met with Her Excellency the Governor of Damietta to discuss opportunities for cooperation in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development.

The discussions addressed strategies to promote responsible fisheries management, conserve aquatic resources, strengthen capacity-building opportunities, and support employment prospects within the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

The meeting also explored potential collaboration between Damietta Governorate and AASTMT to facilitate knowledge exchange, strengthen institutional cooperation, and support the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the governorate.



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The College regularly represents Egypt in Working Groups on Stock Assessment (WGSA) for Demersal Species (WGSAD) and SMALL-PELAGIC SPECIES (WGSASP), organized by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Meeting Dates: 8–13 December 2025
Location: Metropolitan City of Rome Capital, Italy
Organizing Body: General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
AASTMT Role: Scientific participants and institutional representatives.
AASTMT Representatives:

- Prof. Hatem Hanafy Mahmoud
- Dr. Reda Magdi Fahim

The Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT), through its College of Fisheries and Aquaculture Technology, was represented by Prof. Hatem Hanafy Mahmoud and Dr. Reda Magdi Fahim at the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Working Group on Stock Assessment of Small Pelagic Species, held in the Metropolitan City of Rome Capital, Italy, from 8 to 13 December 2025.

The meeting provided a scientific platform to discuss the assessment of small pelagic fish stocks, exchange fisheries research expertise, and address approaches to sustainable fisheries management and the conservation of marine living resources in the Mediterranean region.

Through the participation of its academic representatives, AASTMT contributed to regional scientific exchange and strengthened its engagement with international fisheries research and stock assessment activities.



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MARLOG 14 – International Maritime and Logistics Conference: Environmental Sustainability in Coastal and Port Areas

Date: 23–25 February 2025
Location: Hilton Green Plaza Hotel, Alexandria, Egypt
Organizer: Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT)
AASTMT Role: Conference organizer and host of scientific research presentations
Conference Theme: Artificial Intelligence Implementations – Towards Shaping the Future of the Digital World

The Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) organized the 14th International Maritime and Logistics Conference (MARLOG 14) in Alexandria from 23 to 25 February 2025.

The conference's scientific contributions included research presentations on environmental sustainability in coastal and port areas. These included research on wave and solar energy applications for sustainability in coastal zones, with a case study of Alexandria Port, and research on reducing emissions from marine diesel engines through alternative fuel technologies in green port applications.

These scientific contributions addressed environmental challenges associated with port and maritime activities and explored technological approaches to reducing environmental impacts and supporting more sustainable coastal and port infrastructure.

The conference provided a scientific platform for presenting research on environmental sustainability in coastal and marine areas.



MARLOG | AASTMT
MARLOG 14

College of Fisheries and Aquaculture Technology staff members participation in GFCM_FAO-UN working on Stock Assessment of the Round Sardinella in the Eastern Mediterranean, 2024

Activity: Working on the Stock Assessment of Round Sardinella (Sardinella aurita) in the Eastern Mediterranean
Assessment areas: Egypt (GSA 26) and Palestine (GSA 27)
Preparatory Data Meeting: 22–26 October 2024
Stock Assessment Working Group: 9–14 December 2024
Venue: General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Headquarters, Rome, Italy; hybrid participation
AASTMT Participants: Prof. Hatem Hanafy Mahmoud and Dr. Reda Magdy Fahim
Organizing/Supporting Organization: General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Prof. Hatem Hanafy Mahmoud and Dr. Reda Magdy Fahim of the College of Fisheries and Aquaculture Technology, Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT), participated in the regional scientific work coordinated by the GFCM and FAO on the stock assessment of round sardinella (Sardinella aurita) in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The preparatory meeting reviewed and analyzed fisheries input data for priority stocks, including round sardinella in GSAs 26 and 27. The subsequent Working Group on Stock Assessment of Small Pelagic Species addressed stock assessment work for small pelagic fisheries in the Mediterranean.

The benchmark assessment of round sardinella in Egypt (GSA 26) and Palestine (GSA 27) was completed with support from GFCM–FAO and regional experts. This work contributes to the scientific basis for fisheries assessment and sustainable management of small pelagic resources in the Eastern Mediterranean.



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AASTMT Fisheries Expert Contributes to Egypt's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2024–2027

On 14 Jan 2025, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) participated in high-level consultations with H.E. the Minister of Environment through a specialized advisory team, contributing scientific and technical expertise to the implementation of Egypt's Governmental Program 2024–2027, aligned with the Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt Vision 2030. As fisheries experts on the AASTMT advisory team, they contributed to discussions on sustainable fisheries management, responsible use of marine resources, and the conservation of marine biodiversity. The consultations emphasized the importance of science-based solutions and academic expertise in addressing environmental challenges and strengthening the resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems.

The meeting also highlighted the role of collaboration between government institutions and academic organizations in developing practical approaches to marine environmental protection and sustainable resource management. This engagement reflects AASTMT's commitment to translating scientific knowledge into policy-oriented solutions, supporting national environmental priorities, and advancing sustainable development in Egypt. Through its contribution to the Governmental Program 2024–2027, AASTMT reaffirms its role in supporting Egypt Vision 2030 and promoting the long-term conservation of marine resources for future generations.



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The Graduation Project for Students of the Faculty of Fisheries and Aquaculture Technology was chosen under the title "Environmental and Biological Assessment of the use of Antifouling Paints on Fishing Vessels in Abu Qir Bay and an Environmentally Friendly Solution Based on Water Hyacinth Extract"

On Sunday, 21 April 2024, students of the College of Fisheries and Aquaculture Technology at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) presented their graduation project entitled "Environmental and Biological Assessment of Antifouling Paints Used on Fishing Vessels in Abu Qir Bay and an Environmentally Friendly Alternative Based on Water Hyacinth Extract." The project was selected for presentation as part of the activities celebrating the International Day of Innovation and Creativity, in cooperation with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. The project addressed the environmental challenges associated with conventional antifouling paints used on fishing vessels to prevent marine organisms from accumulating on hull surfaces. Certain antifouling compounds may release harmful substances into the aquatic environment, potentially affecting marine organisms, water quality, and ecosystem health. Focusing on Abu Qir Bay, the project explored the environmental and biological implications of these products and investigated water hyacinth extract as a more environmentally friendly alternative. The proposed approach linked marine pollution prevention with the sustainable utilization of locally available biological resources. By exploring the potential conversion of water hyacinth biomass into a value-added product, the project also highlighted opportunities to support resource efficiency and environmentally responsible innovation. The event promoted student-led scientific research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and practical solutions to marine environmental challenges. It raised awareness of the importance of protecting marine and coastal ecosystems while encouraging innovation that supports the sustainable use of ocean resources. Through this initiative, AASTMT demonstrated its commitment to integrating education, student innovation, and applied research into marine conservation efforts, while encouraging future fisheries and aquaculture professionals to develop solutions that balance technological advancement with environmental protection.



College of Fisheries and Aquaculture Technology-Alexandria | AASTMT

Towards Clean Blue Oceans | Hand in Hand for a Sustainable Sea

The College of Fisheries and Aquaculture Technology – Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) launched the "Towards Clean Blue Oceans" initiative on Saturday, August 8, 2026, bringing together 50 participants from college students, school students, and volunteers — working hand in hand to promote marine environmental awareness and cleaner beaches.

The initiative supports Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14): Life Below Water by raising awareness of environmental responsibility, reducing marine litter, and helping protect marine ecosystems and resources.

The initiative is also part of the HEEFTA Project's activities, supporting collaboration, knowledge exchange, and community engagement to address environmental challenges and contribute to a more sustainable blue future.

50 participants… One goal… A cleaner sea.

Hand in hand, we keep our seas clean.



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Interreg Cooperation Day 2026 | Beach Cleanup: Together for Cleaner Beaches and a More Sustainable Mediterranean

As part of Interreg Cooperation Day 2026, the College of Fisheries and Aquaculture Technology (CFAT) at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) participated in the beach cleanup activities held in Alexandria on Friday, 2 October 2026. The Anna Lindh Foundation organized the event, with numerous students, young people, volunteers, and representatives from partner institutions and organizations participating. Participating Organizations and initiatives

The event brought together several organizations and initiatives, including:

Anna Lindh Foundation, Interreg NEXT MED – Cross-Border Cooperation Program in the Mediterranean, Banlastic Egypt, Marine Scouts Training Center, along with several youth-led initiatives, institutions, and volunteers.

The event began with welcoming remarks, followed by interactive activities highlighting the importance of cooperation between young people and institutions in addressing the environmental challenges facing the Mediterranean region.

Participants then joined an extensive beach cleanup campaign, bringing together hundreds of students, young people, and volunteers. Working collectively, they collected waste from the beach and raised awareness about the harmful impacts of plastic pollution on the marine environment and aquatic organisms.

Beyond beach cleaning, the event featured environmental awareness activities, knowledge- and experience-sharing, and networking among participants from different organizations. These activities reinforced the importance of regional cooperation and collective action in promoting sustainability and protecting the Mediterranean Sea.

CFAT's participation reflects the College's ongoing commitment to supporting environmental and community initiatives, connecting academic knowledge with practical field activities, and raising students' awareness of the importance of protecting biodiversity, conserving marine resources, and advancing Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14): Life Below Water.

Through these initiatives, CFAT continues to encourage responsible environmental practices and empower young people to help create a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable marine environment.





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Unlocking the Ocean's Potential: Innovations and Opportunities in Marine Biotechnology (Scientific public lecture)

Date: Wednesday, 12 August 2026
Venue: Faculty of Science, New Mansoura University (NMU), Egypt
Organizer: Faculty of Science, New Mansoura University
AASTMT Role: Invited academic speaker
Speaker: Associate Professor Haiam Morsy, Head of the Fisheries Technology and Aquaculture Departments, College of Fisheries and Aquaculture Technology (CFAT), Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT)

As part of its scientific activities, the Faculty of Science at New Mansoura University organized a scientific session entitled "Unlocking the Ocean's Potential: Innovations and Opportunities in Marine Biotechnology" on Wednesday, 12 August 2026. Associate Professor Haiam Morsy, representing AASTMT, delivered the session to introduce students to the expanding field of marine biotechnology and its scientific and practical applications.

The session explored how marine organisms and their biological resources contributed to scientific innovation, the development of new therapeutic applications, the production of advanced biomaterials, and the creation of sustainable environmental solutions.

It also highlighted the potential of marine biotechnology to advance scientific research, promote the sustainable utilization of marine resources, and support the development of the blue economy.

Through this academic engagement, AASTMT contributed scientific expertise to an educational activity at New Mansoura University, encouraging students to explore marine biotechnology as an emerging field offering opportunities for research, innovation, and

sustainable development. Outcome: Students were introduced to the scientific applications and innovation opportunities offered by marine biotechnology and its potential contribution to the sustainable blue economy.



Unlocking the Ocean's Potential: Innovations and Opportunities in Marine Biotechnology (Scientific public lecture)