Every year, governments in the Mediterranean spend millions of euros of public money on measures that increase fishing capacity – even though around half of Mediterranean fish stocks are already overfished. Ratifying the WTO agreement and redirecting harmful and poorly designed subsidies could provide an important source of finance for marine conservation and sustainable livelihood opportunities for fishing communities.

€2.7 BILLION
Public subsidies for Mediterranean fisheries in 12 countries amounted to almost €2.7 billion between 2014 and 2020.

HARMFUL SUBSIDIES
REGION: NORTH AFRICA
€1.3 BILLION
Harmful subsidies incentivize overcapacity and overfishing by artificially reducing costs or enhancing revenue.

BENEFICIAL SUBSIDIES
36%  |  €957 MILLION
Beneficial subsidies aim to have positive impacts on fish stocks and the marine environment.

AMBIGUOUS SUBSIDIES
17%  |  €443 MILLION
Ambiguous subsidies may lead to positive or negative impacts.

In the EU, small vessels make up 75% of the fleet but received just 3% of payments.

MPAS RECEIVED LESS THAN 1% OF TOTAL FISHING SUBSIDIES

Most subsidies go to larger operators.