

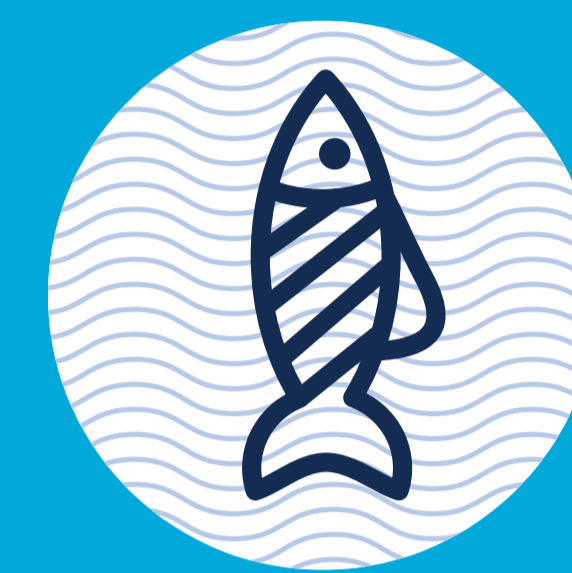


SUPPORTED BY THE EFF (European Fisheries Fund)

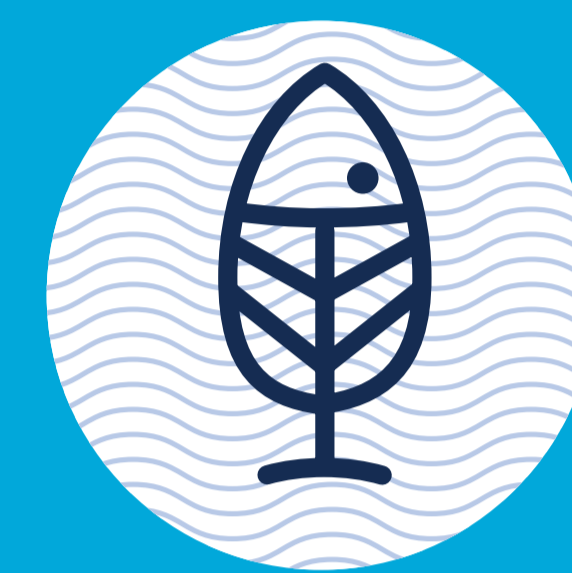
COMBATTING THE INVASIVE SILVER-CHEEKED TOADFISH

Silver-cheeked toadfish (*Lagocephalus sceleratus*) is a fish endemic to tropical waters of the Indian and Pacific oceans. The species is highly reproductive, and feeds on algae, coral, and invertebrates that live on or near the seabed. It is poisonous to humans if eaten.

Having reached the eastern Mediterranean through the Suez Canal with potentially harmful impacts on ecosystems in the Mediterranean, the professional coastal fishing fleet in Cyprus was engaged to intensify fishing pressure on this invasive species during its breeding season, so as to keep the fish stock in check. Fishermen were paid €3 per kilogram of silver-cheeked toadfish that they caught.

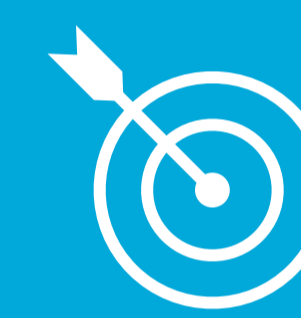


fisheries



environment

CYPRUS



RESULTS (2012 - 2015):

- 83 tonnes of the invasive species caught by fishers and removed from the sea
- €250,000 earned by fishermen from catching silver-cheeked toadfish



LESSONS LEARNED:

Using existing assets and skills available in the fishing sector i.e. fishing vessels and the fishermen's knowledge of how to catch fish, can be cost effective in implementing environmental activities, while also benefiting the fishermen involved.



TOTAL OPERATION COST:

Total budget: 249 465 €
Union contribution: 124 732 €



CONTACT DETAILS:

Department of Fisheries and Marine Research of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus
director@dfmr.moa.gov.cy

