



**Mundus  
maris**  
*Sciences and Arts  
for Sustainability*

# Annual activity report 2021



**2021 was a crucial year for the ocean**

Major conferences on biodiversity and climate change were expected to set us on pathways towards profoundly more responsible ways to organise our energy demands and change our production and consumption patterns accordingly. But, the enduring pandemic delayed several crucial international negotiation fora. We also expected substantive advances in the on-going UN negotiations about protecting 30% of the ocean by 2030 (30 X 30), but these were not yet achieved.

All this created serious difficulties for the efforts to safeguard biodiversity, avoid fishery collapse, build ocean resistance to climate change, and strengthen the resilience of people most directly dependent on the ocean. That only strengthened the resolve to keep going. We continued to put pressure on the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) negotiation to phase out harmful fisheries subsidies, which become more toxic with each year WTO is not delivering.

We continued our advocacy and awareness-raising activities in these directions and kept supporting the implementation of global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the (FAO) Voluntary Guidelines for Ensuring Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries at local levels underpinned by academic work. The first results of the Initiative ‘Illuminating the hidden harvest’ released fresh evidence about the much undervalued importance of small-scale fisheries (SSF) the world over. We thus feel further encouraged in our focus on strengthening the capacities of artisanal fishers, men, women and youths, to make their voices heard in coastal and ocean governance. Also on the positive side, the start of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) promises advances in international cooperation to eliminate many white spots on ocean maps and enhance ocean literacy.

The high points of our general information and youth work were on and around World Ocean Day (8 June) as well as our regular participation in advocacy platforms together with many others. The more substantial donations received during the year enabled us to carry out a large number of activities mobilising members, partners and sympathisers and also supporting partner activities in different countries. We are very grateful to all those people who stood by us with their donations, their time and expertise. A big THANK YOU to them all. Together we have weathered the difficult times.

The report focuses on the major highlights of the year. You will find out more by visiting the website [www.mundusmaris.org](http://www.mundusmaris.org) in five languages (English, French, German, Italian and Spanish). We also continued providing resources and information through the different social media channels. Enjoy the read about the change you helped to achieve.

**Cornelia E. Nauen**  
and the entire  
**Mundus maris team**



**2021 Budget**

Total income from donations and membership fees, including carry-over was **25,659.35 €**. The investments / expenditures by broad category were as follows:

Total ACAD	1,005.25 €
Total YOUTH	2,936.75 €
Total EDUC	15,912.83 €
Total INFO / COMMS	3,073.21 €
Total STOB / OPER	2,731.31 €
Total financial investment	25,659.35 €

ACAD = academic work  
YOUTH = youth work  
EDUC = education  
INFO / COMMS = information & communication  
STOB / OPER = statutory obligations & operational costs

# Recent Highlights from different places

NB: To expand the information of the annual report, move the cursor over the bold underlined text and click to link to the related webpage.

## Section 1 – Information, Communication

We expanded our general information and communication activities throughout the year. They were again quite varied. Our investment in this type of work were still modest as we teamed up with others and also continued engagement with the digital media and online events. You can access our monthly newsletters with the highlights of activities on the landing page of our [website](#).

### Collaborations in several international initiatives

Throughout the year, we participated particularly in two international initiatives together with a broad platform of other civil society organisations:

- **‘Make Stewardship Count’**, an initiative of some 90 organisations, aims at supporting a reform of the Marine Stewardship Council widely criticised for lax application of basic principles of good fisheries management, which confers economic advantages to companies flouting the rules. The lengthy, complex and rather intransparent process of reviewing the MSC Standard was here the main focus.

- **‘Stop funding overfishing – stop harmful fisheries subsidies’** focused on developing more pressure on member countries in the World Trade Organization (WTO) to deliver – after almost 20 years since they got the mandate – phasing out harmful fisheries subsidies. These are at the origin of much overfishing and also illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and were to end by the end of 2020. That was the promise of Sustainable Development Target 14.6. But WTO missed the deadline. The campaign will continue in 2022 expecting progress under the new WTO Director General Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala taking office 1 March 2021.



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### Tribute to some women leaders – International Women’s Day, 8 March

“Today, we want to honour at least a small selection of the women leaders in fisheries working to make the world a better place.” We presented women active in small-scale fisheries and academic and activist support of sustainable and prosperous small scale fisheries in Africa, Asia, Europe and internationally.

[Read more](#)

### Supporting Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea

SWAIMS, the Regional Programme “Support to West Africa Integrated Maritime Security”, headquartered in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, focused its webinar on 31 March 2021 on “Curbing Maritime Insecurity in the Niger Delta”. One of the speakers invited in the occasion of this exchange with civil society organisations was Prof. Stella Williams, Vice President of *Mundus maris*, who spoke on the topic of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and its effect on small-scale fisheries. Curbing insecurity in this context does not only mean more policing or forceful repression. It is important to understand the root causes that undermine human security and seek to address these. When people, especially young people, fall on hard times and are denied educational, social and economic opportunities they become easier prey to criminals using them. So positive change implies action on multiple fronts, including against IUU fishing and coastal pollution, for recognising coastal people’s rights to land and access to resources and basic social services. [Read more](#)

### Caught locally, consumed abroad?

Where does the fish consumed in northern Germany come from? What are the connections and differences between artisanal fishers and fisheries in the Baltic and in the Global South? Where can we get reliable information about fish and fisheries, including what fish to buy remorselessly because it has been caught and marketed in a sustainable value chain? These and other questions were raised in lively information exchanges between ‘Ocean Philosophers’ in Kiel,

Germany, and *Mundus maris* 17/18 July. Recovering badly overfished resources in the Baltic and elsewhere is an essential part of the answer, especially if there is to be a future for low impact artisanal fishers. [Read more](#)



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### Artisanal fishers in the Mediterranean also under pressure

Here *Mundus maris* supports the battle of Paolo and the 'House of the Fish' (Casa dei Pesci). It's almost an epic battle. On the one hand [Paolo Fanciulli](#) in Talamone, better known as Paolo, the fisherman, and the trawlers of Porto di Santo Stefano near Orbetello in Italy's Tuscany region, with tacit consent of several local authorities, on the other. You're forgiven to think instinctively it's a battle between David and Goliath. In more than one way it is. Paolo is determined to save coastal ecosystems, deploys innovative means and ways and does not get scared into submission. The trawlers operating often illegally at night in the immediate proximity of the coast reserved for artisans seem to have all the advantages on their side.



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Sinking sculptures into the coastal area created from heavy marble blocks constitutes a deterrent for bottom trawling and creates a refuge for fish and other marine organisms. Some of these just off the pier of Talamone form an underwater museum of sorts. Altogether they act as the House of the Fish and start recovering the formerly rich coastal ecosystem. But

plenty of work remains to be done inviting support from scientists, artists, tourists, environmentalists and not the least from the authorities and philanthropies. A well-researched book 'Casa dei Pesci' (so far in Italian) narrates the epic story.

### Dialogue across the Big Pond

Conferences and international events are excellent opportunities to meet new people with different perspectives. Now with more offers for online meetings, we seized the chance to develop connections between Colombia, more specifically the island of Providencia, Europe and West Africa. The 3rd Festival of Traditional Navigation in the Caribbean in September 2021, offered such an occasion for members of *Mundus maris* and of the Academy in Yoff to exchange about the conditions of artisanal fishers and their boat building traditions and some innovations that are not site-specific. [Find out more](#) about the range of topics covered.

### Biggest Climate Strike so far, 24 September 2021

Fridays for Future and a large cross section of organisations mobilised for perhaps the biggest climate strike so far for [Friday, 24 September](#). In preparation of the German parliament elections two days later and as a wake-up call to governments, companies and civil society around the globe in view of the forthcoming Conference of the Parties to the Climate Agreement (COP26) in Glasgow, some 620,000 people in Germany alone took to the streets demanding decisive climate protection NOW. *Mundus maris* naturally supported the strike actively.

### Kiel - International Fisheries Week - Ocean Days

Ocean Philosophers and *Mundus maris* teamed up for a workshop on sustainable fisheries in Kiel, 17 November 2021, to cast some light on the difficulties of small-scale fishers in Europe and seek ways to support their low impact activities with high potential to lead to sustainable forms of fishing. That was intended to be a contribution to the Fisheries Week organised as part of the Ocean Summit in Schleswig Holstein, northern Germany. In particular, the event was to highlight World Fisheries Day, which is celebrated the world over each year on 21 November. The workshop turned out differently and became an interesting brain storming about what could come next. [Read more](#)

## Section 2 – Youth

### World Ocean Day – focus on life and livelihoods sustained by the ocean

*Mundus maris* and its friends and allies teamed up again this year to celebrate World Ocean Day, 8 June. This year's UN motto was "The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods". We could showcase some advances towards blue justice thanks to work of the Small-Scale Fisheries Academy documented also by a video [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and book launch. In Apam, Ghana, a dialogue session with men and women in the coastal fishery allowed them to analyse what the UN motto means in their local context and what priority action should be taken as a result. The webinar in the Lagos area moderated by Stella Williams, *Mundus maris* Vice President, also focused on the UN motto and afforded the opportunity to recognise the team of the Lagos State University selected by the international jury for *Mundus maris* Awards. Our partners 'Bénévoles de l'océan' in Cameroun organised fantastic festivities in Kribi on the coast. Mangrove planting and public awareness activities were at the centre of activities spearheaded by our partners Eco-Ethics Kenya in Mombasa.



World Ocean Day excursion of a class of Hann Montagne mid-level school

The soccer schools in Hann, Senegal, excelled with their traditional beach clean up and soccer tournament for youngsters. The educational excursion by the Hann Montagne School illustrated to teachers and pupils why such clean-ups should become a regular feature for a garbage management firm or agency. The Kawabata Yasunari School in Hann also participated with inspiring theatre sketches which mobilised the entire school community. Vice-President Aliou Sall rallied key collaborators and spear-headed these successful events.

The webinar at Belgrano University in Buenos

Aires, Argentina, organised by *Mundus maris* Vice-President Marcelo Morales Yokobori appealed to a public of adults with interesting talks about a range of important ocean topics. Our team in Akure, Nigeria, led by Lydia Adeleke, partnered with Aquaworld for a whole range of activities. The week closed with a lovely lake-side concert with two young musicians in Louvain, Belgium, carefully set up by Maria del Carmen Patricia Morales, *Mundus maris* Vice President. [Read more](#)

### Mundus maris opened this year's Awards to all ages

Congratulations to this year's *Mundus maris* Awardees selected from 61 submissions from 10 countries by the [international jury](#). This year's UN motto for World Ocean Day "The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods" allowed for a wide variety of vistas. We invited submissions in the form stories, poems, paintings and video divided into age groups to account for different life stages. Covid may have reduced the numbers of contributions, but certainly not the quality. The top Sea Lion prizes went to two Italian submissions which enthused the international jury: *Valeria Mariani* of Ascoli Piceno studying at the European Manga Academy won in the age group 19+ for still visuals. She accompanied her work with this explanation: *"The reason why I made this illustration concerns precisely the relationship between man and sea, a relationship that today is no longer one of mutual respect. The ocean has always given us so much and now it seems that man can do nothing but ask more and more, giving in exchange only pollution and destruction of an already fragile ecosystem such as the marine one. I chose the Hokusai Wave as it is one of the most famous sea views in the world, which however appears marred by the reckless consequences of human life and by one of the most tragic disasters of recent times, the fire of the Deepwater Horizon platform."*



*Paolo Bottoni* from Rome, was awarded a Sea Lion Prize in the category for text submissions. His [story of the Trevi Fountain](#) builds a connection between fine arts, engineering, the people, the sea and the land.

## Section 3 – Education

The forced slow-down of training workshops of the Small-Scale Fisheries Academy in Senegal as a result of the pandemic made it difficult to get back into a regular programme of strengthening the capacities of the Academy learners. The idea remained to support the emergence of local facilitators able to carry the opportunities for individual and collective action forward in their professional groups and into other communities. All we could muster under these circumstances was a short catch-up workshop and bring in some external support to use IT resources. Besides we responded to occasional lecture demands as another form of adult education.

### Catching-up - SSF Academy Yoff, 27 Febr. 2021

After more than one year without presential trainings of the Small-Scale Fisheries Academy due to the covid-19 pandemic a catching-up workshop was convened with some precautionary measures in Yoff, Saturday, 27 February 2021. This helped to reconnect and exchange about what had happened in the meantime with the annual workplans of Academy learners. It was also an opportunity to try the feasibility of a mixed working method with co-facilitation on the spot and remotely. It turned out that quite a few participants had weathered the storm relatively well, including through diversification of activities, though others had suffered severe financial losses. At the end of this experiment most participants pointed out that this type of workshop was acceptable under the circumstances, but that onsite facilitation was much preferable, especially when internet connections were not very stable. But keeping in touch through a WhatsApp group was also suggested. [Read more](#)

### The SSF Academy continues its work in Yoff

In November, conditions allowed a full three-day workshop again. From November 22 to 24, 2021, the next capacity strengthening workshop was thus held for those enrolled in the Yoff Artisanal Fisheries Academy, Senegal. This workshop was long awaited because the activities of the academy had been put at half mast for almost two years because

of the health crisis. The objective of the workshop was for the participants to take stock of the work accomplished, to continue with the analysis of the value chain of artisanal fishing in the Yoff area and to develop individual and collective action plans for the next 12 months.



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In the event, *Mundus maris* arranged animation by mostly local collaborators of the French NGO GRET and members of the Yoff academy. The workshop served Academy learners to assess the individual difficulties and achievements with the help of the drawings of the originally planned change journeys they had drawn up in their personal change booklets. Before jumping into new planning they needed to review these past experiences. One part of that review was doing a SWOT analysis – looking at strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Among the salient points was the confirmation that reduced availability of fish catches was a huge challenge and that fisheries-related activities were embedded into a social environment that called on improvements in several areas, most notably

- Access to decent living conditions,
- Schooling their children,
- The need to have trees near the family's living spaces. [Read more](#)

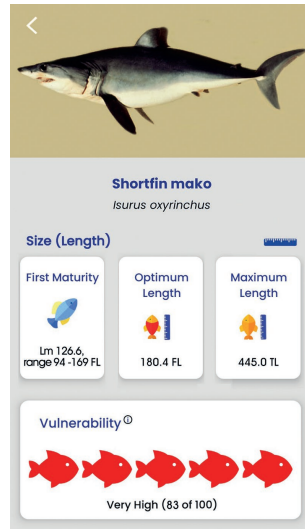


## FishBase Guide App as support for fishers and fish consumers

Women fish mongers complain in a growing number of places about fish scarcity and landing of juveniles, fish specimens that are caught before they could reproduce. Nature conscious consumers also ask more and more for guidance to avoid being part of the problem and look for solutions e.g. through advisories. Clearly, catching juveniles is a counterproductive strategy, first because it eliminates future harvests and second because of lower value and price than adult fish. Such fish may even end up in fish meal away from direct human consumption. Not a smart way of managing resources. In collaboration with the IT team at Quantitative Aquatics, the scientific NGO hosting the global information platform for all 34,000 fish species known to science, FishBase, the Sea Around Us Initiative and supported by Fair Fish International, *Mundus maris* has developed the FishBase Guide App for android.

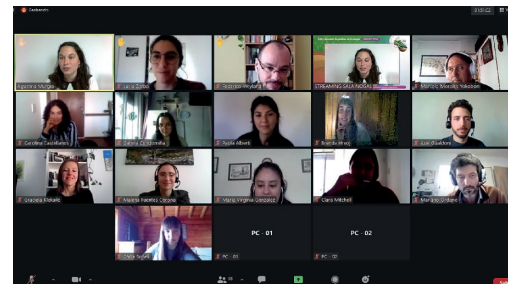
What does it do? It shows, largely in pictogrammes, the minimum reproductive length of each fish species, the optimum size at which catches would be maximised for ever, and the maximum size of the fish ever recorded. The app also shows a vulnerability index, the principal spawning period of the species and its distribution range.

How does it work? The user identifies the country and types in the common name or part of a name in any language and the app will show one or more pictures of species with common names equal to or containing the typed-in name. Clicking on the right one produces a screen similar to the model shown here.



## Role plays as creativity exercises for environmental sustainability

Since the last century, role-playing games have been implemented as a methodology to stimulate awareness and participation of communities in various problem areas, thus facilitating the search for solutions to conflicts of interest between parties. People unleash their imaginations by putting themselves in the shoes of others, in an empathetic effort to understand the interests of those parties whom they may denounce in real life. In a clear exercise of otherness, it becomes clear why it is so difficult to reach consensus on problems of marked sensitivity but in urgent need of a solution.



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In recent years, the University of Belgrano together with *Mundus maris* have been developing, with both university and high school students, a specific role-play linked to plastic pollution in the seas. This is one of the most pressing sources of pollution today, the solution proposals of which are very diverse but are far from solving, to date, the problem on a global scale. Marcelo Morales Yokobori was the driving force in these successful developments. [Read more](#)

## Overfishing and Sustainable Development Goals - a misfit

Studium oecologicum is a core programme in support of sustainability organised by a group of student representatives at the University of Potsdam, Germany, for students from any branch of studies. Cornelia E. Nauen of *Mundus maris* was invited in this context to give a talk on 19 November 2021 on the meaning of overfishing and its relation to the globally accepted Sustainable Development Goals. Overfishing is often associated with unsustainable or even criminal practices and has far-reaching negative effects on marine biodiversity, the capacity of the ocean and its ecosystems to cope with climate change, our seafood supplies and on the lives of people depending on a healthy ocean in artisanal fisheries. [Read more](#)

## Section 4 – Academic work

In 2021 *Mundus maris* made again some academic contributions, reporting on our field work, participating in debates and making proposals for future work focused on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. There was some delay in the publication of a couple of book chapters and research articles, but at least a brief research report about the SSF Academy methods appeared in *Frontiers in Marine Science*.

### The EGU General Assembly – virtual again

Geoethics needs multi-dimensional research agendas and practice



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Cornelia E. Nauen, Mundus maris a.s.l. – www.mundusmaris.org  
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#### Challenges

By way of example, 2020 we looked at 100+ million women & men's need in small-scale and artisanal mining:

- Food
- Water, energy
- Shelter
- Education, health and other social services, technology
- Environmental integrity and services
- Fair income for women and men

#### Responses

Asking questions that matter to societies

- Finding solutions together through
- Transsectoral, gendered teams
- Engagement with diverse stakeholders
- Dialogue
- Participation against 'taste-ofs'
- Understanding across diverse geographies and cultures

This year's General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union (EGU) from 19 to 30 April 2021 took again place in the virtual EGU Sphere. Fired up by broad debates in almost all countries about how to start on new, more sustainable footings post-covid there was a notable increase in submissions seeking a stronger explicit connection between asking questions in society and doing research and education in the geoscience. In the context of the ongoing scientific exchange with the International Association for the Promotion of Geoethics (IAPG) *Mundus maris* contributed a presentation to one of their sessions arguing in favour of diversified research agendas and mobilising a greater variety of people involved in the research process in terms of gender, thematic specialties, cultural background, among others. [Read more](#)

### Virtual MARE Conference 2021 focuses on 'Limits to Blue Growth?'

From 28 June to 2 July this year, the MARE Conference offered again a platform for exchange of latest research results, joint learning and networking. The key theme invited critical reflection on the fact that 'sustainable development' as guiding concept

for policy makers, has been replaced of late by the 'blue economy' and 'blue growth' mantra. We say instead, focus on people - they can correct the dangerous directions some investments are taking at the expense of the well-being of people and planet. *Mundus maris* teams made several presentations with a focus on gender equity. [Read more](#)

### EADI Conference 2021 - Solidarity, Peace and Social Justice

This year's Conference of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) was convened entirely online from 5 to 8 July. Jointly organised together with the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) of the Erasmus University Rotterdam it offered numerous parallel sessions grouped as seed panels, harvesting panels, workshops and roundtables. The principal *Mundus maris* contribution focused on "Inclusive adult education as an avenue for greater social justice in small-scale fisheries in Senegal" by Maria Fernanda Arraes Treffner, chief facilitator of the SSF Academy, and Cornelia E. Nauen. [Read more](#)



### Monthly V2V webinars

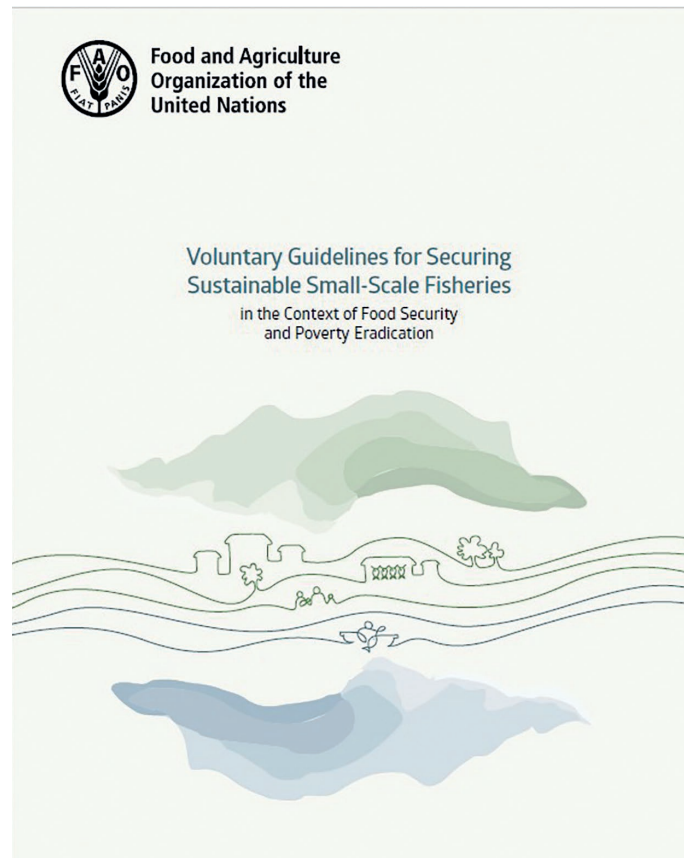
As a result of partnering with the international V2V research platform – from Vulnerability to Viability of small-scale fisheries - we were invited to deliver one of the [monthly webinar](#) talks and also reflected the other ones on our website and media.

## More information for you

You can also follow our work by [subscribing](#) to our monthly newsletter.

Contact us at [info@mundusmaris.org](mailto:info@mundusmaris.org) for collaboration or any question on our programme.

We welcome any support towards moving ocean protection and the future of sustainable artisanal fisheries forward. Your time, your experience, your financial contribution make a difference! Be part of the change wave for a healthy ocean and healthy planet.



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