



Opportunities and Next Steps for Georgia –
Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Black Sea

Davit Dadiani – National Environmental
Agency of Georgia

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Catches in fisheries and local production aquaculture sector of Georgia

- Total catch of Georgian fisheries in Black Sea amount about 100 000 tons
- Over 90% of the caught fish is anchovy, horse mackerel stands second by its importance. The species of fish like red mullet, whiting, and gray mullets caught in less quantity. The amount of other species is very insignificant.
- Aquaculture production before covid-2019 – 4000 tons (lakes and land based aquaculture systems)

Covid-19 Pandemic and Challenges

- Reduced aquaculture production output by 45%
- Reduction of fish products consumers by 50%
- Limited activities in fishing and aquaculture sector due to pandemic, including dramatic result of covid-19 on tourism
- Fish consumption depends on touristic season and due to the pandemic touristic season is cancelled

Prospects for the development of the sectors

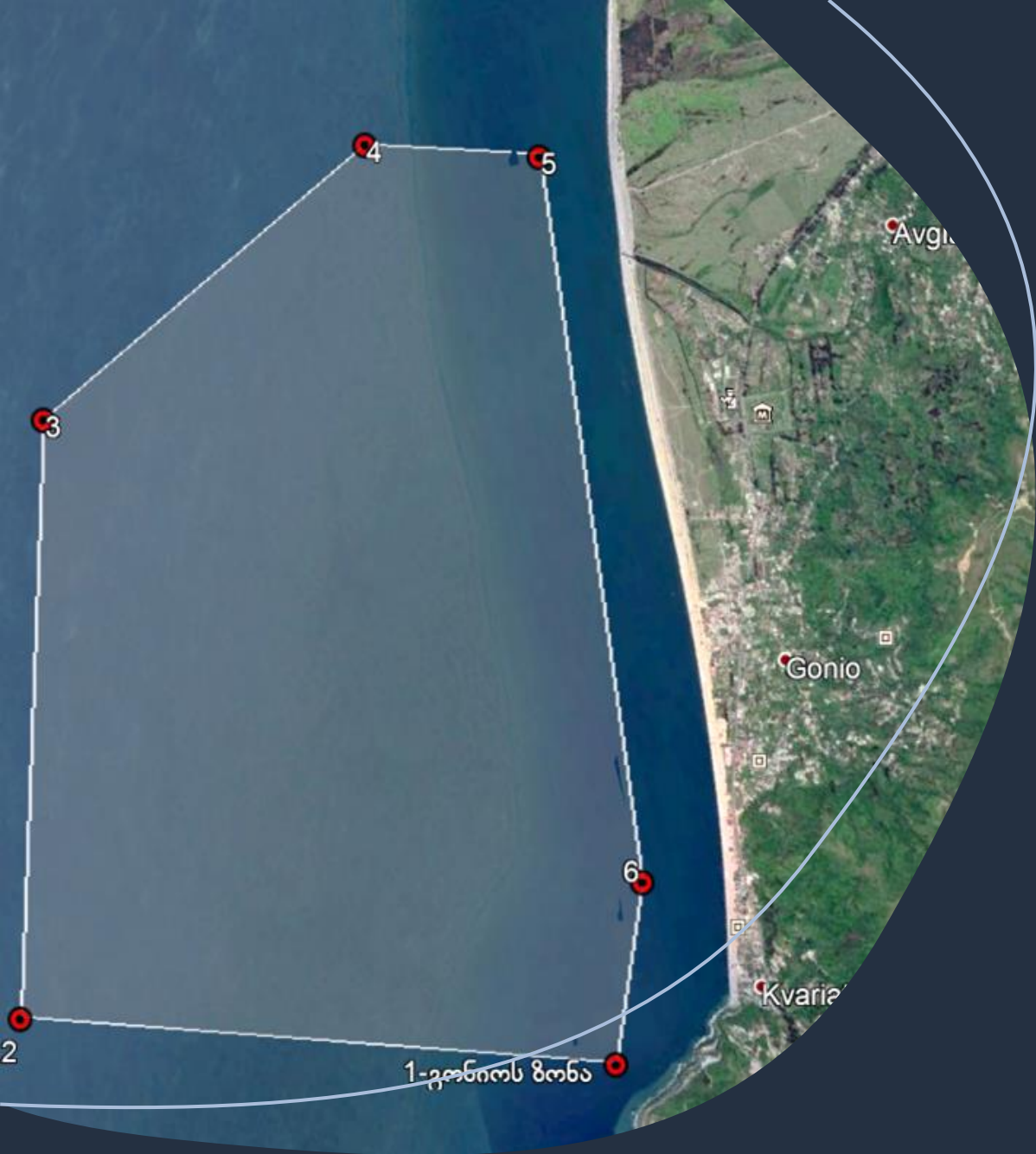
- implementation of Law of Aquaculture, which creates legal instruments for the investment
- The Law introduces new system for both land based and sea based aquaculture facilities, also for extensive aquaculture in lakes which creates opportunities for regional development and employment of local population
- Create allocated zones for aquaculture in the black sea and promote sustainable development of mariculture
- Elaboration of the National Plan for the sustainable development of aquaculture

Simplification of administrative procedures

- Issuing permits regarding aquaculture and mariculture activities on the basis of transparent and fair procedures
- Fish Stock Assessment according recommendations of international partners (GFCM)
- Regulation of introduction of alien species
- Protect environment and ecosystem

Opportunities:

- Georgia is very rich in water resources and fish species, with more than 26,000 rivers, 860 lakes, 12 reservoirs and numerous fish-breeding ponds, 80 species of fish, over 100 species of crustaceans, 58 species of shellfish.
- Georgia has unique environment for development of aquaculture sector (land based, marine and extensive aquaculture)
- **conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources**
- **Sustainable development of aquaculture, Protecting ecosystem**
- Sound regulatory and governance framework, tax incentives and exemption from fees for the use of natural resources until 2024
- Supporting market-oriented production



Allocated zone for Aquaculture in Black Sea costal area of Georgia and Management Plan

Georgia has elaborated first ever management plan for aquaculture zone in Gonio (near Batumi)

International and Regional Important Projects with International Donors

- **Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Black Sea - With the support of the GEF Agency. The project is aimed at raising capacity of fisheries related bodies in Georgia thus enabling the fishery sector to better comply with the FAO/GFCM standards and requirements, as well as the provisions of EU-Georgia Association Agreement. The project preparation phase has been started and it will be implemented by FAO and executed by the GFCM.**
- **Rapa whelk Survey – Supported by FAO the National Environmental Agency is conducting the survey of Rapa whelk Survey in Black Sea coastal areas of Georgia.**

Next Steps: International and Regional Cooperations

- Continuing creation of sound regulatory framework
- Effective use of mariculture zones on the Black Sea
- Foster competitive, diverse, market oriented aquaculture sector
- membership of GFCM
- Cooperation with international Partners including EU and FAO



Thank You!