Thank You Notes

The Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan would like to express its special thanks to its committed partners for their outstanding support during this project:

• Aqaba Marine Park
• Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority
• Fishermen Associations in Aqaba
• Jordan River Foundation
• Royal Department of Environmental Protection
• Royal Jordanian Naval Force
• Security Services
The local fishermen are facing serious threats from dwindling fish stocks and shrinking accessible areas for fishing. Therefore, the Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan (JREDS), the specialized NGO in Jordan in conserving and protecting the marine ecosystems at the Gulf of Aqaba, in cooperation with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) within the program “Protection of the Environment and Biodiversity in Jordan”, have developed a project to improve the sustainability of Aqaba’s fisheries. The knowledge gained during this project will serve as a basis to advocate for immediate actions to improve the sustainability of Aqaba’s fisheries. The fishermen community needs comprehensive marine spatial planning which takes into account their belongings and ensures a sustainable use of the resource. This project increases the knowledge about the fish stocks and local fisheries in Aqaba and will lead to a change in awareness and behavior towards this important traditional economy and source of income. It is always a combination of providing highquality and soundproofed data through a sciencebased management approach, raising awareness, promoting effective law enforcement, monitoring and compliance of and implementing legislation which leads to an improvement of the current marine ecosystem situation and status of local fisheries throughout the Gulf of Aqaba.
The German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is kindly providing the budgets for our common project on biodiversity protection. We would also like to thank all stakeholders for their successful engagement in promoting and securing sustainable local fish for future generations and reducing negative impacts on the marine environment.

Sincerely,

Faisal Abu Sondos               Barbara Schweiger
JREDS Director       GIZ Head of Program
Since a very long time ago fishing is not only a source of income but also a traditional practice by the local communities in Aqaba. Thus, I believe that improving the sustainability of fisheries in the Gulf of Aqaba is important to keep this tradition and part of the Aqbawi identity alive.

A big step ahead on the way to a more environmentally friendly fishery will be achieved by a continuous process of data collection as well as monitoring and managing the fisheries sector. Good management practices will also reduce the impacts of illegal fishing and other associated impacts on the marine ecosystem.

The availability of local fish for the customers is also expected by visitors of Aqaba, as an important and growing tourist destination. Since tourism contributes to a significant part to the Jordan economy it is highly desirable to promote local and sustainable fish as an integral part of your visit in Aqaba.

I am very glad that all stakeholders combine their efforts to secure local fish for future generations and reduce negative impacts on the marine environment. I welcome you to Aqaba and wish you a nice visit at one of the selected restaurants.

Please help us to secure fish for the future!

H.R.H. Princess Basma bint Ali of Jordan
Local fish is an important feature in societies all over the world, in many diverse cultures. For thousands of years, people have fished to feed families and local communities.

Fishermen and their families shape the culture and the identity of coastal regions.

The development of coastal cities is closely connected with ports. Ports serve as interface with the world, as hubs for commercial activities and last but not least as destinations for tourists.

Aqaba is the only port city at the sea in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Aqaba is a wonderful destination to enjoy the sea and to eat local fish, in homes or in one of the various restaurants. However, ongoing challenges must be met to ensure Jordan’s supply of local and sustainable fish. There are ways to fish sustainably, allowing us to enjoy seafood while ensuring that sealife populations are not extinguished due to overfishing. It is important to support Jordan’s fisheries and promote local fish in Aqaba in order to keep the city’s tradition and history alive.

The German Government supports, through GIZ and its partner organizations, the project “Protection of the Environment and Biodiversity in Jordan”. I would like to congratulate all stakeholders for their successful engagement in promoting sustainable local fish.

H.E. Ralph Tarraf

German Ambassador in Amman, Jordan
Jordan’s Marine Environment

Aqaba, the Jordanian most southern city is located at the northern edge of the Gulf of Aqaba, which is connected with the Red Sea through the Strait of Tiran. The coast of Jordan covers 27km in length at the most northern part of the gulf, with over 2/3 of this area is deeper than 200m and reaches over 850m in its maximum depth. The water temperature ranges between 20 and 27 degrees around the year.

The benthic habitats include sand bottoms, and seagrass beds which covers the majority of areas in the northern parts. In addition, coral reefs habitats are present and constitute the majority of areas at the southern coast. More than 500 species of fish have been recorded up to now. These include species with possible local populations (e.g.
groupers and lionfish) as well as migratory species such as Tuna and Swordfish. The majority of the species are associated to the benthic habitats, most of them to corals and rocks.

The marine resources of the Gulf are under heavy pressure resulting from different stakeholder’s interests and represented by mass tourism, construction of mega projects, increasing industrial activity and trade, which resulted in serious impacts on the vulnerable and unique ecosystems in the last decades. As a response measure to conserve the marine habitat, the Aqaba Marine Park (AMP) was established in 1997 as a conservation area. The AMP is located south of Aqaba city and extends over 7 km in length, stretching from the passenger terminal in the north to the police officers’ club in the south. The area’s terrestrial boundaries lies 50m east of the mean high water mark and the marine boundaries lies 350m west of the mean high water mark. Human activities which may cause harm to the environment are restricted by law in this area.
Culture and Tradition

Local Fisheries in Aqaba

Fishermen know about market demands in means of fish size, quantity and the market status itself.

AbedelWahid Abu Abdullah

Within the limited coastline, marine fisheries in Jordan are necessarily limited in its overall potential. Fishing takes place from small vessels, deploying gillnets, traps and lines. Although, relatively big fishermen community is present at Aqaba with over than 350 licensed fishermen, only about 80 fishers are still fishing around the year. Only few of the local species are fished commercially, with the biggest share of the commercial catch made up of
Tuna and Mackerels followed by some reef species like grouper and snapper. Most of the catch is directly sold from the harbor to restaurants and household consumers. However, about a quarter of the boats come back empty after a long day out in the sea. Consequently, less and less families can live from fishing and the current supply of local fresh fish does not cover the customer’s needs. For a long-term sustainable income from fishing, it is very important to keep the populations of the fished species on a healthy and viable level and to ensure a high rate of reproduction. JREDS is working together with the local fishermen community to find solutions on how to ensure healthy and viable fish populations in Aqaba and ensure long-term income for the fishermen to preserve this tradition for Aqaba.
The Gulf of Aqaba supports the local fishermen with some types of commercial fish of which the following are representing the most important species living in the open water:

Sardines are one of the most important fish species. It represents an essential food for most fish species living in the sea. This species lives and moves in large schools, and fishermen’s prefer to use the small sardines as bait, locally named as Wazzk and Al Bakha. The larger specimens such as Amaya (local name) are used for food, often grilled. In addition, Al Bakha can be used as Appetizer after fried with oil.

Tuna is an abundant fish species hunted by Aqaba’s fishermen’s and is characterized by its cheap price and high availability during the season. Tuna is known in three different sizes in Aqaba: the small and medium sized tuna, which is locally known as Gamberon, and large tuna which is called
“fatlah” by the local community. Among the most famous dishes made from tuna is Sayadiyah, which includes fish and rice, topped with a special sauce and spices. It can also be used in the preparation of other meals.

Swordfish are large fish; they stay during the day in the deep water, and migrate to the surface at night. It is a famous fish for fishermen and it may reach 2 meter length. These kind of fish are used to prepare many kinds of food, the most famous one is Sayadiyah.
Local Fish in Aqaba

Marina

Royal Yacht Club

NORTH BEACH

KING HUSSEIN BINT TALAL ST.

AL-RIDWAN

AL-SAFA

Early Islamic Ayla

Aqaba Gate Way

CITY CENTRE

Ayla Square

Vegetable & Meet Market

MARINA

Gulf of Aqaba

Noor Al-Hussein Foundation (Handicrafts)

Sharif Hussein Bin Ali House

Anabawi Mosque

Restaurants

The Great Arab Revolt Plaza

Heritage

The Fishermen* Harbour

The Fishermen* Restaurant

Aqaba Museum

Aqaba Castle

Al-Hafayer

Al-Hussein Bin Ali Mosque

City Services Directorate

Al-Rashid St.

Al-Hamra St.

Fourth Century Roman Church

Al-Rajes St.

Ayla Park

AL-RASHID ST.

AL-NAHD ST.

AL-NAHD ST.

AL-MARJAN ST.

AL-HAMRA ST.

AL-HAMRA ST.

AL-HAMRA ST.

AL-HAMRA ST.

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AL-HAMRA ST.
Local Fish Restaurants

Restaurants that serve local fish from Aqaba’s fisheries can be recognized by the special “Fish Aqabawi” logo.

The “Fish Aqabawi” logo can be found at the fish counter, at the entrance door and/or on the menu. Don’t hesitate to ask for it!

We would like to present a small selection of restaurants, that are serving local fish from Aqaba’s fisheries.
**Ali Baba Restaurant** is located next to the main street coming from Amman to Aqaba and offers a wide variety of delicious food, including local fish from the Aqaba fisheries.

*Ali Baba Raghadan Street | Town Center, Aqaba, Jordan 00962 3 201 3901*

**AlMabrouk Beach Touristic Restaurant** is located just a few minutes from Chef Sherkawi, on the same street directly behind the Al Hussein Bin Ali Mosque, Al Hussein Bin Ali Mosque. This local restaurant offers local and foreign guests delicious dishes with local fish but also without fish or seafood.

*AlMabrouk Beach Touristic Restaurant, Behind AlHussein Bin Ali Mosque, Aqaba, Jordan, Tel.00962 3 206 3304*
Aqaba House Restaurant can be found close to the fishing port, directly at the beach. Accordingly, Aqaba House restaurant offers local fish if available, but also other delicious specialties.

Aqaba House Aqaba House Beach | Beside Aqaba Port
Aqaba, Jordan
Tel. 00962 788 888 110

Captains Restaurant is located next to the Double Tree Hotel and provides visitors with a wide selection of different local and international including local fish, as it can be expected by its name.

Captains Restaurant AlNahda street | at Captains Hotel Aqaba, Jordan
Tel. 00962 3 200 7100
Sahsilny Restaurant is located on the opposite side of the Ghandour Beach, on the main road leading from Aqaba towards the South and offers local fish with the possibility to order it upon availability.

AlCornesh street, Aqaba, Jordan,
Tel. 00962 3 206 3737

The Chef Sherqawy Restaurant is located behind Al Hussein Bin Ali Mosque next to Ali Baba Restaurant. Guests can choose delicious dishes with and without seafood including local fish dishes.

Chef Sherqawy Restaurant Zeina Mall, AlHamamat AlTunisyyeh Street, Aqaba, Jordan
Tel. 00962 3 203 0055