



**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN
COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES
POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE**



Ad hoc meeting to launch the GFCM Aquaculture Multi-stakeholder Platform (AMShP)

Izmir, Turkey, 12–13 December 2013

Draft terms of reference for the GFCM aquaculture multi-stakeholder platform (AMSHP)

Introduction

These draft terms of reference (ToR) have been prepared on the basis of the key elements emerging from the discussions launched by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) among regional experts and other stakeholders as a follow-up to its thirty-seventh session (May 2013, Croatia), which are summarized in the discussion paper.

Mission and tasks

The Aquaculture Multi-Stakeholder Platform (AMShP) is based on a common long-term vision of sustainable aquaculture development shared between GFCM Member States, participating stakeholders and partner organizations.

The Aquaculture Multi-Stakeholder Platform shall be established to support the activities undertaken by the GFCM in the field of aquaculture, to facilitate a wider involvement of aquaculture stakeholders and to support the technical advice of CAQ (Committee on Aquaculture) to the GFCM in promoting the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

In particular the Aquaculture Multi-Stakeholder Platform shall be established:

- To help stakeholders work together, identify priorities, discuss current and future challenges and formulate advice on policies, strategies, research priorities, actions and coordinated activities for the responsible development of the aquaculture sector;
- To share knowledge and best practices, mobilize human and financial resources, cooperate in research activities, formulate R&D projects and encourage coordination that may result in tangible benefits to the sector;
- To play a catalytic role in prompting and promoting regional cooperation on the main challenges for aquaculture development in GFCM area;

The Aquaculture Multi-Stakeholder Platform shall perform, *inter alia*, the following tasks:

- Identify challenges and priorities actions to ensure aquaculture development and competitiveness in the region;
- Serve as a technical consultation body to formulate advice on policies, action plans and research at regional, sub-regional and/or country level;
- Promote industry-driven research and applied studies to enhance the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector;

- Facilitate scientific and technical cooperation and networking;
- Support technology innovation and knowledge transfer as well as capacity-building.

The Aquaculture Multi-Stakeholder Platform shall operate via strategic areas as follow:

- Allocated zones for aquaculture and spatial planning
- Aquaculture and environment interactions
- Disease management and aquatic animal health
- Governance and regulatory frameworks
- Quality and safety of products, market and consumer
- Research, knowledge sharing and technology transfer
- Sustainable feed production and management
- Technology innovation and diversification

Each strategic area should have a work plan consistent with and within the GFCM Framework Programme (FWP). The work plan deliverables shall mainly be pursued through: (i) the design and implementation of projects and technical meetings, (ii) the implementation of programme of technical cooperation, (iii) the proposal of common standards, guidelines and management measures, and (iv) the promotion of regional “*ad hoc consultations*” on the main outcomes referred to the strategic areas.

For an appropriate functionality and efficiency of the work to be carried out within the strategic areas, these will be clustered in four main forums based on cross-cutting issues, in order to avoid any overlap among the strategic areas and to optimize achievements of results. The four forums are the following:

- Forum 1: *Regulatory framework* for strategic areas a) and d);
- Forum 2: *Environment and disease management* for strategic areas b); and c);
- Forum 3 *Quality and market of aquaculture products*; for strategic area: e);
- Forum 4: *Technology and feed production* for strategic areas f); g); and h).

Functioning

The Aquaculture Multi-Stakeholder Platform is proposed to be a subsidiary body of the GFCM Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) supporting its activities in providing technical advice in relation to, *inter alia*, the elaboration of common standards, guidelines and management measures.

The establishment of a new subsidiary body should be presented to the next session of the CAQ (early 2015) and within the process of its reorganization.

While such process is being finalized, the activities of the platform shall be coordinated by the GFCM Secretariat and facilitated by an “ad hoc steering committee” composed of a group of four experts (one leading or coordinating each forum).

The work of the steering committee will be performed on a voluntary basis and will support the activities of the GFCM Secretariat by performing the following tasks:

- Prepare a concept note for the elaboration of a project proposal, including a proposal to raise funds to support the platform activities;
- Identity immediate as well as long term actions in order to make the platform operative and capitalize existing knowledge and cooperation in each strategic area;

- Stimulate participation from the industry and farms, research institutions as well as any other interested partners who could be actively involved in each strategic area;
- Develop position papers and propose, facilitate and assess projects that reflect the interests and activities of the strategic areas;
- Explore possible interactions within the strategic areas as well as synergies with other regional platforms and/or national mirror platforms.

Participation in the Aquaculture Multi-Stakeholder Platform will be open to all aquaculture and other interested stakeholders in the GFCM area as well as to partners' organizations.

The implementation of the activities of the Aquaculture Multi-Stakeholder Platform will take place based upon extra-funds budget availability within the GFCM Framework Programme (FWP).