



**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR
THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES
POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE**



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE (CAQ)

Seventh Session

Rome, Italy, 8-10 March 2011

PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2011-2012

INTRODUCTION

1. The 2011-2012 programme of work for the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) intends to pursue the implementation of the medium-term initiatives as discussed during the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the CAQ and further discussed during the fourth Coordinating Meeting of the Working Groups (CMWG), held in Malta (November 2010). It is based on the results so far achieved during the 2009-2010 intersessional period (GFCM/CAQ/VII/2011/3). It should be reminded that the CAQ sessions are organised on a biannual basis and that details on suggested activities are provided for the year 2011 only, although indications on some priorities are also identified for 2012. The CMWG will meet before the end of the 2011, fiscal year, to provide guidance on the details of the 2012 activities for the subsidiary bodies of CAQ and their supporting projects.

2. The preliminary 2011-2012 workplan concentrates on the Working Group on Site Selection and Carrying capacity (WGSC); the Working Group on Sustainability in Aquaculture (WGSA) and relies on the activities of specific programmes and projects that support these Working Groups, namely the project "*Indicators for sustainable Development of Aquaculture and guidelines for their use in the Mediterranean (InDAM)*", which supports the WGSA, and the project "*Developing site selection and carrying capacity guidelines for the Mediterranean aquaculture within aquaculture appropriate area (SHoCMed)*", which supports the WGSC, the activities on the Working Group on Marketing in Aquaculture (WGMA); and the project "*Mediterranean coastal lagoons management: interactions between aquaculture and capture fisheries*". The activities of the System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM) are also identified. Additional activities which may arise, for 2011 or 2012, from discussions around new issues (GFCM:CAQ/VII/2011/3) during the seventh session of the Committee would need to be added in the activities of the concerned working group, or developed as a stand alone undertaking or project.

WORKING GROUP ON SITE SELECTION AND CARRYING CAPACITY (WGSC)

3. The activities of the WGSC will be mainly focused on the implementation of the SHoCMed¹ project following the indication given during the third CMWG held in Rome, February 2010 (GFCM/CAQ/VII/2011/Inf.7) reported to the 34th Commission of the GFCM and further updated at its November 2010 meeting (GFCM/CAQ/VII/2011/Inf.13). During the next period emphasis will be given on the guidelines on Allocation Zones for Aquaculture (AZA), on the finalisation of Environmental Quality Standard (EQS) and on the definition of allowable zone of effect (AZE)².

4. The funds for the SHoCMed project are annually provided on the basis of the achievements and workplan that are yearly based.

5. Full information on the workplan is available in the *SHoCMed: Narrative report of the first year of activities* (GFCM/CAQ/VII/2011/Inf.15), and in the *Report of the WGSC-SHoCMed meeting on Environmental Quality Standards for marine fish farms, November 2010, St. George's Bay, Malta* (GFCM/CAQ/VII/2011/Inf.13).

6. The activities of the SHoCMed Project for 2011-2012 will include:

The completion of the preliminary study to design the best strategy to achieve consensus on site selection on the establishment of Mediterranean standards for carrying/holding capacity of aquaculture farms, in particular:

- Preparation of a review on the experience and knowledge on Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZA) activities;
- Preparation of guidelines on AZA for the Mediterranean;
- Finalization of a review on legal aspects related to site selection and carrying capacity.

The production of criteria and related guidelines (including standards) for aquaculture site selection in the GFCM region, in particular:

- Improvement of the SHoCMed database hosted in the SIPAM website by including metadata or published information on the interaction between aquaculture and environment;
- Preparation of a Glossary on Site Selection and Carrying Capacity for aquaculture activities.

Issues regarding carrying capacity of aquaculture sites selection and carrying capacity standards and identification of Environmental Quality Standards (EQS), in particular:

- Strengthening of the Mediterranean network of experts on Site Selection and Carrying Capacity for aquaculture activities in the Mediterranean region also by using technologies for knowledge sharing;

7. Organisation of a second Delphi round discussions on variables ranked on Environmental Quality Standards for finfish marine aquaculture in cages (thresholds for cautionary values and the critical values);

8. Preparation of a regional review on carrying capacity of aquaculture sites and carrying capacity standards.

¹ SHoCMed: “Developing siting and carrying capacity guidelines for Mediterranean aquaculture within aquaculture appropriate areas GFCM/CAQ” is a project in support to the activities of the GFCM Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) which is co-funded by the European Commission DG-MARE. The SHoCMed project aims to produce criteria for enhancing the integration of aquaculture into coastal zone management by improving site selection and holding capacity and identifying environmental quality standards and reference points

² The AZE is an area around the farm which is expected to become impacted by farming activities (Cromey & Black 2005). The AZE is a concept used in some countries (in the immediate vicinity of the farms).

WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABILITY IN AQUACULTURE (WGSA)

9. The WGSA will mainly concentrate on implementing the activities of InDAM³ following the indication given during the third CMWG (Rome, February 2010, GFCM/CAQ/VII/2011/Inf.7) reported to the 34th Commission of the GFCM and further updated at its November 2010 workshop (GFCM/CAQ/VII/2011/Inf.16), with emphasis on the implementation of pilot studies and assess the indicators and relative reference points, standards and guidelines preparation.

10. The funds for the InDAM project are annually provided on the basis of the achievements and workplan that are yearly based.

11. Full information on the workplan is available in the *InDAM: Narrative report of the first year of activities* (GFCM/CAQ/VII/2011/Inf.17), and in the *Report of the WGSA-InDAM expert meeting on definition of regional minimum set of indicators for sustainable aquaculture, 25–26 November 2010, St. George's Bay, Malta* (GFCM/CAQ/VII/2011/Inf.16).

12. In particular, the activities of the InDAM Project for 2011-2012 will include:

The establishment of a consensus on the definition of “sustainability” of aquaculture development in the Mediterranean within the framework of an ecosystem approach to aquaculture, in particular:

- Implementation of Pilot Studies for the selection of indicators on aquaculture at local level (Spain and Morocco);
- Organisation of a regional meeting of the WGSA on the pilot case studies.

The collection and regular update of relevant documentation on aquaculture sustainability, the identification and development of synergies between other projects related to sustainable development of aquaculture, in particular:

- Implementation of a programme for the dissemination of InDAM results, outputs and documentation;
- Finalisation and publication of the document “Indicators for Sustainable Development of Mediterranean Aquaculture (WGSA - InDAM first year)”.
- Development of synergies with relevant projects related to sustainable development of Aquaculture.

The cooperation of WGSA with other Mediterranean initiatives focused on indicators for sustainable finfish marine cages aquaculture will be further strengthened. Such as the initiatives carried out by IUCN and FOESA - the Spanish Aquaculture Observatory Foundation (the project *Mediterrane-On*).

The establishment of the most suitable and workable sets of indicators and reference points guiding the sustainable development of Mediterranean aquaculture are established (as a result of regional multidisciplinary cooperation and feedback from stakeholders), in particular:

- Preparation of guidelines on the application of indicators for sustainable aquaculture, according to the methodologies applied and to the agreed schemes;

³ InDAM “*Indicators for Sustainable Development of Aquaculture and Guidelines for their use in the Mediterranean (InDAM) GFCM/CAQ*” is a project in support to the activities of the GFCM Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) which is co-funded by the European Commission DG-MARE. The InDAM project aims to establish a regional reference system for the development of sustainable marine aquaculture in the Mediterranean using indicators (governors, social-economy and environment) and its integration into coastal zone management.

- Assessment of the indicators reference system at local level: follow up of the second step for the pilot case studies carried out in the first year of InDAM (Turkey and Tunisia).

WORKING GROUP ON MARKETING IN AQUACULTURE (WGMA)

13. The activities of the WGMA for the 2011-2012 will focus on the follow up of the project MedAquaMarket⁴ concluded in September 2010, further updated at its November 2010 workshop (GFCM/CAQ/VII/2011/Inf.14), focused on the preparation of project proposal, and on the promotion of cooperation of the CAQ – WGMA and Producer Organisations (POs). It will include the following:

Promotion and dissemination of responsible aquaculture practices in the Mediterranean in order to improve dialogue between farmers and society on the image of aquaculture.

- Preparation of a workshop on Responsible Aquaculture Practices for Mediterranean based on the more recent and available guidelines and indicators for sustainable aquaculture;
- Preparation of the proposal of a project to improve the image of aquaculture production and products in the Mediterranean region, including pilot actions, proposals to organize training/workshops on Responsible Aquaculture Practices with the cooperation of national authorities and POs.

Promotion and improvement of the role of Producers' Organizations in development of sustainable aquaculture in the Mediterranean.

- Preparation of a review of legislation and present status of POs in GFCM member countries and drafting recommendations to promote the role of POs;
- Organisation of a workshop with the participation of POs to discuss and finalise the recommendations and with the aim of strengthening the cooperation among the CAQ subsidiary bodies and the Mediterranean POs.

Design and incorporation of a Regional Marketing database on finfish marine aquaculture products in the SIPAM Information System according to the decision taken during the twelfth annual session (GFCM/CAQ/VII/2011/Inf.10)

MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL LAGOONS MANAGEMENT: INTERACTIONS BETWEEN AQUACULTURE AND CAPTURE FISHERIES (LaMed-2)

14. The activities of the project LaMed-2⁵ for 2011-2012 will focus on: to gathering information on Mediterranean coastal lagoons based on the identified standard template, and focused also on related interactions among aquaculture, capture fisheries and the environment; the establishment of the experts network on coastal lagoons; the organisation of the regional workshop for the identification of priorities and guidelines. In particular the activities considered are described in details below.

⁴ MedAquaMarket Project in "Support to the GFCM-CAQ Working Group on Marketing of Aquaculture Products: Development of a Strategy for Marketing and Promotion of Mediterranean Aquaculture" MTF/INT/943/MUL is operative since April 2008. The project is funded by the Spanish Government (Secretaría General de Pesca, Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación).

⁵ The project Mediterranean Coastal Lagoons Management: Interactions between Aquaculture and Capture Fisheries is one of the two components of the larger project LaMed "Strengthening cooperation on fisheries and aquaculture management in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea" prepared by the GFCM Secretariat and funded by the Directorate General for Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Italian Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry Policies.

Support regional cooperation on lagoon management and interactions between aquaculture and capture fisheries through the establishment of a network of experts on Mediterranean coastal lagoons, in particular:

- Identification of target groups and experts, together with design of the best strategy for the establishment of a network of experts on Mediterranean coastal lagoons;
- Organisation of a workshop on Lagoon Management and interactions between aquaculture and capture fisheries.

Progress towards the understanding of the interactions between aquaculture and capture fisheries through an inventory of Mediterranean coastal lagoons

- Compilation of the reports of Mediterranean coastal lagoons and collection of available data on their geographical location, physical characteristics; description of hydraulic and land management; abiotic characteristics of the water column and of the sediments; biocenosis of the lagoon systems.
- Collection of available information: on aquaculture and capture fisheries activities carried out in the coastal lagoons; on the present management strategies, and on the interactions between aquaculture/capture fisheries activities and the environment. In particular: restocking activities; fishing gears used (nets, traps, fish weirs); culture facilities and cultured species; professional skills and employment; production (historic series when available); local coastal lagoon products.
- Description of the other human activities in the coastal areas and in the lagoon areas that can interact with aquaculture and capture fisheries, such as recreational activities, tourism and others;

Preparation of reviews based on the data collected in the national reports, related to coastal lagoon management, (aquaculture and fishing activities in Mediterranean coastal lagoons and the interactions between them and with the environment, other uses of Mediterranean coastal lagoons, socio economic aspects on aquaculture and other related and integrated activities, legal framework on the management of coastal lagoons with particular reference to the aquaculture capture fisheries activities, environmental monitoring and assessment;

- Preparation of a review and identification of a scheme to study the economic green accounting and ecological service in lagoon areas.

Guidelines for a sustainable management of coastal lagoons

- Identification of priorities for the definition of guidelines for a sustainable management of coastal lagoons;
- Identification of indicators for the sustainable development of aquaculture and capture fisheries activities within coastal lagoons;
- Preparation of draft guidelines on the development of sustainable aquaculture activities in Mediterranean coastal lagoons.

INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR THE PROMOTION OF AQUACULTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN - SIPAM

15. The SIPAM activities will follow-up on the priorities identified at its 12th Annual session held in November 2010, Malta, GFCM/CAQ/VII/2011/Inf.10. The activities for 2011-2012 will include as follows:

- Cleaning and validation of the Production Statistics data already present in SIPAM
- Push Member Countries for the registration in SIPAM of all the National Coordinators (NC) and contact national authorities to nominate their NC where missing;

- Release the new data-entry portal for the Production Centres (if adopted by the Commission);
- Release the new data-entry portal for the Market Data (if adopted by the Commission);
- Amend the Production Statistics data-entry form to allow for the submission of data for capture-based products and to report data by Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) Statistical Area (if adopted by the Commission);
- Update the “*Production Statistics - Quick Start Guide for National Coordinators*” by taking into consideration the proposed amendments;
- Release the “*Production Centres - Quick Start Guide for National Coordinators*”;
- Release the draft SIPAM Aquaculture bulletin on an annual basis to be presented at the GFCM/ COC annual session;
- Maintain and improve the SIPAM aquaculture web portal in all its sections, including the sub-portals of the CAQ Working Groups and the related projects.

The SIPAM alert email system presented during the 12th Annual session will be regularly delivered according to indication given by the fourth session on the CMWG.

MEETINGS

16. The list of proposed meetings is summarised in Appendix I.

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

17. The activities indicated above will continue to be carried out through strengthened cooperation and coordination with CAQ partners, especially FOESA, IUCN and with the project AquaMed⁶ as well as with other relevant programmes and projects, networks and institutions involved in Mediterranean aquaculture. Cooperation with CIHEAM, EUROFISH and FEAP will be re-launched.

18. It is assumed that in accordance with the relevant provisions of the GFCM Agreement, Members will ensure technical and scientific contributions from relevant national experts and institutions to the work of the Working Groups. Stronger inputs from the FAO Regional Projects, such as on the issue of interaction between fisheries and aquaculture, would represent an additional asset and support for implementing the CAQ workplan at sub-regional level. In particular the synergies with the AdriaMed project will continue on the different issues related to the aquaculture in the participating countries (data collection; environmental monitoring, interaction aquaculture and capture fisheries)

SUGGESTED ACTIONS BY THE COMMITTEE

19. The Committee is invited to discuss the proposed programme of work for the intersessional period 2011 – 2012 with regards to the subsidiary bodies and related activities in support to the Committee on Aquaculture.

⁶ AquaMed is a project titled “The future of research on Aquaculture in the Mediterranean region” within the Seventh EU Framework Programme including 18 partners and associated partners from 16 European and non-European countries from the Mediterranean Region. Funded by the European Commission Seventh Framework Programme.

Appendix I

2011/2012 MEETINGS

TITLE	PERIOD	PLACE
Workshop Mediterrane-On: Indicators for sea cages sustainability (FOESA)	15-17 June 2011	Geneva, Switzerland
LaMed-2 – Meeting on the Interaction between aquaculture and capture fisheries in Mediterranean coastal lagoons	27-30 June 2011	Rome, Italy
AquaMed – 2 nd Workshop Future of research on aquaculture in the Mediterranean region (Data bases, research mapping and priorities)	October 2011	Rhodes, Greece
WGSC – SHoCMed Workshop on the definition and environmental monitoring within Allowable Zone of Effect (AZE) of aquaculture activities within the Mediterranean countries	November 2011	TBD
WGSA – InDAM Regional workshop on the pilot case studies and guidelines and application of sustainable indicators in aquaculture	November 2011	Seville, Spain
SIPAM – 13th Annual Meeting	December 2011	Salerno, Italy
CMWG – Sixth Coordination Meeting of the Working Groups of CAQ	TBD	TBD

This list does not include the list of the meetings on WGSA-InDAM local Pilot Studies that will be carried out at local level with the support of the Secretariat. These include:

- WGSA-DAP-FOESA. InDAM Pilot Action in Spain on the identification of indicators for sustainable aquaculture, April 2011, Malaga (Spain);
- WGSA-INRH-InDAM Pilot Action on the identification of indicators for sustainable aquaculture, September 2011, M'diq (Morocco).

Also, the list does not include meetings and workshops that WGMA could organise according to the project proposal and eventually be funded according to donor availability.