



**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

**REVIEW OF THE MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
THIRTY-THIRD AND THIRTY-FOURTH SESSIONS OF GFCM
CONCERNING AQUACULTURE**

INTRODUCTION

1. Two sessions of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) have been convened since the sixth session of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ), held in Tirana, Albania 17-19 December 2008. In this paper are summarized the main decisions and guidance provided by the Commission in relation to the CAQ 2009-2010 intersessional period, as provided respectively in documents GFCM/CAQ/VII/2011/Inf.5 and GFCM/CAQ/VII/2011/Inf.6.

GFCM – THIRTY-THIRD SESSION

2. At its Thirty-third session (Tunisia, 23-27 March 2009), the Commission reviewed the report of the Sixth session of CAQ and endorsed the suggestions of the Committee, with special attention to the activities of its subsidiary bodies and in particular with the activities related to the data collection on aquaculture.

3. The Commission expressed its satisfaction for the work carried out by the CAQ during the intersessional period and furthermore agreed that the CAQ should pay attention on the aspects related on species diversification and explore this field particularly in relation to meagre. It also acknowledged the desire of some delegations for increased funding for training in aquaculture. Finally, the Commission appreciated the fruitful cooperation with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) especially on issues related to aquaculture sustainability, site selection and carrying capacity; this cooperation should also be considered as a follow up to the Memoranda of Understanding between the GFCM and IUCN signed during the Thirty-second session of the Commission (Italy, 25–29 February 2008).

4. The Commission discussed on the importance of the availability of aquaculture statistics and fully supported the proposal of CAQ for establishing the aquaculture data reporting scheme and the generation of regional dynamic statistics approach can contribute to management processes.
5. The Commission discussed a proposal related to the reporting on aquaculture data and agreed to adopt it as binding *Recommendation on reporting of aquaculture data and information* quoted GFCM/33/2009/4. In this, data should be submitted through the SIPAM information system, on the mandatory basis
6. The Commission also discussed the frequency of the sessions of the CAQ and agreed to maintain biannual sessions and to establish the length of mandate of the CAQ bureau to four years.
7. The CAQ's request to revitalize its work on lagoon management, particularly in view of the strong interactions between capture fisheries and aquaculture in these areas, has been acknowledged by the Commission.
8. The Commission also agreed on the work plan for the forthcoming intersessional period mainly based on the ongoing projects funded by the European Union (EU) and the Spanish Government in support of the three CAQ Working Groups and SIPAM.

GFCM THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

9. At its Thirty-fourth session (Greece, 12-17 April 2010),² the Chair of CAQ informed the Commission on the activities carried out by the subsidiary bodies of the Committee and of the Secretariat. These activities related to follow-up on the CAQ work plan were approved during the Thirty-third session of GFCM and were presented the main achievements of the activities carried out during the intersessional period carried out by the CAQ Subsidiary bodies
10. Delegates expressed their satisfaction for the work done and for the extensive activities carried out by the CAQ. They recalled that the aquaculture sector in the Mediterranean countries plays an important role in increasing the production of fisheries products. Delegates recalled also that the priorities identified and considerations made by the CAQ are the most emerging topics within the aquaculture development agenda and that any recommendation should be considered within a strategic coastal zone planning context.
11. The Commission highlighted the relevance of the indicators for sustainable aquaculture and of the two cases study implemented by the CAQ. She also expressed her interest in the follow up of these activities through the production of guidelines.
12. During the session, the Chair of the CAQ reported on the advice summarized by the CMWG on Mediterranean aquaculture which, among other matters, includes: the integration of aquaculture into coastal zone management, the harmonisation of legal site selection and licensing procedure, the establishment of a sustainable reference system for aquaculture development, the promotion of market oriented production and the improvement of data collection.
13. Delegates fully supported the recommendation made by the CAQ in relation to the development of strategic multi-user coastal zone management plans and environmental monitoring. They stressed the role of GFCM as a regional fisheries management organization in promoting the sustainable development of aquaculture in its Convention Area.

14. Considering the advices given by SIPAM meeting and the fourth CAQ-CMWG, a suggestion for the amendment of proposal for Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/4 on reporting of aquaculture data and information was tabled by the Chairperson of CAQ. Since the Commission did not have enough time to review the proposed amendments, it was decided to postpone the decision on the matter to the Thirty-fifth Session.
15. Delegates acknowledged the methodology applied by the CAQ Working Groups based on specific outputs and a project-based approach that can assist countries in the development of sustainable aquaculture.
16. Delegates expressed their interest to convene a joint meeting between SAC and CAQ as it has been recalled in several occasions by the Commission. They saw the opportunity for promotion of participation of fisheries scientists on a workshop on lagoon management and interaction between aquaculture and capture fisheries.
17. The Commission thanked the donors, namely Spain, EU and Italy for the funds provided for CAQ related activities.
18. The Commission also welcomed the new project including a component on “Lagoon management and the interaction between aquaculture and capture fisheries” and expressed its gratitude to the Italian government for funding the project.
19. Delegates discussed the impact of alien species on aquaculture and the impact of the culture of exotic species on the autochthonous species and the environment, and considered these issues as a common point for possible cooperation between the CAQ and the SAC. It was also suggested that another point of common interest between the two subsidiary bodies could be common priority species such as eels.
20. The Commission also agreed on the work plan for the forthcoming intersessional period as proposed by the CAQ.