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**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**

**Report of the Fourth Coordinating Meeting of the Working Groups  
(CMWG)  
St. George's Bay, Malta, 27 November 2010**

**(Draft)**

**OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ARRANGEMENTS**

1. The CAQ CMWG was held in St. George's Bay, Malta, on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010, following the sessions of the four Subsidiary bodies of the CAQ, namely Working Group on Marketing on Aquaculture products (WGMA), World Group on Site Selection and Carrying Capacity (WGSC), Working Group on Sustainability on Aquaculture (WGSA) and Information System for the Promotion on Aquaculture on Mediterranean (SIPAM). The First Vice Chairperson of CAQ, François René, opened the meeting, thanked CMWG members and invited experts for their attendance. The Agenda as well as list of participants are attached respectively as Appendix A and Appendix B.

2. The Chairperson highlighted the recent successful outcomes of the Working Groups (WGs) of CAQ: in particular he emphasized the aspects related to the decision taken during the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the CAQ (Santiago de Compostela, 2006). He also reminded that in order to improve the activities of the subsidiary bodies of the CAQ the participation and the strengthening of the cooperation with the farmers and more generally with the stakeholders involved in Mediterranean aquaculture activities is of extreme importance. The positive cooperation with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) was taken as example.

3. Mr. Fabio Massa, Aquaculture Officer and Technical Secretary of the CAQ, welcomed the participants and informed them on the working documents of the meeting made available for discussion. He also alluded to the fact that within the CAQ, for the first time, the meetings of all the subsidiary bodies were carried out at the same place and in the same

period, as it is the case during this week in Malta. He recalled that this decision was also taken as a follow up of the 3<sup>rd</sup> CMWG in which it was considered advisable both the venues and the organization of meetings of the different subsidiary bodies during the same week to maximize the efficiency of the organization and take advantage of the experts availability in particular for the aspects related to the interdisciplinary of the different programmes carried by the CAQ.

4. The GFCM Aquaculture Officer presented the agenda and provided additional information about the status of the project in support to the activities of the CAQ. He informed that the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of activities of the SHoCMed and InDAM projects are operative respectively from 24<sup>th</sup> September 2010 and 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010. The project related to the “Mediterranean coastal lagoon management: interaction between aquaculture and capture fisheries” (LaMed) is also operative since 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010, whereas the MedAquaMarket project has been recently concluded.

5. The Chairperson congratulated the organization and considered this experience as positive. He expressed some concern about the delay in the implementation of the second year of InDAM that caused the absence of some key experts who could have given addition technical contribution to the meetings. The need for the enhancement of the administrative procedures essential for the implementation of the project activities between the opening and the closures of the yearly activities and guarantee the follow up was stressed

6. The CMWG remarked the positive aspects for having the CAQ meetings back to back, also noted the need for an enhancement of the CMWG organization. It was agreed that the main results of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies should be made available prior to the CMWG.

## **REVIEW OF THE MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF CAQ**

7. The Chairperson invited the Coordinators of the CAQ subsidiary bodies and the GFCM Secretariat to present the main conclusions, recommendations and work plan of the activities in support to the CAQ.

### *WGMA*

8. The Coordinator of the WGMA, Mr. Ferit Rad, presented the results, the main conclusions and the proposed work plan of the meeting organized jointly with SIPAM on the “Marketing data scheme and data collection for sustainable aquaculture”. He remarked that the work carried out by WGMA was possible thanks to the support given by the MedAquaMarket project that set out a qualitative analysis of market along quantitative assessment as essential for the management of aquaculture. Since the end of the MedAquaMarket project, it is difficult for the WGMA to continue to operate and guarantee the follow up of the decision taken, due the nature of the WGMA itself.

The WGMA proposed the preparation of two other projects:

- One dealing with promotion and dissemination of responsible aquaculture practices to contribute to image building in Mediterranean aquaculture

- The other one focusing on an assessment of Producer Organizations (PO) in GFCM region and the role which POs can play with regard to market promotion and stabilizing supply and prices patterns in Mediterranean aquaculture

9. The CMWG recalled the role of Producer Organizations in regulating supply and price and in improving the image of aquaculture products. The role that POs may also play in the data collection process was also remarked, recalling that the meeting recently organized within the WGSC and WGSAs dealt with the participation of POs and farmer representatives that provided a constructive information and inputs to the results of the meetings. The CMWG suggested that the CAQ subsidiary bodies as a whole should improve the cooperation with POs also by strengthening the cooperation with the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) and other regional entities representing the aquaculture POs in the Mediterranean.

10. In consideration of the discussion made, the CMWG considered that the activities of the WGMA could be divided into two main categories: one related to the marketing data collection, data dissemination, the issue of statistics and information system; the other one is more related to the image improving of aquaculture products, to the concept of sustainable aquaculture and focused on the economic dimension of the sustainability itself.

11. The CMWG endorsed the two project proposals presented by the WGMA coordinator and suggested to submit them as a format brief conceptual note during the seventh session of CAQ.

#### *WGSAs (InDAM)*

12. The results of the meeting of the WGSAs were presented by Mr. Pablo Avila, coordinating the activities of this WG, who illustrated the main recommendations and the work plan for the next period based on the activities of the InDAM project. He reported on the discussion raised during the meeting and focused on two main issues, one related to the identification of the minimum set of indicators for the Mediterranean region and the other on the implementation of the new pilot studies and the follow up of the previous ones. In particular he reported the discussion on the difficulty in which dimensions allocate some specific indicators.

13. Mr. Pablo Avila reported also on the discussion on the execution of the Turkish and Tunisian pilot studies second step. The WGSAs clearly expressed that they will not be implemented to evaluate the sustainability of the aquaculture development in that area/countries but will be focused on assessment of selected indicators

14. The CMWG recalled that the aspects related to the indicators is the follow up of the decision taken during the fourth CAQ, but should be considered within the general framework of the sustainability in the application of some provisions of the Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries. It was also recalled that within the GFCM a Consultation (FAO-HQ - 1999) was carried out to discuss the applications of principles of the Art. 9 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in Mediterranean countries. As follow up among the actions proposed, a series of activities were identified in support of a better understanding of the criteria and techniques for sustainable aquaculture such as the design of indicators of sustainability for production systems.

15. In this respect and in respect to the discussion undertaken during the WGSA, the CMWG suggested to make a clear distinction between the indicators for sustainable aquaculture at regional Mediterranean scale and indicators for the implementation of pilot studies at local scale.

16. The indicators for *Regional Scale* should be considered as “*milestones*” in support to the countries to guide management in monitoring the development of sustainable aquaculture with normative considerations and consequently within the general framework of the governance also if some of them are more oriented to one or other dimensions. For this reason for the *Regional scale* of indicators the CMWG considered appropriate to take into consideration only the indicators strictly related to Governance, Governance Environmental oriented, Governance Economic oriented and Governance Social oriented. For these reasons, it was also considered that the regional indicators should not go into too many details.

17. As far as *Pilot studies* are concerned, the CMWG confirmed the WGSA approach to have at local level a first step following the Principles Criteria Indicators (PCI) approach aimed at receiving feedback or inputs from the selected indicators. At present, interest in the implementation of the introduction of pilot studies was expressed by Morocco and Spain. The CMWG considered that the second step of a pilot study will represent the follow up of the activities carried out in Mugla, Turkey, and Monastir, Tunisia, and clearly stated that the second step of the pilot studies is aimed at assessing the selected indicators on the basis of the selected attributes (transparency, consistency, understandability, etc.). In both cases the methodologies of the pilot studies should be adapted at country or local level not to measure the sustainability of aquaculture in a specific place. At local level the number of indicators should also be increased or decreased according to the requirement expressed by the stakeholders at local level.

18. The CMWG recalled also that the local *pilot studies* are aimed among other at improving communication between farmers and society and will serve to share knowledge and experience at local level. For the implementation of the pilot studies within InDAM during 2011 different meetings will be organized in Morocco, Spain, Turkey and Tunisia, with a final meeting in Spain that will be carried out presumably in October 2011.

#### WGSC (SHoCMed)

19. The Coordinator of the WGSC Mr. Ioannis Karakassis presented the conclusion and the recommendation of the WGSC – SHoCMed meeting on “Environmental Quality Standards for marine fish farms”. He recalled the main achievements made by the WGSC related to site selection procedures and licensing, and on the definition and adoption of the Allocation Zones for Aquaculture (AZA) (the outcome of the meeting carried out in Seville were presented by Mr. Pablo Avila). He recalled the lack of Environmental Quality Standards (EQSs) for monitoring the environment surrounding aquaculture facilities and the variability of monitoring practices corresponding to precise and stated Environmental Quality Objectives (EQOs). He mentioned that the WGSC during the discussion following a Delphi approach and that a second round of discussion is scheduled for the next period. The relevance of the introduction of allowable zone of effects or mixing zone (AZE) for the monitoring of the environment surrounding the adoption of the AZE. This concept is used for the environmental

monitoring in the immediate vicinity of the farms and the area in which it is expected to be affected by the fish farm.

20. The coordinator also stressed the participation and contribution given during the meetings by the attendance to the WGSC of the stakeholders and in particular of the administrative regulators.

21. The CMWG acknowledged the progress made on the AZA definition and reviews, to facilitate and develop aquaculture activities into the coastal zone including the licensing process and procedures and more in general as tool at disposal of the country.

22. The CMWG acknowledged the use of the Delphi exercise before and during the meeting as it facilitated discussion during the meeting and in future will allow a large number of experts from the Mediterranean countries in a discussion process on some specific relevant topics on sustainable aquaculture.

23. Finally in consideration that the concept of AZE in the monitoring the environment in the area surrounding the fish farms could be considered new, the CMWG suggested to the SHoCMed project to prepare short technical notes to be circulated among the experts.

#### *SIPAM*

24. Mr. Matthew Camilleri, from the GFCM secretariat and on behalf of the coordinator of SIPAM Mr. Mohamed Hadj Ali Salem, presented the results, recommendation and work plan of the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the SIPAM. He focused the attention on the countries representation and within the production statistics on the improvement of the quality data availability on SIPAM including the national summary and the preparation of tailor made report.

25. The CMWG expressed its satisfaction for the service and support given by the SIPAM Web platform to the different Working Groups of CAQ and for the advance made on the different sections, now the utility of SIPAM portal is something tangible. It noted the positive service given by the SIPAM email alert system and suggested to use this tool also for the other subsidiary bodies of the CAQ in order to share the information on the outputs, achievements and knowledge among Mediterranean experts.

26. The CMWG recalled that according to the GFCM Recommendation, data should be submitted through SIPAM by the National Coordinator. As sometimes the National Coordinator could changed between two annual sessions, the CMWG suggested for the next SIPAM session to plan a one day training, dedicated to the use of the system and in particular to data entry and data retrieving.

#### *Mediterranean coastal lagoons management: interactions between aquaculture and capture (LaMed Lagoon component)*

27. Mr. Fabio Massa informed the CMWG about the status of implementation of the *LaMed* (Lagoon component) project, aimed at exploring the main issues dealing with interactions between aquaculture and capture fisheries (IACF) in Mediterranean coastal

lagoons, towards a sustainable management of these environments. The section on lagoons is one of the two components of the wider project “Strengthening cooperation on fisheries and aquaculture management in the Mediterranean and the Black sea”, which also includes another component, focused on “Fisheries laws and regulations in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea”. The project is operative since 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009 and is funded by the Italian government.

28. The CMWG was informed the project during this phase the Secretariat has been preparing a review on the main issues concerning Mediterranean coastal lagoons and is establishing a network of experts on Mediterranean coastal lagoons throughout the Region, in order to compile an inventory of Mediterranean coastal lagoons according to a template document.

29. As the establishment of this network has not been finalized yet, and only a few experts have been identified, the first project workshop, previously planned for February 2011, has been postponed to early summer 2011. The terms of reference of this workshop still remain those already indicated at the 3<sup>rd</sup> CMWG.

#### **COOPERATION OF THE CAQ AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND OTHER MEDITERRANEAN INITIATIVES AQUACULTURE ACTIVITIES INCLUDING NATIONAL RESEARCH INITIATIVES**

30. Mr. François René introduced this point of the agenda and recalled the consideration made during the previous CMWG: The cooperation of the subsidiary bodies of the CAQ with other Mediterranean initiatives on sustainable aquaculture should be further investigated in particular for those in which the GFCM could be a beneficiary through the CAQ. The presentation of the results of these initiatives should be introduced during the different activities of the CAQ subsidiary bodies and further participation to such initiatives of experts will also improve the activities of the CAQ in terms of advice for the management of sustainable aquaculture in the Mediterranean area.

31. Ms. Cristina Garcia Diez, from Spanish Aquaculture Observatory Foundation (FOESA), a platform in support to the administration, to the farmers, consumers and more in general stakeholders of analysis and assessment of sustainable development of aquaculture and international cooperation, presented the main components of FOESA based on dissemination of information and results on aquaculture, training, data bases and pilot actions. She focused on the FOESA Project “Mediterranean-on” for the identification and implementation of indicators for monitoring the sustainable development of aquaculture. The GFCM Secretariat attended the first meeting of Mediterranean-on held in Madrid (June 2010) during which cooperation with FOESA was established, in particular for the aspects related to the indicators for sustainable aquaculture and for those related to the InDAM project.

32. The CMWG suggested to strengthen the cooperation of the WGSA with FOESA, and it was considered to identify actions to share the data bases information on the main aquaculture subjects information between the SIPAM portal and FOESA. The WGSA-InDAM pilot action in Spain could be made in cooperation with FOESA Mediterranean-on and the Spanish local authority in Andalucía that has given already their support to the SHoCMed initiative during the AZA meeting (Seville, October 2010). The final meeting of the second year of InDAM could also be organized jointly in October 2011 in Spain, in which

the results of the different pilot initiatives on indicators for sustainable aquaculture will be presented. FOESA made its bulletin (two thousand readers) available to disseminate mutual initiatives and results.

33. The chair recalled the initiatives of the AquaMed Project funded within the Seventh Framework Programme of European Union (EU), focused on the establishment of a platform of research activities in aquaculture. The GFCM-CAQ, through the Secretariat observer partner and member of the Coordination Committee, attended the kick-off meeting of AquaMed held in Barcelona in July 2010. This initiative, covering most Mediterranean countries, has established a cooperation with many research institutions from the members countries. AquaMed contains several work packages, the outputs of which can be useful for the CAQ activities, such as the work on monitoring research institutions and research projects on aquaculture within the Mediterranean region.

34. The CMWG suggested to increase the cooperation with AquaMed, that the CAQ will continue to follow up the main relevant initiatives, and that the coordinator of AquaMed will be invited to the next session of the CAQ to formally present the initiative.

35. The CMWG recalled on some of the main research programmes at national and regional level dealing with issues related to the interaction between environment and aquaculture, aquaculture technologies; certification and ichthyopathology, new species, and other.

36. The CMWG discussed that, in the Mediterranean countries, there is a number of applied research activities at national and regional level and the results of which could be relevant for setting management objectives, standards and reference points. The dissemination of results within the CAQ subsidiary bodies can provide additional contribution on scientific cooperation and additional inputs for management advice toward the development of sustainable aquaculture.

37. In this respect whilst noting that during the recent meetings of the Working Groups the participation from projects and experts has been increased, the CMWG stressed that additional effort should be made by the Coordinators, partners and Secretariat, to increase the scientific contribution of the experts to the CAQ subsidiary bodies. Coordinators and Secretariat were also invited to identify key issues and *modus operandi* to strengthen the cooperation between the CAQ (through the subsidiary bodies) and the Mediterranean research programmes and research institutions. The CMWG also agreed that for the next CAQ session, each country should prepare a short report, summarizing the main research initiatives at national level, in particular those related to regional priorities and those showing the results which could interested the CAQ in sharing knowledge, cooperation and results.

38. As an example, the Junta Nacional de Cultivos Marinos (JACUMAR) is a joint initiative supported by the National Ministry of Marine and Rural Affairs (MARM) of Spain in which all Spanish regions with aquaculture competences propose joint research activities to support the development of aquaculture on the different regions.

## **ISSUES RELATED WITH THE CAQ SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND RELATED PROGRAMMED INITIATIVES**

39. The positive aspects of the ongoing structure of the CAQ Subsidiary bodies were evocated by the CMWG. Thanks to the “*ad hoc Working Group*” and “*project oriented*” and upon funds availability, it was possible to guarantee a regular discussion on specific issues, a significant number of information were gathered, experts network established and these permitted to CAQ to formulate specific advice and recommendation for management purposes.

40. However, the CMWG concurred with the consideration made by the WGMA, as the project will end and the ongoing structure will not guarantee continuity and follow up to the priorities identified, with the risk to vanish the results obtained. Within the ongoing structure there are some difficulties in opening the discussion to other relevant issues for Mediterranean aquaculture, related to sustainability (such as disease spreads, new technology, traceability and certification), that should be addressed by the CAQ. The participation to the CAQ activities is still limited and experts, research institutions and projects should be encouraged in participating to the CAQ activities, contributing with their expertise and scientific knowledge on sustainable aquaculture. The activities of the CAQ should be interested by a middle layer of subsidiary bodies in which the two main issues of sustainability and information priorities of aquaculture could be recognized.

41. The CMWG considered that an updated *modus operandi* should be discussed during the next CAQ session, according to the strengths and weaknesses identified during this period and according to a strategic framework for the development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean region.

## **THE REFERENCE FRAME AND THE MEDIUM TERM STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CAQ**

42. The CMWG acknowledged the progress and the achievements made by the subsidiary bodies of the CAQ on the different priorities identified and emphasized that this has been possible thanks to the frame established during the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the CAQ (Santiago de Compostela, 2006) in which some aspects on sustainable aspects and leading to the current structure of the of the CAQ were identified.

43. Furthermore the CMWG recalled that during the 3<sup>rd</sup> CMWG a series of priority issues for the development of marine aquaculture in the Mediterranean area were discussed and recommendations formulated. These recommendations deal with: approach toward a sustainable development of aquaculture; normative and legislatives aspects; aquaculture regional priorities; monitoring and assessing environmental impact and interaction of aquaculture activities with the other activities in the coastal zones; economic and marketing priorities; and data collection and reporting.

44. CMWG considered that the recommendations made remained still valid and unchanged and that these should be reported to the CAQ accompanied with the new indication recently given by the CAQ subsidiary bodies. These recommendations jointly with the new emerging issues related to the recent needs of sustainable management of aquaculture



should serve as basis for a new reference frame toward a strategic plan for the development of aquaculture in Mediterranean area.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE FOURTH CMWG

45. Furthermore specific aspects for improving the coordination of the work of subsidiary bodies are summed up and reported below:

- it was agreed that the main results of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies should be made available prior the CMWG (at least half a day before) to improve the quality of the discussion;
- the CAQ subsidiary bodies should improve the cooperation with producer organizations in order to improve the quality of data analysis and assessment on production and marketing;
- the two project proposals (promotion and dissemination of responsible aquaculture and the improvement of the image of aquaculture production presented by the WGMA) should be submitted and presented as a format brief conceptual notes during the seventh session of CAQ for appraisal and for possible identification of source of funds;
- for the common indicators of sustainable aquaculture at *Regional scale* only the indicators strictly related to Governance, Governance Environmental oriented, Governance Economic oriented and Governance Social oriented should be taken into consideration;
- for the implementation of the *pilot studies* within InDAM during the 2011 different meetings and actions will be organized in Morocco, Spain, Turkey and Tunisia, with a final meeting for presentation of results in Spain (presumably in October 2011);
- the Delphi method used before and during the WGSC-SHoCMed meeting facilitated the expert discussion, could be used also for the other subsidiary bodies in allowing a large number of experts in a discussion process on some specific topics;
- the concept of AZE, as a new concept within in the monitoring the environment in the area surrounding the fish farms should be reported in a short technical note to be circulated among the experts;
- the SIPAM email alert system should be used as tool of communication also for the other CAQ subsidiary bodies;
- the next annual session of SIPAM a one day training should be dedicated to the use of the system and in particular to data entry and data retrieving;
- the cooperation of the CAQ-WGSA with FOESA should be strengthened and in particular on the indicators for sustainable aquaculture, for the implementation of pilot studies and for the identification of actions to share the data bases information on the main aquaculture issues;
- additional effort should be made by the Coordinators, partners and Secretariat, to increase the scientific contribution of the experts to the CAQ subsidiary bodies;

- for the next CAQ session, each countries should prepare a short report, summarizing the main research initiatives on aquaculture at national level;
- continue to follow the main relevant initiatives of AquaMed and invite the coordinator to present such initiative to the next session of the CAQ;
- the CMWG considered that an updated *modus operandi* should be discussed to the next session of the CAQ

The general recommendations and workplans have been adopted as indicated by the different subsidiary bodies

46. The CMWG and the coordinators on behalf of the respective subsidiary bodies thanked the Minister of ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs, the Malta Aquaculture Research Centre and Maltese authorities and institutions for the hospitality for the excellent organization provided that enable to have a very successful meeting.

**Appendix I****Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting and arrangements
2. Review of the main conclusions and recommendations of the Sub Committees
3. Cooperation of the CAQ and its subsidiary bodies and other Mediterranean initiatives aquaculture activities including national research initiatives
4. The reference frame and the medium term strategic plan for the CAQ
5. Issues related with the CAQ Subsidiary bodies and related programmed initiatives
6. Conclusion and recommendation of the fourth CMWG
7. Any other matters
8. Adoption of the conclusion
9. Closure of the meeting

## Appendix II

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