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



Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ)

Eighth session

Paris, France 13–15 March 2013

Executive report on intersessional activities, recommendations and work plan (2013 – 2014) of the CAQ and its subsidiary bodies

INTRODUCTION

1. This document summarizes the activities of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) between March 2011 and February 2013. It provides an overview of the most significant activities carried out and approved by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) during its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions (see GFCM/CAQ/VIII/2013/Inf.4 and GFCM/CAQ/VIII/2013/Inf.5), of the recommendations emanating from the CAQ subsidiary bodies, including the fifth session of the Coordinating Meeting of the Working Groups (CMWG), and of the proposed 2013–2014 work plan for the CAQ.

2. It should be reminded that the CAQ sessions are organized on a biannual basis and that the activities carried out by the CAQ and its subsidiary bodies during and after the previous session have already been presented to the thirty-sixth session of the GFCM, in May 2012. They are reported here for the sake of clarity and in order to avoid any gap of information to the CAQ Members.

ACTIVITIES OF THE CAQ DURING THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD (March 2011 – February 2013)

3. The seventh session of the CAQ of the GFCM was held in Rome, Italy (8–10 March 2011, see GFCM/CAQ/VIII/2013/Inf.3) and it was followed by the meetings of the Working Groups on Site Selection and Carrying Capacity (WGSC), on Sustainability in Aquaculture (WGSA), on Marketing of Aquaculture Products (WGMA), and on the Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean Countries (SIPAM). The outputs of the working groups and projects in support to the CAQ activities have been discussed and reviewed during the fifth session of the Coordinating Meeting of the Working Groups (CMWG) (Rome, March 2012 – see GFCM/CAQ/VIII/2013/Inf.6).

4. The list of meetings is hereunder summarized and followed by the main conclusions:
- Pilot study in Spain (step one) on the identification of indicators for sustainable aquaculture (Puerta Santa Maria, 23–25 May 2011);
 - Meeting on the interaction between aquaculture and capture fisheries (IACF) in Mediterranean coastal lagoons in Italy (Cagliari, 28–30 June 2011);
 - Pilot Project in Tunisia (step two) for the assessment of selected indicators for sustainable aquaculture (11 June 2011; 28 September 2011; 11 October–3 November 2011);
 - Pilot study in Turkey (step two) for the assessment of selected indicators for sustainable aquaculture (Muğla, 21–22 September 2011);
 - Pilot study in Morocco (step one) on the identification of indicators for sustainable aquaculture (M'diq, 26–27 October 2011);
 - Regional workshop on the pilot case studies and guidelines and application of sustainable indicators in aquaculture in Spain (Malaga, 14–16 November 2011);
 - Workshop on the definition and environmental monitoring of aquaculture activities within allowable zones of effect (AZE) in Spain (Malaga, 16–18 November 2011);
 - Contribution to the First meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on the Black Sea (WGBS) in Romania (Constanta, 16–18 January 2012);
 - Thirteenth session of the SIPAM in Italy (Salerno, 1–3 February 2012);
 - Fifth session of the Coordination Meeting of the Working Groups (CMWG) in Italy (Rome, 7–9 March 2012);
 - Training Workshop on site selection, allocated zones for aquaculture and site management for coastal marine aquaculture in Morocco (M'diq, 4–7 February 2013);
 - Meeting on Environmental monitoring scheme for the Mediterranean and Black Sea marine aquaculture activities in Morocco (M'diq, 8 February 2013);
 - Training Workshop on site selection, allocated zones for aquaculture and site management for coastal marine aquaculture in Turkey (Trabzon, 18–21 February 2013);
 - Meeting on Black Sea aquaculture species diversification in Turkey (Trabzon, 21–22 February 2013).

KEY ASPECTS OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CAQ

5. The seventh session of the CAQ reviewed the status and trends of Mediterranean aquaculture, the implementation and main outcomes of projects in support to the CAQ activities and discussed the activities and outcomes of the CAQ subsidiary bodies.

6. The CAQ examined the main priority issues of marine and brackish Mediterranean aquaculture and highlighted research and development activities carried out by the GFCM Members. The Committee recommended in particular that a sustainable reference framework for Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture be established. It stressed that specific regulations and simplification of licensing procedures for aquaculture should be implemented, and it provided specific management advice for a harmonized implementation of allocated zones for aquaculture (AZA) in the countries. In this regard, the CAQ also recommended the implementation of an environmental monitoring programme in areas surrounding aquaculture activities.

7. The Committee acknowledged the importance of research work carried out by national research institutions and the need to disseminate results and identified priorities, including spatial planning, fish pathology, culture of new species and optimization of new technologies aiming at enhancing aquaculture production. Furthermore, the Committee suggested that a reporting system be

formally established by the Members using a standard template, to be defined, to report on aquaculture research and development activities.

8. The Committee discussed the main conclusions and recommendations emerging from the performance review, namely: the need to identify strategic issues for the development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions in order to establish priorities for the work plan; the necessity to clarify the role and the organization of the CAQ and its subsidiary bodies; and the need to keep strengthening collaboration with other networks, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations and to focus attention on the important priority issues already identified.

9. As a main follow-up of the performance review recommendations, the Commission launched in 2012 its first Strategic Framework Programme (FWP) 2013–2018 (see GFCM/CAQ/VIII/2013/Inf.14 and related paragraph) as a tool to make the GFCM more functional. The FWP provides a flexible yet robust platform to pursue sustainable development and cooperation in the Mediterranean and Black Sea whereby ongoing and future projects under CAQ are included. Furthermore, the GFCM has established the Working Group on the Black Sea, which works on both aspects of capture fisheries and aquaculture (WGBS – see GFCM/CAQ/VIII/2013/Inf.17 and related paragraph).

10. The Committee examined some amendments to the Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/4 on Reporting on Aquaculture Data and Information. Finally, the CAQ agreed upon the work plan for 2011–2012 and elected its new Bureau.

MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABILITY IN AQUACULTURE (WGSA)

11. The activities of the WGSA were implemented within the European Union (EU) co-funded project on “Indicators for Sustainable Development of Aquaculture and Guidelines for their use in the Mediterranean (InDAM)”. InDAM Year 2 ended in December 2011 and its third year of implementation started in January 2013. InDAM addressed the following: (i) assessment of the identified indicators reference system and follow-up on pilot studies (Tunisia and Turkey step 2), and implementation of new pilot studies in Morocco and Spain (step 1); (ii) preparation of the Guide on indicators for sustainable aquaculture in the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries; (iii) update of the database hosted on the SIPAM website and dissemination of InDAM results; (iv) strengthening and consolidation of cooperation on sustainable aquaculture; preparation of pilot studies in Montenegro (step 1), in Spain and Morocco (step 2) and in Tunisia (step 3) in 2013.

12. The meeting on the pilot case studies for guidelines and application of sustainable indicators in aquaculture (Malaga, Spain, 14–16 November 2011) dealt with the following: (i) sharing experience on indicators for the development of sustainable Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture; (ii) refining the selection of a minimum number of regional indicators for each pillar of sustainability (economic, environmental and social); (iii) discussions on the relevance and definition of reference points; (iv) identification of steps forward for the future pilot studies; (v) advice for the finalization of the guide on indicators.

13. Major achievements of the WGSA during the intersessional period, also thanks to the InDAM project, encompass several aspects related to the sustainability of aquaculture, in particular:

- Refinement of a highly participatory methodology to select indicators: the basket of 14 principles, 67 criteria and 156 indicators identified by InDAM could represent a starting point for further selection processes;
- Execution of pilot studies at different steps as a key element in the process of awareness-raising on aquaculture sustainability and in fine-tuning a list of indicators for sustainable aquaculture with the identification of reference points and the testing of their practical applicability;

- Downscale at national and local level of awareness-raising on aquaculture sustainability: the participatory multi-stakeholder consensus-based process (co-construction approach) and the ecosystem approach to aquaculture (EAA) employed for the selection of indicators as well as the use of the Delphi method during pilot studies have proven to be flexible and cost-effective tools to achieve strong consensus among experts, providing results in real time;
- Identification of regional indicators: InDAM was instrumental to identify a minimum number of indicators for each pillar of sustainability to be applied at regional level;
- Publication on Indicators for sustainable aquaculture in Mediterranean and Black Sea countries. Guide for the use of indicators to monitor sustainable development of aquaculture, within the GFCM Studies and Reviews series n. 93 (see GFCM/CAQ/VIII/2013/Dma.1).

MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP ON SITE SELECTION AND CARRYING CAPACITY (WGSC)

14. The activities of the WGSC were implemented within the project on “Developing site selection and carrying capacity for Mediterranean aquaculture within aquaculture appropriate areas” (SHoCMed). SHoCMed Year 2 ended in December 2011 and the third year started in January 2013. SHoCMed addressed the following: (i) preparation of a guide for the establishment of allocated zones for aquaculture (AZA); (ii) preparation of a draft glossary on site selection and carrying capacity; (iii) Delphi exercise on environmental quality standards (EQS); (iv) preparation of a review on allowable zones of effect (AZE); (v) two Training Workshops on Site selection, allocated zones for aquaculture and site management for coastal marine aquaculture; (vi) harmonization exercises of the environmental monitoring system in the GFCM area;

15. The Workshop on the definition and environmental monitoring within allowable zones of effect (AZE) (Malaga, Spain, 16–18 November 2011 – see GFCM/CAQ/VIII/2013/Inf.18) reviewed and agreed upon a glossary related to AZE and selected a number of environmental quality standards (EQS) parameters to be used within an aquaculture environmental monitoring programme.

16. The following technical documents were prepared: Establishment of allocated zones for aquaculture (AZA); Guide for establishing coastal zones dedicated to aquaculture in Mediterranean countries, to be published within the GFCM Studies and Reviews series (advanced draft); Environmental quality standards for Mediterranean marine finfish farming: a Delphi approach; and allowable zones of effect for Mediterranean marine aquaculture.

17. In February 2013, two training workshops on Site selection, allocated zones for aquaculture and site management for coastal marine aquaculture were organized, in cooperation with local institutes and organizations and with FAO, and delivered in Morocco and Turkey (the latter in cooperation with the WGBS – see Par. 31). These trainings aimed at supporting member countries in the understanding of basic concepts related to AZA and of steps to be undertaken for their establishment. This activity was also in line with Action A of the GFCM FWP “Supporting the establishment of AZA”.

18. The meeting on Environmental monitoring scheme for Mediterranean and Black Sea marine aquaculture activities (M’diq, Morocco, 7–8 February 2013) discussed key aspects related to the setting-up of an environmental monitoring scheme and related guidelines for aquaculture in the GFCM area, with specific attention to environmental quality standards (EQS);

19. Major achievements of the WGSC during the intersessional period, also thanks to SHoCMed project, could be cursorily summarized as follows:

- Regional awareness-raising: thanks to the contribution of the SHoCMed project, it is now commonly acknowledged that site selection and carrying capacity in aquaculture still remain one of the main constrains for the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean region, and there is now more awareness of concepts such as AZA, AZE, EQS and their relationships;

- Follow-up of the work and scientific cooperation established within the GFCM and within the framework of activities carried out by the WGSC, which substantially converged towards the definition and adoption of a specific GFCM Resolution on AZA: the Resolution RES/36/2012/1 on Guidelines for allocated zones for aquaculture was adopted at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission;
- Definition of environmental quality standard (EQS) variables to monitor finfish marine aquaculture as a result of meetings, Delphi exercises driven by experts and round discussions: a list of nine EQS variables was identified to set up an aquaculture environmental monitoring programme which should at least include the following:
 1. Total organic matter in sediments (%);
 2. Total nitrogen in sediments (%);
 3. Redox potential Eh (mV);
 4. Percentage of capitellid polychaetes over macrofaunal biomass (%);
 5. Gas bubbles;
 6. Dissolved oxygen (mg/l);
 7. Turbidity (m);
 8. Percentage of silt/clay in sediments (%);
 9. Litter surrounding area.
- Strengthened cooperation in Mediterranean on the interaction between aquaculture and environment: the network of Mediterranean experts established during the first year of the SHoCMed project was further consolidated and strengthened in its capacity to share and exchange experiences related to site selection and carrying capacity for sustainable aquaculture development, with particular reference to environment.

MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR THE PROMOTION OF AQUACULTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN (SIPAM)

20. Since the seventh session of the CAQ, the activities carried out by SIPAM were reviewed during the thirteenth SIPAM annual meeting held in Salerno, Italy, from 1–3 February 2012 (see GFCM/CAQ/VIII/2013/Inf.8).
21. The main activities carried out by SIPAM are hereafter summarized:
- Improvements were made to the IT components of the SIPAM information system addressing production statistics and data submission following the requirements of Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/6 and referred to: statistical area and data meta-analysis; national summaries and tailor-made reports; PDF receipt submission system; and capture-based aquaculture.
 - SIPAM Data entry forms on production centres were released according to Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/6 to report details on the number of centres, structures, volume, species farmed and destinations;
 - Production statistics prior to 2008 hosted by SIPAM were reviewed and formatted for major homogeneity and consistence;
 - The Quick Start Guide for National Coordinators (see GFCM/CAQ/VIII/2013/Inf.15) was updated to include two ad hoc sections on production statistics and on production centres data submission process;
 - The SIPAM portal on GFCM aquaculture was improved with the release of new thematic pages dedicated to coastal lagoons;

- A prototype system for data consultation of SIPAM production statistics, to be accessed by registered users (including focal points), was designed and released using as a basis the Crystal-Xelsius dashboard designer.
- Preliminary discussions were launched with AquaMed for sharing their project database (focusing on research in aquaculture in partner countries) and the GFCM SIPAM database. The initiative is being presented at the eighth CAQ session.

22. Regarding the submission of aquaculture data and information through the SIPAM information system and since the adoption of Recommendations GFCM/33/2009/4 and GFCM/35/2011/6, the summary situation (year, country, records) is the following:

- 2008: 15 countries, 326 records
- 2009: 16 countries, 364 records
- 2010: 17 countries, 401 records
- 2011: 13 countries, 292 records (submission still ongoing)

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

23. The project “Mediterranean coastal lagoons management: interactions between aquaculture and capture fisheries” (LaMed-2) started in September 2010. It 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” implemented by the GFCM Secretariat and funded by the Directorate General for Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Italian Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry Policies.

24. LaMed-2 has been instrumental in the establishment of a network of experts on coastal lagoons in the Mediterranean region, tasked to compile profiles for all the country’s coastal lagoons, to organize fact sheets for selected coastal lagoons, and to prepare country reports on coastal lagoons.

25. A meeting on Mediterranean coastal lagoons management: interaction between aquaculture and capture fisheries was held in Cagliari, Italy, from 28–30 June 2011 (see GFCM/CAQ/VIII/2013/Inf.20). The meeting was attended by many regional experts and addressed several issues related to coastal lagoons, including: biodiversity and conservation, stock enhancement, nursery areas, eel stock management, and environmental and economic issues. The meeting highlighted key critical points and formulated relevant priorities to pursue sustainable management of coastal lagoons, acknowledging that an integrated plan of action for the sustainable development of aquaculture and capture fisheries in coastal lagoons within the GFCM area was urgently needed.

26. The knowledge, data and experience gathered through the project was distilled into the document “Mediterranean coastal lagoons: sustainable management and interactions among aquaculture, capture fisheries and environment” to be published within the GFCM Studies and Reviews series.

MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP ON MARKETING ON AQUACULTURE (WGMA)

27. The main activities implemented by the WGMA were carried out in close cooperation with WGSMA and SIPAM. For the former, the main initiative was the participation to pilot studies within the framework of the InDAM project and work related to indicators in the economic dimension: identification of methodology; data collection for performance assessment; preparation of methodology sheets; and participation in the identification of regional economic indicators.

28. The WGMA highlighted the essential role played by aquaculture farmers’ organizations, stressing their crucial importance for the sector and identifying a series of activities. As follow-up to the MedAquaMarket project, a preliminary survey on aquaculture farmers’ organizations is ongoing. The

regional survey is implemented in cooperation with the International Organisation for the Development of Fisheries in Eastern and Central Europe (EUROFISH) and with the support of the SIPAM national focal points, producers' organizations, and other relevant experts and national contact points already cooperating with the GFCM. The initiative represents a preliminary assessment of aquaculture producers' organizations of farmers and farmers' organizations in the GFCM member countries.

MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE BLACK SEA (WGBS) REFERRED TO AQUACULTURE

29. The First meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on the Black Sea (WGBS) was held in Constanta, Romania, from 16–18 January 2012 (see GFCM/CAQ/VIII/2013/Inf.17). The meeting provided a general overview of fisheries and aquaculture in the Black Sea region and concurred on the importance of brackish water and marine aquaculture to increase fisheries production in the area, taking into account the availability of water resources and suitable environmental characteristics. The WGBS addressed the main constraints for achieving an appropriate development of aquaculture and identified priority needs for developing the sector in the Black Sea countries.

30. The Training Workshop on Site selection, allocated zones for aquaculture and site management for coastal marine aquaculture was held at the Central Fisheries Research Institute in Trabzon (Turkey) from 18–21 February 2013. Participants were introduced to the main aspects related to establishing AZA and to spatial planning systems or zoning carried out at local or national level; they were also informed about the potential of AZAs, as management tools, to prevent conflicts with other uses of the coastal zones in order to enable aquaculture planning.

31. In parallel to this Training Workshop, a back-to-back meeting on Black Sea aquaculture species diversification was held from 21–22 February 2013 in Trabzon, Turkey. The main objective of the meeting was to introduce participants to the concepts of species diversification in aquaculture within the Black Sea region, technical aspects of animal husbandry and potential markets.

MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE COORDINATION MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUPS (CMWG)

32. Since the seventh session of the CAQ, the outcomes of the Working Groups have been reviewed during the fifth Coordination Meeting of the Working Groups (CMWG) which was held at the GFCM headquarters in Rome, Italy, from 7–9 March 2012 (see GFCM/CAQ/VIII/2013/Inf.6).

33. The fifth meeting of the CMWG synthesized, reviewed and discussed the main outputs obtained by the Working Groups and SIPAM during 2011. The CMWG presented and discussed a preliminary programme for 2012–2013 and examined the one agreed upon by the CAQ at its seventh session (Rome, Italy, 2011). The CMWG discussed some priority issues for regional aquaculture development and within the first GFCM Framework Programme (2013–2018).

34. The CMWG also made a synthesis of the recommendations issued by the CAQ subsidiary bodies about developing strategy and management advice on Mediterranean aquaculture, as summarized hereunder:

- Sustainability of aquaculture: The regional indicators for sustainable aquaculture identified and selected for the different dimensions of sustainability (economic, environmental and social) should be adopted at regional level and considered as a tool at the disposal of GFCM countries for planning and monitoring the state of development of sustainable aquaculture.
- Site selection and carrying capacity: For marine fish cages aquaculture, environmental monitoring programmes should be considered and implemented in the areas surrounding the fish farms, or in the immediate vicinity of the farms called “allowable zone of effect” (AZE).

- Coastal lagoon management: Guidelines for a management plan for Mediterranean coastal lagoons should be proposed to reflect the priorities, conclusions and recommendations issued by the GFCM-CAQ-LaMed meeting on interactions between aquaculture and capture fisheries in Mediterranean coastal lagoons (Cagliari, 28-30 June 2011 – GFCM).
- SIPAM reporting on aquaculture data: All aquaculture data of GFCM Countries stored in the SIPAM system should be accessible to all National Coordinators (NCs), irrespective of their nationality, to foster and increase cooperation among countries. Although aquaculture data collection improved considerably in the last years, underestimation, lack of accuracy and unreporting still occur, especially in those areas affected by notable misreporting. The issues of unreported aquaculture need to be properly addressed. The Terms of Reference for the SIPAM NCs should be updated according to the rules required by aquaculture data submission. Additional formal efforts should be placed to finalize the registration of all SIPAM NCs and ensure a timely data submission to the GFCM through SIPAM also according to the technical requirements specified in the Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/6.
- Priority issue on farmers and producers' organizations: in consideration of the important role played at different levels by the farmers and producers' organizations in regulating markets, producers' organizations and farmers' needs and priorities should be supported.
- Priority issue on certification and traceability in aquaculture: support should be granted to member countries in dealing with certification and aquaculture; POs and farmers' organizations could play a key role in promoting aquaculture certification (see GFCM/CAQ/VIII/2013/Inf.13).
- Priority issue on aquatic animal health and biosecurity: the following issues should be considered at Mediterranean and Black Sea level: i) collection of information on aquatic animal programmes; legislation and policy; emergency plans; diagnostic; quarantine and inspection services; disease surveillance; monitoring and reporting; national pathogen lists in GFCM countries, and ii) the means to implement them through supporting the development of a work plan (see GFCM/CAQ/VIII/2013/Inf.12).
- Priority issue on genetics in aquaculture: the following issues should be timely considered in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region: (i) research activities on the genetic characterisation of the most important cultured species in the Mediterranean region; (ii) traceability of cultured stocks; (iii) guidelines for aquaculture practices that minimize the genetic impact of aquaculture activities (use of local broodstock, use of new technologies to minimize escape events, alien species, etc.); and (iv) selective breeding programmes.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE CAQ

35. The GFCM Secretariat attended the Sub-regional Workshop on aquaculture in North African countries, organized by FAO and the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture in Monastir (Tunisia) from 8–11 October 2012. The workshop reviewed the current situation of aquaculture development and related policies in the sub-region of Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia, addressed the main issues affecting the sector and identified possible actions to be undertaken. Areas of cooperation between FAO Sub-regional office for North Africa (SNEA) and the GFCM were identified, including support to training on AZA in Morocco (February 2013) and the exchange of information on aquaculture activities in the sub-region.

36. As part of CAQ work, the GFCM Secretariat participated in the Workshop “Bridging the gap between ocean acidification impacts and economic valuation: Ocean acidification impacts on fisheries and aquaculture economics and industries” organized by the Monaco Scientific Centre and the International Atomic Energy Agency and held at the Principality of Monaco from 11–13 November 2012. The objective of the workshop was to understand the level of risk and the resilience or vulnerability of defined regions of the world oceans in terms of fishery species and economic impacts, and to identify pathways of effects and social adaptation. Conclusions and recommendations were to be

distilled and conveyed to policy-makers to assist in implementing adaptation measures including specific actions based upon regional characteristics.

37. The First meeting of the Concerted Action for Lebanon was held at the GFCM premises from 3–4 December 2012 following a request for technical assistance introduced to GFCM by Lebanon. The meeting generated a proposal for a roadmap to implement consistent and integrated intervention identifying priorities for the medium term (2013–2018), including support to sustainable development of aquaculture and other issues related to capture fisheries.

THE FIRST FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE BLACK SEA

38. In 2012, the Commission launched its First Strategic Framework Programme (FWP – see GFCM/CAQ/VIII/2013/Inf.14) as a tool to enhance the functionality of GFCM whilst providing adequate support to activities launched under the GFCM Task Force and aimed at modernizing the legal and institutional framework of the Commission. The FWP has been envisaged as a platform to promote sustainable development and cooperation in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea through multi-annual and multi-donor arrangements. It will also strengthen intra-institutional cooperation and coordination in matters relating to marine capture fisheries and aquaculture at regional level through the implementation of five work programmes, including on “Promoting the role of aquaculture for food security and economic growth”.

39. For each work programme, specific ad hoc and output-oriented work packages will be identified and implemented by the GFCM Secretariat, in close collaboration with interested GFCM Members, institutional coordinators and donors that might express their interest, partner organizations and FAO Regional Projects. Within the aquaculture work programme, the following five actions were identified:

- A. Supporting the establishment of allocated zones for aquaculture (AZAs);
- B. Assessing the current status and trends of farms and of the marketing capability of aquaculture products;
- C. Enhancing regional and national capacity on quality certification and traceability of aquaculture products;
- D. Improving capacity in veterinary, disease control and biosecurity for aquaculture production; and
- E. Enhancing traditional extensive aquaculture management in coastal lagoons.

DESIGNATION OF COORDINATORS OF THE CAQ SUBSIDIARY BODIES

40. The CMWG acknowledged the nomination of Mr Pablo Àvila (Spain), Mr Ioannis Karakassis (Greece), Mr Mohamed Hadj Ali Salem (Tunisia) and Mr Ferit Rad (Turkey), as coordinators of the WGSA, WGSC, SIPAM and WGMA respectively, for two years according to the rules and procedures of the GFCM subsidiary bodies.

OTHER ISSUES

41. During the thirty-sixth session of the GFCM (see GFCM/CAQ/VIII/2013/Inf.5), a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the International Organisation for the Development of Fisheries in Eastern and Central Europe (EUROFISH) and the GFCM was signed. This MoU aims at establishing a broader cooperation and, in particular, collaboration on the collection of statistics,

dissemination of information and joint research with reference to capture fisheries and aquaculture. As a follow-up, the GFCM and EUROFISH have commenced a preliminary survey on aquaculture farmers' organizations.

MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AQUACULTURE MANAGEMENT

42. The main conclusions reported to the GFCM and the main recommendations endorsed by the Commission at its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions of GFCM are reported hereunder.

43. At its thirty-fifth session, the Commission amended Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/4 on reporting of aquaculture data and information to include the collection of parameters related to capture-based products, Coordinating Working Party (CWP) statistical areas, production centres and market data, according to the scheme developed by the WGMA.

44. At the thirty-sixth sessions of GFCM, the CAQ reported the main conclusions and suggestions related to Mediterranean aquaculture management, focusing on the following:

- The implementation of AZA for marine cage culture should be confirmed as a priority and aquaculture environmental monitoring programmes should be implemented in the areas surrounding the fish farms, also called “allowable zone of effect”.
- Regional indicators should be adopted at regional level and considered as a tool at the disposal of GFCM Members to plan and monitor the progress of the development of sustainable aquaculture.
- Guidelines for a Management Plan for Mediterranean coastal lagoons should be elaborated to address the conservation of traditional aquaculture and artisanal capture fisheries, the prevention of any further degradation of coastal lagoons and the restoration of the environment.
- The Commission reiterated that allocating specific zones for aquaculture would be beneficial to the sector at national and regional levels and adopted the Resolution RES/36/2012/1 on Guidelines on allocated zones for aquaculture (AZA).
- The GFCM would have to provide support to its Members in the development of AZAs and, considering the need of capacity-building, assist them at the national level.
- The Commission, upon advice on aquaculture management issues, gave mandate to the GFCM Secretariat and to the CAQ to continue the preparation of specific guidelines on: sustainable indicators; environmental monitoring of aquaculture activities and management of coastal lagoons.

PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME 2013–2014

Work plan of the Working Group on Sustainability on Aquaculture (WGSA)

- Identify reference points and standards for selected indicators;
- Implement new pilot studies in cooperation with partners; test the indicators reference system at the local level and implement a communication and dissemination strategy;
- Identify a strategy for the involvement of interested parties in the use of indicators.

Work plan of the Working Group on Site Selection and Carrying Capacity (WGSC)

- Organize a regional workshop on the definition of reference points for EQS and monitoring aquaculture;
- Implement a programme for the dissemination of the technical results and outcomes of SHoCMed activities on AZA;

- Establish an IT forum platform on site selection and carrying capacity for data sharing within the WGSC;
- Carry out an EQS calibration exercise and set up a database;
- Prepare a harmonized monitoring scheme for the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

Work plan of the Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM)

- Integrate SIPAM activities and databases within the GFCM Working Group on Black Sea;
- Reactivate the “Research and Development Programmes” databank and cooperate with other relevant regional data banks on aquaculture for data sharing, in cooperation with projects and partners;

Work plan on Lagoon management and interaction between aquaculture and capture fisheries

- Identify indicators for the sustainable development of aquaculture and capture fisheries activities within coastal lagoons;
- Continue the updating of the database on the coastal lagoons based on country reports and data sheets prepared within the LaMed -2 project and made available on the web.

Work plan of the Working Group on Marketing of Aquaculture Products (WGMA)

- Work with WGSA on the indicators and reference points for sustainable aquaculture related to economic and marketing issues;
- Work with SIPAM on aquaculture marketing data and issues related to data surveys on economic aspects;
- Finalize, in cooperation with partners of the regional survey, and prepare a review of the legislation and present status of producers’ organizations and farmers’ organizations in the GFCM member countries;
- Cooperate in the organization of a scientific and technical conference on Mediterranean aquaculture (Bizerte, Tunisia 11–14 June 2013) on a “Market oriented approach to sustain the development of Mediterranean”.

Work plan of the Working Group on Black Sea (WGBS) (aquaculture component)

- Organize a workshop/training on classification and zoning for mollusk culture as well as certification protocols (Black Sea);
- Implement regional initiatives to harmonize the environmental monitoring programme on aquaculture in AZA;
- Undertake pilot studies for coastal aquaculture projects (including new species for aquaculture and new technologies).

Other priorities issues identified by the CMWG:

- Carry out a regional survey on aquatic animal health and biosecurity on aquaculture;
- Carry out a regional survey on the main aspects related to certification and traceability in aquaculture.
- Finalize the aquaculture project proposals considered within the First GFCM Framework Programme in support to sustainable development of capture fisheries and aquaculture.

Meetings and trainings scheduled for 2013–2014

TITLE	PERIOD	PLACE
WGSA – WGMA - InDAM - Workshops on the identification of reference points for social and economic indicators on aquaculture	November 2013	TBD
WGSA – WGSC – InDAM - SHoCMed Workshops on the identification of reference points for environmental indicators on aquaculture	November 2013	TBD
WGSA – InDAM – AdriaMed Pilot action Step 1 in Montenegro on implementation of Indicators for sustainable indicators	July 2013	TBD
WGSA – InDAM – Pilot action in Tunisia Step 3 on implementation of Indicators for sustainable indicators	June 2013	Monastir (Tunisia)
Sixth Coordination Meeting of the Working Groups of CAQ	November 2014	TBD

This list does not include the follow-up meetings of the CAQ-InDAM for the pilot studies in Morocco and Spain, to be carried out in cooperation with the national partners, nor does it include meetings with GFCM partners within ongoing and future cooperation.

It is assumed that in accordance with the relevant provisions of the GFCM Agreement, Members will guarantee 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 work plan at the sub-regional level. In particular, synergies with the AdriaMed project will continue on different issues related to aquaculture in the participating countries (data collection; environmental monitoring, interaction between aquaculture and capture fisheries, and indicators).