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COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE (CAQ)

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Short notes on SIPAM intersessional activities (2012)

INTRODUCTION

1. This document summarizes the activities of the Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM) between February between March 2012 and February 2013 as a follow-up of the thirteenth SIPAM session of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) held in Salerno, Italy, from 1 to 3 February 2012. 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-sixth sessions (see 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). Moreover the document includes actions which have been undertaken in line with the decisions taken by the Committee of Compliance (CoC) at its sixth session (see Appendix J of GFCM/CAQ/VIII/2013/Inf.5) in order to grant access to aquaculture data production available in the SIPAM system to national coordinators and third parties upon registration.

SIPAM PRODUCTION STATISTICS

2. Once the IT improvements have been successfully achieved in 2011–2012 (namely the new data entry platform, national summaries, tailor-made reports, receipt submission system, matrix-based data meta-analysis tool), the core of the work on the production statistics database has entailed a series of actions aiming at improving data quality for a major homogeneity and consistence. These activities have also served as a basis for the release of the template for the first GFCM aquaculture statistical yearbook.

Data checking, validation and historical revision

3. With the aim of improving the SIPAM database on aquaculture production statistics, an in-depth revision of the historical dataset was performed. In particular, the work was carried out following two different approaches. Up to the reference year 2008, i.e. before the entry into force of the first GFCM Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/6 on reporting of aquaculture data and information, the data were reviewed and integrated by the Secretariat on the basis of the following sources of information:

- a) Synthesis of Mediterranean marine finfish aquaculture – A marketing and promotion strategy (GFCM Studies and Reviews No. 88),
- b) Present market situation and prospects of meagre (*Argyrosomus regius*), as an emerging species in Mediterranean aquaculture (GFCM Studies and Reviews No. 89),
- c) FAO aquaculture production data.

4. The missing datasets for the reference years 2008, 2009 and 2010 were provided by the National Coordinators with the exception of four GFCM members (Israel, Lebanon, Libya and Syria) whose series were integrated by the Secretariat with data taken from the FAO aquaculture production database.

5. The total number of records integrated in SIPAM was 1867 whereas 639 were the records reviewed for their consistency and 106 the records directly provided by National Coordinators.

Online data consultation

6. In line with the decision made by the Committee of Compliance (CoC) at its sixth session, 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-Xcelsius dashboard designer. Through this online tool it is possible to easily consult and print the following aquaculture production statistics:

- reference year 2010 by country with filtering facility (type of environment and statistical area)
- time series 1990–2010 by country.

The information was made available for consultation with a printing facility prior authentication of the user through the SIPAM web portal.

GFCM Aquaculture statistical yearbook

7. The template for the first GFCM Aquaculture statistical yearbook (2010) was released on the basis of the proposal presented, discussed and agreed at the thirteen SIPAM session of the Committee on Aquaculture (February 2012). The publication aimed at providing the main information related to the aquaculture production of each member country in the Mediterranean and Black Sea area. The preparatory work for this yearbook was the revision of the production statistics, including the correction and completion of dataset currently hosted in SIPAM (as described in par. 3 and 4). The publication is organized in two sections:

- The first section provides an overview of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture production for the reference year 2010 together with trends over the last twenty years broken down by environment, groups and number of species. The production by type of structure of cultured used (ponds, raceway, etc.) is taken into consideration as well as for the year 2010. This document also contains a complete list of farmed species in the GFCM area mentioning their volume and value for 2010. The last part of this section focuses on the production of the main farmed taxa (such as gilthead seabream, European seabass, salmonids, cyprinids, mullets and meagre). Regarding the production of freshwater species, in certain cases brackish waters are included as well.
- The second section provides information on the production data of each GFCM country. The data are referred mainly to production for human consumption, broken down by environment, groups, type of structure of culture. Where available, data on trade trends, fry and fingerlings production are reported as well in order to give a more complete image of the countries' aquaculture sector. The country sections are not homogeneous; indeed, information varies according to the material provided to GFCM by the countries through SIPAM and to the different characteristics of regional aquaculture.

8. Once the final template is agreed, the first GFCM Aquaculture statistical yearbook would be further implemented in close collaboration with National Coordinators for its final release and dissemination as appropriate.

Data submission status

9. 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 clearly shows an increasing of members' compliance. The situation in numbers (year, records, country) is the following:

- 2008: 326 records, 15 countries
(Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey)
- 2009: 364 records, 16 countries
(Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey)
- 2010: 401 records, 17 countries
(Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey)
- 2011: 292 records, 13 countries (submission still ongoing)
(Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey)

SIPAM PRODUCTION CENTRES AND MARKET

10. After the release of the new SIPAM production centres data entry component, in 2011–2012, in line with the recommendation GFCM/35/2011/6, the Secretariat has put a disposal of the National Coordinators an online workspace to facilitate discussion on the type of information as well as the level of aggregation. The submission of the requested information is currently under a testing phase and five countries are participating in this activity.

11. Interactions between National Coordinator and the Secretariat regarding the submission of market parameters (feed, fishmeal and fish oil; trade and consumption) is ongoing in order to better define a proper data schema in compliance with Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/6.

MAINTAINANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE SIPAM AQUACULTURE WEB PORTAL (CAQ WORKING GROUPS AND PROJECTS INCLUDED)

12. All the sections of the SIPAM web portal (www.faosipam.org) have been improved and maintained for a better organization, therefore facilitating the consultation by users of information on topics related to aquaculture issues.

13. In particular, the web section of the Working Group of Marketing on Aquaculture Products (WGMA) was enhanced by updating the demographic database (population size, growth rate and age structure; income and expenditure: summary) and releasing the online preliminary survey on

aquaculture farmers' organizations as a follow-up to the MedAquaMarket¹ project. This regional survey was implemented in cooperation with the International Organization 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 represented a preliminary assessment of aquaculture producers' organizations of farmers and farmers' organizations in the GFCM member countries.

SIPAM QUICK START GUIDE FOR NATIONAL COORDINATORS

14. The Quick Start Guide for National Coordinators has been updated in its three sections (capture based production, production statistics, production centres) and made available online through the SIPAM website.

GFCM WORKING GROUP ON BLACK SEA

15. In the light of the integration of SIPAM activities on aquaculture data statistics with the GFCM Working Group on Black Sea, cooperation with Bulgaria and Romania has been strengthened thus implying the submission of their national production statistics in SIPAM.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

16. The SIPAM production database and system were presented at the Sub-regional Workshop on aquaculture in North African countries, organized by the FAO Sub-regional office for North Africa (SNEA) and the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture in Monastir (Tunisia, October 2012).

17. The SIPAM system was also presented at the fourth AquaMed meeting (Italy, November 2012) and preliminary discussions were launched with AquaMed in order to integrate data from their project database (focusing on research in aquaculture in partner countries) into the GFCM SIPAM database.

¹ The 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 was executed from April 2008 to June 2010, and has been completed in September 2010.