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**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION
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GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

Sixth Session

Tirana, Albania, 17-19 December 2008

**REPORT OF THE SECOND COORDINATING MEETING OF THE
WORKING GROUPS (CMWG)
Rome, Italy, 3 September 2008**

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The Second Coordinating Meeting of the Working Groups (CMWG) of the GFCM Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) was held at the FAO Headquarters on 3 September 2008. The list of participants is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.
2. Mr Spyros Klaudatos, the Chair of the CAQ and of the CMWG opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He stressed the importance of the meeting and of the role played by the three Working Groups (aquaculture marketing, sustainability, and siting and carrying capacity) in support of the CAQ.
3. He further recalled that the activities of the working groups, with the exception of the WG on marketing of aquaculture, are still not consolidated, mainly due to a lack of funds. However progress was made on siting and carrying capacity for aquaculture thanks to cooperation developed with the IUCN. He highlighted that a clarification on the concept of sustainability for Mediterranean aquaculture is still required. The Agenda as adopted is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
4. The GFCM Executive Secretary welcomed the participants and recalled that at the First Coordination meeting, held in November 2006, project proposals and objectives were defined for the CAQ ad hoc working groups. The CMWG was established to ensure the coordination of the scientific activities of CAQ as indicated in Rules X (Committees, working groups and

other subsidiary bodies) of the GFCM Rules of Procedures, confirmed during the 32nd session of the GFCM. The 2008 programme of work for CAQ was also endorsed by the Commission at its last session.

5. He also confirmed that there have been some delays in starting the aquaculture projects respectively on Indicators of Sustainability (INDAM) and on Siting and Carrying Capacity (SHOCMED), which are expected to be funded by the European Commission. In this respect the Secretariat pursued efforts for collaboration with the competent units in the EC to ensure an acceptable format for launching the projects.
6. Furthermore the Executive Secretary informed that responses from the CAQ member countries to officially nominate or confirm the national Focal Points for CAQ and SIPAM are still limited; it was also recalled that Mr Fabio Massa was selected as GFCM Aquaculture Officer and acting Technical Secretary of the CAQ in April 2008.
7. The Vice-chair of the CAQ emphasised the new structure and functioning of the Committee as outcome of the 5th session (Santiago de Compostela, Spain, June 2006) in which a constructive discussion was held to have a common vision of some aspects of aquaculture and sustainability leading to the current new structure. More flexible in the organisation of the tasks, it considers the cooperation with other relevant institution as essential for the achievement of each one of the objectives of the Working Groups, such as the cooperation with IUCN on the issues of siting and carrying capacity.

2. REVIEW AND FOLLOW-UP OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUPS

8. The Secretariat updated the participants on the activities of the Working Groups, in particular concerning the implementation of the project proposals in support of the meeting of the Working Groups planned for the next months.
9. WG on marketing on aquaculture (WGMA). The Project entitled “Support to the GFCM Working Group on Marketing of Aquaculture Products: Development of a Strategy for Marketing and Promotion of Mediterranean Aquaculture” funded by Spain (Secretaría General de Pesca, Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación) has been operative since April 2008 and an International Expert has been hired for the whole duration of the project. In cooperation with the Coordinator of the WGMA, Mr Ferit Rad, a draft of a standard annotated outline for a country review on marketing was prepared. This is expected to lead to the preparation of an up-to-date Mediterranean report on the marketing of aquaculture products. In addition, and in order to promote the establishment of a network of experts in marketing, the project was presented during the Annual General Meeting of the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers - FEAP (Gran Canaria, Spain May 2008) and at the IUCN workshop on the preparation of Guidelines for the Sustainable Development of Mediterranean Aquaculture (Hammamet, Tunisia June 2008). Furthermore the Secretariat is working on the preparation of the functional structure of the marketing database for its future inclusion in the GFCM information system for aquaculture (SIPAM) that should be discussed at the forthcoming SIPAM meeting.
10. The CMWG acknowledged the progress made on the project activities, noting in particular that at the moment this is the only operative project in support of the working groups. The CMWG also recalled how the improvement of knowledge on the status of marketing of aquaculture products is essential for the sector and strategic for the development of aquaculture within the Mediterranean Countries.

11. The CMWG agreed that on the next months the project activities will focus on the preparation of a framework for the national reports with the inclusion of data collection. In order to finalise this, it will also be necessary to identify a list of experts at country level to be involved in the preparation of the national reports. Relations with the SIPAM national focal points will also be established. The structure of a marketing data-base, including parameters to be included in the SIPAM Information Technology System should be presented and discussed during the next meeting of the SIPAM (Tirana, Albania, December 2008). With reference to the organisation of the next meeting of the Working Group on Marketing on Aquaculture, the CMWG expressed the view that it would be appropriate to schedule it once the first national Countries reports is available (at the beginning of 2009). A second WG meeting could be organised in connection with the final meeting of first year of the project in which the main achievements will be presented (scheduled for July 2009). The CMWG also invited the Working Group to strengthening the cooperation with FAO/Globefish involved in the data analyses and collection.
12. Working Group on Sustainability. The CMWG was informed that the project proposal INDAM “Indicators for Sustainable Development of Aquaculture and Guidelines for their use in the Mediterranean” (48 months) is still under review by the European Commission. Several drafts have been prepared and some delays are still being encountered for the final approval and for the finalisation of the agreement between the EC and the GFCM. The amount of funds from the EC will be reviewed on a yearly basis and the EC participation must be considered as a contribution to the activities and not as full financial support to the project. The funding for the first year will be about 65.520 Euro, representing 50% of the eligible costs. The EC funding will only be made available once the operative and administrative issues have been finalised between the parties.
13. Concerning the project, it was noted that a similar situation could apply for the project proposal SHOCMED “Developing Siting and Carrying Capacity for Mediterranean aquaculture” in support of the Working Group on Siting and Carrying Capacity for which the contribution from the EC should be of 41.176 Euro equivalent of the 30% of the eligible costs.
14. Despite the great appreciation for the EC’s contribution to the WGs activities, the CMWG, discussed the negative implication of delays accumulated in starting the abovementioned projects with grave concern. The CMWG considered that this process should be accelerated and invited the GFCM Secretariat to consider the possibility to organise a meeting before long in Brussels with the European Commission to discuss the administrative procedure to be followed.
15. The CMWG was informed on the organisation of the “Workshop on the Selection of Indicators for the Sustainable Development of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean Sea” (Montpellier, France 26-27 November 2008), in cooperation with IFREMER, and which will be organized back-to-back with the EVAD final meeting. The draft prospectus of the meeting was presented; it was recalled that the aims of the workshop are to bring together and present the experiences and the main results of the more recent research programmes, which are working to develop a list of indicators; furthermore to exchange relevant projects knowledge and experiences in designing and developing the indicators and to prepare a regional synthesis and analysis. A further, specific aim of the meeting is to agree on the methodological approach to be implemented in the Mediterranean within the context of the CAQ through a cooperative construction of indicators.
16. The CMWG recalled that the necessity for the identification of indicators and related standards and reference points is considered as a priority by the CAQ WGs, and its

implementation as fundamental to help the GFCM Countries in monitoring the aquaculture activities within a context of sustainability. The organisation of this meeting has been discussed within the CAQ for years, and the outcome still remains a priority for the Commission as indicated at the last session of the GFCM. The CMWG confirmed that, despite the delay in receiving funds, every effort should be made to support this initiative.

17. Working Group on Siting and Carrying Capacity. In addition to the status of the project, the CMWG was also informed about the organisation of the Working Group on Siting and Carrying Capacity (Crete, Greece 21-23 October). The meeting will be hosted by Institute of Marine Biology of Crete. The agenda of the meeting was reviewed. The aims of the meeting should be to update the participants on the status of implementation of SHOCMED, to discuss the main environmental variables to be taken into consideration in monitoring aquaculture activities (including on the identification of indicators, standards and relative reference points); presentation and discussion of the IUCN Guidelines which focus on these issues; presentation of the ongoing and main achievements of the Project to develop a Roadmap for Turkish Marine Aquaculture as a case study on Site Selection and Zoning, using an Ecosystem Approach to Management.
18. In this context the CMWG was informed that the final draft of the IUCN/FEAP Guidelines on this issue has been finalised and is ready for comments and considerations. These guidelines are the result and follow-up of a long cooperation between scientists from different disciplines and Mediterranean areas. They are structured in different chapters and contain multidisciplinary knowledge (legal, environmental, technological and socioeconomic aspects) for the site selection process, to ensure appropriate selection and management of areas of interest for aquaculture with the involvement of the different stakeholders.
19. The CMWG noted with appreciation the work carried out by IUCN/FEAP and how the outputs produced on the Site and Carrying Capacity issue should be relevant for the activities of the Working Group. Furthermore the CMWG recalled the provision of the workplan for the CAQ, which encompassed a “comparative assessment on existing legal framework and administrative procedures for site selection” and agreed that this should be added to the agenda of the meeting in Crete. In this respect the expert who was in charge of this issue for the IUCN Guideline should be invited. The FAO/NALO (National Aquaculture Legislation Overview) while not focusing on specific environmental regulations, could be considered as good data-bank reference for legislative aspects on aquaculture.

3. REVIEW AND FOLLOW-UP OF THE ACTIVITIES OF SIPAM

20. In accordance with the SIPAM workplan, during 2007 all the historical data were transferred to the new SIPAM Information Technology (SIPAM IT) Web based system. The CMWG acknowledged that the handing-over of the IT component of SIPAM to the GFCM Secretariat should be considered as complete and that many of the problems encountered with the server and pages were solved.
21. It was noted that the SIPAM National Focal Points (NFPs) were again contacted by the SIPAM Regional Centre in order to update the production data for 2006 and 2007. Monaco, Syria, Israel, Bulgaria, Japan and Montenegro have not nominated the National Focal Point yet. Some of the other Countries still need to confirm the previous nomination.
22. The ongoing activities of the SIPAM IT component focus on operations towards an easier and more user-friendly data entry module and data reporting that in the future should be useful for

the improved integration of the Working Groups into the SIPAM IT, with particular reference to the WG on Marketing. The CMWG agreed that the SIPAM database component should concentrate on the Production Statistics database that is one of the core priorities for the GFCM. The Production Centres directory could be useful for assessing the production capacity of the Mediterranean countries, among other uses.

23. The CMWG was informed that, following a request from the GFCM Secretariat, the Tunisian Government extended the NTE of the SIPAM Trust Funds Project until 30 June 2009, at no additional cost. This will permit the finalisation of the decentralisation process from the Regional Centre in Tunisia to the GFCM Secretariat, especially for the aspects related to data collection and to the contacts with the Coordinators and the Countries.
24. The CMWG recalled that now SIPAM should be considered as a Subsidiary body of the CAQ its activities be fully supportive of the work of the CAQ and its Working Groups. The growth of the sector now requires timely information on the status of the sector responding to the different reporting requirements. In this respect discussion was raised on the new EC regulations on the submission of statistics on aquaculture procedures to be made by EU Members. It was noted that much of the information that is now required by these new rules are already considered within the SIPAM system (characteristics of technologies and structure of the sector), while other data are not considered (origin and designation for egg and fingerlings) and should be taken into account in the data system for the WG on Marketing.
25. The CMWG underlined that the proliferation of statistics schemes and data collection could generate confusion for the Countries and any duplication should be avoided. It suggested that the SIPAM should play a more formal role in the collection of data. The CMWG recalled that as for the Rule X of the GFCM Agreement ‘; *the members have an obligation to provide information on the production statistics ...*’. As a consequence, the CMWG considered that the discussion on the activities of SIPAM, at this stage, should also concentrate on the data inputs for Production Statistics and Production Centre databases.

4. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AGENDA OF THE 6TH SESSION OF THE CAQ

26. A draft Agenda for the 6th Session of the CAQ was reviewed and commented by the CMWG. The content and structure follow the previous session. The following additional considerations were made:
 - the possibility of inviting some relevant key-note speakers on specific subjects, e.g. on capture-base aquaculture, cage technologies, tuna farming or ecosystem approach to aquaculture;
 - selected activities carried out within the FAO system or by the GFCM partners, such as the IUCN /FEAP Guidelines on sustainable aquaculture and the Project for the development of a Roadmap for Turkish Marine Aquaculture Site Selection and Zoning using an Ecosystem Approach to Management, should be presented in the Agenda as activities of the related Working Group.

5. ANY OTHER MATTERS

27. There were no any other matters

6. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

28. The CMWG decided that the report will be adopted by e-mail

APPENDIX 1

Agenda

- 1. Opening of the meeting**
- 2. Review and follow-up of the activities of the Working Groups**
- 3. Review and follow-up of the activities of SIPAM**
- 4. Review of the Draft Agenda of the 6th CAQ Session**
- 5. Any other matters**
- 6. Adoption of the Report**

APPENDIX 2

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