


General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean




Version: 28th April 2010
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The Agreement for the establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), under the provisions of Article XIV of the FAO constitution, was approved by the FAO Conference in 1949 and entered into force in 1952.

-  Albania
-  Algeria
-  Bulgaria
-  Croatia
-  Cyprus
-  European Union
-  Egypt
-  France
-  Greece
-  Israel
-  Italy
-  Japan
-  Lebanon
-  Libya
-  Malta
-  Monaco
-  Morocco
-  Montenegro
-  Morocco
-  Romania
-  Slovenia
-  Spain
-  Syria
-  Tunisia
-  Turkey

In cooperation with other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), the GFCM is instrumental in coordinating efforts by governments to effectively manage fisheries at regional level following the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.




Consisting of 24 members, including the European Union as a regional economic organization, the GFCM's objectives are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean, Black Sea and connecting waters. Membership is open to both Mediterranean coastal states and regional economic organizations as well as to United Nations member states whose vessels engage in fishing in Mediterranean waters.



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Objectives to promote:

- development, conservation, rational management of living marine resources
- best utilization of living marine resources
- sustainable development of aquaculture

principal Functions

- to coordinate efforts by governments to effectively manage fisheries at regional level following the CCRF;
- to assemble, publish or disseminate information regarding exploitable living marine resources and fisheries based on these resources;
- to promote programmes for marine and brackish water aquaculture and coastal fisheries enhancement;
- to play a key role in fisheries governance in the Region
- has the authority to adopt **binding recommendations** for fisheries conservation and management in its Convention Area




Mediterranean, Black Sea and connecting waters

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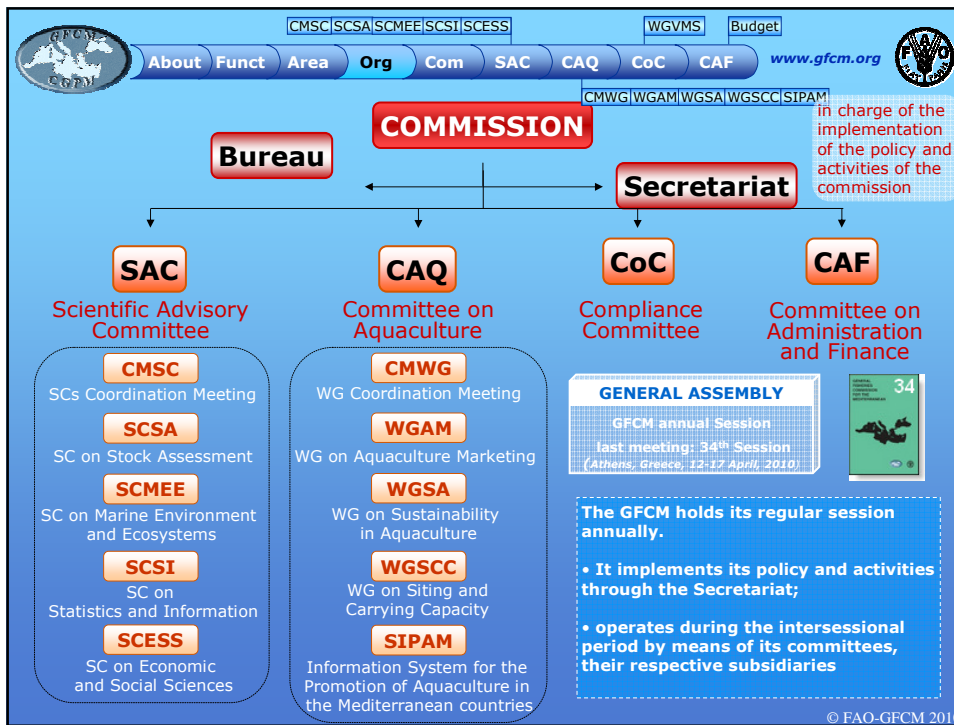
Resolutions and Recommendations

XXXIII - 2009



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN **33**

Res. GFCM/33/2009/1	On the management of demersal Fisheries in the GFCM area.
Res. GFCM/33/2009/2	On the establishment of Geographical Sub-Areas in the GFCM area a Resolution GFCM/31/2007/2.
Rec. GFCM/33/2009/1	On the establishment of a Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRA) in the Gulf of Lions.
Rec. GFCM/33/2009/2	On a minimum Mesh Size in the conded of demersal trawls nets.
Rec. GFCM/33/2009/3	On the implementation of the GFCM Task 1 Statistical Matrix repealing Resolution GFCM/31/2007/1
Rec. GFCM/33/2009/4	On reporting of Aquaculture Data and Information.
Rec. GFCM/33/2009/5	On the establishment of the GFCM Regional Fleet Register (RFR).
Rec. GFCM/33/2009/6	Concerning the establishment of a GFCM record of vessels over 15 metres authorized to operate in the GFCM area amending the Recommendation GFCM/2005/2.
Rec. GFCM/33/2009/7	Concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) in the GFCM area.
Rec. GFCM/33/2009/8	On the establishment of a list of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing in the GFCM Area, amending Recommendation GFCM/2006/4.
Rec. GFCM/33/2009/9(A)	Concerning the Recommendation [08-03] by ICCAT on Mediterranean Swordfish.
Rec. GFCM/33/2009/9(B)	Concerning the Recommendation [08-05] by ICCAT amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a multiannual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.
Rec. GFCM/33/2009/9(C)	Recommendation 08-12 by ICCAT amending Recommendation 07-10 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch documentation program.



Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

Provide independent advice on the technical and scientific bases for decisions concerning fisheries conservation and management, including biological, social and economic aspects, in particular:

- assess information provided by Members and relevant fisheries organizations or programmes on catches, fishing efforts, and other data relevant to the conservation and management of fisheries;
- formulate advice to the Commission on the conservation and management of fisheries;
- identify cooperative research programmes and coordinate their implementation;
- undertake such other functions or responsibilities as may be conferred by the Commission.

SAC operates through five subsidiary bodies

- CMSC** Coordination Meeting of the Sub-Committees
- SCSA** Sub-Committee on **Stock Assessment**
- SCMEE** Sub-Committee on **Marine Environment and Ecosystems**
- SCSI** Sub-Committee on **Statistics and Information**
- SCESS** Sub-Committee on **Economic and Social Sciences**

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Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ)

monitor trends and promote the sustainable development and responsible management of marine and brackish water aquaculture, and provide independent advice on the technical, socio-economic, legal and environmental bases for common standards, norms and guidelines and decisions for consideration by the Commission, in particular:

- assess information or programmes provided by Members and relevant stakeholders on production statistics, market data, culture systems, technologies, farmed species and maintains related databases.
- identify cooperative research and training programmes and coordinate their implementation;

CAQ operates through five subsidiary bodies

- Coordination Meeting of the Working Groups (CMWG)
- Working Group on Marketing
- Working Group on Sustainability Indicators
- Working Group on Siting and Carrying Capacity
- Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM)

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GFCM - Committee on Aquaculture - WGs

WGs IDENTIFY PRIOTITIES ISSUES AND IN PROVIDING ADVICE ON AQUACULTURE MANAGEMENT


- WG on Aquaculture Marketing** (data collection on aquaculture products market; market synergies with capture fisheries; Strategy development for aquaculture Marketing and Promotion)

MedAquaMarket
- WG on Sustainability** (selection of indicators, standards and reference points for aquaculture sustainable development, guidelines for their use)

InDAM
- WG on Siting and Carrying Capacity** (aquaculture integration with other coastal management issues; carrying capacity assessment, environmental monitoring programme, harmonised regional guidelines for aquaculture site allocation and management);

ShocMed
- CMWG** was established to ensure the coordination of the scientific inputs form the subsidiary body of CAQ (1st meeting November 2006; 2nd September 2008).
- Information Systems for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM)**

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■ Working Group on Aquaculture Marketing

- Data collection on aquaculture products market;
- Market synergies with capture fisheries;
- Strategy development for aquaculture Marketing and Promotion.

MedAqMarket project

"Support to the GFCM-CAQ Working Group on Marketing of Aquaculture Products:
 Development of a Strategy for Marketing and Promotion of Mediterranean Aquaculture"
operative since April 2008
funded by the Spanish Government

Increase understanding of the present situation in the Mediterranean aquaculture through the provision of quantitative market data and qualitative assessments of comparative advantages and constraints based on national surveys;

Prepare a common methodology and template for collection of market information in the Mediterranean region to monitor major trends and establish accordingly a data base to be managed in the future by the Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean of CAQ;

Formulate market recommendations for the development of Mediterranean aquaculture industry and for the promotion of Mediterranean aquaculture images, as part of a framework strategy for Marketing and Promotion of Mediterranean Aquaculture Product to be implemented through a medium-term aquaculture marketing programme.

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The Working Group on Marketing on Aquaculture products (WGMA)



MAIN ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS:

with the support of the MedAquaMarket Project focused its activities on:

- the elaboration of a regional Synthesis on the marine aquaculture in the Mediterranean including the proposal for the development of a Strategy for Marketing and Promotion of aquaculture and creation of a data bank
- a study on the Meagre (*Argyrosomus regius*)
- prepared of 14 national reports on marketing of marine aquaculture products in the Mediterranean countries.
- WGMA –MedAquaMarket Workshop on “Development of a strategy for marketing and promotion of Mediterranean Aquaculture” with stakeholders and industry participation









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■ Working Group on Sustainability in Aquaculture

- Selection of indicators
- Standards and reference points for aquaculture sustainable development, guidelines for their use

InDAM project

"Employing the ecosystem approach in the selection of Indicators for sustainable Development of Aquaculture and guidelines for their use in the Mediterranean"

operative since October 2008
funded with the contribution of European Commission (EC) DG Mare

The aims of InDAM, among other and through a participatory and multidisciplinary approach, are to provide policy makers and relevant stakeholders, with a comprehensive decision support tool regarding sustainable aquaculture development in the Mediterranean. This tool is based on the production of sets of indicators and relative reference points and standards to guide evaluate and provide incentives towards the sustainable development of Mediterranean aquaculture in its four dimensions (social, economic, environmental and governance) and within an ecosystem based framework.

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INDAM - PILOT ACTIONS

based on the 155 indicators identified



Dimension	Principles	Criteria	Indicators
Social	3	13	18
Governance	4	19	34
Economic	4	20	52
Ecological	3	15	52

Pilot action to test the appraisal of the different stakeholders, in terms of compatibility, validity and acceptability of the identified indicators and to give guidance at local level in the participation progress

The pilot actions consist mainly in one or two local multistakeholder meetings, following a bottom-up approach. The meetings should be attended by representatives of the different interested parties and should aim to discuss and appraise the work done

The first pilot actions were performed in two selected coastal areas, at different level of aquaculture development (Turkey and one in Tunisia)

For one of each indicator a selection process with the different stakeholders should be implemented, some selection criteria should be chosen and agreement must be reached (such as: data availability, statistical robustness; local acceptability);

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Working Group on Siting and Carrying Capacity

- Aquaculture integration with other coastal management issues;
- Carrying capacity assessment
- Environmental monitoring programme
- Harmonised regional guidelines for aquaculture site allocation and management

ShocMed project

"Developing siting and carrying capacity guidelines for Mediterranean aquaculture within aquaculture appropriate areas"

operative since October 2008
funded with the contribution of European Commission (EC) DG Mare

The ShocMed Project, among other, aims in producing criteria for enhancing the integration of aquaculture in ICZM by improving site selection and holding capacity benchmarks and reference points. This will also provide a base for harmonisation of standards and as appropriate aquaculture policy and legal frameworks, across the Mediterranean ensuring equal term of competition and minimal environmental damage.

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The Working Group on Site Selection and Carrying Capacity (WGSC)

MAIN ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS:

- The Working Group on Site Selection and Carrying Capacity (WGSC) with the support of SHoCMed project focused its activities on:
 - the execution of preliminary reviews and studies on the aspects related to the interaction of aquaculture and environment and on site selection procedures, including
 - an analysis of existing procedures for site selection used across the Mediterranean (collected through questionnaires) on aquaculture site selection in 15 Mediterranean countries.



Map 4. Licensing procedure for aquaculture: average period of time required to obtain a license.



(*) SHoCMed-Funded with the contribution of E

is aimed at identify priority issues for the improvement of the data reporting system and data information on aquaculture for CAQ - GFCM Members. It aims to provide support and information (as Information System with different tools like the newly established web component) to the other subsidiary bodies of the CAQ.

SIPAM
Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean countries

is aimed at identify priority issues for the improvement of the data reporting system and data information on aquaculture for CAQ - GFCM Members.

It aims to provide support and information (as Information System with different tools like the newly established web component) to the other subsidiary bodies of the CAQ.

The screenshot shows the SIPAM website with a navigation bar including 'About', 'Funct', 'Area', 'Org', 'Com', 'SAC', 'CAQ', 'CoC', 'CAF', and 'www.gfcm.org'. Below the navigation bar are links for 'CMWG', 'WGAM', 'WGSA', 'WGSCC', and 'SIPAM'. The main content area features a 'News' section with articles from 2010, a 'SIPAM Warehouse' section, and a 'STATISTICS MANAGEMENT' tool with various filters. A sidebar on the right contains links for 'GFCM convention area', 'CAQ INFO', 'INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE', 'SUSTAINING AND CARRYING CAPACITY', 'MARKETING ON AQUACULTURE', 'Production Statistics QUICK START GUIDE', 'National Aquaculture Sector Overview', 'GLOSSARY of Aquaculture', and 'RAIS'. The footer includes 'www.faosipam.org', 'Copyrights and intellectual property rights reserved © 2006 - 2010', and '© FAO-GFCM 2010'.

Coordinating Meeting of the Working Groups

- Ensure the coordination of the scientific inputs from the subsidiary body of CAQ.(WGSA, WGSC, WGMA, SIPAM) reviewed, discussed and made a synthesis of the follow-up of the main activities carried out by the Working Groups and SIPAM
- The Third Coordinating Meeting of the CAQ Working Groups reviewed, discussed and analysed the conclusions and recommendations drawn up by the WGs and SIPAM during 2009.
- inputs from the Aquaculture subsidiary body of WGSA, WGSC, WGMA, SIPAM (priorities, workplan proposal, recommendation for the management are put forward to the CAQ and to the GFCM at

The map shows the Mediterranean region with a box indicating the 'GENERAL ASSEMBLY GFCM annual Session last meeting: 34th Session (Athens, Greece, 12-17 April, 2010)'. To the right is a small image of a book cover with the number '34'.

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CAQ Workplan 2010 - 2011



- WGSA

- Carry out new Pilot Case Studies to test the Indicators Reference System at local level ;
- Disseminate the InDAM results, outputs and preparation of Guidelines on the application of indicators;
- Identification of a minimum set of indicators for sustainable aquaculture to be established at Mediterranean level.

- WGSC

- Prepare a review on Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZA)
- Prepare a Glossary on Site Selection and Carrying Capacity;
- Prepare a technical document including a review of the EQS
- Continue the work on the identification of EQS for the Mediterranean Aquaculture

- WGMA

- Prepare a project for improving the image of aquaculture production,
- Prepare a review of legislation on Aquaculture Producer's Organization (PO) in GFCM member countries;
- Organize a meeting on the marketing data scheme and marketing data collection.

SIPAM

- Update the Production Statistics and Production Centres sections and data-entry forms;
- Finalise the newly established sections and related databases on "Marketing", "Siting and Carrying Capacity" and "Indicators for Sustainable Aquaculture";

GFCM-CAQ PROJECT ON LAGOON MANAGEMENT

Meetings	Place/Date
WGSC-SHocMed workshop on Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZA)	Sevilla, Spain 18-20 October 2010
WGSA-InDAM- expert meeting Definition of Regional minimum set of the indicators for sustainable aquaculture	Malta 25-26 November 2010;
First Workshop on Lagoon Management and interaction between aquaculture and capture fisheries	Rome, Italy February 2011
WGMA - SIPAM joint meeting on marketing data scheme and marketing data collection	Malta 22 November 2010
WGSC - SHocMed - Meeting on Environmental Quality Standards for marine fish farms	Malta 23-25 November
12 th Session of the SIPAM	Malta, 23-25 November, 2010
Fourth Session of the Coordination Meeting of the Working Groups	Malta, 26-27 November, 2010
Seventh Session of Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ)	Rome -Italy March 2011



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Version: 28th April 2010
released by secretariat@fao.org (GFCM Secretariat)

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