

March 2010



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



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**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**Fourth Session of the Compliance Committee**

**Athens, Greece, 12-13 April 2010**

**STATUS OF DATA AND INFORMATION SUBMISSIONS  
BY MEMBERS AND MANAGEMENT OF GFCM DATABASES  
BY THE SECRETARIAT**

## INTRODUCTION

1. This document provides information on the data submitted by Members in fulfilment of their related obligations specified in various GFCM decisions, as at 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010. It also gives an overview of the work conducted by the Secretariat in the development of software and management of regional databases in support of these decisions.

### **RECOMMENDATION GFCM/33/2009/6 CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GFCM RECORD OF VESSELS OVER 15 METRES AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE IN THE GFCM AREA**

2. The GFCM record of vessels over 15 metres authorised to operate in the GFCM area currently includes 10,047 vessels from eighteen countries. The quality of data and frequency of updates varies and roughly half the vessels have not been assigned a GFCM Unique Identifier. In general, Members used the AVL electronic data communication tool to validate and submit data in a standard format. Dates of the most recent submissions are included in Appendix A and statistics on data coverage are included in Appendix B.

3. The database of the Authorised Vessels List (AVL) has been updated by the Secretariat on every data submission and its content has continued to be made available to stakeholders for consultation through the web-based AVL browser. The electronic data communication tools and AVL database structure were revised, particularly to take into account the addition of the new GFCM unique identifier field, as adopted by the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission.

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/33/2009/1 ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FISHERIES RESTRICTED AREA IN THE GULF OF LIONS TO PROTECT SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS AND DEEP SEA SENSITIVE HABITATS**

4. To date, none of the GFCM Members have submitted the list of vessels fishing in the Fisheries Restricted Area (FRA) defined in Article 1 and using gears listed in Article 2 of this Recommendation.
5. The Secretariat developed an electronic data communication tool (available on the GFCM website) for the submission of this list of vessels in order to provide a standard platform for the submission of data in accordance with Article 3 of the Recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/33/2009/2 ON THE MINIMUM MESH SIZE IN THE CODEND OF DEMERSAL TRAWL NETS**

6. Turkey is the only Member which has submitted its list of demersal trawlers equipped with a codend (1509 vessels) having a minimum mesh size as stipulated in Article 1 of this Recommendation. The table contained in Appendix A includes the date of submission.
7. The Secretariat developed an electronic data communication tool (available on the GFCM website) for the submission of this list of vessels in order to provide a standard platform for the submission of data in accordance with Article 4 of the Recommendation. In addition, a database for such vessels has been created and linked to the AVL database.

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/31/2007/1 ON MESH SIZE OF TRAWL NETS EXPLOITING DEMERSAL RESOURCES**

8. Within the context of this Recommendation and by way of derogation from Article 1 of Recommendation GFCM/29/2005/1, two Members, Italy and France (both through the European Union), have submitted the list of vessels<sup>1</sup>, and their characteristics, authorised to continue to use a codend mesh size smaller than 40 mm to operate in certain local and seasonal demersal trawl fisheries exploiting non-shared demersal stocks.
9. The Secretariat has maintained a database for such vessels which is linked to the AVL database.

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/33/2009/5 ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GFCM REGIONAL FLEET REGISTER**

10. The GFCM Secretariat is in the process of developing a Regional Fleet Register (RFR) to contain information on all vessels, boats, ships, or other crafts that are equipped and used for commercial fishing activity in the GFCM Area, as specified in Article 1 and in accordance with Annex 1 of this Recommendation. The RFR will be ready to receive data from Members starting from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011 as specified in Article 2.

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<sup>1</sup> Italy - 456 vessels; France - 74 vessels

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/33/2009/8 ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIST OF VESSELS PRESUMED TO HAVE CARRIED OUT IUU FISHING IN THE GFCM AREA REPEALING RECOMMENDATION GFCM/2006/4**

11. There were no reports received by the Secretariat during the intersessional period on vessels presumed to have carried out Illegal, Unreported or Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in the GFCM area.

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/2008/1 ON A REGIONAL SCHEME ON PORT STATE MEASURES TO COMBAT ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING IN THE GFCM AREA**

12. No additional lists of designated national ports to which foreign vessels may be permitted access have been received by the Secretariat during the intersessional period, as requested by Articles 10 and 11 of this Recommendation. Thus, the record of ports maintained by the Secretariat currently only contains the list of ports submitted by Lebanon and Malta which had been received before the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session. No information concerning inspections carried out in these ports, in line with Annex E, has been received.

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/2006/2 ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CLOSED SEASON FOR THE DOLPHINFISH FISHERIES BASED ON FISHING AGGREGATION DEVICES (FADS)**

13. Annual reports on the implementation of the management and monitoring measures specified in Articles 1, 2 and 3 of this Recommendation have been received from Malta (2008), Spain (2008) and Italy (2008) during the intersessional period. The information received since 2006 will be made available to the SAC in order for the Committee to analyse during 2010, as specified in Article 4, the impact of this measure on dolphin-fish stocks and to suggest possible modifications, if any, to the closure or propose additional management measures.

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/33/2009/3 ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GFCM TASK 1 STATISTICAL MATRIX AND REPEALING RESOLUTION GFCM/31/2007/1**

14. Two Members, Cyprus and Greece<sup>2</sup>, submitted Task 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4 data for the reference year 2008, complying with the deadline (end February 2010) set for these sub-tasks in Article 2. Submission of Task 1.3 and 1.5 data are expected by January 2011 as specified in Article 3.

15. Revised data exchange protocols have been developed by the Secretariat, namely an XML schema and related documentation (available on the GFCM website). In parallel, a data entry / reporting software (available on the GFCM website) has also been developed for those countries which are not able to use the XML schema; this software allows the user to input data manually and includes the function to generate the necessary XML file to be submitted to the Secretariat. Furthermore, a web-based regional database is currently under development and will include data summary outputs and data access functions, taking into account the data confidentiality access policy which will be defined by the SAC during the forthcoming intersessional period.

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<sup>2</sup> The submission from Greece is not fully compliant with Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3 and the revised GFCM reporting protocols and standards.

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/33/2009/4 ON REPORTING OF AQUACULTURE DATA AND INFORMATION**

16. The submission of aquaculture production data (including economic value) and production centres started in 2009 in line with Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/4. The submission of data has been effected exclusively through the SIPAM web-based information system which has recently been revamped by the GFCM Secretariat including selected reporting facilities.

17. Eleven Members<sup>3</sup> submitted data for the reference year 2008, submitting a total of 170 records, in line with this Recommendation. Nineteen national focal points are currently registered SIPAM users.

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/33/2009/7 CONCERNING MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM (VMS) IN THE GFCM AREA**

18. The Secretariat has not received any information related to authorities of national Fisheries Monitoring Centres, or equivalent authority (deadline - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009), as requested by Article 13 of this Recommendation. Moreover, no progress reports have been submitted as specified in Article 12.

19. The Secretariat has not embarked on any work in relation to the establishment of a database for VMS data which needs to be in place by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011 to receive data from Members, as specified in Article 16. In order to pursue this task, the Secretariat would like to point out that substantial supplementary human and financial resources would be required.

**CAPTURE PRODUCTION DATA : GSA-COMPATIBLE STATLANT 37A**

20. The three-year trial period for reporting production data both by FAO-GFCM divisions and GFCM Geographical Sub-Areas as requested by the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission will terminate in 2010. Fourteen Members and sixteen Members submitted data for the reference years 2007<sup>4</sup> and 2008<sup>5</sup> respectively. Most Members did not report data using the standard questionnaire specifically designed by the Secretariat for this purpose. The Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information is expected to evaluate the viability of replacing or amending the STATLANT37A data submission system in 2010, following the end of the three-year trial period.

21. The maintenance of the FAO Mediterranean and Black Sea capture fisheries production regional dataset has been taken up by GFCM Secretariat with the support of FAO-FIES. The latest release of capture production data is 2006, while 2007 and 2008 data are currently being processed.

**SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE**

22. The Committee is invited to examine the contents of this document and to provide guidance for further action and follow up.

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<sup>3</sup> Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey.

<sup>4</sup> Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Libya, Malta, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey.

<sup>5</sup> Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Lybia, Malta, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey.

## Appendix A

**Most recent submission of data on vessels**  
(Status as at 11/03/2010)

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>Authorised Vessels List</b> (Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/6)	<b>Vessels fishing in the FRA of the Gulf of Lions</b> (Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/1)	<b>Vessels using a minimum mesh size in cod-ends</b> (Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/ 2)	<b>Vessels operating under derogation from the minimum mesh size</b> (Recommendation GFCM/31/2007/1)
<b>Albania</b>	23/11/2008	-	-	-
<b>Algeria</b>	27/01/2008	-	-	-
<b>Bulgaria</b>	09/03/2010	-	-	-
<b>Croatia</b>	22/10/2007	-	-	-
<b>Cyprus</b>	22/10/2008	-	-	-
<b>Egypt</b>	08/04/2008	-	-	-
<b>France</b>	22/01/2010	-	-	02/03/2010
<b>Greece</b>	21/04/2009	-	-	-
<b>Israel</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Italy</b>	22/01/2010	-	-	22/02/2010
<b>Japan</b>	12/01/2008	-	-	-
<b>Lebanon</b>	26/05/2008	-	-	-
<b>Libya</b>	16/01/2007	-	-	-
<b>Malta</b>	13/08/2009	-	-	-
<b>Monaco</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Montenegro</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Morocco</b>	05/03/2010	-	-	-
<b>Romania</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Slovenia</b>	22/10/2008	-	-	-
<b>Spain</b>	21/04/2009	-	-	-
<b>Syria</b>	02/11/2008	-	-	-
<b>Tunisia</b>	20/09/2006	-	-	-
<b>Turkey</b>	15/07/2008	-	18/12/2009	-

## Appendix B

**Authorised Vessels List (AVL) - Percentage coverage of fields with validated data**

	<b>AVL FIELDS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF VESSELS</b>	<b>COVERAGE</b>
1	GFCM unique identifier	5324	52.99%
2	Flag	10047	100.00%
3	Vessel name	10044	99.97%
4	Vessel Register Number	8422	83.83%
5	Previous name	29	0.29%
6	Previous flag	0	0.00%
7	Details of deletion	0	0.00%
8	IRCS	440	4.38%
9	Vessel type	6889	68.57%
10	LOA	10039	99.92%
11	GRT	7468	74.33%
12	GT	8047	80.09%
13	Valid authorization (as at 11/03/2010)	4433	44.12%
14	Fishing gear	6265	62.36%
15	Owner name	8402	83.63%
16	Owner address	7889	78.52%
17	Operator name	6266	62.37%
18	Operator address	6264	62.35%