

May 2011



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



**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**Fifth session of the Compliance Committee (CoC)**

**Thirty-fifth Session of the Commission**

**Rome, Italy, 9-14 May 2011**

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

\*Available in English only

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> May 2011. 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.

### **I. 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 10,199 vessels from eighteen countries. The quality of data and frequency of updates varies and roughly 40% of vessels have not been assigned a GFCM Unique Identifier. Details of data coverage are included in Appendix A.

3. The database of the Authorised Vessels List (AVL) has been updated by the Secretariat with every data submission and its content has continued to be made available to stakeholders for consultation through the web-based AVL browser.

4. Dates of the most recent submissions are included in Appendix B.

## II. 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

5. To date, only a provisional list of vessels fishing in the Fisheries Restricted Area (FRA) defined in Article 1 and using gears listed in Article 2 of this Recommendation has been submitted (April 2010) by the European Union on behalf of France and Spain.

6. 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.

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

7. As reported during the previous session of the COC (2010), Turkey is the only Member which has submitted its list of demersal trawlers equipped with a codend (1,509 vessels) having a minimum mesh size as stipulated in Article 1 of this Recommendation.

8. On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 the EU informed the Secretariat that all EU vessels were obliged to fully implement the new mesh size by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010.

## IV. RECOMMENDATION GFCM/33/2009/5 ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GFCM REGIONAL FLEET REGISTER

9. The GFCM Secretariat has defined the data submission protocols (electronic data communication tool and the XML schema definition) and developed the Regional Fleet Register (RFR) database which contains 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.

10. The GFCM RFR database currently includes 41,697 vessels of which 23,737 are active. Data submissions have been received from six Members.

Members	DATA SUBMISSION STATUS		Total number of Vessels	Active Vessels	Inactive Vessels
	Format Compliance	Completeness			
Bulgaria	High	High	2,340	2,326	14
Greece	High	High	17,164	17,144	20
Malta	High	High	1,069	1,049	20
Romania	High	Medium	507	n/a	n/a
Spain	High	High	3,218	3,218	0
Turkey	Medium	Low	17,399	n/a	n/a
			<b>41,697</b>	<b>23,737</b>	<b>54</b>

11. Some discrepancies between the number of vessels included in the AVL and the vessels over 15 metres recorded in the RFR have been noted.

12. Dates of the most recent submissions are included in Appendix B.

**V. 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**

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

14. A dedicated web section to IUU has been released on the GFCM website<sup>1</sup> which includes links to IUU lists of other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RMFOs).

15. The European Union informed the GFCM Secretariat, on 6 May 2011, of the EU Commission Regulation 468/2010 establishing the EU list of vessels engaged in IUU. This has been included in the webpage mentioned above.

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

16. 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.

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

17. 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 Spain (for the reference years 2009 and 2010) during the intersessional period. The information received since 2006 is available for the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) to carry out analyses, as specified in Article 4, on the impact of this measure on dolphin-fish stocks and to suggest possible modifications, if any, to the closure or propose additional management measures.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gfcm.org/gfcm/topic/166233/en>

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

18. The table below summarizes the status of data submission by Members in relation to Task 1 data for the reference years 2008 (deadline January 2011) and 2009 (deadline May 2011).

Members	Format Compliance	Reference year 2008					Reference year 2009				
		Task					Task				
		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5
Bulgaria	Low (08) / High (09)	C	C	P	C		C	C	P	C	
Cyprus	High	C	C	P	C						
France	High	C	P		P						
Greece	Low	P	C		P						
Italy	High	C	P		P						
Libya	Low	C	C								
Malta	High	C	C	C	C	P					
Morocco	Low	C	C	P	P	P					
Slovenia	High	C	C	C	C						
Spain	High	C	P		P						
Tunisia	Not compliant (09)										
Turkey	High (08) / Not compliant (09)	C	P	C	P						

*C = Complete, P = Partial*

19. Revised data exchange protocols have been developed by the Secretariat, namely the XML schema definition, the CSV data exchange format and the related documentation (all available on the GFCM website<sup>2</sup>). In parallel, the data entry / reporting application (available on the GFCM website) has also been refined in accordance with technical details discussed by the SAC Sub-Committees during the intersessional period.

20. Furthermore, the Task 1 regional database application has been developed and includes data processing routines and summary outputs. The Task 1 bulletin for the reference year 2008 is one of the outputs from the Task 1 regional information system.

21. The data access policy in relation to the Task 1 database has been discussed by SAC and options have been drawn up for consideration by the COC during this session.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.gfcm.org/gfcm/topic/16164/en>

## IX. RECOMMENDATION GFCM/33/2009/4 ON REPORTING OF AQUACULTURE DATA AND INFORMATION

22. The submission of aquaculture production data (including economic value) 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<sup>3</sup>.

23. The table below summarizes the status of aquaculture production data submitted by Members.

Members	NUMBER OF RECORDS SUBMITTED (SIPAM)	
	Reference Year 2008	Reference Year 2009
Albania	4	5
Algeria	12	12
Croatia	18	19
Cyprus	16	13
Egypt	25	18
Greece	7	
Italy	61	47
Malta	2	2
Montenegro	2	4
Morocco	7	5
Slovenia	2	2
Spain	73	72
Tunisia	15	12
Turkey	9	6
	<b>253</b>	<b>217</b>

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

24. The Secretariat has not received any information related to authorities of national Fisheries Monitoring Centres, or equivalent authority, as requested by Article 13 of this Recommendation. Moreover, no progress reports have been submitted as specified in Article 12.

25. 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.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.faosipam.org/>

## XI. RECOMMENDATION GFCM/34/2010/2 ON THE MANAGEMENT OF FISHING CAPACITY

26. The Secretariat has received the data in compliance with this Recommendation from six Members.

	Format Compliance	2007		2008		2009	
		Fleet	Activity	Fleet	Activity	Fleet	Activity
Bulgaria	High	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greece	High	✓					
Italy	Medium	✓		✓		✓	
Japan	Medium	✓		✓		✓	
Spain	Medium	✓					
Tunisia <sup>4</sup>	Low					✓	

27. The GFCM Secretariat has developed the electronic data communication tool as well as the Fishing Capacity database which contains information on vessels greater than 15 metres LOA that were entitled to fish in the GFCM area of Competence in 2007, 2008 or 2009, as specified in Article 1 and in accordance with Annex 1 of this Recommendation.

## XII. CAPTURE PRODUCTION DATA : GSA-COMPATIBLE STATLANT 37A

28. Fifteen Members<sup>5</sup> together with four non-Member countries<sup>6</sup> submitted data for the reference year 2009. Most Members reported data using the standard questionnaire specifically designed by the Secretariat for this purpose. The Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information recommended to continue with the STATLANT37A data submission system until further notice.

29. A specific database for the FAO Area 37 has been developed with the support of FAO-FIGIS during the intersessional period and is available on the GFCM website<sup>7</sup>. The latest release of capture production data is 2008, whilst 2009 data are currently being processed.

### SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE

30. The Committee is invited to examine the contents of this document and to provide guidance for further action and follow up. The Committee may also wish to identify, in accordance with Recommendation GFCM/34/2010/3, Members that have not met their obligations.

<sup>4</sup> the Tunisian dataset considered here is the same as the one submitted for the Authorised Vessel List (AVL)

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

<sup>6</sup> Korea, Palestine, Russia, Ukraine

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.gfcm.org/gfcm/topic/17105/en>

## Appendix A

**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	6260	61.38%
2	Flag	10199	100.00%
3	Vessel name	10196	99.97%
4	Vessel Register Number	8574	84.07%
5	Previous name	35	0.34%
6	Previous flag	0	0.00%
7	Details of deletion	0	0.00%
8	IRCS	1192	11.69%
9	Vessel type	7566	74.18%
10	LOA	10198	99.99%
11	GRT	6695	65.64%
12	GT	8961	87.86%
13	Valid authorization	3824	37.49%
14	Fishing gear	6936	68.01%
15	Owner name	9270	90.89%
16	Owner address	8109	79.51%
17	Operator name	5661	55.51%
18	Operator address	5657	55.47%

## Appendix B

**Most recent submission of data on vessels**  
(Status as at 06/05/2011)

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>Authorised Vessels List</b> (Rec. GFCM/33/2009/6)	<b>AVL number of Vessels</b>	<b>Regional Fleet Register</b> (Rec. GFCM/33/2009/5)	<b>RFR number of Vessels</b>
<b>Albania</b>	23/11/2008	157	-	
<b>Algeria</b>	27/01/2008	544	-	
<b>Bulgaria</b>	27/01/2011	60	14/04/2011	2,340
<b>Croatia</b>	22/10/2007	378	-	
<b>Cyprus</b>	22/10/2008	15	-	
<b>Egypt</b>	08/04/2008	1,579	-	
<b>France</b>	22/01/2010	152	-	
<b>Greece</b>	13/04/2011	648	14/04/2011	17,164
<b>Israel</b>	-		-	
<b>Italy</b>	22/01/2010	2,198	-	
<b>Japan</b>	12/01/2008	416	-	
<b>Lebanon</b>	26/05/2008	8	-	
<b>Libyan Arab Jamahiriya</b>	16/01/2007	271	-	
<b>Malta</b>	13/08/2009	59	14/04/2011	1,069
<b>Monaco</b>	02/09/2008	0	-	
<b>Montenegro</b>	-		-	
<b>Morocco</b>	09/02/2011	623	-	
<b>Romania</b>	-		14/04/2011	507
<b>Slovenia</b>	22/10/2008	8	-	
<b>Spain</b>	21/04/2009	984	02/05/2011	3,218
<b>Syrian Arab Republic</b>	02/11/2008	31	-	
<b>Tunisia</b>	04/05/2011	821	-	
<b>Turkey</b>	15/07/2008	1,247	05/05/2011	17,399
		<b>10,199</b>		<b>41,697</b>