



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



in collaboration with



**The Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea
Against Pollution**

Joint GFCM BSC Workshop on IUU Fishing in the Black Sea

Istanbul, Turkey, 25-27 February 2013

Information Note

Background

In recent years, issues relating to IUU fishing in the GFCM Area, particularly in relation to the Black Sea, have come to the fore. A GFCM Enforcement and Control Scheme to fight IUU fishing was adopted in 2005. However, despite of all the international and regional efforts to halt IUU fishing and put measures in place to that end, the problem still persists. As a result, under the 1st GFCM Framework Programme, it has been decided to intensify efforts against illicit activities. Such an endeavour will require however the previous assessment of the nature and the extent of IUU fishing in the GFCM Area. In light of this, a specific focus on the Black Sea seems appropriate.

The renewed political commitment towards the Black Sea is demonstrated by several initiatives recently launched by the GFCM. In January 2012, the first meeting of the ad hoc working group on the Black Sea was held in Constanta, Romania. As a follow up to the conclusions of these meetings, and always under the 1st GFCM Framework Programme, a number of actions have been identified that will allow the GFCM to contribute to the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture. These actions span from the strengthening of data collection systems to the establishment of multiannual management plans for the Black Sea. Nonetheless, it is instrumental and to a certain extent preliminary to any such action to better grasp knowledge of IUU fishing. Needless to say that the existence of illegal activities can alter the information obtained through collected data while at the same time hampering the effectiveness of any plan for the management of selected fisheries.

The joint workshop on IUU fishing directly involves also the Black Sea Commission. The relevance of their active participation in this common undertaking is justified, among others, by the environmental impacts that IUU fishing has on Black Sea marine ecosystems. As stated in the Black Sea Convention, the Commission is concerned both with the protection of these ecosystems as well as the conservation of marine resources living therein. This both advocates the convening of a joint workshop by the Black Sea Commission and the GFCM and fosters cooperation between these two

organizations, consistent with the memorandum of understanding they have entered into in 2012. It is expected that in exploiting commonalities the expertise of the Black Sea Commission and the GFCM in their respective fields of operation Black Sea States will accrued significant benefits.

Main targets (more specifically, the joint workshop has the following objectives):

- To improve knowledge of the nature and extent of IUU fishing in the Black Sea;
- To collect and review information provided by Black Sea States on their fleet operating in the area as well as on their experience in the fight against IUU fishing;
- To inform participants on the measures available at international and regional level to fight IUU fishing, with particular reference to MCS related measures; and
- To draw up a roadmap to fight IUU fishing in the Black Sea.

Furthermore, the workshop is also aimed at establishing a dialogue between Black Sea States which are Members of the GFCM and those which are not. Closer cooperation will be advantageous to the whole region.

Methodology

This joint workshop is intended to be **both informative and participative**. Sessions will be balanced between national experiences and ongoing developments at international and regional level. Participants will be invited to provide information, prior to the joint workshop, regarding the nature and extent of IUU fishing, the existence of MCS measures at national level and the composition of their fleet operating in the Black Sea. This information will be collected through a questionnaire. In addition, participants will be invited to deliver presentations during the joint workshop.

Participants

This joint workshop is specifically addressed to:

- Representatives of Black Sea States such as decision-makers, heads of departments, directors, technical officers from national or regional administrations involved in matters pertaining to IUU fishing;
- Invited experts from universities and national research institutions from the Black Sea area whose technical capacity and direct involvement in IUU fishing related matters is considered useful to the joint workshop;
- Other relevant stakeholders, including officers from the FAO, partner organizations, NGOs and the private sector.

Languages

The joint workshop will be carried out in English.

Available documents

- *Report of the FAO/GFCM workshop on Port State Measures to combat IUU Fishing (FAO Fisheries report No. 857)*
- *1st GFCM Framework Programme – Project Document*
- *Report of the 1st meeting of the GFCM Working Group on the Black Sea*
- *Selected GFCM Recommendations relating to IUU fishing, MCS, fishing fleet*
- *Advanced copy on GFCM publication on legislation of Mediterranean and Black Sea States*

Date and place

Istanbul, Turkey - 25 to 27 February 2013
Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat – premises of the Istanbul Branch of the Ministry of Forestry and Water of Turkey
Maslak Mahallesi, Büyükdere Caddesi, No 265
Sarıyer – Istanbul, 34398, Turkey

Contacts and technical information:**Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat (www.blacksea-commission.org)**

Ms Irina MAKARENKO
BSC Permanent Secretariat
Maslak Mahallesi, Büyükdere Caddesi, No 265,
Sarıyer – Istanbul, 34398
Turkey
Tel: +90 212 299 2940
Tel: +90 212 299 2946
Fax: +90 212 299 2944
Email:
irina.makarenko@blacksea-commission.org
secretariat@blacksea-commission.org

GFCM Secretariat (www.gfcm.org)

Mr Nicola FERRI
GFCM Secretariat
Legal consultant
GFCM HQ, Palazzo Blumenstihl
Via Vittoria Colonna, 1
00193, Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 06 570 55766
Fax: + 39 06 570 55827
E-mail: nicola.ferri@fao.org
GFCM-Secretariat@fao.org