

General
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REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITY ON THE BLACK SEA

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Chair of BSWG



OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN THE BLACK SEA

Prepared by national and international experts for the First Ad-Hoc BSWG Meeting

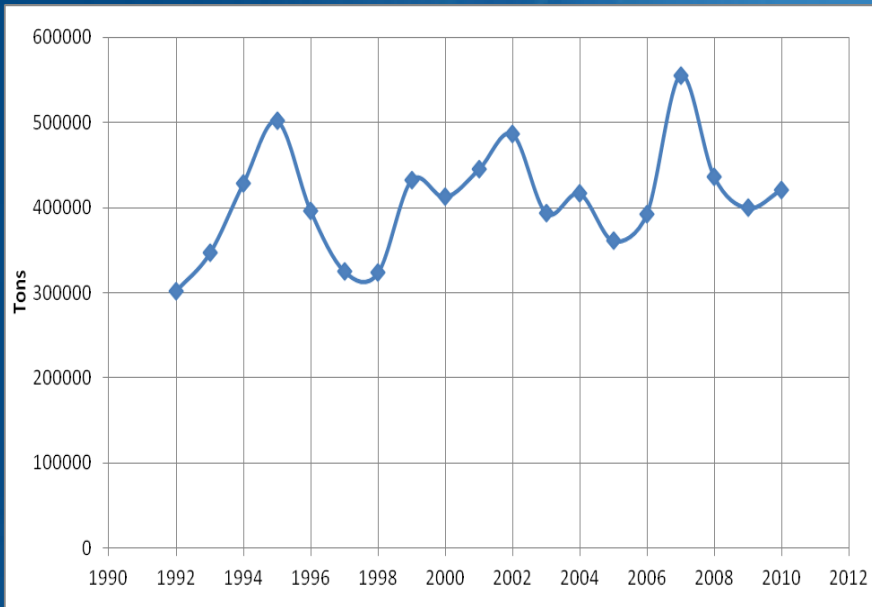
- The main features: collapse of pelagic fisheries (at the end of the 80s) due to the combined effect of successive over-exploitation of fish stocks, increasing pollution and eutrophication, population outbursts of alien planktonic species, strong decadal-scale climatic fluctuations.
- Fish consumption at present has reached a moderate level, with an increase in the past 12 years of more than 50% to 100% in the different BS coastal states. A reduced share of marine species in total fish products consumption (except TR) is notable.

Countries	1996	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010
Bulgaria	3	4.3	4.3	4.6	4.4	4.6
Georgia	2.5	4	-	-	-	-
Romania	2	3.5	4.1	?	4.0	4.0
Russia	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turkey	-	7-8	8.56	7.8	7.59	6.92
Ukraine	4.3	13.7	14.0	17.5	14.9	15.0

Total fish consumption per capita (fresh water and marine species in kg/year) in 2005-2010
(for comparison 1996 is also given).

OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN THE BLACK SEA

(cont.)



Total catch in the Black Sea area

Starting with 2002, the total catches registered a slight but continuous decline from 486,500 t until 361,000 in 2005 (see Table). 2007 represented an exception from the general rule, a maximum catch of 555,500 t being registered. After 2007, a sharp decline (28%) of the total catches occurred again by 2009 (395,000 t). In 2010, a slight increase of total fish catches to 421,000 t, almost at the 2008 level, was registered. In fact, excluding 2007, this decline became continuous since 2002. The most important reduction, of about 96%, occurred for anchovy landings, from 378,000 t in 2007, to 192,000 t in 2009.

For compensation of these significant reductions in total landings, some fleets, as the Turkish and Ukrainian, increased the catches of other species, mainly the sprat, whose catch increased by 120%, from 40,900 t (2007) to about 91,000 t (2010). In 2010, only in TR and UA, the total landings of sprat counted 82,000 t. Anchovy and sprat accounted for more than 90% of the total catch, horse mackerel 5-8%, whiting 3-5%, Atlantic bonito 2-5%.

The most important changes in the volume and structures of catches have been registered in the marine fisheries of Turkey, which continues to lead with 79% from total Black Sea landings.

OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN THE BLACK SEA

(cont.)

The most significant threats for MLR remain: overfishing; illegal fishing; lack in regional cooperation management; use of destructive harvest techniques etc. There are also scientific evidences which sustain the influence of climatic changes, at least on environmental conditions which determines aggregations of small sized fish species (anchovy, horse mackerel). Climate change is also recognised as a factor which significantly influences on the state of BS living resources, hence on fishery (e.g. duration of fishing seasons, aggregations of small sized fish species, such as anchovy and horse mackerel etc.).

Recent assessments by STECF and GFCM indicated the overfishing status of anchovy, whiting and turbot, while sprat is sustainably exploited.



OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN THE BLACK SEA

(cont.)

- Despite the opportunities offered by marine aquaculture, this sector remains undeveloped in the Black Sea: the aquaculture production in 2010 was 202 t in Bulgaria (consisting from different fish species and mussels), 171 t in Ukraine and 8,485 t, out of the total of 167,141 t for the whole Turkey (sea bream and sea bass).
- Since 2007, the European Commission ensured financial support for the Black Sea subgroup of the Scientific Technical Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), which provided recommendations for the annual TAC regulation of Romanian and Bulgarian fisheries in Community waters.
- In 2009, the preparation of several fisheries related projects started, some of them were approved in 2010:
 - Black Sea fish (GCP/INT) - FAO/Gov;
 - EU/ Black Sea CBC - Strengthening the regional capacity to support the sustainable management of the Black Sea fisheries (Romania/NIMRD).
- No progress in adoption of LBD for fishery so far has been achieved.



First Meeting of the *ad hoc* Working Group on the Black Sea Constanta, Romania, 16-18 January 2012

The 35th Meeting of the GFCM approved the establishment of the Ad Hoc Working Group for Black Sea Fisheries.

Organizer: GFCM Secretariat

Local Organizer: NIMRD “Grigore Antipa” Constanta

Participants: 48 experts from all six Black Sea countries

Representatives of: European Union (EU), Black Sea Commission (BSC), Community Control Fishery Agency (CFCA), European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC), EUROFISH, FAO and GFCM Secretariat

During the proceedings of the Meeting, 13 oral scientific presentations were delivered.

AIMS

- General overview of the current situation of fisheries and aquaculture in the Black Sea, including: fisheries activity, status of the main stocks and scientific research in the field; aquaculture activities, status and research in the field; fisheries and aquaculture legislation.
- Identification of strengths and gaps
- Priority actions in the future
- Medium term work program



First Meeting of the *ad hoc* Working Group on the Black Sea Constanta, Romania, 16-18 January 2012 (cont.)

Identified deficiencies and needs (FISHERIES)

- Lack of cooperative and regulatory frameworks involving all six riparian countries;
- The main requirement in terms of decision-making based on scientific advice: Availability of updated and reliable fisheries information and data;
- Establishing a comprehensive and standardized fisheries data collection program for the Black Sea;
- Performing joint bottom trawl and acoustic surveys and other research activities (standardization of biological parameters);
- Improving national and regional capability to analyze and assess fisheries data;
- Promoting the implementation of the Environmental Approach to Fisheries (including criteria for the evaluation of habitats important for MLR and FRA);
- Developing common and harmonized approaches for the conservation and restoration of endangered species and their habitats (e.g. sturgeons);
- Developing a regional fisheries management system.



First Meeting of the *ad hoc* Working Group on the Black Sea Constanta, Romania, 16-18 January 2012 (cont.)

Identified deficiencies and needs (AQUACULTURE)

- Absence of adequate regulatory frame and limited knowledge of potential sites for aquaculture development;
- Needs for assessing the regulatory framework and licensing procedure;
- Improving site selection planning and identifying ASA (including for mollusk culture);
- Developing capacity building of national experts (new technologies);
- Assessing the production capacity/improving the infrastructure;
- Developing aquaculture activities for new species (turbot, marine trout, mollusks etc.);
- Scientific cooperation (projects, demonstrations etc.).



First Meeting of the *ad hoc* Working Group on the Black Sea Constanta, Romania, 16-18 January 2012 (cont.)

MEDIUM TERM PROGRAM AND PRIORITY ACTIONS

- Based on the deficiencies and needs identified, the Meeting defined the priority actions for the medium term program.

NOMINATION OF THE WORKING GROUP COORDINATORS AND FOCAL POINTS

The participants unanimously elected the following persons:

- Dr. Simion Nicolaev (Romania): coordinator of BSWG
- Dr. Violin Raykov (Bulgaria): vice-coordinator of BSWG



First Coordination Meeting of the GFCM *ad hoc* Working Group on the Black Sea

Bucharest, Romania, 13 February 2012

On the 13th of February took place, in Bucharest, Romania, the First Coordination Meeting of the GFCM *ad hoc* Working Group on the Black Sea.

The Meeting agreed on the following:

- Approval of the BSWG Terms of Reference;
- Working Plan for 2012;
- Establishing the 2012 calendar of meetings.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2012-2013 Activities	(months)																	
	BSWG (GFCM)	CBC Project	STECF	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	I	II			III	IV
Regional meeting (training) of specialists in stock assessment by scientific surveys from the Black Sea coastal countries, with consultancy from STECF/GFCM				■	■												BG, RO, TU, UKR	Varna, Bulgaria Late April-Early May 2012 (4 days TBD)
Trainings of specialists at IOBAS, Bulgaria, for using acoustic surveys in the assessment of pelagic fish stocks		•					■										BG, RO, TU, UKR	Varna, Bulgaria July 2012 (6 days TBD)
Working visit and training of specialists in Romania, at NIMRD		•					■										BG, RO, TU, UKR	Constanta, Romania August 2012 (4 days TBD)
Workshop on data collection and information systems on fisheries in the Black Sea. (Selecting the most appropriate assessment methods)	•						■										BG, GE, RO, RU, TU, UKR	Bucharest, Romania 15-22 Sept. 2012
Training on direct and indirect stock assessment methodologies	•		•				■										BG, GE, RO, RU, TU, UKR	Bucharest, Romania 15-22 Sept. 2012
Sub-regional stock assessments on small pelagic and demersal stocks	•						■										BG, GE, RO, RU, TU, UKR	Bucharest, Romania 8-12 Oct. 2012
Training on site selection procedures, on Allocated Zones for Aquaculture and monitoring for aquaculture activities	•						■				■						BG, GE, RO, RU, TU, UKR	Venue TBD December 2012
Working visits and trainings at CFRI and KTU-MSF, Turkey		•					■				■						BG, RO, TU, UKR	Trabzon, Turkey January 2013 (4 days TBD)
Workshop to assess IUU fishing and its impact	•		•				■				■						BG, GE, RO, RU, TU, UKR	Ispra, Italy February 2013 TBD
Workshop on Black Sea aquaculture species diversification	•						■				■						BG, GE, RO, RU, TU, UKR	Trabzon, Turkey period TBD

Terms of Reference of the Black Sea *ad hoc* Working Group

Background

BSWG was created based on the Resolution of the 35th Session of the GFCM (May 2011), upon proposal of the 13th SAC Session (February 2011).

The organizational and operational backgrounds of BSWG were established at the Black Sea Working Group meeting in Constanta, Romania (January 16-20, 2012).

Legal status, competences and general procedures

BSWG is a subsidiary body of GFCM, being the SAC subdivision for the Black Sea region and having the status of GFCM technical body for the Black Sea.

BSWG shall be open to experts in fisheries, aquaculture and other related areas, including the Focal Points and experts of the Black Sea countries: Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Turkey, Russia and Ukraine.

BSWG shall be coordinated by a Bureau and shall work by direct involvement of the Focal Points for the Black Sea countries.

The BSWG decisions are advisory, the validation being made by the relevant subsidiary body of GFCM (SAC or CAC).

BSWG may establish work sub-groups, for the accomplishment of specific objectives. The overall activity is carried out under the general rules of GFCM and in close cooperation with the GFCM Secretariat.

Terms of Reference of the Black Sea *ad hoc* Working Group (cont.)

General activities

All activities of BSWG shall be achieved in accordance with the general tasks, objectives and procedures of GFCM. BSWG' regular activities are carried out both during the planned and extraordinary meetings, as well as during intrasession activities. Activity planning is made in accordance with the annual work plan adopted by the GFCM Plenary Session. The volume of activities shall be planned in accordance with the availability of funds from the autonomous budget or from extraordinary funds and will benefit of any initiative of partner organisations.

Coordination

The overall BSWG activities are coordinated by the BSWG Bureau and implemented by the Focal Points and the GFCM Secretariat. The BSWG Bureau comprises the Coordinator and Vice-Coordinator. The election of the BSWG Bureau shall be conducted under the general rules of the GFCM. The expenses of some activities of the BSWG Bureau (participation in meetings) shall be covered by the GFCM budget.

For the period **2012-2013**, the coordination and implementation of BSWG's activities are achieved by:

Coordinator: Simion Nicolaev (Romania): snicolaev@alpha.rmri.ro

Vice-Coordinator: Violin Raykov (Bulgaria): vio_raykov@abv.bg

Focal points:

Bulgaria: Konstantin Petrov: konstantin.petrov@iara.government.bg

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

