



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



**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**Thirty-third session**

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**PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD 2009**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. This document summarizes the programme of work of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) which includes salient forecasted activities for 2009, as identified by the eleventh session of SAC (December 2008) and the sixth session of CAQ (December 2008). It is expected that the activities of the Compliance Committee (CoC) will be defined during its third session. When reviewing the proposed provisional programme of work for 2009, care should be taken, however, in relation to its budgetary impact in association with the preliminary budget forecast presented in document GFCM: XXXIII/2009/7. The following activities must be performed by the Members, at national level, by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), the Committee of Aquaculture (CAQ), the Compliance Committee (CoC) and their subsidiary bodies.

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

2. The following includes the summary of the proposed activities by topics for the intersessional period 2009 as identified by the four SAC Sub-Committees and reviewed by the Committee. Draft terms of reference for certain proposed activities are given in Appendix A to this document.

**Stock Assessment**

- Pursue activities on stock assessment using both commercial data and surveys at sea;
- pursue the work to develop a GFCM protocol for undertaking surveys at sea;
- improve knowledge on biology, stock structure and other biological parameters;
- agree on a set of biological parameters of growth and natural mortality to be used for assessment purposes;
- improve biological indicators and further develop reference points with the view to evaluate the status of the stocks and fisheries including also the effects on exploited stocks of FRAs;

- organize the meeting of the Working Groups on stock assessment of demersal and small pelagic resources, using the new working approach (see Appendix A (I) for Terms of Reference of the Moderator (s));
- follow up the priority species and shared stocks lists.

### **Marine Environment and Ecosystems**

- In the framework of GFCM-TechnoMed network, finalize a common standard for selectivity studies to support the implementation of the selectivity measures, develop a GFCM database on gear selectivity, initiate a review on the status and issues related to artificial reefs and collect information on biological and ecological physical parameters with a particular attention to seamounts and canyons, taking into consideration recent guidelines being developed by FAO, and initiate the compilation of information on techniques and on fishing activities, in deep sea areas (400–1 000 m);
- follow up on partner organizations' proposal for studying population dynamics of protected species of conservation concern and on the draft protocol for data collection on bycatch;
- continue developing pilot studies to implement the EAF including through the involvement of stakeholders;
- initiate the launching of a monitoring programme on the alien species;
- develop monitoring schemes on the implementation of the measure on the prohibition of demersal fisheries activities below 1 000 m;
- organize a transversal workshop on selectivity improvement and bycatch reduction according to the Terms of reference in Appendix A (V).

### **Statistics and Information**

- Update the Task 1 Statistical Bulletin as required and continue with the development of the new software to be used by countries as from 2009 to report 2008 Task 1 data;
- initiate the implementation of a testing period for reporting data related to the Regional Fleet Register (RFR);
- continue with the STATLANT 37A working programme;
- organize a transversal workshop on the GFCM logbook according to the Terms of Reference given in Appendix A (III) and set up a comprehensive trial period in 2009 following the outcome of the workshop.

### **Economic and Social Sciences**

- Contribute, from the socioeconomic perspective, to the development of applied analysis on selectivity of fishing gears, using the data collected through Task 1 and biological studies;
- develop directed studies on the socio-economic impacts of implementing the 40 mm square mesh size in trawl fisheries;
- pursue studies on recreational fisheries;
- analyze the structures of economic incentives and mechanisms in national fisheries in the different member countries, possibly, according to the methods developed by OECD/UNEP;
- organize a SCEES/SCSA/SCSI Transversal Workshop on assessment, management and monitoring of fishing capacity (see Terms of reference in the Appendix A (IV)).

### Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Species

- Ensure follow-up to the recommendations of the eighth session of the Joint Working Group concerning small tunas, especially the compilation of statistics and the preparation of scientific work for the next meeting of the Working Group scheduled to be held in 2010 in Turkey.

### Updating of the SAC Glossary

- Proceed with the updating of the SAC glossary. The project COPEMED II confirmed its offer to provide financial support in relation to this activity, according to the Terms of reference given in Appendix A (II).

### Meetings of the SAC and its subsidiary bodies

3. The Scientific Advisory Committee suggested to convene the following meetings during the intersessional period:

Meeting	Place/Date
Twelfth session of the <b>SAC</b>	Montenegro 25–29 Jan 2010
Session of the <b>SCSA</b>	Rome/Malaga? 30 Nov.–3 Dec 2009
Working Group on Stock assessment of Demersal Species	Ancona, Italy 19–23 Oct 2009
Working Group on Stock assessment of Small Pelagic Species	Ancona, Italy 26–30 Oct 2009
Session of the <b>SCESS</b>	Rome/Malaga? 30 Nov.–3 Dec 2009
SCESS/SCSA/SCSI Transversal Workshop on Fishing Capacity	Rome, Italy 15–17 June 2009
Session of the <b>SCSI</b>	Rome/Malaga? 30 Nov.–3 Dec 2009
SCSI/SCSA Transversal Workshop on the GFCM Logbook	Rome, Italy 18–20 May 2009
Session of the <b>SCMEE</b>	Rome/Malaga? 30 Nov.–3 Dec 2009
SCMEE/SCSA/SCESS Transversal Workshop on Selectivity Improvement and Bycatch Reduction	Tunis, Tunisia 23–25 Sept 2009
<b>CMSC</b>	Rome/Malaga 4 Dec 2009

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

4. The following includes the summary of the proposed activities by topics for the intersessional period 2009 as identified by the subsidiary bodies of the CAQ and approved by the CAQ itself.

### Aquaculture and Marketing

- Preparation of a regional synthesis and qualitative assessment of the Mediterranean Market based on the results of the on-going national review of fish aquaculture products;
- identification of a mid term strategy for the development of marketing of aquaculture products;
- design and incorporation in the SIPAM Information System, of a Regional Marketing database on finfish marine aquaculture products;
- publication of the review entitled “Market Study on Mediterranean Meagre (*Argyrosomus regius*)” and identification and preparation of two other special studies on a commodity such as amberjack turbot, mullets and octopus;
- formulation of the second phase (2010) workplan and project, on the basis of the above mentioned draft mid term strategy, including detailed indications on how to address the issue of image of aquaculture products.

### Siting and Carrying Capacity

- Address the main issues related to marine ecosystems such as sensitive habitats, uses of the coastal zone and environmental peculiarities;
- review the existing procedures for site selection and evaluation of the effectiveness of regulatory schemes and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures;
- organise a Workshop on national legislations related to siting and carrying capacity, monitoring programmes and EIA regulatory framework for finfish aquaculture;
- design and implement a data entry tool to store available (or published) environmental data, as well as data referred to the environment monitoring of the marine fish farms surrounding. The database will be incorporated into the SIPAM information system;
- organise a workshop on experiences concerning the allocation of zones for aquaculture development within an ecosystem perspective (2010);
- organisation a multi-stakeholder workshop on siting and carrying capacity to finalize priorities and to prepare the detailed programme for ShocMed 2010.

### Aquaculture Sustainability

- Finalise the principle, the criteria and preliminary list of multidisciplinary indicators and reference points in relation to agreed methodology;
- develop and implement one or more pilot studies to test and refine, as appropriate, the methodological framework and sets of indicators;
- establish synergies and cooperation with other projects or Mediterranean initiatives, regional and national Research and Development programmes related to the sustainable development of Mediterranean marine aquaculture;

- prepare draft guidelines for the use of indicators and reference points, including feasibility, practicability, expertise requirements and cost-effectiveness;
- organise a multi-stakeholder workshop to finalise priorities and to prepare a detailed programme for InDAM in 2010, with focus on the follow-up of the pilot study (ies) and to further define the implementation of an Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA) in the Mediterranean.
- organise an interdisciplinary workshop on the identification, for each selected indicator, of its level of contribution to aquaculture sustainability; its implementation; the methodology applied for its measurement;

### SIPAM

- Improve the databases on “Production Statistics” and “Production Centre”, including data entry system and data reporting matters;
- develop new sections, respectively on Marketing, Siting and Carrying Capacity and on Sustainable Indicators, and the integration of these sections in the SIPAM information system;
- produce a dynamic national and regional reports on production statistics and management and maintenance of the system, including the consolidation of the SIPAM portal;
- finalise the handing over process from the SIPAM Regional Centre in Tunisia to the GFCM Secretariat;
- publish the “Operational user guide” to support the management of the warehouse with the specifications of the new data format and new features;
- organise the 11<sup>th</sup> SIPAM meeting back to back with a Workshop on the harmonisation standards for the Mediterranean Aquaculture data collection, including aspects related to the format and terminology.

### Meetings of the CAQ and its subsidiary bodies

5. The following meetings are forecasted for 2009

Meeting	Date	Place
WGSC–Meeting on National legislation on Siting, monitoring programmes and EIA regulatory framework for finfish marine aquaculture (ShocMed)	28–29 May	Vigo, Spain
IUCN/FEAP/CAQ–Workshop on Diversification of Production on Aquaculture	Septembre	TBD
CHIEAM/AECI/FAO–Training on the “use of Geographic Information Systems for Fisheries and Aquaculture Planning and Management	8–19 June	Zaragoza, Spain
WGMA–Meeting “Development of a Strategy for Marketing and Promotion of Mediterranean Aquaculture” (MedAqMarket)	24–25 September	TBD
WGSC–Multistakeholder Workshop on Siting and Carrying Capacity (ShocMed)	21–22 October	TBD

Meeting	Date	Place
<b>WGAS</b> –Workshop on guidelines and application on sustainable indicators in aquaculture (InDAM)	18–19 November	TBD
<b>CMWG</b> –Coordination Meeting of the Working Groups	17–18 December	Rome, Italy
<b>SIPAM</b> –11th Annual Meeting	9–10 December	Trabzon, Turkey
<b>SIPAM</b> –Workshop on harmonisation standards for Mediterranean aquaculture data collection (back to back with 11 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of SIPAM)	8 December	Trabzon, Turkey

6. An expert meeting of the Working Group on Aquaculture Sustainability (WGAS), on sustainable indicators on aquaculture, within the activities of the InDAM Project, is scheduled to be held in France (24-26 February, 2009).

7. The seventh session of the CAQ will be scheduled for 2009 or 2010, according to the decision that the Commission will take with regard to the frequency of of the Committee meetings (annual or biannual).

#### **SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMISSION**

8. The Commission is invited to review the activities and meetings proposed by its Scientific Advisory Committee and Committee on Aquaculture for 2009. The Commission may wish to take decisions accordingly on these matters, including specifying priorities, as appropriate, and identifying supplementary sources of financing, as deemed necessary.

9. In this context, the GFCM may consider the budgetary implications of its programme of work and provide the Secretariat with additional guidance on budget implementation.

## APPENDIX A

**Draft Terms of Reference for Working Groups, Workshops and other activities****(I) MODERATOR OF THE PRACTICAL STOCK ASSESSMENTS OF THE SCSA WORKING GROUPS**

One of the objectives of SCSA, is to progress in the enhancement of joint practical stock assessment. "Joint" refers to the participation of scientists from different countries providing their data and sharing them with their colleagues, using a standard method and analyzing together the results and options for fisheries management.

During the SCSA Working Group on demersal and small pelagic species (September 2008) a joint practical session to assess, in particular the stocks of hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) and associated species, as well as those of sardine and anchovy were performed. The practical sessions referred to the Terms of Reference as agreed in the GFCM 31st session.

Under the supervision of the GFCM Secretariat and in cooperation with the SCSA Coordinator, the Moderator will:

- define the methods to be followed and provide the theoretical background (papers) as well as the software to be used. This information must be communicated to the GFCM Secretariat well in advance of the meeting;
- prepare the agenda for the practical session;
- determine the data and information needs, including the standard format to be used, and
- prepare all material and tools to be used by the participants before the meeting;
- moderate the session, providing adequate assistance to the participants;
- write a report describing the methods and data used together with the results of the assessment. A section of the report must include recommendations for the next joint practical stock assessment session. The GFCM standard assessment forms should also be included as an appendix.

The consultant will take into account some specific items such as:

- VPA tuning (using trawl survey results when possible)
- LCA;
- SURBA;
- determine main indicators and their corresponding reference points;
- produce a diagnosis of the state of the stock;
- supervise the process concerning the formulation of management advice, considering different alternatives.

**(II) UPDATING THE SAC GLOSSARY**

Since the inception, a glossary, collecting the technical and scientific terms and their definitions for use of the GFCM, was prepared. However the last update of the glossary was made in 2003. The progress of the methods and approaches to assess and manage fisheries, and some problems arising with regards to definitions and understanding of technical and scientific words led the 10<sup>th</sup> session of SAC to reiterate the importance of the glossary and the need to update it.

In collaboration with the Sub-Committee Coordinators, the expert (s) will carry out the following tasks:

- review the old glossary, and propose deletions and modifications on both the list of words and the definitions;
- prepare a list of new words to be incorporated into the glossary with relevant definitions from different sources;
- circulate among the Sub-Committee Coordinators the new proposals in order to check both the list of words and the definitions. Whenever possible, a single definition will be kept, otherwise alternative definitions (indicating sources and context) will be presented.

The language of the glossary will remain English.

### **(III) SCSI TRANSVERSAL WORKSHOP ON THE GFCM LOGBOOK**

The Workshop (3 full days) should be held early in 2009, after the Commission plenary, to:

- review the current situation regarding the collection of effort and landings data by fishing activity and area, through national logbooks and other means, in the Mediterranean and Black Sea;
- identify the objectives and scope of a GFCM logbook;
- design and agree upon the parameters and format which should constitute the GFCM logbook;
- agree on which vessel dimension should be covered by the GFCM logbook;
- consider alternative means of collection of effort and landings per fishing activity and area for the vessels not covered by the GFCM logbook;
- propose a roadmap for the implementation of the GFCM logbook.

### **(IV) SCESS/SCSA/SCSI TRANSVERSAL WORKSHOP ON THE ASSESSMENT, MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING OF FLEET CAPACITY**

The Workshop should review the existing knowledge, the conceptual definitions, and the state of the art from different experiences on the assessment, monitoring and management of fishing capacity. The final objective is to provide scientific and practical guidelines to GFCM to appraise the impacts, requirements and effects of the different options in relation to possible freezing of fleet capacity.

The Workshop should address in particular the following items:

#### **1. Objectives of Fishing Capacity Management**

Clarify the objectives of managing fleet capacity in order to define the methods, instruments and measures that assure the sustainability of the fishing activities.

#### **2. Methods and definitions**

Review the scientific information and the existing knowledge available (e.g. FAO, IPOA, NPOA, RPOA, STECF, national regulations, case studies) to define proper mechanisms of management of fishing capacity in the Mediterranean context, including the measurement of capacity. Analyze the appropriateness of transferability mechanisms (between the gears and areas to assess capacity transfer and allow the adaptability of the fishing capacity) and census definition.



### 3. Identification of data needs

Evaluate if the data available through GFCM TASK 1, GFCM Fishing Fleet Register and other means, are suitable for the assessment of fishing capacity (biological data on fish stocks, economic data by fleet segment, investments, GT, employment, data on production such as quantity and prices on landing per species, costs and effort), investment and fleet restructuring plans.

#### (v) SCESS/SCSA/SCSI TRANSVERSAL WORKSHOP ON SELECTIVITY IMPROVEMENT AND BYCATCH REDUCTION

Following conclusions and recommendations of transversal SAC Working Group on selectivity and bycatch, and also the joint ACCOBAMS/GFCM Workshop on Bycbams project, a Workshop on selectivity improvement and bycatch reduction is suggested to be organized in 2009 according the following ToR:

- definitions of terms and concepts of relevance to the issue of bycatch and selectivity (unwanted species, bycatch, selectivity, discard, illegal catch, ghost fishing...);
- current status of bycatch and discard related to the Mediterranean fisheries (case studies dealing with gears, areas, seasons...);
- review of methods for assessing bycatch and its impact at the population level
  - definition of a standard protocol for data collection of relevant information on bycatch in the Mediterranean fisheries harmonized with existing similar initiatives;
  - examine the possibility for integrating information on bycatch into the GFCM Task 1 database;
  - setting a framework for assessing real impacts of fishing activities (hierarchization methods).
- review and evaluation of available information on by-catch mitigation measures (technical devices, closure period and area);
- socioeconomic implications (estimation of revenue evolution, cost adaptation and social effect).