



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



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

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**DRAFT EC PROPOSAL
ON THE 40 mm SQUARE MESH SIZE IN CODEND OF TRAWL NETS
EXPLOITING DEMERSAL RESOURCES**

DRAFT EC PROPOSAL**ON THE 40 mm SQUARE MESH SIZE IN CODEND OF TRAWL NETS EXPLOITING DEMERSAL RESOURCES**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

RECALLING that the objective of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and proper utilization of living marine resources;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/29/2005/1 on the management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and deepwater species and, notably, Article 1 therein;

CONSIDERING that the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) considers that several stocks are overexploited, some with a high risk of collapse, and that sustainable management requires that measures aimed at limiting the capture of juveniles are implemented;

REAFFIRMING its commitment to further improving the selectivity of demersal trawl fisheries beyond that deliver by the 40 mm diamond mesh size with the view to ensure a better protection of juveniles of several species as well as to reduce discarding practices in a multispecies context;

RECALLING resolution GFCM/31/2007/3 on the voluntary implementation of 40 mm square mesh size in codend of trawl nets exploiting demersal resources

CONSIDERING the recurrent advice on implementing a 40 mm square mesh in the codend of demersal trawl fisheries exploiting several demersal stocks as also given at the last 11th sessions of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC);

NOTING that the stock assessment conducted by the SAC only concern specific Geographical Sub-Areas corresponding to the data supplied by certain Members and that the assessed stocks may be shared with adjacent GFCM geographical sub-areas (GSAs);

CONSIDERING that in the absence of any scientific information on the status of fisheries and of the exploited resources a more cautious approach is needed and that suitable information coming from adjacent areas could be used for proper and precautionary management of fisheries;

NOTING that the SAC advises to apply the precautionary principle and calls for the immediate implementation of the 40 mm square mesh in demersal trawl fishing for vessels operating outside territorial waters as from 2009;

RECALLING recommendation GFCM/31/2007/1 authorizing derogation to use codend mesh size smaller than 40 mm to operate in certain local and seasonal demersal trawl fisheries exploiting not-shared demersal stocks

RECOGNIZING that from a social and economic point of view, and unless otherwise requested by conservation needs, it is necessary to ensure gradual changes in the exploitation pattern of fisheries;

ADOPTS in conformity with the provision of paragraph 1 (b) and (h) of Article III and Article V of GFCM Agreement that:

1 The Members and Cooperating entities of GFCM shall adopt and implement, at latest by 31 January 2011, at least the 40 mm square mesh codend or a diamond mesh size of at least 50 mm, of

acknowledged equivalent or higher size selectivity, for all trawling activities exploiting demersal stocks when operating in the GFCM Area

2. The provision referred to in Article 1 above is without prejudice to the operation of certain local and seasonal trawl fisheries operating in derogation to the 40 mm minimum codend mesh size until 31 May 2010 as authorized in line with GFCM Recommendation 31/2007/1.

3. The Members and Cooperating entities of GFCM shall communicate to GFCM Secretariat every three months, starting from 1 October 2009, the list of fishing vessels, and their percentage out of the whole national demersal trawl fleet, equipped with a trawl cod-end mesh size as stipulated in Article 1 above.

4. The list of vessels referred to in Article 3 above shall contain the following information for each vessel:

- Name of vessel
- Register number
- GFCM unique identifier (country ISO-3 code + 9 digits, e.g. xxx000000001)
- Previous name (if any)
- Previous flag (if any)
- Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
- International radio call sign (if any)
- Type of vessel, length and gross tonnage (GT) and/or gross registered tonnage (GRT)
- Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
- Main gears used
- Time period authorized for fishing with demersal trawl gear

5. Each Members and Cooperating non-Members of GFCM shall promptly notify, as from 31 January 2011, the GFCM Secretariat of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the demersal trawl fleet referred to in Article 3 above at any time such changes occur.

6. The GFCM Secretariat shall maintain such a list of demersal trawl fishing vessels and take any measure to ensure publicity of the record including through electronic means and placing it on the GFCM website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by Members.