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**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION
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**COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES
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GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

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**REPORT ON THE INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR 2009,
RECOMMENDATIONS AND 2010 WORKPLAN OF THE CAQ AND
ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

INTRODUCTION

1. This document summarises the activities of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) covering the intersessional period January 2009 - February 2010. It presents the main achievements by the CAQ subsidiary bodies and the Coordinating Meeting of the Working Groups (CMWGs), the advice in the field of aquaculture and the proposed workplan for CAQ subsidiary bodies for 2010. Details are available in the document GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.11. It should be reminded that the CAQ sessions are organized on a biannual basis.

ACTIVITIES OF THE CAQ IN 2009

2. The last session of the CAQ was held in 2008 (in Albania). Since this meeting, the Committee carried out the activities of its Working Groups on Marketing of aquaculture products (WGMA), on Sustainability of Aquaculture (WGSA) and on Site Selection and Carrying Capacity (WGSC), essentially with the support of the respective Projects, namely MedAquaMarket, InDAM and SHoCMed. The outcome of the working groups have been reviewed during the third Coordination Meeting of the Working Groups (CMWG) held in Rome (February 2010).

3. The activities, including the main conclusions formulated, are hereunder summarized for each Subsidiary body and Projects:

Meetings

- WGSA - Expert Meeting on Indicators for the Sustainable Development of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean Sea (France, February 2009);

- WGSC - Workshop on National legislation on Siting, Monitoring programme and Environmental Impacts (Spain, 13-14 July, 2009);
- WGSA – Technical meeting of the InDAM Pilot Study in Turkey on Indicators for sustainable aquaculture (Turkey, 28-29 September 2009);
- WGSA - Technical meeting of the InDAM Pilot Study in Tunisia on Indicators for sustainable aquaculture (Tunisia, 13-14 October, 2009);
- WGSC - Multistakeholder Workshop on Siting and Carrying Capacity (SHoCMed) (Morocco, 29-30 October 2009);
- WGMA – MedAquaMarket Workshop on “Development of a strategy for marketing and promotion of Mediterranean Aquaculture” (Morocco, 29 -30 October 2009);
- WGSA - Workshop on “Guidelines and application of indicators for sustainable development of aquaculture (InDAM)” (Tunisia, 19 -20 November 2009);
- Workshop on “Harmonisation of standards for Mediterranean aquaculture data collection” (Turkey, 8 December 2009);
- The Eleventh Session of the Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM); (Turkey, 9-10 December 2009);
- Third Coordinating Meeting of the CAQ Working Groups (CMWG) (FAO HQs, Italy, 24-26 February 2010);

Working Group on Marketing on Aquaculture products (WGMA)

4. The WGMA is supported by the project MedAquaMarket (Development of a Strategy for Marketing and Promotion of Mediterranean Aquaculture)¹. In 2009, the Working Group elaborated a regional Synthesis on the aquaculture in the Mediterranean including the development of a Strategy for Marketing and Promotion of this sector, finalised a study on the Meagre (*Argyrosomus regius*) and coordinated the preparation of fourteen national reports dealing with the marketing of aquaculture products in the Mediterranean countries.

5. The Working Group further recommended in particular the strengthening of the legislation applied to the aquaculture sector; the establishment of a legal framework for an integrated aquaculture spatial planning and the establishment of Producers’ Organizations, as well as the exploitation of an emerging niche market and the improvement of a public image of the sector and of the aquaculture products. The harmonisation of certification and labelling systems following a common minimum standard in the GFCM region should be also encouraged.

Working Group on Sustainability on Aquaculture (WGSA)

6. The WGSA, supported by the InDAM² project on “Selection of Indicators for Sustainable, Development of Aquaculture and Guideline for their use in the Mediterranean”, focused its activities on the identification of indicators for sustainable aquaculture at regional level including the development of two pilot studies (in Tunisia and Turkey) and the preparation of documents and technical reviews on the use of indicators for sustainable development of aquaculture.

7. The Working Group noted that the involvement of multistakeholder should remain a priority since the work done with the different actors gave different perspectives of aquaculture development.

¹ Funded by Spain

² Funded by the UE

It stressed also that, aiming at supporting the Mediterranean countries to ensure the appropriate follow up and the monitoring of their aquaculture development, it would be beneficial for the sector to envisage the possibility of establishing a regional observatory of aquaculture sustainability at regional level.

Working Group on Site Selection and Carrying Capacity (WGSC)

8. The WGSC, supported by the SHoCMed3 project on “Developing siting and carrying capacity guidelines for Mediterranean aquaculture”, focused its activities on the execution of preliminary reviews and studies on the aspects related to the interaction of aquaculture and environment and on site selection procedures, including the analysis of information (collected through questionnaires) on aquaculture site selection in 15 Mediterranean countries. The Working Group made also a review on existing procedures for site selection used across the Mediterranean and evaluation of the affectivity of regulatory schemes and EIA procedures and on aquaculture–environment interactions. It concluded that the implementation of specific regulations for aquaculture is essential to promote and facilitate its development.

Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM)

9. During the intersession period, the SIPAM ensured the follow up on the implementation of the GFCM recommendation GFCM/33/2009/4 for the mandatory submission of data and annual reporting, through the SIPAM (GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.8). The Operational User Guide of SIPAM (quick start guide) has been conceived and finalised to help the National Coordinators to comply with the Recommendation GFCM/2009/33/4 and technical improvements were made to all the related on-line report. The SIPAM IS (Information System) portal (www.faosipam.org) was further developed to enable the implementation of the above mentioned Recommendation.

10. During the 11th SIPAM session, the different terms utilised into the SIPAM system were harmonised considering the FAO Aquaculture Glossary, the draft of the CWP (Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics), the handbook of Fisheries Statistical Standards as well as the FAO/ASFIS list of species as reference sources. It was pointed out the need to finalize the registration of all the SIPAM National Coordinators and to ensure the data submission to the GFCM through the SIPAM system.

Coordinating Meeting of the Working Groups (CMWG)

11. The third meeting of the CMWG reviewed, discussed and made synthesis of the main activities and conclusions drawn by the Working Groups and SIPAM during 2009. The CMWG made also a synthesis of the recommendation of the CAQ subsidiary bodies about developing strategy and management advice on Mediterranean aquaculture.

12. The CMWG reviewed and endorsed the following main conclusions and recommendations (detailed in document XXX) as follows:

- The marine aquaculture activities in the Mediterranean should be considered among the regional priorities;
- Marketing should be considered as a priority issue for the sustainable development of aquaculture;

³ Funded by the UE

- Urgency to invite the Member countries to report on aquaculture data and information as per Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/4;
- Amend and update the data collection scheme (Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/04) on the reporting of aquaculture data and information for the Production Centres as adopted by the SIPAM and taking into account the new harmonized terminology
- Importance to establish a Mediterranean observatory for the sustainable development of aquaculture.

13. Furthermore, the CAQ-CMWG noted that, on the basis of the progress made by the CAQ subsidiary bodies and in consideration of the main emerging issues for the strategic development of Mediterranean aquaculture, the present structure of the CAQ subsidiary bodies and related mandate should be reconsidered bearing in mind the difficulty in the organisation of the workplan caused by the biannual session of CAQ. It reiterated the need to establish an annual meeting of the CAQ. The CMWG noted the increasing demand for data and information in support to the management advice for aquaculture and the scientific Mediterranean community and invited the Commission to strengthen the staff dealing with aquaculture issues within the GFCM Secretariat .

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AQUACULTURE MANAGEMENT

14. The recommendations are hereunder summarised to be put forward for the consideration to the 34th Session of the Commission.

- Need for a reliable approach toward a sustainable development of the Mediterranean aquaculture: the CMWG stressed that the sustainable development of marine aquaculture in Mediterranean should be ensured through a normative and participatory approach that adopted by the Mediterranean countries;
- Need to monitor and assess the environmental impact and interaction of aquaculture activities: the CMWG recommended to establish an effective procedure specific to aquaculture in order to undertake environmental assessment and monitoring with the aim of minimizing adverse ecological changes and related economic and social consequences. This will be possible through the development of procedures for the Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Monitoring Programmes. The monitoring of the environment surroundings the marine fish farms should be reflected in national legislation and implemented.
- It is also recommended that a plan of action be defined by each member, according to recognized international standards and adapting the content of the EIA and EMP, the tools and framework (legal as well as processes) for their implementation.

PRELIMINARY WORKPLAN FOR 2010

15. This part of the document summarises the proposal for a preliminary work programme for the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ). It intends to pursue the implementation of the medium term initiatives identified and discussed during the sixth session of the CAQ (Albania, December 2008) by taking into consideration the recommendations and results achieved by the subsidiary bodies of the CAQ. The preliminary workplan for 2010 has been reviewed and endorsed by the CMWG.

- WGS

16. The workplan of the WGSA will be carried out through the main activities of InDAM during its second year as follows:

- Carry out new pilot case studies to test the Indicators Reference System at local level ;
- Disseminate the InDAM results, outputs and documentation and preparation of Guidelines on the application of indicators;
- Launch the necessary actions to establish a Mediterranean Observatory on Sustainable aquaculture (if the principle is adopted by the Commission);
- Undertake the analysis of a minimum set of indicators for sustainable aquaculture to be established at Mediterranean level.

- WGSC

17. The workplan of the WGSC will be carried out through the activities of SHoCMed during its second year, as follows:

- Prepare a review on Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZA) and finalization of the review on legal aspects related to site selection and carrying capacity collected during the first year of activities of SHoCMed including issues on reporting and communication of monitoring programmes;
- Prepare a Glossary on Site Selection and Carrying Capacity for aquaculture activities;
- Prepare a technical document including a review of the Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) and monitoring in Mediterranean aquaculture.

- WGMA

- Prepare a project for improving the image of aquaculture production including pilot action proposals for organizing training/workshops on Responsible Aquaculture;
- Prepare a review of legislation of Producer's Organization (PO) in GFCM member countries;
- Organize a meeting on the marketing data scheme and marketing data collection.

SIPAM

- Update the Production Statistics and Production Centres sections and data-entry forms;
- Finalise the newly established sections and related databases on "Marketing", "Siting and Carrying Capacity" and "Indicators for Sustainable Aquaculture";
- Prepare a Mediterranean regional aquaculture review based on the available information and by using the established format.

GFCM-CAQ PROJECT ON LAGOON MANAGEMENT

18. The GFCM Secretariat is finalizing a project document on fisheries and aquaculture with a financial support of Italy. The Lagoons management and interaction between capture fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean is one of two components of this project. This initiative constitutes a response to the request made during the sixth session of the CAQ which clearly stressed the need to revitalize, within the GFCM, the work focused on lagoon management, particularly due to the strong interactions between the capture fisheries activities and aquaculture in these areas.

Meetings⁴

19. The following meetings of CAQ should be convened during the intersessional period:

| Meeting | Place/Date |
|---|--|
| WGSC-SHoCMed workshop on Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZA) | Sevilla, Spain July 2010 (3days) |
| WGSA-InDAM- expert meeting Definition of Regional minimum set of the indicators for sustainable aquaculture | Izmir, Turkey September 2010; (4 days) |
| First Workshop on Lagoon Management and interaction between aquaculture and capture fisheries | TBD, October/ November 2010) (3 days) |
| WGMA – SIPAM joint meeting on marketing data scheme and marketing data collection | Malta November,2010 (1 day) |
| WGSC – SHoCMed – Meeting on Environmental Quality Standards for marine fish farms | TBD/TBD (4 days) |
| 12 th Session of the SIPAM | Malta, November, 2010 (3 days) |
| Fourth Session of the Coordination Meeting of the Working Groups | TBD (1 day) |
| Seventh Session of Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) | Rome/February 2011, (4 days) |

20. This list does not include the list of the meetings on CAQ-InDAM local Pilot Studies that will be carried out at local level with the support of the Secretariat, the short trainings to be carried out within the SIPAM session and the meetings organised by the CAQ partners. In this respect cooperation will be strengthened between the WGs and others Mediterranean projects and initiatives on the issues of interest for the CAQ and carried out by partner and in particular with the IUCN, that during the last period were intense in relation with the guidelines on sustainable aquaculture.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

21. The Commission is invited to review the activities carried out by the CAQ subsidiary bodies during the intersession period and to provide guidance on any follow-up required as well as on the working strategies to be adopted. The Commission is also invited to consider the recommendations formulated in the field of aquaculture and may wish to translate some of them into binding decisions. The Workplan for 2010 is also submitted for the consideration of the Commission.

⁴ Preliminary terms of references for the meetings are in Appendix A

APPENDIX A

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SELECTED MEETINGS

I. WGSC-SHOCMED WORKSHOP ON ALLOCATED ZONES FOR AQUACULTURE (AZA)

- a) Review and make synthesis of Mediterranean experience on Allocated Zones for Aquaculture
- b) Review technical and legal procedures applied within the different coastal areas;
- c) Consider the different formats and experiences on GIS techniques for planning aquaculture activities in coastal areas;
- d) Discuss and make synthesis on the main aspects related to Allocated Zones for Aquaculture;

II . WGSА-INDАM- EXPERT MEETING DEFINITION OF A REGIONAL SET OF INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE

- a) Reviews and analysis of the indicators identified by InDAM
- b) Expert discussion and selection of minimum set of indicators to be considered for the whole Mediterranean region;
- c) Draft priorities for guidelines' scheme for the application of indicators (Governance, Economic, Social and Environment Dimensions).
- d) Review the interaction of the Indicators identified at Regional Scale with those identified and applied by WGSC, WGMA and SIPAM.

III WGSC – SHOCMED – EXPERT MEETING ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STANDARDS FOR MARINE FISH FARMS

- a) Review and make synthesis of Mediterranean environmental quality standards applied for aquaculture monitoring
- b) Present the legal framework of the EQS in the different areas.
- c) Experts discussion on interactive and [forecasting](#) method and value for EQS for aquaculture according to the different environments;
- d) Experts discussion and make synthesis of the existing EQS (*sediment sampling, redox potential, organic inorganic nutrients, sediment organic matter, total phosphorus in sediment, sediment grain size, benthic community, water quality*).

IV WGMA – SIPAM joint meeting on marketing data scheme and marketing data collection

- a) Review the market data scheme for SIPAM database and review of the portal on Market
 - b) Review parameters and methodology on data collection for aquaculture marketing issues;
 - c) Identify synergies between the WGMA and SIPAM
- (The WGMA-SIPAM meeting should be also attended by the WGSC and WGSА coordinators for integrated and multidisciplinary inputs to the SIPAM IT issues)