



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



**GENERAL FISHERIES FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**Thirty-fourth Session**

**Athens, Greece, 14–17 April 2010**

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION ON THE MANAGEMENT OF FISHING  
CAPACITY<sup>1</sup>**

**Background**

This is a draft Recommendation related to the freezing of fishing capacity in the GFCM Convention Area proposed by the EU during the 33rd Session of the Commission. The Commission had decided to re-examine this proposal at its 34th Session considering also the advice emanating from the transversal workshop on the assessment, monitoring and management of fishing capacity, held during the intersessional period.

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to the Appendix S of the report of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session (page 123) and the paragraph 87 (page 11)

### **Draft Recommendation on the management of fishing capacity**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*RECALLING* that the objectives of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources;

*RECALLING* the Declaration of the Third Ministerial Conference on the Sustainable Development of the Fisheries in the Mediterranean held in Venice, Italy, on 25 and 26 November 2003;

*RECALLING* Recommendation GFCM/2002/1 which urges the control of fishing effort and the improvement of the exploitation pattern of demersal fisheries, as well as limiting catches of juveniles of small pelagic species;

*CONSIDERING* that in the advice for 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) considered that several demersal and small pelagic stocks are overexploited, some with high risk of recruitment overfishing, and that sustainable management requires measures aimed at controlling or reducing the fishing effort from 10 percent up to 40 percent and more;

*NOTING* that the stock assessment conducted by the SAC only concerns 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;

*RECALLING* Recommendation GFCM/2006/1 calling to develop a management programme of fishing effort in several geographical sub-areas as well as in adjacent sub-areas as relevant;

*NOTING* that the SAC has not yet been able to deliver a more operative advice on the management of fishing effort and fleet capacity;

*CONSIDERING* that in cases where no scientific information on the status of fisheries and of the exploited resources is available a more cautious approach is needed, in the development plans of fishing fleets and that suitable information coming from adjacent areas could be used for proper and precautionary management of fisheries until sound scientific evidence becomes available;

*NOTING* that the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) advises to apply the precautionary principle;

*CONSIDERING* that any possible global freezing of the fleet capacity at regional level shall not prevent or hinder transferability of fishing fleet capacity from one Member to another and from one GSA to another provided that the targeted fisheries are exploited sustainably and that the overall capacity does not increase;

*RECALLING* Resolution 2007/1 and noting that the SAC calls for a mandatory submission by the Members as from 2009 of several components of TASK 1 statistical matrix including in particular Tasks 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4;

*NOTING* that GFCM, at its thirty-second session, requested the SAC to carry out an evaluation of consequences of a possible freezing of the fleet capacity and that SAC has planned to convene in mid 2009 a workshop on the assessment, management and monitoring of fishing fleet capacity with a view to evaluate the evolution of Members' fishing fleets together with current and future development plans in consideration of fishing opportunities available and with a view to properly address the socio-economic impact resulting from adjusting or freezing capacity;

*RECALLING* Recommendation GFCM/2005/2 concerning the establishment of a GFCM record of vessels over 15 metres authorized to operate in the GFCM area;

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

1. Members and Cooperating entities shall limit, as from 1 June 2010, their fishing fleet capacity, calculated as the sum of the gross tonnage (GT) or, where appropriate, of the Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) of their fishing vessels larger than 15 metres in length overall, to the fishing capacity of their vessels notified to GFCM for 2008 and 2009 in accordance with GFCM Recommendation 2005/2 concerning the establishment of GFCM record of vessels authorized to operate in the GFCM area.
2. Members shall see to it that the overall tonnage does not increase when vessels are replaced.
3. All Members and Cooperating entities shall submit to the Secretary and via the electronic tools available on the GFCM web-site an updated list of their respective vessels greater than 15 metres LOA that were entitled to fish in the GFCM area of Competence in 2008 and early 2009, by 30 August 2009 at latest.

These lists shall contain the following information for each vessel:

- Name of vessel
  - Registration number
  - GFCM unique identifier (composed of ISO-3 code + 9 digits, e.g. xxx000000001)
  - Previous flag (if any)
  - Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
  - International radio call sign
  - Vessel type, length overall, gross tonnage and gross registered tonnage and engine power expressed in Kw
  - Name and address of owner, and/or charterer, and/or operator
  - Main target species
  - Main gears used and fleet segment allocation and Operational Unit as identified in the TASK 1 statistical matrix
  - Geographical sub-area/areas (GSAs) where fishing occurred.
4. The limitation of fleet capacity of fishing vessels larger than 15 metres overall length as indicated in paragraph 1 above shall be without prejudice to the transferability of fleet capacity from

one Member or Cooperating entities to another provided that overall fleet capacity of Members or Cooperating non-members concerned and authorized to fish in the GFCM area does not increase.

5. Members and cooperating non-Member shall communicate to the GFCM Executive Secretary information on the dimension and characteristics of their fishing fleets and on the development plans, on the fleet segments and operational Units of TASK 1 concerned, and on the status and dimension of targeted resources in due time in order to make it available to the SAC workshop on the assessment, management and monitoring of fishing fleet capacity.

On the basis of the outcomes of this workshop or of a second one that may be necessary to accomplish the SAC task, the obligation expressed in paragraph I will be adapted accordingly at the following GFCM annual session.