



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



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

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**PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY
COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD 2011**

INTRODUCTION

1. This document summarizes the programme of work of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), as identified by its Thirteenth Session (February 2011). The activities within the programme are to be undertaken by Members at national level, the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the SAC Subsidiary bodies. Budgetary implications are taken into consideration in document GFCM:XXXV/2011/9.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

2. Set out below are the proposed lists of activities for the intersessional period 2011 as identified by the four SAC Sub-Committees and reviewed and completed by the SAC at its Thirteenth Session. Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for certain activities are given in Appendix 1; others will be finalised by the Coordinators of the Sub-Committees in collaboration with the Secretariat.

Stock Assessment

- Carry out assessments on selected Mediterranean and Black Sea elasmobranch stocks;
- Organize a joint Workshop with the SCME and SCESS on Spatial Based Fishery Management. The draft Terms of Reference are presented in Appendix 1;
- Prepare a proposal for the expansion of Task 1.5 (biological data of catches), possibly leading to the establishment of a Task 2 data collection framework. A specific workshop together with the SCSI could be envisaged as a further step, if deemed necessary;
- Organize the meetings of the Working Groups on stock assessment of demersal and small pelagic species simultaneously;
- Continue with the elaboration of the GFCM Regional Database on biological parameters to facilitate agreement on values to be used for each stock assessment in the eastern, central and western Mediterranean;

- Improve the Stock Assessment Forms to facilitate the inclusion of raw data;
- Develop Reference Points with the view to evaluate the status of the stocks and fisheries including the effects on exploited stocks of FRAs;
- Collate and analyze main information useful for the European Eel Management Plans and set up a network of Mediterranean experts in collaboration with the working group on eel management of EIFAC/ICES;

Marine Environment and Ecosystems

- Continue with the implementation of the medium term programme on elasmobranchs;
- Prepare and disseminate educational material (posters, leaflets, brochures, etc.) for informing the public in the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries about harmful species and jellyfish.
- Prepare a new version of the TECHNOMED selectivity protocol as a standard document, including the collection of socio-economic data. The methodology of the statistical analysis should be improved and completed;
- Carry out, jointly with the SCSA, assessments on selected Mediterranean and Black Sea elasmobranchs stocks;
- Organize a training course on age reading of selected Mediterranean and Black Sea elasmobranchs under the framework of the Permanent Working Group on Assessment Methodology (PWGAM);
- Organize a second workshop on red coral;
- Organize a transversal workshop on Artificial Reefs in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, possibly back to back with the SCMEET meeting;
- Organize a meeting of the Working Group on by-catch;
- Undertake a regional medium-term research programme on red coral;
- Improve the knowledge on the topographic description of seamount areas, as well as the structure and functioning of canyons and deep-sea habitats.
- Continue conducting pilot studies on the effects of implementing the new codend meshes.
- Implement the reporting of data on by-catch of elasmobranchs within the framework of Task1.

Statistics and Information

- Update the Task 1 data entry/software and data submission exchange protocols (XML and CSV) to reflect the amendments proposed by the SCSA and endorsed by SAC;
- Update and publish the statistical bulletin (reference years 2008 and 2009);
- Continue the development of the Task 1 Regional Information System. Members are expected to submit the full Task 1 datasets for 2008 by January 2011, and the full Task 1 datasets for 2009 by May 2011;
- Finalize the development of the Regional Fleet Register information system and manage the data submitted accordingly;
- Work on a template considering the information requested by the GFCM Recommendations related to vessels lists, with a view to create a single data submission framework for vessels.

Economic and Social Sciences

- Undertake a review of the fisheries laws and regulations in force at national level in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and organize an expert meeting in the framework of the LaMed Project;
- Conduct regional studies to provide an overview of recreational fishing activities (gears, techniques, target species, etc.);
- Develop a harmonised monitoring framework protocol for recreational fisheries, design a data collection scheme for recreational fisheries indicators and conduct a regional study on the possible implementation of licensing schemes for this sector;
- Elaborate a Code of Practice / Technical Guidelines on recreational fisheries in the GFCM area;
- Perform studies regarding the socio-economic impact resulting from the implementation of the 40 mm diamond mesh in trawl fisheries;
- Populate the GFCM webpage dedicated to TECHNOMED with any information dealing with the economic impacts of selectivity studies;
- Organize a specific workshop, back-to-back with the forthcoming SCESS meeting on the processing and analysis of Task 1.3 data;
- Proceed with analysis of socio-economic data collected through the Task 1 framework;
- Undertake studies related to ecolabelling socio-economic impacts.

Other transversal issues

- Consolidate the production of a Regional Plan of Action on the management and monitoring of fleet capacity on the basis of the Draft Outline GFCM RPOA-Capacity, produced by the second workshop on fishing capacity, and Recommendation GFCM/34/2010/2. This could be effected through the organisation of another workshop, the engagement of a consultant or any other arrangement which the Commission may decide upon;
- Convene a workshop on technical aspects related to the implementation of VMS and the use of related data;
- In line with article 4 of GFCM Recommendation GFCM/2006/2, undertake an analysis of the impact of the establishment of a closed season for the FAD dolphinfish fisheries on the stocks of this species and to recommend any change that may be deemed necessary to improve its effectiveness, in order to evaluate possible modifications to the closure and/or to propose additional management measures;
- Establish an *ad-hoc* Working Group on the Black Sea open to all scientists of the region including from partner Organizations and organise the first meeting of the Working Group in early 2012.

Meetings of the SAC and its subsidiary bodies

3. The Scientific Advisory Committee proposed that the following meetings be convened during the intersessional period:

Meeting	Place/Date
14 th Session of the SAC (5 days)	Varna, Bulgaria / February 2012
Session of the SCSA (4 days)	Rome / Nov.- Dec. 2011
Working Group on stock assessment of Demersal Species (6 days)	Greece/TBD
Working Group on stock assessment of Small Pelagic Species (6 days)	Greece/TBD
Transversal Workshop (SCSA/SCMEE/SCESS) on Spatial Based Fishery Management (3 days)	TBD/TBD
Stock assessment of selected species of elasmobranchs (5 days)	Brussels/TBD
Session of the SCESS (4 days)	Rome / Nov.- Dec. 2011
Workshop on the processing and analysis of Task 1.3 data (back-to-back with the SCESS Session)	Rome / Nov.- Dec. 2011
Expert meeting on Fisheries legislation within the framework of the LaMed Project	Beirut, Lebanon/ Sept. 2011
Session of the SCSA (4 days)	Rome / Nov.- Dec. 2011
Session of the SCMEE (4 days)	Rome / Nov.- Dec. 2011
Meeting of the Working Group on by-catch (3 days)	Turkey/TBD
Training course on age reading and growth parameters of the main elasmobranchs species (5 days)	Turkey/TBD
Workshop (SCMEE) on Artificial Reefs, possibly back to back with the SCMEE session	Rome / Nov.- Dec. 2011
Second Transversal Workshop on Red Coral (3 days)	TBD/TBD
12 th Session of the CMSC (1 day)	Rome / Nov.- Dec. 2011
Workshop on VMS (3 days)	TBD/TBD
First meeting of the <i>ad-hoc</i> Working Group on the Black Sea (3 days)	Romania/early 2012

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

4. The Commission is invited to review the activities proposed by its Scientific Advisory Committee as detailed above. The Commission may wish to highlight its priorities and to consider budgetary implications in finalising the programme of work.

APPENDIX 1

**Draft terms of reference and mandate for working groups,
workshops and other activities****I. Transversal workshop on spatial based fishery management**

- a) Review main experiences of Spatial based Approach to Fishery Management (SAFM) in the world.
- b) Examine SAFM in the more wide context of the Integrated Management of the Coastal Zone
- c) Explore methods and propose case studies to assess the impact of Fishery Restricted Area (FRA) on commercial stocks, marine ecosystems and fisheries
- d) Evaluate the role of FRA, Territorial Use Right of Fisheries (TURF) and other SAFM tools in design fisheries management plans.
- e) Analyse the current and future approach to monitoring, surveillance and control in SAFM.

II. Working Group on by-catch

- a) Review and collate available data on by-catch in GFCM area
- b) Evaluate the quality of by-catch data by year, GSA's, fishery and stock
- c) Consider by-catch indicators and necessary supporting data on by-catch rates by stock and fishery for trends interpretation
- d) Consider ways to start or expand by-catch monitoring schemes in GFCM area

III. Transversal workshop on Artificial Reefs in the Mediterranean and Black Sea

- a) Gather information on ARs, e.g. structures and activities, for the inclusion in a common database to be incorporated in the general information provided by the GFCM.
- b) Evidences of increased productivity and/or gathering of biomass in ARs of the Mediterranean and Black Sea.
- c) Monitoring strategies and statistical approaches to study ARs in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.
- d) Legal aspects linked to the ARs management in each member state of the GFCM.

IV. Second workshop on red coral

- a) Review of the distribution (past and actual) and present status of deep red coral banks across the Mediterranean region.
- b) Inventory on the existing and new data of deep red coral banks on biology, ecology, oceanography, genetics and fisheries.
- c) Evaluation of measures and strategies for planning local and regional management and conservation plans.

V. Mandate of the new Working group on the Black Sea

1. In close coordination with the GFCM Secretariat, the Working Group will deal with specific issues related to scientific research and management of fisheries in the Black Sea. In particular, the Working Group will undertake the following tasks:
 - a) Improve the knowledge on fisheries resources and their management in the Black Sea through surveys and the organisation of expert meetings;
 - b) Identify priority research needs in the fields of fisheries science, fishing technology, socio-economics and management within the framework of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries;
 - c) Improve and develop studies related to the stock assessment of the main fish stocks in the Region and identify appropriate ways to strengthen the capacity building of national scientists in Black Sea countries;
 - d) Evaluate the current status of data collection and fisheries statistics, including scientific data for stock assessment, in the Region.
 - e) Discuss and identify options to foster cooperation among fishery scientists and stakeholders from Black Sea coastal states.
 - f) Discuss the possible interaction of GFCM activities with other initiatives of Black Sea scientific bodies, national entities and international projects.
 - g) Undertake preliminary discussions on strategy options for fisheries management in the region, within the framework of the GFCM, including the integration of ecosystem considerations, bio-economic indicators and reference points.
2. The Working Group, which will be open to all scientists, including from the partner organisations, will convene its first meeting to discuss the manner by which its objectives and activities will be implemented. At this meeting, the Working Group will nominate its Coordinator. The rules concerning the election and nomination of the Coordinators of the GFCM technical subsidiary bodies will be applied *Mutatis mutandi* to the nomination of the Coordinator of the Working Group.