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**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR
THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES
POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE**



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

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**ISSUES RELATED TO THE REORGANISATION OF THE GFCM
COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE (CAQ)***

***Available in English only**

This document¹ is a draft proposal, prepared upon the request of CAQ Committee during its Seventh Session which includes an assessment of present structure and *modus operandi* of CAQ subsidiary bodies and suggestion for improving the functioning of CAQ subsidiary bodies also based on indications provided by GFCM Performance Review Report and Seventh Session of the Committee.

INTRODUCTION

1. Development of a sustainable aquaculture industry has been on agenda of GFCM member countries since the establishment of CAQ in 1996. The mandate of CAQ include promoting the sustainable development and responsible management of marine and brackish water aquaculture in the region and providing independent advice on the technical, socio-economic, legal and environmental bases for common standards, norms and guidelines and decisions for consideration by the Commission.

2. The CAQ subsidiary bodies were restructured in 2006 and three *ad hoc* working groups with specific mandates were established which included; Working Group on Sustainability (WGSA), Working Group on Marketing (WGMA) and Working Group on Siting and Carrying Capacity (WGSC). Short and medium-term reference frameworks and *modus operandi* of these working groups were endorsed during Fifth Session of CAQ (Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 5-7 June 2006) and a separate subsidiary body, Coordinating Meeting of the *ad hoc* Working Groups (CMWG) was also established to coordinate the activities of WGS. All WGs have a specific mandate and function through projects. This reorganization through CMWG and *Ad Hoc* Working Groups has definitely created momentum in Committee's functioning generating substantial amount of knowledge, data and

¹ The first draft of this document has been prepared by Mr Ferit Rad WGMA coordinator, the support and contribution of the other coordinators and the bureau of the CAQ, and finalised in collaboration with the GFCM Secretariat.

information, experience, networking, cooperation, recommendations with regard to addressing some specific issues which have been hindering the development of the Mediterranean aquaculture industry.

3. During the Seventh Session of CAQ (8-10 March, 2011, Rome) the main conclusions and recommendations of Performance Review of CAQ were presented and discussed. These included the need for the identification and prioritization of strategic issues for the development of sustainable aquaculture in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions as well as the necessity to review the functions and organization of CAQ and its subsidiary bodies. Drawing upon the recommendations for the restricting of the CAQ emanating from the Performance Review and noting that some projects such as the MedAquaMarket project which was conducted by WGMA had been concluded, the Committee acknowledged the urgent need to identify options for the setting up of a new structure which would ensure a sustainable working strategy. The Committee also underlined the important and substantial results generated by the project-based working approach which provided the foundation for the establishment of a more permanent structure.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON CAQ SUBSIDIARY BODIES

4. GFCM is mandated under Article III (1) (g) of its Agreement to promote programs for marine and brackish water aquaculture and coastal fisheries and is one of the five Regional Fisheries Bodies having aquaculture responsibilities.

The Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) was established in 1996 by the Commission with the following mandate²:

- Assess information provided by members and relevant aquaculture related stakeholders or programs on production statistics, market data, culture systems, technologies used, farmed species and maintain related databases, including relevant socio-economic, environmental, biotic and abiotic indicators;
- Promote the formulation of common standards and guidelines on sustainable development and responsible management of aquaculture;
- Identify cooperative research and training programs and coordinate their implementations;
- Carry out other duties, functions or responsibilities related to aquaculture promotion as be conferred by the Commission.

5. In 1996, the GFCM formally endorsed the four aquaculture related networks established by the UNDP/FAO Mediterranean Regional Aquaculture Project (MEDRAP) and Priority Action Plan/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) of the Mediterranean Action Plan of UNEP (MAP). These included;

- Information Aspects for Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM),
- Technical Aspects for Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (TECAM),
- Socio-economic and Legal Aspects of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SELAM)
- Environmental Aspects of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (EAM).

6. Although SELAM, TECAM and EAM contributed to buildup of knowledge, capacity building and exchange of experience and information on socio-economic, legal, ecological and technological issues related to aquaculture in 1990s, the challenges encountered by Mediterranean aquaculture in the new millennium raised and imposed the issue of restructuring CAQ subsidiary bodies to enable the Committee to fulfill its mandate for promoting sustainable aquaculture in GFCM Convention area. The need for reorganizing CAQ subsidiary bodies was further underlined by an

² CAQ Expert Meeting to Identify the Needs for a Subsidiary Body on the Technical and Socio-economic Aspects of the Aquaculture in the Mediterranean. GFCM:CAQ/2006/Inf .17

external evaluation of the Committee on Aquaculture and its Networks in 2004 and *Ad Hoc* Meeting of Experts on the External Evaluation of the Committee on Aquaculture and Its Networks organized on 29-30 March, 2004 in Rome³.

7. As a result of this process, the GFCM at its Thirtieth Session (January 2006) endorsed the organization of a meeting of experts to identify the needs for a GFCM subsidiary body of the Committee on Aquaculture which would deal with the socio-economic and technical aspects of aquaculture in the Mediterranean.

8. The CAQ Expert Meeting to Identify the needs of a Subsidiary body on the Technical and Socio-economic Aspects of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean was held back-to-back with Fifth Session of CAQ in Santiago de Compostela, Spain on 2-3 June 2006. The experts suggested the establishment of a “Coordinating Steering Group on Technical, Economic and Social Aspects of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (TESAM)” to replace SELAM and TECAM and to merge EAM.

9. The experts also agreed on the need to establish 3 *ad hoc* working groups to address the most urgent issues in the short term. Following extensive discussions it was decided to have *ad hoc* working groups on “Sustainability Indicators”, “Marketing” and “Aquaculture Siting”. A list of priority issues and proposals for short-term activities of WGs were also identified during the meeting.

10. Recommendations of Expert Meeting for restructuring CAQ subsidiary bodies and *modus operandi* of these bodies were presented and discussed during Fifth CAQ Session (Santiago de Compostela, 5-7 June, 2006). TECAM, SELAM and EAM were merged to a new structure consisting of *ad hoc* working groups aimed at addressing specific problems, output oriented, flexible in their working arrangement and time-bounded. Establishment of 3 *ad hoc* Working Groups and short- and medium-term reference framework for these WGs were endorsed by Fifth Session of CAQ as following⁴:

Ad Hoc Working Group on Marketing in Aquaculture (WGMA)

- Evaluation of market conditions for aquaculture products within the context of the Mediterranean seafood industry.
- Marketing plan guidelines.
- Identification of main issues and criticisms to aquaculture.
- A strategy on the image rehabilitation of aquaculture.

Ad Hoc Working Group on Sustainability in Aquaculture (WGSA)

- Identification of common indicators for sustainable aquaculture.
- Guidelines for monitoring indicators.
- Feedback mechanisms on aquaculture performance based on the indicators.
- Guidelines for better management practices.
- Evaluation of bio-security in aquaculture.
- Bio-security guidelines.

³ Ad Hoc Meeting of Experts on the External Evaluation of the Committee on Aquaculture and Its Networks. FIRI/R770 (Bi).

⁴ Fifth Session of the Committee on Aquaculture. FIRI/R802 (Bi)

Ad Hoc Working Group on Site selection and Carrying capacity (WGSC)

- Production of carrying capacity assessment methodologies for the Mediterranean aquaculture considering the integration to other coastal users.
- GIS application and guidelines on site selection.
- Standardize Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for different culture systems.
- Identification tools for appropriate site specific technology.
- Harmonization of aquaculture legislation.

11. To maintain consistency in the *modus operandi* of GFCM subsidiary bodies, the Committee further decided to take into consideration the experience gathered by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and agreed to establish as a subsidiary body of CAQ, a “Coordinating Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Groups” (CMWG). In this respect the Committee adopted *modus operandi*, mandate and Terms of References of the coordinators (see Appendix A).

12. The main objective of the CMWG was to re-organize, prioritize, streamline and reschedule with appropriate budget proposal the various project proposals of the Working Groups.

FOLLOW UP OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA DECISIONS (Fifth CAQ Session - Santiago de Compostela, 5-7 June, 2006).

13. The First Coordination Meeting of Working Groups (CMWG) was held at FAO Headquarters from 6-7 November 2006⁵. A coordinator was chosen for each Working Group. Project proposals of each Working Groups (Marketing Sustainability and Siting and Carrying Capacity) were discussed with participation of 17 experts and 5 officers from the Secretariat.

14. The following projects we recommended by Working Groups and agreed upon during CMWG:

Ad Hoc Working Group on Marketing in Aquaculture (WGMA):

- *Development of a Strategy for Marketing and Promotion of Mediterranean Aquaculture Products. (MedAquaMarket).*

Ad Hoc Working Group on Sustainability in Aquaculture (WGSA)

- *Employing the Ecosystem Approach in Selection of Indicators for Sustainable Development of Aquaculture and Guidelines for Their Use in the Mediterranean (INDAM).*

Ad Hoc Working Group on Site selection and Carrying capacity (WGSC)

- *Developing Siting and Carrying Capacity Guidelines for Mediterranean Aquaculture within Aquaculture Appropriate Areas (SHOCMED).*

15. Working Groups coordinators were asked to prepare and submit their respective workplan and budget requirements to the CAQ Secretariat. Secretariat also outlined the Terms of References of the CAQ (Rule X) of the GFCM Rules of Procedures.

⁵ Report of the Coordinating Meeting of the Working Groups(CMWG). GFCM:CAQVI72008/Inf.7

16. Workplan, expected outputs, organizational and methodological aspects and funding opportunities for activities of Working Groups were further consolidated during the second CMWG which was held in FAO Headquarters (3rd September, 2008)⁶.

17. Activities of Working Group on Marketing was funded by Spain (Secretaría General de Pesca, Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación) within the project titled “Development of a Strategy for Marketing and Promotion of Mediterranean Aquaculture”. This project was operative throughout 2008-2010. The activities of Working Groups on Sustainability with regard to INDAM project was supported with funding by European Commission enabling the WG to start implement Phase I of this project in 2009. SHOCMED project was also funded by EC and is operative since 2009.

RELEVANT OUTCOMES OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA DECISIONS

18. Restructuring CAQ subsidiary bodies and establishment of 3 “project-oriented” *Ad Hoc* Working Groups on Sustainability, Siting and Carrying Capacity and Marketing by Committees during its Fifth Session in Santiago de Compostela (June 2006), was in a sense a mandate which was dictated by some major constraints encountered by Mediterranean aquaculture industry namely, market failures due to unregulated supply and demand patterns for major finfish species farmed (European sea bass and sea bream), negative perceptions towards aquaculture, increasing societal concerns on potential environmental impact of aquaculture and competition with other coastal users for access to marine production sites.

19. This reorganization through CMWG and *Ad Hoc* Working Groups has definitely created momentum in Committee’s functioning generating substantial amount of knowledge, data and information, experience, networking, cooperation, recommendations and project proposals on some challenging issues *inter alia* formulating a marketing strategy for promotion of Mediterranean aquaculture, promoting image of Mediterranean aquaculture through introduction of code of practice for responsible husbandry practices, collection and dissemination of market data and information at national and regional level, developing common site selection and licensing procedures, identifying environmental quality standards for implementation at GFCM level, guidelines for Allocation Zones for Aquaculture (AZA) and developing indicators for environmental, economic, social and institutional aspects of sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean.

20. All these challenging issues have addressed by CMWG and *Ad Hoc* Working Groups on Sustainability, Siting and Carrying Capacity and Marketing to various degrees depending on availability of funds. *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Marketing, through MedAquaMarket project has contributed to increased understanding of the present supply and demand patterns in Mediterranean aquaculture through 13 MedAquaMarket national reports and regional synthesis based on quantitative data and qualitative market assessments.

21. Development of a market data and information scheme for SIPAM to monitor major trends at national and regional level and formulating recommendations for a market strategy at Mediterranean level have also been accomplished by WGMA. Two publications released by GFCM in 2010, namely “Synthesis of Mediterranean marine Finfish Aquaculture- a Marketing and Promotion Strategy” (GFCM- Studies & Reviews, No. 88) and “Present Market Situation and Prospects of Meager

⁶ Report of the Second Coordinating Meeting of the Working Groups (CMWG). GFCM/CAQVI/2008/Inf.8

(*Argyrosomus regius*) As an Emerging Species in Mediterranean Aquaculture” (GFCM-Studies & Reviews, No. 89) are outputs generated by MedAquaMarket project conducted by WGMA.

22. Recently a project proposal aimed at empowering producer’s organization for regulating supply and demand patters and introducing code of practices for responsible husbandry has been developed by WGAM and submitted to Seventh Session of CAQ (8-10 March, 2011).

23. *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Sustainability has developed INDAM project, an ambitious initiative in its scope and depth as well as methodological approach in its implementation. Through INDAM project phase I, it has been possible to identify a set of indicators for environmental, economic, social and governance dimension of sustainability and further to develop indicator selection attributes and procedures for implementation at local level through co-construction with stakeholders in two pilot actions conducted in Turkey and Tunisia. During Phase II of INDAM two more pilot actions are planned to be implemented in Turkey and Tunisia to assessment the applicability of selected indicators at local level. Three further pilot actions for selection of indicators at local level are scheduled for implementation in Greece, Spain and Morocco in 2011. The recent publication of GFCM titled “ Indicators for the Sustainable Development of Finfish Mediterranean Aquaculture: Highlights from the InDAM Project” (Studies and Reviews, No.90, 2011) is a reflection of experience and knowledge generated on development of indicators for sustainable aquaculture through implementation of Phase I of INDAM project.

24. Developing site selection guidelines and environmental quality standards for monitoring marine fish farms are complicated but at the same time crucial issues for development of sustainable aquaculture in the Mediterranean. This task has been successfully tackled by *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Siting and Carrying Capacity through SHOCMED project. Establishment of a network of experts dealing with site selection and environmental monitoring at Mediterranean level, collection and analysis of data and information on legal and administrative aspects of aquaculture monitoring schemes in different GFCM Member countries for harmonization of site selection criteria and monitoring procedures, creation of a on-line web publication search tool on aquaculture-environment interactions through SIPAM portal, developing indicators for environmental monitoring of fish farms at regional level and recommendations to facilitate and develop aquaculture into coastal zone management are some of the achievements during first year of SHOCMED project. A document titled “Review on Existing Procedures for Site Selection Used across the Mediterranean and Evaluation of the Affectivity of Regulatory Schemes and EIA Procedures” is also a reflection of the experience gained during the first year of this project.

25. Establishment of WGs has also enhanced tangible cooperation among subsidiary bodies of the Committee. While SIPAM web platform has provided support to WGs and has been an important communication tool for WGS to disseminate and share their outputs and achievements with others, information and outputs generated by WGs has contributed to utility of SIPAM. Enhanced cooperation has also been achieved with IUCN on sustainability of aquaculture and with Eurostat and FAO’s Coordinating Working Party (CWP) on statistics and data collection. The main FAO Services within the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department with which cooperation has been strengthened are: FIRA (Fishery Aquaculture Service), FIPS (Fishery Statistics and Information Service) and FIMP (Fishery Product Trade and Marketing Service).

26. During Third CMWG held in FAO Headquarters (24-26 February 2010)⁷some reflections were made by the participants on the present structure of the subsidiary bodies of the CAQ and their TORs. The CMWG stressed the lack of a middle layer of subsidiary bodies between the CAQ and the WGs. The difficulty of the organization of the workplan for the CAQ activities on biannual basis was

⁷ Report of the Third Coordinating Meeting of the Working Groups (CMWG). GFCM/XXXIV/2010/Inf.11

considered to be a limiting factor for countries involvement and program continuity. The Forth CMWG which was held in Malta (St. George's Bay, 27 November 2010)⁸, concurred with the consideration made by the WGMA, that the ongoing structure does not guarantee continuity and follow up to the priorities identified during MedaquaMarket project and creates difficulties in opening discussions to other relevant issues for Mediterranean Aquaculture that should be addressed by CAQ. The CMWG considered that an updated *modus operandi* should be discussed during the next CAQ session.

27. Performance Review of the GFCM presented during Seventh Session of CAQ (7-10 March 2011, Rome)⁴ also highlights some limits of the ongoing structure of CAQ. Accordingly, the functions of CAQ were found to be too "objective oriented", "intensive finfish oriented", repeating the relevant mandate and not being specific enough in terms of operational use and not paying enough attention to other marine production such as shellfish. Some of the shortcomings identified included the linkage between the main priorities identified for the CAQ missions and the orientation of the *Ad Hoc* WGs, lack of clarity in the functions and division of responsibilities among the *Ad Hoc* WGs and overlapping responsibilities among WGs. Confusion between the various roles of the CMWG, WGs, projects and the CAQ were also emphasized. Performance Review also called upon GFCM to consider re-examining mandate of the CMWG to ensure that attention is consistently given to the broader task that would address issues of strategic importance for regional aquaculture development and responsible management of aquaculture. Furthermore; the report underlined the need for reorganization of the CAQ, CMWG and WGs with a view to clarifying their functions, organization and procedures in order to ensure effective performance.

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF ONGOING STRUCTURE

28. Compared to other regional management bodies, networks and institutions for aquaculture The Committee on Aquaculture has a salient characteristic in terms of its geographic coverage which includes European, Middle Eastern and North African countries. Although this could be regarded as an opportunity for enhanced cooperation and sharing experience, it also gives the CAQ a challenging mandate and mission in terms of addressing vast range of priorities ascending from diversity of level of development of aquaculture in Member countries. In meeting this challenge the structure of CAQ subsidiary bodies should be output-oriented and flexible enough to address emerging issues of concern and enduring enough to monitor the development trends, identify gaps and priorities and develop management policies to ensure the sustainable development of the industry at GFCM level.

29. The CMWM and *Ad Hoc* Working Groups have successfully carried out their respective mandate and reference framework since Santiago de Compostela Session in 2006. However; since then some operational constraints regarding functions and organization of CAQ subsidiary bodies have been encountered. Below a brief assessment of strength and weakness of the ongoing structure (CMWG and *Ad Hoc* Working Groups) is provided for consideration by the Committee and the Commission:

STRENGTHS

- The ongoing body is light, flexible and output-oriented.
- A great deal of momentum has been achieved within the Committee through ongoing body.

⁸ Report of the Fourth Coordinating Meeting of the Working Groups (CMWG). GFCM/CAQVII/2011/Inf.8

- WGs and their respective projects have generated substantial amount of assessments, knowledge, data and information, experience and recommendations for management of sustainable aquaculture in the Mediterranean.
- The ongoing structure has enhanced cooperation among WGs and other international bodies and FAO services.
- WGs have supported SIPAM mission and activities enhancing its utility.
- The regional importance of SIPAM as an information collection and disseminations tool has been revealed and consolidated.
- WGs have contributed to regional networking on different aspects of sustainable development of aquaculture.
- The ongoing structure has generated many technical meetings and pilot actions which have created forums for exchange of ideas, knowledge and capacity building at regional level.
- The activities of WGs have contributed to strengthening of overall concept of sustainability and sustainable aquaculture development at regional level.

WEAKNESSES

- Even though the concept of “ad hoc working group” is an efficient tool for addressing emerging issues and constraints it does not allow continuity in identification of priorities, management options, strategic planning and long-term policy development.
- The ad hoc nature of WGs and the specific reference framework endorsed by CAQ Fifth Session for each WG, limit the scope and range of issues that can be addressed through ongoing structure.
- Ad Hoc Working Groups constitute the core elements of ongoing structure. However, there is no Term of References for Ad Hoc Working Groups.
- Term of Reference for the CMWG including its modus operandi is not clear. For example “predefined timeframe” of WGs is a pending issue.
- While CAQ subsidiary bodies have been structured to be flexible in their working arrangement, project-based and functioning within a predefined timeframe, the mandate of coordinators of Ad Hoc WGs and CMWG in CAQ are nearly identical to mandate of coordinators of Sub-Committees and the Coordinating Meeting of Sub-Committees (CMSC) in SAC, which are permanent functioning bodies. Thus the intention in structuring flexible working arrangement has not been reflected to modus operandi of subsidiary bodies.
- The functioning of CAQ (e.g. biannual Sessions) hinder the functioning of WGs (endorsement of workplan, budgetary aspects).
- Although establishment of Ad Hoc Working Groups on Marketing and Siting and Carrying Capacity is rational and justifiable, a fundamental concept such as “sustainability” needs to be the core management policy for development of aquaculture in GFCM region on permanent bases.
- There are overlapping on activities of WGs. For example, activities of WGSC do fall within the scope of WGSA
- Implementation of follow-up activities or projects developed by WGs is solely dependent on availability of funding through donors (Member countries or regional organizations and bodies).

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW STRUCTURE

30. The GFCM Members updated the mandate of the CAQ at the Thirty-third Session in 2009 identifying the following main missions⁴:

- Collection and processing of data, dissemination of information;
- Promotion of sustainable development and responsible management of aquaculture;
- Enhancement of regional cooperation through cooperative research and training programs.

31. The subsidiary bodies of CAQ therefore; need to be restructured in a manner that enables the Committee to address broad range of environmental, economic, social and institutional issues with respect to sustainable development of aquaculture and responsible management. The concept of “sustainability” and its three main dimensions namely ecological, economic and social issues will have to constitute the strategic notion and structural framework of subsidiary bodies of CAQ.

32. Within this context the following structure is recommended for reorganization of CAQ subsidiary bodies for consideration by the Committee and the Commission:

SUB-COMMITTEES:

- Sub-Committee on Environment and Biosecurity
- Sub-Committee on Economic, Social and Governance Aspects in Aquaculture
- Sub-Committee on Information Management and Promotion of Aquaculture
- Coordinating Meeting of CAQ Subsidiary Bodies (CMCS)

33. The Information System for Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture in the Mediterranean through its consolidate network and IT platform will maintain its main role in data collection and transversal support to the Subcommittee. The terms of reference of the SIPAM will be updated accordingly during its 13th Annual Session scheduled for November 2011.

34. The GFCM Projects such as SHoCMed, InDAM , LaMed or other new projects will maintain the role in support to the activities of the of CAQ, will be oriented on specific outputs and will be coordinated with one or more Subsidiary bodies according to the planned objectives and activities.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

35. The Commission is invited to review the main aspects related to the functioning, procedures and organisation of the CAQ Subsidiary bodies according to the considerations made in the document and may wish to translate into a plan of the reorganisation of CAQ. The Commission may request to the CAQ an appropriate period for fine tuning of the mandate of the proposed structure.

MISSION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEES

Generic for all Sub-Committees

All Sub-Committees Should;

- a. Facilitate sustainability of Mediterranean aquaculture by developing appropriate development policies;
- b. Contribute to promotion of the image Mediterranean aquaculture and its products
- c. Contribute to implementation of FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) Article 9 and responsible aquaculture practices.
- d. Contribute to capacity building at Mediterranean level and specifically among small and medium-scale producers
- e. Contribute to build-up and dissemination of scientific information and knowledge at GFCM level,

SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

Sub-Committee on Environment and Biosecurity

- a. Aquaculture-environment interactions
- b. Environmental monitoring standards, procedures and certification
- c. Aquaculture site selection and zoning schemes
- d. Risk and Environmental Impact Assessment
- e. Seafood safety issues
- f. Animal welfare
- g. Diseases and pathology of fish and shellfish
- h. Aquatic species health Management
- i. Veterinary medicines and chemicals
- j. Licensing procedures
- k. Aquaculture feeds and feed management
- l. Lagoon management
- m. Climate changes and ecological issues
- n. Farming technologies

Sub-Committee on Economic, Social and Governance Aspects in Aquaculture

- a. Market data and supply-demand patterns
- b. Qualitative market information and assessments
- c. Distribution and retailing of aquaculture products
- d. Development of marketing strategies, new markets
- e. Product quality management schemes and certification issues
- f. International seafood trade related issues
- g. Product diversification and differentiation including organic products

- h. Producers organizations, associations
- i. Collective market promotion actions
- j. Economic performance, risk and crisis management
- k. Impact of aquaculture on rural communities, social and cultural heritage
- l. Equity and labor issues
- m. Communication tools and strategies for improving image of aquaculture products

Sub-Committee on Information Management and Promotion of Aquaculture

- a. Dissemination and management of information and outputs generated by other Sub-Committees using appropriate communication tools including SIPAM network
- b. Cooperation and interactions with other Mediterranean projects focused on data bank and R&D
- c. Promotion of scientific cooperation among Mediterranean countries, institutions and projects focused on aquaculture development
- d. Formulation of research and development policies
- e. Promote research and development capabilities at GFCM level through appropriate means including training schemes
- f. Provide feed back and inputs for activities of other Sub-Committees utilizing SIPAM network (national coordinators) when needed

TERMS OF REFERENCES FOR SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE (CAQ)

Terms of References for the Sub-Committees of CAQ

- a. Elaborate on the precise terms of reference for scientific activities which will be carried out on the basis of the mandate of the Committee on Aquaculture, with special attention on sustainable development of aquaculture and responsible management options;
- b. Organize the inter-session preparatory work, including workplan and budgetary aspects;
- c. Analyze the results of works done by project(s) conducted and elaborate a summary for the Committee on Aquaculture.
- d. Report to the Committee on Aquaculture on a range of issues, research and options for sustainable development and responsible management of aquaculture relevant to métier of the Sub-Committee;
- e. Advice and call the attention of the Committee on Aquaculture on encountered or foreseeable constraints and recommend solution relevant to métier of the Sub-Committee;
- f. Cooperate and coordinate activities, where appropriate, and subject to the approval of the Committee on Aquaculture, with other scientific bodies and organizations pertinent with aquaculture.
- g. Propose terms of reference for *ad hoc* working groups or any other consultancy service required;
- h. Conduct any other task specifically requested by the Committee on Aquaculture and Coordinating Meeting of Sub-Committees (CMSC).
- i. Cooperate with SIPAM to disseminate and share the activities and outputs of the Sub-Committee and any relevant information.

Terms of Reference of the Coordinating Meeting of CAQ Subsidiary Bodies (CMCS) and of the Coordinators of the Sub-Committees

Membership and modus operandi of the CMCS

- a. The CMCS will comprise the Chair and the two Vice-Chairpersons of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ), the GFCM Executive Secretary and the CAQ Technical Secretary, the Coordinators of Sub-Committees, Coordinator of SIPAM, facilitator(s) or coordinators of project(s), international partner institutions and experts as might be decided by the CAQ and to all interested GFCM Members.
- b. In addition to the assistance of the GFCM Secretariat, the CMCS will be supported in its work by the relevant FAO technical officers, including the Coordinators of the FAO regional projects when relevant. Pursuant to Rule X (6) of the Rules of Procedures, the procedures of the CMCS shall be governed mutatis mutandis by the Rule of Procedures of the Commission.
- c. Coordinators of Sub-Committees will be proposed by GFCM Secretariat for endorsement by CAQ for two intersessional period (or four years). This term can be extended by CAQ upon the request of GFCM Secretariat.
- d. Sub-Committees may propose project(s) in support of their activities within the framework of their mission and scope of activities. Project proposals (Project briefs) should be first presented at CMCS by coordinators of the Sub-Committees. Project(s) approved by CMCS could be then presented to CAQ for final approval and budgetary aspects. The GFCM Secretariat may also propose additional ad hoc projects in support to the activities and priorities of the CAQ or upon request and of particular interest of the Commission

CMCS Mandate

- a. Propose and/or update elements of the work plan for the activities of the CAQ during the intersessional period and organize accordingly the distribution of activities among Sub-Committees.
- b. Promote the participation of suitable expertise in the activities of the Sub-Committees.
- c. Identify data and information that can be handled by SIPAM
- d. Appraise the reports of the Sub-Committees and when relevant of the ad hoc working groups and or projects, to ensure consistency of the draft recommendations of these subsidiary bodies and formulate as appropriate, integrated advice on development of sustainable aquaculture and responsible management for examination by CAQ.
- e. Function as editing committee for the selection of scientific and technical documents to be published in the GFCM Studies and Review series.
- f. Conduct any other task specifically requested by the Commission or CAQ or approved by consensus by the members of CMCS.

Mandate of the Coordinators of the Sub-Committees

- a. Maintain an updated list of experts participating in activities of the Sub-Committee, providing full contact details, and ensure the distribution of related information.
- b. Encourage the participation of experts in Sub-Committee activities and their scientific and technical contributions.
- c. Organize in close liaison with the CMCS, the activities of the Sub-Committee to address the issues raised by GFCM and/or CAQ.
- d. Coordinate intersessional activities, notably the organization of the Sub-Committee meetings and when the case those of ad hoc working group(s) in collaboration with the facilitator(s), in close

liaison with GFCM Secretariat, including preparation of the draft annotated provisional agenda and/or terms of references.

- e. Supervise the drafting of meeting reports, including the presentation of attached appendixes/reference documents.
- f. Liaise with scientific and technical bodies of other international/regional organizations dealing with topics of common interest.
- g. Represent the Sub-Committee at the meetings off the CMCS, in particular for preparing work and advice for CAQ.