



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



**Thirty-seventh Session of the Commission**

**Split, Croatia, 13-17 May 2013**

**Conceptual note for the First regional Symposium on sustainable artisanal fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea**

**TITLE:** *Regional Symposium<sup>1</sup> on sustainable artisanal fisheries<sup>2</sup> in the Mediterranean and Black Sea*

**CO-ORGANIZERS:** *GFCM + TBD*

**PARTNERS:** *TBD*

**VENUE AND DATES:** *Malta – 25-28 November 2013*

**DURATION:** *4 days*

## **BACKGROUND/RATIONALE**

Artisanal fisheries traditionally represent an important share of the fish caught in the GFCM Area and their social and cultural role in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea have long been recognized, although no information at regional level exists neither on the captures nor on its socio-economic dimension. Artisanal fisheries are often characterized, among others, by relying on a family-based structure, engaging in fishing activities close to their home ports, mainly employing vessels which are made of wood or engines with reduced fuel consumption, using static gears, selling their products directly on landing beaches and/or in local markets and providing these markets with high quality and fresh marine products. Nonetheless, in order to provide a full picture of artisanal fisheries in the GFCM Area some information is still missing/ requiring to be further elaborated for some GFCM Members.

Already in 1980, the GFCM was calling for “*the definition of a national strategy indicating in particular the place of artisanal fisheries in management schemes*” through resolution GFCM/15/1980/1. As of then, few regional analyses of artisanal fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea have been periodically carried out. However, there are issues which have not been fully addressed due to the complexity inherent in defining strategies for encompassing artisanal fisheries in terms of monitoring, management and

<sup>1</sup> The name “Symposium” is provisional and opened to be further discussed with partners in view of the identification of suitable alternative (e.g. workshop, etc.).

<sup>2</sup> The term “artisanal fisheries” as employed in this concept note is meant to encompass that of “small-scale fisheries”.

sustainable development actions. This is the more so at a time when the fisheries sector is experiencing a systemic crisis and the need for strategies focused on artisanal fisheries through existing Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) is urgent. Ultimately, as a response to this problem, the FAO COFI mandated the development of a legal instrument taking the form of international guidelines on securing sustainable small-scale fisheries (SSF Guidelines) to complement the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries through a participatory process. A technical consultation will be held on 20–24 May 2013 (Rome, FAO HQs) to negotiate the text of this instrument which is expected to be adopted at the next COFI session in June 2014. The participatory approach adopted for the development of the SSF Guidelines should be introduced by the GFCM at regional level to ensure that the actors involved in artisanal fisheries agree on management strategies to be put forth in order to give this sector the development possibilities it deserves.

With a “Mediterranean and Black Sea” view to provide a platform where the main recurring issues of artisanal fisheries can be duly examined, and relevant regional stakeholders can bring to the fore their opinions, the GFCM proposes the organization of its first “Regional Symposium on Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea”.

## **OBJECTIVE**

There is a genuine and widespread interest in securing the development of artisanal fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, consistent inter alia with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and contributing to the UN Millennium Development Goals. The symposium will constitute the building block to steer strategic and programmatic interventions for improving the livelihood of local communities engaged in artisanal fisheries in the GFCM Area through the sustainability of the marine resources. In light of the recent adoption of the GFCM Framework Programme, which also intends to provide a structure to embed a regional strategy for artisanal fisheries over the next five years, and taking into consideration the current development process of International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (facilitated by FAO), the objectives of the symposium are:

- (i) to renew and foster additional political commitment to artisanal fisheries so that a series of concerted actions involving national administrations, international organizations, NGOs, fishermen associations, stakeholders and the civil society at large, can be developed and implemented in the short, medium and long term;
- (ii) as the implementation of this process will take time, and will likely require various interventions at different intervals (e.g. collection of data, undertaking of studies and trainings, organization of workshops, launching of pilot projects at sub-regional level, adoption of recommendations by the GFCM, support to national decision-making processes, etc.), to decide on a possible roadmap to rationalize the gradual completion of various tasks;
- (iii) to agree on the establishment of a regional cooperative project on artisanal fisheries on the basis of the roadmap to federate all pertinent efforts. Interested national administrations, international organizations, NGOs, fishermen associations, stakeholders and the civil society at large would all be encouraged to participate in such a project;
- (iv) to lay the ground for a working platform where stakeholders could be directly involved and participate in the management of artisanal fisheries against the background of an ecosystem approach to fisheries.

## **TENTATIVE PROGRAMME**

### **Thematic Session I: Current situation of artisanal fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, strategies and methodologies for effective analysis of the sector**

- Take stock of existing data/information on artisanal fisheries to assess their potential in production and socio-economic terms;
- Identify key relevant elements which are directly or indirectly linked to artisanal fisheries for planning and management purposes;
- Reveal gaps in data/information existing at different levels (e.g. biological, socio-economic, environmental, etc.);
- Definition of common methodologies to monitor the regular collection of relevant data to be analysed;

### **Thematic Session II: Management and co-management options of artisanal fisheries**

- Consideration of policy and normative instruments available;
- Requirements at national and regional level to integrate artisanal fisheries in fisheries management and decision making process at equal level than the other fisheries;
- Identification of the national and regional priorities for management;
- Presentation of traditional management schemes as well as modern ones;
- Focus on co-management schemes and their potential contribution to rethink artisanal fisheries;
- Definition of the minimum local, national and regional components that must be part of the co-management of artisanal fisheries, including primary and secondary actors involved (e.g. fishermen communities, fish workers, wholesalers, etc.);
- Specific options for monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) of artisanal fisheries, including through cost-effective technological means (e.g. AIS, mobile phones, etc.).

### **Thematic Session III: Integrated management of artisanal fisheries within broader marine policies, including environment and MPAs**

- Management of fishery resources versus management of marine environment: competences and synergies;
- Integration of artisanal fisheries into a broader maritime policy aiming at ensuring the good environmental status of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea;
- Assessment (foreseen) of the environmental impacts of future management schemes in support to artisanal fisheries;
- Examination of positive and negative implications of the interactions between artisanal fisheries and the marine environment;
- Alternatives to and complementarities in the establishment of MPAs and other areas restricted to fishing activities for integrated management purposes;
- Involvement of artisanal fisheries in integrated coastal-zone management to improve compliance.

### **Thematic Session IV: Enhancement of artisanal fisheries value chains**

- Classification of operational costs of artisanal fisheries (e.g. fuel, fishing gears, equipment, labour, etc.), including by vessel segments;
- Estimation of losses suffered by local communities due to the current economic crisis as well as to the challenges faced by the artisanal fisheries sector;
- Identification and analysis of the main components of the local, national and international value chains in the artisanal fisheries production;

- Analysis of differences in costs and earnings of artisanal fisheries and landing values and of the root causes of these differences (e.g. the characteristics of fish product markets and the varying consumer purchasing power);
- Valuation of the production of artisanal fisheries (including vs. industrial fisheries);
- Identification and valuation of post-harvest losses in artisanal fisheries (from fisher to consumers);
- Investments on “quality improvements” (e.g. the quality of life of the workers involved in artisanal fisheries);
- Strategies to offset declining artisanal fisheries catches through adequate valorisation of markets where said catches are sold;
- Options to maximize the price of artisanal fisheries catches at time of sale;
- Specific certification requirements to add value to artisanal fisheries products (e.g. labels): some existing examples.

**Thematic Session V: Considerations on the establishment of a regional platform to promote support and education for artisanal fishermen**

- Recognize the particular needs of this fisheries sector, predominantly characterized by small businesses in local economies;
- Identification of current situation and needs regarding access to basic rights: health, education, insurance, security, etc.;
- Improvement of the social and economic development of fishermen and families to enhance sustainability of artisanal fisheries;
- Discussions on social issues (e.g. minimum wage, insurances, retirement plans) to expand the professional situation in the sector;
- Review of existing national experiences with collective action and organizations (e.g. fishermen's cooperatives and associations);
- Creation of regional and sub-regional associations representing the interests of artisanal fisheries, including the identification of elements for common policies in the GFCM Area
- Promotion of cooperation among neighbouring countries in support to the management of artisanal fisheries at regional and sub-regional level;
- Identification of means to provide continuous support and education (e.g. trainings and vocational activities) to those which are primarily involved in artisanal fisheries, also consistent with the SSF Guidelines

## CALENDAR

<b>Task</b>	<b>Expected Date</b>
Finalization and circulation of the Draft Concept Note	<u>15 March 2013</u>
Discussions with potential co-organizers/partners	<u>19 March 2013 - 6 April 2013</u>
Presentation of the Draft Concept Note to the 15 <sup>th</sup> Session of GFCM SAC	<u>8-11 April 2013</u>
Elaboration of the Final Concept Note, including identification of thematic sessions, co-organizers, partners, venue and related arrangements	<u>5 May 2013</u>
Presentation of the Final Concept Note to the 37 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission	<u>13-17 May 2013</u>
First Official Announcement of the symposium	<u>End of May 2013</u>
Call for papers for the symposium	Deadline for the submission of abstracts: <u>30 July 2013</u>
Call for papers for the symposium	Deadline for the submission of papers and PPTs to be delivered at the symposium: <u>10 September 2013</u>
Regional Symposium on Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea	<u>25-28 November 2013</u> <u>Malta</u>

## CO-ORGANIZERS/PARTNERS

In light of the huge interest in this initiative, as well as of the importance it has for many actors, the GFCM is open to share the spotlight with prospective co-organizers and partners. National administrations, international organizations, NGOs, fishermen associations, stakeholders in the fisheries sector and universities/research institutions are eligible to get directly involved - consistent with the modalities below - as:

- Co-organizer:
  - a. Shares the podium and the sponsorship of the symposium on equal footing with other co-organizers;
  - b. Logos of the entity appears in all dissemination documents (e.g. brochures, posters, etc.) and technical documents for the symposium
  - c. Shares the basic costs relating to the organization of the symposium (renting of conference rooms, fees for the electronic equipment to be used during the symposium, printing and interpretation services, coffee breaks, dinner on the opening day, etc.). The overall basic costs are estimated at roughly 130.000 € (one hundred thirty thousand Euros);
  - d. Covers the expenses for participation of 10 experts and 1 moderator;
  - e. Covers the expenses for the participation of people from own entity;
  - f. Is entitled to a moderator/co-moderator of a thematic session;
  - g. Is entitled to one side event;
  - h. Does not pay the registration fee;

- Partner:
  - a. Covers the expenses for participation of selected experts and representatives within the remit of own entity;
  - b. Is entitled to one side event;
  - c. Pays the registration fee;

**N.B.** The GFCM is involved in the capacity of co-organizer of the symposium. It will be ensuring the necessary coordination, including in connection with arrangements related to the symposium.

CO-ORGANIZERS	PARTNERS
<u>Name:</u> General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea of the FAO <u>Contact person:</u> Mr Abdellah Srour <u>Email:</u> <a href="mailto:gfc-secretariat@fao.org">gfc-secretariat@fao.org</a>	

### EXPECTED PARTICIPATION

Between 130 participants (minimum threshold) and 200 participants (maximum threshold). The symposium is open to participants from all interested international organizations, NGOs, fishermen associations, stakeholders and the civil society at large.

### STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee will oversee steering and moderating tasks to be performed during the symposium.

### SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The Scientific Committee will review abstracts, papers and pretentions submitted to the symposium, deciding on their admission. It will be in charge of the final report.

**N.B.** The Members of the Steering Committee and the Scientific Committee, including their total number, will be decided upon in due time by the co-organizers. A coordination meeting could be envisaged.

### OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

The symposium will be held in the GFCM official languages (English, French, Arabic and Spanish). Interpretation will be provided in all of them or in as many as possible. Participants will have the opportunity to submit their views in writing through a call for papers (see next paragraph). They are expected to provide their works in one of the languages above. However, should this language not be English, they will have to provide also an English version of their work.

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

All participants are strongly encouraged to prepare papers in view of the symposium. The deadlines for the submissions are specified in the table above. Papers will have to be sent via email at [gfc-secretariat@fao.org](mailto:gfc-secretariat@fao.org). The author will be informed of the acceptance/rejection of his/her paper as well as of the allocation of time in the agenda of the symposium for him/her to deliver a presentation. If the paper is retained, the author is supposed to prepare a PowerPoint file based on the content of his/her paper to be delivered at the symposium. The presentation should consist of a maximum of 12 slides and its duration should not exceed a 10 minutes limit. Because the symposium is organized in thematic sessions the author must state, when emailing his/her paper, at which thematic session he/she wishes to present the work submitted.

## **REGISTRATION FEE**

The possibility of charging a registration fee for participants will be discussed among co-organizers.

## **ADVERTISING**

Co-organizers and Partners will be given the possibility of disseminating information on their work through side-events which they may host during the symposium.