



**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR  
THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES  
POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE**



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**GFCM framework for cooperation and arrangements with  
Party Organisations**

- Draft -

**BACKGROUND**

1. The preamble of the GFCM Constitutive Agreement states that the establishment of the Commission will further the attainment of the objectives set in this instrument through international cooperation. Against this background, the Commission has continuously prompted the GFCM Secretariat to promote synergies among its Members, including (i) by encouraging, recommending, coordinating and undertaking research and development activities through cooperative projects in the areas of fisheries and the protection of living marine resources (see Article 3.1(3) of the GFCM Constitutive Agreement - "Functions of the Commission") and (ii) by cooperating closely with other international organizations in matters of mutual interest (see Article VIII of the GFCM Constitutive Agreement - "Cooperation with International Organizations").

2. In occasion of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission (Marrakech, Morocco, May 2012) two different sets of action were proposed by the GFCM Secretariat in light of the above responsibilities. Building upon previous practices and on the basis of lessons learnt, it was advocated to boost cooperation through the endorsement of the first GFCM Framework Programme (FWP) (GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Dma.1) and through the recourse to memoranda of understanding ("MoU"). Although both actions equally contribute to underpin cooperation within the remit of the GFCM, and are actually interconnected, they are presented under separate headings in this document for ease of reference. Ongoing and future initiatives relating to both the FWP and the MoUs are listed accordingly. Also, for the sake of completeness excerpts of relevant documents, as referred to in the parts of the text concerned, are reproduced in Annex 1.

**ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT UNDER THE FIRST GFCM FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME**

3. The GFCM Secretariat introduced the FWP for the period 2013-2018 at the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission. It was recalled that seeking for extra-budgetary funds was expressly recommended by the GFCM performance review upon noting that GFCM practice mainly hinged on limited – both in terms of time and resources – projects. Conversely, the FWP would have helped to carry out the activities of the Commission in a more effective and systematic way by federating efforts to promote sustainable development through fisheries and aquaculture. To this end, he consisted of five work

programmes (i.e. governance, data collection, aquaculture, artisanal fisheries and sub-regional cooperation) and was supported by a multiannual/multidonor funding mechanisms to muster extra-budgetary funds, as explained by the Secretariat. Contestual to the formal adoption of the FWP, the Commission requested the GFCM Secretariat to prepare a detailed project document which would help the negotiations process with potential donors and initiate the execution of the FWP.

4. During the inter-session the GFCM Secretariat has refined the project document of the FWP. Also, it added an annex which details actions to be undertaken under each work programme as well as short term activities envisaged for the 2013-2014 biennium (see Annex A). In fact, in light of the living nature of the FWP, the GFCM Secretariat intends to constantly review and adjust the contents of the FWP document and progressively implement, at different velocities, the various activities identified. This will depend also on those priorities that GFCM Members will pinpoint in the short, medium and long term, to the extent that the initial implementation of selected activities will be without prejudice to the future implementation of others. Similarly, the initial implementation of selected working programmes will be without prejudice to the future implementation of others.

5. Consequently, negotiations with potential donors were initiated on the basis of the revised project document. At the same time, several coordination meetings were held with FAO Regional to foster a joint process for vetting actions with a goal of identifying common gaps as well as complementary actions. Furthermore, a screening of pre-existing projects still under execution by the GFCM was performed to transpose them into the relevant work programmes of the FWP. These preliminary actions have enabled the launching of the FWP before the end of 2012 and its full operationality by the beginning of 2013. In the following paragraphs, an overview will be provided of those activities under the work programmes of relevance for SAC, namely governance, data collection, artisanal fisheries and sub-regional cooperation.

6. Under the work programme on governance the negotiation process with donors has already led to positive outcomes with the following public entities (alphabetical order): European Commission, Italian Ministry of Agriculture Food and Forestry Policies and Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea. Their contribution is acknowledged below in connection with the activities concerned:

- Sub-regional Multiannual Management Plans: the overall status of selected fisheries will be assessed (in particular in relation to catches, effort, fleet characteristics and socio-economic variables of these fisheries) as well as additional related information which is instrumental to identify management priorities for shared stocks. Taking into account the guidelines presented at the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the establishment of sub-regional long term management plans, the following sub-regional meetings have been already scheduled to develop said plans in areas of particular interest where shared stocks are known to exist: (i) Sub-regional workshop to test the feasibility of implementing multiannual management plans in the Adriatic Sea (20-22 March 2013, Croatia), (ii) Sub-regional workshop to test the feasibility of implementing multiannual management plans in the Western, Central and Eastern Mediterranean (June 2013, Tunisia) and (iii) Sub-regional workshop to test the feasibility of implementing multiannual management plans in the Black Sea (October 2013, TBD). Also, the methodology to be used in these workshops has been validated during a preparatory meeting held in December 2012 at the GFCM HQ. DONORS: European Commission; Italian Ministry of Agriculture Food and Forestry Policies.
- Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) and regional fleet: it is known that IUU fishing is regionally recognized as a growing problem which accounts for millions of USD. Recently, an increasing alarm for fisheries related crimes and the escalation of violence linked to IUU fishing has become widespread at sub-regional level. In light of this, several activities are being planned to better know the extent and the nature of IUU fishing, the composition of regional fleet and feasibility of MCS measures at sub-regional level, as well as to facilitate capacity building actions to improve fight against IUU in support to the implementation of actions related to sub-regional management plans described above (as well as to any other present and future technical

measure). In order to better know the extent and the nature of IUU fishing, a first sub-regional workshop has already been held (Istanbul, Turkey, 25-27 February 2013) to draw up a roadmap to fight this scourge in the Black Sea (GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.13). It resulted in the identification of several aspects of the IUU fishing problem and elements linked thereto which will be submitted for consideration and follow up action to the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Working Group of the Black Sea (24-26 April, Bulgaria). MCS measures available where also examined at this workshop, together with gaps on data on the Black Sea fleet. A similar initiative is foreseen for the Mediterranean Sea in the last quarter of 2013 and targeted discussions on IUU in relation to specific fisheries are also expected at sub-regional workshops to test the feasibility of multiannual management plans. In parallel, work is ongoing to test control tools alternative to VMS that could be capable of cost-effectively monitoring artisanal fisheries in selected GFCM Members. Meetings were held in Egypt and Lebanon already and, subsequent to the previous assessment of control needs for the fleet (mostly artisanal), trials are about to be initiated. Post assessments, based on the results of the trials, will be conducted to appraise the potential of control tools alternative to VMS. DONORS: European Commission; Italian Ministry of Agriculture Food and Forestry Policies.

- A Mediterranean Cooperation for the Sustainable Use of the Marine Biological Resources: as a contribution to the ongoing work at international, regional and national levels relating to the “good environmental status” of the Mediterranean ecosystems, as well as to the sustainable use of biological resources found therein, work will be done to establish baselines for marine exploited populations. Upon the establishment of the “good environmental status”, the assessment of the real status of marine exploited populations will be performed. Relevant socio-economic aspects will be also taken into account. For the sake of feasibility, particular focus will be given to given sub-regions (e.g. Adriatic Sea, Strait of Sicily, etc.) where the foreseen activities could be more readily performed. A kick off meeting aimed at harmonizing the “good environmental status” in Members of relevant GFCM sub-regions, including by comparing targets and indicators developed thus far, is expected to be held early in June 2013 at the GFCM HQs. DONOR: Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea.

7. Under the work programme on data collection the negotiation process with donors has already led to positive outcomes with the European Commission., whose contribution is acknowledged below in connection with the activities concerned:

- Strengthening of GFCM Data Collection Systems, including through the new GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF): A number of activities will be carried out in order to strengthen data collection in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, also by improving national data collection system capabilities in responding to GFCM requirements. The definition of the DCRF is expected to follow in the end. gather information on the national data collection programs and address existing problems on data collection and data submission (e.g. in relation to the type of information provided by data collection programs and through assessments of the different data sources, gaps and strengths of data collection systems in place, processing and submission processes as well as compliance with GFCM data submission requirements, etc.). Workshops are currently envisaged to deal with these matters at regional level. The outcomes of these workshops are expected to inform the development of the new DCRF which will build upon GFCM Task 1. DONOR: European Commission.

8. Under the work programme on artisanal fisheries the negotiation process with donors has already led to positive outcomes with the French Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, whose contribution is acknowledged below in connection with the activities concerned:

- Enhancing the development of artisanal fisheries: artisanal fisheries traditionally represents an important share of the fish caught in the GFCM Area and its social and cultural role in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea has always been recognized. With a view of providing a real working place where the main recurring issues of artisanal fisheries can be duly examined and

relevant stakeholders can bring to the fore the expected changes in the years to come for the sector, the GFCM has proposed the organization of its first “Regional Symposium on Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea” (Oct/Nov 2013, Malta). The symposium will constitute the building block to steer strategic and programmatic interventions for improving the sustainability of local communities engaged in artisanal fisheries in the GFCM Area. The symposium will be organized under five thematic sessions and is expected to be held in Malta later in 2013. DONOR: French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, multi-donor initiative.

9. Under the work programme on sub-regional cooperation the negotiation process with donors is still ongoing. However, an important initiative has already been launched and, in light of the interest and the contribution by several actors, it is expected that donors will contribute to its execution in due course:

- Concerted Actions for Lebanon: acting on a request from the Lebanese Minister of Agriculture, and in light of the need to avoid duplications and optimize the use of available resources, the GFCM convened a meeting which was held in December 2012 at GFCM HQ to bring about concerted actions in support to fisheries and aquaculture in Lebanon (GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.14). The preliminary meeting zeroed in on the importance of pooling ongoing efforts at different levels (from States, IGOs, NGOs, private donors, etc.) in order to ensure a coherent strategy over a five years span. The design of a roadmap, on the basis of those elements that were pinpointed in December and consistent with the FWP, is currently being prepared. A meeting will be arranged, tentatively at the end of May 2012, for the execution of the roadmap and the investigation of funding sources. Furthermore, similar initiatives are expected to take place in support to other GFCM Members/GFCM sub-regions. DONOR: multi-donor initiative (TBD).

10. Under the work programme on sub-regional cooperation the negotiation process with donors is still ongoing. However, an important initiative has already been launched and, in light of the interest and the contribution by several actors, it is expected that donors will contribute to its execution in due course.

11. In view of future activities under the FWP, it is worth underlining the flexible and transparent nature of this instrument. This means that, among potential donors that could contribute to its executions, there could be also international organizations and that contributions could be also in kind. In this very respect, one of the main pillars of the FWP was cooperation at inter-governmental level between the GFCM and other organizations that might share similar goals. It was foreseen, when the FWP was conceived, that the GFCM would have strengthened its institutional liaison with a number of party organizations and that such a demarche would have underpinned the execution of the FWP.

## **ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT UNDER THE MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING**

12. At its 31<sup>st</sup> Session, the Commission considered for the first time the possibility of using such instruments as MoUs to build upon ongoing cooperation with selected party organizations and institutionalize the implementation of programmes and activities jointly carried out with them. The GFCM was informed that a number of broad agreements on cooperation had already been subscribed between the FAO and various organizations. As of its 32<sup>nd</sup> Session the Commission has been thus examining the possibility of entering into MoUs with selected organizations to be submitted to the Commission for consideration and adoption. Three MoUs (between GFCM and IUCN, GFCM and CIHEAM/IAMZ and GFCM and UNEP/RAC-SPA) were in fact adopted by the Commission at this Session.

13. In light of the report of the GFCM performance review it was considered appropriate to enhance collaboration and promote synergies with organizations sharing similar mandates and interests. In this respect, following extensive bilateral consultations, the mutual intention to draft a

MoU was acknowledged by GFCM and the following organizations: UNEP-MAP, ACCOBAMS, Black Sea Commission, ICES, MedPAN, RACMED and EUROFISH. Hence, the GFCM Secretariat and the respective Secretariats of these organizations have agreed on specific areas of cooperation and consequently developed draft MoUs. The finalized draft of the seven MoUs was transmitted to the FAO Legal Office which reviewed their provisions and ensured their compatibility with the rules of the Organization. As a further step, and after the clearance from the FAO Legal Office, the draft MoUs were sent to the competent ADG to get an additional clearance.

14. At the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission (Marrakech, Morocco, 14-19 May 2013) the following seven MoUs were adopted:

- Memorandum of Understanding between GFCM and UNEP-MAP (which superseded the one concluded between GFCM and RAC/SPA)
- Memorandum of Understanding between GFCM and ACCOBAMS;
- Memorandum of Understanding between GFCM and Black Sea Commission;
- Memorandum of Understanding between GFCM and ICES;
- Memorandum of Understanding between GFCM and MedPAN;
- Memorandum of Understanding between GFCM and RAC-MED;
- Memorandum of Understanding between GFCM and EUROFISH.

15. The Commission recommended that the GFCM Secretariat, during the intersession, operationalize the seven MoUs and continues to seek Party organizations that might be eligible for future MoUs. In light of this, information below relating to activities carried out under the MoU is followed by an overview of potential Party organizations for future MoUs.

16. During the intersession, discussions with Party organizations concerning the operationalization of the MoUs have been continuous. Excerpts of the seven MoUs on areas of cooperation are reproduced in Annex B. At the moment of writing, it is possible to report the following:

- MoU between GFCM and UNEP-MAP: Two bilateral meetings of the respective Secretariats have been convened already (UNEP HQ, Athens, July 2012, and GFCM headquarters, Rome, February 2013) to discuss about the operationalization of the MoU. The following have been considered priority actions to implement: the Ecosystem Approach process, harmonization, relation SPAMIs/FRAs, marine litter and ghost fishing. The GFCM has also provided scientific input for the identification of indicators and targets to assess the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea and has co-organized the UNEP Meeting of the “Correspondence Group on GES and Targets - Biodiversity and Fisheries Cluster” (FAO HQ, Rome, February 2013). The “A Mediterranean Cooperation for the Sustainable Use of the Marine Biological Resources” project could represent an additional opportunity for cooperation.
- MoU between GFCM and ACCOBAMS: a project proposal to be developed jointly on cetaceans, sea turtles and seabirds by-catch mitigation measures is under preparation. This project will tackle specific case studies based on GFCM sub-regions, such as the Western Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Consequently, its design (e.g. coordination, preparation of the logical framework, budget evaluation, technical assistance needs assessment, planning) will be completed according with those case studies identified. In connection with the potential case study in the Western Mediterranean, a joint meeting was organized by ACCOBAMS in collaboration with the GFCM in Tangier, Morocco, on 3 and 4 April 2013.
- MoU between GFCM and Black Sea Commission: as indicated above, a joint workshop on IUU fishing for the Black Sea was jointly organized by the GFCM and the BSC, which are now committed to finalize the roadmap as outlined in Istanbul and also intend, together with ACCOBAMS, to launch a project on cetaceans, sea turtles and sea birds by-catch mitigation measures. The BSC is also being involved by the GFCM in ongoing activities under the

GFCM Framework Programme, including those on data collection and multiannual management plans;

- MoU between GFCM and ICES: the organization of a workshop on European Eel has been already scheduled, although the precise dates are still to be decided. EIFAAC is expected to also take part in this joint event. The GFCM would be ready to provide for the venue and oversee logistics. Moderators have been contacted and a dedicated SharePoint portal has been created within the GFCM online platform. The “A Mediterranean Cooperation for the Sustainable Use of the Marine Biological Resources” project could represent an additional opportunity for cooperation;
- MoU between GFCM and MedPAN: a bilateral meeting was held in Barcelona on July 2012 between the two Secretariats to plan for the co-organization of a regional forum on MPAs. Accordingly, GFCM contributed to the organization of the “MedPAN 2012 Forum of Marine Protected Areas” (Antalya, Turkey, November 2012). As this meeting produced a roadmap concerning Mediterranean MPAs, support by the GFCM to the development of an integrated MedPAN MPAs database has been envisaged.
- MoU between GFCM and RAC-MED: GFCM and RAC-MED are actively participating in meetings they respectively organize. Most recently RAC-MED attended the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of SCESS (Rome, 18-20 February 2013) whereas the GFCM participated in the meeting of the Executive Committee and the General Assembly of RAC-MED (Rome, 5-6 November 2012). RAC-MED will address specifically GFCM related issues through its Working Group 3 on 18 April 2013 in Algeria.
- MoU between GFCM and EUROFISH: GFCM and EUROFISH are jointly undertaking an on-line survey of the regional aquaculture farmers’ organizations as follow-up of the MedAquaMarket project. The survey is implemented within the GFCM Working Group of Marketing on Aquaculture Products and with the support of the SIPAM national focal points, producers’ organizations, and other relevant experts cooperating with the GFCM. The GFCM participated to the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Governing Council of EUROFISH (Copenhagen, Denmark, 23-25 January 2013) and EUROFISH attended the eighth session of the GFCM Committee on Aquaculture (Paris, France, 13-15 March 2013).

17. During the intersession, discussions were entertained also with potential partner organizations which share similar goals of that of the GFCM and would be thus interested in entering a MoU with it. At the moment of writing, it is possible to identify the following potential partner organizations as well as the overall scope of cooperation with them under future MoUs:

- The “Master in Human Development and Food Security of the University of “Università degli Studi di Roma-Tre (Italy)”: establish an effective base to ensure maximum harmony towards the common goal of strengthening human development and research capacity;
- The “Réseau des instituts maghrébins de recherche halieutique et océanographique”: develop an action plan for the Maghreb region focusing on areas such as the support for resources management, monitoring of the quality and safety of the marine environment and building the capacity at national level;
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD): promote a synergic approach to bring about capacity building opportunities through fisheries and aquaculture in geographical areas of common interest;
- International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM): perform joint trainings and vocational activities for officers within national administrations, including at junior level, to raise understanding and knowledge of fisheries and aquaculture related issues;
- OceanCare: look into the increasing impacts of anthropogenic sound generated by seismic surveys and shipping on fish stocks and jointly contribute to the elaboration of mitigation

measures, including for the reduction of by-catch of all those species already addressed by relevant GFCM recommendations.

21. The Commission is invited to provide indications for improving cooperation, including through the possible adoption of new MoUs with relevant partner organizations.

## ANNEX A

**SUMMARY TABLE WITH “MAIN PROPOSED ACTIONS”  
AND “MAIN ACTIVITIES FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND YEAR OF THE FWP”**

Work Programmes	<i>Main proposed outputs for 2013- 2018</i>	Main proposed activities for the first and second year of the FWP
<b>I. Improving governance and fisheries management in the GFCM Area consistent with an integrated maritime approach</b>	<i>A. Development of multiannual management plans in GFCM sub-regions</i>	1. Organization of sub-regional consultations to define a strategy and to design associated protocols to implement the generic management plan Guidelines provided at the 36 <sup>th</sup> Session of the GFCM in selected case studies within three specific areas (Black sea, Alborán Sea and Straits of Sicily).
		2. Undertake case studies on the implementation of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries to demonstrate its relevance in multiannual management plans
		3. Elaborating upon possible scenarios for multiannual management plans in GFCM sub-regions
		4. Institutionalization of the sub-regional approach in the GFCM framework to facilitate the development of multiannual management plans
	<i>B. Improving institutional capacity for implementing and monitoring multiannual management plans in GFCM sub-regions</i>	1. Identification of gaps and needs for capacity building, based on the outcomes of I.A
		2. Analysis of the current constrains and opportunities for strengthening participatory approaches to fisheries management, including the establishment of a network of fisheries management practitioners
		3. Assist Members in the implementation of multiannual management plans
	<i>C. Modernization of GFCM legal and institutional framework</i>	1. Preparation of a revised text of the GFCM Agreement, GFCM Rules of Procedure and GFCM Financial Regulations based on the outcomes of the Task Force



Work Programmes	Main proposed outputs for 2013- 2018	Main proposed activities for the first and second year of the FWP
		2. Organize an Extraordinary Session of the Commission
	<i>D. Support to the stock assessment of shared stocks in GFCM sub-regions</i>	1. Building regional databases on relevant parameters to carry out stock assessment
		2. Training in direct and indirect methods for stock assessment, including in data poor situations
		3. Standardization of stock assessment methodologies
		4. Undertake case studies to assess shared stocks
	<i>E. Evaluation of the extent and impacts of IUU fishing and elaboration of strategies to fight it</i>	1. Organize regional workshops to define common methodologies and strategies relating to the extent and associated impacts of IUU fishing by Members and non Members
		2. Based on methodologies and strategies emanating from activity 1 proceed with proper assessment of IUU fishing activities
		3. Elaborate appropriate strategies to fight IUU fishing activities including traceability and market related measures
	<i>F. Development of institutional and technical capacity for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)</i>	1. Undertake an analysis of the status at national level with regard to VMS and other MCS tools available to track down vessels engaged in fishing
		2. Provide technical assistance for the even implementation of VMS and other MCS tools available
		3. Develop case studies to address main issues of MCS in artisanal and small scale fisheries
	<i>G. Fostering a integrated maritime approach in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea</i>	1. To carry out socio-economic analysis, taking into consideration the precautionary and ecosystem approaches, to widen the scope of scientific advice at sub-regional level
		2. Develop a Decision Support System based on the results of activity 1

Work Programmes	Main proposed outputs for 2013- 2018	Main proposed activities for the first and second year of the FWP
		3. Testing the Decision Support System in activity 2 through the evaluation of integrated management strategies in GFCM sub-regions
	<i>H. Strengthening the existing governance framework</i>	1. Operationalizing Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with partner organizations and developing synergies with FAO Regional Projects
		2. Launching joint and cross-sectoral initiatives together with the actors identified in activities 1 and 3
		3. Identifying new partners and entering into MoU with them
	<i>I. Contributing to achieve good environmental statuses in the GFCM Area</i>	1. Carry out assessments for marine populations and their ecosystems in light of existing indicators and targets
		2. Establishment a good environmental status for marine populations and their ecosystems, including at sub-regional level
		3. Identification of monitoring programmes
	<i>J. Identification and preservation of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) in the GFCM Area</i>	1. Compilation of relevant information to identify VMEs in the GFCM Area consistent with relevant UN General Assembly resolutions on sustainable fisheries
		2. Organization of workshop(s) to define VMEs, based on the best available scientific information and using existing agreed criteria
		3. Plan strategies for the preservation of VMEs
	<i>K. Establishment and monitoring of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)</i>	1. Conduct a comparative study on the uses of MPAs with a view to benefit from their multipurpose character in marine biodiversity conservation
		2. Provide guidance and technical assistance on the establishment and implementation of MPAs

Work Programmes	<i>Main proposed outputs for 2013- 2018</i>	Main proposed activities for the first and second year of the FWP
		3. Taking into account the outcomes of activities 1 and 2, elaborate plans for the creation of new MPAs in the context of an integrated maritime approach.
	<i>L. Uses of Artificial Reefs (ARs) to protect marine ecosystems and their resources</i>	1. Mapping ARs in the GFCM Area and compare existing experiences at national level on their uses
		2. Assessment, through experimental studies, of the uses of ARs, including for the recovery and the sustainability of marine species
		3. Taking into account the outcomes of activities 1 and 2, elaborate plans for the creation of new ARs in the context of an integrated maritime approach (e.g. the feasibility of creating ARs in marine areas where marine renewable technologies are installed)
<b>II. Strengthening the capacity of national institutions in the field of data collection and supporting the establishment of regional databases and information systems</b>	<i>A. Critical assessment of the GFCM data collection framework</i>	1. Assessment of GFCM data requirements and data submission compliance among GFCM Members
		2. Field visits to National Institutions in charge of Statistical Systems
		3. Elaboration of preliminary work programs to assist GFCM Members in overcoming the difficulties upon request
		4. Consultancies for reviewing GFCM data submission framework, including Task 1
		5. Workshop to validate GFCM data submission framework and to define a Plan of Action to improve member countries' capacities in collecting and submitting relevant fishery data

Work Programmes	Main proposed outputs for 2013- 2018	Main proposed activities for the first and second year of the FWP
	<i>B. Ensure mechanisms at national level for data quality control and regularity in collection and submission of fishery data</i>	1. Ensure that each GFCM Members has a statistical and data processing unit which must get involved in processes relating to data reporting
		2. Compilation of information on the fishing fleet structure, composition and national fleet management plans in the GFCM area of competence
		2. Provide technical assistance to GFCM Members upon request on the registry of fishing vessels and on the subsequent catch assessment surveys including by-catch and effort data
	<i>C. Enhance the data processing and analytical power of GFCM secretariat to enable the production and dissemination of periodical publications of the status of fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea</i>	1. Purchase the most appropriate cost-effective available tools in the fields of Statistical Packages, Decision Support Systems (DSS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
		2. Set up a continuous training and familiarizing program for the staff and country experts
<b>III. Promoting the role of aquaculture for food security and economic growth</b>	<i>A. Supporting the establishment of Allocation Zones for Aquaculture (AZAs)</i>	1. Compilation on legislations on aquaculture zoning and licensing procedures and identification of gaps
		2. Provide technical assistance to identify suitable zones for the establishment of AZAs
		3. Trainings on the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) and of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the establishment of AZAs

Work Programmes	Main proposed outputs for 2013- 2018	Main proposed activities for the first and second year of the FWP
		4. Pilot studies for the establishment of AZAs
	<i>B. Assessment of the current status and trend of farms and of marketing capability of aquaculture products</i>	1. Carry out a regional census of farms to assess production and production capacity, including main target markets and market segments, with particular reference to offshore aquaculture
		2. Workshop on organizational capacity and role of aquaculture POs and farmers related issues
	<i>C. Enhancing regional and national capacity on quality certification and traceability of aquaculture products</i>	1. Review of legislation and present status on aquaculture certification, food safety and quality product
		2. Workshop on aquaculture certification, traceability and ecolabelling
		3. Technical Assistance to members on aquaculture certification, traceability and ecolabelling
	<i>D. Improving capacity in veterinary, disease control and biosecurity for aquaculture production</i>	1. Carry out a regional survey to assess veterinary and disease prevention systems, biosecurity and aquatic animal health control
		2. Workshop on veterinary and disease control, biosecurity, aquatic animal health and use of drugs and vaccines
		3. Preparation of guidelines and technical documents to prevent diseases, minimize the risks of pathogen spread and genetic loss, mitigate the impact of invasive alien species, and promote marine restocking programmes

Work Programmes	Main proposed outputs for 2013- 2018	Main proposed activities for the first and second year of the FWP
		4. Technical Assistance to members on biosecurity assessments, surveillance, diagnostics, early warning systems and emergency
		5. Preparation of a regional monitoring scheme to control and prevent diseases
	<i>E. Enhancing traditional extensive aquaculture management in coastal lagoons</i>	1. Pilot studies on sustainable management of traditional extensive aquaculture in coastal lagoons
		2. Establishment of a reliable monitoring and data collection system of aquaculture and capture fisheries production from coastal lagoons
		3. Develop management guidelines for coastal lagoons based on models relying on traditional knowledge, biodiversity protection and ecosystem conservation
	<i>F. High Level Conference on Aquaculture (2014)</i>	1. Preparation of a “road map for the organisation of the Conference and related arrangements
		2. Drafting of relevant documents in support to the Conference
		3. Finalization and dissemination of the proceedings of the Conference
<b>IV. Enhancing the development of artisanal fisheries. Assessing the status of recreational fisheries</b>	<i>A. Assessment of current status and trends in technical and socio-economic conditions of artisanal fisheries in the GFCM Area</i>	1. Design of a survey and methodology for the inventory of the artisanal fishing communities in the GFCM Area
		2. Implementation of the survey
		3. Building up of a database of artisanal fishery communities

Work Programmes	Main proposed outputs for 2013- 2018	Main proposed activities for the first and second year of the FWP
	<i>B. Improving knowledge and capacity for securing artisanal fisheries livelihoods and the sustainable use of resources in the context of an integrated maritime approach</i>	1. Carrying out of a regional comparative analysis of the conditions of artisanal fisheries, based on the results of the inventory
		2. Workshop to define a research programme and analytical framework for the execution of detailed case studies on the factors affecting the sustainability of artisanal fisheries
		3. Implementation of case studies
	<i>C. Building capacity for mainstreaming artisanal fisheries co-management for securing artisanal fisheries livelihoods</i>	1. Inventory of co-management experiences and practices in the GFCM Area
		2. Review of national legislations to identify current constraints to enable fisheries co-management
		3. SWOT analysis of the established co-management regimes
		4. Implementation of training courses and follow-up activities addressing the identified needs and/or weaknesses
	<i>D. Assessment of the overall value of recreational fisheries and main socio-economic issues of concern for their regulation</i>	1. Design of a regional survey to characterize the recreational fisheries activities
		2. Implementation of the survey
		3. Implementation of case studies to evaluate the socio-economic impacts of recreational fisheries

Work Programmes	Main proposed outputs for 2013- 2018	Main proposed activities for the first and second year of the FWP
	<i>E. Providing a regulatory framework for recreational fisheries and a harmonized protocol for monitoring and data reporting</i>	1. Review of national legal frameworks, building on and expanding the work previously done by GFCM and partner organizations
		2. Identification of regulatory gaps and needs
		3. Drafting of a Code of Practice for responsible recreational fisheries in the GFCM Area
		4. Development of a common protocol with minimum data reporting requirements on recreational fisheries by Member Countries in support of a regional database
<b>V. Supporting institutional and technical cooperation in the Southern Mediterranean and in the Black Sea<sup>1</sup></b>	<i>A. Contributing to sustainable development through fisheries and aquaculture</i>	1. Identifying priority research needs in the fields of fisheries science, fishing technology and coastal aquaculture
		2. Reflecting relevant socio-economic considerations (unemployment, food scarcity, migration, etc.) into policies linked to fisheries and aquaculture

<sup>1</sup> Under this work programme - due to its geographical rather than thematic nature - all “Main proposed actions for 2013-2018” and “Main proposed activities for the first year of the FWP” of work programmes I to IV will be developed, as appropriate, in addition to the specific actions and activities presented herewith.



Work Programmes	Main proposed outputs for 2013- 2018	Main proposed activities for the first and second year of the FWP
		3. Promoting, through the facilitation of dialogue among Members and in relation to fisheries and aquaculture, ad hoc strategies to bridge the gap among the Southern Mediterranean and the Black Sea and other GFCM sub-regions
	<i>B. Building capacity in the Southern Mediterranean and the Black Sea in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors</i>	1. Organizing training at national level for officers operating in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in identified areas
		2. Facilitating the transfer of technology, where needed, to improve the efficiency in fisheries and aquaculture activities
	<i>C. Continued integration of policies developed at international and regional level into national legislations of Southern Mediterranean and Black Sea Members</i>	1. Support the development of adequate legal frameworks at national level
		2. Provide assistance with regard to relevant developments occurring at international and regional level to improve sustainable development through fisheries and aquaculture
	<i>D. Facilitating the even implementation of GFCM recommendations</i>	1. Conduct a survey to identify gaps relating to the implementation of GFCM recommendations
		2. Organize meetings to define strategies to address identified gaps
		3. Elaborate adequate actions to assist Members in implementing selected GFCM recommendations

**EXCERPTS OF MEMORANDA IN RELATION TO THE AREAS OF COOPERATION****I. Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP-MAP and GFCM**

1. Promoting ecosystem based approaches for the conservation of the marine environment and ecosystems and the sustainable use of its living resources
  - Contribute to the formulation/implementation of a regional framework strategy based on the ecosystem approach and on agreed indicators and reference points (ecological, biological, etc.) to monitor the status of the marine environment and ecosystems and coastal ecosystems and that of marine living resources;
  - Cooperate in undertaking assessments of the state of marine environment and ecosystems and that of marine living resources, including socio economic aspects relating to the impact of the exploitation of fisheries on marine environment and ecosystems, the impact of the establishment of marine protected areas on marine living resources, and the impact of coastal and marine aquaculture;
  - Collaborate in the formulation/development and implementation of key regional strategies to integrate the environment in social and economic development especially in relation to fisheries and aquaculture.
  
2. Mitigating the impact of fisheries and aquaculture activities on the marine habitats and species
  - Collaborate in the elaboration, including extra-budgetary fundraising, of a joint regional project on the evaluation and mitigation of by-catch in endangered species and of the impact of fishing gears on marine habitats;
  - Consider initiatives to develop the concept of marine spatial planning in a manner that takes into account fisheries and aquaculture activities, activities for the preservation of marine habitats and possible conflicts between these activities and other uses of the sea (e.g. shipping, marine renewable energies, etc.);
  - Exchange data and information on deep sea habitats in order to further the knowledge of these habitats, their biodiversity and their living resources for the purpose of better management;
  - Collaborate in initiatives that raise awareness and mitigate major impacts such as those related to reduce amount of fishing gear as litter, etc.
  
3. Identification, protection and management of marine areas of particular importance (hot spots of biodiversity, areas with sensitive habitats, essential fish habitats, areas of importance for fisheries and/or for the conservation of endangered species, coastal wetlands)
  - Enhance collaboration with other relevant organizations as appropriate, including those whereby other MoUs have been signed, to create a common regional database of sites of particular importance for biodiversity conservation and for fisheries management;
  - With regard respectively to the Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) and the Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs) in particular, located partially or wholly on the high seas, the Parties will collaborate to harmonize existing respective criteria to identify those areas, for the cases where their location may be coincident and in the selection of mechanisms needed for their establishment;

- The Parties will cooperate to promote respective Parties adoption of eventual Management Schemes developed within SPAMIs and FRAs to ensure that measures are consistent with the objectives pursued and respectful with the Mandates of both organisations. Measures with potential impact on fisheries in SPAMIs will be discussed by the Parties with the spirit of optimizing common goals.
- Monitor the status of the species listed in Annexes 2 and 3 to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean; pursue to ensure that exploitation of all species included in annex 3 is regulated, following Article 12, paragraph 4 of the ASP/ BD Protocol.
- Cooperate in undertaking assessments of the state of coastal lagoons and other relevant coastal wetlands to be used for the formulation and dissemination of sustainable management measures and sustainable use of its living resources.

#### 4. Integrated Maritime Policy

- Study the impacts of climate change on the marine environment and ecosystems and their marine living resources;
- Contribute to the formulation and adoption of appropriate fisheries and aquaculture adaptation and mitigation measures to climate change in relation to the environment, and including enhancing knowledge and communication;
- Strengthening scientific advice on issues of common interest, including the negative effects of pollution of the marine environment and ecosystems on marine living resources;
- Explore new fields of investigation applied to the conservation of marine environment and marine ecosystems and the sustainable use of marine living resources to promote an integrated approach to environmental and fisheries related issues;
- Collaborate in initiatives related to the implementation and monitoring of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) approach.

#### 5. Legal, institutional and policy related cooperation

- Consult regularly on policy issues of common interest to identify synergies;
- Promote exchanges of information and data as appropriate;
- Participate (as permanent member in the case of the GFCM) to the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development so to formulate sustainable development frameworks and guidelines for coastal areas management;
- Exchange views regarding the governance of the Mediterranean, with particular regard to those areas located beyond national jurisdiction and take part, where possible, to ongoing initiatives aimed at improving the said governance;
- Organize joint side events, where necessary and including together with other organizations, while being in attendance of meetings held in other international fora that could be relevant to further the promotion of the goals and objectives of this MoU;
- Promote cooperation and exchange of information at the level of their compliance committees, as set up under UNEP/MAP and the GFCM framework, to address issues of common concern (discharges into sea, illegal, unreported and unregulated [IUU] fishing, etc.)
- Be involved, as appropriate, in those projects implemented by the other Party;
- Be invited to regional/sub-regional meetings and subsidiary bodies meetings of interest as organized respectively by each Party.
- Coordinate positions within international fora which involve both Parties.

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## II. Memorandum of Understanding between ACCOBAMS and GFCM

1. Collection and assessment of information relating to the conservation of cetaceans in a manner that enables to build upon existing interactions between ACCOBAMS and the GFCM
  - Promoting, within the respective mandates, the elaboration of measures contributing to the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea;
2. Assessment of human-cetacean interactions, including fishing and aquaculture
  - Cooperating in undertaking assessments of human-cetacean interactions, including by launching joint initiatives to raise awareness about the need to mitigate the negative impacts of such interactions;
3. Mitigation of the impacts of human-cetacean interactions, including fishing and aquaculture, for better habitats protection and natural resources management
  - Developing the concept of marine spatial planning in a manner that takes into account fisheries and aquaculture activities, as well as any other activities for the conservation of cetaceans, so to address possible conflicts between these activities and other uses of the sea (e.g. tourism, marine renewable energies, etc.);
4. Research, monitoring, collection and dissemination of information
  - Strengthening scientific advice on issues of common interest, including through joint research initiatives, and ensure dissemination of any information relating thereto.
5. Development of capacity building activities (e.g. training programmes, dissemination of relevant information, building awareness, etc.)
  - Collaborating in the elaboration, including external fundraising, of joint projects for the implementation of activities of common interest in relation to this MoU.

### III. Memorandum of Understanding between BLACK SEA COMMISSION and GFCM

1. Promoting ecosystem based approaches for the conservation of the marine environment and ecosystems and the sustainable use of its living resources
  - Contribute to the formulation of a regional strategy based on agreed indicators and reference points (ecological, biological, etc.) to monitor the status of the marine environment and ecosystems and that of marine living resources;
  - Cooperate in undertaking assessments of the state of marine environment and ecosystems and that of marine living resources, including socio economic aspects relating to the impact of the exploitation of fisheries on marine environment and ecosystems, the impact of the establishment of marine protected areas on marine living resources, and the impact of coastal and marine aquaculture;
  - Also cooperate in promoting, within the respective mandates, the elaboration of measures contributing to the protection and preservation of the marine environment of the Black Sea and its living marine resources;
  - Collaborate in developing key regional strategies to integrate the environment in social and economic development especially in relation to fisheries and aquaculture.
2. Mitigating the impact of fisheries and aquaculture activities on the marine habitats and species
  - Collaborate in the elaboration, including extra-budgetary fundraising, of a joint regional project on the evaluation and mitigation of by-catch in endangered species and of the impact of fishing gears on marine habitats;
  - Consider initiatives to develop the concept of marine spatial planning in a manner that takes into account fisheries and aquaculture activities, activities for the preservation of marine habitats and possible conflicts between these activities and other uses of the sea (e.g. shipping, marine renewable energies, etc.);
  - Also consider strategies to prevent pollution of the marine environment of the Black Sea from any source for the better preservation of its living marine resources;
3. Identification, protection and management of marine areas of particular importance (hot spots of biodiversity, areas with sensitive habitats, essential fish habitats, areas of importance for fisheries and/or for the conservation of endangered species, coastal wetlands)
  - Enhance collaboration with other relevant organizations as appropriate, including those whereby other MoUs have been signed, to create a common regional database of sites of particular importance for biodiversity conservation and for fisheries management;
  - Monitor the status of living marine resources and collaborate, as appropriate, in the elaboration of plans for the prevention, reduction and control of any source of pollution that might have a negative impact on these resources;
  - Cooperate in undertaking assessments of the state of coastal lagoons and other relevant coastal wetlands to be used for the formulation and dissemination of sustainable management measures and sustainable use of its living marine resources.
4. Integrated Maritime Policy
  - Study the impacts of climate change on the marine environment and ecosystems and their living marine resources;
  - Contribute to the formulation and adoption of appropriate fisheries and aquaculture adaptation and mitigation measures to climate change in relation to the environment, including enhancing knowledge and communication;

- Strengthening scientific advice on issues of common interest, including the negative effects of pollution of the marine environment and ecosystems on living marine resources;
- Explore new fields of investigation applied to the conservation of marine environment and marine ecosystems and the sustainable use of living marine resources to promote an integrated approach to environmental and fisheries related issues;
- Collaborate in initiatives related to the implementation and monitoring of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) approach.

5. Legal, institutional and policy related cooperation

- Consult regularly on policy issues of common interest to identify synergies;
- Exchange views regarding the governance of the Black Sea and take part, where possible, to ongoing initiatives aimed at improving the said governance;
- Organize joint side events, where necessary and including together with other organizations, while being in attendance of meetings held in other international fora that could be relevant to further the promotion of the goals and objectives of this MoU;
- Promote cooperation and exchange of information to address issues of common concern (e.g. discharges into sea, destructive fishing practices, etc.);
- Be involved, as appropriate, in those projects implemented by the other Party;
- Be invited to regional/sub-regional meetings and subsidiary bodies meetings of interest as organized respectively by each Party.
- Coordinate positions within international fora which involve both Parties.

#### IV. Memorandum of Understanding between ICES and GFCM

1. Stock Assessment and Management Plans of European Eel, within the Joint ICES/EIFAAC/GFCM Mediterranean Working Group on Eel.

GFCM/ICES/EIFAAC Workshop on EEL

Previous to the meeting, a chair(s) of the meeting shall be identified to ensure the preparation of meeting, in consultation with the Secretariats, which includes *inter alia*:

- Consideration of data requirements for the assessment of the local stocks, and identification of data and knowledge gaps, focusing on the data reporting requirements of the EU and CITES;
- Launch of a data call for the participants ensuring that the objectives of the meeting can be achieved. (i.e. eel production, yield and escapement, including physical habitat data (e.g. wetted area, productivity);

ToRs of the Workshop on EEL:

- Identification of available data, summary of published documentation, creation of a data inventory, analysis of gaps and identification of any management plans implemented;
- Assessment of local stocks;
- Estimation of aquaculture production in the GFCM area;
- Assessment of the anthropogenic impacts on the stock and its relation to the targets/limits of the (national) Eel Management Plans (if present) and the (international) EU Recovery Plan, and the need for non-detriment findings under CITES.

2. Implementation Process of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC; MSFD) including *inter alia* descriptor 3 – Commercial Species.

Development of technical and scientific knowledge and tools supporting EU Member States in the implementation of the MSFD

3. Training programs and expert consultations on: Stock assessment and Formulation of management advice.
4. Indicators regarding the ecosystem impacts of fisheries
5. Development of frameworks for data collection and data collection planning
6. Development of data bases and data access

## V. Memorandum of Understanding between MedPAN and GFCM

The development of the General and Scientific Strategy of MedPAN and, in particular:

- Developing the database of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas ;
- Drafting a report aimed at assessing the Status of the Mediterranean MPA network;
- Contribute, as appropriate to the organization of the 2012 MPA Forum in Turkey.

GFCM, hereby undertakes to:

- Take part, to its best ability, in steering committee meetings organized by MedPAN;
- Take an active part in MedPAN general and scientific strategy on the areas of interest for GFCM;
- Take an active part in the MPA database development providing existing information on fishing reserves, areas and seasons of fishing closures or restrictions in member countries as available at the GFCM Secretariat;

In a fully reciprocal manner, the MedPAN, hereby undertakes to:

- Keep GFCM regularly and wholly informed of MPA database, MPA Status and MPA Forum progress;
- Ensure the main decisions made during steering committee meetings are taken into account;
- Coordinate, as appropriate, with GFCM prior to all major decisions relating to the project, in particular those concerned with fisheries, and provide GFCM with all necessary elements sufficiently in advance to allow GFCM to express an opinion on the aforesaid decisions; and
- Take the interests of GFCM into account in the performance of the project, in so far as these interests comply with the interests of the other party
- Involve GFCM in general and scientific strategy development and activities implementation;
- Participate to the GFCM Commission and Scientific Advisory Committee.



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## VI. Memorandum of Understanding between RACMED and GFCM

1. Exchange of relevant information concerning fisheries and aquaculture in order to ensure that decision-making in the Mediterranean Sea is informed by the views and the opinions of stakeholders;
  - Promoting and strengthen means that ensure the collection of information relating to fisheries and aquaculture that is of relevance for the development of a more comprehensive framework, bearing in mind the need to reinforce links between stakeholders and scientific advice leading to conservation and management measures in the Mediterranean Sea
2. Identification of areas of common interest in view of the possible development of joint activities;
  - Developing a joint forum, including via the internet and other available electronic means and tools, that builds upon existing synergies thus leading to the targeting of common tasks linked to joint priorities
3. Mutual participation in the respective activities, as appropriate;
  - Enhancing the incidence of each Party in the activities of the other, including in view of a more direct involvement in relation to GFCM Members priorities and actions
4. Reciprocal and continuous communication of elements and outcomes useful to facilitate the elaboration of policies;
  - Collaborating in the elaboration of policy making through a bilateral communication systems that improves the flow of relevant information

## VII. Memorandum of Understanding between Eurofish and GFCM

1. Cooperation in the collection of statistics and data relating to Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries as well as to aquaculture activities carried out in the region
  - Examining, discussing and identifying those issues that would deserve dissemination to the general public;
2. Dissemination of information relating to Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries as well as to aquaculture activities carried out in the region
  - Promoting synergies and exploiting interactions in the collection of statistics and data relating to Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries as well as to aquaculture activities carried out in the region;
3. Collaboration, as appropriate, in the publication of relevant material (e.g. documents, magazines, newsletters) with reference to Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries as well as to aquaculture activities carried out in the region
  - Considering launching joint research initiatives and ensure dissemination of any information relating thereto.
4. Joint research in view of raising awareness as to the importance that fisheries and aquaculture have in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.