

December 2009



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

**E**

**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)**

**Twelfth Session**

**Budva, Montenegro, 25-29 January 2010**

**REPORT OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE  
ON STATISTICS AND INFORMATION (SCSI)\*  
Malaga, Spain, 30 November-3 December 2009**

\* Available only in English

**OPENING ARRANGEMENT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

1. The joint Sub-Committees meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC/GFCM) including the transversal session was held in the office of the Spanish Government in Malaga, Spain, from 30 November to 3 December 2009.
2. During the general opening, Mr Baro, Director of the “Instituto Espanol de Oceanografia” in Malaga welcomed the participants and thanked them for attending this important meeting.
3. Mr Sebastian Fraile Arévalo of the “Secretaria general del Mare” welcomed the participants to the beautiful city of Malaga and highlighted the relevance to improve the knowledge on the Mediterranean fisheries. He commended the importance of GFCM as regional Fisheries management Organization and draws attention to the fact that the conclusions obtained in the meeting will help to the governments to adopt the best management measures to maintain in the future these valuable fisheries.
4. Mr Srour, Executive Secretary a.i of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), welcomed the participants and thanked the Sub-delegation of the Spanish Government in Malaga and the IEO for their kindness in hosting and arranging the meeting. Mr Srour recalled that GFCM has recently lost his Executive Secretary Dr Alain Bonzon who was always keeping in mind the interests of the Organization and its members. He invited to keep a minute of silence in his memory. Mr Srour further drawn the attention of the participants on some important issues to be addressed by the Sub-Committees and thanked the FAO regional projects for their support to this meeting.

5. Mr Henri Farrugio, Chairperson of the SAC thanked also the hosting country and the participants for attending the meeting and introduced the transversal session.

### **TRANSVERSAL SESSION: REVIEW OF TRANSVERSAL ISSUES**

6. The outcome of transversal session is introduced in Annex III

### **INTRODUCTION OF THE SCSI MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

7. The tenth session of the Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information (SCSI) was attended by 18 experts from 13 Members of GFCM namely Albania, Cyprus, EC, France, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Spain, Slovenia, Tunisia and Turkey. The list of participants is given in Annex 2.
8. Mr Joël Vigneau, SCSI Coordinator, further presented the workplan and agenda of the meeting which was adopted without any changes (See Annex I).
9. Ms Nicoletta Milone, Mr Lavrentios Vasiliades, Mr Deniz Frljuckic and Mr Haydar Fersoy were appointed as rapporteurs for the session. An executive summary is given in Annex IV.

### **UPDATES ON NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION AND STATISTICAL SYSTEMS AND SITUATION OF CURRENT DATA SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS**

10. The experts present at the SCSI meeting were asked to describe the current situation of their country with regards to the development of their fisheries information systems and the current status of data submission. In particular, the obligation to report Task 1.1, Task 1.2 and Task 1.4 to the GFCM Secretariat by the end of February 2010 (Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3) was recalled. The SCSI proposed that the first submission should concern the 2008 data. Following this first submission, Member Countries should submit their data on the most recent year respecting the deadlines defined by the Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3. The review made by the experts is presented below.
11. **Malta** : The expert from Malta informed the SCSI that Malta is able to collect most of its data on commercial landings by species, by gear and with regard to the geographical origin of the catch, at the level of GFCM statistical division (Area 2.2) through data reported in the logbooks. When the catches do not exceed the threshold of 15kg (Council Regulation (EC) 1967/2006) in live-weight of stocks mentioned, Malta uses the fish market sales vouchers to complement the logbooks to provide its data. For vessels whose length is equal to or less than 10 metres LOA, Malta is able to collect monthly catch and effort estimates by species by gear and by fleet typology through the catch and effort assessment survey (CAS).
12. At present Malta is in the process to develop a new web based application system whereby all the databases are linked into one central information system. This will incorporate the fleet register, logbooks, GFCM Task 1, catch assessment, biological and economic survey databases. This National Fisheries Statistical System should be able to fulfil all the obligations mainly towards the EU, GFCM and other international organisations.

13. The expert from Malta further informed the SCSI that Malta should be able to meet its obligations and submit 2008 data related to GFCM Tasks 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4 by end February 2010. However it may anticipate problems to submit data related to tasks 1.3 and 1.5, namely the economic component variables and provisional biological parameters respectively by May of each year after January 2011.
14. **Cyprus** : the expert from Cyprus made a presentation covering changes in the National Database. The changes included the introduction and use of a new database, web (internet) network data collection system. The data collected and stored in the system comprises :
- Fishing Licence applications
  - Fishing licenses
  - Fisheries Catch (logbook, sample boats)
  - Sale notes
  - Biological data
  - Economic data
15. The new Cyprus Database was developed for fulfilling requirements that were not addressed in the previous database, namely:
- Incorporation of biological and economic information.
  - Creation of an administrative mechanism providing permanent observation and collection of data in real time, supported by a registration and analysis system.
  - Web based data transmission of the fisheries data to the competent international organisations.
16. Furthermore, it was stated that Cyprus was in the process of changing the methodology used for the collection of the artisanal fishing fleet catches (4-12 m LOA). The methodology to be introduced will be based on landing surveys rather than the use of landing declarations of a sample of the artisanal fleet. It was also confirmed that data from Cyprus will be sent by February 2010 in relation the obligation of Task 1.
17. **Montenegro** : A new fisheries information system has been developed but is not at present fully operational. The expert from Montenegro stressed the importance of a new legislation that came into force in 2009 covering Fisheries and Aquaculture information. This new legislation gives a legal framework for fulfilling the countries data collection in coherence with international commitments. It will first benefit to the Fleet register which was operational but was lacking of input data. Given the new regulation, the fleet register database will be operational as from 2010/2011. The expert presented the format of the fleet register of Montenegro as well as the format of the Logbook currently being used for vessels less than 10 meters.
18. In **Turkey** the data collection system is based on a central web based database with connections with provincials incorporating fleet register, sales notes; quota and landings information. The Logbook is being implemented as a pilot project. Electronic Logbook system is being prepared

as an integrated system (comprising logbook, VMS and Automatic Identification System) to the national database and the proposed integrated system is currently being tested.

19. The expert from Turkey expressed difficulties existing in reporting statistics by operational units, due to the fact that in Turkey, a fishing vessel is licensed to operate in all authorised fishing areas without restriction. It was stated that Turkey will meet the deadline on the submission of data by February 2010.
20. **Albania** : The expert from Albania expressed that the country has adopted the legislative framework enabling the fulfilment of the obligations related to minimum mesh size to be introduced in January 2010. It was also stated that Albania has already completed task 1.1 and probably until March will complete Task 1.2, and in the future will meet the requirements set by the GFCM aquaculture data collection recommendation. Difficulties are expected to meet the deadlines of February 2010 in relation to Task 1.4.
21. The expert from Albania also brought the information that
  - the fleet register database was already functioning, albeit the artisanal fishery register has some problems;
  - The authorized vessel list will be submitted by January 2010;
  - The Vessel Monitoring System will be installed in the near future and
  - in the near future, the first phase of the application of the Electronic Reporting System for vessels larger than 15 meters will be started.
22. **Lebanon** : The information presented by Lebanon expert originated from a private initiative at the University of Ballamand. The issue of providing data to the GFCM without restrictions was raised. SCSI noted that the University of Ballamand could be a major actor in the collection and processing of fisheries data, but that the normal GFCM frame is to receive data from national authorities. It was said that it was up to Lebanon focal point to organize fisheries data collection and assessment and send the data to GFCM. Nevertheless, Lebanon would still need technical assistance and evaluation of resources to meet the submission requirements of Task 1.
23. The expert from Lebanon stated that the University of Ballamand has an objective of establishing long-term monitoring of commercial fish species, landings and effort to develop appropriate and sustainable management plans based on scientific data.
24. For a proper implementation of a fisheries management plan, Lebanon is facing difficulties among which can be listed the:
  - Little knowledge about fish species determination, catch composition and production quantities on the Lebanese coast;
  - Absence of management plans;
  - Absence of the enforcement of laws related to fisheries;
  - Need to update the first version of the vessel register database, which was carried out in 2005.
  - Outdated fisheries legislation (new law drafted, still being discussed with fishermen cooperatives since 2005)
  - Absence of an assessment of the economic value of the fishing sector;
  - Reduction in the well-being & standard of living of the fishermen.

25. In order to progress on the fisheries monitoring and management, the University of Ballamand launched a project with the objectives of:
- Establishing an easy to implement data collection & analysis method;
  - Developing & validating the socio-economic, fish catch and fishing effort surveys;
  - Adapting the generic software and standard statistical methodology available on the web by the FAO;
  - Sharing the data with the Ministry of Agriculture on a need basis;
  - Raising the awareness of fishermen about the importance of co-managing the resource;
  - Identifying the season in which species will fetch the highest price
26. The method used to collect data were presented and the software application used for data processing is based on the generic software and standard statistical methodology available on the web by the FAO, adapted for the needs of the project and renamed: FLOUCA (Fish Landing Operational Utility for Catch Assessment or “fishing boat” in Lebanese). Up to sixty five species of fish are currently monitored and the data collection covers Northern Lebanon (Mohafaza of North Lebanon and Akkar). The fishing sector in the target area comprises approximately 1200 artisanal fishing boats.
27. **France** : The expert from France brought the information that the country had, by January 2009, totally revised its database system for the collection of fisheries statistics. The first outcomes are expected in the beginning of 2010. The objective was to rationalise the data collection, data storage and data submissions to the different RFMOs, by including all means of data sources. The new system has thus necessitated a complex engineering system for controlling, validating and merging all the information for the production of standard outputs. The XML schema of the Task 1 data entry tool was passed to the engineers in charge of the system and the production of data for Task 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4 by February 2010 will constitute a test of both the GFCM data entry tool and the capacity of the new system to create a standard GFCM output.
28. **Morocco** : the expert from Morocco explained that the country was in the phase of developing a new Fisheries Information System including research surveys at sea, on-board observer programmes, harbour and market sampling, socio-economic surveys and official statistics. The development of this Fisheries Information System will be based on a central database developed following a stepwise approach. This new system will be operational in 2011.
29. The Authroised Vessels List already submitted by Morocco showed missing information, burdening the use of the dataset for MCS purpose. It was stated that the solution to this problem was given the highest priority. It was stated that the 2008 data fulfilling Task 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4 should be submitted to the GFCM Secretariat by February 2010. The SCSI recalled that Morocco can benefit from the assistance of COPEMED and MEDFISIS on technical issues linked to the development of their Fisheries Information system.
30. **Tunisia** : The expert from Tunisia detailed the different fishing types operating in the country and the attached data collection systems. These are:
- The artisanal fisheries : species weight is collected by census at each port of landings. This implies a heavy work burden in terms of resources.
  - The trawlers : data collected by monthly logbook.
  - The small pelagic fishery : data collected by monthly logbook.

- The large pelagic fishery : data collected by monthly logbook. The vessels > 15 m. will be equipped with VMS by 2010.
31. In order to improve the data collection system, Tunisia will launch a study on elaborating an information system in 2010. The new system will be tested in 2011. In this context, the expert from Tunisia expressed difficulties in submitting the Task 1 data by February 2010. The SCSI recalled that Tunisia can benefit from the assistance of COPEMED and MEDFISIS on technical issues linked to the development of their Fisheries Information system.
  32. SCSI suggested that the GFCM Secretariat should send a reminder to Members to comply with the deadline related to Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3, in order to make sure that the responsible persons for submitting the data were made aware of the new obligation.
  33. EC/EUROSTAT representative informed the meeting that GFCM non-EU members (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia) are actively involved in the MEDSTAT II project funded and managed by EUROSTAT which provided technical assistance in fisheries and aquaculture statistics. In this context, it was proposed that cooperation between MEDSTAT II (EUROSTAT) and the GFCM initiatives including FAO sub-regional projects (in particular MedFisis) should be strengthened.

## **THE CURRENT STATUS AND THE FUTURE OF DATABASES AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEVELOPED AND MANAGED BY THE SECRETARIAT**

### **The new Task 1 software and data exchange protocols**

34. The GFCM Secretariat recalled that the Task 1 database will serve three general purposes: (i) the production of statistics (capacity, catches, fishing effort, etc.); (ii) the furnishing of data for ANALYSIS/ASSESSMENT (INCLUDING ECONOMIC EVALUATION) AND (III) THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO managers to formulate precise management plans.
35. The GFCM Secretariat is progressing in the development of the regional database with reporting facilities and data filtering functions. The GFCM Secretariat recalled that the XML data exchange protocol and the GFCM data entry software are available on the GFCM website. These tools are to be used by Member countries for submitting their Task 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4 before February 2010.
36. The SCSI recalled that the office of the Head of Delegation is responsible for the submission of the data. For the moment, no focal points (national correspondents) are officially nominated for the GFCM Task 1 data submission. By comparison, reference was made to the GFCM aquaculture data systems (SIPAM) where national focal points have been nominated by the countries and can have access to the system upon registration and using an assigned password. The SCSI recommended that action be taken to appoint national focal points for Task 1 reporting.
37. The EC/EUROSTAT representative reported that a shared data transmission system is in place in EC countries sponsored by EUROSTAT. EUROSTAT is implementing this transmission system (eDamis) using the SDMX-ML transmission format in coordination with the FAO and ICES. This new transmission system and format is considered as the standard transmission

system of EUROSTAT for several domains. It allows data transmission and additionally provides control routines to check data compliance and quality. He informed the SCSI that in March 2010 the EU member countries will meet to be trained on the use of the system. In this context the importance of harmonizing the system with the one adopted by GFCM was stressed. The GFCM Secretariat also informed the SCSI that the adopted XML schema exchange protocol is fully compatible with the EC protocol.

38. The EC/DG MARE representative informed the participants on the EC policy on data availability by recalling the provisions of EC regulation 199/2009. For data accessibility the rule of data release after a specific period was mentioned.
39. With respect to the important issue of the use of and access to information by various interested parties including the general public, reference was made to the GFCM Recommendation on the data confidentiality (2006/7). However, this framework still lacks a specific data policy for each dataset, and in this regard, SCSI recommended that the SAC addresses this issue.
40. The SCSI agreed to use, for the moment, the information that will be received in the beginning of 2010 in the framework of TASK 1, only for the production of the GFCM statistical bulletin, in order to have time to consider possible outcomes and to propose new issues on the data policy and data accessibility. SCSI proposed to the Secretariat to prepare during the intersessional period a proposal for the next Sub-Committee meeting on the information outputs and data accessibility functions. \
41. The new GFCM TASK 1 tool was provided to the participants for a testing session, in order to provide initial comments and suggestions on its use. The comments are listed as follows:
  - There is a need for assistance to develop a routine to allow the national information system to be compliant with the GFCM TASK 1 data exchange protocol (Montenegro);
  - There is a need for assistance to develop a routine for compilation of Task 1 data (Cyprus);
  - Malta plans to shift to automatic routines to generate the GFCM TASK 1 data submission files;
  - Some experts stated that GFCM data submission files will be generated through the use of the GFCM Task 1 data entry software ( Morocco, Turkey, Malta, Cyprus)
  - French expert informed that the country will test the automatic feeding of the database using the GFCM XML schema included in the data entry tool.
42. The SCSI identified some potential difficulties in fulfilling the information related to the GFCM Task 1.5. The SCSI was reminded that this section was only providing basic information and that it was not intended to replace the stock assessment form. Task 1.5 should only give partial biological information on the fraction of the population targeted by Operational Unit. Following the discussion, the SCSI suggested to maintain in this section only the fields related to the size of the fish (min, max and mean of the length measure) and remove the fields regarding sex and maturity scales.
43. The SCSI underlined the importance of developing a French version of the GFCM Task 1 data entry software. The GFCM Secretariat explained that although the system was developed on multi-language platform, due to the limited time before February 2010, the Secretariat can only guarantee the translation of the fields' description by that date. At a later stage the Secretariat will proceed to develop the full French version of the data entry software.

44. The SCSI was informed on the problems faced by some Member Countries to feed the database with information by Operational Units. The SCSI recalled that it is the responsibility of Member Countries to develop data collection systems that enable the recording of the information at the required aggregation levels. It was also recalled that regional Projects can provide support to address this issue. The SCSI proposed to include an agenda item for the next SCSI meeting focusing on the issues/difficulties encountered for reporting the GFCM Task 1 fishing activities at the required level of aggregation.
45. The SCSI further agreed on the need to organise a workshop on data collection methods applied to all segments of the fleet, and their coherence with the requirements of the GFCM Task 1. This workshop should be held preferably in the second half of 2010 and for a duration of 3 days. The proposed terms of reference are :
- a) to review the different methodologies and data collection programmes in place within GFCM Member Countries;
  - b) to review the problems arising from the submission of Task 1 data;
  - c) for each of the problems raised in the point above, to exchange experiences from other countries on the same field;
  - d) to agree on methods to address the problems raised;
  - e) to anticipate problems related to the submission of Task 1.3

#### **Current status of the “GSA compatible” STATLANT37 A” form and options for the future**

46. With regards to capture production statistics, it was recalled that countries are requested by FAO to complete and submit (on an annual basis) the NS1 questionnaire – catch data by species for FAO major fishing area (for the Mediterranean and Black Sea – Area 37). Questionnaires are sent by FAO to statistics correspondents of each country. The data is stored in the FAO global catch production database.
47. Until 2007, FAO also sent (to FAO national statistics correspondents) on behalf of the GFCM the STATLANT 37A form which requests countries to report their catches by species and by FAO-GFCM statistical divisions (10 divisions). The data submitted is stored in the Regional Catch database <http://www.fao.org/fishery/statistics/programme/3,1,1/en>.
48. The process for handing over the responsibilities for the management and processing of STATLANT 37A data, as well as the maintenance of the FAO Regional capture production database, started in 2008.
49. The 3-year trial period for the revised STATLANT37A form, requesting countries to report catch data by FAO-GFCM Statistical Divisions and GFCM Geographical Sub-Areas was launched in 2008. The form (including revised instructions) was sent jointly by FAO and GFCM to the FAO statistical correspondents both electronically and by normal mail. GFCM Heads of Delegation were also sent a copy by email.
50. With regards to STATLANT37A form, discussion was held on the following points:
- How valuable is it for GFCM to maintain the STATLANT37A form i.e. catch data by FAO-GFCM Statistical Divisions?
  - Should countries be burdened in submitting catch data through NS1, STATLANT37A and TASK1 (task 1.4)?



- Since the GFCM has adopted 30 GSAs and is monitoring fisheries and resources by GSA, what added value does reporting catch by FAO Statistical Division is brought to the GFCM management process?
  - If the STATLANT37A is maintained for reporting, and considering that data submitted through STATLANT37A is managed by the GFCM Secretariat, would it be necessary to revise the form and issue a GFCM Recommendation to bind its members to submit the new form?
51. The EC/EUROSTAT representative stressed the importance of the continuity of historical time series. SCSI recognized that the fulfilling of the GFCM TASK 1 *de facto* replaced the production of statistics using STATLANT 37 A form.
52. The EC/DG MARE representative stressed the importance to have separate statistics for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. He reiterated the importance to have both tools (STATLANT 37 A form and GFCM Task 1) since the GFCM TASK 1 tool is not fully operative and the process to have it completely in place in the countries would take time. He also reiterated that the process of spatial management is taking up increasing importance. He informed that other convention programmes embracing the spatial management are now in place (e.g. Barcelona Convention, or the SPAMI) and alerted that their action can affect the GFCM management strategy.
53. The EC/EUROSTAT representative underlined that STATLANT 37A is not a mandatory official format requested by EUROSTAT but has been adopted for its simplicity. He informed the SCSI that the 9 EU member states plus two candidate countries should provide data on FAO subdivision basis. The modification of the actual reporting system could lead to discrepancies between the data submitted and the NS1 data.
54. In conclusion, the SCSI agreed that the practical implications in replacing or amending the STATLANT37A data submission system should be further evaluated following the end of the 3-year trial period ending in 2010. SCSI proposed that the agenda of the next SCSI should therefore include an item on data submission catch production statistics.

### **The MedFisis project**

55. Dr Barros (FAO), informed the SCSI that the third year of the MedFisis project was finally signed by EC and that the MedFisis project will resume in 2010. Priority will be given to the completion of the actions so far engaged in the first part of the project during the course of 2010.
56. Dr Barros also recalled that the MedFisis project was dealing with activities not limited to the maintenance/updating of the MEDSTAT software. Other interventions would include training programmes, assistance to countries in sampling design.
57. The MedFisis project third year will take a stepwise approach starting with the circulation, at the beginning of 2010, of a questionnaire on the use of MEDSTAT. The objective is to overview the current status in each country (the last being circulated in 2006) and to highlight the areas in which improvements are needed in the national system.

---

**Reporting on by-catch data of species of conservation concern and possible inclusion in the Task 1 data entry software**

58. Following a proposal by the SCMEE to include information of by-catch by species in the GFCM TASK 1 framework, SCSI stressed the difference between the definitions proposed by the SCSI in 2008 and the recent proposal by the SCMEE for the purpose of the glossary. While waiting for the final definition of by-catch by SCMEE, the SCSI suggested to evaluate, at the next SCSI session, the possibility to include the by-catch by species in the reporting system.

**FOLLOW-UP OF SAC/SCSI RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE GFCM REGIONAL LOGBOOK AND OPTIONS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION**

59. The comments from the transversal session are available in Annex III of the SCSI report. SCSI reviewed these comments and reflected further on the issues raised.
60. It was made clear during the transversal session that the logbook should provide scientists and administrations with as much information as possible. There is a compromise to be found between the scientific needs, the needs for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance and to promote the participatory approach in fisheries management.
61. SCSI noted that, from the experience of some experts, there were problems raised in relation to fishermen properly filling the logbook. To ease the burden, the information required could be reduced to the minimum, by pre-filling a certain number of fields that are repetitive from one trip to the other (e.g. identification of the vessel, owner, description of the main gears etc.). This solution received a general agreement but it was noticed that the production of the logbook sheets pad would be under the responsibility of each Member Country. The possibility to use a reference sheet with pictures of fish to be ticked instead of writing the name of the fish was also discussed but rejected since it is too complex to link with the other components of the logbook and hardly modifiable. In any case, there was a common agreement that fishermen awareness campaigns should be carried out in relation to the use of the logbook.
62. The fact that simplification can help fishermen to fulfil the commitment imposed by logbook was highlighted. More requirements for information to be put on the logbook will create more problems. Collection of information on socio-economics variables through logbooks would be useful. However SCSI was of the opinion that it was better to restrict such variables, provided that they may be collected through other means. The logbook should be one page for the sake of simplicity. Some experts stressed that the proposed logbook is already a simple template which was developed at the workshop organised at the Rome.
63. Some suggested inclusion of information on fuel consumption in the logbook. On one hand, the use of such information was found to be useful in the implementation of environmentally-friendly fisheries activities, and in providing an important economic variable linked to fishing effort. On the other hand, some experts stressed that the controlling of the information recorded on the logbook regarding fuel consumption is in most cases difficult, and that this information could be collected by alternative means. SCSI could not conclude on the necessity to record fuel consumption in the logbook, and wished to bring the pros and cons to the attention of SAC.
64. The SCSI recalled that logbook systems usually do not cover the entire population of fishing vessels and need to be quality-controlled, therefore needing to be supplemented by other data collection means such as catch assessment surveys.

65. The list of species to be reported and the setting up of a specific threshold for recording the catches by species were discussed at the meeting. The high species diversity in the catches within the Mediterranean and Black sea context was recalled. It was also underlined that due to commitments emerging from certain international conservation agreements (e.g. Barcelona Convention) there is legal requirement to monitor and report on the species of conservation concern.
66. Setting of weight thresholds for reporting catches by species was proved to diminish the number of species reported by the logbook system. On the other hand, where no threshold is set, the logbook will potentially include an extensive list of reported species. SCSI agreed to propose the implementation of pilot exercise using different thresholds (e.g. 5 kg, 10 kg, 15 kg) in order to estimate the threshold effect and to enable SCSI to take the appropriate decision on the matter.
67. SCSI proposed to refine the logbook proposal by adding in the same column mesh/hook size and to include the precise definition of the mesh size and hook size in accordance with regulations adopted in the area (e.g. EC regulations).

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UPDATING OF THE SAC GLOSSARY

68. SCSI reviewed and endorsed the proposal made by the GFCM Secretariat on the definition for Operational Units, on the basis of the most recent developments , as follows:
69. “Within the context of managing fishing effort by Geographical Sub-Area(s), an Operational Unit is a group of fishing vessels which are engaged in the same type of fishing operation within the same GSA, targeting the same species or group of species and belonging to the same economic segment. Fishing vessels may pertain to more than one Operational Unit and the composition of Operational Units is subject to change over time.”
70. The SCSI went on to propose other terms and associated definitions to be included in the glossary. The SCSI proposal is detailed in the tables below:

#### Proposed revision of the definitions of terms already in the glossary

Term	Def	SC	Source	SCSI Proposal
By-catch	The total catch of unwanted animals including vulnerable and endangered species. By-catch of commercial species should be reported as associated species.		Report of the ninth session of the Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information (SCSI). Antalya, Turkey, 13–16 October 2008	The total catch of unwanted animals including vulnerable and endangered species. By-catch of commercial species should be reported as associated species. [To be reconsidered upon proposal of the definition by SCMEE)
Catch (see also nominal catch)	“The total number of organisms caught by fishing operations (“catch” is also used to denote the weight of organisms caught). Catch should pertain to all fish killed by the act of fishing, not just those organisms that are landed.		FAO glossary	The quantity of fish which is retained by the fishing gear during fishing operations. (SCSI)

Term	Def	SC	Source	SCSI Proposal
Discards (see also non-retained catches)	The portion of the total organic material of animal origin in the catch, which is thrown away, or dumped at sea for whatever reason. It does not include plant materials and post harvest waste such as offal. The discards may be dead, or alive.		Report of the ninth session of the Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information (SCSI). Antalya, Turkey, 13–16 October 2008	The portion of the total organic material of animal origin in the catch, which is thrown away, or dumped at sea for whatever reason. It does not include plant materials and post harvest waste such as offal. The discards may be dead, or alive. [same as the original]
Days at sea	Any continuous period of 24 hrs (or part thereof) during which a vessel is present within an area and absent from port		Report of the ninth session of the Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information (SCSI). Antalya, Turkey, 13–16 October 2008	any continuous period of 24 hrs (or part thereof) during which a vessel is present within an area and absent from port [same as the original]
Effort	The amount of fishing gear of a specific type used on the fishing grounds over a given unit of time e.g. hours trawled per day, number of hooks set per day or number of hauls of a beach seine per day. When two or more kinds of gear are used, the respective efforts must be adjusted to some standard type before being added.		FAO (1997): Fisheries management. FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries, 4: 82 p.). In FAO glossary..	A measure of fishing activity expressed as the product of a number of parameters related to the fishing vessel capacity and gear used on the fishing grounds over a given unit of time e.g. hours trawled per day, number of hooks set per day or number hauls of a beach seine per day. When two or more kinds of gear are used, the respective efforts must be adjusted to some standard type before being added. [FAO glossary amended by SCSI]
Fishing days	Any continuous period of 24hrs (or part thereof) attributed to the GSA (area) where the most fishing time was spent during the relevant day at sea. However, for passive gears, if no operation took place from the vessel during a day while at least one passive gear remained at sea, that day will be associated to the area where the last setting of a fishing gear was carried out on that fishing trip. Namely, the time calculated from the point where each individual unit of gear has been set, to the time when the same unit starts to be removed		Report of the ninth session of the Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information (SCSI). Antalya, Turkey, 13–16 October 2008	Any continuous period of 24hrs (or part thereof) attributed to the GSA (area) where the most fishing time was spent during the relevant day at sea. However, for passive gears, if no operation took place from the vessel during a day while at least one passive gear remained at sea, that day will be associated to the area where the last setting of a fishing gear was carried out on that fishing trip. Namely, the time calculated from the point where each individual unit of gear has been set, to the time when the same unit starts to be removed [same as the original]
Fishing gears	The equipment used for fishing, e.g. baitboat, gillnet, handline, harpoon, haul seine, longline, widwater trawl, purse seine, rod-and-reel, trap, and trawler. Each of these gears can have multiple configurations.	SCCESS	Restrepo V. (1999): Annotated Glossary of Terms in Executive Summary Reports of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas' Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS). ICCAT. In FAO glossary.	Gear according to the fishing license of the vessel or the owner/operator, using the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear (The International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear (ISSCFG) was adopted during the 10th Session of the CWP (Madrid, 22-29 July 1980).

Term	Def	SC	Source	SCSI Proposal
Gross registered tonnage (GRT)	A measurement of ship weight. With fishing vessels often used as a measure of fishing capacity, particularly for ships built before 1994 (when the London Convention replaced the Oslo Convention in providing guidelines for the standard measurement of ship capacity). At present is being replaced by Gros Tonnage (GT)	SCESS	OECD	A measurement of ship weight. With fishing vessels often used as a measure of fishing capacity, particularly for ships built before 1994 (when the London Convention replaced the Oslo Convention in providing guidelines for the standard measurement of ship capacity). At present is being replaced by Gros Tonnage (GT) [same as original]]
Gross tonnage (GT)	A measurement of ship volume. With fishing vessels often used together with engine power (kW) as a measure of fishing capacity, especially since the London Convention took effect in 1994. The gross tonnage is a function of the moulded volume of all enclosed spaces of the ship	SCESS	OECD	A measurement of ship volume. With fishing vessels often used together with engine power (kW) as a measure of fishing capacity, especially since the London Convention took effect in 1994. The gross tonnage is a function of the moulded volume of all enclosed spaces of the ship [same as original]
GSA	Geographical Subarea			Geographically defined zones, in the Mediterranean, Black Sea and connecting waters, used to compile data, monitor fisheries and assess fisheries resources in a georeferenced manner. [SCSI]
Landing(s)	Weight of the what is landed at a landing site. May be different from the catch (which includes the discards).	SCSESS	FAO glossary	Portion of the catch which is unloaded from a fishing vessel at landing sites. Landings does not include transhipment. [SCSI]
Target species	Those species that are primarily sought by the fishermen in a particular fishery. The subject of directed fishing effort in a fishery. There may be primary as well as secondary target species.	SCESS SCSA	In FAO glossary.	One (or an assemblage of) species that are primarily sought by the fishermen in a particular fishery. The subject of a directed fishing effort in a fishery. [FAO glossary amended by SCSI]
Transhipment	Act of transferring the catch from one fishing vessel to either another fishing vessel or to a vessel used solely for the carriage of cargo.	SCESS	FAO (1998): Guidelines for the routine collection of capture fishery data. FAO Fish. Tech. Pap, 382: 113 p. In FAO glossary.	Portion of the catch which is unloaded from a fishing vessel to either another fishing vessel or to a vessel used solely for the carriage of cargo. [SCSI]

### Proposed addition of terms and their definitions

Vessel type	Type of vessel according to the International Standard Classification of Fishery Vessels by Vessel Types. [The 'International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishery Vessels by Vessel Types' (ISSCFV), based on the type of gear used by the vessels, approved by the CWP in 1984].
Length Overall (LOA)	The principle longitudinal dimension (in metres) of the hull of the vessel. [SCSI]
Power of the main engine(s)	Total maximum continuous rated output power in Kw of all the vessel's main propulsion machinery which appears on the vessel's certificate or registry or other official document (STCW-F convention).
Power of auxiliary engine(s) (if any)	Includes all installed engine power not included under the heading "Power of the main engine(s)" [Fleet Register workshop]
Fleet segment	Definition to be provided by SCESS
Gear Class (or gear type)	Labelling of an upper level of identification of fishing gear (code ending by 0.0), as defined by the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear [The International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear (ISSCFG)]

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

71. The SCSI drew up and agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations:

- Proposal that the first submission of data on Task 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4 by February 2010 following recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3 should concern the 2008 data;
- Suggestion to appoint a national focal point in each of the Member Countries for Task 1 reporting;
- Proposal to define a specific data policy for the use and access of Task 1 datasets, within the framework of Recommendation GFCM/30/2006/7;
- Agreement that the Task 1 datasets that will be received in the beginning of 2010 will serve only for the production of the GFCM statistical bulletin;
- Proposal that the GFCM Secretariat prepares during the intersessional period, information outputs and data accessibility functions to be discussed during the 2010 SCSI meeting;
- Suggestion to remove the fields regarding sex and maturity scales in the Task 1.5 variables and keep only the fields related to the size of the fish (min, max and mean of the length measures);
- Request for the translation into French of the fields description in the Task 1 data entry software before February 2010 by the GFCM Secretariat, and for the full translation into French of the software at a later stage;
- Recall that it is the responsibility of Member Countries to develop data collection systems that enable the recording of the information at the Operational Units level, since some experts anticipated that their country would not comply with the Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3 to submit Task 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4 data by February 2010.
- Recall that regional projects can provide support to Member Countries to address the issue of data collection;

- Proposal to include an agenda item for the next SCSI meeting on the difficulties encountered for reporting the GFCM Task 1 fishing activities;
- Proposal of the organisation of a workshop on data collection methods applied to all segments of the fleet, and their coherence with the requirements of the GFCM task 1. The terms of reference proposed are :
  - a) to review the different methodologies and data collection programmes in place within GFCM Member countries;
  - b) to review the problems arising from the submission of task 1 data;
  - c) for each of the problems raised in the point above, to exchange experiences from other countries on the same field;
  - d) to agree on methods to address the problems raised;
  - e) to anticipate problems related to the submission of Task 1.3
- Proposal to add to the 2010 SCSI agenda an item on data submission catch production statistics, in order to evaluate the relevance of replacing or amending the STATLANT37A data submission system at the end of the 3-year trial period;
- Suggestion for Member Countries to launch fishermen awareness campaigns in relation to the use of logbook;
- Proposal for SAC to assess the relevance of including a 'fuel consumption' field in the logbook, based on pros and cons underlined by SCSI;
- Suggestion for Member Countries to carry out pilot exercise to assess the impact of using different thresholds for reporting catches by species in the logbook for the larger vessels, and make the results available to SCSI before its 2010 SCSI meeting;
- Suggestion to evaluate, at the next SCSI session, the possibility to include the by-catch by species in the Task 1 reporting system, following the definition given by SCMEE;
- Proposal for the GFCM glossary
  - To update certain terms, relevant to SCSI activities, when a definition was already proposed in one of its expert meetings;
  - To update certain terms, relevant to SCSI activities, when the definition proposed was found not to be appropriate;
  - To add certain terms, relevant to SCSI activities, when they were absent from the proposed glossary.

## **PRELIMINARY WORKPLAN FOR 2010**

72. The SCSI agreed on the following workplan:

- Organise a workshop on data collection methods applied to all segments of the fleet, and their coherence with the requirements of the GFCM Task 1;
- Member countries to carry out pilot studies on the impact of setting up a weight threshold for reporting catch data in the GFCM logbook.
- GFCM Secretariat to translate into French the Task 1 data entry software. The translation should concern only the fields' definition in a first stage and the full data entry software at a later stage.

- GFCM Secretariat to receive the Task 1.1, 1.2, and 1.4 datasets and
  - Update the statistical bulletin accordingly;
  - Work on proposing data summary outputs and data access functions to be proposed at the next SCSI meeting;
  - Work on data policy linked to the Task 1 dataset.

#### **ANY OTHER MATTERS**

73. The expert from Tunisia reiterated the issue of GSA boundaries raised during the logbook workshop. The statement stands as follows: Fishermen find some difficulties to separate the catch from the east coast which is subdivided into GSAs 13 and 14 as well as the north coast because of overlapping areas due to differences in definition according to national regulations and GSAs/GFCM. SCSI agreed to bring this issue to the attention of SAC.
74. Before the closure of the meeting, the participants warmly thanked the hosting country in particular the Instituto Espanol de Oceanografia for their hospitality and kindness in hosting the meeting and expressed their appreciation for ensuring excellent conditions of work.

#### **NOMINATION OF THE SCSI COORDINATOR**

75. The SCSI unanimously agreed to propose the reappointment Mr Joël Vigneau as Coordinator for the next term.

#### **DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

76. The date and the venue of the next SCSI meeting will be set up by the SAC.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

77. The report of the meeting was adopted during the SCSI session on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009.



**Annex I****Agenda**

1. Opening and arrangement of the Sub-Committee meetings
2. Transversal session: review of transversal issues
3. Introduction to the meeting and adoption of the agenda
4. Updates on national data collection and statistical systems (national reports)
5. Overview of current situation of data submission by Members
6. The current status and future concerning databases and information systems developed and managed by the Secretariat.
  - 6.1. The new Task 1 software and data exchange protocols
  - 6.2. Current status of the “GSA compatible” STATLANT37 A” form and options for the future
  - 6.3. The MedFisis project
  - 6.4. Reporting on bycatch data of species of conservation concern and possible inclusion in the Task 1 data entry tool.
7. Preliminary Review of the outcome of the workshop on the GFCM regional logbook
8. Contributions to the updating of the SAC glossary
9. General conclusions and recommendations
10. 2010 SCSi workplan
11. Any other matters
12. Nomination of the SCSi coordinator
13. Date and venue of the next meeting
14. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting

## Annex II

## List of Participants

SCSI coordinator  
Mr Joël VIGNAU  
IFREMER  
Avenue du Général de Gaulle  
14520 Port-en Bessin FRANCE  
E\_mail [Joel.Vigneau@ifremer.fr](mailto:Joel.Vigneau@ifremer.fr)

Mehrez BESTA  
Ministère de l'agriculture et des Ressources  
Hydrauliques  
30 rue Alain Savary-1002 Tunis, Tunisia  
Tel: +216 71 89059  
Fax: +216 71 799401  
e\_mail: [mehrez\\_best@yahoo.fr](mailto:mehrez_best@yahoo.fr)

Antonio CERVANTES  
DG MARE European Commission  
Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +21 2 2965162  
e\_mail: [antonio.cervantes@ec.europa.eu](mailto:antonio.cervantes@ec.europa.eu)

Aziz LAMTAI  
INRH  
BP 5268 Dradeb Tanger, Morocco  
Tel: +212 539 946 575  
Fax: +212 539 325 139  
e\_mail: [aziz\\_lamtai@yahoo.fr](mailto:aziz_lamtai@yahoo.fr)

Lavrentios VASILIADES  
Department of Fisheries and Marine Research  
Vithleem101, Nicosia 1416, Cyprus  
Tel: +35 722807858  
Fax: +35 722775955  
[lvasiliades@dfmr.moa.gov.cy](mailto:lvasiliades@dfmr.moa.gov.cy)

Haydar FERSONY  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs  
Akay cad no:3 Bakanliklar,  
Ankara, Turkey  
Tel: +90 312 4174176  
Fax: +90 312 4185834  
e\_mail: [haydarf@kkgm.gov.tr](mailto:haydarf@kkgm.gov.tr)

Nicoletta MILONE  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla,1  
00153 Rome Italy  
Tel: 0039 06570 55467  
e\_mail: [nicoletta.milone@fao.org](mailto:nicoletta.milone@fao.org)

Juan Antonio CAMIÑAS  
FAO CopeMed II  
Sebdelegacion del Gobierno en Malaga  
P de Sancha 64, Malaga Spain  
Tel: +34 952989299  
Fax: +34 952989245  
e\_mail: [juanantonio.caminas@fao.org](mailto:juanantonio.caminas@fao.org)

Matthieu BERNARDON  
FAO CopeMed II  
Sebdelegacion del Gobierno en Malaga  
P de Sancha 64, Malaga Spain  
Tel: +34 952989299  
Fax: +34 952989245

Eric MUSCAT  
Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs,  
Capture Fisheries Section  
Fort San Lucjan,  
Marsaxlokk Malta BBG1283  
Tel: +356 22293334  
Fax: +356 21659380  
e\_mail: [eric.muscat@gov.mt](mailto:eric.muscat@gov.mt)

Deniz FRLJUCKIC  
Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Water  
Management  
Rimski Trg Br. 46  
81000 Podgorica, Montenegro  
Tel: +382 20 482 270  
Fax: +382 20 234 306  
e\_mail: [deniz.frljuckic@gov.me](mailto:deniz.frljuckic@gov.me)

Matthew CAMILLERI ( FIEL/GFCM)  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla,1  
00153 Rome, Italy  
Tel: 0039 06570 56435  
e\_mail: [matthew.camilleri@fao.org](mailto:matthew.camilleri@fao.org)

Federico DE ROSSI (FIEL/GFCM)  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla,1  
00153 Rome Italy  
Tel: 0039 06570 53481  
e\_mail: [federico.derossi@fao.org](mailto:federico.derossi@fao.org)

Manal R. NADER  
University of Balamand  
Institute of the Environment  
P.O.Box: 100  
Tripoli, North Lebanon  
Lebanon  
Tel: +961-6-930 250; ext. 316  
e-mail: [manal.nader@balamand.edu.lb](mailto:manal.nader@balamand.edu.lb)

Franco ZAMPOGNA  
European Commission Eurostat  
5, rue A. Weicker  
L-2721 Luxemburg  
Tel: + 352 4301 37268  
Fax: + 352 4301 37318  
e\_mail: [franco.zampogna@ec.europa.eu](mailto:franco.zampogna@ec.europa.eu)

Josip MARKOVIC  
Ministry of agriculture, fisheries and rural  
development  
Directorate of Fisheries  
Miramarska 24  
10000 Zagreb, Croatia  
Tel: +385 1 610 6626  
Fax: +385 1 610 92 06  
e\_mail: [josip.markovic@mps.hr](mailto:josip.markovic@mps.hr)

Roland KRISTO  
Director  
Fishery Policies Directorate  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water  
Administration  
Rruga e Duresit, No. 27  
Tirana, Albania  
Tel/Fax: +355 4 246171  
e\_mail: [rkristo@moe.gov.al](mailto:rkristo@moe.gov.al)

Roberto EMMA ( FIEL/GFCM)  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla,1  
00153 Rome Italy  
Tel: 0039 06570 56242  
e\_mail: [Roberto.emma@fao.org](mailto:Roberto.emma@fao.org)

**Annex III****OUTCOME OF THE TRANSVERSAL SESSION OF THE SAC-SUB-COMMITTEES**  
Malaga, Spain, 30 November 2009

This session was attended by 73 experts from 15 Member countries and 4 partner organisations. It was agreed that general discussion on the topics will take place during this session and that further reflections could be undertaken during the sub-committees meetings. The following subjects were reviewed:

**Transversal workshop on Regional Logbook** (J. Vigneau)

**Abstract.** In response to a demand by SAC (GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee), endorsed by the 2009 session of the GFCM, a workshop was held in July, in the premises of FAO (Roma), on the setting up of a Regional logbook for the Mediterranean and Black Sea. The terms of references of this workshop included a review of the current situation regarding the collection of effort and landings data in the different Member Countries, the identification of the objectives and scope of a GFCM logbook, the agreement of the parameters and format, and the proposition of a roadmap for the implementation of the GFCM logbook. Alternative means of collection of effort and landings per fishing activity and area for the vessels not covered by the GFCM logbook, were also to be considered. The objective and scope of a regional GFCM logbook were clearly defined as being a tool to serve the needs for MCS (Monitoring, Control and Surveillance) of the fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, and a primary source of data for the GFCM data collection framework, and in particular the Task 1. Building on existing formats among GFCM Member Countries and adapting the parameters to the needs for Task 1 obligations, a proposal was made during the meeting (see document in annex XX). Concerning the roadmap for implementation, it was recommended that

- The GFCM logbook should be implemented as a minimum for vessels more than 15 metres in length overall.
- The implementation of the GFCM logbook should be effective for Member Countries as from 1st January 2012.
- A transitional period should be considered for some countries having little or no logistic resources to handle a LB system.
- The EU should check whether there is a need to change the ERS (Electronic Recording System) Regulation to reflect the proposed GFCM Logbook
- GFCM, FAO regional projects and the EU should offer assistance to Member Countries having little experience in setting up a logbook system.

Finally, it was also stated that the use of the GFCM Logbook will not cover all the requirements to complete the GFCM Task 1, and the information collected should be cross-checked with other sources for quality issues. Alternative means for collecting effort and landings information presented to the workshop were harbour surveys, fishing calendar surveys, monthly, daily or simplified forms.

**Comments.** The transversal session endorsed the outputs of the workshop on the regional logbook. Experts discussed the size of the vessels to be covered by the logbook and some highlighted the need to include vessels below 15m since the fishing efficiency of such vessels has increased with technology innovations. Nevertheless, it was agreed that it was

up to the Commission to decide on this matter. Many experts did not agree on the proposal to limit reporting to only the GFCM priority species and suggested that all the species caught, including species of conservation concern, should be reported. Experts acknowledged the fact that there may be some difficulties in bringing fishermen to complete logbooks for a variety of reasons, including problems of illiteracy. However, there was general agreement that a logbook scheme is a vital instrument for fisheries control and management, as well as for scientific monitoring and assessment. A proposal to introduce a simplified logbook for the artisanal fleet was also put forward by some experts.

### **Transversal Working Group on Selectivity improvement and bycatch reduction**

(M.N. Bradai)

**Abstract** The meeting addressed various issues and made the main following conclusions:

- The large variability in bycatch between different areas and gears in the Mediterranean;
- The need to develop and adapt mitigation measures have been developed outside the Mediterranean
- The lack of aggregated knowledge on the biology and fishery of elasmobranches in many parts of the Mediterranean;
- The need of a common strategy to reduce the effect of fisheries on sea turtles, marine mammals and seabird bycatch;

The SCMEE further made the following main recommendations to SAC:

- More studies should be conducted on the characterisation of bycatch of species of conservation concern in areas of the Mediterranean;
- The importance of testing of mitigation measures and technologies that have been developed outside the Mediterranean and by some Regional Fisheries Management Organisations;
- More information, education campaigns and training workshops should be conducted to inform the fishing industry on regulations on species of conservation concern and current practices to reduce the mortality of such species;
- Develop and initiate a regional strategy to reduce sea turtles, marine mammals and seabird bycatch;
- Setup a medium term year work plan to improve knowledge and assess the status of elasmobranches in the Mediterranean and the black sea was elaborated.

**Comments.** The participants acknowledged the extensive work carried out by the workshop on reduction of bycatch and discards. The session highlighted the need to further implement a strategy to improve the selectivity of fishing gears operated in the GFCM area. The participants agreed on the proposal to step-up assessments on elasmobranches and stressed on the importance to continue collaborating with other relevant organizations involved in elasmobranches monitoring activities. The MedSudMed coordinator informed the participants that extensive work and training activities have been carried out by MedSudMed on the biology and age reading of these species and suggested to consider all of these as a foundation for the work of SAC. Finally the session proposed that the definition of by-catch should be drawn up and that a data collection framework for species of conservation concern caught during fishing operations should be established.

### **Progress on improvement and updating of SAC glossary** (J. Lleonart)

**Abstract.** The GFCM Glossary has remained untouched since 2003. It contains 693 words and 841 definitions. This unbalance is due to the presence of 115 words with more than one (actually 2 to 7) definition. A number of words correspond to the ordinary language, the jargon of some other specialized discipline not directly related to Mediterranean fisheries (i.e. statistics, general ecology or economy, etc.), not relevant to GFCM, or simply obsolete. It is advisable to remove those words that do not belong to the specific tasks of GFCM. On the other hand multiple definitions for a single word usually mislead the reader. Usually they are redundant. They say the same thing (or similar) with different words and level of precision. These problems were identified by the SAC and led it to promote the refinement of the glossary. That means to reduce the GFCM Glossary to the words really significant for the normal scientific work and provide a single clear definition in order to allow the people working on GFCM issues to exactly understand the meaning of the key words in the GFCM context.

A first phase of analysis of the glossary gave the following proposals: to remove: 253 definitions, to modify 359 definitions and to accept as they are 215.

A second phase including consultations with GFCM Secretariat and SCESS coordinator and another analysis (not yet finished at the date of this report) the proposals are the following: 224 definitions to be accepted, 76 new words (with definition) to be added, 36 definitions already modified, 175 definitions to be analyzed and 398 definitions (involving 307 words) proposed for deletion.

**Comments.** The work carried out so far to revise the GFCM glossary was commended by the experts. It was agreed that further consultation with the SAC sub-committees together with national scientific and academic institutions would be very valuable. 29<sup>th</sup> December 2009 was set as a deadline for consultations after which the consultant will proceed to finalise the draft revised glossary to be presented at the SAC session in January 2010. The Sub-Committees were invited to identify appropriate means to contribute to the glossary revision process.

### **Progress on the implementation of the FAO-ArtFiMed Project in Morocco and Tunisia** (Caminas and Bernardon)

**Abstract.** Le projet ArtFiMed s'intègre à la fois (i) aux priorités des pays en matière de lutte contre la pauvreté, d'amélioration des conditions socio-économiques des populations côtières et de réhabilitation des pêches artisanales, (ii) aux préoccupations régionales en matière d'échange d'expériences, d'amélioration de la gestion des stocks partagés et des espèces d'intérêt commun, (iii) aux recommandations et objectifs internationaux énoncés dans le cadre des objectifs pour Millénaire et du Comité des Pêches de la FAO. Dans une première étape, des rapports diagnostics des trois sites sélectionnés pour la mise en œuvre du projet, Dikky au Maroc, et El Akarit et Ghannouch en Tunisie ont été élaborés et seront présentes. Ces rapports ont fait l'objet d'un processus de concertation avec les communautés bénéficiaires pour évaluer précisément le contexte dans les zones d'intervention et permettre ainsi l'identification participative des besoins et des activités qui seront mises en œuvre dans le cadre du projet.

**Comments.** The achievements of the project during its first phase were acclaimed by the participants. The proposal to also focus on the impact of artisanal fisheries on the state of

the stocks and vice-versa was raised by some experts. The transversal session also acknowledged the effort being made by the project to promote the involvement of artisanal fishers in the fisheries management process.

**CopeMed pilot study on the implementation of the 40 mm square mesh in the bottom trawls** (J. Sacchi and J. Baro)

**Abstract.** With reference to Resolution GFCM/31/2007/3 on the introduction of the 40mm square mesh in the codend of trawl nets exploiting demersal resources and Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/2 on a minimum mesh size in the codend of demersal trawl nets by 31 January 2012, CopeMed II project supported by the Coordination Committee agreed with the GFCM in supporting a subregional action according the availability of financial resources. The commitment included: a) Preparing a Technical document on the 40 mm mesh selectivity; b) Organising a subregional Workshop to analyse the implementation of such measure; c) to prepare methodologies that could be utilised for the CopeMed countries and d) helping the INRH in carrying out a pilot study as example for the other subregional countries. A technical document was prepared by two international experts to CopeMed II. The document include a protocol on trawling gear selectivity; standard methodologies to evaluate the biological and economic effects of the 40 mm mesh implementation and standard methodologies for the analysis of the biological and socio economic effects of the implementation of the 40 mm Resolution. The document is in its last phase and will be distributed by CopeMed II. A Workshop (Malaga, 10-11 September 2009) was organised by CopeMed II to: promote the cooperation between the CopeMed countries on this issue; discuss the implementation of the GFCM Recommendation and to prepare a pilot study on the gear selectivity, biological and socio-economic impacts of the adoption of this measure to be applied on a first step in Morocco and later to be extended to the other south Project' countries according to the budget availability. Experts from the EU, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and the authors of the document from France and Spain participated in the meeting. A draft plan for the pilot survey to be carried out in Nador (Morocco) in collaboration with the INRH was also discussed during the Malaga meeting aimed to prepare the scientific and operational aspects to carry out the pilot survey to: evaluate the yields of the target species using a 40 mm traditional (rhombic) and a codend of 40 mm with a square mesh (experimental); obtain the selectivity parameters for target species and types of mesh; determine the discarded fraction; conduct an economic assessment of the effects of changing the mesh size; compare the experimental results with the obtained by the Moroccan trawl gear, in terms of by-catch of unwanted species, juveniles and discards. As main conclusions of the workshop the operational protocols were adopted, the gear and vessel type selected, the survey equipment and material needs agreed, the on board and data analysis methodologies adopted. The document prepared by CopeMed II was revised, the different responsibilities distributed and a first budget table prepared and the schedule adopted. At the moment of the SCs meeting CopeMed II should contact INRH and GFCM Secretariat to agree on the budget contributions to carry out this activity in Morocco. The cost of the pilot project was calculated as 120.926 \$, including the four phases: 1.Elaboration of documents, preparatory meeting and campaign preparation (14.091 \$); 2.Experimental campaign of selectivity in Nador (81.104 \$); 3. Data analysis (15.898 \$) and 4.Final report and Conclusions (9.834 \$).

**Comments.** The session welcomed the pilot study being conducted through COPEMED II assistance in Morocco on the impact of the implementation of the minimum mesh size. Some experts highlighted the importance of taking into consideration the varying behaviours of fishers from one area to another when establishing a sampling design.

**Climate change and its impact on fisheries and Ecosystems** (M. Camilleri, GFCM Secretariat)

**Abstract.** The concerns about direct and indirect impacts of climate change on the physical marine environment, marine ecosystems, living marine resources and the livelihoods of people who exploit them are shared globally. Over the last few years, the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department (FI) have been addressing this issue through a specially established internal working group on Climate Change in which the GFCM Secretariat is represented. In April 2008, the FI held an Expert Workshop on Climate Change Implications for Fisheries and Aquaculture (FAO Fisheries Report 870) to respond to the request made by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) to address the subject and to provide inputs to the FAO High-Level Conference on World Food Security. The Workshop identified and reviewed key issues, from the physical changes, the impacts on aquatic resources and ecosystems and how these ecological impacts translate into human dimensions of coping and adapting within fisheries aquaculture. It also evaluated policy options, mitigation, impact reduction means and the building of adaptive capacity to climate change. Three technical papers formed the basis of the technical discussions and have been recently published by the FAO (FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper 530). In addition, the FAO along with several other international organisations have published a joint policy brief entitled “Fisheries and aquaculture in our changing climate”. With a forecasted significant increase in sea surface temperature and sea level rise over the next century, the Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries and aquaculture industries are also particularly vulnerable to climate change. In this respect and in the light of the outputs of the FAO workshop referred to above, there is a growing need for the GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee to focus on the issue of climate change and to include it in various components of its programme of work.

**Comments.** The participants welcomed the presentation delivered by the Secretariat and agreed that SAC activities should incorporate climate change issues. The Sub-Committees and the Coordination Meeting of the Sub-Committees were invited to identify concrete activities in this regard.

**SAC framework and medium term strategic plan** (J.J. Maguire)

**Abstract.** J.-J. Maguire briefly introduced the terms of reference for his assignment to review the SAC frame of reference. He invited participants to talk to him on their views on the SAC achievements, modes of operations and other aspects they considered important in improving the performance of the SAC.

**Introduction and discussion on the issue of Alien species in the Mediterranean and Black Sea** (B. Ozturk)

**Abstract.** Alien species of the Black and Mediterranean Seas were reported. Main vectors were shipping, hull fouling, clinging and sediment tank of the ships. Besides, intentionally and unintentionally introduction was also important both seas for the dispersion of the alien species. Impact of fisheries, human health and biodiversity changes has been examined. Climate change and dispersion of the alien species also considered. Some recommendation and suggestion were listed and submitted to the GFCM Secretariat.



**Comments.** The presentation was commended by the participants who agreed that the subject of alien species and their impact of fisheries ecosystems and resources deserves due attention. Nevertheless, experts stressed that not all alien species should be considered invasive and / or established, and that the short, medium and long term impacts on fisheries should be addressed, some of which may be positive and could be exploited. The SCMEE was invited to formulate draft a strategy to focus on the monitoring of alien species and their impact, with immediate effect.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The SCSI meeting, held in Malaga from 29 November to 3 December 2009, was attended by 12 experts from 11 GFCM Member countries. The terms of reference of the meeting included the updates on national data collection and statistical systems, the overview of the current situation of data submission by Members, the current status and the future of databases and information systems developed and managed by the Secretariat, the follow-up of SAC/SCSI recommendations, the GFCM regional logbook and options for its implementation as well as the contributions to the updating of the SAC glossary.
- The first day of the meeting was dedicated to a transversal workshop together with the three other Sub-Committees. On this occasion, the outcomes of the logbook workshop (Roma, July 2009) were presented and comments/suggestions were received from the experts present.
- During the subsequent SCSI session the comments made by the experts during the transversal workshop were addressed. In order to help fishermen to better accept the idea of a GFCM logbook, the SCSI suggested that Member Countries could launch fishermen awareness campaigns. An agreement on the addition of a field for 'fuel consumption' could not be reached during the session and it was proposed to underline the pros and cons of including such a field in the logbook and request the SAC to assess the relevance of its inclusion. With regards to the difficult question of the species to be included in the logbook, SCSI suggested to Member countries to carry out a pilot exercise to assess the impact of using different thresholds for reporting purposes. These pilot exercises should focus on the impact of using different thresholds on the total catches by species for the larger vessels, and make the results available to SCSI before its 2010 SCSI meeting.
- The Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3 requiring the submission of Task 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4 by February 2010 was central to the overview of current development of national collection and statistical systems. SCSI proposed to clarify the fact that it was the 2008 data that should be submitted by February 2010. It was also recommended that a national focal point should be appointed in each of the Member Countries for Task 1 reporting.
- The confidentiality issues were raised anticipating the reception by the GFCM Secretariat of Task 1 national datasets. SCSI stressed that a specific data policy for the use and access of Task 1 datasets would need to be defined, within the framework of the Recommendation GFCM/30/2006/7. It was agreed that the Task 1 datasets that will be received in the beginning of 2010 will serve only for the production of the GFCM statistical bulletin, and that the GFCM Secretariat should develop information outputs and data accessibility facilities, during the intersessional period to be reviewed during the 2010 SCSI meeting.
- A test of the Task 1 data entry software was made during the SCSI meeting. On this occasion, a suggestion was made to remove the fields regarding sex and maturity scales in the Task 1.5 variables and keep only the fields related to the size of the fish (min, max

and mean of the length measures). The translation into French of the fields' description in the Task 1 data entry software before February 2010 was requested to the GFCM Secretariat, and a full translation into French of the software could be done at a later stage.

- With regards to the anticipated difficulties expressed by experts of some Member countries to comply with the Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3 to submit Task 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4 data by February 2010, SCSI recalled that it is the responsibility of Member Countries to develop data collection systems that enable the recording of the information at the Operational Units level. SCSI also recalled that regional projects can provide support to Member Countries to address this issue. SCSI proposed to include an agenda item for the next SCSI meeting on the difficulties encountered for reporting the GFCM Task 1 fishing activities and proposed the organisation of a workshop on data collection methods applied to all segments of the fleet, and their coherence with the requirements of the GFCM Task 1. The terms of reference proposed are :
  - to review the different methodologies and data collection programmes in place within GFCM Member countries;
  - to review the problems arising from the submission of Task 1 data;
  - for each of the problems raised in the point above, to exchange experiences from other countries on the same field;
  - to agree on methods to address the problems raised;
  - to anticipate problems related to the submission of Task 1.3
- Concerning the specific point on the agenda on the future of the STATLANT37A data submission system, SCSI proposed to add to the 2010 SCSI agenda an item on data submission catch production statistics, in order to evaluate the relevance of replacing or amending this system at the end of the current 3-year trial period.
- Since the definition of the by-catch was under discussion in the SCMEF, it was suggested to postpone, until the next SCSI session, the evaluation of the possibility to include the bycatch by species in the Task 1 reporting system.
- The last subject discussed was the review of the GFCM glossary, in connection with the terms relevant to SCSI activities. SCSI proposed to update some definitions when a definition was already proposed in one of its expert meetings, to update some definitions when the current definitions were inappropriate, and to add terms used in the data reporting fields of various GFCM Recommendations and absent from the proposed glossary.