



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



**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)**

**Thirteenth Session**

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**SAC PRELIMINARY WORKPLAN FOR 2011  
St. George's Bay, Malta, 29 November - 2 December 2010**

**(Draft)**

## INTRODUCTION

1. As part of its mandate, the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) submits to the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) its preliminary workplan for the Committee's upcoming intersessional period, for adoption by the annual Session of the Commission. This document presents a number of activities and events to take place during the intersessional period, on the basis of the Commission's priorities and recommendations delivered by the SAC Sub-Committees (document GFCM:SAC13/2011/3), for consideration by SAC when drawing up its preliminary 2011 workplan.

## ELEMENTS FOR THE 2011 WORKPLAN

2. The activities listed below are based on the proposals made by the respective Sub-Committees (documents GFCM:SAC13/2011/Inf.5, Inf.6, Inf.7, and Inf.8) and as reviewed by the Coordinating Meeting of the Sub-Committees (document GFCM:SAC13/2011/Inf. 10).

### Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA)

- To carry out assessments on selected Mediterranean and Black Sea elasmobranchs stocks possibly during the SCSA assessment Working Group for demersal species
- To organize a joint Workshop with the SCME and SCESS on Spatial Based Fishery Management. A provisional Terms of Reference were discussed with the Coordinators of the SCME and SCESS and are presented in Annex I
- Transformation of Task 1.5 into a new Task 2 within the scheme for data submission GFCM protocol. It will contain data on biological characteristic (length, age, sex,

maturity) of catches. This new task 2 should have the possibility to exchange data and information with the task1, the database on biological parameters and information and the SAFs. The first phase of identification and the definition of the data submission format should be done by the SCSA. Its possible connection with the SAFs and the Biological Parameters Database should be the matter of a specific workshop together with the SCSA at a further step.

- Organize the meetings of the Working Groups on stock assessment of demersal and small pelagic resources simultaneously on the same week. The date and venue still to be defined.
- Pursue activities on stock assessment using both commercial data and surveys at sea.
- Pursue the work aimed to develop a GFCM protocol for undertaking surveys at sea.
- Continue the elaboration of the GFCM Regional Database on biological parameters to facilitate agreement on values to be used for each stock assessment in the eastern, central and western Mediterranean.
- Improve the Stock Assessment Forms to facilitate the inclusion of raw data and the connection with the possible new Task 2 compilation and submission framework.
- Develop reference points with the view to evaluate the status of the stocks and fisheries including also the effects on exploited stocks of FRAs.

#### **Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information (SCSI)**

- Following the identification of the biological parameters for which data should be submitted by species and gear for each Operational Unit and for given fishing periods, a transversal workshop (SCSI/SCSA) should be held to elaborate on the data collection, data submission and data processing mechanisms.
- In connection with the Task 1 data submission framework and the development of the related database and information system, the GFCM Secretariat will:
  - Update the Task 1 data entry / software and data submission exchange protocols (XML and CSV) in accordance with the proposed changes of the SCSI
  - Update and publish the statistical bulletin (reference years 2008 and 2009);
  - Continue the development of the Task 1 Regional Information System
  - Work on proposing data summary outputs and data access functions to be proposed at the next SCSI meeting.
- Members are expected to submit the full Task 1 datasets for 2008 by January 2011, and the full Task 1 datasets for 2009 by May 2011.
- GFCM Secretariat will finalise the development of the Regional Fleet Register information system and manage the data submitted accordingly.

#### **Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE)**

- The SCMEE agreed on the following activities for 2011: continue on the implementation of the medium term program on elasmobranchs taking into consideration the suggestions from the first expert meeting held in Sfax, Tunisia, September 2010. The revised version of this program should be elaborated and

submitted for consideration by the next SAC session. The Secretariat was invited to coordinate this action.

- Prepare and disseminate educational material (posters, leaflets, brochures, etc.) for informing the public in the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries about harmful alien species and jellyfish.
- Prepare a new version of the TECHNOMED selectivity protocol as a standard document which could be made available for any Mediterranean case study as standard, including the collection of socio-economic data. The methodology of the statistical analysis should be improved and completed.
- Carry out assessments on selected Mediterranean and Black Sea elasmobranches stocks, possibly during the SCSA Working Groups.
- Organize an age reading training course in 2011 on selected Mediterranean and Black Sea elasmobranches under the framework of Permanent Working Group on Assessment Methodology (PWGAM).
- Organize a workshop on Deep Red Coral Banks for 2011-2013 according to the terms of references outlined in the Recommendations of this report.
- Organize a transversal workshop on Artificial Reefs in the Mediterranean and Black Sea in 2011, possibly back to back with the next SCMEE meeting, according to the terms of references outlined in the Recommendations of this report.
- Organize a Bycatch Working Group meeting in the period 2011-2012.

Moreover, the SCMEE was invited to envisage the possibility to co-organize with the IUCN and the French Agency for marine Protected areas a workshop / conference on the Mediterranean submarine canyons with in Monaco scheduled for spring 2011

#### **Sub-Committee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS)**

- Review of the fisheries laws and regulations in force at national level in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, establishment of a regional network of national experts and organisation of an expert meeting in the framework of the “LaMed” Project.
- Elaborate a Code of Practice / Technical Guidelines on recreational fisheries in the GFCM area.
- Promote regional studies to provide an overview of recreational fishing activities (gears, techniques, target species, etc).
- Initiate studies regarding the socio-economic impact resulting from the implementation of the 40 mm square or the 50 mm diamond mesh in trawl fisheries.
- Populate the GFCM webpage dedicated to TECHNOMED with any information dealing with the economic impacts of selectivity studies.
- Organize a specific workshop, back-to-back with the forthcoming SCESS meeting on the processing and analysis of Task 1.3 data.

## Meetings

3. A list of meetings is set out below for SAC's consideration:

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Place/Date</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> Session of the <b>SAC</b> (5 days)	TBD/TBD
Session of the <b>SCSA</b> (4 days)	TBD/TBD
Working Group on stock assessment of Demersal Species (6 days)	TBD/TBD
Working Group on stock assessment of Small Pelagic Species (6 days)	TBD/TBD
Transversal Workshop (SCSA/SCMEE/SCCESS) on Spatial Based Fishery Management (3 days)	TBD/TBD
Session of the <b>SCCESS</b> (4 days)	TBD/TBD
Workshop on the processing and analysis of Task 1.3 data (back-to-back with the SCCESS Session)	TBD/TBD
Fisheries legislation expert meeting within the framework of the "LaMed" Project	TBD/TBD
Session of the <b>SCSI</b> (4 days)	TBD/TBD
Transversal workshop (SCSI/SCSA) on biological data collection, data submission and data processing mechanisms (3 days)	TBD/TBD
Session of the <b>SCMEE</b> (4 days)	TBD/TBD
Stock assessment of selected species of elasmobranchs within the Demersal Working Group. (2 days)	TBD/TBD
Training course on age reading and growth parameters of the main elasmobranchs species (5 days). Postponed from 2010 to 2011	TBD/TBD
Workshop (SCMEE) on Artificial Reefs in the Mediterranean and Black Sea in 2011.	TBD/TBD
11 <sup>th</sup> Session of the <b>CMSC</b> (1 day)	TBD/TBD
12 <sup>th</sup> Session of the <b>CMSC</b> (1 day)	TBD/TBD

### **Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Species**

4. It is recalled that during the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of SAC it had been agreed that the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Workshop on small tuna fisheries, initially scheduled for 2010, should be postponed to 2011.

### **OTHER MATTERS**

5. The CMSC highlighted the need for the FAO Regional Projects to contribute to the execution of the SAC's programme of work and to continue supporting countries through training and capacity building programmes so that they would be in a better position to participate and contribute to activities of SAC subsidiary bodies and to implement GFCM's management objectives.

6. The CMSC agreed that the Secretariat should follow on a letter received by CIESM to reinforce collaboration with this Organisation. It also highlighted the importance of maintaining close collaboration between SAC and RAC/SPA which would be beneficial in maximizing the outputs of SACs endeavours.

### **SUGGESTED ACTION**

7. The Committee is invited to consider the activities proposed for its subsidiary bodies in 2011 and may wish to identify necessary inputs to support activities as well as to specify, where relevant, the expected timeframe and outputs.

8. The SAC is also invited to review the priorities outlined in this document, taking into consideration the suggestions made by the Coordination Meeting of the Sub-Committees (CMSC) (document GFCM:SAC13/2011/Inf.10) and related budget implications.

## DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SELECTED MEETINGS

### SCSA, SCMEE and SCESS

#### Transversal Workshop on Spatial Based Fishery Management.

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

#### Working Group on the analysis of annual economic data for Mediterranean fisheries

As stated in the Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3 on the implementation of the GFCM Task 1 statistical matrix, Members and Cooperating non-members shall submit Task 1.3 by January 2011 at the latest. The submission of economic data for Mediterranean fleet segments would allow SCESS to produce a first overview of the economic status of fishing sector at regional level and a comparison of fleet economic performance by different Mediterranean countries.

Furthermore, as some Mediterranean countries have never submitted economic data before, a preliminary analysis of the typology and correctness of this data can provide useful indications to improve the GFCM data collection system.

Given the above considerations, SCESS suggested to:

*"Organize a specific working group back to back to the forthcoming SCESS meeting on economic aspects deriving from a standardized analysis of the Task 1.3 economic data, if available. The working group will, at least, evaluate the availability and quality of data as well as identify and estimate the possible socio-economic indicators."*

The working group will work on:

1. The data availability by country and fleet segment. Identify the methods used to collect economic data, and eventually the reasons for not submitting data. Propose actions to facilitate the achievement of an acceptable level of data quality for all countries.
2. The homogeneity of data coming from different countries and their level of comparability. Where problems of comparability are identified, propose solutions to be adopted for the subsequent data call.

3. Indicators and reference points to be used in the analysis of the socio-economic data collected under Task 1.3.
4. The possibility to publish a standardized analysis of the Task 1.3 economic data, on the overall structure and format of this publication, and the contents of all chapters taking into the account the data collected under Task 1.3.

### **Meeting on the fisheries laws and regulations in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (*LaMed Project*)**

In 2001, a study on the fisheries regulatory framework of the Western Mediterranean coastal states was undertaken under the aegis of the CopeMed Project and, as a follow-up on this work, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), with support from FAO's FishCode and Development Law Service, commissioned a comparative study covering the entire Mediterranean Basin that focused on three issues, namely: the "access regimes to fisheries resources", the "management of fishing effort and fishing capacity" and the "monitoring, control and surveillance"<sup>1</sup>. Its purpose was to provide fisheries managers with information on the principal measures adopted in the region and to identify areas where harmonization should be sought, particularly in relation to shared stocks.

During the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the GFCM, the Commission adopted the "General Guidelines for a GFCM Control and Enforcement Scheme" whose aim was to bring a high degree of compliance with relevant conservation measures, legal certainty and security for the vessel concerned. In 2007; the GFCM created the Compliance Committee in order to ensure the follow-up of the implementation by its Members of the binding decisions as adopted by the Commission and review the status of national regulations, including the way the GFCM decisions were translated into national laws.

The limited information made available for the purposes of the Fourth Session of the Compliance Committee last April 2010 as well as issues of growing concern identified in the GFCM Area of Competence during recent Workshops and Meetings (i.e. artificial reefs, jellyfish blooming, excessive bycatch and discarding, red coral, etc.) demonstrated that the comparative study commissioned by the GFCM and undertaken by P. Cacaud in 2005 needs now to be completed and updated.

Therefore, the Meeting will aim to:

- a) provide updated information on the fisheries laws and regulations in the GFCM Area of Competence;
- b) identify priority issues faced in the GFCM Area of Competence and as appropriate, possibilities of harmonization and shared management regulations.

Responses to the GFCM questionnaire distributed in January 2011 will serve as a basis for discussion and identifying areas for cooperation within the GFCM Area of Competence. Emphasis will also be put on the enforcement of the GFCM Recommendations by Members as well as on the relevant GFCM and FAO publications.

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<sup>1</sup> Cacaud, P. Fisheries Law and Regulations in the Mediterranean; a comparative Study. *Studies and Reviews*. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. No.75. Rome, FAO. 2005. 40p.

The framework of the discussion will be based on the three categories of fisheries (namely, commercial/industrial fisheries, small-scale fisheries, the recreational fisheries) but also on other matters pointed out during recent GFCM Workshops and SAC Sub-Committees. More specifically, the discussion will be focused on the three following main issues:

1. The fisheries access regimes.
2. The monitoring, control and surveillance.
3. The participation mechanisms in the legal and regulatory framework.

The Meeting will be attended notably by the relevant stakeholders (i.e. policy-makers, legal experts, administrators and fisheries managers). The GFCM partners (IUCN, RAC/SPA, ACCOBAMS, etc.) as well as Regional Projects and initiatives are also expected to contribute actively to the organization of this Meeting.