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**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
Marseille, France, 7-11 February 2011
Introduction of the electronic SAC-Glossary (e-Glossary)

BACKGROUND

Since the inception of Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) in 1999, the elaboration of a glossary collecting the technical and scientific terms and their definitions for use of the GFCM was considered among the priorities of the Committee. The first draft GFCM Glossary was elaborated in 2003. It contained 693 terms and 841 definitions. In 2010, the glossary was updated by an expert in collaboration with other fishery scientists. The new 2010 GFCM glossary contains fewer entries than the previous one. Many definitions of the 2003 glossary were removed because either they belong to the general language (marine pollution, program, etc.), or to other specialties (bayesian, data base, etc.) or to fisheries aspects which are not relevant to the GFCM (pulse fishing, brood stock, etc.). Thus, the total number of terms has been reduced from 693 to 499 and the number of definitions from 841 to 492.

The e-Glossary has been conceived by the Secretariat to allow the final user to look up for the technical words very quickly, therefore avoiding time consuming consultations through static files such as *.pdf* documents.

Such web application is now accessible from the GFCM Secretariat website by following the link: <http://www.gfcm.org/gfcm/topic/17107/en>

Nonetheless, the implementation of this Information System will noticeably facilitate all the tasks implied in the eventual amendments that shall be applied to the official Regional definitions including the updating process.

METHODS

With the aim of building this electronic glossary, several phases have been undertaken; the first step consisted of transposing the terms and definitions into an excel data sheet. Its purpose was to serve, at a later stage as a basis for the normalised database on which the system is intended to rely.

The sheet was made up of seven columns. These fields, identified during the design phase of the database development are listed below:

- Column A* - Identification code for the type of definition (acronym or term);
- Column B* - Term or acronym considered;
- Column C* - Definition;
- Column D* - ID number;
- Column E* - ID number of related definitions (if any)
- Column F* - HTML-formatted Definition;
- Column G* - Bibliographic reference;

A total of 615 definitions (116 Acronyms and 499 Terms) were structured as a grid in this process. The subsequent development tasks focused on IT-related activities such as the actual building of the database and the analysis and development of the concerned Web Application. The elaboration of the latter aimed to pursue the following functional requirements:

1) Suitability for both "on the spot" lookups and full-text searches:

In order to cover these needs, two different user interfaces have been implemented.

The first allows an index-based lookup, resembling the common hardcopy glossaries look and feel. It has been conceived to provide the most immediate functionalities for a smooth user experience. The second delivers a full-text search engine which allows to perform queries against the definitions' text, as well as the possibility to select multiple definitions to generate printouts or export documents in Excel, Word and PDF. A feature to dispatch these outputs *via* email is also granted.

Both user interfaces have been created by leveraging on Ajax-based technologies, which enable the search engine to be queried and return results as soon as the user types in the search parameters.

2) Ease of scalability for further amendments to the database contents.

When developing information systems, providing ease of update for the concerned datasets is vital not less than the efficiency of the features delivered. In the light of this requirement, further efforts have been deployed in order to include an advanced online back-office system to facilitate the forthcoming update operations to be performed by the Secretariat.

Among its functionalities, it is worth pointing out the possibility to paste from Word whilst retaining a good degree of formatting from the original document, as well as a function to perform advanced HTML formatting on the text, thus allowing to keep special fonts such as subscripts or superscripts which are quite common among the fishery terms.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO IMPROVE AND UPDATE THE 2010 SAC-GLOSSARY AND THE RELATIVE E-GLOSSARY

Pending definitions

As foreseen by the 34th GFCM Session, some terms still need to be defined by the SAC. In the framework of e-Glossary, it will be possible to look up for these undefined terms; “yet undefined” to which definitions will progressively be provided. Here below the pending definitions are listed;

“Associated species”
“Deep sea”
“Fleet segment”
“Mesh diamond mesh, square mesh, tnt”¹
“Mobile gear”
“Net panel braided twisted”
“Statistical division”
“Statistical subarea”
“Deep seabed”
“Open sea”
“Preservation”

At the Subcommittees meetings in Malta, 3rd December 2010 each subcommittee provided their suggestions for amendments which are presently under submission to the 13th meeting of SAC. Some of these suggestions are listed below.

It is strongly envisaged to properly define all the pending definitions of such fundamental terms frequently recurring within the GFCM official documents.

Definitions proposed to be amended/updated

As foreseen by the 34th GFCM Session, the term “*Fishery*”, already in the Glossary, still needs to be refined by the SAC and also, the following terms need two different definitions instead of one:

“Exploitation pattern or exploitation rate”
“Growth rate”
“Production”
“Productivity”
“Overfished” (or overexploited)
“Recreational fishing”
“Underwater fishing”
“By-catch”.
“High seas”

The Coordination meeting of the Subcommittees (CMSC) recommended checking all the existing published documents that can include the High sea and Deep sea concepts, especially and with

¹ Term to be reviewed; probably misspelled (*i.e.* diamond mesh, square mesh, TNT mesh).

priority a late publication of FAO for Deep Sea and High Sea (*UNESCO 2009. Global Open Oceans and Deep Seabed (GOODS) – Biogeographic Classification. Paris, UNESCO-IOC (IOC Technical Series, 84)*).

New definitions proposed to be included

During the 11th Session of the Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE) (Malta, 29th Nov. - 2nd Dec. 2010), the SCMEE made the following proposals on new terms and their correspondent definitions to be included in the SAC Glossary:

Algal blooms: *The rapid and excessive growth of algal generally caused by high nutrients levels and favourable conditions. It can result in deoxygenation of the water mass when the algal die, leading to the death of aquatic flora and fauna. (Source: Water Resources Management Practicum, 2000).*

Poaching: *Illegally taken or possession of wild fish or other wild animals for different motivations, from food to strictly monetary profit. (Source: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife).*

R.O.V.: *Remotely Operated underwater Vehicle.*

During the 12th Session of the SAC Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA) held (Malta, 29th Nov. - 2nd Dec. 2010) it was proposed by the SC participants to add the following term and definition:

Stock subject to overfishing (or to overexploitation): *A stock is subject to overfishing if the fishing mortality applied to it exceeds the one it can sustainably stand, for a longer period. In other words, the current fishing mortality exceeds the fishing mortality that, if applied during a long period, under stable conditions, would lead the stock abundance to the target Abundance (Biomass or numbers) reference point.*

During the 11th Session of the SAC Sub-Committee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCSS) (Malta, 29th Nov. - 2nd Dec. 2010) it was proposed by the SC participants to include “***Pesca turismo***” with a proper definition in the GFCM Glossary.

CONCLUSIONS

The fisheries science, and its application to the Mediterranean, is matter of continuous changes, some words become obsolete, others appear in the scientific normal activity, some of them come from outside of the Mediterranean, and still others are generated by Mediterranean scientists and/or in the GFCM meetings. Hence the glossary must be constantly reviewed. It would be advisable to proceed to the annually review and update the glossary incorporating terms and expressions that appear in the different reports of the commission and once a year present to the SAC the possible additions. It is also very important that the Sub-Committee Coordinators use the Glossary in their works with the Sub-Committee to detect obsolete words, propose additions and refine definitions.

The e-Glossary may be considered as a new tool of research for terms. It will be fundamental both during the Commission's meetings and for users' consultation. The web application design of the new SAC e-Glossary guarantees a real-time update of the latest definitions once cleared by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC).