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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

DRAFT REPORT OF THE 11th SESSION OF THE SAC SUB-COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (SCESS)

Saint George's Bay Malta, 29 November-2 December 2010

(Draft)

* Available only in English

OPENING, ARRANGEMENT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1. The Sub-Committee meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC/GFCM), including the Transversal Session, were held at the San George's Hotel, St George's Bay, Malta from 29th November to 2nd December 2010.

2. During the general opening, Dr Anthony Gruppeta, Director General of the Maltese Agriculture and Fisheries Regulations Department of the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs, welcomed the participants and thanked them for attending this series of meetings. He highlighted Malta's commitment and contribution to the functioning of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) which has clearly been demonstrated throughout the years, not only through the hosting of various meetings, but also through its active participation in activities of its subsidiary bodies. He added that Malta is following closely the developments in fisheries management in the Mediterranean through the GFCM and referred to important Recommendations related to management measures (*e.g.* trawl minimum mesh size, closed seasons, Fisheries Restricted Areas, reduction in fishing effort), Monitoring Control Surveillance (MCS) (*e.g.* Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), Authorised Vessels List, logbook, Port State Measures) and data collection schemes (*e.g.* Task 1, Fleet Register) which have been adopted in recent years. He underlined the importance for GFCM countries to strive together to implement a clear strategy for the management of shared

resources and stressed that the deliberations and outcomes of the meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Sub-Committees being held during that week were the vital seeds for the processes leading to the formulation of regional policy and management decisions.

3. Mr Abdellah Srour, the Acting Executive Secretary of the GFCM, welcomed the participants and thanked the Maltese Authorities for their kindness in hosting and organising the meeting. He further drew the attention of the participants on key issues to be addressed by the Sub-Committees.

4. Mr Henri Farrugio, Chairperson of the SAC also thanked the hosting country and the participants for attending the meeting and recalled the mandate of the SAC and its Sub-Committees.

TRANSVERSAL SESSION: REVIEW OF TRANSVERSAL ISSUES

5. This session reviewed the outcome from the following transversal meetings:

- Transversal Workshop on Red Coral (Italy, September 2010)
- First expert meeting on the status of Elasmobranchs in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (Tunisia, September 2010)
- Transversal workshop on European Eel (Tunisia, September 2010)
- Transversal workshop on Fishing Capacity (FAO HQs, September 2010)
- Workshop on data collection methods (applied to all segments of the Fleet and their coherence with the requirements of the GFCM Task 1) (FAO HQs, September 2010)
- Workshop on algal and jelly fish blooms (Turkey, October 2010)
- Workshop on monitoring of recreational fisheries in the GFCM area (Spain, October 2010)

6. The meeting agreed that discussions and comments of the transversal session be included in the reports of each Sub-Committee under the agenda item corresponding to the review of the above mentioned activities.

OPENING AND ARRANGEMENT OF THE MEETING

7. The Eleventh session of the Sub-Committee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS) was held in Malta, from 29 November to 2 December 2010. It was attended by 19 experts from 9 GFCM Member countries, namely Algeria, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey as well as representatives of FAO regional projects (FAO ADRIAMED and FAO COPEMED II) and of the GFCM Secretariat. The list of participants is provided in Appendix II. The Sub-Committee unanimously thanked the hosting country (Malta) for the hospitality and for the excellent organization of the meeting.

8. Mr Vahdet Ünal, Coordinator of the SCESS, welcomed the participants and opened the meeting. Ms Darcelle Vassallo and Mr Scander Ben Salem were appointed as Rapporteurs.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SCESS MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9. The agenda was discussed and approved with amendments as presented in Appendix I. The review of the discussions and comments of the Transversal session has been included under the agenda item 8.

REVIEW OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORKSHOP ON RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

10. The Transversal workshop on the monitoring of recreational fisheries in the GFCM area was held on 20-22 December 2010. It was aimed to:

- Analyze the status of the recreational fisheries and its socio-economic impacts in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea;
- Find a common definition of recreational fisheries to be used in the monitoring framework;
- Analyse the different national regulatory systems in connection with recreational fishing activities in the member countries;
- Identify the key elements for a monitoring framework which includes the required data and information.

11. The SCESS reviewed the general conclusions and recommendations of the Transversal workshop and the following issues were discussed:

- Regarding the definition of recreational fisheries: “Fishing activities exploiting marine living aquatic resources from which it is prohibited to sell or trade the catches obtained”, the discussions focused on the inclusion of the words “non-commercial” and “non professional” to the definition and the changing of the word “prohibited”. After deliberation of the above mentioned suggestions, the SCESS suggested to amend the definition to: “Fishing activities exploiting marine living aquatic resources for leisure or sport purposes from which it is prohibited to sell or trade the catches obtained”;
- It was suggested that underwater fishing is also recreational and therefore one just needs to include the word “recreational” in the definition when fishing is mentioned;
- It was agreed that “Pesca turismo” should not be part of recreational fishing and required a definition to be drafted;
- One of the recommendations formulated during the Transversal workshop was to develop a common and harmonised monitoring framework protocol. The discussion centred on the adoption of gear limitations that is the prohibition of passive gears, access restrictions, catch limits and species limitations. All these are management measures that should be applied. The SCESS suggested that each country should carry out a survey on gears used in recreational fishing so that the related necessary data is collected for the setting up of the monitoring framework;

- Regarding the lack of basic data on the status, robust scientific support, exploitation patterns on the socio-economic importance of the recreational fisheries in GFCM area, it has been suggested that a minimum list of data is needed at least to be collected to produce a basic management indicators for the promotion, monitoring and management of recreational fisheries. Therefore, the SCESS recalled the Antalya Report (GFCM:SAC11/2008/Inf.7) and earlier reports of other meetings (GFCM:SAC10/2007/Inf.7, Libya) with regards to data requirements. Considering the aforementioned reasons and explanations, the SCESS recommended to collect the following data for each segment (leisure and sport) and each modality (shore based, boat based, underwater fishing):
 - a. Number of licenses issued
 - b. Targeted species
 - c. Catch amounts by targeted species (kg)
 - d. Recreational fishing expenditures per fisher (hotel, restaurant, transport, fishing gears [*e.g.* baits and accessories], etc.)
 - e. Age and gender of the recreational fisher
 - f. Fishing days per year and average hours per fishing day
- Once these data are gathered, basic indicators may be estimated, namely: numbers of recreational fishers, socio-demographic features of recreational fishers, total recreational fishing effort, total recreational catch, and the most affected species by each modality of recreational fishing. In addition, the economic importance of the recreational fishing in GFCM Member countries might be assessed by using these dataset;
- Although establishment of an effective licensing system was one of the predominant recommendations formulated during the Transversal workshop, there have been different opinions with regards to this recommendation. Some participants underlined that without appropriate studies on recreational fisheries techniques and gears at national levels according to standardised methodologies, it may be difficult in some countries to achieve in short term the implementation of a licensing system for recreational fisheries.

REVIEW OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS RELATED TO SELECTIVITY IMPROVEMENT AND BY-CATCH REDUCTION AND THE IMPACT RESULTING FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 40 MM SQUARE

12. The SCESS recalled the recommendations of the Malaga Report (GFCM:SAC10/2007/Inf.7) and the Report of the Transversal workshop on selectivity improvement, by-catch reduction and alternative gears which was held in Alexandria, Egypt (25-27 October 2010). The SCESS encouraged the continuation of these types of studies in the future.

13. Mr V. Ünal presented the results of an experimental case study with regards to the economic impacts of implementing the 40 mm square mesh codend in trawl fishery in

Kusadasi and Sigacik Bay (Turkey) which was also presented at the Transversal workshop held in Alexandria (cf. Abstract in Appendix III).

14. The SCESS has decided that although the study has been a good starting point, the number of hauls and other factors were limited (*e.g.* costs have not been included in the study, the area was limited) and therefore the SCESS must wait for the results of the studies carried out in Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria with regards to the 40 mm square mesh. The SCESS reiterated the importance to initiate new studies regarding the socio-economic impact resulting from the implementation of the 40 mm square mesh or the 50 mm diamond mesh in trawl fishery.

15. The SCESS stressed also the need to create a webpage devoted to collect any information on this matter inside and outside of the Mediterranean.

PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT LAMED: FISHERIES LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE BLACK SEA

16. Ms C. Samier (GFCM Secretariat) presented the oncoming Project “LaMed” regarding the fisheries regulations in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (cf. Abstract in Appendix III), whose main objective is to update the comparative study undertaken by Mr P. Cacaud in 2005¹. The final output is a preparation of a reference publication providing conclusions based on the analysis of the data collected related to the current fisheries regulatory framework of the Mediterranean basin, the relevant legal changes in the national fisheries legislations and the identification of priorities for their harmonisation and improvement, in order to enhance the regional cooperation between GFCM Member countries for the conservation and management of the Mediterranean fisheries as well as to strengthen the cooperation with the relevant partner organisations.

17. Ms C. Samier expressed the need of assistance of the SCESS focal points in the GFCM Member countries to provide any new or changing regulations of their country’s marine capture fisheries sector.

FOLLOW-UP ON PROMOTING THE USE OF SOCI-ECONOMIC INDICATORS IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

18. The SCESS recalled the Report of the Ninth Meeting of the Sub-Committee (GFCM:SAC11/2008/Inf.7) in which the SCESS reiterated the prompt publication of the study on socio-economic indicators elaborated by COPEMED I Project. This study could be a reference to have a common methodology to establish socio-economic indicators in GFCM Member countries, and to respond to the economic data requirements of the GFCM Task1.

FOLLOW UP ON THE CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVING AND UPDATING THE GFCM GLOSSARY

¹ 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.

19. The SCESS suggested that the revised definition of recreational fishing and underwater fishing become part of the GFCM Glossary.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

20. Following its discussions and analyses of the different contributions and information delivered, the SCESS made the following main conclusions and recommendations:

- Ensure a steady and more active participation of social and economic scientists from all GFCM Member countries in SCESS activities and meetings;
- Adopt and include to the GFCM Glossary the following amended definitions:
 - *Recreational fishing: Fishing activities exploiting marine living aquatic resources for leisure or sport purposes from which it is prohibited to sell or trade the catches obtained.*
 - *Underwater fishing: Recreational fishing activity practiced as a sport or for leisure by snorkelling techniques without the help of mechanical devices (e.g. scooter);*
- Provide a definition of “Pesca turismo” to be included in the GFCM Glossary;
- The SCESS underlined the importance to develop a common and harmonised scientific monitoring framework protocol for recreational fisheries. The SCESS recommended that a regional study be carried out to overview the recreational fishing activities with the following data, in order to estimate basic indicators of recreational fisheries for each segment (leisure and sport) and also for each modality (shore based, boat based, underwater fishing):
 - a. Number of licenses issued
 - b. Targeted species list
 - c. Catch amounts by targeted species (kg)
 - d. Recreational fishing expenditures per fisher (hotel, restaurant, transport, fishing gears [*e.g.* baits and accessories], etc.)
 - e. Age and gender of the recreational fisher
 - f. Fishing days per year and average hours per fishing day
- The SCESS recommended that when appropriate an effective licensing system should be considered for the recreational fisheries in the GFCM area;
- The SCESS recommended the elaboration of a Code of Practice/technical guidelines on recreational fisheries, in support of the responsible development, promotion and management of recreational fisheries in the GFCM area;
- The SCESS stressed the importance that scientists continue to study the socio-economic impacts of implementing the 40 mm square mesh or 50 mm diamond mesh in trawl codends in the Mediterranean Sea;

- The SCESS reiterated the importance to publish the study on socio-economic indicators elaborated by COPEMED I Project. This study could be a reference to have a common methodology to establish socio-economic indicators in GFCM Member countries, and to respond to the economic data requirements for the GFCM Task1;
- The SCESS recommended focusing on the socio-economic analysis of Mediterranean fleet segments for which economic data will be available for the GFCM Task 1.3 requirements.

2011 SCESS WORKPLAN

21. The SCESS suggested the following programme of work for the next period:

- Review of the fisheries laws and regulations in force at national levels in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, establishment of a regional network of national experts and organization of an expert meeting in the framework of the “LaMed” Project. The SCESS took note of the kind invitation of the experts from Lebanon to host the meeting in June/July 2011.
- Elaborate a Code of Practice/technical guidelines on recreational fisheries, in support of the responsible development, promotion and management of recreational fisheries in the GFCM area. The existing Codes of Conduct (such as the EIFAC Code of Practice) should be considered as a basic reference.
- Promote regional studies to overview the recreational fishing activities (gears, techniques, target species, etc) so that the necessary data is collected for the setting up of the monitoring framework.
- Initiate new studies regarding the socio-economic impact resulting from the implementation of the 40 mm square mesh or the 50 mm diamond mesh in trawl fishery.
- Populate the GFCM webpages dedicated to TECHNOMED to collect any information with regards to the economic impacts of selectivity studies inside and outside of the Mediterranean.
- 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.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

22. The Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information (SCSI) requested the SCESS to review and if necessary, amend the definitions of the economic components variables of Task 1.3.

The SCESS recommended the following definitions:

Employment: Total number of people employed *by* fishing vessels belonging to the given fleet segment. The number of crew members *should* be estimated on a full time equivalent (FTE) basis.

Salary Share (%): Percentage of the *total value of landings* (after discounting commercial costs, daily costs and fuel costs) that pertain to the crew. It will be distributed among the crew as salary.

Percentage (%) of fuel costs from variable costs: Percentage of fuel costs from *total variable costs*.

23. The SCESS has foreseen that additional revisions might be required in terms of clarification of:

- full-time equivalent (harmonised or national FTE)
- collection of data of direct subsidies
- composition of total revenues

24. The SCESS recommended for 2011 to further revise the definitional table of minimum indicators to be used within Task 1.

25. The Sub-Committee unanimously thanked the hosting country (Malta) for the hospitality and for the excellent organization of the meeting.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

26. The date and venue of the 2011 SAC Sub-Committee meetings will be decided by the SAC.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

27. The conclusions and recommendations were adopted on Thursday 2 December 2010.

28. The whole report was adopted by e-mail on December 21 2010.

Appendix I**AGENDA**

- 1. Opening and arrangement of the Sub-Committee meetings**
- 2. Transversal session: review of transversal issues (chaired by the SAC chairperson)**
- 3. Introduction to the SCESS meeting and adoption of the agenda**
- 4. Review of the conclusions of the workshop on Recreational Fisheries**
- 5. Review of socio-economic aspects related to selectivity improvement and bycatch reduction and the impact resulting from the implementation of the 40mm square**
- 6. Presentation of the Project LaMed: Fisheries laws and regulations in the Mediterranean and the Black sea**
- 7. Follow up on:**
 - 7.1 Studies related to the impact resulting from the implementation of the 40 mm square mesh**
 - 7.2 Promoting the use of socioeconomic indicators in fisheries management.**
 - 7.3 Contribution to improving and updating the GFCM glossary**
- 8. General conclusions and recommendations**
- 9. 2011 SCESS workplan**
- 10. Any other matters**
- 11. Date and venue of the next meeting**
- 12. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting**

Appendix II

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Appendix III**Abstracts****Economic impacts of implementing the 40 mm square mesh codend in trawl fishery: experimental case study from Turkey**

Vahdet Ünal & Zafer Tosunoglu
Ege University, Faculty of Fisheries, Izmir, Turkey

This comparative study was carried out in the Sığacık and Kusadası Bays in the Aegean Sea, Turkey in 2007. A commercial trawl vessel with 550 HP and 23 m LOA was hired to compare catch amount, catch value, escape and discard amount of 40 mm square mesh and 44 mm diamond mesh codends with modified bottom trawl net. It was performed 10 hauls for each of the codends. Results indicate that there is no statistically a (Mann-Whitney U test) significant difference between the two mesh shapes. Presently used commercial codend is rather unselective to release sufficient amount of juveniles. The use of square mesh codend as a technical measure was strongly supported the size selectivity. Furthermore does not cause any decrease on either catch amount and catch value. In addition to these positive results there was also found statistically significant differences on the favour of escaped fish such as hake ($p<0.05$) and broadtail shortfin squid ($p<0.05$) and discard ($p<0.05$). As a result, preliminary outcomes of the experimental study from Sigacik and Kusadasi Bay (Turkey) indicates that recommendations of GFCM on the changes of mesh shape in Mediterranean trawl fishery seems to be acceptable by the fishers worked on the studied area. However these results have to be taken with care due to the limited number of hauls (10 for each) and lack of operational cost data as well as seasonal data for the Mediterranean.

Presentation of the Project “LaMed”: Fisheries laws and regulations in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

Camille Samier
GFCM Secretariat

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 surveillance²”. 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 29th 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.

² 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 Project will also establish a network of experts dealing with issues related to fisheries laws and regulations throughout the Region and organize a meeting in order to perform the comparative analysis and identify the potential harmonization at regional level.

The project is aimed therefore to enhance the regional cooperation between GFCM Member countries for the conservation and management of Mediterranean fisheries as well as to strengthen the collaboration with the relevant GFCM partners

The output of this project is to elaborate a reference publication of the current fisheries laws and regulations in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea for policy-makers, administrators and fisheries managers, in the light of the outcome of the expert meeting.

Appendix IV

Terms of Reference for the 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.

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

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.

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.