



## 11th session of the Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information (SCSI) Recommendations after revision by CMSC

St Julians (Malta),  
29 November -2 December 2010

SAC meeting of the SCSI Sub-Committee,



### Data submission requirements

The SCSI underlined the need to **optimise the submission of fleet-based information**, in reducing the number of datasets to be submitted, ideally to a unique fleet submission (fleet register) adding fields to provide indications given by the other datasets non redundant information.

*The CMSC suggested that SAC should discuss on a mechanism to tackle this issue.*

The SCSI proposed that **Permanent Statistical Assistance Entity should be established** to ensure continuity of assistance to the countries and to strengthen the capacity of GFCM in handling the numerous data exchange processes. The GFCM secretariat is invited to coordinate efforts and explore the possibility to set up this entity (PSAE).

*The CMSC agreed that it was natural for this Entity to be placed within the GFCM Secretariat.*

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## Task 1 requirements

The SCSI proposed to hold a **transversal workshop (SCSI/SCSA) on the development of a scheme for the reporting of biological data** to expand on the current requirements of Task 1 framework and drew up draft Terms of Reference.

*The CMSC reviewed this proposal and agreed that the Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA) should a priori identify the biological parameters for which data should be submitted by species and gear for each Operational Unit and for given fishing periods. The CMSC added that following this, the transversal workshop could be held to elaborate on the data collection, data submission and data processing mechanisms either within the current Task 1 framework or through the establishment of a Task 2 structure which will be linked to the former as well as to the stock assessment forms. In this context, the SCSA was invited to collaborate with the GFCM Secretariat in order to progress on the issue during the interim period.*

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## Data confidentiality and access policy

Proposal of **three options for data access**, to be chosen singly or in combination, and a decision must be taken if data can be only displayed or also downloadable. The three options are:

- the statistical bulletin and other general statistical outputs will be **available to the public**;
- the access to Task 1 datasets will be **available to users upon registration**. The eligible users will be nominated by the national SAC focal point. In this case, the access has no time limitation.
- The access to Task 1 datasets will be **available to participants registered in selected GFCM meetings**, with access limited to the period of the meeting and some extensions before and after.

*The CMSC agreed that the statistical bulletin and other general statistical outputs should be available to the public by default. It concluded that, on this issue, the SAC should only discuss the modality of data access i.e. whether the data access is given upon registration to individuals or related to the needs expressed for participants of a GFCM meeting.*

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## Implementation of the GSA compatible STATLANT 37A reporting scheme

For the time being suggestion to **keep the present system of reporting to both STATLANT and Task-1**, encouraging the reporting of STATLANT with GSA data.

*The CMSC proposed to continue the trial period until a data flow (Task 1) can replace it without losing the historical series. The CMSC also agreed that the development by the Secretariat of a routine tool to automatically produce the output requested by STATLANT 37A from Task-1 data was useful but not urgently needed.*

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## Outcome of the pilot exercises carried out by Member countries on the impact of using different threshold in logbook reporting

SCSI highlighted some shortcomings in the studies presented :

- The studies addressed only the component of the catches taken by the fleets impacted by the logbook regulation, i.e. vessels > 15m.
- The induced cost of different thresholds (the lower the threshold the more information is generated) was not evaluated.

Conclusion that in terms of scientific utility, the option of **no threshold would be the ideal**, but the number of species to report per trip, in the context of the Med & BS would be prohibitive;

Any threshold would bear the risk of **mis-evaluating the catches of rare and endangered species**;

The studies presented all demonstrated that the **threshold levels had little impact on reporting catches of small and large pelagics fisheries**. They also all demonstrated that **demersal fisheries were very sensitive to the thresholds**, but at this stage, the group could not find an agreement on which threshold would be the best compromise.

*The CMSC agreed that SAC should discuss whether there is sufficient evidence to set up a threshold on the basis of the studies presented or whether there is a need to allow one more year in order to broaden the studies (scope and countries).*

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## Outcome of the Workshop on Data Collection Methods

- Reiteration of the recommendation already made in 2009 and recalled by the workshop that **national experts should inform the Secretariat on the difficulties encountered** in data collection and data reporting on a real time basis.
- Proposal to use "**Miscellaneous gear**" when it was impossible to distinguish which catch has been taken by which gear within trips having operated with several gears. It is also reminded that the ideal solution was to decompose the catches by gear types on a trip by trip basis in order to fill correctly the catch information by Operational Units.
- Proposal that **feedback be given to the GFCM secretariat from the IT of Members** wishing to contribute to the review and testing of the CSV schema produced, preferably before the next data submission.
- Proposal that a **national focal point for Task 1 data submission** should be formally nominated by GFCM Members.

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## Task 1 requirements

agreement that, in compliance with Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3, **the reporting procedure for the forthcoming submission** should be as follows:

- The **full task 1 datafile for 2008 to be submitted by January 2011**. In case task 1 data (Task 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4) has already been submitted in 2010, this datafile must be completed with new information and sent as a whole to the secretariat.
- **2009 data (Full Task 1) to be submitted by May 2011**.
- Member countries are **encouraged to send 2010 data** if already available (see also section on STATLANT 37A).

Recommendation to **report the total figures for discards and report the unwanted species of conservation concerns by species**. To this end, a list of species to report in Task 1 has to be elaborated by the SCME;

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## Task 1 improvement of the operating tool

Recommendation to modify the Task 1 operating tool in order to clearly display what **information on effort** is required. Since some experts expressed concerns on their capacity to provide data to such a detailed level, recommendation to **submit the data as available, report on the difficulties and revisit this issue** at the next sub-committee meeting.

Recommendation to **modify the reference list of group of target species**, taking into account the ISCAAP divisions and groups of species, in the data exchange protocol (Task 1 operating tool , CSV and XML schemas).

Recommendation to **add a free text section in the 'comments' section on quality evaluation, and two drop-down lists** for indicating the 'Precision estimates' and 'Bias estimates'.

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Recommendations from the WS on Fleet capacity (if needed)

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## Elements for the development of a draft Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity

- The workshop participants produced a **draft outline for a Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity** in the GFCM area (GFCM RPOA\_Capacity).
- Main headers of the GFCM RPOA :
  - Definitions
  - Nature and Scope of the RPOA-Capacity
  - Objectives and Principles
  - Mechanisms to Promote Implementation
  - Human resources development for management of fishing capacity
  - Monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing capacity of fleets operating in the GFCM Convention area
  - Actions [to be undertaken by all GFCM member countries]
  - Review and evaluation of the RPOA-Capacity

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## Conclusions and options for the way forward

The workshop proposed the following options for the way forward:

1. Invite the Commission to consider **introducing elements of the Draft Outline GFCM RPOA-Capacity into the Recommendation GFCM 34/2010/2** whilst continuing the elaboration of the GFCM RPOA-Capacity.
  2. **Engage a consultant to draft a GFCM RPOA-Capacity** on the basis of the outline produced and other suggestions made by GFCM subsidiary bodies.
  3. **Convene a workshop to finalize the drafting of the GFCM RPOA-Capacity** on the basis of the outline produced and other suggestions made by the GFCM subsidiary bodies.
- Or
4. **Any combination of the above**

In addition to the above, the workshop concluded that it is important to ensure **direct assistance by MEDFISIS to the GFCM and its Members** for developing tools for measuring and monitoring fishing capacity.

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