



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



GFCM Workshop on IUU Fishing in the Mediterranean Sea

Tunis, Tunisia, 2-4 October 2013

PROSPECTUS

Background

In recent years, issues relating to IUU fishing in the GFCM Area, including in relation to the Mediterranean Sea, have come to the fore. A GFCM Enforcement and Control Scheme to fight IUU fishing was adopted in 2005 already. However, despite of all the efforts by GFCM Members to halt IUU fishing and put measures in place to that end, the problem still persists. As a result, under the 1st GFCM Framework Programme, it has been decided to intensify efforts against illicit activities. Such an endeavor will preliminarily require an assessment of the nature and the extent of IUU fishing in the GFCM Area. Following the convening of an ad hoc workshop on IUU fishing in the Black Sea (February 2013, Turkey), a specific focus on the Mediterranean Sea seems appropriate.

Under the 1st GFCM Framework Programme actions have been identified to enable the GFCM to contribute to the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture, spanning from the strengthening of data collection systems to the establishment of multiannual management plans in the Mediterranean Sea. Nonetheless, it is instrumental to any such action that a better knowledge of IUU fishing activities is grasped to minimize the risk of undermining the reliability of information obtained through collected data and that of hampering the effectiveness of any prospective management plan for selected Mediterranean fisheries. The workshop on IUU fishing in the Mediterranean Sea will also look into environmental impacts that IUU fishing activities have on marine ecosystems in addition to focusing on socio-economic aspects.

Main targets of the workshop:

- To improve knowledge of the nature and extent of IUU fishing in the Mediterranean Sea;
- To collect and review information provided by Mediterranean Sea coastal States on their fleet operating in the area as well as on their experience in the fight against IUU fishing;
- To inform participants on the measures available at international and regional level to fight IUU fishing, with particular reference to MCS related measures; and
- To draw up a roadmap to fight IUU fishing in the Mediterranean Sea.

Methodology

The workshop is intended to be **both informative and participative**. Sessions will be balanced between national experiences and ongoing developments at international and regional level. Participants will be invited to provide information, prior to the workshop, regarding the nature and extent of IUU fishing, the existence of MCS measures at national level and the composition of their fleet operating in the Mediterranean Sea. This information will be collected through a questionnaire. In addition, participants will be invited to deliver presentations during the joint workshop. Such methodology proved very successful in occasion of the abovementioned workshop on IUU fishing in the Black Sea to the extent that the roadmap adopted therein was endorsed at the 37th Session of the GFCM (May 2013, Croatia).

Participants

The workshop is specifically addressed to:

- Representatives of Mediterranean Sea coastal States such as decision-makers, heads of departments, directors, technical officers from national or regional administrations involved in matters pertaining to IUU fishing;
- Invited experts from universities and research institutions from the Mediterranean Sea Area whose technical capacity and direct involvement in IUU fishing related matters is considered useful to the joint workshop;
- Other relevant stakeholders, including officers from the FAO, international organizations and projects, NGOs and organizations in the fisheries industry having experience and interest in the fight against IUU fishing in the Mediterranean Sea.

Languages:

The language of the workshop will be English and French.

Available documents

- *Report of the FAO/GFCM workshop on Port State Measures to combat IUU Fishing (FAO Fisheries report No. 857)*
- *1st GFCM Framework Programme*
- *Report of the GFCM/BSC Workshop on IUU fishing in the Black Sea*
- *Selected GFCM Recommendations relating to IUU fishing, MCS, fishing fleet*
- *Advanced copy on GFCM publication on legislation of Mediterranean and Black Sea States*

Date and place

Tunis, Tunisia - 2 to 4 October 2013

Ramada Plaza
 Les Côtes de Carthage Gammarth - Tunisie
 Tel:+216 71 911 100
 Email: commercial.ramadaplazatunis@planet.tn
 Website: www.ramadaplaza-tunis.com

Contacts and technical information:

GFCM Secretariat (www.gfcm.org)

Abdellah Srour
Executive Secretary
GFCM HQ, Palazzo Blumenstihl
Via Vittoria Colonna, 1
00193, Rome
Tel: +39 06 570 55770
Fax: +39 06 570 56500
E-mail: abdellah.srour@fao.org

Nicola Ferri
Legal consultant
GFCM HQ, Palazzo Blumenstihl
Via Vittoria Colonna, 1
00193, Rome
Tel: +39 06 570 55766
Fax: + 39 06 570 55827
E-mail: nicola.ferri@fao.org