



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



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

Rome, Italy, 9-10 June 2010

Report of the 9th Coordination Meeting of the Sub-Committees (CMSC)

Opening and arrangement of the meeting

1. The 9th Coordination Meeting of the Sub-Committees (CMSC) was opened by Mr. Henri Farrugio, Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), who welcomed the participants (Appendix II). He introduced the draft agenda (Appendix I) and underlined the importance of carefully planning the implementation of the numerous activities included in the workplan of the SAC as adopted by the Commission.

2. The Acting Executive Secretary, Mr. Abdellah Srour, recalled the mandate of the CMSC and stated that it was also an appropriate occasion to brief the newly elected Coordinators of the Sub-Committees on their vital roles in the execution of the SAC workplan. He also referred to the importance of collaboration with other GFCM partner organizations such as the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) which have confirmed their commitment in contributing to a number of components of the workplan.

3. The CMSC adopted the agenda without changes and designated the responsibilities of Rapporteur to the Secretariat.

Duties of Coordinators and collaboration with the GFCM Secretariat

4. The Terms of Reference of the SAC Sub-Committees, as adopted at the second session of SAC, together with the mandate of the Coordinators, as specified by the twenty-ninth session of the GFCM, were reviewed by the CMSC. It was agreed that no changes were necessary.

5. The CMSC addressed the strengthening of the participation of experts in various activities and meetings of the SAC. It was agreed that whilst the Secretariat will continue to update and maintain a contact list of both national focal points and national experts, the Coordinators are instrumental in establishing networks of experts who can contribute actively to the scientific and technical endeavours of the SAC. In addition, the CMSC called upon the FAO Regional Projects to assist in this regard.

6. The Committee also deemed it important to draw up Terms of Reference for SAC national focal points (see Appendix III) in order to define their responsibilities more clearly, thus strengthening the implementation of the SAC mandate.

Implementation of the 2010 workplan of the Sub-Committees including planning of activities

Sub-Committee on Economics and Social Sciences (SCESS)

7. The Coordinator, Mr. Vahdet Ünal, presented the workplan of the SCESS (Appendix IV) for 2010 putting particular emphasis on the work to be carried out on the subject of recreational fisheries.

8. The CMSC agreed that the workshop on recreational fisheries should be transversal and after a lengthy discussion it decided that, whilst it should re-address the definition of this activity and identify the associated sub-sectors, the workshop should focus on the development of a monitoring scheme. The Terms of Reference for the workshop as approved by the CMSC is given in Appendix V.

9. On the analysis of fishers' social structure in Mediterranean countries, the CMSC was informed that FAO had offered to fund a preliminary study on the subject under the guidance of Ms Cassandra De Young and in collaboration with the GFCM Secretariat. In parallel, the SCESS was requested to proceed with the constitution of a network of experts in this field, starting by sending out a circular letter to national focal points to assist in identifying experts who may wish to join the network.

10. The CMSC welcomed any studies that could be carried out in relation to the impact of fuel prices and reduction in CO₂ emissions, however it decided that it was premature to open a webpage on the impact of fuel prices on fisheries.

Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information (SCSI)

11. Mr Joel Vigneau, Coordinator of the SCSI, introduced the programme of work for this Sub-Committee (Annex IV), referring in particular to issues related to data collection methods, weight thresholds for the GFCM regional logbook, the future of STATLANT 37A and the data access policy in connection with the Task 1 database.

12. The CMSC agreed on the priorities laid out in the programme of work and stressed on the importance of the workshop on data collection methods which is expected to contribute significantly to further implementing the Task 1 data submission process. The Terms of Reference of the workshop as approved by the CMSC are given in Appendix VI.

13. Whilst noting that the Commission had adopted a Recommendation on the GFCM logbook, the CMSC agreed that studies and discussions on the weight threshold should be maintained in order to provide the Commission with pertinent information which may be used in future decisions on the matter. It was agreed that, in support of the SCSI discussion, each country should prepare a Working Document presenting the effects of different threshold values on the monitoring of the main species caught by vessels submitted to logbooks.

14.

Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE)

15. The programme of work of the SCMEE (Annex IV) was presented by Mr Federico Alvarez, Coordinator of the SCMEE, featuring sensitive habitats of priority species, bycatch of endangered species, artificial reefs, alien species, selectivity and elasmobranchs.

16. The CMSC decided that the work on the identification of sensitive habitats should focus as a first step on selected species, namely *Sardina pilchardus*, *Engraulis encrasicolus*, *Merluccius merluccius*, *Parapenaeus longirostris*, *Mullus barbatus* and *Mullus surmuletus*.

17. On the formulation of a data collection form on the bycatch of endangered species, the CMSC proposed that this could be done by the SCMEE Coordinator in collaboration with the GFCM Secretariat. The relevant fields to be included in the Task 1 database should also be identified in the process.

18. The CMSC was informed that Mr Jacques Sacchi had offered to undertake a bibliographic review on artificial reefs and that he would be preparing a discussion paper on the subject to be presented during the next meeting of the SCMEE. The Committee also noted that the GFCM publication on alien species by Mr Ozturk Bayram shall be the main reference document for the planned workshop on alien species and their interaction with fisheries (Terms of Reference in Appendix VII).

19. The Terms of Reference for the workshop on selectivity improvement, bycatch reduction and alternative gears, as adopted by the CMSC, are given in Appendix VIII.

Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA)

20. On the basis of the programme of work adopted by the Commission (Appendix IV), Mr Fabio Fiorentino, Coordinator of the SCSA, expanded on the activities of the SCSA to be undertaken during the intersessional period, including those to be executed in conjunction with the SCMEE.

21. The importance of developing standard GFCM protocols for surveys at sea was recalled by the CMSC. To make progress, the Committee proposed that the Secretariat, in collaboration with the SCSA Coordinator, prepares a short document listing and comparing the components of the survey protocols received, which would serve as a basis for discussion during the forthcoming SCSA meeting.

22. With regards to improving knowledge on the biology, life history parameters and stock structure, including the spatial location of nurseries and spawning areas, the CMSC agreed on the importance to gather and to compile the available parameters from various sources including the circulation of a questionnaire to national scientists to collect recent and/or update information. It decided that a first stage of this work should focus on five priority species (European hake, red mullet, striped red mullet, anchovy, sardine and the pink shrimp) and on the following priority parameters:

- the Von Bertalanffy growth function ($\text{linf.}, K, t_0$);
- the length weight allometric relationship - yearly (a and b);
- the natural mortality rate as scalar (M);
- the length/age at 50% maturity;
- the length/age at habitat recruitment;
- the vector of maturity and mortality by length/age;
- the reproduction period;
- the recruitment period;
- the spatial distribution of spawning and nursery areas.

23. It is envisaged that this task will be launched by the Secretariat in collaboration with the SCSA Coordinator and scientists.

24. The CMSC welcomed the offer of Mr Fiorentino to prepare drafts, in consultation with national experts, of additional sheets of the stock assessment form dealing with survey-based assessment methods. It was agreed that these drafts will be presented to SCSA for approval before being forwarded to SAC for final endorsement.

25. In addition, the Coordinator of the SCSA took up the responsibility of preparing a document on Biological Reference Points (limit and target) and their use in assessing and describing the status of stocks.

26. The Committee was also informed that an information document on the current knowledge of age reading will be prepared before the SCSA meeting by Mr Henri Farrugio, Chairperson of SAC, and Mr Enrico Arneri.

27. The CMSC noted that the Commission decided to postpone a fully-fledged research programme on elasmobranches and, for the time being, to only convene a first expert meeting on the status of elasmobranches in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. The Committee noted that RAC/SPA had confirmed their collaboration in this activity and acknowledged the offer made by Tunisia to have one of their national experts contributing to the preparation and the coordination of this meeting. The Terms of Reference for the expert meeting are given in Appendix IX.

28. The CMSC also drew up the Terms of Reference for the workshop on European Eel (see Appendix X) and agreed that a consultant should be engaged to prepare a background document on the current management programmes in place for this species.

Issues related to the organization of meetings

29. The list of meetings adopted by the Commission (see Appendix XIV) was considered by the CMSC. Terms of Reference for each workshop were endorsed by the CMSC and are included in Appendices V - XI. As a follow up to Recommendation GFCM/34/1/2010 on the management of fishing capacity and the request made by the 34th Session of the GFCM to expand discussions on the subject, the CMSC also drew up preliminary Terms of Reference for a workshop to focus specifically on the development of a draft Regional Plan of Action (see Appendix XII).

30. The CMSC noted the revised working strategy of the stock assessment working groups as adopted by the SAC during its twelfth session. The Committee also reviewed the draft Terms of Reference for the Moderator of the practical stock assessment sessions and adopted them, with a few changes, as given in Appendix XIII. The Committee was invited to assist the Secretariat in the identification of suitable experts to moderate the two working groups.

31. The Committee welcomed the offer by Italy, Tunisia, Turkey and RAC/SPA to provide the services of experts to support the selected technical meeting.

32. With regards to the evaluation of the established closed season for FAD dolphinfish fisheries, due this year in accordance with Recommendation GFCM/2006/2, the CMSC called upon the Secretariat to prepare a summary of the information contained in annual reports submitted by Members as requested by this Recommendation. This summary document will be submitted to the next SCSA meeting for discussion.

33. The CMSC decided that, as customary, half a day should be dedicated to the transversal session of the Sub-Committees, in order to consider conclusions from transversal workshops for possible endorsement.

34. It was also stressed that each Sub-Committee should adopt the report along with its Executive Summary before the closure of the meeting.

Inputs from the FAO Regional Projects to the Sub-Committees

35. Mr Pedro Barros (FAO) informed the CMSC that FAO Regional Projects will endeavour to support the activities of the Sub-Committees, both by financially supporting the participation of national scientists, whenever possible, and by providing scientific knowledge stemming from the results of scientific work undertaken at sub-regional level in particular with regards to stock assessment work. He assured the Committee that the priorities of the SAC are closely considered by the Projects' respective Steering Committee when drawing up annual programmes of work.

Other matters

36. The CMSC discussed the current status of the SAC glossary and decided that, whilst keeping in mind that the glossary is dynamic and subject to change, it could be considered finalized. Nevertheless, the Committee expected the Sub-Committees to propose any additions or amendments and invited SAC to give further guidance on the way forward including on the possibility of translation.

37. The Committee recalled the request by Black Sea countries during the last GFCM session to initiate activities in the area and agreed that the Coordinators and Secretariat should try to identify activities and resources through contacts with national experts.

38. Finally, the CMSC proposed that the possibility to organize jointly with CIHEAM a course on the use of socio-economic data for fisheries management in 2012 should be explored.

Closure of the meeting

39. Mr Henri Farrugio thanked all members of the CMSC for their valuable participation in the meeting and trusted that the discussions held would contribute to the successful implementation of SAC's programme of work.

Agenda

- 1. Opening and arrangement of the meeting (by the Chair/Secretariat) 9.15 hrs**
- 2. Designation of Rapporteurs**
- 3. Briefing on the duties of the coordinators and suggestions for possible update/improvement**
- 4. Collaboration with GFCM Secretariat**
- 5. Implementation of the 2010 workplan of the Sub-Committees including planning of activities**
 - Review of the activities/actions adopted during the 34th Session (as well as some relevant pending activities from recent years)
 - Review and planning of meetings and training courses including the review of related Terms of Reference, Mandate or Programme
 - Actions to finalize the SAC Glossary
 - Roadmap for the implementation of multidisciplinary activities
 - Improvement of Stock Assessment Forms
 - Requests from the Commission related to the update of SAC reference frame
- 6. Issues related to the organization of meetings**
 - Transversal activities/sessions
 - Organization of the Working Groups meeting according to the new functioning
 - Preparation of the reports and executive summaries
 - Identification of experts.
 - Meeting schedule.
- 7. Expected inputs from regional projects**
- 8. Any other matters**
- 9. Closure of the meeting**

Appendix II**List of Members**

Henri Farrugio, SAC Chairman

Atig Huni Drawil, SAC second Vice Chairman

Fabio Fiorentino, SCSA Coordinator

Vahdet Ünal, SCESS Coordinator

Federico Alvarez, SCMEC Coordinator

Joel Vigneau, SCSA Coordinator

Abdellah Srour, GFCM Executive Secretary a.i

Matthew Camilleri, GFCM Biostatistician

Federico de Rossi, GFCM consultant

Pedro Barros, FAO FIMF Officer

Enrico Arneri, FAO-AdriaMed and MedsudMed projects Coordinator

Cassandra De Young, FAO FIPI Fishery Planning Analyst

Nicoletta Milone, FAO -AdriaMed project Officer

Luca Ceriola, FAO-MedsudMed project Officer

Appendix III**Draft Terms of Reference for SAC National focal points**

In Liaison with the GFCM Secretariat, the national focal point will:

1. Promote the active participation, either directly or through a nominated alternate) in workshops, activities and meetings of the sub-committee;
2. Coordinate and encourage national-level activities in such a way as to assist the sub-committee respond to issues raised by GFCM and/or SAC;
3. Disseminate to relevant national networks information provided through the sub-committee;
4. Provide, where appropriate and available, information relevant to the activities of the sub-committee.

SAC PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD 2010

The Commission endorsed the programme of work proposed by SAC as follows:

Stock assessment

- Pursue activities on stock assessment using both commercial data and surveys at sea.
- Pursue the work aimed at developing a GFCM protocol for undertaking surveys at sea.
- Improve knowledge on biology, life history parameters and stock structure, including the spatial location of nurseries and spawning areas.
- Agree on a set of biological parameters to be used for the stock assessments in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, either by GSA or by merging adjacent GSAs.
- Draw up and include additional sheets, related to survey-based assessment methods, in the assessment form.
- Improve biological indicators and further develop reference points with the view to evaluate the status of the stocks and fisheries including the effects on exploited stocks within FRAs.
- Organize the meetings of the Working Groups on stock assessment of demersal and small pelagic resources, considering the new functioning approach.
- Carry out a review of the current scenario and knowledge on age reading in the GFCM area.
- Contribute to the implementation of the medium-term working program to improve knowledge and to assess the status of the stock of elasmobranches.
- Contribute to the performance of case studies on the implementation of the minimum mesh size of 40 mm (square mesh) or 50 mm (diamond mesh) in demersal fisheries, as well as on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF).
- Collate information on the stocks of *Anguilla anguilla*.

Marine environment and ecosystems

- Identify sensitive habitats for each GFCM priority species, to be submitted to the next SCMEE meeting.
- Prepare a detailed form for data collection on the bycatch of endangered species, to be included in the Task 1 system.
- Update the knowledge on artificial reefs.
- Organize a workshop on alien species and their interaction with fisheries, back-to-back with the SCMEE meeting.
- Organize a transversal workshop on selectivity improvement, bycatch reduction and alternative gears.
- Implement the programme on elasmobranch species, including an expert meeting and training course.
- Contribute to the performance of case studies on the implementation of the minimum mesh size of 40 mm (square mesh) or 50 mm (diamond mesh) in demersal fisheries, as well as on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF).

Statistics and information

- Organize a workshop on data collection methods applied to all segments of the fleet, and their coherence with the requirements of the GFCM Task 1.
- Carry out further analysis on the optimum weight threshold for the reporting of catches in the GFCM logbook.
- After reception by the GFCM Secretariat of the Task 1.1, 1.2, and 1.4 datasets:
 - Update the statistical bulletin accordingly;
 - Work on proposing data summary outputs and data access functions to be presented at the next SCSI meeting.
- Work on a data policy in relation to the Task 1 dataset.

Economic and social sciences

- Constitute an expert network for the analysis on the fishers' social structure across all Mediterranean countries, along with the compilation of studies through email exchange.
- Open a section in the GFCM website to contain all related studies on the impact of changes in the cost of energy.
- Organize a Workshop on Monitoring Recreational Fisheries in the GFCM area.
- Contribute to the performance of case studies on the implementation of the minimum mesh size of 40 mm (square mesh) or 50 mm (diamond mesh) in demersal fisheries, as well as on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF).
- Carry out further economic analysis on the impact of fuel prices and reduction in CO₂ emissions and collect information on potential technologies and methods to decrease fuel consumption.

Other transversal issues

- Launch a working program to improve knowledge and assess the state of red corals in the Mediterranean, starting with the organisation of a workshop to review the available information on the biology, fishery, regulations and existing management plans for this species in the Region.
- Follow up on the request by twenty-seventh session of SAC to report on the geographical occurrence and seasonality of mucilaginous algal blooms. A workshop is to be organised during the intersessional period to address this subject.
- Analyse the impact of the establishment of a closed season for the FAD dolphinfish fisheries on the stocks of this species and to recommend any change that may be deemed necessary to improve its effectiveness, in order to evaluate possible modifications to the closure and/or to propose additional management measures.
- Develop a Regional Plan of Action for the management of fishing capacity.

Appendix V**Draft Terms of Reference of the Transversal Workshop on
the Monitoring of Recreational Fisheries in the GFCM Area**

The workshop will be a first step aimed at developing a monitoring framework for recreational fisheries comprising biological, economic, legal and social aspects of the sub-sectors and to facilitate the future work on establishment a long term monitoring programme to provide estimations of effort, participation, types fishing, catch amount, value.

Specifically the workshop will provide the suitable platform with the objectives to:

- ❖ Agree on a GFCM definition of recreational fisheries to be used in the monitoring framework
- ❖ Evaluate the existing exploratory surveys of the socio-economic status of recreational fisheries
- ❖ Analyze the available information on the situation of recreational fisheries in the member countries, especially on quantitative information on each segment, including number of people concerned, number of enterprise concerned, species affected, environmental effects, economic impact including socioeconomic importance of the activity
- ❖ Describe the conflicts and difficulties among stakeholders in relation to exploitation of the resources by the recreational fisheries
- ❖ Analyze the different regulatory systems in connection with these activities in the member countries

Identify the key elements for a monitoring framework which includes the required data and information

Appendix VI**Draft Terms of Reference of the Workshop on Data Collection Methods Applied to All Segments of the Fleet and their Coherence with the Requirements of the GFCM Task 1**

- a) review the different methodologies and data collection programmes in place within GFCM Member countries;
- b) review the problems arising from the submission of Task 1 data;
- c) for each of the problems raised in the point above, exchange experience from other countries on the same field;
- d) agree on methods to address the problems raised;
- e) anticipate problems related to the submission of Task 1.3.

Appendix VII**Draft Terms of Reference of the transversal workshop on selectivity improvement, by-catch reduction and alternative gears**

Context and objectives

In the framework of the SAC activities for 2010, a workshop on selectivity improvement, by-catch reduction and alternative gears is propose to be held in XXX from XX to XX according the proposed terms of reference. The aims of this workshop are to follow up on the outcomes of the transversal GFCM Working Group on selectivity improvement and by-catch reduction (Tunis, 23-25 September 2009) and on the GFCM resolution on the implementation of the 40 mm mesh size GFCM/31/2007/3. More specifically, the proposed TOR for this workshop will address the main following issues:

1. Determine the current status of studies on the effect of the trawl 40 mm square mesh size in reducing by-catches and discard and increasing the selectivity of the trawl related to the Mediterranean fisheries.
2. Analyse the socio-economic impact of the introduction of the new measures on trawl mesh sizes.
3. Review of methods for reducing the impact of trawl fishery on by-catches and the seabed:
 - Studies on the use of a grid system and separating panels for by-catch reduction in the Mediterranean trawl fishery
 - Studies on trawl modification to reduce damage on the seabed
 - Review of studies on the effect of trawl fishery on the Mediterranean species, and habitats
4. Review of the characteristics of the gears used in the trawl fishery in the Mediterranean, with special attention to difference in gears by GSA and target assemblage or depth stratum.
5. Review studies on alternative gears (e.g. traps) that can be used instead of the trawl and static net.

Appendix VIII**Draft Terms of Reference for the first expert meeting on Elasmobranches
in the Mediterranean and Black Sea**

The proposed ToRs are as follows:

1. Undertake an inventory of elasmobranches including a review of the available information on taxonomy and species distribution as well as on the status of these species in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.
2. Review available data and information on biology and fishing activities catching elasmobranches, in particular those of conservation concern.
3. Identify appropriate methodologies and approaches to assess the stocks of selected commercial species and required action for the following years. This meeting will also consider the possibility to establish a regional network of expert dealing with this issue.
4. Suggest appropriate mitigation methods for bycatch reduction. It is proposed take into account mitigation measures and technologies that have been developed outside the Mediterranean and that are currently used and employed by the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations.

The participants are required to prepare information on the following main topics:

- Description of the fisheries
- Catch estimates/bycatch
- Catch by unit effort
- Fishing areas
- Sex and sizes composition of the catches
- Abundance indices from surveys
- Spatial distribution and habitats
- Reproductive biology
- Age and growth
- Feeding habits

Appendix IX**Draft Terms of Reference for the Workshop on European Eel fisheries in the GFCM area**

- Review the available information on biology (life history, demographic parameters and stock structure), fisheries (quantities and demographic structures of catches and corresponding effort) and other human impacts (Habitat degradation, etc.) on *Anguilla anguilla* in the Mediterranean and the Eastern Atlantic Ocean;
- Review existing information on stock assessments, current management rules and recovery and/or management plans already in force;
- Propose a proper framework (data needs, assessment methodologies and management advice) to prepare a GFCM management plan for improving and integrating the current approaches to manage eel fisheries in the Mediterranean.

Appendix X**Draft Terms of Reference for the Transversal workshop on red coral**

The workshop will take place within the framework of a working programme to improve the knowledge and assess the state of the red coral in the Mediterranean which aims to:

- a) undertake an inventory of red corals including a review of the available information of each country on biology, fishery and regulations;
- b) gather the existing scientific literature on the distribution of the red coral, protection patterns, management plans when adopted and restocking; and
- c) find synergies with RAC/SPA activities and other initiatives on this issue.

Appendix XI**Draft Terms of Reference for the Workshop on Algal and Jelly Fish Blooms**

- a) provide updated information on the cases of algal and jelly fish blooming reported in the Mediterranean and Black Sea;
- b) review the different mitigating management measures/approaches taken in relation to algal and jelly fish bloomings;
- c) review the effects of algal and jelly fish blooming on fisheries;
- d) review methodologies and data collection programmes developed in relation to bloomings;
- e) develop a scientific framework in support of management instruments towards eliminating and/or mitigating the bloomings;
- f) review the human health-related problems caused or associated with the bloomings.

Appendix XII**Draft Terms of Reference for the Transversal workshop on the RPOA fishing capacity**

Within the context of Recommendation GFCM34/1/2010 on the management of fishing capacity and the request made by the 34th Session of the Commission to expand on the results obtained so far on the subject, a transversal workshop will be convened to:

- **Develop a draft Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity which includes specific actions, activities, and timeframes identified by the first workshop**

Appendix XIII

Meetings of the SAC and its subsidiary bodies

Meetings	Date
9th Session of the CMSC	Rome, Italy/9–10 June 2010
Tranversal Workshop on red coral	Sardinia, Italy/16 th -17 th September 2010
First Expert Meeting on the status of elasmobranches in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea	Sfax, Tunisia/20 th -22 nd September 2010
Transversal workshop on European Eel	Salamambo, Tunisia/23–24 September
Transversal workshop on Fishing capacity	Rome, Italy 27–28 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	Rome, Italy/29 September–1 October 2010
Workshop on algal and jelly fish blooms	Istanbul, Turkey/6–8 October 2010
Working Group on stock assessment of demersal species	Istanbul, Turkey/18 th -23 rd October 2010
Workshop on monitoring recreational fisheries in the GFCM area	Palma de Mallorca, Spain/20 th -22 nd October 2010
Transversal Workshop on selectivity improvement, bycatch reduction and alternative gears	Egypt 25-27 October 2010
Working Group on stock assessment of small pelagic species	Mazzara del Vallo, Italy 1 st -6 th November 2010
Session of the SCSA	Malta 29 th November – 2 nd December 2010
Session of the SCESS	Malta 29 th November – 2 nd December 2010
Session of the SCSI	Malta 29 th November – 2 nd December 2010
Session of the SCMEE	Malta 29 th November – 2 nd December 2010
Workshop on alien species and their interaction with fisheries (back-to-back with the SCMEE meeting)	Malta 29 th November 2010
10th Session of the CMSC	Malta 3 rd December 2010
Thirteenth Session of the SAC	Marseille, France 7 th -11 th February 2011

Appendix XIV**Draft Terms of Reference for the Moderator of the practical stock assessment sessions of the SCSA Working Groups**

One of the objectives of SCSA, is to progress in the enhancement of joint practical stock assessment. “Joint” refers to the participation of scientists from different countries providing their data and sharing them with their colleagues, using a standard method and analyzing together the results and options for fisheries management.

During the two last SCSA Working Group meetings on demersal and small pelagic species (2008 and 2009) a joint practical session to assess, in particular the stocks of hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) and associated species, as well as those of sardine and anchovy were performed. At its 34th session, the commission endorsed the SAC’s proposal to extend the duration of the meeting in order to include practical sessions on stock assessment as well as the possibility to review assessment works made prior the meeting. The Commission also approved the principle that meeting be moderated by a qualified expert. The 9th meeting of the CMSC (Rome, June 2010) established the following mandate for the moderator:

Under the supervision of the GFCM Secretariat and in cooperation with the SCSA Coordinator, the Moderator will:

1. Define the methods to be followed and provide the theoretical background (papers) as well as the software to be used. This information must be communicated to the GFCM Secretariat well in advance of the meeting;
2. Prepare the agenda for the practical session;
3. Determine the data and information needs, including the standard format to be used, and prepare all material and tools to be used by the participants before the meeting;
4. Moderate the session, providing adequate assistance to the participants;
5. Write a report describing the methods and data used together with the results of the assessment. A section of the report must include recommendations for the next joint practical stock assessment session. The GFCM standard assessment forms should also be included as an appendix.

The consultant will take into account some specific items such as:

- Propose the appropriate methodologies (i.e for demersal species: VPA tuning (using trawl survey results when possible), LCA; SURBA; for small pelagic: VPA and/or XSA and/or ICA or alternative methods.....)
- Assist in the determination of main indicators and their corresponding reference points;
- Assist in the production of a diagnosis of the state of the stock;
- Supervise the process which aims to fill and analyze the data and information provided through the SCSA stock assessment forms
- Supervise the process concerning the formulation of management advice, considering different alternatives.
- Assist in the identification of a set of biological reference parameters to be used in stock assessments
- Elaboration of the final report of the Working Group meeting