



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



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Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

**Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA)
Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE)**

Training workshop on age reading of elasmobranchs in the GFCM area

Date and Venue

- 8 – 12 October 2012
- Mediterranean Fisheries Research Production and Training Institute,
Antalya, Turkey
- Lecturer: Dr Steven Campana, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Canada
- **Hotel (bookings made by GFCM for funded participants only)**
Harrington Park Hotel 5*
Konyaalti
Antalya
TURKEY
www.harringtonparkresort.com

There will be a free transfer service between the hotel and the workshop venue for all participants

Hotel contact: İsa GÜL mice3@dreamincentive.com

Local contact and national expert

Doç.Dr. Yılmaz Emre
Mediterranean Fisheries Research, Production and Training Institute
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Contact for technical matters

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SCSA Coordinator - Fabio Fiorentino (Fabio.fiorentino@iamc.cnr.it)

Background

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), is currently developing a medium term work program (2010-2012) to improve knowledge and assess the status of elasmobranchs in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

The work program includes the organisation of specific expert meetings primarily aiming at gathering the scarce and dispersed knowledge of the group both in terms of life cycles, population dynamics, ecology, and fisheries, and to assess the status of some stocks.

Thanks to the support of an EU funded project "Stock Assessment of selected species of elasmobranchs in the GFCM Area" various activities of the work program have been successfully accomplished among which a Working Group on stock assessment was held in December 2011 in Brussels. A publication is being prepared with the Review of the available information on taxonomy and species distribution in the GFCM area and finally, the organization of the Training workshop on Age Reading of elasmobranchs in the GFCM area is scheduled for the 8-12th of October 2012.

Main objectives

The workshop will consist of practical sessions preceded by introductory sessions that will address:

- Preparation methods of spines and vertebral sections surface reading and sectioning with emphasis on embedding and sectioning.
- Instruction for Image analysis and enhancement.
- Age interpretation, and methods for confirming ageing accuracy.
- Analysis of age data, including age comparisons, age bias plots and precision measures

The species selected by the SAC at his 13th meeting of 2011 were: *Raja clavata*, *R. miraletus*, *R. asterias*, *Scyliorhinus canicula*, and *R. melitensis* but the list is not closed, and it can include other species primarily those pertaining to the GFCM list of priority species <http://www.gfcm.org/gfcm/topic/166221/en> as well as to the Annex II and III of the SPA/BD protocol of the Barcelona Convention <http://www.rac-spa.org/annexes>

Material provision

To help insure that each workshop participant develops skills on the elasmobranch species of greatest interest to them, every participant should bring at least 10 vertebrae and/or spines with them to the workshop, if at all possible. The greatest benefit will be if participants also send up to 10 vertebrae (but not spines) for advance preparation to the workshop organizer, Dr Steven Campana, at the address shown below. All vertebrae should be trimmed of excess tissue, separated from adjacent vertebrae (eg – don't just send a length of backbone), and thoroughly dried. The protruding neural and haemal arches can be cut off. Vertebrae should be enclosed in odour-proof sealed plastic bags, and then into a small box or padded envelope, and sent via courier. Do not send by regular mail, since it will take too long to arrive. Samples need to arrive no later than Sept 28 to give sufficient time for advance preparation. The customs declaration should state: "Fish bone for scientific examination. No

commercial value.” Please note that any sample identified as a CITES-listed species cannot be sent without extensive paperwork. Samples should be addressed to:

Dr Steven Campana
Bedford Institute of Oceanography
1 Challenger Drive
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Canada B2Y 4A2

All the participants are also encouraged to bring their own laptops to ease the practical sessions of the meeting, when possible with some statistical package and image analysis software installed.

Languages

English will be the language for presentations and discussions.