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**DRAFT DOCUMENT ON UPDATING THE SAC  
REFERENCE FRAME AND ESTABLISHING A MEDIUM-  
TERM STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE FUTURE**

BY J.J. MAGUIRE

**SAC STRENGTHS :**

Well established structure

Flexibility of establishing working groups,  
study groups or workshops as required

GFCM Secretariat closely involved in its work

**SAC WEAKNESSES**

**The existence of four standing subcommittees, each  
with their own subsidiary bodies, may be an impediment  
to the provision of multidisciplinary advice**

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The number of social scientists is disproportionately  
small compared to that of natural scientists

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Little progress seems have been possible  
in identifying appropriate biological units,

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The reliability of single species advice could be low.

**Strategic vision** (of the  
consultant)

« SAC should set up multidisciplinary teams to complete multidisciplinary assessments of multispecies fisheries in a few pilot areas using the risk assessment / management approach to the implementation of the **Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries** »

To the consultant's knowledge there are no ready models to follow

« SAC provides useful, reliable, relevant and implementable advice to make improvements under the four components of sustainability through a process that is based on:  
**1) Objectivity and integrity, 2) Openness and transparency, 3) Quality assurance, 4) Integrated advice – based on an ecosystem approach, 5) Efficiency and flexibility, and 6) National consensus.** »