



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



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Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

**Workshop on Stock Assessment of Selected Species of Elasmobranchs
in the GFCM area**

Date and Venue

- 12-16 December 2011
- DG MARE rue Joseph II 99 - 1049 Brussels
(metro MAALBEEK)

Local contact

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Contact for technical matters

- SCSA Coordinator - Fabio Fiorentino (Fabio.fiorentino@iamc.cnr.it)
- Workshop Moderator- Alvaro Abella (aa00477@arp.at.toscana.it)
- GFCM Secretariat (GFCM-Secretariat@fao.org)

Objectives

The main outcome of the meeting would be the Assessment of Stocks of selected species of elasmobranchs in the GFCM area. The workshop will consist of practical sessions preceded by introductory sessions of the suitability of the different available methods taking into consideration the peculiarities of chondrichthyans.

The species selected by the SAC at his 13th meeting of 2011 were: *Raja clavata*, *R. miraletus*, *R. asterias*, *Scyliorhinus canicula*, and *R. melitensis* for which a considerable time series of data from direct surveys along with commercial catches is known to be available. The list is not closed, and it can include other species when appropriate data be provided. The meeting will aim to:

- Review available methods for stock assessment, including those for data limited situations;
- Review characteristics of Chondrichthyans in terms of biological features (slow, growth, low fecundity rates, lack of hard structures for age reading) and in terms of data available (poor data record of catches and few individuals sampled for biological purposes);
- Discuss and chose among the methods previously selected by the Subcommittee on Stock Assessment in its 12th session of 2010:
 - Yield and biomass per recruit model and composite surplus production models for singles species sets of data
 - Productivity and Susceptibility analysis at community level
- Identify biological reference points (BRPs) and maximum sustainable yield (MSY) proxies;
- Analyze the data sets provided by the participants (Sampling frequency, time series, age structured, commercial vs surveys data);
- Run the stock assessment analysis;
Output: *Status of the stocks and suggestions for management advice*
- Discuss on the lesson learned and suggest improvement for data collection and methods used;

Languages

English or French, may be used for preparation of workshop papers or for data submission. However, no interpretation services will be available. It is expected that English will be the main language for presentations and discussions.

Data provision

The experts planning to attend this workshop are required to previously submit to the GFCM Secretariat any relevant information and/or the datasets to be processed during the practical sessions. The data may concern, but not be limited to, the following topics:

- length frequency
- time series of abundance
- structure by age
- commercial vs surveys data
- other biological and ecological data

The deadline for data submission is **December 6th, 2011** in order to facilitate the preparatory phase by the Moderator and the Secretariat. All the participants are also encouraged to bring their own laptops to ease the practical sessions of the meeting.

Registration

The meeting is open to experts interested in the issues, however GFCM can cover only a restricted number of experts.

Experts willing to apply for the funding coverage are kindly requested to provide together with the enclosed Registration Form:

- A short version of *Curriculum vitae*
- A letter of interest specifying their field of expertise and a description of the information they are going to provide.

Please apply by sending the complete Registration Form via fax to +39 0657055827 / +39 0657056500 or by e-mail to: GFCM-Secretariat@fao.org.

Visa

Excluding citizens from EU all other citizens need to obtain visas in the nearest Diplomatic Consular Departments of Belgium. Participants are advised to contact their nearest Embassy or Consulate of Belgium as soon as possible to ascertain whether they need to apply for a visa as visas cannot be granted at the airport in Belgium. For further information go to http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/services/travel_to_belgium/visa_for_belgium.

Hotels

Please find below the list of suggested hotels in proximity of the meeting venue:

Martin's Central Park****

Boulevard Charlemagne 80

1000 Brussels

Tel: +32 (0)2 230 85 55

Fax: +32 (0)2 230 56 35

E-mail: mcp@martinshotels.com

Website: www.martins-hotels.com/en/hotel/martins-central-park

Hotel Silken Berlaymont****

Boulevard Charlemagne 11/19

1000 Brussels

Tel: +32 (0)2-231 09 09

Fax: +32 (0)2-230 33 71

E-mail: hotel.berlaymont@hoteles-silken.com

Website: www.hoteles-silken.com/hotel-berlaymont-brussels/en/

New Hotel Charlemagne****

Boulevard Charlemagne 25/27

1000 Brussels

Tel: +32 (0)2-230 21 35

Fax: +32 (0)2-230 25 10

E-mail: brusselscharlemagne@new-hotel.be

Website: www.new-hotel.be/en/

First Euroflat Hotel****

Boulevard Charlemagne, 50

B-1000 Brussels

Tel: +32.2.230.00.10

Fax: +32.2.230.36.83

E-mail: reservation@firsteuroflathotel.be

Website: www.firsteuroflathotel.be/welcome.php

Chelton Hotel Brussels***

Rue Véronèse 48,

1000 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 2 735 20 32

E-mail: info@chelton.be

Website: www.chelton.be

Holiday Inn Brussels-Schuman***

Breydelstraat 20-24

1040 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32-02-280 40 00

Fax: +32-02-282 10 70

E-mail: hotel@holiday-inn-brussels-schuman.com

Website: www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/brussels/brubr/hoteldetail