GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

Fifteenth Session

REPORT OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS AND INFORMATION (SCSI)

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OPENING AND ARRANGEMENTS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1. The Sub-Committees meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC/GFCM), including the general transversal session, were held at FAO headquarters, Rome (Italy) on 18¯20 February 2013.

2. Mr Henri Farrugio, Chairperson of the SAC, welcomed the participants and thanked them for attending the meeting. He then gave the floor to Mr Abdellah Srour, Executive Secretary of the GFCM.

3. Mr Srour expressed sincere gratitude to the Chairperson of the SAC and to all the coordinators of the Sub-Committees for their work. He recalled the mandate of the SAC and its Sub-Committees, insisting on the need to strengthen their role, and mentioned upcoming activities by the GFCM, including those within the first GFCM Framework Programme (FWP). Mr Srour underscored the regional interest that these activities were drawing. He stressed the extremely positive role played by the FAO regional projects within the framework of fisheries management in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, insisting on the need for enhanced integration and synergies between their activities and those implemented though the GFCM Strategic Framework Programme 2013-2018.

TRANSVERSAL SESSION: INTRODUCTION OF ONGOING ACTIVITIES UNDER THE FIRST PHASE OF THE GFCM FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

4. Mr Miguel Bernal, from the GFCM Secretariat, presented a synthesis of the work to be done by the Sub-Committees as well as an overview of the FWP. In this respect, , he introduced the five work programmes (WP) composing the GFCM Framework Programme (i.e., WP01: Governance and Management, WP02: Data Collection, WP03: Aquaculture, WP04: Artisanal Fisheries/Recreational Fisheries and WP05: Sub-regional Cooperation), which should be implemented progressively over an allotted five-year span, and focused on WP01 and WP02 since they had already been launched thanks to EU funding. Mr Bernal specified that activities undertaken were connected for the time being with the strengthening of data collection systems and the testing of the GFCM

guidelines on multiannual management plans at a sub-regional scale.

5. Mr Marcelo Vasconcellos, from the GFCM Secretariat, provided additional insights on activities carried out in relation to the sub-regional multiannual management plans, highlighting the guiding principles underpinning the chosen methodology and presenting a list of potential case studies and a roadmap for applying the guidelines to those cases.

6. Mr Nicola Ferri, from the GFCM Secretariat, briefed the participants on the launching of the "Concerted action for Lebanon", which started with an initial meeting organized within the framework of WP05 of the FWP. He insisted in particular on the importance of pooling ongoing efforts at different levels in order to ensure a coherent strategy in support to the development of fisheries and aquaculture in Lebanon.

7. The meeting agreed that discussions and comments made during the transversal session be included in the reports of each Sub-Committee under the corresponding agenda item.

8. Mr Farrugio acknowledged the work undertaken by the GFCM Secretariat and opened the discussion on the presentations delivered (data collection, multiannual management plans, Concerted action for Lebanon).

9. The representatives from the EU also thanked the GFCM Secretariat for the valuable work done and for the excellent organization of the meeting and reiterated their will to support GFCM, in particular, with the auspices/commitments underlined by the Part III of the GFCM Guidelines for multiannual management plans. Under the FWP, the need to give priority to case studies on sub-regional multiannual management plans involving shared stocks either subject to excessive exploitation or of species that are vulnerable to overexploitation was stressed. At the same time, it was also underlined that the multiannual management plans should be seen as the normal scientific and regulatory framework to agree and implement joint management measures also for fisheries and stocks exploited in a sustainable manner.

10. Mr Majdalani, from Lebanon, thanked GFCM for launching the "Concerted action for Lebanon" meeting which, in his view, would help to put cooperation in Lebanon on the right track and paving the way for future activities. In response to comments questioning a possible overlapping with the work carried out by the FAO Regional Projects, it was explained that a participatory approach had been ensured and that the maximum level of coordination was foreseen for the follow-up phase in order to avoid any possible duplication and to optimize resources.

11. The participants expressed interest for the new Data Collection Reference Framework (DCFR), which was briefly presented by Mr Bernal and for which a broader discussion took place under SCSI. The meeting was informed that, since the performance review of the GFCM had highlighted gaps in the data collection and submission processes, the thrust of the DCRF was to ensure that the data to be gathered in the future were useful for the management of fisheries. To start this process, a series of activities aimed at strengthening the GFCM framework for data collection had already been launched. These included the assessment of data compliance and databases at the GFCM Secretariat, the assessment of national data collection systems, and the design of a data collection reference framework consistent with the GFCM objectives.

12. Some questions were raised regarding a possible support to the countries for the implementation of the sub-regional multiannual management plans as well as the participatory approach to be used to account for the views of fishermen. The Executive Secretary confirmed that the FWP was meant to assist the GFCM members, in particular those in the South Mediterranean and the Black Sea, as corroborated by WP05. The EU

stressed that sub-regional multiannual management plans were also aimed at fostering the building-up of a scientific basis for the sustainable management of fisheries in all GFCM member countries.

13. Finally, Mr Bernal briefly presented the regional workshop on sustainable artisanal fisheries for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (planned in September–October 2013 in Malta). He underlined the importance of this event, whose main objective would be to address recurrent issues in the small-scale fisheries sector in a comprehensive way through five thematic sessions. The five thematic sessions of the workshop, were introduced, namely: i) Current situation of artisanal fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, strategy and methodologies for effective monitoring, ii) Strategies for the co-management of artisanal fisheries, iii) Integration of artisanal fisheries within marine protected areas (MPAs), iv) Enhancing the artisanal fisheries value chain and v) Providing support and education for the establishment of a regional platform for artisanal fishermen. A tentative list of potential partners interested to co-sponsor the event was also shown.

14. In the ensuing discussions, several issues were addressed, such as: the focus not only on artisanal but also on recreational fisheries, the integration and/or management of artisanal fisheries within MPAs and the importance of sharing experiences among fishermen, the importance of the environmental effects of artisanal fisheries in the coastal zones, interactions with sea turtles, cetaceans and monk seals, and the need for mitigation measures.

15. It was proposed that one potential output of this workshop could be the establishment of a first project on artisanal fisheries for the whole region. Consequently, interested organizations, participants and stakeholders were strongly encouraged to contact the GFCM Secretariat by e-mail in order to examine modalities for their involvement in the workshop.

16. It was highlighted that the organization of the workshop could build momentum from the ongoing FAO initiative on small-scale fisheries – a technical consultation to debate about the adoption of the "FAO International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries" was foreseen on 20–24 May 2013. Hence, interested parties present at the meeting were invited to participate. The outcomes of this technical consultation would be submitted to the next session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 2014 and could be informed by the conclusions and recommendations of the workshop.

OPENING AND ARRANGEMENTS OF THE SCSI MEETING

17. The thirteen session of the Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information (SCSI) of the SAC was held at FAO headquarters, Rome (Italy) from 18th to 20th February 2013. The meeting was attended by experts from nine Member countries (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey) as well as by representatives from the European Commission (EC), the GFCM Secretariat, the FAO and the FAO Regional Project EastMed. The representative of EC expressed disappointment about the lack of attendance by experts from most of the EU Member States although their participation had been strongly encouraged due to its importance.

18. The SCSI Coordinator, Mr Joël Vigneau, opened the meeting, welcomed participants and introduced the agenda. It was agreed that the GFCM Secretariat would act as rapporteur. The agenda was reviewed by adding an item under "other matters" on FIRMS project (presented by Mr Marc Taconet from FAO) and consequently adopted as reproduced in

Appendix I.

19. Mr Federico De Rossi (GFCM Secretariat) briefly introduced to SCSI the Sub-Committee instruments provided by the Secretariat on SharePoint to facilitate the exchange of documentation and information among participant experts.

OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION OF DATA COLLECTION, SUBMISSION AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

20. The Coordinator introduced this agenda item giving the floor to the national experts from Egypt, Lebanon and Montenegro, who delivered their presentation on the updates on the development of national data collection and statistical systems.

UPDATES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION AND STATISTICAL SYSTEMS

Lebanon

21. Mr Samir Majdalani, expert from Lebanon, focused his presentation on the web-based fishing licensing system in Lebanon. Currently, fishing and other related licenses are hand filled with carbon copies kept for Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) records. The MOA licensing system has not been computerized and it is difficult to trace records and draw meaningful statistics. It is expected that a new web-supported licensing System Database (MOA LSDB) will increase the effectiveness of current administrative procedures (benefitting MOA, fishermen, and other stakeholders) and, in parallel, assist MOA to fulfil its statistical commitments at national, regional, and international levels. EastMed adopted the idea and commissioned a consultant to conceptualize the system. Furthermore, EastMed will finance software development and hardware procurement. Bidding documents and detailed terms of reference on objectives and deliverables were developed by the consultant. A local Lebanese company (Syncworx) won the bid and is working on developing the software. Since it will be cumbersome for MOA staff to operate a bilingual system, it was decided to develop it in Arabic only. An online presentation of the software was made. It was explained that there were still some bugs to be fixed and that it was expected to be running by the end of March. Some of the problems encountered were mentioned, such as for example the unavailability of telephone lines and internet at several MOA outposts. Furthermore, it was advised to work with a good-sized software-developing firm, since working with a small firm might result in undue delays. It is hoped that this system will be the corner stone of a web-based fisheries information system, e.g. vessel register, socio-economic surveys and catch assessment.

Montenegro

22. Mr Denis Frljučkić, expert from Montenegro, provided participants with an overview of the fishery sector and fisheries information systems in Montenegro. Between 2010 and 2012, through the IPA 2009 “Sustainable management on marine fishery” financed by the EU, Montenegro has developed a couple of sub-systems for data collection on fisheries: monthly reports for vessels up to 10 m LOA, common alarm system, common user management system, application for the vessel monitoring System, application for the GFCM Task 1 report was developed through the MEDFISIS project. By the end of 2014, Montenegro plans to implement the application for electronic logbook, sales notes and application for sampling data and biological data. In addition, Montenegro will deliver,

by the end of this year, the first GFCM Task 1 report directly from the Fisheries Information System to the GFCM secretariat. It was remarked that all sub-systems were still in a testing phase and that they should be fully operating by the end of the year.

Egypt

23. Mr Atif Salah, from GAFRD, Egypt, gave an overview of the progress made in the implementation of a catch/effort monitoring system in Egypt, within the framework of the FAO Regional Project EastMed. In 2011, Egypt started working on a pilot statistical monitoring programme for the Egyptian Mediterranean fisheries. Significant efforts were deployed to enable the Samac referential data to comply as much as possible with the GFCM standards and data compliance requirements. In 2012, the EastMed project set up a decentralized computer system (Samac.Net) for the regular handling of catch and effort samples and the production of estimates for the pilot area. Data operators at GAFRD and at the designated outposts were trained on its use. At the end of each month, all outposts submit to the Samac administrator their data for integration into a single database and for the production of estimates at national level. The set of Samac.Net workbooks provides a source of monthly statistical reports involving system referential data, catch/effort estimates, tables and graphs and statistical diagnostics on the accuracy of sampling operations. As a next step, the country will use Samac.web. This should provide four different levels of accessibility, namely: login as Samac administrator, login as data supervisor and/or operator, login as privileged user, public user – no login.

OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION OF DATA/INFORMATION SUBMITTED AND PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE INTERNAL ASSESSMENT OF MEMBERS DATA COMPLIANCE

24. Mr De Rossi reported on the current status of data submission and on the preliminary results of the internal assessment of Members' data compliance. In this respect, he recalled that the evaluation of Members' compliance with GFCM data requirements, based on the current data available in the GFCM databases, was instrumental to achieve the general objective of the actions to strengthen data collection and submission frameworks organized within the framework of the first phase of activities of the GFCM Framework Programme (FWP).

25. Participants were reminded about the current GFCM data collection framework, composed of the following nine main components (in alphabetical order): aquaculture (SIPAM); dolphinfish fisheries; illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) vessel list; ports state measures; red coral; STATLANT 37A; Task 1 operational units (economic data, fishing activities, resources targeted, catch and effort, biological data); vessel records (fleet and fishing capacity); and vessel monitoring system (VMS). With the exception of STATLANT 37A, which is an FAO commitment, all of these components derive from GFCM binding recommendations, implying obligations for GFCM Member countries to submit data according to information requirements, formats and protocols laid down in such decisions.

26. The presentation went on underlining that, although three different protocols were made available by the Secretariat for data submission (csv, Excel, XML), information was also sent in other formats (e.g., fax, email, pdf, etc.) thus implying additional efforts in processing data with the risk of precluding their consistency. Mr De Rossi took the opportunity to reiterate the availability of the Secretariat to clarify all the issues related to data and information that participants experts may raise.

27. The preliminary results of the internal assessment highlighted the problem of compliance, an issue still to be solved. The draft figures of this assessment (appendix III and IV) pointed out that there was a clear weakness of data submission. SCSI expressed its great concern about the general situation of submissions and stressed that this lack of compliance undermined the use of regional information as a basis for sound fisheries advice. In this respect, Mr Abdellah Srour, GFCM Executive secretary, informed participants that the Secretariat was already tackling the issue of compliance through the official channels by the finalization of a letter to be sent to national authorities with the aim of making them aware of their (lack of) compliance (where it exists) with GFCM requirements of data and information.

28. The presentation went on with vessel records (Resolution GFCM/35/2011/1) which combine four of the GFCM fishing vessel-related data submissions. SCSI was informed that the process of merging the four existing databases related to fleet into a unique database had been successfully concluded by the Secretariat and that the database was therefore ready to store vessels information according to the different requirements (fleet register, authorized vessel list, fisheries restricted area in the Gulf of Lyons and minimum mesh size). Mr De Rossi stressed the importance of submitting and keeping updated the information collected through the vessel records, given that it was an indicator of the active capacity of the regional fleet and also the prerequisite for the establishment of a vessel monitoring system in the GFCM area.

29. The SCSI decided to proceed to a review of the obstacles faced by the countries represented in the meeting in order to understand better the possible reasons for non-transmission of data to the Secretariat. It was therefore decided to proceed to a review of the main bottlenecks with SCSI participants. The result of were the following:

- **Morocco** is one of the few countries having transmitted a fleet register dataset to the Secretariat in 2012 (although not all the compulsory information was submitted in compliance with the related GFCM decisions). The fleet register reflects the license database, since every fishing vessel needs to purchase an annual license delivered by the Ministère des pêches.

- Three countries (**Algeria**, **Egypt and Turkey**) have an ongoing fleet register updated yearly. The non-submission of the data to GFCM seems to be due to communication than rather technical issues. The SCSI recommended the GFCM Secretariat to send a reminder to all countries concerning their obligations in terms of data submission.

    - **Algeria** has a licensing system where each fishing vessel must apply for a renewed fishing right annually. The fleet register initiated in 2010 reflects the fishing license dataset. Moreover, the administration in each port records the entry/exit of the harbor for all vessels, hence the activity rate of each vessel is also known.

    - **Egypt** has designed a vessel information spreadsheet according to GFCM requirements. All Mediterranean harbors are covered and updated annually (see also presentation delivered by Mr Salah as summarized in par. 26).

    - **Turkey** has submitted a dataset in 2011. The national fleet register is updated annually.

- **Albania** submitted a dataset in 2011 to the Secretariat. A fleet register is currently in place for the entire fleet and an improvement of the national system has already been planned, with the support of the AdriaMed project. The improvement will allow the

system to cope with the requirements of the new Albanian regulation on fishing licences

- **Tunisia** submitted a dataset in 2011 for vessels over 15m only. Some difficulties are faced for record information of smaller vessels. Tunisia will update the information on larger vessels (>15m) in the coming months. Tunisia is seeking financial support for data collection on artisanal fisheries.

- **Montenegro** is about to use its newly developed application (see also presentation delivered by Mr Frljučkić as reported in par. 25). It is planned that the updated fleet register be submitted in the coming weeks.

- **Lebanon** has carried out the last census of its fishing fleet in 2004 with the support of the MedFisis project. The country has a licensing system which is not representative of the whole fleet and cannot undertake a full census at regular intervals. The web-based licensing system under development (see par. 25 on the presentation delivered by Mr Majdalani) will help resolve partially the issue. Moreover, in the Lebanese law, a vessel having no license is not considered delinquent until it is controlled undertaking a fishing operation.

- **The EU countries** all have a fleet register in place, in accordance with the EU regulations. The national fleet registers are updated quarterly and sent to the EU where this information is made publicly available[1]. The EU representative made a presentation of the fleet register website and the possibilities offered. The EU representative will also investigate on causes preventing the exchange of data between the EU Fleet Register and the GFCM Secretariat as agreed in 2008 (GFCM Fleet register meeting, May 2008).

30. The SCSI recalled the definition given by the recommendation GFCM/33/2009/5 (on the establishment of the GFCM Regional Fleet Register) that "all vessels, boats, ships, or other crafts that are equipped and used for commercial fishing activity in the GFCM Area". It was recommended that any specific case such as Lebanon being asked which vessels should be part of the fishing fleet register should be discussed bilaterally between the country's representatives and the GFCM in light of the new GFCM-FWP.

31. A review of the progress in reporting Task 1 information was also undertaken. In general, the FAO Regional Projects are providing an appreciated support, and in some cases, experts expressed the need for additional support. Initiatives to improve the data collection situation were discussed and expected outcomes were illustrated. The situation per country, as expressed by the national experts, was exposed as follows:

- **Albania** is planning to move from a fisheries inspector-based data collection to a system based on a dedicated organization and team. The current situation is that logbooks are not collected on a routine basis; therefore the country is unable to fulfill its obligation for the moment. Technical assistance for data collection is foreseen within the framework of the AdriaMed project.

- In **Algeria**, the implementation of the Observatory of socio-economic statistics and national fisheries, in collaboration with the FAO/FIRF and subregional office in Tunis (SNEA), ended in June 2012. A range of actions have been performed within the project. In a first phase, three pilot ports were considered and a sampling methodology was implemented, taking into account all data on catch and fishing effort as well as socio-economic and biological information. Also, a series of trainings of personnel

[1] *EU Fleet Register on the Net application : http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/fleet/index.cfm*

responsible for data collection was organized at national and regional levels. With the completion of this technical cooperation programme (TCP), Algeria is asking the different sub-regional programmes of the GFCM, FAO and EU for financial support, especially from the logistics and technical point of view to develop the application on the web and scale up the operation to the 33 major ports. Eventually, this project is expected to ensure greater reliability of data and to respond more effectively to the demands stemming from various regional requirements such as Task1, Statlant 37A, forms of FAO data, etc.

- **Egypt** has developed a catch assessment survey and a dedicated socio-economic sampling programme, with the support of the EastMed project, which enables the country to deliver Task 1 information. Egypt recently submitted Task 1 information to GFCM: Task 1.1 complete, 1.2 and 1.3 partial, 1.4 and 1.5 missing. This is expected to be solved rapidly.
- **France** is collecting all information relevant to Task 1 using all possible channels (auction sales notes, declarative forms, catch assessment survey for the small scale fisheries, VMS) and is processing all this information to produce national statistics. The problem of submitting data to Task 1 is a formatting and priority problem, since the submission of the data for Task 1 occurs after this information has been used for stock assessment purposes. It is expected that the new framework programme will reconcile the different uses made of this information. The French representative informed also that IFREMER organized itself recently to better respond to all regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) needs for data and that this would also help in a more timely provision of data.
- In **Morocco,** the fisheries information system (FIS) is organized to collect fisheries information with three organizations. The Ministère de la Pêche is responsible for handling the fishing license database. Each year, every fishing vessel must purchase a fishing license in order to be authorized to fish. The Ministère will also launch a VMS project for vessels >15 m in March 2013. The Office National des Pêches (ONP) is responsible for the commercialization of fish, and thus records all landings and price at first sale, and also quantifies the activities and inactivity of the vessels. The institution has developed a public website to provide all information on statistics. The collection of biological information and processing all data for assessment purpose are among the tasks assigned given to the fisheries institute (INRH). The INRH has developed a FIS to manage its databases and incoming information from other FIS and from the administration, and responds to the requirements of Task 1. The INRH FIS will be operational by the end of 2013 and a special effort will be made to provide before May 2013 Task 1 information for reference years 2010 and 2011. A problem remains for socio-economic data which require a dedicated survey, the last one having been undertaken in 2008. The question of the periodicity of socio-economic data collection is pending.
- **Montenegro** is expected to deliver Task 1 information in the short term thanks to the newly developed application (see presentation delivered by Mr Frljučkić in par. 25).
- **Tunisia** has sent Task 1 information for the reference year 2011. The country faces a challenge to collect data on artisanal fisheries and has undertaken a pilot study on different landing sites. The country is seeking financial support to finalize the outcomes and expand the data collection to all landing sites. The SCSI recommended that Tunisia seek support within the new GFCM framework programme under the specific artisanal fisheries work programme.

- A FIS is in place in **Turkey,** but submitting the information for Task 1 is challenging because data collection is performed by several institutions and some technical issues are still pending. For example, data for Task 1.4 and 1.5 can be compiled for some pelagic and demersal species such as anchovies (purse seiners), sprat (mid-water trawl), turbot and whiting (bottom trawl) but it is not possible to compile data for most of the demersal species because the link is missing between species caught and fishing gear. Work to resolve these issues is in progress.

32. From the state of the art provided by participants present to the meeting, the SCSI recommended that the periodicity of socio-economic data be discussed within the new GFCM Framework Programme. SCSI also recommended that the optional/mandatory criteria of the fleet register fields should be reviewed to ease countries in fulfilling their requirements.

CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF DATABASES AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGED BY THE GFCM SECRETARIAT

Brief overview of the new GFCM website

33. Mr De Rossi briefly presented the prototype of the new GFCM website, which should be officially launched before summer 2013. The overview focused on the new functionalities in terms of data and information dissemination such as the "GFCM Vessel records statistical summary" through which it will be possible display statistics of regional fleets upon proper submission of the related information by the Members.

34. The SCSI welcomed this initiative from the Secretariat, which would surely contribute, to the enhancement of data and information accessibility for web users.

Improvements of communication and IT tools - Delivering modern online services to Members

35. Mr Roberto Emma, from the GFCM Secretariat, performed a detailed presentation regarding the latest developments in terms of GFCM IT Strategy, focusing on the permanent cloud-based IT architecture that the GFCM is establishing based on Microsoft SharePoint Online and Windows Azure. The synergic characteristics of these two pillars has allowed the set-up of an integrated GFCM-wide extranet delivering a system of tools and thematic portals that will considerably facilitate compliance, information and data flow between Members and the Secretariat as well as knowledge management and daily communication activities among Members.

36. Mr Emma provided a quick overview of the different sections in progress or already in place which have increasingly facilitated several aspects:

    - Starting from November 2012, the activities of the Expert Groups on Stock Assessment have been facilitated by the development of a permanent workspace on SharePoint allowing for cooperative activities for the compilation and validation of stock assessment forms. The documents produced have been then automatically classified according to previously identified parameters that the system can extract from a specific template specifically developed for this purpose. This management paradigm is prone to evolve and deliver streamlined procedures to export and disseminate metadata and information in accordance with Members' decisions. It has also been noted that other organizations, such as ICES, are moving towards similar approaches leveraging SharePoint and related technologies provided by Microsoft;

- The management of information and tasks within the GFCM Framework Programme, with particular respect to "actions to strengthen data collection and submission frameworks". In this context, several features and services have been developed and are being progressively put at disposal of the National Focal Points (NFP) in order to facilitate technical follow-up with the Secretariat, successfully streamline the implementation of data submission requirements and support Members' technical capacity-building. These include dedicated communication means such as technical forums and a mailbox for each NFP hosted on SharePoint, to be used for the tasks pertaining to their mandate, as well as online documentation currently structured as wikis;
- The Secretariat private portal, which is becoming the main instrument for the Secretariat to coordinate a large amount of activities carried out by the GFCM;
- In order to ease access to general information, publicly available sections, in addition to the secure areas, are being constructed. This will allow, inter alia, transforming the GFCM e-Compendium into an online wiki provided with full-text search engine. Likewise, the e-Glossary is planned to be incorporated into this platform.

37. It was pointed out that the contents displayed in the portals were currently intended to be available solely in English, while actions to make some user interface elements available in other languages were being addressed.

38. The SCSI welcomed with interest these new developments and expressed the wish to have adequate training in due course in order to properly exploit the potentialities of such SharePoint facilities. Participants also suggested the preparation of a leaflet and a manual to support the learning process.

39. Windows Azure was then introduced and described, focusing on its complementary role of cloud-based hosting platform for the information systems developed within the GFCM. Its integration with SharePoint and compatibility with the newly established user access management was stressed.

40. Particular attention was paid to the sustainability, cost-efficiency and scalability of such approach, providing room for future expansion while avoiding costly implications that usually affect the re-engineering process of classic server-farm oriented solutions. Furthermore, a general reflexion had been addressed on security matters that pinpointed the quality of the system, allowing a granular management of access policies, in compliance with Resolution GFCM/35/2011/1 on data confidentiality policy and procedures.

41. Mr Emma concluded mentioning that the Secretariat was currently considering the Azure as an ideal platform to host in the mid-term possible GIS-enabled systems.

CURRENT PROGRESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GFCM VESSEL RECORDS INFORMATION SYSTEM

42. Mr Emma went on by exposing the current development of the GFCM Vessel Records Information System. Background information regarding the Resolution GFCM 35/2011/1 were provided, along with a description of the data merging process carried out by the Secretariat, which led to the merging of legacy datasets originated by the four former data submissions on fleet data. Detailed information was provided on the functional objectives that guided the system design:

- Immediate, online access to raw data
- Inspection of vessel-specific historical information
- Provision of statistics on fleet composition
- Means to facilitate secure data submission

43. Some aspects of the IT architecture, providing for cost-effectiveness and high-availability, were also highlighted as well as system characteristics tightly adhering to the Resolution GFCM/35/2011/1 on data confidentiality policy and procedures.

44. The discussion moved on to the development roadmap, now focusing on the completion of the web frontend allowing fleet data queries along with the integration in the data compliance portal on the GFCM SharePoint. In this regard, the functionalities offered to show live graphical representations of fleet data extracted from the vessel records database were illustrated.

45. SCSI expressed it appreciation of the work done by the GFCM secretariat and acknowledged that ongoing work would facilitate the accessibility and security of vessels information, in line with previous SCSI recommendations (SCSI 2011 and 2012).

COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE FAO GLOBAL RECORD AND THE GFCM

46. Mr De Rossi informed participants about the appreciation expressed by the Commission during its thirty-sixth session (Morocco, 2012) regarding the collaboration proposed by FAO on ta global record (GR), one of the tools created to fight IUU fishing and endorsed by Committee on Fisheries of FAO (COFI). It was reminded that the "Global Record of fishing vessels, refrigerated transport vessels and supply vessels" was not a fleet register but a global repository (database) designed primarily to provide reliable identification of vessels through a unique vessel identifier (UVI) that vessels would acquire from an international numbering system by submitting a small data set designed to accurately identify the vessel (IHS-Fairplay).

47. Mr John Fitzpatrick, FAO consultant for the global record, was invited to deliver a presentation on the status of this important FAO initiative. He briefly summarized the recent history recalling the Torremolinos Convention (1977), the protocol to this convention (1993), the second joint FAO / International Maritime Organization (IMO) ad hoc Working Group on IUU Fishing and Related Matters (2007) as well as the Cape Town Agreement (2012). With regard to the UVI, following the acceptance of this agreement at the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the question of allocating the IMO number to fishing vessels of 24m in length and over will be raised at the next session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Stability, Load Lines and on Fishing Vessels Safety (SLF) and again at the Sub-Committee on Flag State Implementation (FSI) scheduled for 4–8 March 2013. In particular, the IMO ship numbering scheme would be addressed at SLF and consideration might be given to remove the exemption for fishing vessels in order to include them in the scheme. The outcomes of both Sub-Committees would be reported to the ninety-second session of the Maritime Safety Committee in June 2013 and, thereafter, the matter might be brought to the attention of the twenty-eighth session of the IMO Assembly (25 November – 4 December 2013). FAO would press for the allocation of IMO numbers to fishing vessels of 100 GT and above.

48. Mr Fitzpatrick went on by underlining that, irrespective of the IMO number, and when the Cape Town Agreement to the Torremolinos Protocol would enter into force, fishing

vessels covered by the Agreement would be subject to Port State control. With regard to the global record, the UVI is generally a critical component and the IMO numbering scheme would suffice for the larger fishing vessels; of course, it already exists for refrigerated transport vessels of 300 GT and above. FAO has set a target for the first phase of the global record at fishing vessels of 100 GT, while the second phase could probably target smaller fishing vessels with lengths of 18 or 15 m.

49. Mr Fitzpatrick concluded by informing the SCSI that FAO would continue with its programme to promote the global record and assist fisheries administrations, mainly on a regional basis, to prepare for their participation in a global record of fishing vessels, with particular reference to vessel registers and the UVI. FAO will also continue to cooperate with the European Commission on fleet registries as well as with the GFCM.

ACTIVITIES UNDER THE FIRST GFCM FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME: UPDATES ON THE ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION AND STATISTICAL SYSTEMS

50. Mr Paolo Carpentieri, GFCM consultant, delivered a presentation on the activities of data collection under the "Strategic framework to support the objectives of the GFCM (FWP 2013-2018)". He recalled that within the FWP, five work programmes or work packages (WP) were foreseen: four thematic WP and one geographical WP with related actions and activities – Governance (WP01), Data collection (WP02), Aquaculture (WP03), Artisanal fisheries (WP04), Cooperation (WP05).

51. The main outcomes of the work package 2 (data collection) will be a more efficient data collection programme at a sub-regional level and a better integration between data collection and the implementation of sub-regional multiannual management plans. Under the general supervision of the GFCM Executive Secretary, a series of coordinated actions on strengthening the GFCM framework for the collection and processing of data on fisheries are expected. In particular an assessment of data compliance, databases and data transmission protocols (internal assessment) will be performed as well as an assessment of national data collection systems including compliance, collection process, processing, submission process and quality assessment (external assessment).

52. The internal assessment will be performed through a critical assessment of current fisheries databases and transmission protocols at the GFCM Secretariat, taking into consideration, in particular, the overall context of Task 1 data submission framework. Under this internal assessment the following aspects will be evaluated:

    - adequacy of current databases;
    - data submission protocols provided by the Secretariat;
    - GFCM Members' compliance with all GFCM data requirements;
    - possible modification or improvement of the GFCM requirements;
    - identification of possible reasons for non-compliance.

53. The external assessment, in collaboration with the National Focal Points appointed for this specific project, will assess the different national data programmes and identify possible gaps or mechanisms to be improved. As a first step, the National Focal Points where approached in the different countries and for the time being, 20 out of 23 Members have identified their National Focal Points. They will be the direct contact for the GFCM Secretariat. The assessment will be carried out using a consultative approach with the

National Focal points and will be facilitated through a questionnaire.

54. The data collection questionnaire intends to collect minimum standard information for a better knowledge on the status and implementation of data collection programmes in the Mediterranean countries and provide a basis for the formulation of a future regional collaborative programme on fisheries. This questionnaire was released in two versions: one read-only document, to be considered only as a reference for the National Focal Points, and one on line version. The instrument to be used to transmit all the requested information is the online form been provided by the GFCM Secretariat: it is the only one that Focal Points should use to submit their answers. The online questionnaire is divided in seven independent sections:

    A - Fishery data collection structure

    B - General fishery information and data collection system

    B1 - Effort and landing data

    B2 - Biological data and assessment

    B3 - Economic and social data

    C - Fleet monitoring

    D - Compatibility between national data collection programs and GFCM requirements

55. The structure includes a sequential pathway, starting with Section A from the understanding on the "Institutional framework" and "Regional involvement" of each country. Section B and C are more strictly focused on the different typologies of data collection systems (if any), activities/surveys carried out and information about data requirements (what data are being collected?) and "How data are being collected". A clear description of existing fishery data and information collection systems, if available, will certainly help this process. The last section (Section D) will serve to compare the compliance of data collection in each country with the fishery data and information collection system requested by GFCM (i.e. Task 1, IUU fishing, Red coral, vessel records) in order to identify gaps in monitoring and, crucially, identify possible reasons for these lacks.

56. National Focal Points can fill in and submit each section separately. Answers will be analysed and the results will serve to propose possible modifications and/or improvements to GFCM requirements.

57. This analysis aims at establishing minimum standards for data collection in each sub-region (e.g. catch composition, effort data, capacity, fishing activity, etc.). Another objective of the analysis is to identify: This analysis aims also to identify: i) which stocks and which biological information should be associated and prioritized; ii) the economic variables to be collected; iii) a screening of at sea surveys in the sub-region checking their level of compatibility and a possible way for standardization

58. The information gathered shall be for the exclusive use of the GFCM Secretariat, and will enable to analyse the strengths and needs of national data collection systems, with a view to facilitating actions aimed at strengthening data collection and data submission in the GFCM area. It is planned to present the results of both the external and internal assessment during the "Workshop on data collection system in the Mediterranean Sea" (Malaga, 4–8 March, 2013) and, in this respect, it will be very important to receive the answers by 22 February 2013 at the latest.

59. SCSI recommended that countries without a National Focal Point nominated by their

national authorities should arrange with the SCSI focal point to fill the online questionnaire.

GFCM DATA COLLECTION REFERENCE FRAMEWORK (DCRF)

60. Attention of participants was briefly called to the presentation on the new GFCM data collection reference framework (DCRF) which was delivered during the transversal session. An external consultant was engaged to work on this important issue within the "actions to strengthen data collection and submission frameworks" under the GFCM-FWP. In this respect, the first draft document, sent shortly before the SC meetings, includes: 1) a preliminary review of current GFCM requirements, 2) a review of data collection framework implemented in other RFMOs and finally, 3) a first proposed structure of a hypothetical GFCM-DCRF (nominal catches, fishing vessel statistics, catch and effort data, size-frequency and socio-economic data). The final proposal, which should also address other important issues such as timeliness and integration with other GFCM data requirement (other than Task 1 and Vessel records), would be submitted for discussion and possible further implementation at the upcoming sub-regional meetings on data collection, SAC, Task Force and Commission sessions.

PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM

61. Mr De Rossi briefly informed participants about the outcomes of the sixth session of the Compliance Committee (CoC) (Morocco, May 2012) concerning the implementation of vessel monitoring system (VMS) in the GFCM area. It was recalled at this meeting that the Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/7 on VMS had already entered into force, although it provided for a phased implementation. The Compliance Committee took note of the concerns of some delegations regarding its implementation and agreed therefore that the possibility to postpone the final deadline for its implementation by 12 months would be examined by the Commission at its next ordinary or extraordinary session.

62. The SCSI was informed that during the CoC meeting, a presentation on "Technical aspects implementing a VMS cooperation programme" was delivered by Mr Laurent Dezamy, invited expert on VMS, and the "Guidelines for a technical cooperation programme in the monitoring of fishing vessels in the GFCM Area of competence" (document GFCM:XXXVI/2012/Inf.12) were introduced as well. Mr De Rossi recapped the main concepts of these guidelines, which were formulated by an expert group convened by the GFCM in April 2012.

63. Moreover, it was mentioned that the CoC meeting had acknowledged the need to implement first VMS at national level in all GFCM Members, a step that would facilitate the establishment of a regional VMS system in the GFCM competence area. In this respect, the SCSI was informed that the Secretariat was undertaking the necessary actions to support the discussion on this topic including the analysis of the status of the implementation of VMS in each country.

64. Mr Marc Taconet, FAO officer and FIRMS Secretary, informed the SCSI about the international iMarine initiative2, chaired by the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, under which several actions were taking place, including the setting up of web-based data infrastructure capacities to format and process of VMS-related data for

[2] *http://www.i-marine.eu*

scientific exploitation. Participants were also invited to visit the Vessel Transmitted Information (VTI) webpage3.

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ON THE MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA REGIONAL DATABASE (EU-RCM MED&BS)

65. Mr De Rossi introduced the regional database created under the EU DCF (EU Reg. 199/2008). He informed the SCSI that the Secretariat had been invited to attend the EU Regional Coordination Meeting for the Mediterranean and Black Sea (EU-RCM MED&BS, July 2012, Madrid) and the Steering Committee (SC) of EU-RCM MED&BS (December 2012, Italy). During these meetings, the GFCM was approached to evaluate the possibility of hosting the Mediterranean and Black Sea regional database (Med&BS-RDB). The scope of the regional database (RDB) is to host data collected from EU Member States under the DCF. The Regional Coordination Meeting for the Mediterranean and Black Sea (RCMMed&BS) will be responsible for contents governance of the Med&BS-RDB and for indicating priority areas for development, reports and data requirement. A steering committee (SC) should be responsible for strategic planning, operational and technical issues and also for providing regular feedback to the RCMMed&BS.

66. It was recalled that the Steering Committee and the RCMMed&BS proposed that GFCM could host the Mediterranean and Black Sea Regional Database (Med&BS-RDB). GFCM is the body covering regional needs and it has a wide experience in maintaining international databases. GFCM was approached during the 2012 meetings and was asked whether it would be willing to host the Med&BS-RDB. GFCM has positively answered, as long as costs and practical issues could be clearly defined (both internally and with the European Commission). Several costs related to maintenance (hardware, upgrades etc.), support to users, management and further development of the database should be investigated. Moreover, it will be necessary to elaborate a detailed cost estimate and to obtain approval from the EC on these costs. This point will be further discussed when information about data, users, location, etc. will be more complete.

67. The RDB Steering Committee, at its 2012 meeting (November 2012), agreed that Med&BS-RDB should constitute, as a first step, a repository of biological and transversal data, allowing for a regional analysis of available data and a sampling coverage at a temporal and spatial scale. Concerning surveys data, the Steering Committee evaluated two possibilities: to incorporate both surveys databases (under development) in the future Med&BS-RDB; or to maintain each database separately and include a ink into the Med&BS-RDB once the surveys databases with their corresponding web site would be ready.. The Steering Committee agreed to wait for the outputs of the 2013 surveys working group to further discuss the issue of surveys databases. It should be underlined that all the discussion and the proposals made by the Steering Committee need to be examined and agreed by the National Correspondents (NC), by the RCMMed&BS and by the EC.

ANY OTHER MATTER

68. Mr Taconet () delivered a presentation on the Fishery and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) which addressed the following topics: what is FIRMS and what were its

[3] *http://www.i-marine.eu/Content/iMarineApplications.aspx?id=64813494-2c8e-4b7f-a68a-29f64028fb46*

triggers; history of GFCM information contribution to the partnership in terms of inventories (now 122 stocks inventoried) and published stock status reports (now 38); classic products disseminated (stock status reports and state and trends summaries); new and emerging information products (management, socio-economic information, thematic and regional pages). He concluded with a review of the perceived value of FIRMS that should be assessed against the investment required by partners for contributing their information.

69. One of these benefits is the dissemination through the GFCM website of the GFCM-FIRMS stock fact sheets: a comprehensive and harmonized format in which information on the status of Mediterranean stocks is provided by the GFCM Secretariat. It was highlighted that FIRMS presence in the GFCM website could be emphasized in order to facilitate the consultation of this important information by users.

70. A short discussion followed during which the expert from Egypt acknowledged the work done and recognized its value and the utility for GFCM. Some doubts about the reference and the reporting year shown in the web page were clarified and it was mentioned that the reporting year would soon replace the reference year after a recent decision from FIRMS FSC8, and this would immediately result in more recent years displayed. Mr Taconet also highlighted the fact that GFCM contribution experienced some delay recently, probably due to increasing official commitments of the GFCM Secretariat, which resulted in a change of priority level assigned to the FIRMS process. The benefits of showing the state of marine resources more prominently on the GFCM website, with up-to-date information, were recognized by the participants.

71. The chairperson stressed the need to automate the process of data contribution, which would facilitate the exchanges and guarantee most updated information. Mr Taconet briefly described the ongoing experience of ICES in streamlining through new SharePoint capacities its information contribution to FIRMS, and reported that this experience shared at the last FIRMS FSC8 meeting was of great relevance to the GFCM situation. This forum and platform for the exchange of expertise was another benefit of the FIRMS partnership.

72. To conclude the discussion, the Chairperson invited other colleagues to visit the FIRMS website[4] and expressed his particular appreciation of the definition of "Fisheries" within the FIRMS framework which, according to his idea, was comprehensive and well designed.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

73. The SCSI drew up and agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations:

- Reiteration on the need to strengthen the compliance of members towards the data and information submission obligations as the current status undermines the use of regional information as basis for sound fisheries advices;
- Proposal of a reminder submitted by the Secretariat to members concerning their obligations in terms of data submission with particular emphasis to fleet information;
- Suggestion that member countries without a National Focal Point for the actions on data collection and management plans recently launched within the GFCM FWP should approach the SCSI focal point in order to complete the online "GFCM

[4] *http://firms.fao.org/firms/en*

questionnaire on national fishery data collection systems (Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries)";

- Reiteration of the proposal to streamline the fleet data submission from EU members to the Secretariat, possibly leveraging the online EU fleet register system;
- In line with established practices in the GFCM FWP, suggestion to carry out bilateral discussions between the countries' representatives and the Secretariat, in order to address specificities preventing the submission of fleet information as well as topics related to artisanal fisheries and not addressed through the ongoing "actions to strengthen data collection and submission frameworks";
- In line with the new data collection reference framework (DCRF) being formulated within the GFCM, suggestion to review the periodicity of socio-economic data currently collected under Task 1.3 as well as identification of those fields in the GFCM vessel records defined as mandatory;
- Proposal of actions aimed at enabling end-users to properly exploit the full potentialities of the SharePoint facilities newly established by the Secretariat, including the preparation of a leaflet and a manual.

2013 SCSI WORK PLAN

74. In 2012, the SCSI has planned a transversal workshop to finalize the new Task 1 & 2 data submission framework and define a plan of action for improving member countries capacity to collect and submit relevant data. The workshop was meant to: i) define a plan of action to improve member countries' capacity to collect and submit relevant data; ii) review work done by the consultants and agree upon the final structure and definitions of Task 1 and 2. The Workshop could not take place because of the initiative foreseen within the new GFCM framework programme and under which a data collection reference framework (DCRF) is under development. Although no information was available on the details of the DCRF and acknowledging that SAC and GFCM would elaborate and agree further upon the GFCM framework and DCRF, the SCSI expressed the need to propose a technical workshop with renewed terms of references as follows

- Provide an explanation of the DCRF details to all the countries to approach the new concepts;
- Identify actions to address, if needed, the remaining work to be done in order to comply with the DCRF;
- Develop agreed protocols for data collection and submission of data within the DCRF;

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

75. Date of the meeting will be confirmed in the future.

NOMINATION OF SCSI COORDINATOR

76. Mr Alaa Eldin El-Haweet was unanimously elected SCSI coordinator for a period of two years. Participants also warmly thanked Mr Vigneau for his great efforts in coordinating the SCSI for the last five years.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

77. The report was unanimously adopted on 20 February 2013, at 18:26.

Appendix I

Agenda

1. General transversal session
   1.1. Opening and arrangement of the meetings
   1.2. Introduction of on-going activities under the 1st phase of the GFCM Framework Programme (FWP)
2. Introduction to the SCSI meeting
   2.1. Introduction of participants
   2.2. Designation of the rapporteur(s)
   2.3. Adoption of the agenda
3. Overview of the current situation of data collection, submission and information systems
   3.1. Updates on the development of national data collection and statistical systems
   3.2. Data submission by Members - Overview of the current situation of data and information submitted and preliminary results of the internal assessment of Members data compliance
   3.3. Initiatives in the field of fisheries statistics compliant with GFCM requirements
   3.4. Current status and future development of databases and information systems managed by the GFCM Secretariat, including features and functionalities of the new GFCM website related to the dissemination of data and information
4. Regional fleet register in the GFCM area of competence
   4.1. Current progress on the development of the GFCM Vessel Records Information System
   Collaboration between the FAO Global Record and the GFCM
5. Discussion on the activities under the 1st GFCM Framework Programme relevant to the subcommittee
   5.1. Updates on the analysis of national data collection and statistical systems
   Review and recommendations on the draft proposal for a GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF)
   5.2. Progress on the implementation of Vessel Monitoring System (Guidelines for a technical cooperation programme in the monitoring of fishing vessels in the GFCM Area of competence)
   5.3. Preliminary information on the Mediterranean & Black Sea Regional Database (EU-RCM Med&BS)
6. Any other matter (presentation on "The Fishery [and] Resources Monitoring System")
7. 2013 SCSI work plan
8. Nomination of SCSI Coordinator
9. Date and venue of next session
10. General conclusions and recommendations
11. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting

Appendix II

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Appendix III

Most recent submission of data on vessels

(Status as at 18/02/2013)

MEMBERS	Vessel Records (VRs*) *Res. GFCM/35/2011/1*	Regional Fleet Register (RFR) *Rec. GFCM/33/2009/5*	Authorized Vessel List (AVL) *Rec. GFCM/33/2009/6*	Fisheries Restricted Area (FRA) *Rec. GFCM/33/2009/1*	Minimum Mesh Size (MMS) *Rec. GFCM/33/2009/2*
Albania	-	28/12/2011	28/01/2009	-	-
Algeria	-	-	27/01/2008	-	-
Bulgaria	13/12/2012	14/04/2011	27/01/2011	-	-
Croatia	-	-	22/10/2007	-	-
Cyprus	-	-	16/10/2008	-	-
Egypt	-	-	08/04/2008	-	-
France	-	-	29/07/2008	05/07/2011	02/03/2010
Greece	08/02/2013	14/04/2011	30/11/2012	-	-
Israel	-	-	-	-	-
Italy	-	-	22/01/2010	-	22/02/2010
Japan	-	-	11/12/2012	-	-
Lebanon	-	-	09/06/2008	-	-
Libya	-	-	16/01/2007	-	-
Malta	-	14/04/2011	10/07/2007	-	-
Monaco	-	-	02/09/2008	-	-
Montenegro	-	-	-	-	-
Morocco	-	15/05/2012	03/05/2012	-	-
Romania	-	14/04/2011	-	-	-
Slovenia	16/05/2012	17/08/2011	22/02/2008	-	-
Spain	-	02/05/2011	14/07/2008	12/04/2010	-
Syrian Arab Republic	-	-	03/11/2008	-	-
Tunisia	-	-	04/05/2011	-	-
Turkey	-	05/05/2011	23/09/2009	-	18/12/2009

**RFR, AVL, MMS and FRA data submitted as a single dataset*

Appendix IV

Data submission by theme*

(Draft figures as preliminary results of the internal assessment)

THEME	SUBMISSION YEAR								
	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	TOT
Vessel Records	1	4							5
Fleet Register		1	10						11
AVL		5	14	5	2	22	9	17	74
FRA			1	2					3
MMS				2	1				3
Task 1	5	10	7	7	2	7			38
Fishing Capacity			7						7
Dolphin Fish		1	2	1	3				7
Registered Ports		1				2			3
TOTAL	6	22	41	17	8	31	9	17	151

The figure in each cell of the table is the cumulative number of submissions received by the Secretariat (therefore members double counting can occur)

Data transmission protocols

(Draft figures as preliminary results of the internal assessment)

Transmission protocols made available by the Secretariat*

THEME	Excel	CSV	XML
Vessel Records	x	x	x
Fleet Register	x	x	x
AVL	x	x	x
FRA	x	x	x
MMS	x	x	x
Task1		x	x
Dolphin Fish	x		

Data submission by transmission protocol

TRANSMISSION PROTOCOLS	
CSV	**10**
Email	**2**
Excel	**63**
Excel-GFCM	**45**
PDF	**13**
Word	**1**
XML	**17**

**specifications on codifications and structures for the above mentioned formats are made available on the GFCM website*