

# Workshop on the Data Collection Methods applied to all segments of the Fleet and their coherence with the requirements of the GFCM Task 1

FAO HQs, Rome (Italy), 29 Sept. – 1 Oct. 2010



GFCM - SCSI



## Background of the meeting

- Follow-up of GFCM recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3 on the implementation of GFCM Task 1 Statistical matrix, demanding that
  - Members and Cooperating non-members shall **submit** to the GFCM Secretary **the complete Task 1.1, Task 1.2 and Task 1.4** of the statistical matrix [...] for the first time **by February 2010** at the latest,
  - Members and Cooperating non-members shall **submit Task 1.3. and Task 1.5, by January 2011** at the latest,
- The objective of the workshop was to **review the difficulties encountered by Member Countries** when submitting the data on Task 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4 by the end of February 2010 ;
- At the moment of the meeting, **ten countries had submitted data for the reference year 2008** and displayed the information provided through various data processing and reporting features incorporated into the **TASK 1 regional GFCM - SCSI information system**

## Terms of reference

The workshop was attended by 35 experts from 16 GFCM contracting parties

The terms of references for the workshop were as follows:

- a) review the different methods 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 experiences from other countries in the same field and expertise from the sub-regional projects;
- d) agree on methods to address the problems raised;
- e) anticipate problems related to the submission of Task 1.3

GFCM - SCSI

## Review the different methods and data collection programmes in place within GFCM Member Countries;

- 15 GFCM Member Countries presented their data collection programmes, and the difficulties they encountered.
- The MedFisis project had a side-meeting with a group of countries interested in receiving support from the project to upgrade their fleet register and catch assessment systems (applications + methodology) to be able to comply with Task-1 requirements.
- It was acknowledged that although MedFisis could provide support in upgrading or implementing from scratch the CAS, it could only do so if the project is extended in 2011, funds permitting.
- The methods used by the various countries to collect data for Task 1 were all discussed for pros and cons, and also preconditions for the effectiveness of the methods.

GFCM - SCSI

## Exchange of experiences on the process going from the data collection to the submission to GFCM task 1

- The potential sources of information for the fulfilment of GFCM Task 1 obligations, discussed in the report are :
  - Fleet Register
  - Licences
  - Port control
  - Sales notes
  - VMS
  - Logbooks and other declarative forms
  - Fishermen organisation's books
  - Catch Assessment Surveys

GFCM - SCSI

## Is European DCF compatible with GFCM Task 1

In the **fleet segmentation**, the group recommended **the sub-committees to evaluate** the discrepancies, and **if the Tuna segment is confirmed as an issue**, to seek an arrangement with the European Union through its Mediterranean and Black Sea coordination forum (RCM) and STECF bodies, in order to include this fleet segment in its DCF obligations.

**The gear distinctions** (column of the Task 1 matrix) **are compatible with the metier description at level 4 of the EU DCF appendix IV, at the exception of 'Grappling and Wounding' and 'Harvesting machine' absent from the EU Regulation**. An evaluation of the importance of these two gears must be done at the GFCM level to see if it is worth calling for a modification of the EU DCF. In the mean time, the group wishes to call the attention of the SCSI on this issue for further consideration.

GFCM - SCSI

## Conclusions and recommendations

- **Working strategies**
- GFCM Members to officially nominate a National Correspondent for all issues regarding data and information submissions, including contact details. **Deadline and role of these correspondents to be discussed during the forthcoming SCSI meeting.**
- National experts to inform the GFCM Secretariat on the difficulties encountered in data collection and data reporting on a real time basis.
- **Training and assistance**
- FAO regional projects to carry out **training courses** on the different levels of implementation of a Catch Assessment Survey.
- Organising a **workshop on how to use the tools** made available by the GFCM secretariat. In this regard, the role of FAO sub-regional projects was considered of strategic importance.
- Importance of the assistance which could be provided by the MedFisis Project and on the need for the Project's extension beyond 2010.

GFCM - SCSI

## Conclusions and recommendations

### Reporting issues and data exchange formats

- The reporting of fishing seasons should be done by calendar year.
- **Economic data** has to be supplied for the reference year n-2. A full dataset, including Task 1.3 and 1.5, **for the reference year 2008 must be sent by January 2011**; for those Member Countries which have already submitted Task 1 data for the 2008 reference year, task 1.3 and 1.5 data should be incorporated into the original 2008 file, containing Task 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4 data, and resubmitted to the GFCM Secretariat. The data for reference year 2009 should be submitted by May 2011 as a full Task 1 pack.
- **Definitions** used in the Task 1 application tool **should be reviewed** during the sub-committee meetings (SCSI and SCSESS for Task 1.3)
- GFCM Secretariat to prepare an **additional exchange format for the Task 1 application based on CSV tables**. The use of these tables would be done only at national level in order to upload their data in the Task 1 data entry tool, before sending the data to the GFCM Secretariat.

GFCM - SCSI

## Conclusions and recommendations

### Reporting issues and data exchange formats (followed)

- National experts are reminded that it was possible to introduce **information on the origin of the data** (census, logbook, sampling at sea, etc), together with the details of the methodology used, in the “comments” section of the Task 1 data entry application. The workshop also suggested that the GFCM Secretariat (i) **adds the possibility to enter more than one method for the different variables** (in order to distinguish, for example, small and large vessels), and (ii) to include the possibility to **attach a pdf document**.
- Use **'Miscellaneous gear'** when reporting catches per O.U. of fishing trips having operated with several gears without possibility to distinguish which (amount of) species can be attributed to each of the gear used.

GFCM - SCSl

## Conclusions and recommendations

### Data collection issues

- The workshop wished to remind national experts about the importance of carrying out **statistical analysis on the consequences of applying different thresholds** for reporting catches in the logbook, as recommended by SCSl in 2009. These analyses will support the discussion in the November session of SCSl.

GFCM - SCSl

## Issues to be discussed at SCSI

- Evaluation of the differences in fleet segmentation definitions of the EU DCF and GFCM Task 1, together with issue of the missing segment “tuna seiner” in the DCF segmentation.
- The workshop brings to the SCSI attention the fact that two gears part of the GFCM Task 1 are absent of the EU DCF Appendix 4. Consequences need to be evaluated and actions undertaken to converge the two systems if this is confirmed as an issue.
- Evaluation of the possibility of using the ISCAAP groups as target species, on the basis of an exercise carried out by the GFCM Secretariat.
- The workshop suggested that the GFCM Secretariat prepares, from all documentation available, the full list of definitions used in the data entry application and present them for SCSI consideration.
- The workshop recommended that the SCSI discusses the possibility to include quality indicators for the Task 1 data stored in the GFCM database.

GFCM - SCSI