



Workshop on SCESS/SCSA/SCSI Transversal Workshop on Fishing Capacity

FAO HQs, Rome (Italy), 27-28 September 2010



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Background of the meeting

- Recommendation GFCM34/1/2010 on the management of fishing capacity and the request made by the 34th Session of the GFCM (Greece, April 2010) of the Commission to expand on the results obtained so far on the subject by convening this transversal workshop to develop elements for a draft Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity which includes specific actions, activities, and timeframes identified by the first workshop.
- The meeting was chaired by Mrs Rebecca Metzner, FAO specialist on the management of fishing capacity
- The workshop was attended by 18 experts from eight GFCM Members (Croatia, the European Union, France, Italy, Montenegro, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia), the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO regional projects and the GFCM Secretariat.

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Terms of reference

1. **Review of decisions** taken during the 34th Session of the GFCM on the management of fishing capacity
2. **Actions for the monitoring and management of fishing capacity**
3. Update on the **development, current status and future trends of fishing capacity** in the GFCM Area
4. Provide elements for the development of a draft **Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity**

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Review of decisions taken on the management of fishing capacity

- Recommendation GFCM/34/2010/2, which spells out some fundamental policy issues for the **management fishing capacity** in the GFCM Area, calls for the **submission of essential fleet data** and lays the foundation for the **development of an implementation strategy through the establishment of Regional Plan of Action**
- A presentation was made on the European Union management of fishing capacity under the EU Common Fisheries Policy, from which it was acknowledged that a RPOA should
 - Achieve **sustainable balance** between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities (biological, ecological, economic and social dimensions);
 - **Fulfil international obligations** (WSSD, IPOA Capacity, CBD, FAO Code of Conduct,
 - Implement the GFCM mandate to **promote the development, conservation, rational management and proper utilization of living marine resources.**

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Current status of the monitoring of fishing capacity in the GFCM Area

- There are currently several **GFCM data reporting requirements** ([overview](#)) specified by a number of GFCM binding decisions.
- **Partial measurement of fishing capacity**, in terms of tonnage, is **currently available** through the database of authorised vessels over 15 m in length (AVL)
- The Task 1.1 component provides capacity data, namely tonnage (GT) and power (kW), by GFCM fleet segment.
- Data submissions to the **RFR** are expected to **start in 2011**, in line with Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/5
- The **Recommendation GFCM/34/2010/2** on the management of fishing capacity had entered into force recently. The Secretariat has developed a tool to facilitate the transmission of fleet data by GFCM members in accordance with article 4 of this Recommendation.

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Elements for the development of a draft Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity

- The workshop participants produced a **draft outline for a Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity** in the GFCM area (GFCM RPOA_Capacity).
- Main headers of the GFCM RPOA :
 - Definitions
 - Nature and Scope of the RPOA-Capacity
 - Objectives and Principles
 - Mechanisms to Promote Implementation
 - Human resources development for management of fishing capacity
 - Monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing capacity of fleets operating in the GFCM Convention area
 - Actions [to be undertaken by all GFCM member countries]
 - Review and evaluation of the RPOA-Capacity

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Conclusions and options for the way forward

The workshop proposed the following options for the way forward:

1. Invite the Commission to consider **introducing elements of the Draft Outline GFCM RPOA-Capacity into the Recommendation GFCM 34/2010/2** whilst continuing the elaboration of the GFCM RPOA-Capacity.
2. **Engage a consultant to draft a GFCM RPOA-Capacity** on the basis of the outline produced and other suggestions made by GFCM subsidiary bodies.
3. **Convene a workshop to finalize the drafting of the GFCM RPOA-Capacity** on the basis of the outline produced and other suggestions made by the GFCM subsidiary bodies.

Or

4. **Any combination of the above**

In addition to the above, the workshop concluded that it is important to ensure **direct assistance by MEDFISIS to the GFCM and its Members** for developing tools for measuring and monitoring fishing capacity.

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