



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



**Preparatory meeting**

**Actions to strengthen data collection and submission frameworks and  
promote the implementation of the GFCM Guidelines for multiannual  
management plans**

**GFCM HQ, Rome, Italy, 6-7 December 2012**

**Draft Report**

**OPENING AND ARRANGEMENT OF THE MEETING**

1. The preparatory meeting “actions to strengthen data collection and submission frameworks and promote the implementation of the GFCM Guidelines for multiannual management plans”, organized in the frame of the first phase of activities of the GFCM Framework Programme (FWP), was held at Palazzo Blumenstihl, GFCM HQ in Rome, Italy, on 6 and 7 December 2012. The meeting was attended by members of the SAC Bureau, the SAC subcommittees coordinators, the FAO Regional Projects, representatives of the European Union (EU), invited experts from the Institute for Economic Research in Fishery and Aquaculture (IREPA) and the GFCM Secretariat. The meeting was prepared also in collaboration with the SAC chairperson, Mr. Henri Farrugio. The complete list of participants is provided in Annex II of this report.

2. Mr Othman Jarboui, SAC 1<sup>st</sup> vice-chairperson, chaired the meeting. Evelina Sabatella and Paolo Carpentieri together with the GFCM Secretariat undertook the task of reporting.

3. The objective of the meeting was to discuss and approve the methodology to implement a series of actions within the GFCM FWP planned for 2013. The meeting consisted of four sections, i) a first introductory part for the planned actions in 2013 within the Framework Programme, ii) a section on actions related to data collection, iii) a section on actions related to the implementation of management plans, and iv) a closing section to review and adopt the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting. The complete meeting agenda, as adopted by the group, is provided in Annex I of this report.

**SECTION I: INTRODUCTION OF THE FIRST FUNDED ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE 2013-2018 GFCM FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME**

4. The GFCM Secretariat presented the GFCM Framework Program (FWP) for the period 2013-2018 aiming at supporting the GFCM activities related to the work of the Task Force and at serving as a platform to promote sustainable development through fisheries and aquaculture. The presentation focused on the five Work Programmes (WP) inside the FWP (governance, data collection, aquaculture, artisanal fishery, cooperation) (Figure 1). The multiannual/multidonor funding mechanisms to provide the extra-budgetary funds needed to implement the FWP was also highlighted. It was recalled that the meeting was meant to address the first activities of the FWP, to be carried out during 2013, specifically within the WP01 (Governance), WP02 (Data Collection) and WP05

(Cooperation in southern Mediterranean and Black Sea). These activities will be carried out with the support of two different grants from the European Union and the direct support of some other GFCM Member States (France and Italy).

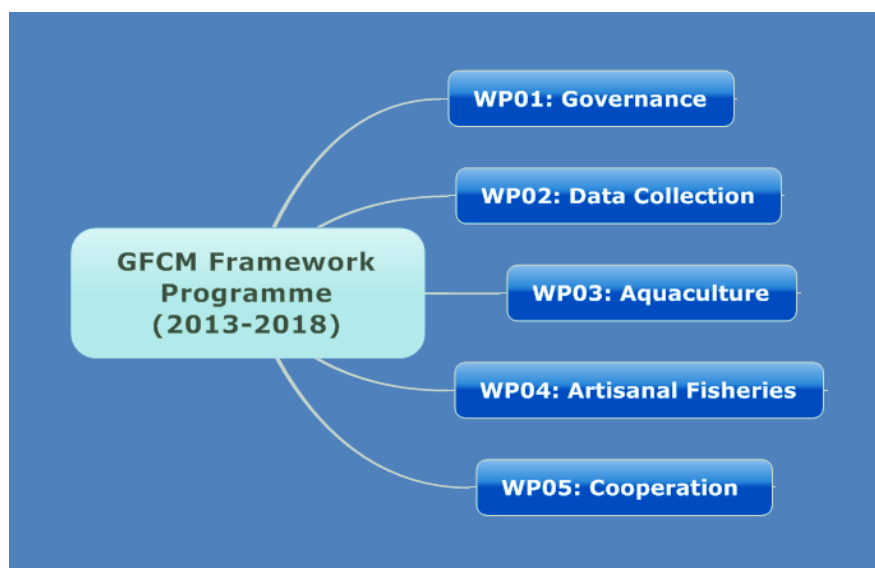


Figure 1: Structure of the GFCM Framework Programme

5. The implementation of actions in these three WPs (WP01, 02 and 05) during 2013 is planned in a two stage phase; a first stage aims to implement actions for data collection in the Mediterranean region and a pilot case study of the implementation of the GFCM guidelines for multiannual sub-regional management plans in the Adriatic Sea; and a second stage aims to implement both actions for data collection and management plans in the Black Sea and incorporates more case studies for the implementation of the GFCM guidelines on management plans in the Mediterranean Sea. Both stages will be done in parallel and with a common methodology, although there will be some temporal delay between the implementation of the different activities in the two areas (Mediterranean and Black Sea).

6. All of the actions within the Mediterranean Sea will be implemented following a sub-regional approach, i.e. actions on data collection and management plans will be implemented for the Western, Central, and Eastern Mediterranean sub-regions. Due to practical reasons, the Adriatic Sea (including GFCM GSA areas 17 and 18) will also be treated separately and independently of the rest of the Central Mediterranean. The Black Sea will be treated as a single region.

7. After the presentation from the Secretariat, Participants discussed on the definition of sub-regions and their importance for the GFCM activities. Following previous recommendations from the Task Force and the Commission, it was informed that a more formal discussion on sub-regional definition and their role in the GFCM is expected to be addressed at the next session of the Commission (May 2013). For the purposes of the first actions to be discussed in this preparatory meeting, the sub-regions described in point 6 above will be used.

8. Participants underlined the need to ensure the coordination between the different work programmes and the importance of prioritizing the activities by taking into consideration the Members needs rather than the will of donors. In this respect it was recalled the role which would be played by the GFCM Secretariat in ensuring the proper balance between the identified needs, the human resources and availability of funds.

9. The composition and the role of the Task Force in the implementation of the FWP actions were also discussed. The Task Force includes representatives from Member States, the Commission and the SAC and is responsible, among other tasks, for overseeing and validating the implementation

of the FWP. For that purpose, dedicated validation meetings for these first actions of the FWP are programmed. A clarification was made by the Secretariat that the Task Force validates the steps taken to implement the FWP, but does not evaluate the work done by the SAC. Notwithstanding its role in the implementation of the FWP, proposals by the task force have to be presented and approved by the Commission.

## **SECTION II: ACTION ON DATA COLLECTION**

10. Mr Joël Vigneau, coordinator of the subcommittee on statistics and information, acted as moderator for this section of the meeting.

11. This section started with a presentation by the Secretariat on the planned actions on data collection for 2013, including a general overview of the current state of the available data collection and data submission tools and the objectives of the action, followed by a discussion on the methods to be used.

12. The general objective of the actions on data collection is to improve the efficiency of the GFCM data collection framework at sub-regional level, by improving the definition of the data requirements, improve the efficiency of the submission tools and harmonizing national data collection systems with GFCM requirements. The objective will be pursued by activities at three different levels; i) an internal evaluation of the data collection framework and its capabilities to achieve GFCM objectives, ii) an evaluation of Member States compliance with GFCM data requirements, based on the current data available in the GFCM databases, and iii) an evaluation of the strengths and needs of national data collection systems in relation to GFCM requirements. The activities proposed are in line with previous recommendations and analysis of the GFCM data collection framework done by the SAC and the Task Force (performance review), and supported by the Commission.

13. In order to support the implementation of the data collection action in 2013, the following activities will be funded through donors or within the GFCM regular programme:

- a. Hiring of National Focal points in each of the Mediterranean and Black Sea Member States in order to collect the required information at National level. These National Focal points will also assist in the implementation of the management plans actions (See section III below)
- b. Hiring of three consultants to develop the review of the data collection framework, the evaluation of member states compliance and the coordination of the national focal points to perform an evaluation of the Member States data collection systems (see the list of recommendations at the end of Section II and III).
- c. Funding for sub-regional meetings on data collection in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. A total of six meetings related to data collection and management plans are included in the GFCM agenda for 2013, i) a sub-regional meeting on data collection in March with back to back sessions covering the West, Central (without Adriatic) and Eastern Mediterranean Sea, ii) an all-encompassing meeting in the Adriatic Sea covering both Data collection and management plans (planned for March 2013), iii) a data collection meeting for the Black Sea (April 2013), iv) a sub-regional meeting on the implementation of management plans in Mediterranean sub-regions other than the Adriatic, v) a joint stock assessment workshop and training meeting for the Black Sea (September 2013), and vi) a meeting on the implementation of management plan for the Black Sea (October 2013; see Annex III for the draft calendar of GFCM meetings at the time of writing this report).

14. The time frame for the first actions on data collection is between December 2012 to December 2013, with a number of milestones and deliverables to be ready at intermediate times within this timeframe. Most of the actions of data collection in the Mediterranean region are planned to be

finished before the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission (May 2013), while actions on data collection in the Black Sea are expected to continue until the end of 2013.

15. After the presentation, participants agreed that the current data collection framework was in some aspects too complex, with objectives and mechanisms not completely defined and with only partial compliance by Member States. Specifically, the current GFCM Task 1 Framework was regarded as too complex and the chairs of SCESS and SCSA expressed the need to deeply review Task 1.3 (Economic variables) and 1.5 (Biological parameters) respectively.

16. Also, it became clear that although the original purpose of Task 1 data collection was defined in the lay down recommendation (“communicate relevant information for fisheries management”), both the structure of Task 1 and its objectives might have been modified since its generation. The Participants stated that it was crucial to clearly specify the current objectives and mechanisms of the data collection tools of the GFCM, including Task 1, but also encompassing other tools such as binding agreements, *ad hoc* data calls or stock assessment forms.

17. Several other issues in relation to Task 1 were discussed in the meeting, including:

- a. The need to incorporate some quality control on the data submitted, including comparison with submissions to other regional or sub-regional calls (FAO, EU), related, for example, to the production statistics, etc.
- b. Temporal issues on the submission of the data including, for example, the long delay between the reference year and the year of submission of the socio-economic variables, which may affect the submission of the whole Task 1.
- c. A specific discussion on the links between the data collected through Task 1 and the data used for stock assessment was also held. Some participants expressed the need for coherence between the catches and effort reported to the GFCM Secretariat through Task 1 and the data used in stock assessment. The biological data used for stock assessment was in some cases considered to be too specific to be fully incorporated into a subsection of Task 1, although again the need for coherence was stressed. However, the problem of timing between the needs of the stock assessment groups and the current data submission of Task 1 was mentioned as a relevant issue affecting thisof compatibility, as well as the need to have the best available information at the time of the pertinent Working Groups to provide assessment. Participants agreed in any case that the origin (methods, coverage, institution, etc.) of the data used for assessment should be clearly stated.

18. The role of the Regional Projects in the overall data collection and data submission process was also discussed. It was stressed that Regional Projects play a key role in developing the national data collection programs, and therefore will be key to the evaluation of strengths and needs of national data collection systems in the different Mediterranean sub-regions.

19. In relation to the implementation of the actions required to strengthen the overall GFCM data collection and submission framework, Participants agreed that National Focal points will be a crucial element of the process, required both to have an overall overview of the state of national data collection plans at sub-regional and regional scale and to identify the required capacity building actions. The identification and hiring of those national focal points was therefore considered a crucial stage of the development of the data collection actions.

20. Participants also expressed their concern on the limited time frame available to perform the revision and improvement of these three levels. In relation to this, it was felt that the selection and hiring of National Focal points was a crucial step, and the success of the actions will largely depend on the selection, hiring and commitment of these Focal points. The Secretariat informed that this was already expected in the risk and contingency plans for the development of the actions and that all the efforts, including continuous communication with national authorities were being made. At the time of

the writing of this report, a total of 18 out of 25 expected National Focal points have been already appointed by their national authorities.

21. Based on the discussion, participants agreed on the revision of the GFCM data collection and submission framework in the three levels suggested in the initial presentation of this section; i) data collection framework, ii) Member states compliance and iii) national data collection plan's needs, and provided the following **recommendations**:

- a. The Group recommends that a proposal for a GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF) is prepared. The group recommends that the roadmap shown in Annex III is followed in the preparation of the DCRF.
- b. The Group recommends that a report with the status of each Member State's compliance is sent to the National Focal point and national representatives of that country before the sub-regional meeting, so it can be discussed at the meeting as part of the review of national data collection systems.
- c. The Group recommends that the topics listed on Annex IV are considered when collecting information from National Focal points on data collection and submission protocols. The information can be collected through questionnaires or any other method, but the contents of the information to be collected should be submitted to the Subcommittees and FAO Regional Projects for suggestions ahead of the sub-regional meeting.
- d. The Group recommends that the first sub-regional meeting on data collection should include the Terms of Reference listed in Annex V.

### **SECTION III: ACTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GUIDELINES ON MULTIANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLANS**

22. Mr Fabio Fiorentino, coordinator of the subcommittee on stock assessment, acted as moderator for this section of the meeting.

23. This section started with a presentation by the Secretariat on the planned actions on the implementation of the GFCM guidelines for multi-annual sub-regional management (*GFCM guidelines on management*) plans for 2013, including a general overview of the guidelines and an overview of the planned actions. The GFCM guidelines on management mainly focus on the sustainability of managed stocks by means of a series of mechanisms to maintain stock levels within reference points that will ensure sustainability on the long-term. The actions planned for 2013 will provide different case studies on the implementation of the GFCM guidelines to fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. The implementation of the guidelines will also be compatible with the FAO guidelines for an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF), which was presented immediately after.

24. As for the case of the actions related to data collection, the actions on management plan will be carried out sequentially; first the guidelines will be tested on some key fisheries of the Adriatic sea, then in selected fisheries within the different Mediterranean sub-regions as defined in the first part of this meeting (West, Central and Eastern Mediterranean) and then on selected fisheries in the Black Sea. For each sub-region, a general methodology will be followed, adapted to the priorities and specificities of the different case studies. The planned actions explicitly mention the importance of the incorporation of notions such as joint assessment of shared stocks, incorporation of ecosystem approach and the deployment of both GFCM and FAO guidelines for management.

25. A second presentation by Gabriella Bianchi showed the contrast between the focuses in the GFCM guidelines on management with the FAO EAF. In the later, the focus is on the process of incorporating the different stakeholders, from national authorities to fishermen associations, in the process of identifying the management priorities and objectives that will be the core of the management plans.

26. In the follow up discussion, the Group agreed that both approaches are in principle compatible, as the complete FAO EAF can be implemented using the GFCM guidelines to define the scientific context (stock status, reference points and mechanism to evaluate management options) of the management plan.

27. The discussion then focused on the status and planning for the implementation of a case study in the Adriatic Sea, including GFCM GSAs' 17 and 18. The first issue discussed was the starting point for implementation of management plans in the area. From the scientific point of view, most requirements to implement GFCM guidelines were agreed to be ready, although there was some controversy on the state of the implementation of actions necessary to make management plans in line with the FAO EAF guidelines. Although several initiatives aimed at developing management plans exist in the area, none of them has yet delivered the needed information for management planning, and the view of part of the group was that the implementation will need to start from early steps within the FAO EAF roadmap; review of current situation, identification of stakeholders and priorities.

28. Notwithstanding this, several GFCM Member States, which belong to the EU, including Italy that is an important actor in the Adriatic Sea, already have a Management Plan for some or all of its fisheries.

29. Within this process, the collaboration of FAO and FAO regional projects (for the case of the Adriatic Sea, ADRIAMED) and the active participation of National Focal Points in providing information on national status of fisheries and priorities in fisheries management of main stakeholders were identified as crucial to perform the planned activities.

30. Based on the discussion on this section of the meeting, Participants agreed on the following **recommendations**:

- a) The Group recommends that both the GFCM and the FAO management guidelines are used in the implementation of management plans for the case studies selected for the actions during 2013.
- b) For the Adriatic Sea, the Group recommends as a first case study the fisheries on small pelagic.
- c) The Group recommends that a stepwise approach is used; first steps are those recommended in Annex VI. Further steps should be discussed in the Subcommittees and the SAC, as indicated in the above mentioned annex.

#### **SECTION IV: REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING**

31. The group reviewed and adopted the list of recommendations from Section II (data collection) and III (management). The complete list of recommendations is listed in Annex VII.

#### **ANY OTHER MATTERS**

No further issues were discussed in the meeting.

**List of annexes:**

- Annex I: List of participants
- Annex II: Agenda
- Annex III: Topics that should be covered by the evaluation of current data collection framework
- Annex IV: Minimum key targets on which to base the revision of national data collection and submission systems.
- Annex V: Draft proposal for the terms of reference for a sub-regional meeting on data collection
- Annex VI: Initial roadmap for the implementation of management plans guidelines to the Adriatic small pelagic fisheries.
- Annex VII: List of recommendations from the Group
- Annex IIX: GFCM meeting calendar (as of January 2013)

## Annex I: List of Participants

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## **Annex II: Agenda**

*Working hours: 09:30 – 17:30*  
*Chairman of the meeting: Mr Othman Jarboui*

### **1. Opening and arrangement of the meeting**

- Welcome and arrangements
- Nomination of rapporteurs
- Review of working documents
- Adoption of the agenda

### **2. Introduction of the first funded activities within the 2013-2018 GFCM Framework Programme** *(by the GFCM Secretariat)*

### **3. Action on data collection – section moderator: Mr Joel Vigneau**

*(Points 3.1 – 3.2 will be presented by the Secretariat, open to discussion from the participants. Point 3.3 will be introduced by the Secretariat but mainly addressed through open discussion)*

3.1 General introduction of the action: objectives and terms of reference

3.2 Presentation of the activities foreseen in this action

3.3 Open discussion on the methodology to implement the action:

- Identification of key targets for the revised data collection framework with focus on Task 1, including Operational unit concept and databases related to the fleet capacity and activity;
- Discussion on strengths and weaknesses of the current GFCM data collection;
- Discussion on the assessment of data compliance
- Identification of key targets for the revision of national data collection systems;
- Organization of sub-regional workshops on data collection, data submission and national data collection systems.

3.4 Conclusions and recommendations

### **4. Action on the implementation of guidelines on multiannual management plans – section moderator: Mr Fabio Fiorentino**

*(Points 4.1 – 4.2 will be presented by the Secretariat, open to discussion from the participants. Point 4.3 will be introduced by the Secretariat but mainly addressed through open discussion. Participation from the FAO regional projects in terms of background documents or presentations related to point 4.3 would be appreciated)*

4.1 Introduction of the GFCM guidelines on management plans

4.2 Presentation of the activities foreseen in this action, including objectives and terms of reference

4.3 An Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (Gabriella Bianchi)

4.4 Open discussion on the methodology to implement the action:

- Identification of potential target fisheries;
- Strategy of work; incorporation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries and joint assessment of shared stocks, and inter alia the definition of appropriate reference points for the development of management plans;

- Organization of the technical workshop on management plans in the Adriatic Sea.

#### 4.5 Conclusions and recommendations

- 5. Review of recommendations and conclusions of the meeting**
- 6. Any other matters**
- 7. Closure of the meeting**

### **Annex III: Topics that should be covered by the evaluation of current data collection framework**

Comments from the Group on current issues in relation to Task 1 as currently defined:

- Level of Aggregation required (for the different modules, see last bullet)
- Is it fit for the objectives related to it? (requires list of objectives that rely on Task 1)
- Quality control; how to reply things such as:
  - o Is data submitted complete?
  - o Is the data submission coherent with data submitted to other calls (DCF, FAO, Assessment Forms, other)?
- Consistency among different parts/uses of data submission (e.g. effort and catches of current Task 1 and Stock Assessment form)
- Possible simplification of Task 1:
  - o Can we use mechanisms other than Task 1 to collect some data currently in Task 1
  - o Modular approach

(Take into considerations issues such as the composition of the fleet - mainly artisanal fleet - and the future importance of spatialized data)

#### **Proposal topics for a first draft of the GFCM DCRF to be presented to subcommittees:**

- Introduction:
  - o Comparative analysis of data collection systems in other related organizations (purposes, submission process, content)
  - o Review of past documents from SAC and FAO sub-regional projects on the GFCM data collection and submission framework, including available data submission mechanisms
  - o Historical review of initial objectives of Task 1 and evolution over time
- Proposal for a GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework, including the general context and objectives (in communication with SC, SAC and Secretariat) to be revised at February by the SC and SAC
- Emerging questions that need to be addressed by the SAC

**Annex IV: Minimum key targets on which to base the revision of national data collection and submission systems.**

This indicative table contains five main overarching themes that should be included in the assessment of national data collection systems (compliance, collection process, processing, submission process and quality assessment), and some examples of different topics that should be addressed. Each theme should be evaluated by the different components of the GFCM data submission process (e.g. Task 1.1-Task 1.5) and if several GSAs are covered by the same national data collection system and substantial differences in the process of data collection exist, by GSA. The information should be complemented by a list of priority species for the National Data Collection system, if necessary by GSA.

Compliance	Collection process	Processing	Submission process	Quality assessment
Data submitted to GFCM?	Level of aggregation (Operational unit, métier, segment, fleet)	Raw data	Level of aggregation if different than the collection process	Why when not collected Crosschecking Yes/no and methods
Assess the comparative difficulty level (1-5)	Describe spatial and temporal aggregation	Estimates (Describe methods and bias)	When the data is available (both in absolute terms and in relation to the reference year)	Coverage and coverage considerations
What are the actions taken to improve the level of compliance?	Source of the data - Body Ministry Institute - Procedure Survey CAS Logbook Sales note Licenses Others		Steps in the transmission: Institute->Admin Admin->GFCM focal point Focal point->GFCM Secr.	Other issues
Which actions do you think your country should need to improve the level of compliance?	Periodicity - Annual - Biannual - Monthly			

## **Annex V: Draft proposal for the terms of reference for a sub-regional meeting on data collection**

Venue: Spain (TBD)

Dates: 4-8 March 2013

### *Draft ToRs:*

1. Review on advances of the GFCM Data Collection Regulation Framework.
2. Review of the internal assessment of the GFCM data submission framework (done at to that point)
  - Presentation of historical review
  - Draft proposal of objectives for comments
3. Review of the assessment on data submission compliance
4. External assessment: check and evaluation of each national Data Collection and Coordination System (through questionnaires)
  - Emerging issues at sub-regional level (general problems by sub-region, including main shared stocks for which data should be compiled)
  - Discussion on compliance and national systems, with proposals
5. Conclusions and recommendations

**Annex VI: Initial roadmap for the implementation of management plans guidelines to the Adriatic small pelagic fisheries.**

The underlined text are future steps to be validated by the Subcommittees and the SAC.

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Methods and data sources</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Outputs</b>
1) Assessment of the current situation in terms of needs to prepare a management plan for small pelagic fisheries in the Adriatic Sea	1) Review of baseline reports by country; 2) Review of current knowledge and needs to develop a management plan (Adriamed and the National Focal Points) 3) Review of status of scientific assessment of shared stocks	Mid Feb/13	Presentation to Subcommittees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current status</li> <li>• Updated description of fisheries sharing the resources.</li> <li>• Overview of joint assessment of stock(s)</li> <li>• Preliminary list of issues to be addressed in the management plan identified.</li> <li>• Roadmap for the rest of the action</li> </ul>
2) Preliminary consultations with key stakeholders.	1) Questionnaire for a rapid appraisal of management issues and objectives sent to National Focal Points for a preliminary consultation with stakeholders..	Sent by Feb/13	Revised list of issues to be addressed in management plan and objectives
3) <u>Implement intermediate steps as decided at the Subcommittees</u>	<u>Methods to be presented and discussed by SC</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Actions related to the revised list of objectives</u>
4) Organization of a case study workshop to discuss and agree on management options for shared resource(s)	<u>Attendance and ToRs to be validated by SC</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Outcomes on advances on the implementation to be reported to the SC</u>  <u>Outcomes to be presented to the SAC</u>
5) <u>Implement intermediate steps as decided at the SAC</u>	<u>Methods to be presented and discussed by SAC</u>	<u>From April (SAC)</u>	<u>Actions related to the revised list of objectives</u>



<p>6) Elaboration of a final report of the case study</p>	<p>6) The report should address the main outputs of the case study, the main challenges to implement multiannual plans, the recommended guidelines to be adopted in other sub-regions and a proposed structure of a management plan for the selected case study in the Adriatic Sea.</p>	<p>April</p>	<p>Final report of the case study with a draft management plan for the case study fishery in the Adriatic Sea and recommended guidelines to be adopted in other sub-regions.</p>
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## **Annex VII: List of recommendations from the Group**

### Recommendations on actions on data collection:

- a. The Group recommends that a proposal for a GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF) is prepared. The group recommends that the roadmap shown in Annex III is followed in the preparation of the DCRF.
- b. The Group recommends that a report with the status of each Member State's compliance is sent to the National Focal point and national representatives of that country before the sub-regional meeting, so it can be discussed at the meeting as part of the review of national data collection systems.
- c. The Group recommends that the topics listed on Annex IV are considered when collecting information from National Focal points on data collection and submission protocols. The information can be collected through questionnaires or any other method, but the contents of the information to be collected should be submitted to the Subcommittees and FAO Regional Projects for suggestions ahead of the sub-regional meeting.
- d. The Group recommends that the first sub-regional meeting on data collection should include the Terms of Reference listed in Annex V.

### Recommendations on actions on management plans:

- a. The Group recommends that both the GFCM and the FAO management guidelines are used in the implementation of management plans for the case studies selected for the actions during 2013.
- b. For the Adriatic Sea, the Group recommends that a first case study on small pelagics fisheries is used
- c. The Group recommends that a stepwise approach is used; first steps are those recommended in Annex VI. Further steps should be discussed in the Subcommittees and the SAC, as indicated in the above mentioned annex.

**Annex IIX**  
**WORK SCHEDULE OF SAC AND FWP FOR 2013**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Comments</b>
SAC subcommittees	18-20 February 2013	FAO HQ, Rome	
Workshop on IUU, including MCS and fleet (Black Sea)	25-27 February 2013	Istanbul, Turkey	in collaboration with the Black Sea Commission
Data collection sub-regional meeting (Western, Central and Eastern Med.)	4-8 March 2013	Spain	in parallel with CopeMed Coordination Committee (TBC)
Case study on the Adriatic	18-22 March 2013	TBD	in parallel with AdriaMed Coordination Committee (TBC)
15 <sup>th</sup> session of SAC	8-11 April 2013	Cairo, Egypt	
Workshop on data collection, information systems on fisheries in the Black Sea	22-24 April 2013	Varna, Bulgaria	
Second session of WGBS	25-27 April 2013	Varna, Bulgaria	
Task Force validation meeting	10-11 May 2013	Split, Croatia	
37 <sup>th</sup> session of the Commission	13-17 May 2013	Split, Croatia	
Workshop on European Eel	18-21 June 2013	Rome, Italy	in collaboration with ICES and EIFAAC
Sub-regional workshop to test the feasibility of implementing Multiannual management plans (Western, Central and Eastern Med.)	24-27 June 2013	Tunisia (TBC)	
Specific Stock Assessment Workshop for the Black Sea (including training on direct and indirect stock assessment methodologies)	16-21 September 2013	Bucharest, Romania	
Workshop on Artisanal Fisheries	18-20 September 2013 (TBC)	Malta (TBC)	In collaboration with MedPAN, WWF, MedArtNet
Conference on Artificial reefs and related aquatic habitats	23-27 September 2013	Izmir, Turkey	co-organized with Ege University-Faculty of Fisheries and EastMed
Workshop to test the feasibility of implementing Multiannual management plans in the Black Sea	8-10 October 2013	TBD	