



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



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

**Meeting of the Sub-Committees (SCSA, SCESS, SCMEE, SCSI)
Malaga, Spain, 30 November – 3 December 2009**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE:
STATUS OF ALIEN SPECIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND
BLACK SEAS***

*Available only in English

The phenomenon of alien species in the Mediterranean and Black Sea have been recorded for several decades. It has speeded up last years, with many examples of negative impacts on marine ecosystems, on the local marine fauna and flora, and on socio-economic activities such as fisheries.

This bio geographic phenomenon was addressed by some partner Organizations and Institutions and documents on the issue were produced. Atlases on alien species for many taxonomic groups were also edited. In 2003 the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted an Action Plan concerning Species introductions of invasive species in the Mediterranean Sea.

In the frame of the GFCM/SAC activity for the 2009 intersessional period (11th Session of SAC, Marrakech, 2008) it was recommended to initiate the launching of a monitoring programme on the alien species. Thus an activity dedicated to assess the status of alien species in the Mediterranean and Black Sea is suggested to be performed. The outcome of this work is expected to be discussed in the SCMEE meeting (Malaga, 30 November-3 December 2009)) and endorsed by the next SAC meeting.

In this respect, it is suggested to initiate a specific activity on Alien species according to the following draft terms of Reference:

- Compiling and analyzing data and relevant information on alien species in the Mediterranean and Black Seas (importance of the phenomenon: lists of species, spatiotemporal distribution...) for identifying the main gaps in information on taxonomy and the least well covered geographical areas. This identification can be facilitated using exiting regional initiatives for collecting, compiling and circulating data such as CIESM Atlas, RAC/SPA initiative, etc...
- Improve knowledge and analyze the vectors of introduction to suggest monitoring methods to monitor this kind of introduction
- Guide to analyse the risks and assess the potential impacts of the introduction of alien species on Fisheries
 - the state of stocks
 - the stocks exploitation
 - fisheries including catches, fleets
 - Other economic activities
 - biodiversity
 - public health
 - economic activities (mainly on fisheries)
- Identify actions needed to control/monitor any negative impact of the phenomenon
- Make an inventory of exiting bibliography on this issue and a list of relevant publications will be annexed to the report;

- Produce a draft working document on the above mentioned topics to be reviewed and discussed by the next session of the Sub-Committees (Malaga, 30 November to 3 December 2009). This draft document should be further adjusted taking into consideration its review by the Sub-Committees and finalized including editing requirement (to be ready for the next SAC session (Montenegro, 25-29 January 2010))