

**GENERAL
FISHERIES
COMMISSION
FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN**

33



GFCM REPORT 33

GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

REPORT OF THE THIRTY-THIRD SESSION

Tunis, 23–27 March 2009

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document is the final version of the report adopted in Tunis by the thirty-third session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) on 27 March 2009.

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ABSTRACT

The thirty-third session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) was attended by 21 Contracting Parties. The Commission reviewed the intersessional activities of its scientific and technical subsidiary bodies and held the third session of its Compliance Committee. The GFCM adopted binding management decisions on a reduction of 10 percent of fishing effort for demersal trawl fisheries in the competence area, the establishment of a new Fisheries Restricted Area in the Gulf of Lions and the establishment of a minimum mesh size in the codend of demersal trawlnets. The GFCM also agreed to put into operation a Vessel Monitoring System by the end of 2012 and to establish a fleet register by the end of 2010. The Commission amended its Recommendations on the record of fishing vessels over 15 metres authorized to operate in the GFCM area, and on the establishment of a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Regarding data reporting, the Commission adopted new binding Recommendations for aquaculture and the implementation of the GFCM Task 1 statistical matrix. The GFCM further endorsed three Recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) on swordfish and bluefin tuna fisheries. The GFCM decided to establish a new Committee on Administration and Finance and agreed on modalities to undertake its performance review in 2009 and 2010. It agreed to create a new professional position within the Secretariat and adopted its 2009 budget and programme of work. The Commission renewed the bureau of its Compliance Committee and acknowledged the use for the first time of Arabic as working language. The GFCM addressed the issue of its new headquarters, in particular the possibility of the Secretariat to move into it preferably before the summer of 2009.

Distribution:

Participants in the Session
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OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) held its thirty-third session in Tunis, Tunisia, from 23 to 27 March 2009.

2. The Session was attended by delegates from 21 Members of the Commission, as well as by observers from the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), the International Confederation of Sport Fishing (CIPS), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (UNEP-MAP RAC/SPA) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The list of delegates and observers is provided in Appendix B to this report.

3. The Session was called to order by Mr Mohamed Hadjali Salem, Chairperson of the Commission, who welcomed the participants and thanked the Tunisian Government for hosting the session and for the excellent organization.

4. In the absence of Mr Alain Bonzon, Executive Secretary of the Commission, Mr Abdellah Srouf, Deputy Executive Secretary, acted as the Secretary of the session.

5. Mr Jean François Pulvenis de Séligny, Director, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Economics and Policy Division, welcomed the participants on behalf of Mr Jacques Diouf, Director General of FAO, and Mr Ichiro Nomura, Assistant Director-General, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. He thanked the Government and people of Tunisia for their hospitality and stressed the importance of holding this meeting in a country which had been supporting and contributing to the work of the Commission in an active and efficient manner. He recalled FAO's own commitment to provide support to the Commission and made a brief reference to the relevant aspects of the ongoing process for the renewal and restructuring of the Organization. He referred to some of the constraints that the Commission was facing: the fact that some Members had not yet deposited their instrument of acceptance of the amendment to the Agreement, the delays in the payment of some of the contributions to the autonomous budget and finally the need to solve some pending questions linked to the hosting of the Secretariat at the new headquarters of the Commission. He highlighted a number of positive actions to be achieved during this session, both in terms of its structure (establishment of a Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF), implementation of a performance review, adoption of Arabic as an official working language) and of its operation, including the considerable number of intersessional meetings that had been held and the progress made thanks to these meetings on a number of substantial issues. Mr Pulvenis de Séligny stressed the importance and scope of the decisions that the Commission was expected to make during this Session. He finally recalled the important role of the regional projects in GFCM undertakings and thanked once again the donors as well as all those who had contributed to support financially a number of other activities. He wished the participants a fruitful meeting and reiterated his thanks on behalf of FAO to Tunisia for the excellent facilities provided.

6. Mr Abdesselem Mansour, Tunisian Minister of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources, addressed the Plenary and warmly welcomed the Delegations to Tunisia. In his opening statement he underlined the challenges being faced by Tunisia in managing its fisheries and gave an overview of the strategy adopted by his country to conserve living marine resources whilst ensuring sustainable development. He explained that a ten-year plan was in place to safeguard pelagic and demersal fisheries resources and promote sustainable use practices, as well as to reinforce scientific research. He added that environment-friendly aquaculture development also featured in Tunisia's priorities. The Minister highlighted the initiatives taken by Tunisia to implement various management measures to protect fisheries resources in national waters and high seas in line with GFCM measures, together with international instruments such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement. He stressed that economic,

social and ecological aspects must be considered in regional fisheries management plans and suggested that the following four priorities should be kept in view by the Commission: implement a regional temporal closure, strengthen research to improve advice in relation to drawing up management measures, secure a balance between exploitation and the environment and protect the marine environment from anthropogenic impacts. In his conclusion, the Minister stressed that sound fisheries management in the region could only be guaranteed through a spirit of solidarity and stated that the GFCM was the best forum to foster this.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

7. The Chairperson referred to the Statement of Competence and Voting Rights by the European Community and its Member States as provided in document GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Inf.7.
8. The Agenda was adopted without changes and is attached as Appendix A.
9. The documents which were before the Commission are listed in Appendix C.
10. The Chairperson invited the Commission's Members as well as its Observers to introduce their delegations.

REPORT ON THE INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES 2008

Activities of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

11. Mr Henri Farrugio, Chairperson of SAC presented the activities of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies on the basis of document GFCM:XXXIII/2009/2 and GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Inf.5. He referred to the 18 meetings held during the intersessional period, including the two Coordinating Meetings of the Sub-Committees (CMSC), and summarized the main results of the work undertaken during workshops and by the working groups as follows:

- The Second Meeting of the Working Group of Stock Assessment Methodology identified specific models which should be used in assessments in which trawl survey data are exclusive. Progress on the elaboration of a standard GFCM protocol to undertake surveys at sea was also registered.
- The Workshop on the GFCM Regional Fleet Register drew up and agreed upon a list of fields, definitions, formats, codifications, data submission frequency and standards, and confidentiality issues in relation to the GFCM Regional Fleet Register (RFR), as well as the introduction of a unique vessel identifier in both this register and the already established authorized vessels list.
- The Transversal Workshop on Fleet Segmentation revised the nomenclature of the fleet segmentation and refined the vessel classification criteria.
- The Transversal Working Group on Recreational fisheries identified four categories of recreational fisheries and made progress towards defining an integrated framework for the collection and analysis of biological, ecological, environmental and socio-economic data for use in recreational fisheries management.
- The Transversal Working Group on Selectivity reviewed a number of selectivity studies and concluded that the use of a square mesh of at least 40-mm in the bottom trawl codend needed to be urgently implemented and enforced.
- The Transversal Workshop on Bycatch/Incidental Catches discussed the problems related to these issues and addressed the interaction between fisheries and species of conservation concern, and suggested that data collection schemes and studies in this field should be enhanced.

- The Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic in the Mediterranean focused its work on compiling and reviewing the knowledge on small tuna fisheries in the Mediterranean.
- The joint GFCM/ACCOBAMS Workshop dealt with the interaction between fisheries and cetaceans and reviewed the results of studies carried out on this subject.

12. The Chairperson of SAC also briefed the Commission on the activities undertaken by the Sub-Committees as follows:

- The Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information (SCSI) continued reviewing the GFCM Task 1 data entry tool and drew up some guidelines for data reporting. It addressed the implementation of the GSA compatible STATLANT 37A form, as well as the issue of mismatching between the GSA boundaries and the FAO Statistical Divisions. The SCSI also appraised the outcomes of the workshop on the fleet register and that on the fleet segmentation. Furthermore it examined the experiences of some countries in operating a logbook scheme.
- The Sub-Committee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS) reviewed the legislative and socio economic status of the recreational fisheries in the Mediterranean and identified the relevant information and data to be collected to improve the knowledge on this sector. It addressed the issue of the socio economic impact of the implementation of 40-mm square mesh in bottom trawls and expanded on the use of socioeconomic indicators in fisheries management. The SCESS also tackled fleet capacity and suggested that a transversal workshop should be convened on the matter.
- The Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE) reviewed options to identify criteria for the identification of essential habitats of relevance for the management of priority species by GSA. It reviewed and discussed a proposal for establishing a new GFCM Fishery Restricted Area (FRA), encompassing marine canyons in the Continental Slope of the Eastern Gulf of Lions (CoSEGoL).
- The Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA) reviewed 32 assessments performed by its working groups and formulated management advice for consideration by SAC. The methods to perform assessments by the use of surveys at sea data were identified and a GFCM framework to standardize the various protocols to undertake direct assessments was produced. In addition, the SCSA updated the priority species list.

13. The Chairperson went on to outline the proceedings of the two Coordination Meetings of the Sub-Committees (CMSC) which were held during the intersessional period. He informed the Commission that the first of these meetings focused on fine tuning the 2008 workplan whilst the other one reviewed the main conclusions and recommendations emanating from the Sub-Committees and transversal sessions in order to provide the SAC with consolidated proposals.

14. The Commission thanked Mr Farrugio for his presentation and commended the extensive work carried out by SAC and its subsidiary bodies. It noted that substantial material had been produced which is highly relevant to the monitoring and management of Mediterranean fisheries and should be taken into account during deliberations under agenda item 5.

15. The representative of ACCOBAMS expressed its satisfaction on the strengthened cooperation with GFCM, particularly on the issue of cetacean bycatch and collection of related data.

16. The representative of ICCAT pointed out the importance of the extended cooperation with GFCM on research and statistics, in particular regarding the small tuna fisheries.

Activities of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ)

17. Mr Spyros Klaoudatos, Chairperson of the CAQ, reported on the activities of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies during the intersessional period on the basis of documents GFCM:XXXIII/2009/2 and GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Inf.6. He informed the Commission that the activities were carried out in accordance with the programme of work agreed at the thirty-second session of GFCM.

18. He underlined the effort made by the CAQ in implementing the activities of the subsidiary bodies and reported on the main results as follows:

- The Coordination Meeting of the Working Groups (CMWG) reviewed the activities of the three Working Groups and SIPAM and focused on the status of the projects supporting the Working groups (WGs). It recalled the importance of the identification of indicators for the sustainable aquaculture and related standard reference points, together with the necessity to integrate the relevant outputs of the CAQ Working Groups into the SIPAM data banks.
- The Project in support of the Working Group on Marketing of Aquaculture Products (WGMA) “Development of a Strategy for Marketing and Promotion of Mediterranean Aquaculture” (MedAqMarket) became operational in April 2008. The structure for data collection including the template for an understanding of the present market situation of each Mediterranean country was finalized and data collection has been implemented in mostly countries.
- The Working Group on Site Selection and Carrying Capacity (WGSC) was organized with the start of the project ShocMed “Developing siting and carrying capacity guidelines for Mediterranean aquaculture within aquaculture appropriate areas” in October 2008. The WGSC identified a minimum list of environmental variables to be monitored and suggested the implementation of an environmental monitoring programme for marine finfish aquaculture.
- The Working Group on Sustainability on Aquaculture (WGAS) organized a workshop on the selection of sustainable indicators within the activities of the project InDAM “Selection of Indicators for Sustainable Development of Aquaculture and Guideline for their use in the Mediterranean”. WGSA agreed on the methodology to be applied and on how principles, criteria and indicators should be selected.
- The Annual session of the Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM) recommended the introduction of a simple format in which a minimum set of data on aquaculture production are requested.

19. The Commission thanked Mr Klaoudatos for his presentation and expressed its satisfaction for the work carried out by the CAQ. It noted the issue raised by some delegations on species diversification and agreed that CAQ should explore this field particularly in relation to meagre. It also acknowledged the desire of some delegations for increased funding for training in aquaculture.

20. The Commission appreciated the fruitful cooperation with IUCN especially on issues related to aquaculture sustainability, siting and carrying capacity.

Report of the FAO regional projects

21. The report on regional projects was presented by Mr Pedro de Barros, Fisheries Resources Officer, FAO, who informed the Commission on the main activities performed by the FAO Mediterranean Regional Projects in support of GFCM, on the basis of document GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Inf.9. He recalled that during the intersessional period only AdriaMed, MedSudMed and COPEMED II were fully operational. He highlighted the main activities carried out and the outputs achieved. He reported also on the ArtFiMed project, which started in 2009, as well as

on the status of the MedFisis project, that is awaiting the confirmation of availability of funds to start its third and final year of activity.

22. He reported on the projects that are expected to start within 2009. EastMed, after a delay due to formal procedures, will be starting within the next couple of months, with the recruitment of the Project Coordinator. Also the MED-LME project, a part of the GEF-funded "Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem" has been approved and is expected to start within 2009. The project formulation phase of the BlackSeaFish project funded by Turkey is also expected to commence in 2009.

23. The delegate of Greece stated that the EastMed project was ratified by the Greek parliament on 9 March and will be published on the Greek Government official newspaper shortly, at which time it would enter into force. He added that the expected date of publication is 9 April 2009 and highlighted the sizeable contribution of €400 000 which Greece has already directed towards this project.

24. The Commission welcomed the report on the FAO regional projects and underlined their crucial importance for the work and objectives of the GFCM. However, given the ongoing FAO reform it recognizes the need for FAO-executed projects in the Mediterranean to adopt operational modalities that are in line with this reform and at the same time to respond better to current economic constraints and uncertainties. Furthermore, the involvement of national institutes should be enhanced, the best quality should be ensured through rigorous selection procedures regarding qualifications and skills of experts, and a performance appraisal of the projects should be carried out on a regular basis.

25. Some delegations praised the very important work carried out by the Regional Projects in support to GFCM activities, especially COPEMED II, being a very important complement to their national working programmes.

26. The Moroccan delegation highlighted the support provided to Morocco by this project in the area of Fisheries Statistics. The delegate of Algeria reiterated his country's interest in participating in the ArtFiMed project, as already expressed during the last session.

27. The Commission underscored the importance of ensuring the continuity of the FAO Regional Projects as a major tool to reinforce the region's capacity for sustainable fisheries management and expressed its profound gratitude to FAO and to the different donors that made this work possible.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ISSUES

Report of the Secretariat

28. Mr Abdellah Srour, the acting Executive Secretary, introduced this point of the agenda on the basis of document GFCM:XXXIII/2009/3 "Report of the Secretariat on Administrative and Financial Issues". He addressed issues related to the cost of running of the Secretariat including the support in kind provided by the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. He further referred to selected intersessional activities and outputs, including liaison with partners' organizations, publications, meetings and databases. The financial report addressed issues related to the autonomous budget of the Commission, including the status of contributions, arrears, working capital funds as well as the status of expenditures 2008 for each chapter of the budget.

Activities and functioning of the Secretariat

29. The Commission was informed that the intersessional activities of the Secretariat included organizing and coordinating several meetings such as the sessions of the SAC (Scientific Advisory Committee) and CAQ (Committee on Aquaculture) and their subsidiary bodies. The Secretariat produced several technical and administrative documents, available on the GFCM Web site and some

of which are published as “Studies and Reviews”. The support of these activities by the different regional projects executed by FAO (mainly AdriaMed, COPEMED and MedSudMed) was noted.

30. The delegates were further reminded that the activities of the Secretariat on data management were assisted by a consultant recruited on a contractual basis since 2006. In this respect, the attention of the Commission was drawn to the request by the SAC and CAQ to establish a post of data manager within the Secretariat, in view of increasing duties to be assumed by the Secretariat and to guarantee the sustainability of the progress achieved in the fields of data management, information and web site affairs.

31. The Commission expressed its satisfaction for the quality of work achieved by the Secretariat and encouraged it to maintain this positive trend.

32. The delegate from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya supported by some delegations took note with satisfaction of the effort made by the Secretariat to ensure the availability of all working documents in the required languages including for the first time in Arabic.

Headquarters of the Commission

33. In relation to the question of the new headquarters of the Commission, the Acting Executive Secretary reported briefly on the present situation as a result of the discussions between the government of Italy and FAO, as called for in paragraph 120 of the report of the last session. Two questions remained to be solved, that of the equipments and that of the running costs. After short statements by the representatives of Italy and FAO, the Commission welcomed the progresses that had been achieved in this respect and reiterated its wish that the Secretariat be able to move to the new headquarters as soon as possible, preferably before this summer. It took note of the shared responsibilities of the government of Italy, of FAO and of all the Members of the Commission in actively reaching a solution which would allow the Secretariat to do so. After noting that the question of the equipments had been basically solved, the Commission expressed its interest for the possibility of a transitional formula with regards to the running costs, for an initial period which should not exceed three or four years and invited the government of Italy and FAO to explore this option and continue and conclude at the earliest their discussions, in close contact with the members of the Commission, in order to reach an agreement on a practical and acceptable scheme both for the initial period and for afterwards.

Status of ratification of the amendments to the GFCM agreement

34. The Commission was informed on the status of acceptance of the 1997 amendments to the GFCM agreement, the situation being similar to that in 2008, i.e. 21 Members had deposited their instruments of acceptance, and Members that have not yet done so are Egypt, Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic .

Member contributions to the autonomous budget

35. The Secretariat informed the Commission that the “Call for funds letter” was sent in April 2008 and that by October 2008 most Members had settled their contribution. In total sixteen Members deposited their instruments of acceptance and remitted their contributions; five Members (Bulgaria, Italy, Lebanon, Malta and Slovenia) deposited their instruments of acceptance but have not paid their contribution for 2008. Egypt has not yet deposited its instrument of acceptance but has paid its contribution. Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic have neither deposited their instruments of acceptance nor paid their contributions.

2008 financial status: autonomous budget, arrears and trust funds

36. The Commission was informed on the main chapters of the budget of the intersessional period, during which the Secretariat managed the expenditure according to the priorities and work plan adopted by the Commission. At the end of 2008 the financial status showed a negative balance of US\$203 464.45 (for the “income” based budget) which consider the pending contributions of five Members.

37. Information on the status of GFCM extra budgetary resources (i.e. voluntary contribution from Members) received from EC and Spain in support of the activities of the subsidiary bodies of the CAQ was given.

38. The delegate from Slovenia informed the Commission that the contribution of her country to the GFCM budget will be deposited shortly.

39. The delegate from the Syrian Arab Republic informed the Commission that the Ministry of Agriculture has recently asked the Government to accelerate the procedures related to the ratification of the GFCM agreement together with the payment of their contribution. He added that these issues will be resolved in due course.

40. The delegate from Bulgaria informed the Commission that necessary action had been taken in order to ensure payment of the 2008 contribution. He also referred to the pending amount related to a previous contribution, which will be settled in due course.

Establishment of the Committee on Administration and Finance

41. The acting Executive Secretary, recalled that the establishment of the Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF) was requested during the thirty-second session and that its functions will mainly focus on reviewing administrative matters, compliance with the rules of procedures and financial rules and the implementation of the budget adopted.

42. He further introduced the “draft terms of reference of the CAF as reported in document GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Inf.12 in accordance with Article VII of the GFCM Agreement which refers to the establishment of temporary or special committees and working parties.

43. Several delegations highlighted the relevance of the establishment of CAF as an additional instrument at the disposal of the Members to monitor the use of the autonomous budget and to enhance efficiency in the functioning of the Commission. The financial and practical implications of the creation of the new Committee were addressed.

44. The Commission unanimously decided to establish the Committee on Administration and Finance and agreed on its terms of reference (TORs) as attached in Appendix D. These TORs will be revisited at the first session of the CAF.

45. It was agreed that the CAF sessions should be held annually and back-to-back with the annual session of the Commission. It was further agreed to apply this scheduling to the Sessions of the COC.

46. The Commission agreed to look into the feasibility of shortening its Session to four days.

47. The bureau of the CAF was unanimously elected. Mr Mohamed Fathy Osman (Egypt) was elected Chairperson while Ms Constantina Karlou-Riga (Greece) and Mr Hachemi Missaoui (Tunisia) were elected first and Second Vice-Chairpersons respectively.

MANAGEMENT OF MEDITERRANEAN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Management advice emanating from SAC

48. Mr Henri Farrugio, Chairperson of the SAC, presented the main conclusions and advices emanating from the SAC on the basis of document GFCM:XXXIII/2009/4.

49. He underlined that most of the stocks that had been assessed were fully exploited or overexploited, and that management measures needed to be taken urgently. The specific advice put forward by the SAC was the following:

- For sardine in GSA 17, reduce fishing effort without increasing capacity and establish a closed season of 45 days.
- Establish a recovery plan for *Parapenaeus longirostris* in GSA 6.
- Unless proven unnecessary by sound scientific advice, a reduction of at least 10 percent of fishing effort on demersal species in all GFCM GSAs as a precautionary measure.

50. The Commission was further informed that SAC agreed to include six new species to its list of priority species: *Octopus vulgaris*, *Auxis rochei*, *Sarda sarda*, *Euthynnus alletteratus*, *Orcynopsis unicolor* and *Katsuwonus pelamis*.

51. In the field of data collection and statistics, it was reported that the SAC suggested the following:

- Proceed with the establishment of the Regional Fleet Register (RFR) by 1 January 2010.
- Include a GFCM unique vessel identifier in the Authorized Vessels List and RFR.
- Adopt the proposed revised fleet segmentation and vessel classification criteria.
- Purvey data on Tasks 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 mandatory as from 2009.
- Adopt the proposed revisions of the GSA boundaries and introduce a statistical grid.

52. The Chair of SAC informed on the proposals of the Committee to implement the 40-mm square mesh for the trawlers operating outside territorial waters as from 2009 and to establish a Fisheries Restricted Area (FRA) in the Gulf of Lions region. He also presented three selected decisions from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and invited the Commission to consider it for possible endorsement.

53. The Commission thanked Mr Farrugio for the presentation and congratulated the Scientific Advisory Committee for the extensive work carried out during the intersessional period and its high quality and praised the Committee for the relevant outcomes presented to the Commission.

54. After an extensive discussion on the advice on the sardine stock in GSA 17, the Commission agreed that the SAC should provide further information on the basis of new analysis on the state of the stock and the fishery.

55. The Commission further requested SAC to ensure follow-up on this issue.

56. The delegation from Croatia informed that a closed season for sardine was already in force in Croatian waters, from 15 December to 15 January.

57. The Commission agreed that the stock of *Parapenaeus longirostris* in GSA 6 was in a critical condition, and that the advice from the SAC for preparing a recovery plan was appropriate. However, it was noted that this fishery also captures other species of commercial interest, and that an analysis on the state of these stocks and its effect on the resources of *Parapenaeus longirostris* would be necessary

before the recovery plan could be devised. The Commission decided to request the SAC to carry out this analysis during the next intersessional period, extending it to adjacent GSA's.

58. The EC delegation recalled that there might be close links between stocks fished in mixed fisheries in GSA 5, 6 and 7 and therefore suggested that an analysis at a wider spatial scale should be carried out.

Aquaculture management advice emanating from the CAQ

59. The Chairperson of the CAQ reported on the advice put forward by the CAQ on the management of Mediterranean aquaculture on the basis of document GFCM:XXXIII/2009/4. He focused on the proposal to set up an annual data reporting system through the SIPAM information system. He recalled that since the fifth Session of CAQ, there was general agreement that currently available aquaculture statistics underestimate the actual production of the Mediterranean and that reliability of aquaculture data is essential when assessing aquaculture activities, including marketing aspects.

60. Several delegations agreed on the importance of the availability of aquaculture statistics and that data should be submitted to the Commission on a mandatory basis.

61. The Commission fully supported the proposal to establishing the aquaculture data reporting scheme which would allow for the generation of regional dynamic statistics contributing sounding management processes. It noted that the marketing difficulties being faced by the aquaculture sector in the Mediterranean could be attributed, *inter alia*, to the lack of reliable statistics.

62. The Commission discussed a proposal related to the reporting on aquaculture data and agreed to adopt it as binding recommendation.

63. The Commission also discussed the frequency of the sessions of the CAQ and agreed to maintain biannual sessions and to establish the length of mandate of the CAQ bureau for four years.

64. On the basis of the management advice drawn up by the SAC and the CAQ, together with further proposals put forward by some Members, the Commission adopted the following decisions:

Decisions on fisheries management

Resolution on the management of demersal fisheries in the GFCM area

65. The Commission thoroughly discussed the advice provided by the Scientific Advisory Committee for an overall reduction of at least 10 percent in bottom trawling fishing effort and decided to adopt the related Resolution GFCM/33/2009/1 as reproduced in the Appendix E.

66. The delegate from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya stated that his country will be in the position to implement this measure when the necessary scientific information regarding the status of fishing resources in Libyan waters is available.

67. The Commission requested that necessary data to assess the status of stocks in this area be made available to the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) in the near future.

Recommendation on the establishment of a Fisheries Restricted Area in the Gulf of Lions

68. As a follow-up to the SAC advice, the Commission decided to establish a new GFCM Fisheries Restricted Area (FRA) in the Gulf of Lions, with freezing of fishing effort at the current level as the unique restriction measure. The related proposal presented by the EC delegation was adopted as Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/1. This new FRA is located in area of the eastern Gulf of Lions as

bounded by lines joining the following geographic coordinates: 42°40'N, 4°20'E; 42°40'N, 5°00'E; 43°00'N, 4°20'E; 43°00'N, 5°00'E. The endorsed Recommendation is reproduced in Appendix G.

69. The Commission further requested the SAC to ensure follow up of this area according to the terms of reference presented in Appendix H and through the analysis of the fishing activities performed by the vessels less than 15 metres length (LOA) in the area as well as on the likely biological and socio-economic consequences of extending this FRA.

70. In relation to the scope of this Recommendation, the Turkish delegate expressed his reservation for the establishment of Fisheries Restricted Areas or Protection Areas in the High Seas without full consensus of all relevant coastal states.

Recommendation on a minimum mesh size in the codend of demersal trawlnets

71. The Commission discussed extensively the proposed recommendation tabled by the EC. Several delegations, noting that implementation of this measure would require important technical and financial effort from the Member countries, expressed their concern about the strategic date proposed for the implementation of this recommendation. The support from the FAO regional projects to carry out the necessary research work was requested.

72. After a thorough debate, the Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/2 on a minimum 40-mm mesh size in the codend of demersal trawlnets was adopted as reproduced in Appendix I.

Decisions on fisheries and aquaculture data reporting

Resolution on establishment of geographical sub-areas in the GFCM area

73. The Commission decided to endorse the SAC proposal to change the boundaries of GSA 7 to conform to the FAO statistical divisions. It also adopted the proposal of establishing a grid of 30'x30' geographical grid for statistical reporting purposes.

74. This decision adopted as Resolution GFCM/33/2009/2 is reproduced in Appendix F.

75. The delegate from Turkey reiterated the reserve expressed by his Government at GFCM thirty-first session concerning the name of GSA 24.

Recommendation on the implementation of the GFCM Task 1 Statistical Matrix

76. Some delegations expressed concern with respect to the technical and financial implications of this requirement and requested additional support to achieve the desired results. It was noted that the FAO regional projects could assist in alleviating this problem. However, the FAO project staff informed that although the FAO has the technical capacity and the will to provide this support, through the Mediterranean regional projects, especially MedFisis, the funds currently available to these projects are insufficient to carry out this task.

77. The Commission agreed on the importance of the Task 1 Statistical Matrix and decided to adopt the Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3 as reproduced in Appendix J.

Recommendation on reporting of aquaculture data and information

78. The Commission discussed a proposal related to the reporting on aquaculture data and agreed to adopt it as binding recommendation quoted GFCM/33/2009/4 (Appendix K).

Recommendation on the establishment of the GFCM Regional Fleet Register

79. The Commission extensively discussed the EC proposal to establish the GFCM Regional Fleet Register, and decided to adopt it as a Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/5, as reproduced in Appendix L.

80. Some delegations expressed that, in order to facilitate the implementation of this recommendation, a technical and financial assistance will be needed.

Decisions related to the monitoring and control

Recommendation concerning the establishment of a GFCM record of vessels over 15 metres authorized to operate in the GFCM area

81. The Commission noted SAC's proposal to introduce the GFCM unique vessel identifier as a data field in the GFCM record of vessels over 15 metres and subsequently agreed to amend Recommendation GFCM/2005/2 accordingly. The Recommendation, as amended, is quoted GFCM/33/2009/6 and reproduced in Appendix M.

Recommendation concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a vessel monitoring system (VMS) in the GFCM area

82. The Commission revisited the draft Recommendation concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a VMS in the GFCM area which had originally been presented at the thirty-second session.

83. After accepting some amendments related to the implementation dates, the Commission adopted this proposal as Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/7 concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a VMS in the GFCM area. The Recommendation is reproduced in Appendix N.

84. Concerned countries are ready to implement this recommendation as of 31 December 2012 on condition that necessary financial and technical assistance are provided.

85. The EC delegate called for close cooperation among all GFCM Members to prepare for implementing this recommendation by the set deadline and stated the EC and its Member States are ready to assist non EU/GFCM Members who so wish in setting up of their VMS system through technical cooperation concerning training and, where possible, and financial support for the choice and purchase of technical equipment. All GFCM Members were invited to contribute to this technical and financial assistance according to their possibilities.

Recommendation on the establishment of a list of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing in the GFCM area, amending Recommendation GFCM/2006/4

86. With reference to document GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Inf.11, introduced by Ms Judith Swan, the Commission adopted the Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/8 on the establishment of a list of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing in the GFCM area, thereby modifying Recommendation GFCM/2006/4. The adopted recommendation is reproduced in Appendix O.

Pending decision

Draft recommendation of the management of fishing Capacity

87. The EC proposal for a Recommendation on the freezing of fishing capacity was discussed at length but no consensus was reached on its adoption.

88. The Commission therefore decided to re-examine this proposal during its next session. This draft Recommendation is reproduced as Appendix S.

89. In relation with the GFCM workshop on fleet capacity, scheduled to be held in the next intersessional period, the Commission called for a great and active participation of national experts and for the furniture of relevant analysis and data to this workshop (fleet development plans, state of the exploited resources, etc.) in order to ensure his success.

Recommendations from ICCAT of relevance for the Mediterranean

90. On the basis of document GFCM/XXXIII/2009/Inf.8, as presented by the SAC Chairperson, The Commission decided to adopt three ICCAT recommendations relevant to Mediterranean fisheries, namely:

- 1) Recommendation [08-03] by ICCAT on Mediterranean Swordfish;
- 2) Recommendation [08-05] by ICCAT amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a multiannual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean;
- 3) Recommendation [08-12] by ICCAT amending Recommendation [07-10] on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna catch documentation programme.

91. The Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/9 reproduces the three above mentioned decisions (Appendix P).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (COC)

92. The third session of the Compliance Committee of the GFCM was held in Tunis, on 23 and 25 March 2009 during the plenary session. The Committee unanimously elected Mr Boudjelida Khatir (Algeria), to serve as Chairperson, and Mr Aleksander Joksimovic (Montenegro) and Mr Haydar Fersoy (Turkey) as First Vice-Chairperson and Second Vice-Chairperson respectively, for a term of two years.

93. The Chairperson of the Committee reported that the COC addressed the status of implementation of GFCM decisions by Members, the management of the list of vessels authorized to operate in the GFCM area, the conclusions of the Working Group on VMS, as well as the Compendium of GFCM decisions.

94. The Committee noted that most of national reports on the implementation of GFCM measures had been not received, as requested by Resolution GFCM/32/2008/1. Members were reminded of the value of such reports as a basis for discussion and were encouraged to provide them in future.

95. The Commission noted that references to the regulations within national legislation were not always provided and that this information would also be useful in the summary table where it could be easily consulted.

96. The Committee noted the progress made by countries in the submission of data and information, particularly in relation to Task 1 and the Authorized Vessels List (AVL) and commended the progress made by the Secretariat in the development of the related databases and electronic applications, as well as in the management of data and information submitted.

97. On the establishment of VMS in the GFCM area, the Committee noted potential constraints in relation to timing and financial commitments, and decided to forward the issue for discussion at the plenary session of the Commission.

98. The Committee supported the use of the Compendium of GFCM decisions as the basic reference document for monitoring compliance with GFCM decisions and congratulated the Secretariat for the work carried out in compiling it.

99. The Secretariat was requested to take the necessary action to set up the interactive database on GFCM decisions through the web site.

100. The Commission acknowledged the offer made by the EC delegation to use its relevant services for possible translation of the Compendium of GFCM decisions to Arabic.

101. The Commission endorsed the report of the Compliance Committee that is included as Appendix Q to this report.

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD 2009

Programme of work of the Scientific Advisory Committee

102. With reference to documents GFCM:XXXIII/2009/6 and GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Inf.5, the Commission was presented with the draft programme of work, suggested by the eleventh session of SAC.

103. The Commission endorsed the programme of work proposed by SAC including the new approach to the functioning of its Working Groups on Demersal and Small Pelagic Resources, with special emphasis on the following:

Stock assessment

- pursue activities on stock assessment using both commercial data and surveys at sea;
- agree on a set of biological parameters of growth and natural mortality;
- improve biological indicators and further develop reference points;

Marine environment and ecosystems

- finalize a common standard for selectivity studies and initiate studies related to artificial reefs;
- continue developing pilot studies to implement the EAF, including through the involvement of stakeholders;
- develop monitoring schemes on the implementation of the prohibition of demersal fisheries activities below 1 000 m;

Statistics and information

- update the Task 1 Statistical Bulletin as required and continue with the development of the new software to be used by countries as to report Task 1 data needed as from 2009;
- initiate the implementation of a test period for reporting data related to the Regional Fleet Register (RFR);

Economic and social sciences

- develop studies on the socio-economic impacts of implementing the 40-mm square mesh in trawl fisheries;
- pursue studies on recreational fisheries;
- analyse the structures of economic incentives and mechanisms in national fisheries;

Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Species

- follow-up to the recommendations of the eighth session of the Joint Working Group concerning small tunas;

Updating of the SAC Glossary

- proceed with the updating of the SAC glossary

104. The Commission also discussed on the importance to promote the age reading for some species of interest notably to set up appropriate methodologies and to compare results obtained by various research institutions.

105. The regional projects were invited to collaborate in carrying out some activities in this field.

Meetings of the SAC and its subsidiary bodies

106. The Commission agreed to convene the following meetings during the intersessional period.

Meeting	Place/Date
SCSI/SCSA Transversal Workshop on the GFCM Logbook	Rome, Italy 29 June–1 July 2009
SCMEE/SCSA/SCCESS Transversal Workshop on Selectivity Improvement and Bycatch Reduction	Tunis, Tunisia 23–25 September 2009
SCSA Working Group on Stock assessment of Demersal Species	Ancona, Italy 19–23 October 2009
SCSA Working Group on Stock Assessment of Small Pelagic Species	Ancona, Italy 26–30 October 2009
Session of the SCCESS	Malaga, Spain 30 November–3 December 2009
Session of the SCMEE	Malaga, Spain 30 November–3 December 2009
Session of the SCSA	Malaga, Spain 30 November–3 December 2009
Session of the SCSI	Malaga, Spain 30 November–3 December 2009
CMSC	Malaga, Spain 4 December 2009
Twelfth session of the SAC	Montenegro 25–29 January 2010
SCCESS/SCSA/SCSI Transversal Workshop on Fishing Capacity	Rome, Italy 17–19 February 2010

107. The representatives of ACCOBAMS and RAC/SPA stated that they were pleased with the strengthened collaboration with the GFCM during the intersessional period and looked forward to take it further during the forthcoming period of work, particularly on issues related to bycatch, selectivity and sensitive habitats.

Programme of work of the Committee on Aquaculture

108. The Chairperson of CAQ presented the programme of work for the forthcoming intersessional period. These activities are mainly based on the continuation of the projects supporting the activities of the subsidiary bodies of the CAQ.

Aquaculture and marketing

- preparation of a regional synthesis and qualitative assessment of the Mediterranean Market;
- identification of a medium term strategy for the development of marketing of aquaculture products;
- design and incorporation in the SIPAM Information System, of a Regional Marketing database on finfish marine aquaculture products;
- publication of the review entitled “Market Study on Mediterranean Meagre (*Argyrosomus regius*)” and identification and preparation of other special studies on commodities such as amberjack, turbot, mullets and octopus.

Siting and carrying capacity

- review the existing procedures for site selection and evaluation of the effectiveness of regulatory schemes and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures;
- design and implement a data management tool to store available (or published) environmental data, as well as data referring to the environmental monitoring of the marine fish farms surrounding.

Aquaculture sustainability

- finalize the principle, the criteria and preliminary list of multidisciplinary indicators and reference points in relation to agreed methodology;
- develop and implement pilot studies to test and refine, as appropriate, the methodological framework and sets of indicators;
- establish synergies and cooperation with other projects or Mediterranean initiatives, related to the sustainable development of Mediterranean marine aquaculture;
- prepare draft guidelines for the use of indicators and reference points, including feasibility, practicability, expertise requirements and cost-effectiveness.

SIPAM

- improve the databases on “Production Statistics” and “Production Centres”;
- develop new sections, respectively on Marketing, Siting and Carrying capacity and on Sustainable indicators in the SIPAM information system;
- continue the management and maintenance of the system, including the consolidation of the SIPAM portal.

Meetings of the CAQ and its subsidiary bodies

109. The Commission agreed to convene the following meetings in 2009.

Meeting	Place/Date
WGSC – Meeting on National legislation on Siting, monitoring programmes and EIA regulatory framework for finfish marine aquaculture (ShocMed)	Vigo, Spain 13–14 July
IUCN/FEAP/CAQ – Workshop on Diversification of Production on Aquaculture	TBD/ September
WGMA – Meeting “Development of a Strategy for Marketing and Promotion of Mediterranean Aquaculture” (MedAqMarket)	Tangier, Morocco 27–28 October
WGSC – Multistakeholder Workshop on Siting and Carrying Capacity (ShocMed)	Tangier, Morocco 29–30 October
WGAS – Workshop on guidelines and application on sustainable indicators in aquaculture (InDAM)	TBD/ 18–19 November
SIPAM – Workshop on harmonization standards for Mediterranean aquaculture data collection (back to back with 11 th Annual Meeting of SIPAM)	Trabzon, Turkey 8 December
SIPAM – Eleventh Annual Meeting	Trabzon, Turkey 9–10 December
CMWG – Coordination Meeting of the Working Groups	Rome, Italy 17–18 December

110. The Commission noted CAQ’s request to revitalize its work on lagoon management, particularly in view of the strong interactions between capture fisheries and aquaculture in these areas. The CAQ also advised that regional projects currently dealing mostly with capture fisheries should also include a component on aquaculture.

111. The Chairperson of the GFCM recalled that the new Recommendation concerning the transmission of aquaculture data will imply a new commitment for the activities of the Commission through the CAQ and the SIPAM Regional Centre in Tunis. He stated that an additional extension of the Centre until December 2009 will be advisable for a proper and complete technical handing over to the GFCM Secretariat. The new commitment will also imply additional work for the Secretariat.

112. The representative of the IUCN underlined his appreciation for the results achieved through the work carried in a short time, and for the Recommendation made on data collection. He also recalled that on the basis of the agreement between the IUCN and GFCM there are many lines of cooperation established, namely on the subject of aquaculture siting and carrying capacity and sustainable indicators. He added that he was looking forward to discussions in the near future on other aquaculture sensitive issues, such as environmental impacts, sustainability and interaction with capture fisheries.

113. Some delegates suggested that in the future the CAQ programme should include also some other technical subjects on aquaculture, such as pathology, for which expertise is lacking in some countries.

114. The delegate from Croatia expressed his appreciation for the programme presented including some new components such as sustainability indicators and carrying capacity. He stressed that in the coming years, a much closer link with coastal environmental assessment, the interaction of aquaculture and coastal fisheries and synergies with tourism and its related activities should also be considered.

115. The Chairpersons of SAC and CAQ commended the great efforts of the Secretariat in conducting a large amount of high quality work in a short period.

Meeting of the Compliance Committee (COC)

116. The Commission confirmed that the fourth session of the COC will take place before the next plenary session of the Commission (back to back).

Performance Review

117. The acting executive Secretary presented the draft guidelines for the GFCM Performance Review on the basis of document GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Inf.13.

118. The Commission endorsed the draft guidelines and agreed that the performance review will take place during 2009 and 2010, with the results being presented to the thirty-fifth session of the Commission.

119. The guidelines for the GFCM performance review including the related criteria are provided in Appendix R.

GFCM BUDGET AND MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2009

120. Mr Abdellah Srour, the acting Executive Secretary presented this point of the agenda on the basis of document GFCM/XXXIII/2009/7 which draws upon the short and medium term budget of the GFCM. He informed the Commission that the budget has been drawn up in accordance with the proposed draft workplan for 2009.

121. Detailed information on the main chapters of the budget for the financial periods 2009 and 2010 was delivered. The shares of the autonomous budget to be financed by each Member were also presented, along with the estimated contribution of the FAO Regular Programme and from voluntary contributions made by Members in support of cooperative projects administered by the Secretariat.

122. The Commission expressed some concern for the substantial increase of the proposed budget for 2009. Additional information was requested on the additional cost in relation to administration, staff and consultancy. Mr Srour provided the Commission with complementary details and explanation on these issues.

123. In the discussion that followed, it was agreed that the amount related to the running costs of the new Headquarters, should not be included in the 2009 budget and that this issue should continue to be discussed with the involved parties. Furthermore the Commission decided that the budget should not be increased by more than 5 percent.

124. Italy confirmed its readiness to support, during a transition period and on a voluntary basis, the start-up costs for the new GFCM headquarters. The amount of this voluntary contribution will be equivalent to the contributions to the GFCM autonomous budget, paid by Italy from 2005 onwards.

125. The Commission noted that offer and that discussion among all parties concerned would resume in the coming weeks.

126. The Secretariat was requested to take the necessary steps in order to follow up on all pending matters related to the move to the new GFCM headquarters during the 2009 intersessional period.

127. The Commission further agreed to establish a new position (P2) within the Secretariat and adopted the budget for 2009 for a total amount of USD 1,478,986 as indicated in Appendix T as well as the contribution of the members to the GFCM budget (Appendix U).

ANY OTHER MATTERS

128. The delegate from Montenegro highlighted the importance of organizing a high level International Conference on Mediterranean Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2010 with the involvement of the different stakeholders. The aim of this Conference is to address issues on sustainable Mediterranean fishery and aquaculture such as governance, protection of sensitive habitats and the effect of climate change on the Mediterranean fisheries and ecosystems.

129. The delegate from Tunisia made reference to the publication N. 75 “Studies and Reviews” (by Philippe Cacaud). He underlined that a paragraph on the Tunisian legislation contains some mistakes which should be corrected when possible.

130. The Commission stressed that in the future overlapping of meetings of the GFCM and those of other international partner organizations should be avoided.

131. The Commission unanimously expressed its great satisfaction for the excellent work and the remarkable effort made by the Secretariat to organize this session properly, despite of the limiting unforeseen circumstances.

132. Mr Srour thanked all delegations for their encouraging words and underlined that this success could not have been achieved without the substantial work done by the staff of the Secretariat led by the Executive Secretary of the Commission, Mr Alain Bonzon.

133. Furthermore, the Commission thanked FAO for the continuous support to GFCM and expressed its sincere gratitude to the Government of Tunisia for the hospitality and the excellent organization of the meeting.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

134. The Commission decided to hold its thirty-fourth session in March 2010. The Commission welcomed the offer made by the delegation of Greece to host the next session of the Commission in Athens subject to confirmation by the relevant national authorities. The exact date and the venue will be agreed in due course.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

135. The report was adopted on Friday 27 March 2009.

Agenda

- 1. Opening of the session**
- 2. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the session**
- 3. Report on the intersessional activities 2008**
 - Report of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)
 - Report of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ)
 - Report of the FAO Regional projects
- 4. Administrative and financial issues**
 - Report of the Secretariat
 - Activities and functioning of the Secretariat
 - Headquarters of the Commission
 - Status of ratification of the Amendments to the GFCM Agreement
 - Member contributions to the autonomous budget
 - 2008 Financial status: autonomous budget, arrears and trust funds
 - Establishment of the Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF)
- 5. Management of Mediterranean fisheries and aquaculture**
 - Fisheries management advice emanating from the SAC
 - Aquaculture management advice emanating from the CAQ
 - Draft Recommendation (revised) concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a VMS system in the GFCM Area
 - Proposal to amend the Recommendation GFCM/2006/4 on the establishment of a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the GFCM Area
 - Recommendations from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) of relevance for the Mediterranean
- 6. Conclusions and recommendations of the Compliance Committee (COC)**
- 7. Programme of work for the intersessional period 2009**
 - Programme of work of SAC
 - Programme of work of CAQ
- 8. Performance review of the GFCM**
- 9. GFCM budget and Member contributions for 2009-2010**
- 10. Any other matters**
- 11. Date and place of the thirty-fourth session**
- 12. Adoption of the Report**

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List of documents

GFCM:XXXIII/2009/1	Provisional Agenda and Timetable
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/2	Intersessional activities 2008
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/3	Report of the Secretariat on administrative and financial issues
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/4	Management of Mediterranean fisheries and aquaculture
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/5	Report of the GFCM Compliance Committee
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/6	Programme of work for the intersessional period 2009
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/7	GFCM budget and Members contribution for 2009–2010
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Inf.1	Provisional List of Documents
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Inf.2	Provisional List of Participants
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Inf.3	Agreement for the Establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, Financial Rules and Rules of Procedures
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Inf.4	Report of the thirty-second session of GFCM (Rome, Italy, 25–29 February 2008)
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Inf.5	Report of the eleventh session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) (Marrakech, Morocco, 1–5 December 2008)
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Inf.6	Report of the sixth session of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) (Tirana, Albania, 17–19 December 2008)
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Inf.7	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights by the European Community and its member States
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Inf.8	ICCAT Recommendations of relevance to the Mediterranean
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Inf.9	Major activities of the FAO Regional Projects in 2008
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Inf.10	Draft Recommendation (revised) concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a VMS system in the GFCM area
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Inf.11	Proposal to amend the Recommendation GFCM/2006/4 on the establishment of a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the GFCM area ¹
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Inf.12	Draft Terms of Reference for the Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF)
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Inf.13	Draft Guidelines for the GFCM Performance Review
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Dma.1	Regional study on the small tuna fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. GFCM Studies and Reviews No. 85. Rome, FAO. 2008. (Available only in English)
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Dma.2	Impact of selected fishing gears on the environment in the Mediterranean. GFCM publication “Studies and Reviews N. 84” (by Jacques Sacchi) (Available only in French).
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Dma.3	Fisheries laws and regulations in the Mediterranean: a comparative study (Arabic version). GFCM publication “Studies and Reviews No. 75” (by Philippe Cacaud)
GFCM:XXXIII/2009/Dma.4	Task 1 Statistical Bulletin.

¹ Refer to the paragraph 95 of the report of the thirty-second session of GFCM

Terms of reference of the GFCM Committee on Administration and Finance

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

ESTABLISHES, in accordance with Article VII (1) of the Agreement creating the GFCM, a Committee of Administration and Finance (CAF).

The functions of the Committee on Administration and Finance shall be to:

- a) review administrative matters relating to the Executive Secretary and his staff and make appropriate recommendations to the Commission;
- b) review compliance with the rules of procedures and financial rules;
- c) review the implementation of the budget adopted at the previous session of the Commission and analyse and make recommendations on the draft budget to be adopted at the current session of the Commission; and
- d) perform such other administration and financial matters as may be referred to it by the Commission.

The Committee of Administration and Finance shall meet before the annual Commission session.

**RESOLUTION GFCM/33/2009/1
ON THE MANAGEMENT OF DEMERSAL
FISHERIES IN THE GFCM AREA**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

RECALLING that the objectives of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources;

RECALLING the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference for the Sustainable Development of the Fisheries in the Mediterranean held between 25 and 26 November 2003 in Venice;

RECALLING that effective management measures aim to curb the decline in fish stocks, identified in the scientific advice, and to ensure conserve fisheries resources;

CONSIDERING that the Scientific Advisory Committee suggested that fishing mortality should be reduced significantly, on the basis of the scientific evidence that some of the demersal stocks may be approaching a critical state;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/2002/1 which urges the control of fishing effort and the improvement of the exploitation pattern of demersal fisheries;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/2006/1 which calls for a management programme in relation to fishing effort control in demersal and small pelagic fisheries;

RE-AFFIRMING the principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and recalling the precautionary and ecosystem approach to fisheries, in particular, in relation to the development of new fisheries;

RESOLVES that:

1. Unless proven unnecessary by sound scientific advice, a reduction of a minimum of 10 percent of bottom trawling fishing effort shall be applied in all GFCM areas.
2. SAC should continue to monitor the fishing effort of other demersal fisheries together with their impact on demersal resources, with a view to include such fisheries under the provisions of paragraph 1, if necessary.
3. This measure does not affect the number of fishing vessels.
4. This Resolution should be implemented without prejudice to fleet modernization plans which may be in place in some Member countries.

RESOLUTION GFCM/33/2009/2
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GEOGRAPHICAL SUB-AREAS
IN THE GFCM AREA AMENDING THE RESOLUTION GFCM/31/2007/2

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

RECOGNIZING the need to compile data, monitor fisheries and assess fisheries resources in a georeferenced manner;

RECALLING the efforts made by Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and its Sub-Committees to identify *appropriate* boundaries for sub-areas in the GFCM area (FAO area 37);

CONSIDERING the decision made by the Commission at its twenty-sixth session (2001) to establish geographical sub-areas (GSAs) in the GFCM area;

CONSIDERING the *advice* emanating from the ninth and eleventh session of SAC;

ESTABLISHES:

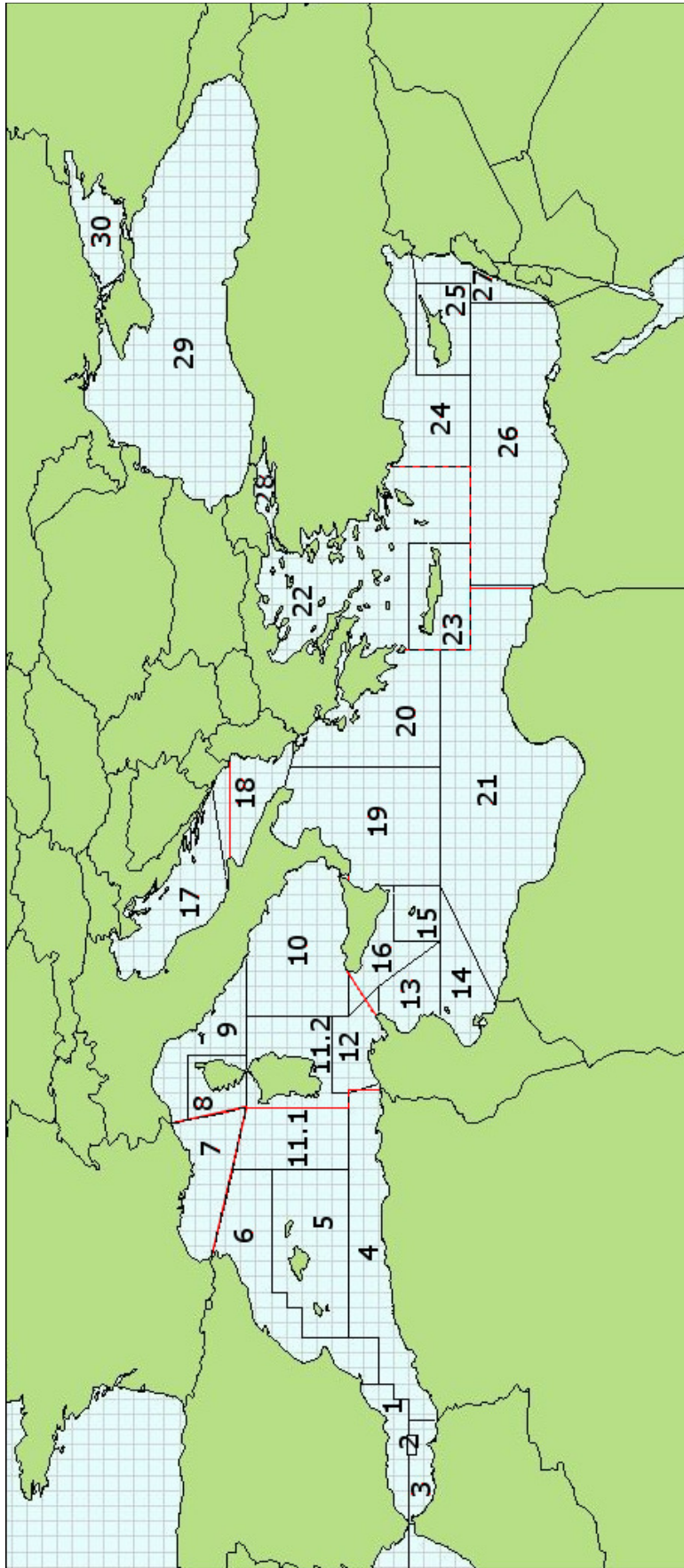
1. Geographical sub-areas in the GFCM area as shown in Annexes 1, 2 and 3.

Table of GFCM geographical sub-areas (GSAs)

FAO SUB-AREA	FAO STATISTICAL DIVISIONS	GSAs
WESTERN	1.1 BALEARIC	1 Northern Alboran Sea
		2 Alboran Island
		3 Southern Alboran Sea
		4 Algeria
		5 Balearic Island
		6 Northern Spain
	1.2 GULF OF LIONS	7 Gulf of Lions
		1.3 SARDINIA
	9 Ligurian and North Tyrrhenian Sea	
	10 South Tyrrhenian Sea	
	11.1 Sardinia (west)	
	11.2 Sardinia (east)	
12 Northern Tunisia		
CENTRAL	2.1 ADRIATIC	17 Northern Adriatic
		18 Southern Adriatic Sea (part)
	2.2 IONIAN	13 Gulf of Hammamet
		14 Gulf of Gabes
		15 Malta Island
		16 South of Sicily
		18 Southern Adriatic Sea (part)
		19 Western Ionian Sea
		20 Eastern Ionian Sea
		21 Southern Ionian Sea
EASTERN	3.1 AEGEAN	22 Aegean Sea
		23 Crete Island
	3.2 LEVANT	24 North Levant
		25 Cyprus Island
		26 South Levant
		27 Levant
BLACK SEA	4.1 MARMARA	28 Marmara Sea
	4.2 BLACK SEA	29 Black Sea
	4.3 AZOV SEA	30 Azov Sea

Map of GFCM Geographical sub-areas (GSAs) (GFCM, 2009)

APP.F/Annex 2



---- FAO Statistical Divisions (red) ---- GFCM Geographical sub-areas (black)

01 - Northern Alboran Sea	07 - Gulf of Lions	13 - Gulf of Hammamet	19 - Western Ionian Sea	25 - Cyprus Island
02 - Alboran Island	08 - Corsica Island	14 - Gulf of Gabes	20 - Eastern Ionian Sea	26 - South Levant
03 - Southern Alboran Sea	09 - Ligurian and North Tyrrhenian Sea	15 - Malta Island	21 - Southern Ionian Sea	27 - Levant
04 - Algeria	10 - South and Central Tyrrhenian Sea	16 - South of Sicily	22 - Aegean Sea	28 - Marmara Sea
05 - Balearic Island	11.1 - Sardinia (west)	17 - Northern Adriatic	23 - Crete Island	29 - Black Sea
06 - Northern Spain	12 - Northern Tunisia	18 - Southern Adriatic Sea	24 - North Levant	30 - Azov Sea

Geographical coordinates for GFCM Geographical sub-areas (GSAs) (GFCM, 2009)

GSAs	LIMITS	GSAs	LIMITS	GSAs	LIMITS	GSAs	LIMITS
1	Coast Line 36° N 5° 36' W 36° N 3° 20' W 36° 05' N 3° 20' W 36° 05' N 2° 40' W 36° N 2° 40' W 36° N 1° 30' W 36° 30' N 1° 30' W 36° 30' N 1° W 37° N 1° W	4	Coast Line 36° N 2° 13' W 36° N 1° 30' W 36° 30' N 1° 30' W 36° 30' N 1° W 37° N 1° W 37° N 0° 30' E 38° N 0° 30' E 38° N 8° 35' E Algeria-Tunisia border Morocco-Algeria border	7	Coast line 42° 26' N 3° 09' E 41° 20' N 8° E France-Italy border	10	Coast line (including North Sicily) 41° 18' N 13° E 41° 18' N 11° E 38° N 11° E 38° N 12° 30' E
2	36° 05' N 3° 20' W 36° 05' N 2° 40' W 35° 45' N 3° 20' W 35° 45' N 2° 40' W	5	38° N 0° 30' E 39° 30' N 0° 30' E 39° 30' N 1° 30' W 40° N 1° 30' E 40° N 2° E 40° 30' N 2° E 40° 30' N 6° E 38° N 6° E	8	43° 15' N 7° 38' E 43° 15' N 9° 45' E 41° 18' N 9° 45' E 41° 20' N 8° E 41° 18' N 8° E	11	41° 47' N 6° E 41° 18' N 6° E 41° 18' N 11° E 38° 30' N 11° E 38° 30' N 8° 30' E 38° N 8° 30' E 38° N 6° E
3	Coast Line 36° N 5° 36' W 35° 49' N 5° 36' W 36° N 3° 20' W 35° 45' N 3° 20' W 35° 45' N 2° 40' W 36° N 2° 40' W 36° N 1° 13' W Morocco-Algeria border	6	Coast line 37° 36' N 1° W 37° N 1° W 37° N 0° 30' E 39° 30' N 0° 30' E 39° 30' N 1° 30' W 40° N 1° 30' E 40° N 2° E 40° 30' N 2° E 40° 30' N 6° E 41° 47' N 6° E 42° 26' N 3° 09' E	9	Coast line France-Italy border 43° 15' N 7° 38' E 43° 15' N 9° 45' E 41° 18' N 9° 45' E 41° 18' N 13° E	12	Coast line Algeria-Tunisia border 38° N 8° 30' E 38° 30' N 8° 30' E 38° 30' N 11° E 38° N 11° E 37° N 12° E 37° N 11° 04' E

GSAS	LIMITS	GSAS	LIMITS	GSAS	LIMITS
13	Coast line 37° N 11° 04' E 37° N 12° E 35° N 13° 30' E 35° N 11° E	19	Coast line (including East Sicily) 40° 04' N 18° 29' E 37° N 15° 18' E 35° N 15° 18' E 35° N 19° 10' E 39° 58' N 19° 10' E	25	35° 47' N 32° E 34° N 32° E 34° N 35° E 35° 47' N 35° E
14	Coast line 35° N 11° E 35° N 15° 18' E Tunisia-Libya border	20	Coast line Albania-Greece border 39° 58' N 19° 10' E 35° N 19° 10' E 35° N 23° E 36° 30' N 23° E	26	Coast line Libya-Egypt border 34° N 25° 09' E 34° N 34° 13' E Egypt-Gaza Strip border
15	36° 30' N 13° 30' E 35° N 13° 30' E 35° N 15° 18' E 36° 30' N 15° 18' E	21	Coast line Tunisia-Libya border 35° N 15° 18' E 35° N 23° E 34° N 23° E 34° N 25° 09' E Libya-Egypt border	27	Coast line Egypt-Gaza Strip border 34° N 34° 13' E 34° N 35° E 35° 47' N 35° E Turkey-Syria border
16	Coast line 38° N 12° 30' E 38° N 11° E 37° N 12° E 35° N 13° 30' E 36° 30' N 13° 30' E 36° 30' N 15° 18' E 37° N 15° 18' E	22	Coast line 36° 30' N 23° E 36° N 23° E 36° N 26° 30' E 34° N 26° 30' E 34° N 29° E 36° 43' N 29° E	28	
17	Coast line 41° 55' N 15° 08' E Croatia-Montenegro border	23	36° N 23° E 36° N 26° 30' E 34° N 26° 30' E 34° N 23° E	29	
18	Coast lines (both sides) 41° 55' N 15° 08' E 40° 04' N 18° 29' E Croatia-Montenegro border Albania-Greece border	24	Coast line 36° 43' N 29° E 34° N 29° E 34° N 32° E 35° 47' N 32° E 35° 47' N 35° E Turkey-Syria border	30	

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/33/2009/1
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FISHERIES RESTRICTED AREA IN THE
GULF OF LIONS TO PROTECT SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS AND
DEEP SEA SENSITIVE HABITATS**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

RECALLING that the objective of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean is to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/29/2005/1 on the management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and deepwater species and, notably, Article 1 therein;

CONSIDERING that the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) assesses that several stocks are overexploited, some with a high risk of collapse, and that sustainable management requires that measures aimed at limiting the capture of juveniles are implemented;

REAFFIRMING its commitment to further improving the gear selectivity of demersal trawl fisheries beyond what can be achieved by a minimum 40-mm square mesh size with a view to ensure better protection of juveniles of several species as well as to reduce discarding practices in a multispecies context;

CONSIDERING that selectivity of some fishing gears cannot go beyond certain level in Mediterranean mixed fisheries and that, in addition to the overall control and limitation of the fishing effort and fleet capacity, it is fundamental to limit the fishing effort in areas in which adults of important stocks aggregate in order to allow these stocks to deliver the necessary recruitment, thus allowing for their sustainable exploitation;

NOTING that the SAC advises to ban the use of towed and fixed gears and longlines for demersal resources in an area on the continental shelf and slope of the Eastern Gulf of Lions;

CONSIDERING that more scientific information is needed with a view to understand the relevance of other adjacent areas on the continental shelf and slope for the protection of spawners and sensitive habitats as well as to better known the level and spatial distribution of the fishing effort exerted;

PENDING the delivery of this additional information by the SAC;

ADOPTS in conformity with the provision of paragraph 1 (b) and (h) of Article III and Article V of GFCM Agreement that:

1. The fishing effort for demersal stocks of vessels using towed nets, bottom and mid-water longlines, bottom-set nets shall not exceed the level of fishing effort applied in 2008 in the fisheries restricted area of the eastern Gulf of Lions as bounded by lines joining the following geographic coordinates:

42°40'N, 4°20'E;
42°40'N, 5°00'E;
43°00'N, 4°20'E;
43°00'N, 5°00'E.

2. Members and cooperating non-Members of GFCM shall communicate to the GFCM Executive Secretary not later than June 2009 the list of vessels that have used towed nets, bottom and mid-water longlines, bottom-set nets in the area referred to in paragraph 1 in the year 2008.
3. The list shall contain the following information for each vessel:
 - Name of vessel
 - Register number
 - GFCM unique identifier (country ISO 3-alpha code + 9 digits, e.g. xxx000000001)
 - Previous name (if any)
 - Previous flag (if any)
 - Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
 - International radio call sign (if any)
 - Type of vessel, length overall and gross tonnage (GT) and/or gross registered tonnage (GRT)
 - Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
 - Main gear(s) used to fish in the fishery restricted area
 - Seasonal period authorized for fishing in the fishery restricted area
 - Number of fishing days exerted by each vessel in the year 2008 and number of fishing days exerted in the fishery restricted area
4. Members and cooperating non-Members of GFCM shall establish a register of the fishing vessels authorized to fish in the area which ensure that the vessels not having records of fishing in the area prior 31 December 2008 are not authorized to start fishing therein.
5. Members and cooperating non-Members of GFCM shall communicate to the GFCM Executive Secretary not later than September 2009 the legal conditions, as in force at 31 December 2008, as for the maximum time of daily fishing activity, the maximum number of days a vessel can stay at sea as well as the compulsory timing between the exit and return to the registered port of their fishing vessels.
6. Members and cooperating non-Members of GFCM shall ensure that fishing vessels operating in the area respect their obligation as in force at 31 December 2008 as for the maximum time of daily fishing activity, the maximum number of days a vessel can stay at sea as well as the legally compulsory timing to exit and return to the registered port.
7. For the fisheries restricted area referred to in paragraph 1, Members and Cooperating non-Members of GFCM shall call the attention of the appropriate national and international authorities in order to protect this area from the impact of any other human activity jeopardizing the conservation of the features that characterize this particular habitat as an area of spawners' aggregation.
8. Boundaries of the area and conditions to fish therein as referred to in previous paragraphs may change on the basis of SAC advice.

**Request for SAC to undertake studies on the
protection of spawning aggregations on the continental shelf edge and
slope of the northern western Mediterranean**

1. SAC is requested to continue its scientific work with a view to completing its advice concerning the establishment of a fisheries restricted area in the Gulf of Lions by:
 - examining and analysing the data on spatial and seasonal distribution of the fishing activities targeting demersal resources in depths between 200 and 700 m, including fishing activities of vessels under 15 m Length Over A11;
 - extending the scope of advice to the entire canyons system in the GSA 7 and GSA 6 and carry out a compilation and analysis of the available information, both commercial and from scientific surveys, on distribution of spawning aggregations and nurseries areas of the main demersal stocks on the shelf edge and continental slope;
 - evaluate the biological effects in terms of yields and spawning stock biomass of the main demersal stocks as a consequence of the establishment of one or more fishery restricted areas in the canyons system of the GSA 7 and GSA 6;
 - evaluate the fishing effort displacement and possible socio-economic effects, if any, as a consequence of the establishment of one or more fisheries restricted in the canyons system in the GSA 7 and GSA 6.

2. SAC is requested to establish a multi-annual work programme for the extension of the scope of its advice to other canyons in the Mediterranean.

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/33/2009/2
ON THE MINIMUM MESH SIZE IN THE CODEND
OF DEMERSAL TRAWLNETS**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

RECALLING that the objective of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/29/2005/1 on the management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and deepwater species and, notably, Article 1 therein;

CONSIDERING that the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) considers that several stocks are overexploited, some with a high risk of collapse, and that sustainable management requires that measures aimed at limiting the capture of juveniles are implemented;

REAFFIRMING its commitment to further improving the gear selectivity of demersal trawl fisheries beyond that deliver by the 40-mm diamond mesh size with the view to ensure a better protection of juveniles of several species as well as to reduce discarding practices in a multispecies context;

RECALLING resolution GFCM/31/2007/3 on the voluntary implementation of 40-mm square mesh size in codend of trawlnets exploiting demersal resources;

CONSIDERING the recurrent advice on implementing a minimum 40-mm square mesh in the codend of demersal trawl fisheries exploiting several demersal stocks as also given at the eleventh session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC);

NOTING that the stock assessment conducted by the SAC only concern specific Geographical sub-areas corresponding to the data supplied by certain Members and that the assessed stocks may be shared with adjacent GFCM geographical sub-areas (GSAs);

CONSIDERING that in the absence of any scientific information on the status of fisheries and of the exploited resources a more cautious approach is needed and that suitable information coming from adjacent areas could be used for proper and precautionary management of fisheries;

NOTING that the SAC advises to apply the precautionary principle and calls for the immediate implementation of a minimum 40-mm square mesh in demersal trawl fishing for vessels operating outside territorial waters as from 2009;

RECALLING recommendation GFCM/31/2007/1 authorizing derogation to use codend mesh size smaller than 40-mm to operate in certain local and seasonal demersal trawl fisheries exploiting not-shared demersal stocks;

RECOGNIZING that from a social and economic point of view, and unless otherwise requested by conservation needs, it is necessary to ensure gradual changes in the exploitation pattern of fisheries;

ADOPTS in conformity with the provision of paragraph 1 (b) and (h) of Article III and Article V of GFCM Agreement that:

1. The Members and Cooperating entities of GFCM shall adopt and implement, at latest by 31 January 2012, a minimum 40-mm square mesh codend or a diamond mesh size of at least 50 mm,

of acknowledged equivalent or higher size selectivity, for all trawling activities exploiting demersal stocks when operating in the GFCM area.

2. The provision referred to in Article 1 above is without prejudice to the operation of certain local and seasonal trawl fisheries operating in derogation to a minimum 40-mm codend mesh size until 31 May 2010 as authorized in line with GFCM Recommendation 31/2007/1.

3. The Members and Cooperating entities of GFCM shall communicate to GFCM Secretariat every three months, starting from 1 October 2009, the list of fishing vessels, and their percentage out of the whole national demersal trawl fleet, equipped with a trawl cod-end mesh size as stipulated in Article 1 above.

4. The list of vessels referred to in Article 3 above shall contain the following information for each vessel:

- Name of vessel
- Register number
- GFCM unique identifier (country ISO-3 code + 9 digits, e.g. xxx000000001)
- Previous name (if any)
- Previous flag (if any)
- Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
- International radio call sign (if any)
- Type of vessel, length and gross tonnage (GT) and/or gross registered tonnage (GRT)
- Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
- Main gears used
- Time period authorized for fishing with demersal trawl gear

5. Each Members and Cooperating non-Members of GFCM shall promptly notify, as from 31 January 2012, the GFCM Secretariat of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the demersal trawl fleet referred to in Article 3 above at any time such changes occur.

6. The GFCM Secretariat shall maintain such a list of demersal trawl fishing vessels and take any measure to ensure publicity of the record including through electronic means and placing it on the GFCM website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by Members.

7. On the basis of the outcome of selectivity experimental trials which will be carried out on regional or national level in the GFCM area, in line with the Resolution GFCM/XXXI/2007/3, and on the basis of SAC advice the measure referred to in paragraph 1 will be implemented accordingly for the fisheries concerned.

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/33/2009/3
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE GFCM TASK 1 STATISTICAL MATRIX
(REPEALING RESOLUTION GFCM/31/2007/1)**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

CONSIDERING that rational management for sustainable fisheries is dependent on the scientific utilization of relevant data on fishing fleet capacity, on fishing activities carried out, on the status of exploited biological resources and on the social and economic situation of fisheries;

CONSIDERING the GFCM strategy to manage the fisheries through, inter alia, effort control by Operational Units;

NOTING the importance of multidisciplinary data and information required to monitor and assess fisheries and fisheries resources and to ensure their sustainable exploitation;

RECOGNIZING the need to develop a GFCM database, on the basis of the information received from Members according to a standardized format;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/2006/1 on the management of fishing effort for particular fisheries and the identification of related Operational Units and the appropriate parameters to measure fishing effort;

CONSIDERING that Resolution GFCM/31/2007/1 was amended to take into consideration the changes in the fleet segmentation and allocation criteria;

CONSIDERING that timely and complete submission of data and analysis of the status of fisheries and exploited resources is of paramount importance for the effectiveness and credibility of GFCM management measures;

TAKING into account the importance to use technical tools set up by GFCM for specific data collection such as fleet segmentation (Annex 1), the table on nominal fishing effort measurement (Annex 2) as well as the achievements in the field of Operational Units (Annex 3);

ADOPTS in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article III and Article V of the GFCM Agreement that:

1. The GFCM Task 1 statistical matrix (Annex 3) is an adequate tool to communicate in a standardized format relevant information for fisheries management to the GFCM Secretary with a view to develop the GFCM database.
2. 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 referred to in paragraph 1 for the first time by February 2010 at the latest, and subsequently update the relevant data by transmissions to the GFCM Secretariat not later than May each calendar year, and in accordance with appropriate data submission standards and protocols to be set by the Secretariat.
3. Members and Cooperating non-members shall submit Task 1.3. and Task 1.5, by January 2011 at the latest, in coherence with the SAC assessment forms, and subsequently update the relevant data by transmissions to the GFCM Secretariat not later than May each calendar year, and in accordance with appropriate data submission standards and protocols to be set by the Secretariat.
4. Resolution GFCM/31/2007/1 is hereby repealed.

GFCM/SAC fleet segmentation

Groups	<6 metres	6-12 metres	12-24 metres	More than 24 metres
1. Polyvalent small-scale vessels without engine	A			
2. Polyvalent small-scale vessels with engine	B	C		
3. Trawlers		D	E	F
4. Purse seiners		G	H	
5. Longliners			I	
6. Pelagic trawlers			J	
7. Tuna seiners			K	
8. Dredgers		L		
9. Polyvalent vessels			M	

Description of segments

- A- Polyvalent small-scale vessels without engine. All vessels less than 12 metres in length (LOA) without an engine (wind or propulsion).
- B- Polyvalent small-scale vessels with engine less than 6 m. All vessels under 6 metres in length (LOA) with engine.
- C- Polyvalent small-scale vessels with engine between 6 and 12 metres. All vessels between 6 and 12 metres in length (LOA) with engine, that use different gears during the year without clear predominance of one of them or that use a gear not considered in this classification.
- D- Trawlers less than 12 m. All vessels less than 12 metres in length (LOA) allocating more than 50 percent of their effort operating with a demersal trawl.
- E- Trawlers between 12 and 24 m. All vessels, between 12 and 24 metres in length (LOA) allocating more than 50 percent of their effort operating with a demersal trawl.
- F- Trawlers longer than 24 m. All vessels over 24 metres in length (LOA), allocating more than 50 percent of their effort operating with a demersal trawl.
- G- Purse seiners between 6 and 12 m. All vessels between 6 and 12 m in length (LOA), allocating more than 50 percent of their effort operating with a purse seine.
- H- Purse seiners longer than 12 m. All vessels over 12 m in length (LOA), allocating more than 50 percent of their effort operating with a purse seine, excluding those using a tuna seine during any time of the year.
- I- Longliners longer than 6 m. All vessels over 6 m in length (LOA), allocating more than 50 percent of their effort operating with a longline.
- J- Pelagic trawlers longer than 6 m. All vessels over 6 m in length (LOA), allocating more than 50 percent of their effort operating with a pelagic trawl.
- K- Tuna seiners. All vessels operating with a Tuna Seine for any length of time during the year.
- L- Dredgers longer than 6 m. All vessels over 6 m in length (LOA), allocating more than 50 percent of their effort operating with a dredge.
- M- Polyvalent vessels longer than 12 m. All vessels over 12 metres in length (LOA), that use different gears during the year without clear predominance of one of them or that use a gear not considered in this classification.

Note: All the cells are open for collecting information. The cells left blank in the above table are considered as unlikely to have a significant population. However, if necessary, it is advisable to merge the information of a “blank cell” with the most appropriate neighbouring “blue cell”

Table on fishing effort² measurement

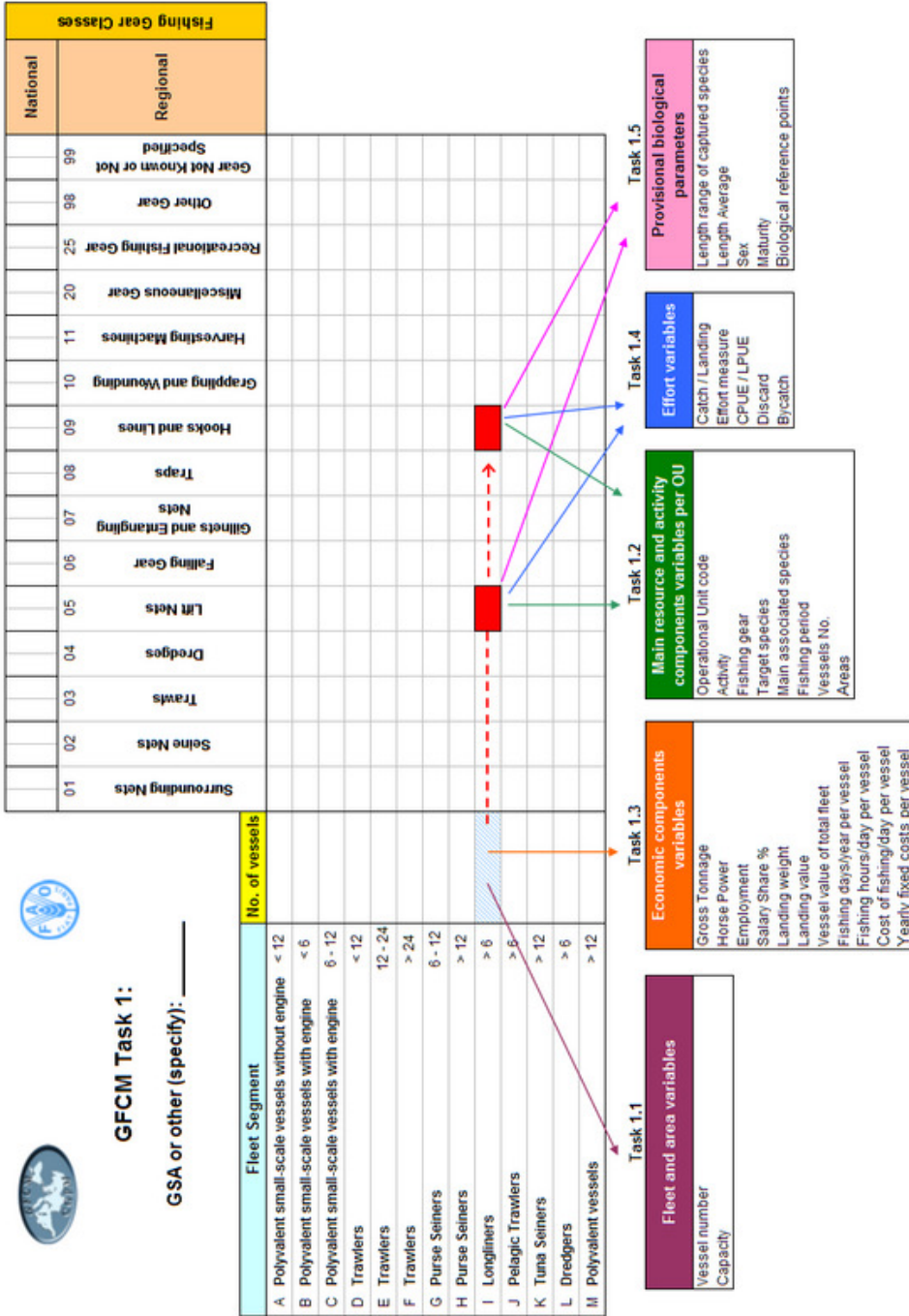
Gear	Number and dimension	Capacity	Activity	Nominal Effort
Dredge (for molluscs)	Open mouth Width of mouth	GT	Time fishing	Dredged bottom surface ³
Trawl (including dredges for flatfishes)	Type of trawl (pelagic, bottom) GT and/or GRT Engine power Mesh size Size of the net (width of mouth) Speed	GT	Time Fishing	GT*days GT*hours KW*days
Purse seine	Length and drop of the net GT Light power Number of small boats	GT Length and drop of the net	Search time Set	GT * Fishing sets ⁴ Length of the net * fishing sets
Nets	Type of net (e.g.trammel net, gillnets, etc.) Net length (used in regulations) GT Net surface Mesh size	Net length and drop	Time fishing	Net length * days Surface*days
Longlines	Number of hooks GT Number of longline Characteristics of hooks Bait	Number of hooks Number of longline unit	Time fishing	Number of hooks * hours Number of hooks * days Number of longline units * days/hours
Traps	GT	Number of traps	Time fishing	Number of traps * days
Purse seine/FADs	Number of FADs		Number of trips	Number of FADs * Number of trips

² It refers to nominal effort

³ The effort measures that do not include a time activity should be referred to a period of time (i.e. by year)

⁴ Should be referred to a particular area (indicating the surface) to estimate fishing intensity (effort km⁻²) and to relate the effort to exploited communities

GFCM Task 1 – Operational Units (*REVISED FLEET SEGMENT NAMES*)



**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/33/2009/4
ON REPORTING OF AQUACULTURE
DATA AND INFORMATION**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

RECALLING the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries which calls for sustainable development and monitoring of responsible aquaculture practices;

RECALLING the GFCM's role in promoting the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean, Black Sea and connecting waters;

RECALLING the Rule X(e) of the GFCM agreement in which Members States have an obligation to provide information on production and other data relevant to the function of the CAQ;

CONSIDERING the development of the network to promote aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM) over the years;

RECOGNIZING the need of the Committee on Aquaculture to have reliable data available to undertake its work effectively;

RECALLING that standards in aquaculture data collection and statistics should be established in line with guidelines set by the FAO Coordinating Working Party on Aquaculture Statistics;

NOTING the proposal made by the sixth Session of CAQ to establish a regional data collection scheme for aquaculture;

NOTING that the 31st Session recommended that the responsibilities of the SIPAM National Coordinators be formally endowed with a national institution;

ADOPTS the following in conformity with the provision of paragraph 1 (b) and (h) of Article III and Article V of the GFCM Agreement.

1. Members shall submit the data for all the parameters listed below on an annual basis to the GFCM Secretariat through the SIPAM Information System:

- Culture environment (brackish, marine and freshwater)
- Cultured species (scientific and common name)
- System of culture (extensive, semi-intensive, extensive,)
- Type of culture (cages, ponds, raceways, hatchery, etc.)
- Type of product (ongrowing, eggs, fingerlings, etc.)
- Quantity (tonnes / units)
- Value (currency)
- Production centres.

2. The deadline for submissions is 30 June, with the reference year for the data submitted being the preceding year.

3. Members shall nominate a national focal point responsible for the submission of aquaculture data.

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/33/2009/5
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GFCM
REGIONAL FLEET REGISTER**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

RECALLING the FAO Compliance Agreement and the International Plan of Action on IUU fishing which call upon States to maintain a record of fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag and authorized to be used for fishing on the high seas, and to exchange related information, including through FAO and other appropriate global, regional and subregional fisheries organizations;

RECALLING the International Plan of Action on the management of fishing capacity elaborated within the framework of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries which calls for States to cooperate, where appropriate, through regional fisheries organizations or arrangements and other forms of cooperation, with a view to ensuring the effective management of fishing capacity;

CONSIDERING that a regional fleet register is an effective and comprehensive tool for the management at regional level of the capacity of fishing fleets and their activity;

RECOGNIZING that the GFCM record of vessels authorized to fish in the GFCM area established under Recommendation GFCM/2005/2 is a subset of the regional fleet register;

NOTING the request made by the Commission during its thirty-second session to address fleet capacity monitoring and management issues;

ADOPTS, in accordance with paragraph 1 (h) of Article III and Article V of the GFCM Agreement that:

1. The GFCM shall establish by 30 June 2010 a Regional Fleet Register (RFR) to contain information on all vessels, boats, ships, or other crafts that are equipped and used for commercial fishing activity in the GFCM area.
2. As from 2011 Contracting Parties shall submit a full dataset at least at the beginning of each calendar year followed by updates as appropriate. The updating of the GFCM RFR lies within the responsibility of the Contracting Parties and should fully reflect the situation of their fleets at any time.
3. The list of data fields and related definitions, reference codes (tables 1-7) and confidentiality status are included in Annex 1.
4. Contracting Parties who are not able to submit a full data set as from 2011 shall do so as soon as possible according to the state of their preparation.
5. The GFCM Secretariat shall establish appropriate data submission standards and protocols to be followed by Contracting Parties in transmitting data and shall maintain a Regional Fleet Register database which should be published through an information system on the GFCM website, in a manner consistent with the GFCM confidentiality policy and procedures established under Recommendation GFCM/2006/7.
6. The RFR information system shall include relevant fleet capacity monitoring tools, such as dynamic charts on fleet capacity in terms of tonnage (GT) and power (kW), and other data browsing facilities.

Fleet register field descriptions

Fields		Description	Optional/ mandatory	Public/ restricted
1	Country (ISO-3)	Flag under which the vessel is operating	M	P
2	Registration authority	Authority having issued the registration	M	P
3	Vessel name (if any)	Name of vessel	M	P
4	Vessel register number	Code assigned by Members	M	P
5	GFCM registration number	Registration number assigned to the fishing vessel by the National Authorities (ISO 3 Country code + 9 digits).	M	P
6	IMO registration number	Code IMO given by Lloyds company	O	P
7	Previous vessel name (if any)	Previous name of vessel (if any)	O	P
8	Previous flag State (if any)	Previous flag of vessel (if any)	O	P
9	Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)	Details of deletion from other registries (if any)	O	P
10	International radio call sign (if any)	International radio call sign (if any) Mandatory >= 24 m LOA	O	P
11	Vessel type	Type of vessel according to the International Standard Classification of Fishery Vessels by Vessel Types. (The International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishery Vessels by Vessel Types [ISSCFV], based on the type of gear used by the vessels, approved by the CWP in 1984).	M	P
12	Operational status Active Indicator	Active/Inactive. Permanent status until receiving allowance to return into activity Indicator Y/N	M	P
13	Port of registration	Full name of the port	M	P
14	Year of entry into fishing activity	Year of entry into fishing activity	M	P
15	Events codes	Code identifying the type of event reported	M	P
16	Event date	Event date (Format:.. yyyyymmdd)	M	P

Fields		Description	Optional/ mandatory	Public/ restricted
16.1	Year	Event date: year	M	P
16.2	Month	Event date: month (numerical)	M	P
16.3	Day	Event date: day (numerical)	M	P
17	Authorization to fish Licence indicator	Any authorization to fish, e.g. licence, permit or any other official denomination Indicator Y/N	M	P
18	Period authorized for fishing and/or transshipping	Time period authorized for fishing and/or transshipping.	O	P
18.1	Starting date	Starting date (Format)	O	P
18.1.1	Year	Starting date: year	O	P
18.1.2	Month	Starting date: month (numerical)	O	P
18.1.3	Day	Starting date: day (numerical)	O	P
18.2	Ending date	Ending date (Format yyyyymmdd)	O	P
18.2.1	Year	Ending date: year	O	P
18.2.2	Month	Ending date: month (numerical)	O	P
18.2.3	Day	Ending date: day (numerical)	O	P
19	Main fishing statistical area	GSA where the vessel is authorized to fish and operates the majority of the year.	O	P
20	Secondary fishing statistical area	GSA where the vessel is authorized to fish and operates occasionally	O	P
21	Tertiary fishing statistical area	GSA where the vessel is authorized to fish and operates occasionally	O	P
22	Fishing gear used	Main gear according to the fishing licence of the vessel or the owner/operator, using the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear (the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear [ISSCFG] was adopted during the tenth Session of the CWP [Madrid, 22–29 July 1980]).	M	P
23	Secondary fishing gear	Secondary gear according to the fishing licence of the vessel or the owner/operator, using the same International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear as “Fishing gear used”	M	P

Fields		Description	Optional/ mandatory	Public/ restricted
24	Length overall (LOA)	Length overall (LOA, in metres). The principle longitudinal dimension of the hull of the vessel. Accuracy of 2 digits	M	P
25	Gross registered tonnage (GRT)	Gross Registered Tonnage according to the Oslo Convention (1947) (in use until 1995). (GRT represented the total measured cubic content of the permanently enclosed spaces of a vessel, with some allowances or deductions for exempt spaces such as living quarters [1 gross register ton = 100 cubic feet = 2.83 cubic metres])	O	P
26	Gross tonnage (GT)	Gross tonnage according to the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, London, 1969 (in use since 1996) for vessels \geq 15 m	M	P
27	Construction year		M	P
28	Hull material	Code	M	P
29	Powered/motorized	Power of the main engine > 0 Indicator Y/N	M	P
30	Power of the main engine(s)	Total maximum continuous rated output power in kW of all the vessel's main propulsion machinery which appears on the vessel's certificate or registry or other official document (STCW-F convention)	M	P
31	Power of auxiliary engine(s) (if any)	Includes all installed engine power not included under the heading "Power of the main engine(s)"	M	P
32	Owner	Owner		R
32.1	Name	Name of owner(s)	M	R
32.2	Address	Address of owner(s)	M	R
33	Operator (if different from owner)	Operator		R
33.1	Name	Name of operator(s)	M	R
33.2	Address	Address of operator(s)	M	R
34	Min number of the crew	Minimum number for conducting fishing operation	O	R
35	Max number of the crew	Number of the crew for conducting specific fishing operation if superior to "Min number of the crew"	O	R

Fields		Description	Optional/ mandatory	Public/ restricted
36	VMS	Indicator Y/N mandatory > 15m LOA	M	P
37	Navigation equipment	Codification table	O	P
38	Communication equipment	Codification table	O	P
39	Fish finder	Codification table	O	P
40	Deck machinery to operate fishing gear	Codification table	O	P
41	Fish hold capacity	Tons	O	P
42	Refrigeration equipment		O	P
43	Fish processing equipment		O	P
44	Lights for fishing	In case of use of a fishing operation requiring light	O	P
45	Safety equipment		O	P

Table 1 - Classification of Fishery Vessels by Vessel Types

“International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishery Vessels by Vessel Types” (ISSCFV), based on the type of gear used by the vessels, approved by the CWP in 1984 (<ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/cwp/handbook/annex/annexLII.pdf>)

ISSCFV	Vessel type	Standard abbreviation
0100	Trawlers	TO
0200	Purse seiners	SP
0300	Dredgers	DO
0400	Lift netters	NO
0500	Gillnetters	GO
0600	Trap setters	WO
0700	Longliners	LL
0710	Other liners	LOX
0900	Multipurpose vessels	MO
4900	Fishing vessels not specified	RO
1100	Motherships	HO
1200	Fish carriers	FO
1400	Protection and survey vessels	BO
1500	Fishery research vessels	ZO
1600	Fishery training vessels	CO
9900	Non-fishing vessels	VOX

Table 2 – Code for type of events

Type of event		Standard abbreviation
Entry to fleet	Census	CEN
	New construction	CST
	Change of activity	CHA
	Intra-Mediterranean import, transfer	IMP
Within fleet	Modification	MOD
Exit from fleet	Break-up, shipwreck	DES
	Change of activity	RET
	Intra-Mediterranean export, transfer	EXP

Table 3 – Code for hull material

Hull material	Code
Wood	1
Metal	2
Fibreglass/plastic	3
Other	4
Unknown	5

Table 4 – Code for navigation equipment

Navigation equipment	Code
No navigation equipment	1
Loran C	2
Loran A	3
Omega	4
Decca	5
GPS (satellite navigation)	6
Radar	7
Direction finder	8
Automatic pilot	9
Meteorological map receiver	10
Gyrocompass	11
Other	98
Unknown	99

Table 5 – Code for communication equipment

Communication equipment	Code
Radio VHF	1
Radio telephone	2
Cellular phone	3
Fax	4
Satellite radio	5
Telegraph	6
Other	8
Unknown	9

Table 6 – Code for fish finder equipment

Fish finder equipment	Code
Echo sounder	1
Sonar	2
Net sond	3
Other	8
Unknown	9

Table 7 – Code for deck machinery to operate fishing gear

Fish finder equipment	Code
Line winch	1
Net winch	2
Trammel winch	3
Power block	4
Other	8
Unknown	9

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/33/2009/6
CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GFCM RECORD OF
VESSELS OVER 15 METRES AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE IN THE GFCM AREA
AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION GFCM/2005/2**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

RECALLING that the objectives of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marines resources;

RECALLING GFCM Resolution 95/2 concerning the agreement to set a minimum length of 15 metres for the application of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels in the High Seas; GFCM Resolution 95/4 concerning the preparation of a list of fishing boats in operation from national ports in the Mediterranean and exchange of information on vessels; and GFCM Resolution 97/2 on activities of non-Contracting Parties, and the decision adopted by GFCM at its Twenty-seventh session to establish a fleet segmentation for vessels operating in the Mediterranean;

RECALLING that the FAO Council adopted on 23 June, 2001 an International Plan of Action (IPOA) aiming to prevent, to deter and to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which stipulates that the regional fisheries management organization should take action to strengthen and develop innovative ways, in conformity with international law, to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and in particular to establish record of vessels authorized to operate and records of vessels engaged in IUU fishing;

CONSIDERING the conclusions of the Third Ministerial Conference on the Sustainable Development of Fisheries in the Mediterranean;

ADOPTS, in accordance with paragraph 1 (h) of Article III and Article V of the GFCM Agreement that:

1. The Commission shall establish a GFCM record of fishing vessels larger than 15 metres in length overall authorized to fish in the GFCM area. For the purpose of this Recommendation, the vessels larger than 15 metres in length overall not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship or land species covered by the Commission.

2. Each Contracting Party shall submit electronically to the GFCM Executive Secretary before 31 December of each calendar year , the list of its vessels that are authorized to operate in the GFCM area. This list shall include the following information:

- Name of vessel
- Vessel Register number
- GFCM unique identifier (composed of ISO-3 code + 9 digits, e.g. xxx000000001)
- Previous name (if any)
- Previous flag (if any)
- Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
- International radio call sign (if any)
- Type of vessels, length and gross tonnage and/or gross registered tonnage (GT and/or GRT)
- Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
- Gear used
- Time period authorized for fishing and/or transshipping.

3. Each Contracting Party shall promptly notify the GFCM Executive Secretary of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the GFCM record at any time such changes occur.
4. The GFCM Executive Secretary shall maintain the GFCM record, and take any measure to ensure publicity of the record including through electronic means and placing it on the GFCM website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by Members.
5. The flag Contracting Party of the vessels on the record shall:
 - a) authorize their vessels to operate in the GFCM area only if they are able to fulfil in respect of these vessels the requirements and responsibilities under the Agreement and its conservation and management measures;
 - b) take necessary measures to ensure that their vessels comply with all the relevant GFCM conservation and management measures;
 - c) take necessary measures to ensure that their vessels on the GFCM record keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorization to fish and/or transship;
 - d) ensure that their vessels on the GFCM record have no history of IUU fishing activities or that, if those vessels have such history, the new owners have provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owners and operators have no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control over those vessels, or that having taken into account all relevant facts, their vessels are not engaged in, or associated with, IUU fishing;
 - e) ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and operators of their vessels on the GFCM record are not engaged in, or associated with, fishing activities conducted by vessels not entered into the GFCM record in the GFCM area;
 - f) take necessary measures to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners of the vessels on the GFCM record are citizens or legal entities within the flag Contracting Party so that any control or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them; and
 - g) keep consistency between the GFCM record and ICCAT record of vessels.
6. The Contracting Parties shall review their own internal actions and measures taken pursuant to paragraph 5, including punitive and sanction actions and in a manner consistent with domestic law as regards disclosure, report the results of the review to the Commission at its 2007 meeting and annually thereafter. In consideration of the results of such review, the Commission shall, if appropriate, request the flag Contracting Party of vessels on the GFCM record to take further action to enhance compliance by those vessels to GFCM conservation and management measures.
7. The Contracting Parties shall take measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the fishing for, the retaining on board, the transshipment and landing of species in the GFCM area by the vessels larger than 15 metres in length overall which are not entered into the GFCM record.
8. Each Contracting Party shall notify the GFCM Executive Secretary of any factual information showing that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting vessels not on the GFCM record to be engaged in fishing for and/or transshipment in the GFCM area.
9. a) If a vessel mentioned in paragraph 8 is flying the flag of a Contracting Party, the Executive Secretary shall request that the Contracting Party take measures necessary to prevent the vessel from fishing in the GFCM area. b) If the flag of a vessel mentioned in paragraph 8 cannot be determined or is of a non-Contracting Party, the Executive Secretary shall compile such information for future consideration by the Commission.
10. The Commission and the Contracting Parties concerned shall communicate with each other, and make the best effort with FAO and other relevant regional fishery management bodies to develop and implement appropriate measures, where feasible, including the establishment of records of a similar nature in a timely manner so as to avoid adverse effects upon fisheries resources in other oceans. Such adverse effects might consist of excessive fishing pressure resulting from a shift of the IUU vessels from the Mediterranean to other seas or oceans.

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/33/2009/7
CONCERNING MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM (VMS) IN THE GFCM AREA**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

IN ACCORDANCE WITH the General Guidelines for a GFCM Control and Enforcement Scheme elaborated in 2005 to ensure, *inter alia*, effective monitoring measures;

RECALLING the Rome Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU Fishing), adopted by the FAO Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries in 2005 to ensure, *inter alia*, that all large-scale fishing vessels operating on the high seas be required by their flag State to be fitted with vessel monitoring systems (VMS) no later than December 2008, or earlier if so decided by their flag State or any relevant regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs);

RECOGNIZING the developments in satellite-based vessel monitoring systems (VMS) and their importance in ensuring the long-term conservation and management of living marine resources in the GFCM area as part of effective monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS);

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the need for laying down agreed standards for the establishment of VMS in the GFCM area;

NOTING that the establishment of such systems has been discussed in recent sessions of the Commission and has been considered by the GFCM ad hoc Working Group of the Compliance Committee on VMS as a MCS tool;

AWARE that many Parties, as well as several RFMOs, have established VMS;

ADOPTS, in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 1(b) and (h) of Article III and Article V of GFCM Agreement:

Objective

1. The objective of this Recommendation is to contribute to the long-term conservation and management of living marine resources in the GFCM area through the establishment of VMS.

Application

2. This Recommendation only applies to fishing vessels which are operating within the GFCM area and in particular those fishing vessels which are included in the GFCM Authorized Vessels List established by Recommendation GFCM/2005/2.

3. Each flag Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party (CPnC) shall implement no later than 31 December 2012, a satellite-based VMS for its commercial fishing vessels exceeding 15 metres length overall, in conformity with the requirements laid down in this recommendation, without prejudice to stricter obligations that Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties may have engaged in.

Satellite tracking devices requirements

4. While specific operational details of Parties'/CPnCs' VMS may vary and include hybrid systems they shall ensure that the satellite tracking devices fitted onboard fishing vessels shall enable the fishing vessel to continuously collect and transmit automatically the following data, at least every

two hours while out of its base port, to the Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC), or an equivalent authority, in the Flag State:

- i) the vessel's GFCM Unique Identifier as recorded in the GFCM Fishing Fleet register and Authorized Vessels List;
- ii) the geographical position of the vessel (longitude, latitude) with minimum resolution of 500 metres, with a confidence interval of 99 percent;
- iii) the date and time of the fixing of the said position of the vessel;
- iv) the speed and course of the vessel.

When a fishing vessel is in its base port, the satellite tracking device may be switched off, subject to prior notification to the FMC of the flag State, or equivalent authority.

5. Each Party/CPnC shall:

- i) require its fishing vessels to be equipped with an autonomous system able to automatically transmit a message to the land-based FMC in the Flag State, or an equivalent authority, allowing a continuous tracking of the position of a fishing vessel by the Party/CPnC of that fishing vessel. If the satellite tracking device is turned off, either deliberately or due to malfunction, the system must be capable of sending an alarm signal to the FMC, or an equivalent authority, so to improve safety conditions for the crewmembers;
- ii) take all the necessary measures to ensure that the FMC, or an equivalent authority, receives through the onboard satellite tracking device the data in paragraph 4) in electronic format and, to this end, that FMC, or an equivalent authority, are equipped with computer hardware and software enabling automatic data processing and electronic data transmission;
- iii) provide for back-up and recovery procedures in case of system failures;
- iv) ensure, as much as possible, that the satellite tracking device(s) on board its fishing vessels are tamper proof and that are not susceptible to manual input of position data. To this end, the onboard satellite tracking device(s) must be located within a sealed unit and be protected by official seals of a type that reveal whether the unit has been accessed or tampered with; in the event that a Party/CPnC has evidence, following an inspection, that the onboard satellite tracking device(s) does not meet the requirements mentioned above, or has been tampered with, it shall immediately notify the vessel's Flag State.

Duties of the masters and owners/licencees of fishing vessels subject to VMS

6. Masters and/or owners/licencees of fishing vessels subject to VMS shall ensure that the satellite tracking device(s) on board their vessels are permanently operational and that the information identified in paragraph 4 is collected at least every two hours. Masters and/or owners/licencees of fishing vessels subject to VMS shall in particular ensure that:

- i) VMS reports and messages are not altered in any way;
- ii) the antennas connected to the satellite monitoring devices are not obstructed in any way;
- iii) the power supply of the satellite tracking devices are not interrupted in any way;
- iv) the satellite tracking device(s) is not removed from the vessel.

7. In the event of a technical failure or non-operation of the satellite tracking device(s) fitted on board a fishing vessel, the masters and owners/licencees of fishing vessels subject to VMS, or their representative, shall communicate to the Flag State every four hours, starting at the time that the technical failure or the non-operation of VMS were detected, the up-to-date geographical position of the vessel by any available means (telephone text-message, email, facsimile, radio).

8. Fishing vessels with defective on board satellite tracking device(s) shall take immediate steps to have the device(s) repaired or replaced as soon as possible and, in any event, as soon as the fishing vessels enter a port. Fishing vessels shall not be allowed by the Flag State/the Port State to commence a further fishing trip in the GFCM area without having defective device(s) repaired or replaced, unless authorized to leave by the competent Flag State/the Port State authority.

9. Until 31st December 2010 masters and owners/licencees of fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 3 which are not equipped with VMS shall report to the FMC, or equivalent authority, at least every four hours by any available means (telephone text-message, email, facsimile, radio). Such reports must include, *inter alia*, information on the official numbers (radio call sign and GFCM Unique Identifier), the name of the fishing vessel, the date, the time (UTC) and the geographical position (latitude and longitude) when transmitting the report, to their competent authorities, as well as:

- i) the geographical position at the beginning of the fishing operation;
- ii) the geographical position at the end of the fishing operation;
- iii) additional information on the geographical position while fishing operations occur.

Role of the Parties/CPnCs

10. When Parties/CPnCs did not receive data transmission, or have reasons to doubt the correctness of the data transmission they have received, they shall notify the masters and owners/licencees of fishing vessels subject to VMS, or their representative, as soon as possible. Where appropriate, Parties/CPnCs shall investigate the matter in order to establish whether the equipment has been tampered with. The outcome of this investigation, including any action taken by the Flag State (e.g. fines, withdrawal of fishing licence, legal proceedings, etc), shall be forwarded to GFCM Secretariat that will report the matter to the Commission for consideration/action (e.g. inclusion of the vessel in the GFCM list of vessels presumed to having carried out IUU fishing activities in the GFCM area).

11. When Parties/CPnCs have reasons to doubt the correctness of the data transmission they have received and suspect that the fishing vessel concerned will seek access to the ports of a third Country within the GFCM area, they shall notify the port State. The port State shall ensure either that the fishing vessel is refused access to its ports or that the fishing vessel is subject to inspection, consistent with the provisions in recommendation GFCM/2008/1 on a regional scheme on port State measures to combat IUU fishing in the GFCM area.

12. Each Party/CPnC shall provide annually to the GFCM Secretariat a progress report on its VMS, consistent with this recommendation.

13. Each Party/CPnC shall notify the name, address, email, telephone and facsimile numbers of the relevant authorities of their FMC, or equivalent authority, to the GFCM Secretariat by 31st December 2009; each Party/CPnC shall also notify without delay to the GFCM Secretariat any changes in these contacts. The GFCM Secretariat will draw and maintain a list of contacts based on the information it receives by Parties/CPnCs.

14. Parties/CPnCs are encouraged to make VMS data available to the Scientific Advisory Committee of the GFCM in summary form to its meetings, including its Sub-Committees, to estimate fishing effort and for any other scientific purpose it deems important for its work.

Role of the Secretariat

15. Based on national reports received according to paragraph 13, the GFCM Secretariat shall report to Members at the session of the Compliance Committee on the implementation of and compliance with this recommendation.

16. By 1 January 2011 the GFCM Secretariat will establish and maintain a database for VMS data.

Confidentiality/Data Security

17. The Executive Secretary of the GFCM shall ensure that any information provided to the GFCM Secretariat pursuant to this recommendation will be maintained in strict accordance with the provisions of recommendation GFCM/2006/7 on data confidentiality policy and procedures.

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/33/2009/8
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIST OF VESSELS PRESUMED
TO HAVE CARRIED OUT IUU FISHING IN THE GFCM AREA
AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION GFCM/2006/4**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

RECALLING that the FAO Council adopted on 23 June 2001 an International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA–IUU), which stipulates that the identification of the vessels carrying out IUU fishing activities should follow agreed procedures and be made in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner;

CONCERNED by the fact that IUU fishing activities in the GFCM area continue, and that these activities diminish the effectiveness of the GFCM conservation and management measures;

FURTHER CONCERNED that there is evidence of a high number of vessel owners engaged in such fishing activities which have re-flagged their vessels to avoid compliance with GFCM conservation and management measures;

DETERMINED to address the challenge of an increase in IUU fishing activities by way of counter-measures to be applied in respect of vessels without prejudice to further measures adopted in respect of flag States under the relevant GFCM instruments;

CONSIDERING the Declaration of the Third Ministerial Conference on the Sustainable Development of Fisheries in the Mediterranean which was held in Venice from 25 to 26 November 2003;
CONSCIOUS of the need to address, as a matter of priority, the issue of large-scale fishing vessels conducting IUU fishing activities;

NOTING that the IUU fishing activities must be addressed in the light of all relevant international fisheries instruments and in accordance with the relevant rights and obligations established in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement;

ADOPTS in accordance with paragraph 1 (h) of Article III and Article V of the GFCM Agreement that:

Application

1. For the purposes of this Recommendation the fishing vessels flying the flag of a non-Contracting Party, Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party are presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities in the GFCM area, *inter alia*, when a Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, presents evidence that such vessels have engaged in one or more of the following activities:

- a) undertake any of the following activities in contravention of GFCM conservation and management measures:
 - i) harvest fish in the GFCM area;
 - ii) fail to report the catches or make false or misleading reports;
 - iii) take or land undersized fish;
 - iv) fish during closed fishing periods or in closed areas;
 - v) use prohibited fishing gear; or
 - vi) engage in fishing activities contrary to any other GFCM conservation and management measure.

- b) transship or participate in joint operations such as re-supply or refuelling with vessels included in the GFCM IUU Vessel List;
- c) harvest fish in maritime waters under the national jurisdiction of a coastal State in the GFCM area, without the permission of that State or in contravention of its laws and regulations; and
- d) being without nationality, harvest fish in the GFCM area.

2. The Commission may review and, as appropriate, revise this Recommendation with a view to its extension to other types of IUU fishing activities.

Information on presumed IUU fishing activities

3. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties shall transmit every year to the Executive Secretary, at least 120 days before the annual GFCM Session, information on vessels flying the flag of a non-Contracting Party, and vessels flying the flag of a Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, presumed to be carrying out IUU fishing activities as defined in paragraph 1 in the GFCM area during the previous year, accompanied by evidence reported by Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties supporting the presumption of IUU fishing activity.

Draft IUU Vessel List

4. On the basis of the information received pursuant to paragraph 3, the Executive Secretary shall draw up a Draft IUU Vessel List which shall include information required in Annex I. The Executive Secretary shall transmit it, together with the evidence supporting the presumption of IUU fishing activity provided in accordance with paragraph 3, together with the current IUU Vessel List, to Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, as well as to non-Contracting Parties whose vessels are included on either list at least 90 days before the GFCM annual Session. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties and relevant non-Contracting Party flag States may transmit their comments to the GFCM Secretariat as appropriate, including evidence showing that the listed vessels have not fished in contravention to GFCM conservation and management measures or had the possibility of fishing in the GFCM area, at least 30 days before the annual Session.

5. Upon receipt of the Draft IUU Vessel List, Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties shall closely monitor the vessels included in the draft IUU Vessel List in order to determine their activities and possible changes of name, flag and/or registered owner.

6. Where a vessel appears on a Draft IUU Vessel List drawn up in accordance with paragraph 4, the flag State shall notify the owner of the vessel flying its flag of its inclusion in the Draft IUU Vessel List and of the consequences that may result from being confirmed in the IUU Vessel List to be adopted by the Commission.

Consideration and adoption of the Provisional IUU Vessel List

7. On the basis of the information received pursuant to paragraph 4, the Executive Secretary shall draw up a Provisional IUU Vessel List which shall include information required in Annex I, and transmit it two weeks in advance of the GFCM annual Session to Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, together with all the evidence provided.

8. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties may at any time submit to the Executive Secretary any additional information which might be relevant for the establishment of the IUU Vessel List. The GFCM Executive Secretary shall circulate the information at the latest before the GFCM annual Session to the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, and to the non-Contracting Parties concerned, together with all the evidence provided.

9. The GFCM Compliance Committee shall examine the Provisional IUU Vessel List each year, as well as the information referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4. The Committee shall remove a vessel from the Provisional List if the evidence provided clearly demonstrates that:

- a) the vessel did not take part in any IUU fishing activity described in paragraph 1; or
- b) effective action has been taken in response to the IUU fishing activity or activities in question, including, *inter alia*, prosecution and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity.

10. Following the examination referred to in paragraph 9, the Compliance Committee shall:

- a) review and assess the Provisional IUU Vessel List together with information and evidence circulated under paragraphs 3 and 4;
- b) review and propose the removal of vessels from the IUU Vessel List adopted by the Commission at its previous annual Session, following consideration of such List together with the information and evidence circulated under paragraphs 3 and 4, and any information provided pursuant to paragraph 16; and
- c) submit the Provisional IUU Vessel List to the Commission, with recommendations for its adoption and for removal of any vessels from the current IUU Vessel List. .

IUU Vessel List

11. The Commission shall consider for approval the Provisional IUU Vessel List and the removal of vessels from the current IUU Vessel List recommended by the Compliance Committee.

12. On adoption of an IUU Vessel List by the Commission, the Secretariat shall request flag States whose vessels appear on the IUU Vessel List to:

- a) notify the owner of the vessel identified on the IUU Vessel List of its inclusion on the List and the consequences which result from being included on the List, as described in paragraph 11; and
- b) take all necessary measures to eliminate the relevant IUU fishing activities including, as appropriate, the cancellation of the registration and/or the fishing licence(s) of these vessels, and inform the Secretariat of the measures taken.

13. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties shall take all necessary measures to:

- a) ensure that the fishing vessels, support vessels, refuelling vessels, mother ships and cargo vessels flying their flag do not engage in fishing activities, fish processing operations or participate in any transshipment or joint fishing operations with vessels included on the IUU Vessel List, or assist in any way, except in case of *force majeure*;
- b) prohibit the chartering of a vessel included on the IUU Vessel List; and
- c) encourage the importers, transporters and other sectors concerned, to refrain from transactions and transshipment of any fish caught by vessels included on the IUU Vessel List.

14. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties shall take all necessary measures in respect of vessels that do not fly their flag to:

- a) ensure that IUU vessels are not authorized to land, refuel, re-supply or engage in other commercial transactions;
- b) prohibit the entry into their ports of vessels included on the IUU Vessel list, except in case of *force majeure*;
- c) refuse to grant their flag to vessels included in the IUU Vessel List, except if the vessel has changed owner and/or operator; and the sufficient evidence has been

provided that demonstrates that the previous owner or operator has no further legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control of, the vessel, or having taken into account all relevant facts, the flag Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, determines that granting the vessel its flag will not result in IUU fishing activities; and

- d) prohibit the imports, or landing and/or transshipment, of any fish from vessels included in the IUU Vessel List.

15. The Executive Secretary shall ensure publication of the IUU Vessel List in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, including through electronic means by placing it on the GFCM website. The Executive Secretary shall transmit the IUU Vessel List to other regional fishery bodies as appropriate for the purposes of enhanced cooperation between GFCM and these organizations in order to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

16. Upon receipt of an IUU vessel list adopted by another RFMO and any information regarding such list, the Executive Secretary shall circulate this information to the Contracting Parties and ensure it appears on the GFCM website. Vessels that have been added or deleted from such lists shall be incorporated into or deleted from the GFCM IUU Vessel List as appropriate, unless any Contracting Party objects within 30 days of the date of transmittal by the Executive Secretary on the ground(s) that:

- a) there is satisfactory information to establish that the vessel did not engage in any IUU fishing activities or that effective action has been taken in response to the IUU fishing activities in question, including, *inter alia*, prosecution and imposition of penalties or sanctions of adequate severity;
- b) there is satisfactory information to establish that none of the requirements mentioned in a) above has been met with regard to a vessel deleted from the respective lists; or
- c) there is insufficient information to make a determination pursuant to sub-paragraph a) or b), above, within 30 days. In the event of an objection to a vessel listed by another RFMO being incorporated into or deleted from the GFCM IUU Vessel List, such vessel shall be placed on the Provisional IUU Vessel List.

17. Without prejudice to the rights of flag Contracting Parties or Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, and coastal States to take action consistent with international law, Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties shall not take any unilateral trade measures or other sanctions against vessels provisionally included in the Draft IUU Vessel List pursuant to paragraph 4, or which have been already removed from the Provisional IUU Vessel List, pursuant to paragraph 9, on the ground that such vessels are involved in IUU fishing activities.

Deletion from the IUU Vessel List

18. A flag State whose vessel appears on the IUU Vessel List may request the removal of the vessel from the list during the intersessional period by providing the following information:

- a) the actions or measures it has taken to ensure that the vessel complies with GFCM conservation and management measures;
- b) the actions or measures it has taken to effectively discharge its responsibilities with respect to the vessel, including the monitoring and control of the vessel's fishing activities in the GFCM area;
- c) the actions it has taken against the vessel in response to the relevant IUU fishing activities, including the prosecution and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity, if relevant; and, as appropriate
- d) the vessel has changed ownership and the new owner can establish the previous owner no longer has any legal, financial or real interests in the vessel or exercises control over it and the new owner has not participated in IUU fishing, if relevant.

Intersessional modification of the IUU Vessel List

19. A flag State may send a request for the removal of its vessel from the IUU Vessel List to the Executive Secretary, accompanied by the supporting information referred to in paragraph 18.

20. The GFCM Executive Secretary will transmit the removal request received in accordance with paragraph 19, with all the supporting information, to the Contracting Parties and the COC Bureau within 15 days following the notification of the request.

21. The Contracting Parties shall review the removal request and notify their opinion on whether the vessel should be removed from, or maintained on the IUU Vessel List by electronic means to the Executive Secretary within 30 days following the notification by the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary, in close coordination with the COC Bureau, shall review the responses within 30 days following the last day for receipt of the responses. If a Contracting Party does not respond within the given period,, it will be considered as an abstention from the vote and part of the quorum for the decision-making.

22. The Executive Secretary shall communicate the outcome of the review of the removal request at the end of the 30 day period following the date of the notification referred to in paragraph 20 to all Contracting Parties.

23. If the result indicates that there is a two-thirds majority of the Contracting Parties in favour of removal of the vessel from the IUU Vessel List, the Chairperson of GFCM shall communicate the result to all Contracting Parties and to the non-Contracting Party or flag State which requested the removal of its vessel from the IUU Vessel List. In the absence of a two-thirds majority, the vessel will be maintained on the IUU Vessel List and the Executive Secretary shall inform the non-Contracting Party accordingly.

24. The Executive Secretary shall remove the vessel referred to in paragraph 23 from the IUU Vessel List, as published on the GFCM website. Moreover, the Executive Secretary shall forward the decision to remove the vessel to other regional fishery organizations.

Final provision

25. Recommendation GFCM/2006/4 *on the establishment of a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities in the GFCM area* is replaced by this Recommendation.

Information to be included in all IUU Vessel Lists

The Draft IUU Vessel List, Provisional IUU Vessel List and Adopted IUU Vessel List shall contain the following details, where available:

1. Name of vessel and previous name(s), if any
2. Flag of vessel and previous flag(s), if any
3. Name and address of owner(s) of vessel and previous owner(s), including beneficial owner(s), and owner's place of registration
4. Operator of vessel and previous operator(s)
5. Call sign of vessel and previous call sign, if any
6. Lloyds/IMO number
7. Photographs of the vessel
8. Date vessel was first included on the IUU Vessel List
9. Summary of activities which justify inclusion of the vessel on the IUU Vessel List, together with references to all relevant evidence

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/33/2009/9
CONCERNING SELECTED ICCAT RECOMMENDATIONS**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

RECALLING that the objectives of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources,

ADOPTS, in conformity with the provision of paragraph 1 (h) of Article III and Article V of the GFCM Agreement the following Recommendation of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT):

**GFCM/33/2009/9 (A)
RECOMMENDATION 08-03 BY ICCAT ON MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH**

RECOGNIZING that the Commission's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) indicated in its 2007 stock assessment that the fishing mortality needs to be reduced to move the stock toward the Convention objective of biomass levels which could support MSY, and that seasonal closures are considered to be beneficial in moving the stock condition closer to the Convention objective;

NOTING that the SCRS in its assessment in 2007 estimated that fish less than three years old usually represent 50-70 percent of the total yearly catches in terms of numbers and 20-35 percent in terms of weight and indicates that a reduction in the volume of juvenile catches would improve yield per recruit and spawning biomass per recruit levels;

RECALLING the Recommendation *by ICCAT Relating to Mediterranean Swordfish* [Rec. 03-04], which encourages CPCs to take measures to reduce juvenile Mediterranean swordfish catches;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the SCRS advice given in 2008 advocating seasonal closures and pending the adoption of a more comprehensive management plan for Mediterranean swordfish;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF THE ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Fishing for Mediterranean swordfish shall be prohibited in the Mediterranean during the period from 1 October to 30 November.
2. CPCs shall monitor the effectiveness of this closure and submit relevant information to the SCRS.
3. CPCs shall ensure the maintenance or development of adequate scientific information in the formats requested by ICCAT and in smallest time-area possible on the size distributions of the catches.
4. This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Mediterranean Swordfish* [Rec. 07-01].

GFCM/33/2009/9 (B)
RECOMMENDATION 08-05 AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT
TO ESTABLISH A MULTIANNUAL RECOVERY PLAN FOR BLUEFIN TUNA IN
THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the discussions in the ICCAT Compliance Committee in 2008 concerning the implementation of the recovery plan adopted in 2006,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the stock recovery scenario developed by SCRS based on the stock assessment carried out in 2008,

DESIRING to achieve a stock level consistent with the objective of the Convention within 15 years,

CONVINCED that to achieve this objective, it is necessary to strengthen the recovery plan for that stock adopted in 2006. The objective is to recover the stock through a combination of management measures which will protect the spawning stock biomass and reduce juvenile catches,

RECOGNIZING that the success of the recovery plan involves the strengthening of the control system, which should include a set of effective control measures to ensure the respect of the management measures and to ensure the traceability of all the catches,

CONSIDERING the necessity to improve the responsibility of the industry, flag States, port States, farm States and market States to ensure compliance with the present recommendation,

GIVEN the need to address the overcapacity of the fleet and the farming capacity;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF THE ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

Part I
General provisions

1. The Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs), whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean shall implement a 15 year Recovery Plan for bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean starting in 2007 and continuing through 2022, with the goal of achieving Bmsy, with greater than 50 percent probability.

Definitions

2. For the purposes of this Plan:
 - a) "Fishing vessel" means any vessel used or intended for use for the purposes of the commercial exploitation of bluefin tuna resources, including catching vessels, fish processing vessels, support ships, tug and towing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment and transport vessels equipped for the transportation of tuna products and auxiliary vessels, except container vessels;
 - b) "Catching vessel" means a vessel used for the purposes of the commercial capture of bluefin tuna resources;

- c) "Processing vessel" means a vessel on board of which fisheries products are subject to one or more of the following operations, prior to their packaging: filleting or slicing, freezing and/or processing;
- d) "Auxiliary vessel" means any vessel used to transport dead bluefin tuna (not processed) from a cage to a designated port.
- e) "Fishing actively" means, for any catching vessel, the fact that it targets bluefin tuna during a given fishing season;
- f) "Joint fishing operation" means any operation between two or more catching vessels flying the flag of different flag States CPCs where the catch of one catching vessel is attributed to one or more other catching vessels in accordance with an allocation key;
- g) "Transfer activities" means:
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the catching vessel net to the transport cage;
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage to another transport cage;
 - any transfer of dead bluefin tuna from the transport cage to an auxiliary vessel.
 - any transfer from a bluefin tuna farm or a tuna trap to a processing vessel, transport vessel or to land.
- h) "Tuna trap" means fixed gear anchored to the bottom usually containing a guide net that leads fish into an enclosure.
- i) "Caging" means the transfer of bluefin tuna from the transport cage to the fattening and farming cages.
- j) "Fattening" means caging of bluefin tuna for a short period (usually 2-6 months) aiming mostly at increasing the fat content of the fish.
- k) "Farming" means caging of bluefin tuna for a period longer than one year, aiming to increase the total biomass.
- l) "Transshipment" means the unloading of all or any of the fish on board a fishing vessel to another fishing vessel at port.
- m) "Sport fishery" means a non-commercial fishery whose members adhere to a national sport organization or are issued with a national sport licence.
- n) "Recreational fishery" means a non-commercial fishery whose members do not adhere to a national sport organization or are not issued with a national sport licence.

Length of vessels

3. All lengths of vessels referred to in this Recommendation shall be understood as length overall.

Part II Management measures

TAC and quotas

4. The total allowable catches (TACs) are fixed:
 - 2007: 29,500 tonnes
 - 2008: 28,500 tonnes
 - 2009: 22,000 tonnes

2010: 19,950 tonnes⁵
 2011: 18,500 tonnes

5. The SCRS shall monitor and review the progress of the Plan and submit an assessment to the Commission in 2010.
6. The TAC for 2011 onwards may be adjusted following the SCRS advice. The relative shares shall be decided by the Commission in 2010.
7. The allocation scheme for 2007-2010 is set in **Annex 4** to this Recommendation.

Associated conditions to TAC and quotas

8. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the fishing effort of its catching vessels and its traps are commensurate with the fishing opportunities on bluefin tuna available to that CPC in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, including by establishing individual quotas for its catching vessels over 24 m included in the list referred to in paragraph 54 a).
9. Each CPC shall draw up an annual fishing plan for the catching vessels and traps fishing bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. The annual fishing plan shall identify, *inter alia*, the catching vessels over 24 metres included in the list referred to in paragraph 54 a) and the individual quota allocated to them and the method used to allocate quota as well as the measure to ensure the respect of the individual quota.
10. Each CPC shall also allocate a specific quota for the purpose of recreational and sport fisheries as defined in paragraph 2 m) and n).
11. No later than 1 March each year, the annual fishing plan shall be transmitted by each CPC to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat. Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan or to the specific method used to manage their quota shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat at least 10 days before the exercise of the activity corresponding to that modification.
12. No later than 15 October, each CPC shall report to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat on the implementation of their annual fishing plans for that year. Those reports shall include:
 - a) the number of catching vessels actually engaged in active fishing activities involving bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean;
 - b) the catches of each catching vessel; and
 - c) the total number of days each catching vessel fished in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.
13. The flag CPC may require the catching vessel to proceed immediately to a port designated by it when the individual quota is deemed to be exhausted.
14. a) No carry-over of any under-harvests shall be made under this Plan.
 b) By derogation to paragraph 4 of the 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning a Multi-year Conservation and Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 02-08], no more than 50 percent carry-over of any under-harvests arising from 2005 and/or 2006 may be made under this Plan. Paragraph 2 of the 1996 *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* [Rec. 96-14] shall not apply for the overages in 2005 and 2006.

⁵ This TAC may be adjusted at 2009 annual meeting of the Commission in case of substantial overharvest of TAC identified in 2009 and/or new relevant scientific findings and/or relevant international developments.

- c) The underages of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco and Tunisia in 2005 and 2006 may be carried over to 2009 and 2010 as follows (in tonnes):

<i>CPCs</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	145	145
Morocco	327	327
Tunisia	202	202

- d) Any overage of a CPC shall be deducted from the next year's quotas of that CPC. Notwithstanding this provision, the payback of the European Community for its overage in 2007 shall be spread over 2009-2012 (500 tonnes in 2009 and 2010, 1,510 tonnes in 2011 and 2012). This payback shall be reviewed in the light of a general transparency and incentive provision on overages to be adopted by ICCAT at the latest in 2010.
15. CPCs shall be encouraged to voluntarily reduce their catches of bluefin tuna in Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean in 2009. Notwithstanding paragraph 14 a), the voluntary reduced portion of the CPC's allocation may be carried over to 2011 on condition that such voluntary reduced portion is notified to the ICCAT Secretariat before March 1, 2009.
16. Private trade arrangements and or transfer of quotas/catch limits between CPCs shall be done only under authorization by the CPCs concerned and the Commission.
17. To comply with paragraph 1 of 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering* [Rec. 02-21], the percentage of a CPC's bluefin tuna quota/catch limit that may be used for chartering shall not exceed 60 percent, 40 percent and 20 percent of the total quota in 2007, 2008, 2009, respectively. No chartering operation for the bluefin tuna fishery is permitted in 2010.

By derogation to paragraph 3 of the 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering* [Rec. 02-21], only bluefin tuna catching vessels flying the flag of a CPC can be chartered.

The number of bluefin tuna catching vessels chartered and the duration of the charter shall be commensurate with the quota allocated to the charter nation.

18. Any joint fishing operation for bluefin tuna shall only be authorized with the consent of the flag States if the vessel is equipped to fish bluefin tuna and has an individual quota, and in accordance with the following requirements.

At the moment of the application for the authorization, following the format set in **Annex 6**, each flag State shall take the necessary measures to obtain from its fishing vessel(s) participating in the joint fishing operation the following information:

- duration,
- identity of the operators involved,
- individual vessels' quotas,
- the allocation key between the vessels for the catches involved, and
- the information on the fattening or farming farms of destination.

Each flag State authorizing its vessels to participate shall transmit all this information to the other participating flag State. The CPCs involved in the joint fishing operation shall transmit all this information to the ICCAT Secretariat at least ten days before the start of the operation.

The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all joint fishing operations authorized by the flag States CPCs in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

Closed fishing seasons

19. Bluefin tuna fishing shall be prohibited in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean by large-scale pelagic longline catching vessels over 24 m during the period from 1 June to 31 December with the exception of the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N, where such fishing shall be prohibited from 1 February to 31 July.
20. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be prohibited in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 15 June to 15 April.
21. If a CPC can demonstrate that due to bad weather (more than 7 knots) certain of its purse seine catching vessels have been unable to utilize the fishing days referred to in paragraph 20, the CPC may carry over a maximum of 5 days lost until 20 June. This CPC shall notify by 15 June to the ICCAT Secretariat the information on the additional fishing days granted, with evidence of bad weather. The ICCAT Secretariat shall forward without delay this information to other CPCs.
22. Bluefin tuna fishing by baitboats and trolling boats shall be prohibited in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 15 October to 15 June.
23. Bluefin tuna fishing by pelagic trawlers shall be prohibited in the East Atlantic during the period from 15 October to 15 June.
24. Bluefin tuna recreational and sport fishing shall be prohibited in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean from 15 October to 15 June.

Spawning grounds

25. For the annual meeting of the Commission in 2010, the SCRS shall identify as precisely as possible spawning grounds in the Mediterranean in view of the creation of sanctuaries.

Use of aircraft

26. CPCs shall take necessary measures to prohibit the use of airplanes or helicopters for searching for bluefin tuna in the Convention area.

Minimum size

27. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus thynnus*) weighing less than 30 kg.
28. By derogation of paragraph 27, a minimum size for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus thynnus*) of 8 kg shall apply to the following situations in accordance with the procedures set out in **Annex 1**.
 - a) Bluefin tuna caught by baitboats and trolling boats in the eastern Atlantic.
 - b) Bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes.
 - c) Bluefin tuna caught in the Mediterranean Sea by the coastal artisanal fishery for fresh fish by baitboats, longliners and handliners.
29. For catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna, an incidental catch of maximum 5 percent of bluefin tuna weighing between 10 and 30 kg may be authorized. This percentage is calculated on the total incidental catches in number of fish retained on board this vessel, or their equivalent in percentage in weight. Incidental catches must be deducted from the quota of the flag State CPC. The procedures referred to in paragraphs 61, 62, 63, 64, 66, 67 and 68 shall apply to the incidental catch.

Bycatch

30. Catching vessels not fishing actively for bluefin tuna are not authorized to retain on board bluefin tuna exceeding more than 5 percent of the total catch on board by weight or/and number of pieces. Bycatches must be deducted from the quota of the flag state CPC.

The procedures referred to in paragraphs 61, 62, 63, 64, 66, 67 and 68 shall apply to the bycatch.

Recreational fisheries

31. Recreational fisheries on bluefin tuna shall be subject to the authorization for each vessel issued by the flag State CPC.
32. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than one bluefin tuna in each sea trip.
33. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational fishing shall be prohibited except for charitable purposes.
34. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data from recreational fishing and transmit them to the SCRS. Catches of recreational fisheries shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 10.
35. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of bluefin tuna caught alive, especially juveniles, in the framework of recreational fishing.

Sport fisheries

36. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to regulate sport fishing, notably by fishing authorizations.
37. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in sport fishing competitions shall be prohibited except for charitable purposes.
38. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data from sport fishing and transmit them to the SCRS. Catches of sport fishing shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 10.
39. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of the bluefin tuna caught alive, especially juveniles, in the framework of sport fishing.

Part III
Capacity measures

Adjustment of fishing capacity

40. Each CPC shall ensure that its fishing capacity is commensurate with its allocated quota.
41. To that purpose each CPC shall establish a management plan over 2010-2013. Such plan shall be submitted to the Commission by 15 September 2009 for discussion and approval by the Commission at its annual meeting in 2009, and shall be reviewed at its annual meeting in 2010. Such plan shall include the information referred to in paragraphs 42 to 48.

Freezing of fishing capacity

42. CPCs shall limit the number, and the corresponding gross registered tonnage, of their fishing vessels to the number and tonnage of their vessels that fished for, retained on board, transshipped, transported, or landed bluefin tuna during the period 1 January 2007 to 1 July 2008. This limit shall be applied by gear type for catching vessels and by vessel type for other fishing vessels.
43. Paragraph 42 shall not be interpreted to affect the measures contained in **Annex 1** paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Recommendation.
44. CPCs shall limit the number of their traps engaged in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery to the number authorized by each CPC by 1 July 2008.
45. This freezing may not apply to certain CPCs, in particular developing States that demonstrate that they need to develop their fishing capacity so as to fully use their quota. Such CPCs shall indicate in their management plans the programming of the introduction of additional fishing capacity into the fishery.

Reduction of fishing capacity

46. Without prejudice to paragraph 45, each CPC shall reduce its fishing capacity referred to in paragraphs 42, 43 and 44 so as to ensure for 2010 that at least 25 percent of the discrepancy between its fishing capacity and its fishing capacity commensurate with its allocated quota in 2010 is achieved.
47. To calculate its fishing capacity reduction, each CPC shall take into account *inter alia*, the estimated yearly catch rates per vessel and gear.
48. This reduction may not apply to certain CPCs that demonstrate that their fishing capacity is commensurate with their allocated quotas.

Adjustment of farming capacity

49. Each farming or fattening CPC shall establish a management plan over 2010-2013. Such plan shall be submitted to the Commission by 15 September 2009 for discussion and approval by the Commission at its annual meeting in 2009, and shall be reviewed at its annual meeting in 2010. Such plan shall include the information referred in paragraphs 50 to 53.
50. Each CPC shall limit its tuna farming capacity to the farming capacity of the farms that were registered in the ICCAT list or authorized and declared to ICCAT as of 1 July 2008.
51. Each CPC shall establish for 2010 a maximum input of wild caught bluefin tuna into its farms at the level of the input quantities registered with ICCAT by its farms in 2005, 2006, 2007 or 2008.
52. Within the maximum input quantity of wild caught bluefin tuna referred to in paragraph 51, each CPC shall allocate inputs to its farms.
53. Further adjustment of farming capacity shall be decided by the Commission at its annual meeting in 2010, depending on the level of the TAC after 2010.

Part IV Control measures

ICCAT bluefin tuna records of vessels

54. a) The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.
- b) The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all other fishing vessels (i.e. catching vessels excluded) authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

During a calendar year, a fishing vessel shall be registered in only one of the ICCAT records referred to paragraphs a) and b). Without prejudice to paragraph 30, for the purposes of this recommendation, fishing vessels not entered into one of the ICCAT records referred to in paragraph a) and b) are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship, transport, transfer, process or land bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

55. Each flag CPC shall submit electronically each year to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, at the latest one month before the beginning of the fishing seasons referred to in paragraphs 19 to 23, when applicable, and otherwise by 1 March, the list of its catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna and the list of its other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 54 a) and b), in accordance with the format set in the Guidelines for submitting data and information required by ICCAT.

Any subsequent changes shall not be accepted unless a notified fishing vessel is prevented from participation due to legitimate operational reasons or *force majeure*. In such circumstances, the CPC concerned shall immediately inform the ICCAT Executive Secretariat, providing:

- a) full details of the intended replacement fishing vessel(s) referred to in paragraph 54;
- b) a comprehensive account of the reasons justifying the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence or references.

56. Conditions and procedures referred in the 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels Over 24 Metres Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 02-22] (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

ICCAT record of tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna

57. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. For the purposes of this recommendation, tuna traps not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to be used to fish for, retain, transfer or land bluefin tuna.
58. Each CPC shall submit electronically to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, by 1 March each year, the list (including the name of the traps, register number) of its authorized tuna traps referred to in paragraph 57. Conditions and procedures referred in the 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels Over 24 Metres Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 02-22] (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Information on fishing activities

59. By 1 March each year, each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat the list of the catching vessels included in the ICCAT record referred to in paragraph 54 a) that have fished for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean in the preceding fishing year.

60. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of any information concerning vessels not covered in paragraph 59 but known or presumed to have fished for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. The ICCAT Secretariat shall forward such information to the flag State for action as appropriate, with a copy to other CPCs for information.

Transshipment

61. Transshipment at sea operations of bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea shall be prohibited.
62. Fishing vessels shall only transship bluefin tuna catches in designated ports of CPCs. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which transshipping of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 March each year.

For a port to be determined as designated port, the port State shall specify permitted transshipping times and places.

The Port State shall ensure full inspection coverage during all transshipping times and at all transshipping places.

On the basis of this information the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.

63. Prior to entry into any port, the receiving fishing vessel or its representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the Port State at least 48 h before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:
- a) estimated time of arrival,
 - b) estimated quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board, and information on the geographic area where it was taken,
 - c) the name of the transshipping fishing vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea,
 - d) the name of the receiving fishing vessel, its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea,
 - e) the tonnage and the geographic area of the catch of bluefin tuna to be transshipped.

Any transshipment requires the prior authorization from the flag State of the transshipping fishing vessel concerned.

The master of the transshipping fishing vessel shall, at the time of the transshipment, inform its Flag State of the following:

- a) the quantities of bluefin tuna involved,
- b) the date and port of the transshipment,
- c) the name, registration number and flag of the receiving fishing vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea,
- d) the geographical area of the catch of bluefin tuna.

The relevant authority of the port State shall inspect the receiving vessel on arrival and check the cargo and documentation related to the transshipment operation.

The relevant authority of the port State shall send a record of the transshipment to the flag State authority of the transshipping fishing vessel, within 48 hours after the transshipment has ended.

Recording requirements

64. The masters of catching vessels shall keep a bound or electronic logbook of their operations, indicating particularly the quantities of bluefin tuna caught and kept on board, whether the catches are weighed or estimated, the date and location of such catches and the type of gear used in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2**.
65. The masters of the catching vessels involved in a joint fishing operation shall record in their logbook:
- a) as regards the catching vessel transferring the fish into cages:
 - its name and international radio call sign;
 - the date and the time of the catch and of the transfer,
 - the location of the catch and of the transfer (longitude/latitude),
 - amount of catches taken on board, and amount of catches transferred into cages,
 - amount of catches counted against its individual quota,
 - the name of the tug boat and its ICCAT number.
 - b) as regards the other catching vessels not involved in the transfer of the fish:
 - their names and international radio call signs;
 - the date and the time of the catch and of the transfer,
 - the location of the catch and of the transfer (longitude/latitude),
 - that no catches have been taken on board or transferred into cages,
 - amount of catches counted against their individual quotas,
 - the name and the ICCAT number of the catching vessel referred to in (a),
 - the name of the tug boat and its ICCAT number.
66. Fishing vessels shall only land bluefin tuna catches in designated ports of CPCs. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which landing of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 March each year.

For a port to be determined as designated port, the port State shall specify permitted landing times and places. The port State shall ensure full inspection coverage during all landing times and at all landing places.

On the basis of this information the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.

67. Prior to entry into any port, the fishing vessels or their representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the port, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:
- a) estimated time of arrival,
 - b) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board,
 - c) the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken;

Port State authorities shall keep a record of all prior notices for the current year.

Each landing or caging shall be subject to an inspection by the relevant authorities of the port.

The relevant authority shall send a record of the landing to the flag State authority of the fishing vessel, within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

After each trip and within 48 hours of landing, the masters of catching vessels shall submit a landing declaration to the competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to its flag State. The master of the authorized catching vessel shall be responsible for the accuracy of the declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum, the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated.

68. The masters of fishing vessels shall complete and transmit to their flag State the ICCAT transshipment declaration no later than 48 hours after the date of transshipment in port in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 3**.

Communication of catches

69. a) Each CPC shall ensure that its catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall communicate by electronic or other means, to their competent authorities, a weekly catch report, with, as a minimum, information on the catch amount, including nil catch returns, the date and the location (latitude and longitude) of the catches. This report shall be transmitted by the latest Monday noon with the catches taken in the Plan Area during the preceding week ending Sunday midnight GMT. This report shall include information on the number of days in the Plan Area since the beginning of the fishing or since the last weekly report.
- b) Each CPC shall ensure that its purse seine catching vessels and its other catching vessels over 24 m fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall communicate, except in case of nil catch returns, by electronic or other means, to their competent authorities, a daily catch report, with, as a minimum, information on the catch amount, the date and the location (latitude and longitude) of the catches. If a CPC requires such daily reports even in case of nil catch returns, the weekly reports referred to in a) shall not be required.
- c) On the basis of the information referred to in (a) and (b), each CPC shall transmit without delay weekly catch reports for all vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 5**.

Reporting of catches

70. Each CPC shall report its provisional monthly catches of bluefin tuna. This report shall be sent to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catches were made.
71. The ICCAT Secretariat shall within 10 days following the monthly deadlines for receipt of the provisional catch statistics collect the information received and circulate it to CPCs together with aggregated catch statistics.
72. The Executive Secretary shall notify without delay all CPCs of the date on which the accumulative reported catch taken by catching vessels of the CPCs is estimated to equal 85 percent of the concerned CPC quota for this stock. The CPC shall take the necessary measures to close its bluefin tuna fisheries before its quota is exhausted and notify this closure without delay to the ICCAT Secretariat which will circulate this information to all CPCs.

Cross check

73. CPCs shall verify, including by using inspection reports and observer reports, VMS data, the submission of logbooks and relevant information recorded in the logbooks of their fishing vessels, in the transfer/ transshipment document and in the catch documents.

The competent authorities shall carry out cross checks on all landings, all transshipment or caging between the quantities by species recorded in the fishing vessel logbook or quantities by species recorded in the transshipment declaration and the quantities recorded in the landing declaration or caging declaration, and any other relevant document, such as invoice and/or sales notes.

Transfer operations

74. Before any transfer operation into towed cages, the master of the catching vessel shall send to its flag State CPC authorities before the transfer, a prior transfer notification indicating:

- name of the catching vessel and ICCAT number record,
 - estimated time of transfer,
 - estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna to be transferred,
 - information on the position (latitude/longitude) where the transfer will take place,
 - name of the tug vessel, number of cages towed and ICCAT number record.
75. The transfer operation shall not begin without the prior authorization of the catching vessel flag State. If the flag State of the catching vessel considers on receipt of the prior transfer notification that:
- a) the catching vessel declared to have caught the fish had not sufficient quota for bluefin tuna put into the cage,
 - b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported and not taken into account for the consumption of the quota that may be applicable,
 - c) the catching vessel declared to have caught the fish is not authorized to fish for bluefin tuna, or
 - d) the tug vessel declared to receive the transfer of fish is not registered in the ICCAT record of all other fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 54 b) or is not equipped with a Vessel Monitoring System,
- it shall inform the master of the catching vessel that the transfer is not authorized and to proceed to the release of the fish into the sea.
76. The masters of catching vessels shall complete and transmit to their flag State the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation to the tug vessel, in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 3**.
77. The transfer declaration shall accompany the transfer of fish during transport to the farm or a designated port.
78. The authorization for transfer by the flag State does not prejudice the authorization of the caging operation.
79. The master of the caging vessel shall ensure that the transfer activities shall be monitored by video camera in the water.
80. The ICCAT Regional Observer on board the catching vessel, as referred to in the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (**Annex 7**), shall record and report upon the transfer activities carried out, verify the position of the catching vessel when engaged in transfer operation, observe and estimate catches transferred and verify entries made in the prior transfer operation as referred to in paragraph 75 and in the ICCAT transfer declaration as referred to in paragraph 76.
81. The ICCAT Regional Observer shall countersign the prior transfer notification and the ICCAT transfer declaration. He shall verify that the ICCAT transfer declaration is properly filled and transmitted to the master of the tug vessel.

The tuna trap operator shall complete and transmit to its State the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation to the fishing vessel, in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 3**.

Caging Operations

82. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall submit within one week a caging report, validated by an observer, to the CPC whose flag vessels has fished the tuna and to the ICCAT Secretariat. This report shall contain the information referred to in the caging declaration as set out in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 06-07].

When the farming facilities authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area (hereafter referred to as FFBs) are located beyond waters under jurisdiction of CPCs, the provisions of the previous paragraph shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to CPCs where the natural or legal persons responsible for FFBs are located.

83. Before any transfer operation into a farm, the flag CPC of the catching vessel shall be informed by the competent authority of the farm State of the transfer into cage of quantities caught by catching vessels flying its flag. If the flag CPC of the catching vessel considers on receipt of this information that:
- a) the catching vessel declared to have caught the fish had not sufficient quota for bluefin tuna put into the cage,
 - b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported and not taken into account for the calculation of any quota that may be applicable, or
 - c) the catching vessel declared to have caught the fish is not authorized to fish for bluefin tuna, it shall inform the competent authority of the farm State to proceed to the seizure of the catches and the release of the fish into the sea.

The transfer operation shall not begin without the prior authorization of the catching vessel flag CPC.

84. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall take the necessary measures to prohibit placing in cages for farming or fattening bluefin tuna that are not accompanied by accurate, complete and validated documentation required by ICCAT.
85. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm is located shall ensure that transfer activities from cages to the farm shall be monitored by video camera in the water. This requirement shall not apply where the cages are directly fixed to the mooring system.

Trap activities

86. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure the record of the catches after the end of every fishing operation and the transmission of these data simultaneously by electronic means or other means within 48 hours after the end of every fishing operation to the competent authority, which shall transmit these data without delay to the ICCAT Secretariat.

VMS

87. Without prejudice to paragraph 1 d) of Recommendation [06-07], CPCs shall implement a vessels monitoring system for their fishing vessels over 24 m, in accordance with the *2003 Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-14].

Without prejudice to paragraph 1d) of Recommendation [06-07], with effect from 1 January 2010 this measure shall be applied for their fishing vessels over 15 m.

No later than 31 January 2008, each CPC shall communicate without delay messages pursuant to this paragraph to the ICCAT Secretariat, in accordance with the data exchange formats and protocols adopted by the Commission in 2007.

The ICCAT Executive Secretariat shall make available as soon as possible the information received under this paragraph to CPCs with an active inspection presence in the Plan Area and to SCRS, at its request.

On request from CPCs engaged in inspection at sea operations in the Convention area in accordance with the ICCAT scheme of joint international inspection referred to in paragraphs 97 and 98 of this

Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall make available the messages received under paragraph 3 of Recommendation [07-08] to all fishing vessels.

CPC observer programme

88. Each CPC shall ensure observer coverage on its catching vessels actively fishing for bluefin tuna over 15 m in overall length of at least:
- 20 percent of its active purse seine vessels between 15 m and 24 m in overall length;
 - 20 percent of its active pelagic trawlers,
 - 20 percent of its active longline vessels,
 - 20 percent of its active baitboats,
 - 100 percent during the harvesting process for tuna traps.

The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

- a) monitor a catching vessel compliance with the present recommendation,
- b) record and report upon the fishing activity, which shall include, inter alia, the following:
 - amount of catch (including bycatch), that also includes species disposition, such as retained on board or discarded dead or alive,
 - area of catch by latitude and longitude,
 - measure of effort (e.g., number of sets, number of hooks, etc.), as defined in the ICCAT Field Manual for different gears.
 - date of catch,
- c) observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook,
- d) sight and record vessels that may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation measures.

In addition, the observer shall carry out scientific work, such as collecting Task II data, when required by the Commission, based on the instructions from the SCRS.

In implementing this observer requirement, CPCs shall:

- a) ensure representative temporal and spatial coverage to ensure that the Commission receives adequate and appropriate data and information on catch, effort, and other scientific and management aspects, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries;
- b) ensure robust data collection protocols;
- c) ensure observers are properly trained and approved before deployment;
- d) ensure, to the extent practicable, minimal disruption to the operations of vessels fishing in the Convention area.

Data and information collected under each CPCs observer programme shall be provided to the SCRS and the Commission, as appropriate, in accordance with requirements and procedures to be developed by the Commission by 2009 taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.

For the scientific aspects of the programme, the SCRS shall report on the coverage level achieved by each CPC and provide a summary of the data collected and any relevant findings associated with that data. SCRS shall also provide any recommendations to improve the effectiveness of CPC observer programmes.

ICCAT regional observer programme

89. An ICCAT regional observer programme shall be established to ensure an observer coverage of 100 percent:
- of purse seine vessels over 24 m during all the annual fishing season (**Annex 7**);
 - of all purse seiners involved in joint fishing operations, irrespective of the length of the vessels. In this respect, an observer shall be present during the fishing operation;
 - during all transfer of bluefin tuna to the cages and all harvest of fish from the cage.

Such purse seine vessels without an ICCAT regional observer shall not be authorized to fish or to operate in the bluefin tuna fishery.

90. An ICCAT Regional Observer Programme shall ensure an observer presence during all transfer of bluefin tuna to the cages and all harvest of fish from the cage.

The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

- observe and monitor farming operation compliance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 06-07],
- validate the caging report referred to in paragraph 82,
- carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission based on the directions from the SCRS.

Enforcement

91. CPCs shall take enforcement measures with respect to a fishing vessel, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that the fishing vessel flying its flag does not comply with the provisions of paragraphs 19 to 24, 27 to 29 and 64 to 68 (closed seasons, minimum size and recording requirements).

The measures may include in particular depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law:

- fines,
- seizure of illegal fishing gear and catches,
- sequestration of the vessel,
- suspension or withdrawal of authorization to fish,
- reduction or withdrawal of the fishing quota, if applicable.

92. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall take enforcement measures with respect to a farm, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that this farm does not comply with the provisions of paragraphs 82 to 85 and 90 (caging operations and observers) and with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 06-07].

The measures may include in particular depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law:

- fines,
- suspension or withdrawal of the record of FFBs,
- prohibition to put into cages or market quantities of bluefin tuna.

Access to video records

93. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the video records of its fishing vessels and of its farms are made available to the ICCAT inspectors and ICCAT observers.

The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the video records of its fishing vessels and of its farms are made available to its inspectors and its observers.

Market measures

94. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, exporting and importing CPCs shall take the necessary measures:

- to prohibit domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species that are not

accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation required by this Recommendation and Recommendation [08-12] on a bluefin tuna catch documentation programme.

- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, placing in cages for farming, processing, exports, re-exports and the transshipment within their jurisdiction, of eastern and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species caught by fishing vessels whose flag State either does not have a quota, catch limit or allocation of fishing effort for that species, under the terms of ICCAT management and conservation measures, or when the flag State fishing possibilities are exhausted, or when the individual quotas of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 9 are exhausted;
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, processing, exports from farms that do not comply with the Recommendation by *ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 06-07].

Conversion factors

95. The conversion factors adopted by SCRS shall apply to calculate the equivalent round weight of the processed bluefin tuna.

Growth factors

96. Each CPC shall define growth factors to be applied to bluefin tuna farmed in its cages. It shall notify to ICCAT Secretariat and to the SCRS the factors and methodology used. The SCRS shall review this information at its annual meetings in 2009 and 2010 and shall report to the Commission. The SCRS shall further study the estimated growth factors and provide advice to the Commission for its annual meeting in 2010.

Part V

ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

97. In the framework of the multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna, each CPC agrees, in accordance with Article 9, paragraph 3, of the ICCAT Convention, to apply the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection adopted during its Fourth Regular Meeting, held in November 1975 in Madrid⁶, as modified in **Annex 8**.
98. The Scheme referred to in paragraph 97 shall apply until ICCAT adopts a monitoring, control and surveillance scheme which will include an ICCAT scheme for joint international inspection, based on the results of the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group, established by Resolution 00-20.

Part VI

Final provisions

99. Availability of data to the SCRS

The ICCAT Secretariat shall make available to the SCRS all data received in accordance with the present Recommendation.

All data shall be treated in a confidential manner.

⁶ Note from the Secretariat: See Appendix II to Annex 7 in *Report for Biennial Period, 1974-75, Part II (1975)*.

100. Evaluation

All the CPCs shall submit each year to the Secretariat regulations and other related documents adopted by them to implement this Recommendation. In order to have greater transparency in implementing this Recommendation, all the CPCs involved in the bluefin tuna chain shall submit each year, no later than 15 October, a detailed report on their implementation of this Recommendation.

101. Cooperation

All the CPCs involved in the bluefin tuna chain are encouraged to enter into bilateral arrangements in order to improve the compliance with the provisions of this Recommendation. These arrangements could notably cover exchanges of inspectors, joint inspections and data sharing.

102. Repeals

This Recommendation repeals paragraph 10 of Recommendation [06-07]; Recommendation [07-04] and paragraph 6 of Recommendation [07-08].

This Recommendation replaces Recommendation [06-05]. Paragraphs 50 and 51 of Recommendation [06-05] shall remain in force until the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme referred to in paragraphs 89 and 90 is implemented.

Specific conditions applying to the catching vessels referred to in Paragraph 28

1. CPCs shall limit:
 - The maximum number of its baitboats and trolling boats authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna to the number of the vessels participating in directed fishery for bluefin tuna in 2006.
 - The maximum number of its artisanal fleet authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in Mediterranean to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008.
 - The maximum number of its catching vessel authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in Adriatic to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008. Each CPC shall allocate individual quotas to the concerned vessels.
2. By 30 January each year, CPCs shall submit to ICCAT Secretariat, the number of catching vessels established pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Annex.
3. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to the catching vessel referred to in paragraph 1 and shall transmit the list of such catching vessels to ICCAT Secretariat.
4. Any subsequent changes shall not be accepted unless a notified catching vessel is prevented from participation due to legitimate operational reasons or force majeure. In such circumstances CPC concerned shall immediately inform the ICCAT Executive Secretariat, providing:
 - a) full details of the intended replacement of the catching vessel referred to in paragraph 3 of this Annex;
 - b) a comprehensive account of the reasons justifying the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence or references.
5. Each CPC shall allocate no more than 7 percent of its quota for bluefin tuna among its baitboats and trolling boats, with up to a maximum of 100 t of bluefin tuna weighing no less than 6.4kg caught by baitboat vessels of an overall length of less than 17 m by derogation to paragraph 28 of this Recommendation.
6. Each CPC may allocate no more than 2 percent of its quota for bluefin tuna among its coastal artisanal fishery for fresh fish in the Mediterranean.

Each CPC may allocate no more than 90 percent of its quota for bluefin tuna among its catching vessel in Adriatic for farming purposes.
7. Authorized catching vessels pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Annex shall only land bluefin tuna catches in designated ports. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which landing of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 March each year.

For a port to be determined as designated port, the port State shall specify permitted landing times and places. The port State shall ensure full inspection coverage during all landing times and at all landing places.

On the basis of this information the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website for these fisheries.
8. Prior to entry into any designated port, authorized catching vessels in accordance with paragraph 4 of this Annex or their representative, shall provide the competent port authorities at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival with the following:

- a) estimated time of arrival,
- b) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board,
- c) information on the zone where the catches were taken;

Each landing shall be subjected to an inspection in port.

Port state authorities shall keep a record of all prior notice for the current year.

9. CPCs shall implement a catch reporting regime that ensures that an effective monitoring of the utilization of each vessels quota.
10. Bluefin tuna catches may not be offered for retail sale to the final consumer, irrespective of the marketing method, unless appropriate marking or labeling indicates:
 - a) the species, fishing gear used,
 - b) the catch area and date.
11. Beginning 1 July 2007, CPCs whose baitboats, longliners, handliners and trolling boats are authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean shall institute tail tag requirements as follows:
 - a) Tail tags must be affixed on each bluefin tuna immediately upon offloading.
 - b) Each tail tag shall have a unique identification number and be included on bluefin tuna catch documents and written on the outside of any package containing tuna.
12. The master of the catching vessel shall ensure that any quantity of bluefin tuna landed in designated port shall be weighed before first sale or before being transported elsewhere from the port of landing.

Minimum specification for logbooks:

1. The logbook must be numbered by sheets.
2. The logbook must be filled in every day (midnight) or before port arrival
3. The logbook must be completed in case of at sea inspections
4. One copy of the sheets must remain attached to the logbook
5. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-year operation.

Minimum standard information for logbooks:

1. Master name and address.
2. Dates and ports of departure, Dates and ports of arrival.
3. Vessel name, register number, ICCAT number and IMO number (if available). In case of joint fishing operations, vessel names, register numbers, ICCAT numbers and IMO numbers (if available) of all the vessels involved in the operation.
4. Fishing gear:
 - a) Type FAO code
 - b) Dimension (length, mesh size, number of hooks ...)
5. Operations at sea with one line (minimum) per day of trip, providing:
 - a) Activity (fishing, steaming...),
 - b) Position: Exact daily positions (in degree and minutes), recorded for each fishing operation or at noon when no fishing has been conducted during this day,
 - c) Record of catches:
6. Species identification:
 - a) by FAO code,
 - b) round (RWT) weight in kg per day,
 - c) number of pieces per day.
7. Master signature.
8. Observer signature (if applicable).
9. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board and counting.
10. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation.

Minimum information in case of landing, transshipment/transfer:

1. Dates and port of landing /transshipment/transfer
2. Products
 - a) presentation,
 - b) number of fish or boxes and quantity in kg.
3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent.

Document No. **ICCAT TRANSFER/TRANSSHIPMENT DECLARATION**

Tug/Carrier vessel		Fishing Vessel	Farm of destination	Trap
Name of vessel and radio call sign:		Name of the vessel and radio call sign,	Name	Name
Flag:		Flag:	ICCAT Register number	ICCAT Register number
Flag State authorization No.		Flag State authorization No.		
National Register No.		National register No.		
ICCAT Register No.		ICCAT Register No.		
IMO No.		External identification:		
		Fishing logbook sheet No.		

Day Month Hour Year |2_|0_|_|_| F.V Master's/trap operator name: Tug/Carrier Master's name: LOCATION OF TRANSSHIPMENT

Departure |_|_| |_|_| |_|_| from |_____|

Return |_|_| |_|_| |_|_| to |_____| Signature: Signature:

Transfer/Transh. |_|_| |_|_| |_|_| |_____|

For transshipment, indicate the weight in kilograms or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit: |___| kilograms.

In case of transfer of live fish indicate number of unit and live weight

Port	Sea		Species	Number of unit of fishes	Type of Product Live	Type of Product Whole	Type of Product Guttet	Type of Product Head off	Type of Product Filleted	Type of Product	further transfer / transshipments
	Lat.	Long.									
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____
											Authorization CP No. _____
											Transfer vessel Master signature: _____
											Name of receiver vessel: _____
											Flag _____
											ICCAT Register No. _____
											IMO N° _____
											Master's signature _____
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____
											Authorization CP No. _____
											Transfer vessel Master's signature: _____
											Name of receiver vessel: _____
											Flag _____
											ICCAT Register No. _____
											IMO No. _____
											Master's signature _____

ICCAT Observer signature (if applicable).

Obligations in case of transfer/transshipment:

1. The original of the transfer/transshipment declaration must be provided to the recipient vessel (tug/processing/transport).
2. The copy of the transfer/transshipment declaration must be kept by the correspondent catching vessel or trap.
3. Further transfers or transshipping operations shall be authorized by the relevant CP which authorized the vessel to operate.
4. The original of the transfer/transshipment declaration has to be kept by the recipient vessel which holds the fish, up to the farm or the landing place.
5. The transfer or transshipping operation shall be recorded in the logbook of any vessel involved in the operation.

Allocation scheme for 2007-2010

Recovery plan for a four-year period (Unit: tonnes)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Albania			50.00	50.00
Algeria	1,511.27	1,460.04	1,117.42	1,012.13
China	65.78	63.55	61.32	56.86
Croatia	862.31	833.08	641.45	581.51
Egypt			50.00	50.00
European Community*	16,779.55	16,210.75	12,406.62	11,237.59
Iceland	53.34	51.53	49.72	46.11
Japan	2,515.82	2,430.54	1,871.44	1,696.57
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	177.80	171.77	132.26	119.90
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1,280.14	1,236.74	946.52	857.33
Morocco	2,824.30	2,728.56	2,088.26	1,891.49
Norway	53.34	51.53	49.72	46.11
Syrian Arab Republic	53.34	51.53	50.00	50.00
Tunisia	2,333.58	2,254.48	1,735.87	1,573.67
Turkey	918.32	887.19	683.11	619.28
Chinese Taipei	71.12	68.71	66.30	61.48

*Fishing possibilities for EC-Malta and EC-Cyprus as follows: 2007: 355.59 tonnes and 154.68 tonnes , respectively, 2008: 343.54 tonnes and 149.44 tonnes, respectively.

Catch Report Form

<i>ICCAT weekly catch report</i>										
<i>Flag</i>	<i>ICCAT number</i>	<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>Report start date</i>	<i>Report end date</i>	<i>Report duration (d)</i>	<i>Catch date</i>	<i>Caught</i>			<i>Attributed weight in case JFO (kg)</i>
							<i>Weight (kg)</i>	<i>Number of pieces</i>	<i>Average weight (kg)</i>	

Joint fishing operation

<i>Flag State</i>	<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>Duration of the operation</i>	<i>Identity of the operators</i>	<i>Vessels individual quota</i>	<i>Allocation key per vessel</i>	<i>Fattening and farming farm destination</i>	
							<i>CPC</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>

Date

Validation of the flag State

ICCAT Regional Observer Programme

1. Each CPC shall require its farms, its purse seine vessels over 24 m and its purse seine vessels involved in joint fishing operations to carry an ICCAT observer during all the fishing and harvesting period in the Convention area.
2. By 1 February each year, CPCs shall notify to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat a list of its observers.
3. The Secretariat of the Commission shall appoint the observers before 1 March each year, and shall place them into farms and on board the purse seine vessels flying the flag of Contracting Parties and of non-Contracting Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that implement the ICCAT observer programme. An ICCAT observer card shall be issued for each observer.
4. The Secretariat shall issue a contract listing the rights and duties of the observer and the master of the vessel or farm operator. This contract shall be signed by both parties involved.
5. The Secretariat shall establish an ICCAT observer programme manual.

Designation of the observers

6. The designated observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
 - sufficient experience to identify species and fishing gear;
 - satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures assessed by a certificate provided by the CPCs and based on ICCAT training guidelines;
 - the ability to observe and record accurately;
 - a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel or farm observed.

Obligations of the observer

7. Observers shall:
 - a) have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by ICCAT;
 - b) be nationals of one of the CPCs and, to the extent possible, not of the farm State or flag State of the purse seine vessel;
 - c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 8 below;
 - d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the Secretariat of the Commission;
 - e) not have current financial or beneficial interests in the bluefin tuna fishery.
8. The observer tasks shall be in particular:
 - a) As regards observers on purse-seine vessels, to monitor the purse seine vessels' compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
 - i) record and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
 - ii) observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;
 - iii) issue a daily report of the purse seiner vessels' transfer activities;
 - iv) sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;
 - v) record and report upon the transfer activities carried out;
 - vi) verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transfer;
 - vii) observe and estimate products transferred, including through the review of video recordings;
 - viii) verify and record the name of the fishing vessel concerned and its ICCAT number;
 - ix) carry out scientific work such as collecting task II data when required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS.
 - b) As regards observers in the farms, to monitor the farms' compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:

- i) verify the data contained in the transfer declaration and caging declaration, including through the review of video records;
 - ii) certify the data contained in the transfer declaration and caging declaration;
 - iii) issue a daily report of the farms' transfer activities;
 - iv) countersign the transfer declaration and caging declaration;
 - v) carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS.
- c) Establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the master and farm operator the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.
 - d) Submit to the Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation.
 - e) Exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.
9. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transfer operations of the purse seiners and of the farms and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer;
10. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag or farm State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel or farm to which the observer is assigned.
11. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behavior which apply to all vessel and farm personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this programme, and with the obligations of vessel and farm personnel set forth in paragraph 12 of this programme.

Obligations of the flag States of purse seine vessels and farm States

12. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag States of the purse seine vessels and their masters shall include the following, notably:
- a) Observers shall be allowed to access to the vessel and farm personnel and to the gear, cages and equipment;
 - b) Upon request, observers shall also be allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned, in order to facilitate the carrying out of their duties set forth in paragraph 8:
 - i) satellite navigation equipment;
 - ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
 - iii) electronic means of communication;
 - c) Observers shall be provided accommodations, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
 - d) Observers shall be provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties; and
 - e) The flag States shall ensure that masters, crew, farm and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.

The Secretariat, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, is requested to provide to the farm State or flag State of the purse seine vessel, copies of all raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip. The Secretariat shall submit the observer reports to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.

Observer fees

- a) The costs of implementing this programme shall be financed by the farm operators and purse seiner's owners. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the programme. This fee shall be paid into a special account of the ICCAT Secretariat and the ICCAT Secretariat shall manage the account for implementing the programme;
- b) No observer shall be assigned to a vessel or farm for which the fees, as required under subparagraph a), have not been paid.

ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article IX of the Convention, the ICCAT Commission recommends the establishment of the following arrangements for international control outside the waters under national jurisdiction for the purpose of ensuring the application of the Convention and the measures in force thereunder:

I. Serious violations

1. For the purposes of these procedures, a serious violation means the following violations of the provisions of the ICCAT conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission:
 - a. fishing without a licence, permit or authorization issued by the flag CPC,
 - b. failure to maintain sufficient records of catch and catch-related data in accordance with the Commission's reporting requirements or significant misreporting of such catch and/or catch-related data;
 - c. fishing in a closed area;
 - d. fishing during a closed season;
 - e. intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of any applicable conservation and management measure adopted by the ICCAT;
 - f. significant violation of catch limits or quotas in force pursuant to the ICCAT rules;
 - g. using prohibited fishing gear;
 - h. falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel;
 - i. concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to investigation of a violation;
 - j. multiple violations which taken together constitute a serious disregard of measures in force pursuant to the ICCAT;
 - k. assault, resist, intimidate, sexually harass, interfere with, or unduly obstruct or delay an authorized inspector or observer;
 - l. intentionally tampering with or disabling the vessel monitoring system;
 - m. such other violations as may be determined by the ICCAT, once these are included and circulated in a revised version of these procedures;
 - n. fishing with assistance of spotter planes;
 - o. interference with the satellite monitoring system and/or operates without VMS system;
 - p. transfer activity without transfer declaration.
2. In the case of any boarding and inspection of a fishing vessel during which the authorized inspectors observe an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, as defined in paragraph 1, the authorities of the inspection vessels shall immediately notify the authorities of the fishing vessel, directly as well as through the ICCAT Secretariat.
3. The flag State CPC shall ensure that, following the inspection referred to in paragraph 2 of this Annex, the fishing vessel concerned ceases all fishing activities. The flag State CPC shall require the fishing vessel to proceed immediately to a port designated by it, and where an investigation shall be initiated.

If the vessel is not called to port; the CPC must provide due justification in a timely manner to the Executive Secretary, who shall make it available on request to other Contracting parties

II. Conduct of inspections

4. Inspection shall be carried out by inspectors of the fishery control services of Contracting Governments. The names of the inspectors appointed for that purpose by their respective governments shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission.

5. Ships carrying inspectors shall fly a special flag or pennant approved by the ICCAT Commission to indicate that the inspector is carrying out international inspection duties. The names of the ships so used for the time being, which may be either special inspection vessels or fishing vessels, shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission, as soon as may be practical.
6. Each inspector shall carry an identity document supplied by the authorities of the flag State in the form shown in paragraph 17 of this Annex and giving him an appointment stating that he has authority to act under arrangements approved by the ICCAT Commission. This identity document shall be valid for a minimum of five years.
7. Subject to the arrangements agreed under paragraph 12 of this Annex, a vessel employed for the time being in fishing for tuna or tuna-like fishes in the Convention area outside the waters within its national jurisdiction shall stop when given the appropriate signal in the International Code of Signals by a ship carrying an inspector unless it is actually carrying out fishing operations, in which case it shall stop immediately once it has finished such operations. The master⁷ of the vessel shall permit the inspector, who may be accompanied by a witness, to board it. The master shall enable the inspector to make such examination of catch or gear and any relevant documents as the inspector deems necessary to verify the observance of the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel concerned and the inspector may ask for any explanations that he deems necessary.
8. On boarding the vessel an inspector shall produce the document described in paragraph 6 of this Annex. Inspections shall be made so that the vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience and the quality of the fish does not deteriorate. An inspector shall limit his enquiries to the ascertainment of the observance of the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel concerned. In making his examination an inspector may ask the master for any assistance he may require. He shall draw up a report of his inspection in a form approved by the ICCAT Commission. He shall sign the report in the presence of the master of the vessel who shall be entitled to add or have added to the report any observations which he may think suitable and must sign such observations. Copies of the report shall be given to the master of the vessel and to the inspector's government, which shall transmit copies to the appropriate authorities of the flag State of the vessel and to the ICCAT Commission. Where any infringement of the recommendations is discovered the inspector should, where possible, also inform the competent authorities of the flag State, as notified to the ICCAT Commission, and any inspection ship of the flag State known to be in the vicinity.
9. Resistance to an inspector or failure to comply with his directions shall be treated by the flag State of the vessel in a manner similar to resistance to any inspector of that State or a failure to comply with his directions.
10. Inspector shall carry out their duties under these arrangements in accordance with the rules set out in this recommendation but they shall remain under the operational control of their national authorities and shall be responsible to them.
11. Contracting Governments shall consider and act on reports of foreign inspectors under these arrangements on a similar basis in accordance with their national legislation to the reports of national inspectors. The provisions of this paragraph shall not impose any obligation on a Contracting Government to give the report of a foreign inspector a higher evidential value than it would possess in the inspector's own country. Contracting Governments shall collaborate in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from a report of an inspector under these arrangements.

⁷ Master refers to the individual in charge of the vessel.

- 12. a) Contracting Governments shall inform the ICCAT Commission by 1 March each year of their provisional plans for participation in these arrangements in the following year and the Commission may make suggestions to Contracting Governments for the coordination of national operations in this field including the number of inspectors and ships carrying inspectors;
- b) the arrangements set out in this recommendation and the plans for participation shall apply between Contracting Governments unless otherwise agreed between them, and such agreement shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission.



Provided however, that implementation of the scheme shall be suspended between any two Contracting Governments if either of them has notified the ICCAT Commission to that effect, pending completion of an agreement;

- 13. a) the fishing gear shall be inspected in accordance with the regulations in force for the sub-area in which the inspection takes place. The inspector will state the nature of this violation in this report;
 - b) inspectors shall have the authority to inspect all fishing gear in use or that fishing gear on deck ready for use.
14. The inspector shall affix an identification mark approved by the ICCAT Commission to any fishing gear inspected which appears to be in contravention of the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel concerned and shall record this fact in his report.
15. The inspector may photograph the gear in such a way as to reveal those features which in his opinion are not in conformity with the regulation in force, in which case the subjects photographed should be listed in the report and copies of the photographs should be attached to the copy of the report to the flag State.
16. The inspector shall have authority, subject to any limitations imposed by the ICCAT Commission, to examine the characteristics of catches, to establish whether the ICCAT Commission's recommendations are being complied with.

He shall report his findings to the authorities of the flag State of the inspected vessel as soon as possible. (*Report for Biennial Period, 1974-75, Part II*).

- 17. New proposed model Identity Card for inspectors.

Dimensions: Width 10.4 cm. Height 7 cm

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">ICCAT</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Inspector Identity Card</p> <p>Contracting Party:</p> <p>Inspector Name:</p> <p>Card n°:</p> <p>Issue Date: Valid five years</p> <div style="border: 1px dashed gray; width: 80px; height: 60px; margin-top: 10px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; font-size: 0.8em;"> Photograph </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">ICCAT</p> </div> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin-top: 10px;">The holder of this document is an ICCAT inspector duly appointed under the terms of the Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Surveillance of the International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tuna and has the authority to act under the provision of the ICCAT Control and Enforcement measures.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center;"> <p>.....</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">ICCAT Executive Secretary Issuing Authority</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center;"> <p>.....</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Inspector</p> </div> </div>
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GFCM/33/2009/9 (C)
RECOMMENDATION 08-12 BY ICCAT AMENDING
RECOMMENDATION 07-10 ON AN ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA
CATCH DOCUMENTATION PROGRAMME

RECOGNIZING the situation of Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks and the impact that market factors have on the fishery;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the rebuilding plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and the recovery plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna that ICCAT has adopted, including the need for complementary market related measures;

RECOGNIZING the necessity to clarify and improve the implementation of the bluefin tuna catch documentation scheme, providing detailed instructions for the completion and the validation of the bluefin tuna catch document,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

PART I GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Each Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall take the necessary steps to implement an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Scheme for the purpose of identifying the origin of any bluefin tuna in order to support the implementation of conservation and management measures.
2. For the purpose of this Programme:
 - a) "Domestic trade" means:
 - trade of bluefin tuna harvested in the ICCAT Convention area by a vessel or trap, which is landed in the territory of the CPC where the vessel is flagged or where the trap is established, and
 - trade of farmed bluefin tuna products originating from bluefin tuna harvested in the ICCAT Convention area by a vessel which is flagged to the same CPC where the farm is established, which is supplied to any entity in this CPC, and
 - trade between the Member States of the European Community of bluefin tuna harvested in the ICCAT Convention area by vessels flagged to one Member State or by a trap established in one Member State.
 - b) "Export" means:
Any movement of bluefin tuna in its harvested or processed form (including farmed) from the territory of the CPC where the fishing vessel is flagged or where the trap or farm is established to the territory of another CPC or non-Contracting Party, or from the fishing grounds to the territory of a CPC which is not the flag CPC of the fishing vessel or to the territory of a non-Contracting Party.
 - c) "Import" means:
Any introduction of bluefin tuna in its harvested or processed form (including farmed) into the territory of a CPC, which is not the CPC where the fishing vessel is flagged or where the trap or the farm is established.
 - d) "Re-export" means:
Any movement of bluefin tuna in its harvested or processed form (including farmed) from the territory of a CPC where it has been previously imported.
 - e) "flag State" means the State where the fishing vessel is flagged; "trap State" means the State where the trap is established; and "farm State" means the State where the farm is established.

3. CPCs shall require a completed Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD) for each bluefin tuna:
 - a) landed at its ports,
 - b) delivered to its farms, and
 - c) harvested from its farms.

Each consignment of bluefin tuna domestically traded, imported into or exported or re-exported from its territories shall be accompanied by a validated BCD, except in cases where paragraph 9(c) applies and, as applicable, an ICCAT transfer declaration or a validated Bluefin Tuna Re-export Certificate (BFTRC). Any such landing, transfer, delivery, harvest, domestic trade, import, export or re-export of bluefin tuna without a completed and validated BCD or a BFTRC shall be prohibited.

4. In order to support an effective BCD, CPCs shall:
 - a) not place bluefin tuna into a farm not authorized by the CPC or listed in the ICCAT record,
 - c) not place bluefin tuna from different years or CPCs in the same cages unless effective measures are in place to determine the CPC of origin and catch year when the bluefin tuna are ultimately harvested from the farm.
5. Each CPC shall provide BCD forms only to catching vessels and traps authorized to fish bluefin tuna in the Convention area, including as bycatch. Such forms are not transferable. Each BCD form shall have a unique document identification number. Document numbers shall be specific to the flag or trap State and assigned to the catching vessel or trap.
6. Domestic trade, export, import and re-export of fish parts other than the meat (i.e., heads, eyes, roes, guts and tails) shall be exempted from the requirements of this Recommendation.

PART II VALIDATION OF BCDs

7. The catching vessel master or trap operator, or its authorized representative, or the operator of farms, or the authorized representative of the flag, farm, or trap State, shall complete the BCD by providing the required information in appropriate sections and request validation in accordance with paragraph 9 for a BCD for catch landed, transferred to cages, harvested, transshipped, domestically traded or exported on each occasion that it lands, transfers, harvests, transships, domestically trades or exports bluefin tuna.
8. A validated BCD shall include, as appropriate, the information identified in **Annex 1** attached. A BCD format is attached as **Annex 2**. In cases where a section of the BCD format does not provide enough room to completely track movement of BFT from catch to market, the needed information section of the BCD may be expanded as necessary and attached as an annex using the original BCD format and number. The authorized representative of the CPC shall validate the annex as soon as possible but not later than the next movement of BFT.
9.
 - a) The BCD must be validated by an authorized government official, or other authorized individual or institution, of the flag State of the catching vessel, the State of the seller/exporter, or the trap or farm State that caught, harvested, domestically traded or exported the bluefin tuna. If the catching vessel is operating under a charter arrangement, the BCD must be validated by an authorized governmental official or institution of the chartering entity's CPC.
 - b) The CPCs shall validate the BCD for all bluefin tuna products only when all the information contained in the BCD has been established to be accurate as a result of the verification of the consignment, and only when the accumulated validated amounts are within their quotas or catch limits of each management year, including, where appropriate, individual quotas allocated to catching vessels or traps, and when those products comply with other relevant ICCAT provisions of the conservation and management measures.
 - c) Validation under 9(a) shall not be required in the event that all bluefin tuna available for sale are tagged by the flag State of the catching vessel or the trap State that fished the bluefin tuna.

- d) Where the bluefin tuna quantities caught and landed are less than 1 metric ton or three fish, the logbook or the sales note may be used as a temporary BCD, pending the validation of the BCD within seven days and prior to export.

PART III VALIDATION OF BFTRCs

10. Each CPC shall ensure that each bluefin tuna consignment which is re-exported from its territory be accompanied by a validated Bluefin Tuna Re-export Certificate (BFTRC). In cases where bluefin tuna is imported live, the BFTRC shall not apply.
11. The operator who is responsible for the re-export shall complete the BFTRC by providing the required information in its appropriate sections and request its validation for the bluefin tuna consignment to be reexported. The completed BFTRC shall be accompanied by a copy of the validated BCD(s) relating to the bluefin tuna products previously imported.
12. The BFTRC shall be validated by an authorized government official or authority.
13. The CPC shall validate the BFTRC for all bluefin tuna product only when:
- a) all the information contained in the BFTRC has been established to be accurate,
 - b) the validated BCD(s) submitted in support to the BFTRC had been accepted for the importation of the products declared on the BFTRC and
 - c) the products to be re-exported are wholly or partly the same products on the validated BCD(s).
 - d) a copy of the BCD(s) shall be attached to the validated BFTRC.
14. The validated BFTRC shall include the information identified in **Annex 3** and **Annex 4** attached.

PART IV VERIFICATION AND COMMUNICATION

15. Each CPC shall communicate a copy of all validated BCDs or BFTRCs, except in cases where paragraph 9(c) applies, within five working days following the date of validation, or without delay where the expected duration of the transportation should not take more than five working days, to the following:
- a) the competent authorities of the country where the bluefin tuna will be domestically traded, or transferred into a cage or imported, and
 - b) the ICCAT Secretariat.
16. The ICCAT Secretariat shall extract from the validated BCDs or BFTRCs communicated under paragraph 15 above the information marked with an asterisk (*) in **Annex 1** or **Annex 3** and enter this information in a database on a password protected section of its website, as soon as practicable.
- At its request, the SCRS shall have access to the catch information contained in the database, except the vessel or trap names.

PART V TAGGING

17. CPCs may require their catching vessels or traps to affix a tag to each bluefin tuna preferably at the time of kill, but no later than the time of landing. Tags shall have unique country specific numbers and be tamper proof. The tag numbers shall be linked to the BCD and a summary of the implementation of the tagging programme shall be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat by the CPC. The use of such tags shall only be authorized when the accumulated catch amounts are within their quotas or catch limits of each management year, including, where appropriate, individual quotas allocated to vessels or traps.

PART VI VERIFICATION

18. Each CPC shall ensure that its competent authorities, or other authorized individual or institution, take steps to identify each consignment of bluefin tuna landed in, domestically traded in, imported into or exported or re-exported from its territory and request and examine the validated BCD(s) and related documentation of each consignment of bluefin tuna. These competent authorities, or authorized individuals or institutions, may also examine the content of the consignment to verify the information contained in the BCD and in related documents and, where necessary, shall carry out verifications with the operators concerned.
19. If, as a result of examinations or verifications carried out pursuant to paragraph 18 above, a doubt arises regarding the information contained in a BCD, the final importing State and the CPC whose competent authorities validated the BCD(s) or BFTRCs shall cooperate to resolve such doubts.
20. If a CPC involved in trade of bluefin tuna identifies a consignment with no BCD, it shall notify the findings to the exporting State and, where known, the flag State.
21. Pending the examinations or verifications under paragraph 18 to confirm compliance of the bluefin tuna consignment with the requirements in the present Recommendation and any other relevant Recommendations, the CPCs shall not grant its release for domestic trade, import or export, nor, in the case of live bluefin tuna destined to farms, accept the transfer declaration.
22. Where a CPC, as a result of examination or verifications under paragraph 18 above and in cooperation with the validating authorities concerned, determines that a BCD or BFTRC is invalid, the domestic trade, import, export or re-export of the bluefin tuna concerned shall be prohibited.
23. The Commission shall request the non-Contracting Parties that are involved in domestic trade, import, export or re-export of bluefin tuna to cooperate with the implementation of the Programme and to provide to the Commission data obtained from such implementation.

PART VII NOTIFICATION AND COMMUNICATION

24. Each CPC that validates BCDs in respect of its flag catching vessels, traps or farms in accordance with paragraph 9(a), shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of the government authorities, or other authorized individuals or institutions (name and full address of the organization(s) and, where appropriate, name and title of the validating officials who are individually empowered, sample form of document, sample impression of stamp or seal, and as appropriate tag samples) responsible for validating and verifying BCDs or BFTRCs. This notification shall indicate the date at which this entitlement comes into force. A copy of the provisions adopted in national law for the purpose of implementing the bluefin tuna catch documentation programme shall be communicated with the initial notification, including procedures to authorize non-governmental individuals or institutions. Updated details on validating authorities and national provisions shall be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat in a timely fashion.
25. The information on validating authorities transmitted by notifications to the ICCAT Secretariat shall be placed on the password protected page of the database on validation held by the ICCAT Secretariat. The list of the CPCs having notified their validating authorities and the notified dates of entry into force of the validation shall be placed on a publicly accessible website held by the ICCAT Secretariat. CPCs are encouraged to access this information to help verify the validation of BCDs and BFTRCs.
26. Each CPC shall notify to the ICCAT Secretariat the points of contact (name and full address of the organization(s)) that should be notified when there are questions related to BCDs or BFTRCs.

27. Copies of validated BCDs and notification pursuant to paragraphs 24, 25 and 26 shall be sent by CPCs to the ICCAT Secretariat, by electronic means, whenever possible.
28. The Commission shall consider the introduction of an electronic system as informed by results reported to the Commission from the electronic statistical document pilot programmes conducted by CPCs in accordance with *Recommendation by ICCAT on an Electronic Statistical Document Pilot Programme* [Rec. 06-16]. Those CPCs which implement an electronic system in advance of the Commission shall ensure the electronic system meets the requirements of this measure and has the ability to produce paper copies upon request of national authorities from the exporting and importing Parties.
29. Copies of BCDs shall follow each part of split shipments or processed product, using the unique document number of the BCD to link them.
30. CPCs shall keep copies of documents issued or received for at least two years.
31. CPCs shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat a report each year by October 1 for the period from July 1 of the preceding year to June 30 of the current year to provide the information described in **Annex 5**.
The ICCAT Secretariat shall post these reports on the password protected section of the ICCAT website, as soon as practicable.
At its request, the SCRS shall have access to the reports received by the ICCAT Secretariat.
32. The *Recommendation by ICCAT on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Programme* [Rec. 07-10] is repealed and replaced by this Recommendation.

Data to be Included in Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD)

1. ICCAT Bluefin tuna catch document number*

2. Catch information

Vessel or trap name*

Flag State*

ICCAT Record No.

Date, area of catch and gear used*

Number of fish, total weight, and average weight**

Tag No. (if applicable)

Government validation

Name of authority and signatory, title, address, signature, seal and date

3. Trade information for live fish trade

Product description

Exporter/Seller information

Transportation description

Government validation

Name of authority and signatory, title, address, signature, seal and date

Importer/buyer

4. Transfer information

Towing vessel description

Vessel name, flag

ICCAT Record No. and towing cage number (if applicable)

5. Transshipment information

Carrier vessel description

Name

Flag State

ICCAT Record No.

Date

Port (name and country or position)

Product description

(F/FR; RD/GG/DR/FL/OT)

Total weight (NET)

Government validation

Name of authority and signatory, title, address, signature, seal and date

6. Farming information

Farming facility description

Name, flag of farm*, ICCAT FFB No.* and location of farm

Participation in national sampling programme (yes or no)

Cage description

Date of caging, cage number

*Weight shall be reported by round weight where available. If round weight is not used, specify the type of product (e.g. GG) in the "Total Weight" and "Average Weight" section of the form.

Fish description

Estimates of number of fish, total weight, and average weight*

Estimated size composition (<8 kg, 8-30 kg, >30 kg)

Government validation

Name of authority and signatory, title, address, signature, seal and date

7. Harvest from farms information*Harvest description*

Date of harvest*

Number of fish, total (round) weight, and average weight*

Tag numbers (if applicable)

Government validation

Name of authority and signatory, title, address, signature, seal and date

8. Trade information*Product description*

(F/FR; RD/GG/DR/FL/OT)⁹

Total weight (NET)

Exporter/Seller information

Point of export or departure*

Export company name, address, signature and date

State of destination*

Description of transportation (relevant documentation to be attached)

Government validation

Name of authority and signatory, title, address, signature, seal and date

Importer/buyer information

Point of import or destination*

Import company name, address, signature and date¹⁰

⁹ When different types of products are recorded in this section, the weight shall be recorded by each product type.

¹⁰ DATE to be filled by IMPORTER/BUYER in this section is the date of signature.

Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Form

1. ICCAT BLUE FIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENT (BCD)				N° CC-YY-XXXXXX		1/2	
2. CATCH INFORMATION							
VESSEL/TRAP							
NAME :			FLAG		ICCAT RECORD No.		
			ATEC				
CATCH DESCRIPTION							
DATE (ddmmyy)		AREA		GEAR			
No. of FISH		TOTAL WEIGHT (kg)		AVERAGE WEIGHT (kg)			
TAGS No. (if applicable)						ICCAT RECORD N° of Joint Fishing Operation (if applicable)	
GOVERNMENT VALIDATION							
NAME OF AUTHORITY						SEAL	
TITLE							
SIGNATURE							
DATE							
3. TRADE INFORMATION							
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION							
LIVE WEIGHT (kg)		No. of FISH		ZONE			
EXPORTER/SELLER							
PT EXPORT/ DEPARTURE		COMPANY		ADDRESS			
FARM OF DESTINATION		STATE		ICCAT FFB No.			
SIGNATURE							
DATE							
TRANSPORTATION DESCRIPTION (Relevant documentation to be attached)							
GOVERNMENT VALIDATION							
NAME OF AUTHORITY						SEAL	
TITLE							
SIGNATURE							
DATE							
IMPORTER/BUYER							
COMPANY				PT IMPORT / DESTINATION (city, country, State)			
ADDRESS							
DATE OF SIGNATURE		SIGNATURE					
ANNEX(ES): YES / NO (circle one)							
4. TRANSFER INFORMATION							
TOWING VESSEL DESCRIPTION							
ICCAT TRANSFER DECLARATION N°							
NAME		FLAG		ICCAT RECORD No.			
No. of FISH DEAD DURING TRANSFER				TOTAL WEIGHT OF DEAD FISH (kg)			
TOWING CAGE DESCRIPTION				CAGE N°			
ANNEX(ES): YES / NO (circle one)							
5. TRANSHIPMENT INFORMATION							
CARRIER VESSEL DESCRIPTION							
NAME		FLAG		ICCAT RECORD No.			
DATE(ddmmyy)		PORT NAME				PORT STATE	
POSITION (LAT/LONG)							
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION (Indicate net weight in kg for each type of product)							
F	RD (kg)	GG (kg)	DR (kg)	FL (kg)	OT(kg)	TOTAL WT F (kg)	
FR	RD (kg)	GG (kg)	DR (kg)	FL (kg)	OT(kg)	TOTAL WT FR	
GOVERNMENT VALIDATION							
NAME OF AUTHORITY						SEAL	
TITLE							
SIGNATURE							
DATE							
ANNEX(ES): YES / NO (circle one)							

ICCAT BLUE FIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENT (BCD)				N° CC-YY-XXXXXX		2/2						
6. FARMING INFORMATION												
FARMING FACILITY DESCRIPTION	NAME		STATE		ICCAT FFB N°							
	NATIONAL SAMPLING PROGRAM? Yes or No (circle one)			LOCATION								
CAGE DESCRIPTION	DATE(ddmmyy)		CAGE No.									
FISH DESCRIPTION	No. of FISH		TOTAL WEIGHT (kg)		AVERAGE WEIGHT (kg)							
OBSERVER INFORMATION	NAM E		TITLE			SIGNATURE						
	SIZE COMPOSITION		< 8kg		8-30 kg	> 30 kg						
GOVERNMENT VALIDATION												
	NAME OF AUTHORITY					SEAL						
	TITLE											
	SIGNATURE											
	DATE											
ANNEX(ES): YES / NO (circle one)												
7. HARVESTING INFORMATION												
HARVESTING DESCRIPTION												
	DATE (ddmmyy)		No. of FISH		TOTAL ROUND WEIGHT (kg)							
	AVERAGE WEIGHT (kg)		TAGS No. (if applicable)									
GOVERNMENT VALIDATION												
	NAME OF AUTHORITY					SEAL						
	TITLE											
	SIGNATURE											
	DATE											
8. TRADE INFORMATION												
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION (Indicate net weight in kg for each type of product)												
F	RD (kg)		GG (kg)		DR (kg)		FL (kg)		OT(kg)		TOTAL WT F	
FR	RD (kg)		GG (kg)		DR (kg)		FL (kg)		OT(kg)		TOTAL WT FR	
EXPORTER/SELLER												
PT EXPORT / DEPARTURE			COMPANY				ADDRESS					
STATE OF DESTINATION												
SIGNATURE												
DATE												
TRANSPORTATION DESCRIPTION (Relevant documentation to be attached)												
GOVERNMENT VALIDATION												
	NAME OF AUTHORITY					SEAL						
	TITLE											
	SIGNATURE											
	DATE											
IMPORTER/BUYER												
COMPANY					PT IMPORT / DESTINATION (city, country, State)							
ADDRESS												
DATE					SIGNATURE							
ANNEX(ES): YES / NO (circle one)												

Data to be Included in the Bluefin Tuna Re-export Certificate (BFTRC)**1. Document number of the BFTRC*****2. Re-export section**

Re-exporting CPC/Entity/Fishing Entity

Point of re-export*

3. Description of imported bluefin tunaProduct type F/FR RD/GG/DR/FL/OT¹¹

Net weight (kg)

BCD number(s) and date(s) of importation*

Flag(s) of fishing vessel(s) or state of establishment of the trap, where appropriate

4. Description of bluefin tuna to be re-exportedProduct type F/FR RD/GG/DR/FL/OT*¹

Net weight (kg)*

Corresponding BCD number(s) from section 3

State of destination

5. Statement of re-exporter

Name

Address

Signature

Date

6. Validation by governmental authorities

Name and address of the authority

Name and position of the official

Signature

Date

Government seal

7. Import section

Statement by the importer in the CPC of import of the bluefin tuna consignment

Name and address of the importer

Name and signature of the importer's representative and date

Point of import: City and CPC*

Note: Copies of the BCD(s) and Transport document(s) shall be attached.

¹¹When different types of products are recorded in this section, the weight shall be recorded by each product type.

1. DOCUMENT NUMBER	ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA RE-EXPORT CERTIFICATE			
2. RE-EXPORT SECTION: RE-EXPORTING COUNTRY/ENTITY/FISHING ENTITY POINT OF RE-EXPORT				
3. DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTED BLUEFIN TUNA				
Product Type <i>F/FR RD/GG/DR/FL/OT</i>	Net Weight (kg)	Flag CPC	Date of import	BCD No.
4. DESCRIPTION OF BLUEFIN TUNA FOR RE-EXPORT				
Product Type <i>F/FR RD/GG/DR/FL/OT</i>	Net Weight (kg)	Corresponding BCD number		
F=Fresh, FR=Frozen, RD=Round, GG=Gilled & Guttled, DR=Dressed, FL=Fillet, OT=Others (Describe the type of product:)				
STATE OF DESTINATION:				
5. RE-EXPORTER STATEMENT: I certify that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.				
Name	Address	Signature	Date	
6. GOVERNMENT VALIDATION: I validate that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.				
Name & Title	Signature	Date	Government Seal	
7. IMPORT SECTION IMPORTER STATEMENT: I certify that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.				
Importer Certification				
Name	Address	Signature	Date	
Final Point of Import: City	State/Province	CPC		

NOTE: IF A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH IS USED IN COMPLETING THIS FORM, PLEASE ADD THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION ON THIS DOCUMENT.

Note: Valid transport document and copies of the BCDs shall be attached.

**Report on the Implementation of the ICCAT
Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme**

Reporting CPC:

Period of reference: 1 July [2XXX] to 30 June [2XXX]

1. Information extracted from BCDs
 - number of BCDs validated:
 - number of validated BCDs received:
 - total amount of bluefin tuna products traded domestically, with breakdown by fishing areas and fishing gears,
 - total amount of bluefin tuna products imported, exported, transferred to farms, re-exported with breakdown by CPC of origin, re-export or destination, fishing areas and fishing gears,
 - number of verifications of BCDs requested to other CPCs and summary results:
 - number of requests for verifications of BCDs received from other CPCs and summary results:
 - total amount of bluefin tuna consignments subject to a prohibition decision with breakdown by products, nature of operation (domestic trade, import, export, re-export, transfer to farms), reasons for prohibition and CPCs and/or non-Contracting Parties of origin or destination.

2. Information on cases under Part VI paragraph 18.
 - number of cases
 - total amount of bluefin tuna with breakdown by products, nature of operation (domestic trade, import, export, re-export, transfer to farms), CPCs or other countries referred to in Part VI paragraph 18 above.

**Report of the third session of
the Compliance Committee
Tunis, 23 and 25 March 2009**

OPENING AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

1. The third session of the Compliance Committee of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) was held in Tunis, Tunisia, on 23 and 25 March 2009.
2. The session was attended by all Delegates present at the plenary session of the Commission.
3. The meeting was called to order by the Acting Executive Secretary, Mr Abdellah Srour. The documents which were before the Committee are listed in Appendix B.

ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

4. Mr Srour informed the Committee that according to Rule 7 of the GFCM Rules of Procedure it would be necessary to elect a new Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons. The Committee acclaimed Mr Boudjelida Khatir, (Algeria), to serve as Chairperson, Mr Alexander Joksimovic (Montenegro) as First Vice-Chairperson and Mr Haydar Fersoy (Turkey) as Second Vice-Chairperson.
5. Taking the Chair, Mr Boudjelida Khatir stated that Algeria was honoured to have been given the responsibility, and congratulated the First and Second Vice-Chairpersons. He expressed confidence that this Bureau will do its utmost to ensure the implementation of the Recommendations of the GFCM. The Agenda shown in Appendix A was adopted.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF GFCM DECISIONS BY MEMBERS

6. Mr Matthew Camilleri, GFCM Bio-Statistician, introduced this item on the basis of document COC:III/2009/2, "Status of Implementation of GFCM Decisions by the Members", and summarized national information reported in a standardized format by Members to the Secretariat. It was noted that very few reports had been received. Members were reminded of the value of such reports as a basis for discussion and encouraged to provide them in future.
7. Mr Camilleri referred to Resolution GFCM/31/2007/1 and presented document GFCM/33/2009/Dma4, the GFCM Task 1 Statistical Bulletin. This document provides a synopsis of qualitative and quantitative information by Fleet Segment and Operational Unit for each Geographical sub-area (GSA) on the basis of data received by Members. He highlighted the significant progress made in Task 1 data submission since the last Session and briefly demonstrated the use of this data in the scientific and management processes. He added that work is underway on the development of new TASK 1 software which will be made available to countries to store and process data related to TASK 1 as well as to automatically generate a data communication file according to the GFCM standards and formats. An XML schema, reference tables and business rules will also be made available for those countries wishing to include electronic routines in their own national database system in order to generate the TASK 1 data communication file compatible with the GFCM database system.
8. Mr Federico de Rossi, GFCM Consultant in data management, gave further details on the development of the Task 1 software and the steps for entering data into the system. It was currently in a testing phase and would be made available to Members in the coming months; national officials would also be trained in its use. The Committee was reminded that this is a tool to help countries implement their obligations to report data in a standardized manner as detailed in the Resolution.

MANAGEMENT OF THE LIST OF VESSELS AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE IN THE GFCM AREA

9. Mr Camilleri introduced this item on the basis of document COC:III/2009/3, Management of the List of Vessels authorized to operate in the GFCM area and issues related to data confidentiality, and reported that Appendix 1 of showed status of data submission by the Contracting Parties.

10. He drew the attention of the Committee to the recently-developed Web-based application to retrieve information related to the Authorized Vessels List (AVL). He explained that the AVL database is available to the public except for accessing confidential data. Special authorization, through the use of a username and password, has been granted to the heads of delegation and control authorities (or equivalent) of each Contracting Party to access confidential data and classified reports.

11. Although the AVL was expanding, a major concern was the failure by some Members to update the data, including on licence renewal. This has resulted in about half of the vessels presently in the Authorized Vessel List being placed on a dormant list in accordance with the decision taken during the Committee's second Session.

12. Mr Camilleri also drew the attention of the Committee to Article 1 of Recommendation GFCM/2005/2 which states that "vessels larger than 15 metres in length overall not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship or land species covered by the Commission".

13. In discussion, some Members reported that their licensing process included a three month "grace period" between the time the licence expired and a notice of renewal was given, and vessels should not automatically be de-listed. It was agreed that a flexible approach could be taken to address this, for example through Members informing the Secretariat of such arrangements.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON VMS AS AN MCS TOOL

14. Ms Judith Swan, FAO Consultant, introduced the conclusions and recommendations of the ad hoc Working Group on vessel monitoring systems (VMS) as a tool of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), on the basis of documents COC:III/2009/5, "Draft Recommendation (revised) concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a VMS system in the GFCM area" and COC:III/2009/Inf.5, "Report of the ad hoc Working Group on VMS as a MCS tool (Rome, Italy, 23 September 2008)".

15. She noted that the recommended revisions to the draft Recommendation were extensive, and that they rested on considerations including existing GFCM compliance tools, MCS in the GFCM area (including operation of VMS by Members) and measures of other RFMOs relating to VMS that could be adapted to conditions in the Mediterranean.

16. She reported that the Working Group had reached a number of conclusions, including identification of constraints and progress to date in the use of VMS in the region. It suggested future activities such as arranging an exchange of views on VMS and technologies during the implementation phase and consideration by COC III of the possibility of a regional or subregional pilot VMS project to assist with setting up the institutional framework and national capacity.

17. The revisions to the revised draft Recommendation were explained, noting that new areas had been added including provisions on the objective, role of the parties and cooperating non-contracting parties, role of the Secretariat and confidentiality of data security. The substantial amendments to the other areas were described, including application, satellite tracking devices requirements and duties of the masters and owners/licencees of fishing vessels subject to VMS.

18. In discussion, the Committee noted potential constraints in relation to timing and financial commitments, but were mindful that the revised draft Recommendation would be considered in full at the thirty-third Session of GFCM.

FOLLOW UP TO THE COMPENDIUM OF GFCM DECISIONS

19. Mr Srour introduced this item on the basis of COC:III/2009/4, "Status of the Compendium of GFCM Decisions". He noted that all Recommendations adopted since 1976 had been included, that there had been some reclassification between Recommendations and Resolutions, and obsolete decisions that had been superseded had been excluded. Furthermore, an assessment had been carried out to ensure there were no contradictions.

20. Mr Srour invited the Committee to review and comment on the structure and substance of the draft Compendium and to agree on the nature of the document, bearing in mind its legal scope.

21. In discussion, many Members welcomed the draft Compendium and expressed gratitude to the Secretariat for its major efforts in its production. The Committee supported use of the Compendium as the basic reference document for monitoring compliance with GFCM decisions.

22. In view of the widespread support for the Compendium to be posted on the GFCM website, the Secretariat explained that although it is currently available online, arrangements would be made to put it on an active database which would facilitate searches on specific issues. Several Members called for the Compendium to be translated into French and Arabic. The Secretariat undertook to provide a French version and some Members undertook to investigate support for translation into Arabic, noting the benefits of making it available to fishers.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

23. It was suggested that the tables summarizing the national reports prepared by the Secretariat, while already comprehensive, would benefit from including a reference to legislation, which was not always provided by Members.

24. The Committee commended the progress made by the Secretariat in the development of the AVL and Task 1 databases and related electronic applications, as well as in the management of data and information submitted.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE FOURTH SESSION

25. It was agreed that the date and venue of the Fourth Session of the Compliance Committee would depend on the date and venue of the thirty fourth session of the GFCM.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

26. This report was adopted on 26 March 2009.

Agenda

- 1. Opening and arrangements for the session**
- 2. Election of the bureau**
- 3. Status of implementation of GFCM decisions by Members:**
 - Recommendation GFCM/2005/2 concerning the establishment of GFCM record of vessels over 15 metres authorized to operate in the GFCM area;
 - Recommendation GFCM/2006/2 concerning the establishment of a closed season for the Dolphin fish fisheries using fish aggregation devices (FADs);
 - Recommendation GFCM/2006/3 on the establishment of fisheries restricted areas in order to protect the deep sea sensitive habitats;
 - Recommendation GFCM/2006/4 on the establishment of a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities in the GFCM area;
 - Recommendation GFCM/2007/1 on the mesh size of trawlnets exploiting demersal resources;
 - Resolution GFCM/2007/1 on the implementation of the GFCM Task 1 statistical matrix;
 - Recommendation GFCM/2008/1 on a regional scheme on port state measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the GFCM area.
- 4. Management of the list of vessels authorized to operate in the GFCM area**
 - Status of the GFCM database
- 5. Conclusions and recommendations of the ad hoc Working Group on VMS as a MCS tool**
- 6. Follow up of the Compendium of GFCM decisions**
- 7. Any others matters**
- 8. Date and venue of the fourth session**
- 9. Adoption of the report**

List of documents

COC:III/2009/1	Provisional Agenda
COC:III/2009/2	Status of implementation of GFCM decisions by Members
COC:III/2009/3	Management of the List of vessels authorized to operate in the GFCM area and issues related to data confidentiality
COC:III/2009/4	Status of the Compendium of GFCM decisions
COC:III/2009/5	Draft recommendation on VMS in GFCM area
COC:III/2009/6	Draft Recommendation amending the Recommendation GFCM/2006/4 on the establishment of a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the GFCM area
COC:III/2009/Inf.1	List of Documents
COC:III/2009/Inf.2	Terms of reference of the Compliance Committee
COC:III/2009/Inf.3	Draft Compendium of GFCM decisions
COC:III/2009/Inf.4	Report of the second session of the Compliance Committee
COC:III/2009/Inf.5	Report of the ad hoc Working Group on VMS as a MCS tool (Rome, Italy, 23 September 2008)

Summary table on implementation of GFCM decisions by the Members

Reference of GFCM measure	Country	Implementing policy, legal or institutional framework	Reference of national law (if applicable)	Progress on operational implementation	Remarks (including constraints)
Recommendation GFCM/2005/1 on the management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and deepwater species.	Algeria	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Croatia	- MAFRD	- National regulations on Commercial Fishing	- minimum mesh size 40-mm in outer fishing waters - minimum mesh size 48 mm in internal fishing waters - derogations until 31/05/10 for certain fisheries	-----
	European Community	- Community measures under the CFP	- Council Regulation	- Trawling banned below 1 000 m - full implementation of 40-mm square mesh by 31/05/10 - other gear provisions being evaluated	- limited derogation to the 40mm mesh size possible until 31/05/10
	Morocco	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Spain	- European Community Common Fisheries Policy - National law	- Various EC and national regulations	- Full implementation	-----
	Tunisia	-----	-----	- No fishing below 1 000 m	-----
	Turkey	- National fisheries management regime	- Various national regulations	-----	-----
Recommendation GFCM/2005/2 concerning the establishment of GFCM record of vessels over 15 metres authorized to operate in the GFCM area	Algeria	-----	-----	- enhancement of statistical system - record of vessels submitted	- further technical assistance required
	Croatia	- MAFRD	- National Regulations on Commercial Fishing Licences	- Revision of fishing licences to be completed by the end of 2009	-----
	European Community	- Community measures under the CFP	- Council and Commission regulations	- GFCM record updated frequently	-----
	Morocco	-----	-----	- record of vessels submitted	- vessels are licensed from - 1 January to 31 December each year
	Spain	- European Community Common Fisheries Policy	- Various EC regulations	- Record of vessels submitted by European Commission	-----
	Tunisia	-----	-----	- Preliminary list of vessels established	-----
	Turkey	- National Fisheries Information System	-----	- record of vessels submitted	-----

Reference of GFCM Measure	Country	Implementing policy, legal or institutional framework	Reference of national law (if applicable)	Progress on operational implementation	Remarks, (including constraints)
Recommendation GFCM/2006/1 concerning the management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and small pelagic species	Algeria	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Croatia	-----	-----	- To be implemented	-----
	European Community	- Community measures under the CFP - support of scientific community	- Council Regulations and Commission Decisions	- Reduction in fleet capacity and gear restrictions - Long term management plans - Data collection programmes in place - Enhanced STECF programme for the Mediterranean and Black Sea	- SAC should conduct more assessments on fish stocks and fisheries
	Morocco	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Spain	- European Community Common Fisheries Policy - National law	- Various EC and national regulations	- Several relevant management measures and monitoring schemes are in place	-----
	Tunisia	-----	- National fisheries legislation	- 40-mm mesh size fixed for trawlers - Minimum landing sizes established for several species and restrictions of certain fisheries	-----
	Turkey	-----	-----	-----	-----
Recommendation GFCM/2006/2 concerning the establishment of a closed season for the dolphin fish fisheries using fish aggregation devices (FADs)	Algeria	-----	-----	- Dolphin fish fishery is not developed	-----
	Croatia	-----	- No licences for this fishery	-----	-----
	European Community	- Community measures under the CFP	- Council Regulations	- The closed fishing season for the dolphinfish FAD fishery fully implemented - Reporting by Member States will be completed in 2009	- Transposed annually in the TAC regulations but will be transposed into permanent legislation - Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Romania and Slovenia do not practice this fishery
	Morocco	-----	-----	- No dolphin fishery	-----
	Spain	- European Community Common Fisheries Policy - National law	- EC and national regulations	- Dolphin fish fishery around the Balearic Islands is regulated [using FADs ?]	-----
	Tunisia	-----	-----	- Fishery operates between 15 August and 31 December	-----
	Turkey	-----	- National regulation	- No specific fishery for dolphin fish	-----

Reference of GFCM Measure	Country	Implementing policy, legal or institutional framework	Reference of national law (if applicable)	Progress on operational implementation	Remarks, (including constraints)
Recommendation GFCM/2006/3 on the establishment of fisheries restricted areas in order to protect the deep sea sensitive habitats	Algeria	-----	-----	-----	- technical assistance from FAO required
	Croatia	-----	- In the pipeline	-----	-----
	European Community	- Community measures under the CFP	- Council Regulations	-----	- Transposed annually in the TAC regulations but will be transposed into permanent legislation
	Morocco	-----	-----	- Present FRAs do not fall within Morocco's jurisdiction	- no objection to the creation of FRAs
	Spain	- European Community Common Fisheries Policy	- EC regulations	-----	-----
	Tunisia	-----	- National fisheries legislation	- Gulf of Tunis is closed for trawling throughout the year, with some exceptions - Trawling banned within 3 miles from the coast and depths less than 50 m	-----
	Turkey	-----	-----	- No deep sea FRA has been established within Turkish jurisdiction	-----
Recommendation GFCM/2006/4 on the establishment of a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities in the GFCM area	Algeria	-----	-----	- No IUU vessels identified	-----
	Croatia	- MAFRD	- Marine Fisheries Act - Coast Guard Act	- Administrative procedures for monitoring and sanctioning IUU vessels are developing - Ratification process for the UN Straddling Stock Agreement has started	-----
	European Community	- Community measures under the CFP	- Council Regulation	- List of IUU vessels will be finalized by 2010	- IUU list will be transmitted for the first time in 2010
	Morocco	-----	-----	- No IUU vessels identified	- no list available
	Spain	- European Community Common Fisheries Policy	- EC regulation	- EC regulation shall apply from 1 January 2010	- Preparing to fulfil requirements of EC regulation
	Tunisia	-----	- National fisheries legislation	- National legislation to control and combat IUU fishing is in place	-----
	Turkey	-----	-----	- No IUU vessels identified	-----

Reference of GFCM Measure	Country	Implementing policy, legal or institutional framework	Reference of national law (if applicable)	Progress on operational implementation	Remarks, (including constraints)
Recommendation GFCM/2007/1 on the mesh size of trawlnets exploiting demersal resources	Algeria	-----	- National law on fisheries and aquaculture	- Recommendation followed through national regulations	-----
	Croatia	- MAFRD	- National regulations on Commercial Fishing	- Minimum mesh size 40-mm in outer fishing waters - Minimum mesh size 48mm in internal fishing waters - Derogations until 31/05/10 for certain fisheries	-----
	European Community	- Community measures under the CFP	- Council Regulations	- List of vessels and gear characteristics has been submitted and updated	- Transposed annually in the TAC regulations
	Morocco	-----	-----	- Logistical and financial means required to introduce the 40-mm mesh	- This measure cannot be introduced immediately - Further studies required
	Spain	- European Community Common Fisheries Policy - National law	- EC and national regulations	- Minimum of 40-mm [square or diamond ?] for demersal trawl gears applied	- No demersal trawl fishery using a mesh size less than 40-mm
	Tunisia	-----	- National fisheries legislation	- Use of less 40mm mesh size is banned	-----
	Turkey	-----	- National regulation	- No derogation granted to any vessel	-----
Resolution GFCM/2007/1 on the implementation of the GFCM Task 1 statistical matrix	Algeria	-----	-----	- Data submitted	- Further technical assistance required
	Croatia	- MAFRD	- National regulations on Commercial Fishing	- Vessel register and licensing system being updated and will provide complete data on the fleet, fishermen and gears. - Logbook system is currently used to obtain data	-----
	European Community	- Mixed competence between EC and EU Member States - Community measures under the CFP	- Council Regulations and Commission Decisions	- Some EU Member States have transmitted data for 2007 - Implementation of all components of Task 1 is underway through data collection regulations - Task 1.1 and 1.2 are a legal obligation for EU Member States as from 2009	-----

Reference of GFCM Measure	Country	Implementing policy, legal or institutional framework	Reference of national law (if applicable)	Progress on operational implementation	Remarks, (including constraints)
	Morocco	----	----	- Data submitted	- Some constraints to compile data due to movements of vessels between Mediterranean and Atlantic
	Spain	- European Community Common Fisheries Policy	- EC regulations	- full implementation foreseen through the EC data collection regulation	- Data for Task 1.1 and 1.2 have been submitted.
	Tunisia	----	- National fisheries legislation	- Fishers are obliged to send statistical and technical information to the authorities	----
	Turkey	----	----	- Task 1.1 submitted - Task 1.2 to be submitted soon	----
Recommendation GFCM/2008/1 on a regional scheme on port state measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the GFCM area	Algeria	----	- national law on fisheries and aquaculture	- VMS project in place - Control scheme in place - National ports have been designated	- Training is required for fishery port inspectors
	Croatia	- MAFRD	- Marine Fisheries Act and associated national regulations	- Draft port inspection scheme by end of 2009 - Amendments to regulations related to IUU are in the pipeline	----
	European Community	----	----	----	- Full transposition in 2009 through legislative instrument dedicated to GFCM measures
	Morocco	----	----	- List of trawlers sent to the Secretariat	- trawlers move between the Mediterranean and Atlantic
	Spain	- European Community Common Fisheries Policy	----	----	- Under discussion within an EU Council Working Party.
	Tunisia	----	----	----	----
	Turkey	- A technical, infrastructural and operational framework is being developed	----	- 34 port offices have been constructed - Designation of ports are included into the new national fisheries law (to be approved by Parliament) - Further arrangements required for inspection facilities	----

Guidelines for the GFCM performance review

BACKGROUND

1. The Joint Meeting of the Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) held in Kobe, Japan (22–26 January 2007), agreed that the tuna RFMOs should have performance reviews, which should be conducted in accordance with a common methodology and a common set of criteria, taking into account as far as possible, the specific requirements of each Commission. At the twenty-seventh session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (5–9 March 2007), Members emphasized the importance of conducting performance reviews and recognized that each RFMO should independently decide upon the methodology, criteria and frequency of reviews.

2. The purpose of this document is to present a possible guideline framework by which the GFCM Performance Review could be conducted.

3. The timing and deadlines for the Performance review shall be decided by the Commission. The GFCM will also decide on practical aspects related to the selection of the three external experts. Notably, and accordingly to the intended deadline for the performance review, the Commission shall establish a delay of one month for the nomination of candidates to the Executive Secretary for their inclusion in the pool of internationally recognized experts. The final list shall be circulated to Members who shall have a period of at least one month to express their preferences.

SUGGESTED APPROACH

1. Terms of reference

The evaluation of performance should be oriented towards an examination of the Commission's objectives, as stipulated in the GFCM Agreement, and the measures in place to achieve such objectives. A review of GFCM performance should include the following:

- a) Assessment of the text of the Agreement, and its ability to assimilate the requirements of international fisheries instruments:
 - Are objectives clearly stated, and are they consistent with other international fisheries instruments?
 - Does the text of the Agreement impose any restraints on the organization that prevent it from implementing relevant international instruments?
 - Are the decision-making processes adequate to reach the stated objectives?
- b) Assessment of the extent to which measures adopted achieve the Commission's objectives and the objectives of international instruments:
 - What measures are in place to achieve each objective?
 - What is the extent of compliance with such measures?
 - To what extent are the objectives being met?
- c) Recommendations on how the GFCM could be improved.

2. Criteria and standards for performance review

It is suggested that Commission make use of the common criteria adopted at the sixth round of informal consultations of States Parties to the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UN fish Stock the Agreement) as presented in **Annex 1**. These criteria outline “what” (at minimum) should be assessed in the performance review.

3. Selection of experts

This proposal is for a panel of three experts, who have not been involved with GFCM in the last five years, to conduct the review. This panel shall be constituted by one expert in international legal fisheries instruments, one expert in fisheries management, and one expert in fisheries science. The GFCM Secretariat should provide adequate information and other support to the experts to facilitate their work.

The three external experts should have an appropriate level of experience in their specialized field of work, and a command of written and spoken English. Knowledge of other official languages of GFCM would be an advantage. Reviewers should be selected from a pool of internationally recognized experts. The selection should be made by Contracting Parties from a list which will be compiled by the Secretariat on the basis of nominations made by the Contracting Parties of three experts.

4. Timing

The work should be carried out within a reasonable time period as specified by the Commission, and should preferably commence no later than [xxx 2009 – to be determined].

5. Dissemination and consideration of the performance review report

The performance review report will be presented to the Commission. The Commission will consider the performance review report and any proposals or recommendations. The performance review report will be distributed to Contracting Parties and will also be posted in the GFCM Web site.

BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS

On the basis of four weeks work by each individual three experts as discussed above, a total of [...] person days would be required to carry out the review. The price per day includes all materials and communication costs. The daily rate is calculated to be [...], with a total cost of US\$ [...]. In addition, the panel of experts would be required to make one trip for a coordination meeting of experts and one to the GFCM meeting. Travel and per diem under this scenario would be paid by the Commission, but no fees. Costs could vary depending on the original location of experts and location of the meetings, and hence estimates are tentative.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Unit cost</i>	<i>Number of units</i>	<i>Total cost</i>
Days of work			
Travel costs			
Contingencies			
TOTAL			

**Criteria for reviewing the performance of regional fisheries management organizations
(RFMOs)**

	AREA	General criteria	Detailed criteria
1	<i>Conservation and management</i>	Status of living marine resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of major fish stocks under the purview of the RFMO in relation to maximum sustainable yield or other relevant biological standards. • Trends in the status of those stocks. • Status of species that belong to the same ecosystems as, or are associated with or dependent upon, the major target stocks (hereinafter “non-target species”). • Trends in the status of those species.
		Data collection and sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which the RFMO has agreed formats, specifications and timeframes for data submission, taking into account the United Nations Fish Stock Agreement (UNFSA) Annex I. • Extent to which RFMO members and cooperating non-members, individually or through the RFMO, collect and share complete and accurate fisheries data concerning target stocks and non-target species and other relevant data in a timely manner. • Extent to which fishing data and fishing vessel data are gathered by the RFMO and shared among members and other RFMOs. • Extent to which the RFMO is addressing any gaps in the collection and sharing of data as required.
		Quality and provision of scientific advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which the RFMO receives and/or produces the best scientific advice relevant to the fish stocks and other living marine resources under its purview, as well as to the effects of fishing on the marine environment.
		Adoption of conservation and management measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which the RFMO has adopted conservation and management measures for both target stocks and non-target species that ensures the long-term sustainability of such stocks and species and are based on the best scientific evidence available. • Extent to which the RFMO has applied the precautionary approach as set forth in UNFSA Article 6 and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Article 7.5, including the application of precautionary reference points. • Extent to which the RFMO has adopted and is implementing effective rebuilding plans for depleted or overfished stocks. • Extent to which the RFMO has moved toward the adoption of conservation and management measures for previously unregulated fisheries, including new and exploratory fisheries. • Extent to which the RFMO has taken due account of the need to conserve marine biological diversity and minimize harmful impacts of fisheries on living marine resources and marine ecosystems. • Extent to which the RFMO has adopted measures to minimize pollution, waste, discards, catch by lost or abandoned gear, catch of non-target species, both fish and non-fish species, and impacts on associated or dependent species, in particular endangered species, through measures including, to the extent practicable, the development and use of selective, environmentally safe and cost-effective fishing gear and techniques.
		Capacity management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which the RFMO has identified fishing capacity levels commensurate with long-term sustainability and optimum utilization of relevant fisheries. • Extent to which the RFMO has taken actions to prevent or eliminate excess fishing capacity and effort.

	AREA	General criteria	Detailed criteria
		Compatibility of management measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which measures have been adopted as reflected in UNFSA Article 7.
		Fishing allocations and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which the RFMO agrees on the allocation of allowable catch or levels of fishing effort, including taking into account requests for participation from new members or participants as reflected in UNFSA Article 11.
2	<i>Compliance and enforcement</i>	Flag State duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which RFMO members are fulfilling their duties as flag States under the treaty establishing the RFMO, pursuant to measures adopted by the RFMO, and under other international instruments, including, <i>inter alia</i>, the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention, the UNFSA and the 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement, as applicable.
		Port State measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which the RFMO has adopted measures relating to the exercise of the rights and duties of its members as port States, as reflected in UNFSA Article 23 and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Article 8.3. • Extent to which these measures are effectively implemented.
		Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which the RFMO has adopted integrated MCS measures (e.g., required use of VMS, observers, catch documentation and trade tracking schemes, restrictions on transshipment, boarding and inspection schemes). • Extent to which these measures are effectively implemented.
		Follow-up on infringements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which the RFMO, its members and cooperating non-members follow up on infringements to management measures.
		Cooperative mechanisms to detect and deter non-compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which the RFMO has established adequate cooperative mechanisms to both monitor compliance and detect and deter non-compliance (e.g., compliance committees, vessel lists, sharing of information about non-compliance). • Extent to which these mechanisms are being effectively utilized.
		Market-related measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which the RFMO has adopted measures relating to the exercise of the rights and duties of its members as market States. • Extent to which these market-related measures are effectively implemented.
3	<i>Decision-making and dispute settlement</i>	Decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which RFMO has transparent and consistent decision-making procedures that facilitate the adoption of conservation and management measures in a timely and effective manner.
		Dispute settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which the RFMO has established adequate mechanisms for resolving disputes.
4	<i>International cooperation</i>	Transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which the RFMO is operating in a transparent manner, as reflected in UNFSA Article 12 and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Article 7.1.9. • Extent to which RFMO decisions, meeting reports, scientific advice upon which decisions are made, and other relevant materials are made publicly available in a timely fashion.
		Relationship to cooperating non-members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which the RFMO facilitates cooperation between members and non members, including through the adoption and implementation of procedures for granting cooperating status.
		Relationship to non-cooperating non-members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of fishing activity by vessels of non-members that are not cooperating with the RFMO, as well as measures to deter such activities.
		Cooperation with other RFMOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which the RFMO cooperates with other RFMOs, including through the network of Regional Fishery Body Secretariats.

	AREA	General criteria	Detailed criteria
		Special requirements of developing States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which the RFMO recognizes the special needs of developing States and pursues forms of cooperation with developing States, including with respect to fishing allocations or opportunities, taking into account UNFSA Articles 24 and 25, and the Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries Article 5. • Extent to which RFMO members, individually or through the RFMO, provide relevant assistance to developing States, as reflected in UNFSA Article 26.
5	<i>Financial and administrative issues</i>	Availability of resources for RFMO activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which financial and other resources are made available to achieve the aims of the RFMO and to implement the RFMO's decisions.
		Efficiency and cost-effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which the RFMO is efficiently and effectively managing its human and financial resources, including those of the Secretariat.

Draft Recommendation on the management of fishing capacity

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

RECALLING that the objectives of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources;

RECALLING the Declaration of the Third Ministerial Conference on the Sustainable Development of the Fisheries in the Mediterranean held in Venice, Italy, on 25 and 26 November 2003;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/2002/1 which urges the control of fishing effort and the improvement of the exploitation pattern of demersal fisheries, as well as limiting catches of juveniles of small pelagic species;

CONSIDERING that in the advice for 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) considered that several demersal and small pelagic stocks are overexploited, some with high risk of recruitment overfishing, and that sustainable management requires measures aimed at controlling or reducing the fishing effort from 10 percent up to 40 percent and more;

NOTING that the stock assessment conducted by the SAC only concerns specific geographical sub-areas corresponding to the data supplied by certain Members and that the assessed stocks may be shared with adjacent GFCM geographical sub-areas;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/2006/1 calling to develop a management programme of fishing effort in several geographical sub-areas as well as in adjacent sub-areas as relevant;

NOTING that the SAC has not yet been able to deliver a more operative advice on the management of fishing effort and fleet capacity;

CONSIDERING that in cases where no scientific information on the status of fisheries and of the exploited resources is available a more cautious approach is needed, in the development plans of fishing fleets and that suitable information coming from adjacent areas could be used for proper and precautionary management of fisheries until sound scientific evidence becomes available;

NOTING that the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) advises to apply the precautionary principle;

CONSIDERING that any possible global freezing of the fleet capacity at regional level shall not prevent or hinder transferability of fishing fleet capacity from one Member to another and from one GSA to another provided that the targeted fisheries are exploited sustainably and that the overall capacity does not increase;

RECALLING Resolution 2007/1 and noting that the SAC calls for a mandatory submission by the Members as from 2009 of several components of TASK 1 statistical matrix including in particular Tasks 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4;

NOTING that GFCM, at its thirty-second session, requested the SAC to carry out an evaluation of consequences of a possible freezing of the fleet capacity and that SAC has planned to convene in mid 2009 a workshop on the assessment, management and monitoring of fishing fleet capacity with a view to evaluate the evolution of Members' fishing fleets together with current and future development plans in

consideration of fishing opportunities available and with a view to properly address the socio-economic impact resulting from adjusting or freezing capacity;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/2005/2 concerning the establishment of a GFCM record of vessels over 15 metres authorized to operate in the GFCM area;

ADOPTS, in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 1 (b) and (h) of Article III and article V of GFCM Agreement that:

1. Members and Cooperating entities shall limit, as from 1 June 2010, their fishing fleet capacity, calculated as the sum of the gross tonnage (GT) or, where appropriate, of the Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) of their fishing vessels larger than 15 metres in length overall, to the fishing capacity of their vessels notified to GFCM for 2008 and 2009 in accordance with GFCM Recommendation 2005/2 concerning the establishment of GFCM record of vessels authorized to operate in the GFCM area.
2. Members shall see to it that the overall tonnage does not increase when vessels are replaced.
3. All Members and Cooperating entities shall submit to the Secretary and via the electronic tools available on the GFCM web-site an updated list of their respective vessels greater than 15 metres LOA that were entitled to fish in the GFCM area of Competence in 2008 and early 2009, by 30 August 2009 at latest.

These lists shall contain the following information for each vessel:

- Name of vessel
- Registration number
- GFCM unique identifier (composed of ISO-3 code + 9 digits, e.g. xxx000000001)
- Previous flag (if any)
- Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
- International radio call sign
- Vessel type, length overall, gross tonnage and gross registered tonnage and engine power expressed in Kw
- Name and address of owner, and/or charterer, and/or operator
- Main target species
- Main gears used and fleet segment allocation and Operational Unit as identified in the TASK 1 statistical matrix
- Geographical sub-area/areas (GSAs) where fishing occurred.

4. The limitation of fleet capacity of fishing vessels larger than 15 metres overall length as indicated in paragraph 1 above shall be without prejudice to the transferability of fleet capacity from one Member or Cooperating entities to another provided that overall fleet capacity of Members or Cooperating non-members concerned and authorized to fish in the GFCM area does not increase.

5. Members and cooperating non-Member shall communicate to the GFCM Executive Secretary information on the dimension and characteristics of their fishing fleets and on the development plans, on the fleet segments and operational Units of TASK 1 concerned, and on the status and dimension of targeted resources in due time in order to make it available to the SAC workshop on the assessment, management and monitoring of fishing fleet capacity.

On the basis of the outcomes of this workshop or of a second one that may be necessary to accomplish the SAC task, the obligation expressed in paragraph I will be adapted accordingly at the following GFCM annual session.

GFCM autonomous budget for 2009

AUTONOMOUS BUDGET	US DOLLARS	SHARE OF TOTAL (%)
ADMINISTRATION		
<i>PROFESSIONAL STAFF</i>		
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, D-1	249 612	16.88 %
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, P-5	217 120	14.68 %
AQUACULTURE EXPERT, P-4	218 645	14.78 %
BIostatistician, P-3	152 000	10.28 %
DATA MANAGER - P-2 (4 MONTHS FOR 2009)	43 748	2.96 %
SUB-TOTAL, PROFESSIONAL STAFF SALARIES	881 125	59.58 %
<i>ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT</i>		
PROGRAMMER/SYSTEMS ANALYST G-5	92 000	6.22 %
BILINGUAL SECRETARY G-5/6 (6 MONTHS FOR 2009)	45 190	3.06 %
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT G-2/3 (6 MONTHS FOR 2009)	35 970	2.43 %
OVERTIME	4 500	0.30 %
SUB-TOTAL, GENERAL SERVICE GROSS SALARIES	177 660	12.01 %
TOTAL STAFF	1 058 785	71.59 %
ACTIVITIES		
CONSULTANCIES (INCLUDING 8 MONTHS FOR DATA MANAGEMENT)	50 000	3.38 %
DUTY TRAVEL	100 000	6.76 %
CHARGEBACK (INCLUDING INTERPRETATION)	120 000	8.11 %
TRAINING	7 500	0.51 %
EQUIPMENT	15 000	1.01 %
OPERATING COSTS AND OVERHEADS	20 000	1.35 %
CONTRACTS (INCLUDING PUBLICATIONS)	20 000	1.35 %
PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL	10 000	0.68 %
OPERATING COSTS FOR THE NEW HEADQUARTERS	0	0.00 %
SUB-TOTAL, ACTIVITIES	342 500	23.16 %
AUTONOMOUS BUDGET	1 401 285	
MISCELLANEOUS (1 PERCENT OF AUTONOMOUS BUDGET)	14 013	
FAO SERVICING COSTS (4.5 PERCENT)	63 688	
TOTAL AUTONOMOUS BUDGET	1 478 986	
FAO CONTRIBUTION		
FIEL (LIAISON, INCLUDING SUPPORT TO STATUTORY MEETINGS)	14 500	
FIEP (POLICY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES)	27 000	
FIMF (CAPTURE FISHERIES RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT)	28 500	
FIMA (AQUACULTURE)	24 000	
FIES (STATISTICS AND INFORMATION)	30 000	
FII (MARKETING AND FISHING TECHNOLOGY)	24 000	
FI (COORDINATION, INCL. LEGAL OFFICE)	9 500	
TOTAL FAO CONTRIBUTION	157 500	
GFCM GLOBAL BUDGET	1 636 486	

APPENDIX U

Contribution to the GFCM budget for 2009

MEMBER	TOTAL		BASIC FEE	GDP COMPONENT		CATCH COMPONENT	
	US DOLLARS	%	US DOLLARS	INDEX	US DOLLARS	WEIGHTED TOTAL	US DOLLARS
ALBANIA	13 655	0.92	6 430	1	4 243	16 320	2 982
ALGERIA	43 756	2.96	6 430	1	4 243	181 067	33 083
BULGARIA	10 673	0.72	6 430	1	4 243		
CROATIA	27 177	1.84	6 430	1	4 243	90 325	16 503
CYPRUS	48 860	3.30	6 430	10	42 430		
EGYPT	43 292	2.93	6 430	1	4 243	178 524	32 618
FRANCE	91 290	6.17	6 430	20	84 860		
GREECE	48 860	3.30	6 430	10	42 430		
ISRAEL							
ITALY	91 290	6.17	6 430	20	84 860		
JAPAN	91 479	6.19	6 430	20	84 860	1 032	189
LEBANON	12 406	0.84	6 430	1	4 243	9 482	1 732
LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA	31 585	2.14	6 430	1	4 243	114 453	20 912
MALTA	48 860	3.30	6 430	10	42 430		
MONACO	6 432	0.43	6 430	0	0	8	1
MONTENEGRO	6 718	0.45	6 430	0	0	1 576	288
MOROCCO	27 532	1.86	6 430	1	4 243	92 272	16 859
ROMANIA	10 673	0.72	6 430	1	4 243		
SLOVENIA	48 860	3.30	6 430	10	42 430		
SPAIN	48 860	3.30	6 430	10	42 430		
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	12 547	0.85	6 430	1	4 243	10 254	1 874
TUNISIA	64 245	4.34	6 430	1	4 243	293 205	53 572
TURKEY	177 788	12.02	6 430	1	4 243	914 638	167 114
EC	472 145	31.92	6 430			2 548 918	465 715

US DOLLARS

1 478 986**147 899****517 645****813 442**

TOTAL BUDGET	1 478 986	US DOLLARS
BASIC FEE	10 %	OF TOTAL BUDGET
	147 899	US DOLLARS
NUMBER OF MEMBERS*	23	
TOTAL BUDGET LESS BASIC FEE	1 331 088	US DOLLARS
GDP COMPONENT	35 %	OF TOTAL BUDGET
	517 645	US DOLLARS
CATCH COMPONENT	55 %	OF TOTAL BUDGET
	813 442	US DOLLARS

* MEMBERS PAYING THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AUTONOMOUS BUDGET

The thirty-third session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) was attended by 21 Contracting Parties. The Commission reviewed the intersessional activities of its scientific and technical subsidiary bodies and held the third session of its Compliance Committee. The GFCM adopted binding management decisions on a reduction of 10 percent of fishing effort for demersal trawl fisheries in the competence area, the establishment of a new Fisheries Restricted Area in the Gulf of Lions and the establishment of a minimum mesh size in the codend of demersal trawlnets. The GFCM also agreed to put into operation a vessel monitoring system by the end of 2012 and to establish a fleet register by the end of 2010. The Commission amended its Recommendations on the record of fishing vessels over 15 metres authorized to operate in the GFCM area, and on the establishment of a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Regarding data reporting, the Commission adopted new binding Recommendations for aquaculture and the implementation of the GFCM Task 1 statistical matrix. The GFCM further endorsed three Recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) on swordfish and bluefin tuna fisheries. The GFCM decided to establish a new Committee on Administration and Finance and agreed on modalities to undertake its performance review in 2009 and 2010. It agreed to create a new professional position within the Secretariat and adopted its 2009 budget and programme of work. The Commission renewed the bureau of its Compliance Committee and acknowledged the use for the first time of Arabic as working language. The GFCM addressed the issue of its new headquarters, in particular the possibility of the Secretariat to move into it preferably before the summer of 2009.

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