GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

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ISBN 978-92-5-108206-5 (print)
E-ISBN 978-92-5-108207-2 (PDF)

GFCM REPORT 37

GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

REPORT OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Split, Croatia, 13–17 May 2013

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, 2014

ISBN 978-92-5-108206-5 (print)
E-ISBN 978-92-5-108207-2 (PDF)

PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document is the final version of the report adopted in Split during the thirty-seventh session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) on 17 May 2013.

FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean.
Report of the thirty-seventh session. Split, Croatia, 13–17 May 2013.
GFCM Report. No. 37. Rome, FAO. 2014. 104 pp.

ABSTRACT

The thirty-seventh session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), including the fourth session of the Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF) and the seventh session of the Compliance Committee (CoC), was attended by representatives from 21 Contracting Parties, one non-GFCM Member country, and 11 observers. The Commission reviewed the intersessional activities of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) as well as the outcomes of the Task Force established to modernize the GFCM legal and institutional framework.

Among the measures adopted this year by the Commission, a recommendation on a multiannual management plan and on transitional conservation measures for fisheries of small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea has set actions aimed at minimizing the threat of overfishing and stock decline and encouraging the sustainable exploitation of these important target species while maintaining stable yields. In the Black Sea area, the Commission adopted a recommendation on the establishment of minimum standards for bottom-set gillnet fisheries for turbot and conservation of cetaceans, in order to guarantee the protection of juvenile turbots until they reach the reproductive size therefore contributing to the renewal of this population in the Black Sea. This measure also foresees standards for turbot fisheries aimed at reducing by-catch of cetaceans. In addition to these binding recommendations, the Commission approved two resolutions to promote the implementation of marine protected areas (including Fisheries Restricted Areas – FRAs) and to adopt guidelines on the management of fishing capacity according to resource availability in order to strengthen the control and monitoring of fishing effort and fishing capacity. Another outcome of the session was the adoption of guidelines on precautionary conservation measures aimed at minimizing undesirable effects on stocks and improving fisheries economic profitability. In the field of aquaculture, taking into account the key role to be played by this sector towards food security and economic growth and recognizing the need to foster its sustainable development in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, the Commission agreed to establish the first multi-stakeholder platform involving all players in the sector.

The Commission adopted its 2013 autonomous budget, amounting to US$1 940 973, along with its programme of work for the intersession, including under the first GFCM Framework Programme for 2013–2018. The creation of five new working groups was agreed: three working groups on methodologies for socio-economic analysis, on small scale/artisanal fisheries and on recreational fisheries under the Subcommittee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS), one transversal working group on marine protected areas involving all subcommittees, and a working group for the revision of the GFCM Agreement. This year's session was marked by substantial steps forward to support the reform process launched in 2009 with the aim to modernize the institutional framework and ensure a more efficient functioning of the GFCM. The working group for the revision of the GFCM Agreement will be called to play a substantial role in this reform process, which should lead to enhanced sub-regional cooperation, the set-up of efficient mechanisms to ensure compliance to binding decisions, the establishment of a roadmap to fight illegal fishing, thus leading to improved long-term sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. An extraordinary session, to be held in 2014, will examine the outcomes of this reform process.

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APPENDIXES

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) held its thirty-seventh session as well as the fourth session of its Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF) and the seventh session of its Compliance Committee (CoC) in Split, Croatia, from 13 to 17 May 2013. The session was attended by 96 participants from Members, non-Members, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the FAO regional projects, the Bureaus of the Commission, the CAF, the CoC, the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ), as well as the GFCM Secretariat. The list of delegates and observers is provided under Appendix B.

2. The session was called to order by Mr Stefano Cataudella, Chairperson of the Commission, who thanked Croatia for hosting the meeting. He gave the floor to Mr Ljubomir Kucic, Assistant Minister from the Ministry of Agriculture of Croatia, who welcomed participants. Mr Kucic underlined the importance of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for both Croatia and GFCM and indicated that Croatia would keep on supporting GFCM in difficult tasks such as the collection of reliable data and the elaboration of technical measures capable of addressing the specificities of the region. He commended the Commission for acting in the interest of fishers and fish and encouraged further efforts to promote of the role of aquaculture in the GFCM area.

3. Mr Arni Mathiesen, Assistant Director General – FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department (ADG) – addressed participants on behalf of the FAO Director General, Mr José Graziano da Silva. He thanked Croatia for the excellent organization and expressed his satisfaction for the good level of attendance to the session, which was a token of the importance of GFCM. Consequently, he stressed that GFCM would continue to remain a strategic choice for the FAO to implement relevant policies (e.g. governance, including multiannual management plans, small-scale fisheries, data collection, etc.) in both the Mediterranean and the Black Sea thanks to the strong link existing with the Organization. Mr Mathiesen underlined that GFCM was spearheading the ongoing review of Article XIV bodies carried out by FAO. Also, he pointed to the active role played by GFCM in the Black Sea and hoped that further progress could be made for the benefit of all riparian countries. The active engagement of FAO in matters related to oceans and fisheries, including through regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), was recalled. The FAO Committee on Fisheries had advocated in particular that GFCM and others RFMOs should be a vector to implement the policies of the Organization at the regional and sub-regional level. In concluding, he invited participants to submit their feedback on the initiative launched by FAO to reconsider the strategic role of RFMOs.

4. Subsequently, the Chairperson delivered an address noting that the Task Force established by GFCM had not only continued during the intersession to oversee the ongoing GFCM amendment process, but had also become a reference point for other organizations in light of its bottom-up, transparent and participatory approach. As for the GFCM amendment process, the Chairperson commented in particular on the adoption of a sub-regional approach which was expected to improve the performances of GFCM. The ongoing contribution provided by the GFCM Framework Programme (FWP) on the other hand was acknowledged in connection with the outcomes of the meetings held at sub-regional level on data collection, multiannual management plans and the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The Chairperson thanked the FAO regional projects and relevant party organizations for their involvement in these meetings as well as the donors (i.e. EU, Italy and France) for their support to the FWP.

5. Ms Monique Pariat, from the delegation of the European Union (EU), expressed her gratitude to Croatia for hosting the session while welcoming its upcoming accession to the EU. Also, she thanked the Secretariat for the work done during the intersession, with particular regard to the achievements of the Task Force aimed at modernizing GFCM. Attention was drawn on the various proposals tabled by the EU which followed up on the guidelines on multiannual management plans adopted at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission. Progress made by the GFCM Working Group on the Black Sea (WGBS) was deemed commendable. In order to build on the efforts made by GFCM,

the delegate of the EU urged to underpin decision-making processes with sound control and inspection schemes fostering cooperation between Members and non-Members. Ultimately, this would enable to achieve a level playing field in the region, thus increasing the competitiveness of the fisheries sector.

6. The full text of opening speeches delivered is provided in Appendix C to this report.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

7. The Chairperson referred to the Statement of Competence and Voting Rights by the EU and its Member States as provided in document GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.3.

8. After introducing the agenda, which was adopted by the Commission without changes as attached in Appendix A, the GFCM Executive Secretary, Mr Abdellah Srour, introduced the participants and informed about the arrangements for the meeting.

9. The documents before the Commission are listed in Appendix D.

REPORT ON THE INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES 2012-2013

Activities of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

10. Mr Henri Farrugio, Chairperson of SAC, presented the activities of SAC and its subsidiary bodies on the basis of documents GFCM:XXXVII/2013/2 and GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.6. He referred to the 14 meetings held during the intersessional period, in addition to the fifteenth session of SAC, the sessions of its subcommittees and meetings held within the FWP as follows:

- The fifteenth session of SAC, held at the FAO headquarters (Rome, April 2013), provided scientific advice on several issues.
- The Workshop on age determination of elasmobranchs in GFCM area provided practical insights on age reading based on a training component and produced a technical manual on age determination of elasmobranchs.
- The Workshop on Mediterranean gears, fishing technology and selectivity trained participants on selectivity assessment methods and on biological and socio-economic aspects related to gear design and construction.
- The Working Groups on Stock Assessment on demersal and small pelagic species validated 29 technical papers on demersal species and 12 technical papers on small pelagics. Overall, 16 geographic sub-areas (GSAs) for the demersal species and 9 GSAs for small pelagics were covered.
- The Subcommittee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE) focused on the first draft of the Regional Adaptive Management Plan for Red Coral, on the outcomes of said workshops on age determination of elasmobranchs and progress on technology and selectivity of fishing gears, and on the joint activities with the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-MAP), the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the Mediterranean marine protected area managers' network (MedPAN).
- The Subcommittee on Statistics and Information (SCSI) reviewed progress in data collection, submission status and information systems and in the enhancement of the intra-extranet system set up to facilitate follow-up and communication flows between Members and the Secretariat. The GFCM data collection reference framework (DCRF) was also introduced.
- The Subcommittee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS) reviewed selected studies by the FAO regional projects relating to socio-economic indicators and bio-economic models of fisheries

and considered a proposal on the Regional Symposium on Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The creation of three working groups (socio-economic analysis, small-scale fisheries and recreational fisheries) was proposed.

- The Subcommittee on Stock Assessment (SCSA) examined and validated the status of small pelagic and demersal stocks in the Mediterranean and Black Sea and reviewed the reporting process on the status of the stocks.

11. The Commission thanked the SAC Chairperson and acknowledged the extensive work done within the Committee with the support of the Secretariat during the intersession, on the basis of the recommendations made by the Commission at its thirty-sixth session.

12. The delegate of Algeria expressed the view that to enhance the work of SAC, stakeholders from the fisheries community should be more involved. A Mediterranean organization of professionals would help take into consideration their concerns for the management of fisheries resources. He indicated that bottom-up policies steered by GFCM would be exceedingly useful in taking stress off marine resources.

13. The representative of ACCOBAMS introduced a joint GFCM-ACCOBAMS project on by-catch of endangered species and depredation reduction in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. She reported that the project would focus on the western Mediterranean first. Subsequent to a meeting in Tangiers (April 2013), the objectives and the case studies to be addressed by the project had been identified.

Activities of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ)

14. Mr François René, Chairperson of CAQ, reported on the activities of CAQ and of its subsidiary bodies and projects on the basis of documents GFCM:XXXVII/2013/3 and GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.7 and summarized their achievements as follows:

- The eighth session of the CAQ, including a special session of the Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM), held in France (March 2013) took stock of progress made on the activities linked to aquaculture.
- The Working Group on Sustainability in Aquaculture (WGSA) implemented activities within the project on Indicators for Sustainable Development of Aquaculture and Guidelines for their use in the Mediterranean (InDAM) focused in particular on the finalization of the *Guide for the use of indicators to monitor the sustainable development of aquaculture* (GFCM Studies and Reviews n. 93).
- The Working Group on Site Selection and Carrying Capacity (WGSC) implemented activities within the project on Developing site selection and carrying capacity for the Mediterranean aquaculture within aquaculture appropriate areas (SHoCMed) focused on the organization of two training workshops on allocated zones for aquaculture in Morocco and in Turkey (February 2013), the latter in collaboration with WGBS, and a meeting on environmental monitoring scheme for marine aquaculture (Morocco, February 2013).
- The activities of SIPAM aimed at improving information technology (IT) components based on requirements of Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/6, the update of the Quick Start Guide for National Coordinators and the draft of a preliminary version of the GFCM Aquaculture Statistical Yearbook.
- The main achievements of the project on Mediterranean coastal lagoons management: interactions between aquaculture and capture fisheries (LaMed2) were presented in a document being published in the GFCM Studies and Reviews series. Key elements served as a basis for the Guidelines for the sustainable management of coastal lagoons in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.
- The Working Group on Marketing of Aquaculture products (WGMA) activities tackled an ongoing preliminary survey on aquaculture farmers' organizations in cooperation with the

International Organisation for the Development of Fisheries in Eastern and Central Europe (Eurofish).

15. In addition, a draft glossary on aquaculture was introduced and a standard format for national reports on research activities was endorsed.

16. The delegate of Egypt praised the work by CAQ and emphasized the importance of harmonization in data submitted by Members. He encouraged Members to provide reliable data and proposed that incentives should be foreseen to increase the staff responsible for this task at governmental level. In this respect, he proposed that the Secretariat through national visits provide expert advice and technical assistance to Members on matters related to data and more in general on aquaculture, based also on the results achieved by CAQ.

17. The Commission appreciated the work done by CAQ and thanked its Chairperson. It also acknowledged the achievements of CAQ on the different issues related to sustainable aquaculture.

Activities on the Black Sea

18. Mr Simion Nicolaev, WGBS coordinator, reported on the intersessional activities carried out, including the second meeting of the WGBS (Bulgaria, April 2013), based on document GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.9. These included: a First Coordination Meeting of the GFCM ad hoc Working Group on the Black Sea (Romania, January 2012), the participation of Black Sea experts in the GFCM Stock Assessment Working Groups, (Croatia, November 2012), a Joint GFCM-BSC Workshop on IUU Fishing in the Black Sea (Turkey, February 2013), a Training/workshop on allocated zones for aquaculture (AZA) (Turkey, February 2013) and an Ad-hoc meeting on Black Sea aquaculture species diversification (Turkey, February 2013). Mr Nicolaev expressed satisfaction for the participation of all riparian countries in some of these activities.

19. The Commission appreciated the work done by WGBS and thanked Mr Nicolaev. It also acknowledged the achievements of WGBS on the different issues and welcomed the establishment of the position of second vice-coordinator of WGBS in charge of aquaculture issues.

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES UNDER THE FIRST PHASE OF THE GFCM FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME (FWP) TO SUPPORT TASK FORCE ACTIONS

20. Mr Miguel Bernal, from the GFCM Secretariat, presented the activities carried out within the first phase of the FWP under the different five work programmes (i.e. governance, data collection, aquaculture, small scale fisheries and sub-regional cooperation), on the basis of documents GFCM:XXXVII/2013/2 and GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Dma.1.

21. In connection with the work programme on governance, the GFCM Secretariat illustrated that foreseen activities encompassed those related to the establishment of multiannual management plans, IUU fishing and harmonization of indicators on the status of exploited populations through an ecosystem approach. Particular emphasis was placed on the outcomes of the workshop on a multiannual management plan for small pelagics in the Adriatic Sea (Croatia, March 2013) which were submitted to the session. It was anticipated that similar meetings were scheduled for the other subregions.

22. A number of subregional meetings to strengthen data collection and submission systems were held (Croatia, March 2013; Italy, March 2013, Bulgaria, April 2013), which resulted in a critical analysis of GFCM databases, submission protocols and Members' data collection systems. Conclusions from the analysis stressed the need to take actions at national level to strengthen data collection systems and to take steps to improve communications and finalize the GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF).

23. Specific reference was made to the first Regional Symposium on Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea on the basis of the conceptual note provided in document GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.15. The session was informed that the symposium was being organized together with FAO, including its regional projects, and several partners (e.g. WWF, MedPAN, Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo di Bari – IAM, etc.) and that it would take place in Malta on 27–30 November 2013. Its goal would be that of bringing about a working space where the main recurring issues of small-scale fisheries could be examined by Members and stakeholders, including on the basis of the FAO *International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries*.

24. A brief update on the Concerted Action for Lebanon initiative, as reflected in document GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.14, was provided. It was announced that a follow-up meeting would be held tentatively in September 2013 in Beirut.

25. The delegate of Algeria, supported by several delegations, welcomed the remarkable achievements under the FWP and in particular the convening of the Regional Symposium on Small-scale Fisheries. He stressed the importance of establishing a network of fishers and stakeholders to be involved in the elaboration of policies for the sector.

26. The delegate of Monaco underlined the importance of addressing the sustainability of marine resources, IUU fishing and aquaculture through the FWP and encouraged further work for the development of appropriate measures.

Activities carried out by the FAO regional projects

27. Ms Constantina Karlou-Riga, EastMed project coordinator, presented on behalf of the FAO regional projects the major activities and achievements carried out during the intersession, on the basis of document GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.16. With respect to CopeMedII, she referred to activities aiming at strengthening national capacities in the field of statistics, supporting fisheries research (joint assessments for small pelagic and demersal shared stocks), implementing training activities related to stocks assessment, selectivity and fishing technology and developing cooperation. For AdriaMed, she mentioned that with a view to supporting the establishment of a multidisciplinary subregional fisheries monitoring system, the project had supported the organization of study groups, working groups on demersal and small pelagic species, on-the-job trainings and surveys at sea. She referred then to activities focusing on social and economic fishery sciences, information systems and aquaculture as well as facilitating management processes. Regarding MedSudMed, she referred to activities related to the standardization of methodologies, the identification of shared stocks, support to management processes and capacity development. With respect to EastMed, she described activities supporting institutional strengthening, training on data collection and experimental trials. She then referred to running pilot activities on data collection, to the drawing up of deep-water resources in the region and activities aiming at increasing participation and cooperation. Regarding the MedLME project, the involvement of FAO in improving the participation of local communities in Morocco as well as by-catch management in the Gulf of Gabès were mentioned. Finally she highlighted the concept of coordination, cooperation and synergies among projects, GFCM and donors, including projects support to participation and training as well as to the FWP.

28. Gratitude was expressed to the donors, namely EU, Italy, Spain and Greece, for allowing the FAO regional projects to carry out their work, which was deemed of great importance for GFCM.

29. Strong support to the projects was expressed by several delegates, who highlighted their fundamental role in the region. The delegate of Libya also mentioned the renewed commitment of his country to both the projects and GFCM after the political instabilities experienced.

30. It was recommended that links between the FWP and the regional projects should be strengthened and that the importance of the projects in preparing the ground for the work of the Commission should be acknowledged to enhance regional cooperation in the Mediterranean.

PROPOSALS FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE GFCM AGREEMENT AND ASSOCIATED PROCEDURAL AND FINANCIAL RULES AND OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO THE FUNCTIONING OF THE COMMISSION

31. The GFCM Secretariat presented the outcomes of the Second Validation meeting of the Task Force concerning the proposed amendments to the GFCM Agreement and its associated procedural and financial rules, on the basis of document GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.8. It was recalled in particular that the goal of the meeting had been to assess the consistency of said proposed amendments with the recommendations made by the Task Force. Also, the need to agree upon the next steps to follow through with the GFCM amendment process was underlined.

32. The Chairperson mentioned the importance of transparency, participation and involvement, which had been ensured throughout the GFCM amendment process thanks to the Task Force. He encouraged Members to continue in this direction.

33. General support was expressed by the Commission for the dedicated work done by the Secretariat. The proposed amendments were considered consistent with the recommendations made by the Task Force although a number of areas were regarded as requiring further work in view of finalizing a consensual set of amendments. The need to preliminarily finalize the GFCM glossary for the terminology to be employed in the amended agreement was pointed out.

34. The Commission agreed that broad consultations opened to both Members and non-Members were necessary. In order to ensure the timely finalization of a new set of proposed amendments, it was suggested to create one or more working groups. Also, the opportunity to convene an extraordinary session when the working groups would have exhausted their mandate was considered favorably.

35. It was strongly recommended that Members identify legal experts up to the difficult tasks linked to the GFCM amendment process in view of future steps.

36. The delegate of the EU introduced a proposal concerning the mandate of a working group for the revision of the GFCM Agreement, explaining that this working group would operate under the Task Force for the sake of participation and flexibility. Also, it would oversee the organization of the work to be done in order to finalize the GFCM amendment process in several areas, including via broad consultations involving all relevant Parties' organizations and stakeholders.

37. The Commission supported the proposal to create the Working Group for the Revision of the GFCM Agreement, according to the agreed terms of reference provided in Appendix S.

MANAGEMENT OF MEDITERRANEAN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Advice from the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

38. The SAC Chairperson presented the main conclusions and advice emanating from the SAC on the basis of documents GFCM:XXXVII/2013/2 and GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.6. He went through issues related to stock assessment, marine environment and ecosystems, statistics and information and economic and social aspects, introducing the proposals made by the Committee at its fifteenth session.

39. In relation to marine environment and ecosystems issues, the Chairperson reported SAC advice concerning the conservation of elasmobranchs, mitigation options to reduce by-catch, the impact of alien species and the management of MPAs. He made particular reference to the operational

objectives proposed in the Regional Management Plan for Red Coral elaborated by the Secretariat in view of its potential implementation.

40. Regarding advice on statistics and information, the recommendation to facilitate fleet data submission from EU members to the Secretariat by contemplating feasible interactions with the EU fleet register system and the necessity to promote the regular involvement of all national focal points in submitting data were brought to the attention of the Commission. The SAC recommendation to develop the first GFCM DCRF was also highlighted.

41. Concerning stock assessment, on the basis of the scientific advice on 41 stocks in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, the Chairperson highlighted that 22 demersal stocks in total were subject to fishing pressures higher than those recommended (overexploitation), two of which having biomass levels lower than those recommended (overexploited). Two other small pelagic stocks were considered as overexploited. In light of this situation, SAC advised to reduce fishing mortality for those stocks.

42. In the ensuing discussion, the EU delegate expressed concern regarding the status of stocks. He informed that the EU had tabled a proposal for a recommendation on the reduction of fishing mortality on the basis of SAC advice. Also, he drew attention to the status of stocks in the Black Sea and insisted on the importance of taking measures in this area, especially for turbot.

43. The delegate of Tunisia also expressed concern for the overexploitation of a number of stocks and remarked that research on puffer fish, a toxic invasive species, should be pursued. Also, he pointed out that the situation of some small pelagic stocks should be examined from an ecosystem approach perspective.

44. The Commission supported the statement made by the delegate of Algeria, who drew attention to the decision-making mechanism proposed by the Task Force. He pointed out that scientific advice on stock status provided by the SAC should be based on sound scientific data and recommendations to be taken accordingly would have to factor for economic and social impacts too. He also suggested accounting for other aspects, such as pollution and the effects it could have on fisheries resources, and advocated the introduction of an early warning system in relation to problems of biological nature such as invasive toxic species.

45. The SAC Chairperson confirmed that advice was only provided for those stocks for which sound scientific grounds existed, including information from the fishery and fishery independent data. He also mentioned that SAC advice on the status of stocks had been coherent over the years. It was clarified that there were studies clearly showing that factors other than fishing had an impact on resources. However, he mentioned that the only way to improve the condition of stocks under any kind of stress was to minimize human pressure on them.

46. Regarding the issue of invasive toxic species, the EastMed coordinator mentioned the conspicuous technical documentation and publications produced on the topic, namely on puffer fish and alien species (migration factors, biology, toxicity, etc.).

47. The Executive Secretary clarified that, consistent with the recommendation of the GFCM Task Force, the mechanism namely supporting the decision-making process would facilitate, *inter alia*, the implementation of the guidelines adopted by the Commission on multiannual management plans and could submit to the Commission, on the basis of SAC scientific advice, proposals for recommendations. On this basis, the Commission would be in a position to identify the appropriate course of action (i.e. adoption or deferral to SAC for further refinement). Also, the Executive Secretary mentioned that, at present, any GFCM Member would have the possibility to submit new proposals for the consideration of the Commission based on relevant SAC advice.

48. The GFCM Chairperson highlighted the importance of correctly applying the precautionary approach which emerged from Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. He also insisted on the relevance of the ecosystem approach and on the need to account for socio-economic aspects in addition to environmental ones. In this respect, he pointed out that multiannual management plans were deemed essential to develop coherent strategies to ensure the sustainability of stocks exploitation and that the Commission was called to play an important role in their promotion.

49. The Commission thanked the SAC and its Chairperson for the efforts deployed to produce sound scientific advice and praised all the actors involved in the process.

Advice from the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ)

50. The CAQ chairperson presented the main conclusions and suggestions on Mediterranean aquaculture management, as reported in documents GFCM:XXXVII/2013/3 and GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.7.

51. In relation to lagoon management and interactions between aquaculture and capture fisheries, he referred to the Guidelines for the sustainable management of coastal lagoons in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (as provided in Appendix B of document GFCM:XXXVII/2013/3) which aimed at providing general guidance and key elements for the management of coastal lagoons in the GFCM area.

52. Regarding aquaculture sustainability, he stressed the need to carry out pilot studies on indicators, also taking into consideration land-based aquaculture and mollusc culture. In this respect, the development of guidelines should be furthered, based on: i) the use of indicators to enhance public perception of aquaculture, market competitiveness, environmental sustainability and social acceptability; ii) multi-stakeholder and ecosystem approach to aquaculture (EAA); iii) a technical protocol for the implementation of indicators and associated reference values.

53. Concerning site selection and carrying capacity, enhancing the use of allocated zones for aquaculture (AZA) as a suitable spatial planning tool for the integration of aquaculture in coastal zones was deemed important. Attention should focus on: i) support to countries in the implementation of AZA and ii) cooperation between research institutions and other stakeholders to increase awareness on monitoring environment surrounding farms at sea.

54. Other salient advice from CAQ focused on the establishment of a regional reference framework for aquaculture, taking into account the heterogeneity and specificities of the sector in the GFCM area, and on the undertaking of a Regional review on the current status and peculiarities of aquaculture in the GFCM area, including through a regional survey to take stock of aquaculture status.

55. Delegates congratulated the CAQ Chairperson for the efforts and expressed satisfaction for the impressive work done by CAQ as supported by the Secretariat.

56. The EU delegate stressed the importance of the themes tackled and recalled the recent adoption of the Strategic Guidelines for the sustainable development of EU aquaculture. Although this was an EU document, he suggested considering it within the GFCM. He also underlined the important peculiarity of the GFCM as an RFMO having competence on aquaculture as well.

57. Several delegates underlined the importance of this growing sector in many countries and mentioned that they were following the development of aquaculture with keen interest. In view of the increasing role that aquaculture activities would be expected to play in the future, they stressed the need to continue efforts to support the sustainable development of this sector, taking into account its socio-economic, environmental and governance dimensions as well as its interactions with other sectors, in particular fisheries.

58. The delegate of Tunisia recalled that marine aquaculture species diversification should be considered as a priority, also with regard to market sustainability, and insisted on the importance of working on fish feed and pathology aspects.

59. The EU delegate emphasized the difficulties faced to fill the gaps between consumption and supply and the role that public administrations would be called to play to guide the development of economic activities linked to aquaculture in a sustainable and eco-friendly way. He mentioned that the EU was willing to pursue collaboration with GFCM on these issues.

60. The delegate of Morocco drew attention on the importance of developing a market-driven aquaculture to support professionals and of ensuring better synergies with research activities as well as the harmonization of regulatory standards.

61. The delegate of Algeria stressed that it was important to further consider issues related to the environmental aspects of aquaculture, monitoring and bluefin tuna farms. In order to foster aquaculture development in the GFCM area, the need to take into consideration market issues and to facilitate the involvement of the private sector was acknowledged.

62. The Commission recognized the importance of sound certification and traceability systems in order to devise a more harmonious circulation of aquaculture products and, in this respect, the representative of Eurofish made reference to the memorandum of understanding signed with GFCM. She indicated that both organisations could optimize their cooperation on aspects of mutual interest such as those mentioned in the discussions.

63. Although the enthusiasm towards aquaculture was to be praised, the delegate of Egypt stressed that its development should not occur to the detriment of fisheries activities at sea and in coastal lagoons. The vulnerable features of coastal lagoons should be preserved taking into account the economic activities linked to the different pillars of aquaculture (producers, private sector and research) and should be considered within a multi-stakeholder approach.

64. In this respect, the important contribution to be brought by the Guidelines for the sustainable management of coastal lagoons in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, under preparation by CAQ, was acknowledged by several delegates.

65. As several key actions to trigger the development of aquaculture were linked to the strengthening of CAQ, the Executive Secretary invited the Commission to launch an in-depth reflection on new working methods in order to consolidate the strategic role of GFCM in aquaculture and make concrete proposals to support the new role to be played by GFCM in the field of aquaculture sustainability.

66. The Commission welcomed in particular the idea of creating a regional multi-stakeholder platform on aquaculture to support ongoing and future activities. The establishment of this platform could also be useful to identify strategic research in various fields (e.g. traceability, market, pathologies, alimentation, etc.) and to propel investment in the GFCM area.

67. The Executive Secretary recalled that aquaculture was one of the strategic priorities of the GFCM FWP and that activities were identified accordingly therein. He also referred to the circular letter sent by the EU-funded project AquaMed recognizing the importance of a targeted cooperation with GFCM through CAQ.

68. The GFCM Chairperson seconded the establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform as a new generation instrument to improve the strategy fostering aquaculture development. Since it would be important to valorize the platform using available tools and taking into consideration the different dimensions of sustainability, he recalled the positive experience of the Task Force in terms of participation and involvement.

69. The CAQ Chairperson also concurred on the need to create the platform in order to strengthen cooperation, involve stakeholders all over the region and to continue within CAQ the work started within the AquaMed project.

70. In the ensuing discussion, the Commission welcomed the idea of setting up such a platform to support CAQ activities. It was agreed that the multi-stakeholder platform would be established as a subsidiary body of CAQ within the framework of its reorganization.

Draft Resolution on the management of protected areas including specially protected areas of Mediterranean importance (SPAMIs) in the GFCM competence area

71. The Executive Secretary introduced the draft decision reproduced in document GFCM:XXXVII/2013/5 relating to the management of marine protected areas, including fisheries restricted areas (FRAs) and specially protected areas of Mediterranean importance (SPAMIs). He recalled that, following the adoption of the memorandum of understanding with UNEP-MAP, and consistent with the decision by the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, the Secretariat had finalized a text with the aim to, *inter alia*, facilitate cooperation with UNEP-MAP in those cases where the location of identified FRAs coincided with that of SPAMIs.

72. The representative of ACCOBAMS proposed that her organization be more directly involved in the processes foreseen by the proposal.

73. The delegates of Algeria and Monaco expressed support to the proposal, namely in light of the comments by ACCOBAMS.

74. The representatives of Oceana and WWF suggested to ensure that the scope of this proposal encompass relevant organizations to contribute in particular to the identification of FRAs.

75. The delegate of the EU acknowledged that the proposal was the result of long discussions and aimed at enhancing cooperation among relevant bodies involved in the protection of marine biodiversity. He underlined that some aspects required further clarification and improvements, although the scope was acceptable.

76. The representative of UNEP/MAP-RAC/SPA welcomed the proposal and pointed to the various iterations between the legal services of FAO and UNEP. In his view, the proposal reflected the outcome of a two-year consultation process, although it would be suitable to involve additional organizations.

77. It was clarified that one of the main aims of the proposal was to strengthen cooperation with UNEP-MAP in point of harmonization regarding the identification of criteria for the establishment of protected areas and that other organizations would be involved too in this process.

78. The draft resolution on the management of protected areas was adopted with some changes and is reproduced in Appendix E.

Regional plan of action for the management of fishing capacity

79. Ms Pilar Hernandez, from the GFCM Secretariat, presented the pending decision on the management of fleet capacity based on document GFCM:XXXVII/2013/4. She recalled the process of preparation of this draft, subsequent to discussions held at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission and explained that comments by Members had been integrated in the text.

80. The delegates of Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco recalled the concerns expressed at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission referring in particular to the freezing of fishing capacity. Reference was made to the importance of socio-economic considerations, setting reference points and parameters and further specifying some of the principles proposed as well as to the need to take into account the extent of exploitation of resources by Members when addressing the management of fishing capacity.

81. The Executive Secretary clarified the nature of the draft and noted, in particular, that the set of national actions listed therein was meant to represent suggestions to be taken into account by Members in light of their national priorities and policies. He encouraged Members to work on the draft text, bearing in mind its programmatic and voluntary nature, along the lines of the FAO International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity.

82. The delegate of the EU noted the non-mandatory character of the draft as reflected in its objectives and actions, which did not impose obligations on reducing capacity. He recalled that the draft reflected the outcome of an important participatory work carried out over a two-year period and expressed the view that ample guarantees and options had been envisaged in view of future action that Members would deem suitable.

83. The delegate of Morocco supported the adoption of the proposed resolution while accounting for the fact that some aspects had not been fully addressed in the text, including the stocks targeted, financial and technical instruments and the freezing of capacity. In this respect, he recalled that Morocco had already frozen fishing capacity and managed its fleet accordingly at national level, both for its Mediterranean and Atlantic shores. Moreover, within the framework of management plans, Morocco had already taken other decisions in order to reduce its fishing fleet through the national programme of elimination of driftnets.

84. After a number of comments, the draft proposal on management of fishing capacity was adopted as Resolution GFCM/37/2013/2, reproduced under Appendix F.

Draft adaptive regional management plan for red coral in the GFCM competence area

85. The GFCM Secretariat delivered a detailed presentation on the draft regional management plan for red coral (RMP-RC), including its main operational aspects, objectives, reference points and national strategies. Special emphasis was placed on a possible roadmap for the implementation and further revision of the RMP-RC.

86. The delegates of Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco welcomed the RMP-RC which appeared consistent with their national legislations, short of some aspects such as monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), research programmes, observers on board of vessels, traceability and market issues. It was proposed that some of these aspects could be dealt with during specific workshops.

87. The EU acknowledged that the RMP-RC provided a solid foundation to be built upon in view of finalizing a proper management instrument and proposed to finalize it through intersessional consultations and possible workshops on relevant issues (i.e. traceability and support in the implementation of the RMP-RC).

88. The representative of IWMC noted that, in only three years, the GFCM had made momentous progress in producing binding recommendations on red coral. He underlined the importance of management plans as technical measures and that of co-management as an approach, and underscored that countries having roughly 70 percent of these resources were in principle favoring the adoption of the RMP-RC.

89. The delegate of Croatia supported the proposal of the EU and indicated that his country intended to prohibit the exploitation of red coral although indemnities should be foreseen for fishers targeting these resources.

90. The Commission agreed to convene an ad hoc workshop, subject to the availability of funds, so that the RMP-RC could be revised and considered for adoption by the thirty-eighth session of the Commission.

91. The EU offered to host such a workshop in Brussels with the aim to support the finalization of the RMP-RC.

IUU roadmap for the Black Sea (appendix to IUU workshop and WGBS reports)

92. Mr Nicola Ferri, from the GFCM Secretariat, presented the roadmap to fight IUU fishing in the Black Sea. He recalled that this document had been adopted during the joint GFCM–Black Sea Commission workshop on IUU fishing in the Black Sea in recognition of the need to address several political, legal, scientific, technical, socio-economic and MCS issues. The roadmap had been validated by the WGBS at its second meeting (Bulgaria, April 2013).

93. The delegate of the EU welcomed the roadmap which was the result of a joint effort by the six Black Sea riparian countries. In his view, this was an historic event. In addition, as the roadmap had a fully-encompassing approach, he expressed the hope that it could lead to further cooperation on fisheries matters in the region. The importance of marking fishing gear was recalled.

94. The delegate of Turkey shared the views of the EU but stated that the incidence of IUU fishing in the Black Sea should not be exaggerated although there was a need for increased MCS.

95. The representative of the Russian Federation thanked the GFCM Secretariat for the efforts made in relation to the roadmap. He affirmed that it constituted a robust document potentially useful for the GFCM in the Black Sea and for RFMOs in other areas.

96. The Commission endorsed the adoption of the roadmap, which is reproduced under Appendix J, and welcomed the convening of a similar initiative for the Mediterranean Sea under the FWP.

New proposals for fisheries management

97. Three proposals for decision, as prepared and tabled by the EU, were introduced and discussed. After extensive discussions the Commission took the following actions:

- ***Proposal for a recommendation on minimum standards for bottom-set gillnet fisheries in the Black Sea for turbot and conservation of cetaceans***

98. The proposal was adopted as Recommendation GFCM/37/2013/2 and is included in Appendix H.

- ***Proposal for a recommendation on a multiannual management plan for fisheries on small pelagic stocks in Adriatic Sea***

99. The delegates of Albania and Montenegro welcomed the development of subregional management plans for small pelagics in the Adriatic and informed that their countries were involved in actions towards the sustainable management of this fishery. However, they called for management plans that would account for differences between GSA17 and GSA18, namely: i) the lack of formal assessment on the status of these stocks in GSA 18; ii) the lower capacity of the fleet in the area; and iii) the willingness to modernize the fleet to improve exploitation cost-effectiveness within sustainable

limits. Both mentioned that further progress on stock assessment would be needed in order to be able to design an appropriate and complete management plan.

100. The EU delegate clarified that, for GSA 18, only transitional measures had been proposed, and expressed the hope that scientific data required to obtain a complete assessment of these resources for the whole Adriatic Sea would be available soon, although clarifying that no time constraints were imposed in such transitional measures. The EU praised the technical work done by the Secretariat with the support of AdriaMed, and pointed out that further work would be needed to implement the measures included in the proposal. In this regard, they mentioned that the coordination done by the Secretariat was crucial, and recommended that further activities to advance in implementing the proposal and provide the required data for the whole Adriatic Sea be proposed for the intersessional period.

101. The delegate of Algeria pointed out that management plans should be initiated at national level, receiving appropriate guidance and support from the Secretariat through general indicators and terms of reference, and taking into account the local characteristics of both ecosystem and human dimensions. He also highlighted the importance of involving the professional sector in this process. He mentioned that national management plans could be validated by SAC and that subregional and regional management plans should be developed taking them into consideration. In this respect, delegates concurred that the concept and contents of this subregional management proposal should not be directly transposed to other case studies in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

102. The representative of RAC-MED reported that the recommended measures had not been discussed with the Slovenian fisheries sector.

103. The GFCM Chairperson recalled the final aim of responsible and sustainable fisheries, pointing out that, to achieve such a goal, it was necessary to work at the appropriate ecological and human dimensions. In the case of shared stocks, the appropriate dimension might exceed the national dimension. He also pointed out that a sound system of advice was in place within the GFCM and could provide robust suggestions based on quality data. In this respect, the SAC Chairperson also highlighted that countries should commit themselves to keep on providing this data in a timely manner, so to ensure the continuous advice required to implement a management plan.

104. After including the clarification that the management measures proposed should address the specific case of small pelagic fisheries in the Adriatic Sea, and could not be generalized for the whole GFCM area, the proposal was adopted as Recommendation GFCM/37/2013/1, as included in Appendix G to this report.

- ***Proposal for a recommendation on precautionary conservation measures for fisheries in the GFCM area***

105. Several delegates welcomed the proposal and praised its scope to ensure the conservation of fisheries in the GFCM area. However they raised concerns relating mainly to the difficulties to adopt the same measures for a large number of fisheries in different areas, knowing that exploitation levels might differ, and to the need to perform further consultations so that some issues in the proposal could be clarified.

106. Based on the initial discussion, several delegations agreed on a number of amendments to the original proposal, and a revised version was submitted to the Commission, with the proposal to be adopted as a resolution to which Members could adhere on a voluntary basis.

107. Delegates welcomed the efforts made to incorporate different views in the proposal and agreed that it represented an important document towards the improvement of the situation status of stocks in the Mediterranean and Black Sea and the set-up of a common framework to facilitate the implementation of management plans in the region. However, several delegations expressed the view

that the amended document was still too technical and that an evaluation of its applicability in each subregion should be therefore carried out by scientists and experts on the different topics included in the proposal. Also, some delegates commented on the amount of knowledge and scientific information required to evaluate the measures included in the proposal, which required time for an informed decision to be taken.

108. Several delegates stated that proposals should be received well ahead of the session.

109. The EU delegate clarified that the document mainly provided guidance and examples and that its objective was to generate a framework and a working procedure, with the aim to facilitate sharing experiences towards the development of management plans.

110. Following a suggestion by the Executive Secretary, the Commission agreed to adopt the proposal as guidelines and that the document would be reexamined at the next session to consider its possible transposition into recommendations. This would allow Members to review the technical and scientific basis of the document in the intersession, including at the next SAC session. The guidelines are reproduced in Appendix I.

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD 2013–2014

Programme of work of the Scientific Advisory Committee

111. With reference to document GFCM:XXXVII/2013/2, the SAC Chairperson presented the draft programme of work of the subcommittees for the intersessional period 2013–2014, as proposed by the SAC at its fifteenth session.

112. The Commission endorsed the programme of work proposed by SAC as follows:

Subcommittee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE)

- Compile national management measures for the protection of monk seals (*Monachus monachus*) to be provided to SAC (Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/5);
- Analyse options to mitigate by-catch of sea turtles and seabirds (Recommendations GFCM/35/2011/3 and GFCM/35/2011/4);
- Assess the impact of alien species on fisheries, establish a proper framework for the collection of data on their landings and explore alternative markets for toxic alien species (pharmacology, aquarists, cosmetics, etc.);
- Develop a second three-year research programme on elasmobranchs;
- Elaborate a catalogue on fishing gears and technology in GFCM area, based on information gathered by the TechnoMed network;
- Encourage and support research programmes on climate change, marine litter, and underwater noise;
- Organize a one-day workshop on artificial reefs (ARs) within the framework of the 10th International Conference on Artificial Reefs and Related Aquatic Habitats (September 2013, Izmir, Turkey).
- Integrate environmental variables in the stock assessment forms, in particular for small pelagic species;
- Develop mid-term research programmes to identify conservation measures and to promote the sustainable use of deep-sea habitats (seamounts, canyons and deep coral populations) and related fishing stocks;
- Collect environmental and biological information on marine seamounts.

Subcommittee on Statistics and Information (SCSI)

- Facilitate fleet data submission from EU members to the Secretariat by looking for feasible interactions with the EU fleet register system;
- Review, in line with the first GFCM DCRF, the periodicity of socio-economic data currently collected under Task 1.3 and identify those fields in the GFCM vessel records defined as mandatory;
- Organize a workshop on the new data and reporting frameworks as defined in the first DCRF;
- Facilitate end-users with documentation (leaflets, manuals) to exploit the full potentialities of the SharePoint facilities newly established by the Secretariat.
- Organize the relevant meetings and activities foreseen in the first framework programme.

Subcommittee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS)

- Organize the first Regional Symposium on Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries;
- Organize a regional workshop on recreational fisheries, possibly back-to-back with the symposium on Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries;
- Collect data on the impacts of *Lagocephalus sceleratus* (puffer fish) in the Eastern Mediterranean;
- Prepare a review of socio and economic variables in the Task 1.3 to be validated by a group of experts through a dedicated SharePoint platform;
- Prepare a paper concerning socio-economic impacts of selected invasive species in the GFCM area;
- Prepare a review on methodologies for the economic valuation of recreational fisheries;
- Develop a common methodology to carry out socio-economic analysis to support fisheries management;
- Establish three working groups on methodologies for socio-economic analysis, on small scale fisheries and on recreational fisheries;
- Organize a SCMEE/SCESS transversal session on the impacts of climate change, with special emphasis on the socio-economic aspects of invasive species.

Subcommittee on Stock Assessment (SCSA)

- Organize the Working Groups on Small Pelagic and Demersal Species and the subcommittees meetings (back-to-back);
- Organize a workshop on the definition and estimation of reference points for small pelagic and demersal stocks, in line with the GFCM Guidelines for multiannual management plans;
- Produce a biennial publication on the status of fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries, including an overview of the main ongoing research activities;
- Develop methods and undertake studies on stock unit identification, migration patterns and exchange rates between meta-populations;
- Investigate those stocks of lessepsian species that compete with, or have even replaced as main targets of the fisheries, the autochthonous stocks, being able to endure conditions of high fishing pressure;
- Review stock assessments taking into account environmental variables, in particular for small pelagic species (e.g. sardines and anchovies).

Ad hoc Working Group on the Black Sea (fisheries component)

- Elaborate a catalogue of fishing gears and vessels types used in the Black Sea (complementary to the catalogue elaborated by the SCMEE);
- Finalize the inventory of the existing legal instruments related to fisheries in Black Sea riparian countries;
- Prepare a review of the status of small-scale fisheries in the Black Sea to be presented to the First Regional Symposium on Small-scaleFisheries (Malta, November 2013)
- Update the rReview of the status of Black Sea fisheries, completing it with existing information related to fisheries activities and status of the stocks;
- Organize a workshop on the harmonization of survey methodologies in the Black Sea.

SAC meetings

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

SAC meetings	Place/Date
(SCMEE) Workshop on artificial reefs (ARs) in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (in collaboration with EastMed) (1 day)	27 September 2013 Izmir, Turkey
(SCSA) Working Group on Stock Assessment (WGSA) of Demersal Species (5 days)	TBD
(SCSA) Working Group on Stock Assessment (WGSA) of Small Pelagic Species (5 days)	TBD
(SCSA) Workshop on the definition and estimation of reference points for Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries (4 days)	TBD
(SCESS) Working Group on a common methodology to carry out socio-economic analysis (2 days)	Tunisia TBD
Sessions of the subcommittees (4 days)	TBD
3rd meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on the Black Sea (3 days)	TBD Trabzon, Turkey
16th session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (5 days)	TBD
Workshop on European eel	TBD Tunisia
Workshop on the harmonization of survey methodologies in the Black Sea (WGBS) (3 days)	TBD

114. The Commission agreed to convene a workshop on European eel with ToRs to be developed by the SCMEE, based on those in the memorandum of understanding with ICES.

115. The Commission noted the comments by the delegates of Tunisia and Algeria, who suggested to carry out future work addressing issues such as the impacts of puffer fish in light of the toxicity of this species and socio-economic issues.

116. Acting on a proposal by Oceana, and incorporating comments from the delegate of Morocco to take into consideration ecosystem and human components and involve all the subcommittees of SAC in this activity, the Commission agreed to create a Transversal Working Group on Marine Protected Areas, with the following terms of reference:

- Review the state of existing marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, including the assessment of the state of the ecosystem and human dimensions, compliance with resolutions and the functioning of monitoring;

- Review the state of existing proposals for new MPAs, including advances and requirements to promote the establishment of protection schemes such as FRAs or SPAMIs;

- Propose technical solutions to harmonize different criteria for the establishment of MPAs and FRAs, including on the basis of Resolution GFCM/37/2013/1;

- Identify potential new MPAs, including both ecosystem and socio-economic analysis and identification of needs for a formal protection proposal. In particular, the working group will assess the benefits of FRAs for the protection and recovery of endangered/overexploited stocks in the GFCM area;

- Evaluate the current monitoring systems of MPAs and propose improvements and modifications as needed.

Programme of work of the Committee on Aquaculture

117. The programme of CAQ, based on documents GFCM:XXXVI/2012/3 and GFCM:XXXVI/2012/Inf.9, was endorsed as follows:

Working Group on Aquaculture Sustainability (WGSA)

- Identify reference points and standards for selected indicators;
- Test the selected indicators at the local level and disseminate results;
- Implement new pilot studies on sustainability indicators, including other aquaculture systems and group of species.

Working Group on Site Selection and Carrying Capacity (WGSC)

- Progress on EQS reference points for aquaculture monitoring;
- Implement a programme for the dissemination of technical results and outcomes of SHoCMed activities on AZAs and allowable zones of effect (AZE);
- Establish an IT platform on site selection and carrying capacity for data sharing;
- Prepare a guide on harmonized environmental monitoring for Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture.

Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM)

- Follow progress on data collection, with respect in particular to production centers, production statistics and market;
- Finalize the integration of SIPAM activities and databases within the WGBS and follow up assistance regarding aquaculture data submission;
- Reactivate the Research & Development programmes database and cooperate with other institutions working on aquaculture regional databases such as AquaMed to share data.

Lagoon management and interactions between aquaculture and capture fisheries

- Identify indicators for the sustainable development of aquaculture and capture fisheries activities within coastal lagoons;
- Keep updating the database on coastal lagoons based on country reports and data sheets prepared within the LaMed-2 project and made available online.

Working Group on Marketing of Aquaculture Products (WGMA)

- Work with WGSA on indicators and reference points for sustainable aquaculture on economic and marketing issues;
- Finalize, in cooperation with partners, the regional survey on famers' organizations, prepare a review of legislation and present the status of producers' organizations and farmers' organizations in the GFCM area;
- Cooperate in the organization of a roundtable on a market-oriented approach to sustain the development of Mediterranean aquaculture together with partners and interested parties;
- Establish an aquaculture multi-stakeholder platform.

Other proposed activities

- Carry out a regional survey on aquatic animal health and biosecurity in aquaculture;
- Carry out a regional survey on the main aspects related to certification and traceability in aquaculture;

- Prepare a project for the elaboration of the regional review on the current status of aquaculture in the GFCM competence area and organize a final workshop for the dissemination of results (to be included in the FWP as a project proposal);
- Organize the first meeting for the establishment of an aquaculture multi-stakeholder platform, which would focus on objectives, terms of reference, working agenda and tools of such platform;
- Produce a report on the State of the aquaculture sector in the GFCM member countries to be released on a biennial basis;
- Finalize and adopt the draft glossary on aquaculture.

Ad hoc Working Group on the Black Sea (aquaculture component)

- Prepare guidelines on responsible activities for fish restocking and stock enhancement purposes;
- Finalize the inventory of marine and brackish aquaculture farms and production centers in the Black Sea area;
- Elaborate a programme for a pilot study on aquaculture projects (including the implementation of demonstrative centers);
- Support countries in the implementation of AZAs.

CAQ meetings (including within the FWP)

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

CAQ meetings (including within the FWP)	Date/Place
WGSA – InDAM –Pilot study in Tunisia Step 3 on the implementation of a system of indicators for sustainable aquaculture	October 2013 Monastir, Tunisia
WGSA – InDAM – AdriaMed Pilot study Step 1 in Montenegro on the identification of indicators for sustainable aquaculture	July 2013 TBD
InDAM – SHoCMed – Workshops on the identification of reference points for environmental, social and economic indicators on aquaculture	November 2013 TBD
WGSA – InDAM – Pilot study in Morocco Step 2 on indicators assessment and definition of a quantitative reference framework	December 2013 M'diq, Morocco
WGSA – InDAM – Pilot study in Spain on the identification of indicators for sustainable aquaculture (molluscs)	TBD
Sixth coordination meeting of the CAQ Working Groups	TBD
Fifteenth session of SIPAM	1st quarter 2014 TBD
Ninth session of CAQ	1st quarter 2015 Morocco

119. The Commission proposed to finalize the Guidelines for the sustainable management of coastal lagoons in the Mediterranean and Black Sea prepared by the CAQ so that they could be presented at the next session for consideration and possible adoption.

Programme of work of the Compliance Committee

120. The draft programme of work of CoC was presented on the basis of document COC:VII/2013/2.

121. The Commission agreed to organize three meetings according to the following terms of reference:

Intersessional meeting of the CoC ad hoc Working group on compliance

- Analyse available information on the status of implementation of GFCM decisions by Members for the purposes of Recommendation GFCM/2010/34/3;
- Analyse Members' responses to the requests of clarification sent on the basis of the relevant appendixes of the report of the seventh session of CoC;
- Based on the analysis performed, identify cases where Members were considered to be non-compliant with relevant GFCM decisions;
- Notify the Members concerned, in conformity with Recommendation GFCM/34/2010/3, on the basis of the model letter of identification for Members agreed by the Commission at its thirty-seventh session;
- Identify cases where fishing activities by non-Members in the GFCM area occur and assess whether or not they are undertaken in accordance with relevant GFCM decisions;
- Notify the non-Members concerned, in conformity with Recommendation GFCM/34/2010/3, on the basis of the model letter of identification for non-Members agreed by the Commission at its thirty-seventh session.

Working Group on VMS and related control systems in the GFCM area

- Identify means to facilitate the implementation of Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/07, including in relation to the transmission of information on the GFCM Authorized Vessel List, and consider possible revisions to its text;
- Evaluate administrative, technical and legal constraints relating to control systems, including VMS;
- Examine whether a centralized VMS system should be established within GFCM and study recent developments concerning other MCS tools;
- Ascertain requirements for the promotion of regional/subregional projects on the implementation of control systems, including VMS;
- Make proposals for operationalizing the Guidelines for a technical cooperation programme in the monitoring of fishing vessels in the GFCM area of competence;
- Identify technical assistance needs of Members to strengthen their capacity, including the testing of control tools alternative to VMS for small scale fisheries.

Working Group on legislations and the Compendium of GFCM decisions

- Collect, including through ad hoc questionnaires, the most updated national legislations, regulations and amendments to the legal texts in force on fisheries and the law of the sea of GFCM Members and non-Members;
- Update the comparative studies prepared by the GFCM on national legislations, including tables and lists, on the basis of information collected under bullet point 1;
- List ratifications of the most relevant international and regional instruments in the field of fisheries and law of the sea among GFCM Members and non-Members;
- Liaise with the FAO Legal Office and regional projects to carry out the above activities as well as facilitate the translation of information collected under bullet point 1 in GFCM languages, including a working translation into English;
- Establish and maintain, possibly in close cooperation with the FAO Legal Office and regional projects, a network of experts in national legislations;

- set up an electronic database on legislation which could be merged with the e-compendium of GFCM decisions.

CoC meetings (including within the FWP)

122. The Commission agreed to convene the following meetings during the intersessional period, including within the remit of the FWP:

COC meetings (including withing the FWP)	Place/Date
Intersessional meeting of the CoC ad hoc Working Group on Compliance	TBD
Working Group on VMS and related control systems in the GFCM area	TBD
Working Group on legislations and the Compendium of GFCM decisions	TBD
Eighth session of the Compliance Committee (1 day)	TBD

Programme of work of the Committee of Administration and Finance

123. The Commission recalled the establishment of the Working Group for the Revision of the GFCM Agreement and noted the relevance of its mandate for CAF.

124. Delegates drew attention to the mandate of this working group and to the need to explore options aimed at improving the decision-making process. The Commission conceded that, in addition to elaborate the mandate of the decision-making mechanism proposed by the Task Force, the working group could also suggest options to launch the mechanism on an experimental basis.

Programme of work under the Framework Programme

125. The list of meetings foreseen under the FWP for 2013 was duly noted:

FWP meetings	Place/Date
Subregional group on stock assessment for the Black Sea, back-to-back with trainning on stock assessment methods	14–18 October 2013 Bucharest, Romania
Workshop to test the feasibility of implementing multiannual management plans in the Black Sea	November – December 2013 TBD
First Regional Symposium on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea	27–30 November 2013 Malta
Kick off meeting for a Mediterranean Cooperation for the Sustainable Use of the Marine Biological Resources	2013 (TBD) GFCM HQs, Rome
Subregional workshop to test the feasibility of implementing multiannual management plans (Western, Central and Eastern Mediterranean)	TBD Tunisia
(SCSI/SCSA/SCESS) Transversal Workshop on new data and reporting frameworks, including the GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF)	TBD
Workshop on IUU, including MCS and fleet (Mediterranean Sea)	TBD

New proposals of activities emanating from the thirty-seventh session

127. The following proposals were made during the session:

New meetings	Place/Date
Workshop on a Regional Management Plan for red coral	TBD Brussels
Workshop / training on red coral management plan implementation and traceability	TBD
Meetings of the ad hoc Working group for the amendment of the GFCM Agreement	TBD
Workshop in support of multiannual management plans in the Adriatic	TBD
GFCM Extraordinary session	TBD
First meeting of the CAQ multi-stakeholder platform (AquaMed)	TBD Egypt
Elasmobranchs meeting	France TBD
First meeting of the Working group on MPAs	October 2013 (TBC) France

128. The Commission agreed that the proposed programme of work for all subsidiary bodies should be executed according to the availability of funds, either through the autonomous budget or extra-budgetary funds.

129. With regard to the various activities foreseen for the WGBS, included in the SAC and CAQ work plans, and to be performed both under the regular programme and the FWP, the delegate of Turkey expressed his full support and readiness to contribute.

130. The delegate of the EU welcomed the progress made by the WGBS and underlined the critical importance of cooperation for the Black Sea region.

131. The representative of the Russian Federation also expressed support to the WGBS, and he indicated that his country would continue to be involved.

132. The Commission took note of the kind offer by some Members to host different meetings of the subsidiary bodies subject to confirmation by the relevant authorities in their countries.

133. The Commission endorsed the proposed work plan of its subsidiary bodies for 2013 and 2014.

REPORT OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

134. The Chairperson of the CoC, Mr Samir Majdalani, presented the report of the seventh session of the Committee, held in Split, Croatia, on 14 May 2013. The session was attended by delegates of 21 Members, 1 non-Member, namely the Russian Federation, and representatives of several intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

135. Before the adoption of the report (Appendix K), the Chairperson recalled in particular that discussions focused on the status of implementation of relevant GFCM decisions by GFCM Members, including the GFCM Compendium. On the basis of Recommendation GFCM/2010/34/3, the Committee examined matters relating to the identification of cases of non-compliance.

136. To this end, he referred to the creation of an informal working group – whose report is reproduced in Appendix L – to address the issue of cases of non-compliance based on the analysis of an indicative table on the status of implementation of GFCM decisions (Appendix M). The Chairperson recalled that the view was expressed that the identification of Members should be performed in two phases: first, through a preliminary request of clarification which would be sent by the Executive Secretary on behalf of the Commission to national administrations on fisheries (annexed in Appendix N); subsequently, through a letter of identification, the format of which is reproduced in Appendix O. For non-Members another letter of identification would be used, as reproduced in Appendix P.

137. Appreciation was expressed for the progress in the implementation of Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/7 concerning a vessel monitoring system (VMS).

138. The Commission reviewed the report and agreed to adopt it.

REPORT OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

139. The CAF Chairperson, Mr Hachemi Missaoui, presented the draft report of the fourth session of the Committee, held in Split, Croatia, on 13 May 2013. The session was attended by 21 Members of the Commission together with observers from non-Members, namely the Russian Federation, as well as from intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

140. Before the adoption of the report (Appendix Q), the Chairperson recalled that the Committee had commented on issues related to the administrative and financial situation of the GFCM Secretariat for 2012–2013, Members contributions to the autonomous budget, extra-budgetary resources, provisional GFCM budget and CAF work programme. He recalled that a letter of credentials format for statutory meetings had been proposed and accepted (Appendix R).

141. In the ensuing discussion, the delegate of Monaco explained that his country was aware of the pending payment of arrears. The issues had been discussed with the Executive Secretary in the occasion of a visit to Monaco and would continue to be addressed so that it could be settled within the shortest possible delay.

142. The Commission reviewed the report and agreed to adopt it with minor amendments

GFCM BUDGET AND MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2013 AND 2014

143. The Executive Secretary recalled the main chapters of the proposed budget for the financial period 2013–2014 as presented to the fourth session of CAF and detailed each line of the proposed budget for 2013 together with the Member's contributions for the same year.

144. Although the budget increase raised some concerns, the extensive work carried out during the intersessional period, in terms of actions and activities on fisheries and aquaculture both in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, was repeatedly recognized by the Commission.

145. Clarifications were requested in relation to the increase of some specific budget lines, in particular those pertaining to staffing, for which the Executive Secretary provided the necessary explanations. It was in fact recalled that the budget for 2013 included posts that had been filled during the year whereas the budget for 2014 reflected the full yearly expenses for those posts. It was also recalled that professional and administrative staff categories were subject to the FAO staffing rules for salaries.

146. Acting on the basis of the request put forward by several delegations to outline the budget under an activity/output-oriented structure, the Executive Secretary presented a table of all the activities that had been identified within the SAC, CAQ and WGBS work plans, including new proposals emanating from the session. These were presented with their related financial implications for those to fall under the autonomous budget, whereas it was recalled that recourse to extra-budgetary funds, and the FWP in particular, would be made to support the activities of GFCM.

147. In this regard, the delegate of Monaco expressed his appreciation for the great efforts made by the Executive Secretary and the Secretariat to provide Members with an exhaustive documentation on the FWP, proving its potential. He stated that his country would closely examine the FWP, as some elements of interest had already been identified.

148. The Commission encouraged the Executive Secretary to pursue his efforts towards fundraising, indicating that the Bureau could assist in this regard.

149. The Commission agreed that the decision on the 8 per cent increase caused by the improved cost recovery uplift (ICRU), following FAO rules, would be taken in consideration by the Working group for the amendment of the GFCM Agreement, since this general matter related to the relationship between GFCM and FAO.

150. Being the functional autonomy of Article XIV bodies promoted by FAO, and in light of the hierarchical relationships between the Secretariat and FAO, the Executive Secretary was invited to follow-up on this important matter and regularly inform the Commission, through its Bureau, on any development so that it could take the required actions.

151. The Commission adopted the budget for 2013 for a total amount of US$1 940 973 as indicated in Appendix T as well as the contributions of Members to the GFCM budget (Appendix U). This budget included, by November 2013, the finalization of the recruitment of the Fishery Officer (Legal and Institutional Matters) (P-3), together with the recruitment of the Administrative Assistant (G-3) and Security Guard (G-2), all those posts having been already agreed by the Commission in the previous years. The upgrade of the Programmer/Systems Analyst (G-5) to IT Assistant (G-6) was approved for the beginning of 2014. The Commission decided that the Deputy Secretary post could remain frozen.

ELECTION OF THE GFCM BUREAU

152. The Commission acknowledged the excellent work done by the GFCM Bureau and unanimously agreed to re-elect it for a second mandate.

153. Due to the absence of Mr Haydar Fersoy, the Commission elected Ms Esra Fatma Denizci Toslak, from Turkey, as first Vice-Chairperson.

ISSUES RELATING TO THE ELECTION OF THE SAC AND CAQ BUREAUS, INCLUDING THE ENDORSEMENT OF APPOINTED COORDINATORS

154. With regard to SAC, it was recalled that the election of the new Bureau was still pending. It was hence agreed to retain the serving Bureau until the sixteenth session of SAC, when the election would be held, as it was considered appropriate to leave to the Committee the choice of electing its Bureau. The Commission also endorsed the nomination of the coordinators of the SAC subcommittees.

155. The Commission endorsed the re-election of the CAQ Bureau with its new Vice-Chairpersons, Mr Pablo Avila (Spain) as first Vice-Chairperson and Mr Houssam Hamza (Tunisia) as second Vice-

Chairperson, together with the CAQ Working Group Coordinators and endorsed the proposal of the WGBS to nominate Mr Ilhan Aydin (Turkey) as second Vice-Coordinator.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

156. The Commission thanked Croatia for the excellent organization of the thirty-seventh session of the GFCM and for its warm hospitality in the beautiful setting of Split.

157. Gratitude was expressed to the GFCM Secretariat for the excellent work done and the efforts made in the preparation of and during the session.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

158. The Commission took note of the kind invitation made by the delegation of Greece to host the extraordinary session of GFCM, should it be convened during the intersession and subject to official confirmation by the competent authorities.

159. As per usual practice, in the absence of an invitation to host the annual session, the thirty-eighth session of GFCM could be convened in Rome in May 2014.

160. In light of the significant burden of work, the next sessions of the Commission and SAC would last an additional day.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

161. The report, including its appendixes, was adopted on Friday 17 May 2013.

APPENDIX A

Agenda

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the session
3. Report on the intersessional activities 2012–2013
4. Report on the activities under the first phase of the GFCM Framework Programme (FWP) to support Task Force actions
5. Fourth session of the Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF)
6. Seventh session of the Compliance Committee (CoC)
7. Proposals for the amendment of the GFCM Agreement and associated procedural and financial rules and other issues related to the functioning of the Commission
8. Management of Mediterranean fisheries and aquaculture
9. Programme of work for the intersessional period 2013–2014, including for the FWP
10. Report of the sixth session the Compliance Committee (CoC)
11. Report of the fourth session of the Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF)
12. GFCM budget and Member contributions for 2013 and 2014
13. Election of the GFCM Bureau
14. Endorsement of the elections of the Bureau of the GFCM subsidiary bodies
15. Any other matter
16. Date and place of the thirty-eighth session
17. Adoption of the report and closure of the session

APPENDIX B

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APPENDIX C

Statements pronounced at the opening session

Mr Ljubomir Kučić, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Agriculture of Croatia

Mister Chairman, Mister Executive Secretary, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

First of all, I would like to, on behalf of the Government of Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Agriculture, wish you all a warm welcome to Croatia and the heart of Dalmatia. Split is a city which I believe to be a true representative of the GFCM – it has a long history and Mediterranean flavour, traditions are what it was built upon, but it is the future that it is looking towards. I sincerely hope you will find the time to visit and savour the flavours of the Mediterranean which are deeply rooted in this area.

The issue of sustainable and viable fisheries and aquaculture has always been in the very heart of the GFCM activities, and the importance of this Commission and its work in securing the future of the resource we all share, to a greater or smaller extent, needs to be particularly emphasised. We are all aware that the times and the tides are changing, and we all are facing greater and greater challenges. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find the right balance, find the way and find the means to truly take all the steps that need to be taken in order to make sure that there is a tomorrow both for the resources and for the people that depend on this resource. I am confident that this Commission and its efforts are the right forum to tackle these issues and that together we can strike the right note.

Croatia has and shall continue to fully support the efforts and the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. I firmly believe that the scientific advice provided through coordinated work and reliable, validated and verified data is the right basis upon which we can build the future work. This work shall need further support, given the mixed characteristics of the Mediterranean fisheries, and the specific elements of management that significantly differ in such cases from the fisheries where only single stocks are exploited. Stronger support to future scientific work is thus called upon, if we are to achieve our goals in the future.

Furthermore, with the changes of the times and the tides, the Commission itself needs to explore and discuss the way forward. But, as I said – the roots we have are in our traditions and specificities of the Mediterranean and its sub-regions, and it is in these specificities that we have to try and find the way forward. Significant work has already been done in that respect, and the Secretariat of the Commission needs to be commanded and recognized for all the work undertaken. Overall, the GFCM has made huge steps towards the future already, and I am confident that further decisions shall be taken during the forthcoming days.

Let me once more impress upon you the importance of the discussions and the decisions to be taken during this session. Managing fisheries includes managing both the fish and the fishermen – and I might add that sometimes it is more difficult to manage the latter. Sustainability rests on securing the long vitality of the stocks, but just as much the long vitality of the sector. Mediterranean fisheries have always been characterized by tradition, and industrial fisheries as is known in other seas are not a common thing in the Mediterranean. Furthermore, this is an area characterized by highly mixed fisheries, and very specific ecological, social, geographical and biological circumstances. All of them need to be taken into account on equal footing, which is never an easy task, but I am confident that this work can be done through joint efforts and cooperation.

Although our focus has been at fisheries more than at aquaculture, allow me to use this opportunity to point out the importance of this activity in the future. Development of the Mediterranean region has always been linked with the sea, and marine aquaculture has been present in this part of the world since the very beginnings of the civilization. But, what shall we do with it in the future? This is the question that needs further discussions, and Croatia is highly interested in further development of this activity.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends, I hope that the meeting will be marked with success and that the outcome will serve to promote sustainable and responsible fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea.

Thank you very much,
L. Kučić

Mr Árni Mathiesen, FAO Assistant Director General – Fisheries and Aquaculture Department

Mr Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Mr Josè Graciano da Silva, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you here in the beautiful city of Split today for the opening of the 37th Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), which includes also the seventh Session of the Compliance Committee and the fourth Session of the Committee Administration and Finance.

I would like at the outset to thank Croatia for hosting these very important meetings and to acknowledge the attendance of so many representatives from States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and various stakeholders. This is yet another unmistakable token of the importance of GFCM in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

As you are well aware of, the GFCM is body created under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution. Its regional scope makes it the preferred choice of the FAO for promoting the goals of the Organization in general, and more specifically those linked to fisheries and aquaculture, in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Therefore, the everlasting link between the FAO and the GFCM posits an emphasis on sustainable development, food security and poverty alleviation in all policies promoted by the GFCM. This is possible also as a result of the active role that the FAO, through its Fisheries Department, plays in participating to developments and initiatives within the remit of GFCM and which, often times, mirror those envisaged by the Organization. Allow me please to provide you with a few selected and topical examples.

The history of the GFCM reveals the ability of the Commission to make notable efforts to adapt to rising challenges linked to fisheries and aquaculture over the last 60 years and counting. The recent reform of the GFCM, which was inaugurated in 2011 with the establishment of the Task Force for the modernization of the institutional framework of the GFCM and which will be a paramount subject of discussions here in Split, calls to mind the review of all Articles XIV bodies, currently carried out under the auspices of the Organization. Progress made in this review, whose ultimate goal is to enable Article XIV bodies to exercise greater financial and administrative autonomy in the future while remaining within the framework of the FAO, will be examined at the FAO Conference at its Thirty-eighth Session (June 2013). The GFCM has played, through its Secretariat, a key role in providing a lot of useful elements to the review of all Articles XIV bodies which takes stock of existing practices to outline the main characteristics that would allow for greater autonomy, such as an autonomous budget.

As a matter of fact, it has been acknowledged that Articles XIV bodies have a differentiated nature as some of them, like the GFCM, already enjoy a certain degree of autonomy and could be ready to benefit from more flexibility to ensure the successful performance of their functions. This could arise out of, among others, the hierarchal relationships between Article XIV bodies and the FAO as it is proposed that Article XIV bodies should be linked directly to the offices of the relevant Assistant Directors-General, the adoption of donor agreements by Article XIV bodies under a delegation by the Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department and the possibility for the identification of a clear and unique reporting line between Articles XIV bodies and the Organization. There is a unique opportunity to align, to a greater extent, developments within the FAO relating to Articles XIV bodies with those expected to occur in connection with the reform of the GFCM. I am positive that this would be beneficial for both the FAO and the GFCM.

Mr Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

another subject worth of being singled out is that of small scale fisheries. I acknowledged already at the outset of the recent session of the GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee held in April at the FAO HQ, that there are many commonalities between the work programme of the Fisheries Department and the five work programmes foreseen under the 1st GFCM Framework Programme. In that occasion I noted that synergies could have been jointly promoted by the FAO and GFCM to address all aspects relating to small scale fisheries. I referred on the one hand to the on-going work within the Organization on the "Guidelines on Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries" and, on the other, to the regional "Symposium on Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea". I am delighted to report that the Fisheries Department and the GFCM Secretariat have further discussed the matter after and came to agreement to work together. As a result, the GFCM is expected to participate to the Technical Consultation which will be convened at the FAO next week to finalize said guidelines whereas the Fisheries Department will be directly engaged in the preparation of the symposium. I am positive that the exchange of respective expertise will be advantageous to States which will be involved in these initiatives.

Mr Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

the 37th Session of the Commission will reveal that during the inter-session GFCM has been committed to its work plan and that progress was made in several respects. Meetings that were convened by the GFCM committees and the Framework Programme have allowed for good progress on important issues such as consolidating the statistical frame for data submissions, promoting multiannual management plans at sub-regional level, the monitoring and control of fishing activities, the management of specific resources, the fight against IUU fishing, the establishment of a good environmental status and the development of sustainable aquaculture, including through the implementation of the concept of Allocated Zones for Aquaculture and the promotion of the importance of applying indicators.

A special mention is needed for the effort made by GFCM to continue promoting fisheries and aquaculture in the Black Sea both through its ad hoc Working Group on the Black Sea as well as through ad hoc meetings on specific issues (e.g. IUU and data collection). The outcomes emanating from this meeting and the interest of all six riparian States should be regarded as an unmistakable sign of interest to cooperate within the remit of GFCM. FAO acknowledges the great effort that the GFCM does in the Black Sea and hope that further progress will be made in the upcoming future in the joint management of Black Sea resources.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

Fortunately, the oceans, fisheries management and conservation issues linked to them have received much greater attention lately than before. This attention is not always followed by the same amount of understanding of the issues, current situations or what there is at stake for those that rely on the oceans for their livelihoods. Partly due to this attention many large initiatives have recently been taken or are being prepared on ocean and fisheries matters. FAO is involved in one way or another in most if not all of these initiatives. That I believe is a good thing particularly due to our representations of issues that are of importance to those that rely on fisheries for their livelihoods but we find that more support is needed.

RFBs and RFMOs are not always as visible in these initiatives as I think is warranted. There may be reasons for that and one may be the tendency of people for while promoting a cause they have to criticize others and find culprits to blame the state of affairs they mean to rectify. This we have all seen and it is both unfortunate, unjustified and unhelpful. The Department has tried to promote the participation of RFBs and on occasions made quite an effort to do so. I however believe that this situation needs to be changed.

As you all know the FAO as an organization has been undergoing reorganisation. These changed are quite extensive and are related to both the way we work, what we do, how we are structured, and has also led to great changes in senior management. So many major changes are not easy to do in a relatively short time as the case is this time and are bound to affect almost if not just plainly everybody. In general, I believe that these changes, which basically are about introducing a matrix structure and reduce the number of Strategic Objectives, will be positive for the Organization. The Organization will be more focused and more cross cutting in its operations. I think that at present we are as well advanced as can be expected at the stage we are at but still there are major undertakings to be done and najor operational decisions still need to be taken before the new Strategic Framework becomes operational at the beginning of next year. It may sound as if I am complaining about the process but I am not and the main reason for that is the opportunities that come up in a process of change like this one. They actually can far exceed the proposed changes themselves, if we want, and give us the opportunity to make changes that we have been talking about for a long time but never really got off the ground.

I believe this applies to RFBs and their work in relation to FI. Both COFI and the Secretariat have been of the opinion and talked about the need for better cooperation, better support and more synchronization in this kind of work for a while. Charity begins at home and even though as yet how the article 6 RFBs will be handled in detail in the new SFW is not clear the department as set up a task force to look at how we can make them more effective, more relevant and more able to participate in wider cooperation to promote their cause. The task force is not only to concentrate on article 6 bodies but also to help us be more effective in cooperation with other RFBs regardless of type or linkage to FI. In the case of the article 14 bodies, GFCM in particular, their position in the SFW is much clearer as they will eb a part of a Strategic Objective but with ring fenced resources and under the direct supervision of the ADGS, as mentioned earlier. I ther3efore find it appropriate since this change will take place at the beginning of next year and my personal involvement will increase to initiate an even closer dialogue with you on how we can better work together in the future, how we canbetter cooperate together in relation to the many oceans initiatives I mentioned earlier and strengthen our joint position there. Basically in general how we can together better fulfil our mandates.

I am at this stage not proposing a particular process and don't expect you to make this a major issue at this meeting but would welcome the opportunity to interact with you on this issue informally over the next couple of days while I am here. We can then carry on through other methods after the meeting and then if and when we deem it appropriate initiate something more formal, a process in line with what we would jointly see as possible outcome in the future. I raised this issue last week at the IOTC sessions in Mauritius and will in due course take the issue up with other RFBs.

In concluding, I would like to wish that the 37th Session of the Commission will reach our high expectations. In am positive that, thanks to your active participation, we will deliver sound results. The FAO is confident that GFCM will remain its flagship Article XIV body and reference point and reiterates its support to the Commission.

Thank you very much for your attention,
Á. Mathiesen

Mr Stefano Cataudella, Chairperson of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

Mr Árni Mathiesen, representative of the DG the FAO,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would also like to welcome you to the 37th Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, the seventh Session of the Compliance Committee and the fourth Session of the Committee Administration and Finance as well as to thank you wholeheartedly for your participation. I am particularly grateful to Croatia authorities that in order to host these very important meetings have worked very hard together with the FAO/GFCM over the last months. We can all witness together the excellent result of their efforts both in terms of efficiency and readiness, not to mention the beautiful venue they offered.

In recent years the interest in the GFCM has exponentially increased and I am positive that this trend is bound to continue. My attitude is justified by the importance that the fisheries and aquaculture sectors continue to have in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. We are all aware of the importance of technical and scientific knowledge to support policy making processes in these sectors, but momentum is being built through the GFCM also in connection with other aspects, such as social aspects, economic aspects, environmental aspects and geopolitical aspects. Last year I referred to the need for the GFCM to help in reconnecting the different fragments that exist in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea at different levels. I think that by the end of this Session of the Commission we will be one step closer to that. Allow me to further elaborate on this.

In 2011 the Commission decided to create a Task Force in recognition of the need to endow the FAO/GFCM with a stronger a more modern mandate. The Task Force has carried out an enormous work last year which resulted in a set of recommendations that were made to the 36th Session of the Commission. An amendment process was launched so that the constitutive texts of the GFCM could be revised on the basis of the recommendations by the Task Force. At the same time, the Commission decided not to terminate the Task Force in light of the positive contribution it gave to the promotion of a bottom up and participatory approach in the work of the GFCM with an active participation of the Members. Because of this, we have just had last week a second validation meeting of the Task Force which helped us to advance in the amendment process which will be a complex and time consuming exercise. It will be our responsibility this week to advise the Commission on those recommendations that have to be made to follow through with this process. I personally think that the GFCM should be given a new set of constitutive texts and I trust on you identifying the means to reach this goal readily.

The reasons why we need a more modern GFCM are clear to everyone. I would like to comment however on a few features that would greatly empower the Commission. We have discussed at length about the need for the GFCM to adopt a sub-regional approach to fisheries management. This option would effectively address the specificities of the GFCM region, from the Western Mediterranean to the Black Sea. That would entail of course a reshuffling of the institutional framework of the GFCM and discussions held so far pointed to the need of harmonization with the FAO Regional Projects. The role of the FAO Regional Projects for the functioning of the GFCM has been of paramount importance and we should make sure that we can capitalize on the excellent work that has been done by the projects thus far. A shift toward a sub-regional approach to fisheries management could build upon the scientific advice by the projects and further assist Members in their efforts to manage fisheries responsibly. Obviously, this would be done in close proximity to the work by SAC. To this end, I would like to recall the need to facilitate the transposition of the outcomes emanating from SAC's work into the decision making process of the Commission. Although bearing in mind the need to separate scientific advice based on reliable data from political considerations, I think that the time has come for the GFCM to establish some sort of intermediate mechanism to help us in elaborating draft recommendations. This was ultimately reiterated by SAC at its last session.

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I cannot omit to comment on the 1st GFCM Framework Programme while I have the chance to address you. I deem impressive the progress that was achieved with this instrument that was presented to you only twelve months ago. Thanks to the contribution of those GFCM Members that have supported the launching of selected initiatives, which we will have the chance to review in the days to come, the GFCM Secretariat has tackled challenging matters such as the strengthening of data collection, the establishment of multiannual management plans and the fight against IUU fishing. By adopting the same approach used by the Task Force, through the FWP a network of national focal points was established and Members of the Commission were directly involved, including through new generation electronic means. I am well aware that much is ahead of us, but the FWP was conceived as a five years instrument that will promote sustainable development and cooperation in the GFCM area through enhanced management of fisheries and aquaculture. The way things started bodes well for what lies ahead of us and I would like to express my gratitude to representatives of Members, but also non Members, for the active cooperation and direct engagement in the activities under the FWP. Indeed, the FWP could help the GFCM to ultimately broaden its membership so that all riparian States in the region could commit to reach shared goals.

I would also like to express again my gratitude to the FAO and to its Regional Projects, AdriaMed, CopeMed, MedSudMed and EastMed, while hoping that their undertakings at sub-regional level will continue to improve cooperation within the framework of the GFCM. It is also my hope that a similar project could be also established for the Black Sea.

In concluding, I would like to remark that the current status of marine living resources calls for increase consciousness in order to promote responsible fisheries against the background of the blue economy in the interest of both fishers and fish in their natural environment. We have to do this while insisting on the important role that regional organizations can have, including within the framework of the FAO. Similarly, we have to recognize that structural reforms have to be supported by new generations approaches for the sake of transparency, participation and representaviness. This means that stakeholders, such as fishermen associations and NGOs, have to be more active in performing their observer roles.

I would like to wish you a successful and fruitful meeting that will bring to the fore clear indications concerning measures to be taken to further increase the efficiency of the GFCM.

Thank you for your kind attention,
S. Cataudella

Ms Monique Pariat, Director, Directorate D: Mediterranean and Black Sea, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission of the European Union

Dear Mr Kucič,
Dear Mr Mathiesen,
Dear Mr President,
Dear Mr Executive Secretary,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, on behalf of the European Union I would like to express a special thanks to the Government of Croatia, our future Member state, for hosting this 37th Session of the GFCM in Split, for its warm welcome and kind hospitality and for putting in place all the support needed for this event.

I would also like to thank the GFCM Secretariat for their excellent work during the intersession period and for making sure that our meetings run smoothly and efficiently.
Please allow me to start by underlining the relevance of the work undertaken by the Task Force so far, which provides a valuable basis for the future work on the modernisation of the GFCM. The EU renews its support for the process to assess if the current framework of the GFCM needs to be reviewed.

A second element deserving our special consideration is the outcome of last year's Session in Marrakech. In addition to the adoption of a number of recommendations aimed at improving the conservation state for vulnerable species such as sharks, cetaceans and red coral, an important step has been taken towards increased sustainability of fishing activities in the Mediterranean and Black Seas. The endorsement of the guidelines for a general management framework and presentation of scientific information for multiannual management plans for sustainable fisheries in the GFCM area paved the way for the establishment of management measures targeting shared stocks.

In this context GFCM programmed a number of activities at sub-regional level aimed at improving data collection and the data submission framework in the GFCM area. Subsequently joint workshops to test the feasibility of establishing long term management plans in these sub-regions are being held throughout 2013. We look forward to the outcomes of these tests.
Following the launch last year of the ad hoc Working Group for the Black Sea, a series of activities were planned in this particular sub-region in line with the priorities identified by the group. Today we can state that a number of these priorities such as the fight against IUU, data collection and the improvement of national capacity building for aquaculture have already been addressed. Other important activities in the field of stock assessment and the test for the feasibility of a management plan for turbot are also scheduled for 2013. This confirms the relevant role that GFCM is playing in the Black Sea.

In spite of all these recent positive achievements, we must be realistic and assume that improving the decisional framework of GFCM without providing the necessary tools to ensure its enforcement risks seriously weakening the efforts deployed so far.
I would like to therefore insist on the need to explore the possibility of establishing GFCM control and inspection schemes. This can be achieved by promoting cooperation among the parties and good practices. I am convinced that ensuring a level playing field in the region is an unavoidable condition if we want to harvest the deserved fruits. I therefore take this opportunity to encourage all parties to cooperate to this end.

This year the European Union is tabling three draft proposals in line with the scientific advice and with the recommendations of the SAC. These proposals concern the adoption of a management plan for small pelagic in the Adriatic, precautionary measures with a view to foster future management

plans and a set of minimum standards for bottom set nets in the Black Sea. We are convinced that, if adopted, these recommendations will constitute an important milestone for the consolidation of the management framework in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. These proposals may only have recently been sent from Brussels to the GFCM Secretariat as EU internal procedures require that these proposals be discussed and acknowledged by EU Member states before they are officially tabled. I hope, however, that the Parties have had the time to analyse them. We are looking forward to discussing the proposals in the plenary and we are ready to further improve their drafting and content with the assistance of all other delegations.

We are all facing times of crisis in the Region. We have therefore a collective duty to act in order to ensure a sustainable management of natural resources in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and to create jobs that could increase our competitiveness and provide hope for the future in this Region. In other words: we need to be ambitious.

GFCM is the place to promote enhanced dialogue and closer cooperation among coastal states. We are all here today to progress in this direction.

We are looking forward to participate in fruitful discussions and to obtain consistent progress in the form of concrete results

Thank you for your attention,
M. Pariat

APPENDIX D

List of documents

GFCM:XXXVII/2013/1	Provisional agenda and timetable
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/2	Report on intersessional activities for 2012-2013, recommendations and workplan for 2013–2014 related to fisheries issues
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/3	Report on intersessional activities for 2012–2013, recommendations and work plan for 2013–2014 related to aquaculture issues
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/4	Pending decision on the management of fishing capacity in the GFCM area (revised version)
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/5	Draft decision on the Management of Marine Protected Areas, including Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs) and Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) in the GFCM Convention Area
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/6	Report of the GFCM Committee on Administration and Finance
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/7	Report of the GFCM Compliance Committee
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/8	Report of the Secretariat on administrative and financial issues
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/9	GFCM budget and Members contributions for 2013
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/10	Draft amended GFCM Agreement and associated rules
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.1	Provisional list of documents
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.2	Agreement for the Establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, Rules of Procedures and Financial Regulations
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.3	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights by the European Union and its Member States
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.4	GFCM framework for cooperation and arrangements with Party Organizations
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.5	Report of the thirty-sixth session of the GFCM (Marrakech, Morocco, 14–19 May 2012)
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.6	Report of the fifteenth session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) (FAO HQ, Rome, Italy, 8–11 April 2013)
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.7	Report of the eighth session of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) (Paris, France, 13–15 March 2013)
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.8	Report of the second Task Force validation meeting (Split, Croatia, 10–11 May 2013) (Available only in English)
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.9	Report of the second session of the Working Group on the Black Sea (WGBS) (Bulgaria, 24–26 April 2013) (Available only in English)
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.10	Report of the Framework Programme sub-regional meeting on data collection for the Black Sea (Bulgaria, 22-23 April 2013) (Available only in English)

GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.11	Report of the Framework Programme sub-regional meeting on data collection for Western, Central and Eastern Mediterranean (Italy, 25–27 March 2013) (Available only in English)
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.12	Report of the Framework Programme subregional meeting on data collection and testing of the feasibility of implementing multiannual management plans in the Adriatic Sea (Croatia, 20–22 March 2013) (Available only in English)
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.13	Report of the joint GFCM/BSC workshop on IUU fishing in the Black Sea (Turkey, 25–27 February 2013) (Available only in English)
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.14	Report of the Concerted Action for Lebanon meeting (Italy, 3–4 December 2013) (Available only in English)
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.15	Conceptual note for the first GFCM regional Symposium on sustainable artisanal fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (October/November 2013) (Available only in English)
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.16	Major activities of the FAO Regional Projects in 2012-2013
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.17	Draft Regional Management Plan for red coral (Available only in English)
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Inf.18	Draft Recommendation on the establishment of a set of minimum standards for bottom-set gillnet fisheries for turbot and conservation of cetaceans in the Black Sea (Available only in English)
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Dma.1	First GFCM strategic Framework Programme (2013–2018) in support of Task Force activities (FWP) (Available only in English)
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Dma.2	Elasmobranchs of the Mediterranean and Black sea: status, ecology and biology. Bibliographic analysis (by Bradai M.N., Saidi B. and Enajjar S.). Studies and Reviews. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. No. 91
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Dma.3	Review of jellyfish blooms in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (by Boero F.). Studies and Reviews. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. No. 92
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Dma.4	Indicators for sustainable aquaculture in Mediterranean and Black Sea countries. Guide for the use of indicators to monitor sustainable development of aquaculture (by Fezzardi D. *et al.*, 2013). GFCM Studies and Reviews No. 93
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Dma.5	Age determination of elasmobranchs, with special reference to Mediterranean species: A technical manual (by Campana S.). Studies and Reviews. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. No. 94 (Advance copy)
GFCM:XXXVII/2013/Dma.6	Status of alien species in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (by Öztürk B.). Studies and Reviews. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. No. 87 (Advance copy)

APPENDIX E

Resolution GFCM/37/2013/1
on area based management of fisheries, including through the establishment of Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs) in the GFCM convention area and coordination with the UNEP-MAP initiatives on the establishment of SPAMIs

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

RECALLING the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), in particular Articles 118 and 119, whereby States are called upon, inter alia, to cooperate with each other in the conservation and management of living resources in the areas of the high seas, through sub-regional or regional fisheries organizations as appropriate, and to exchange data and scientific information relevant to the conservation of fish stocks through competent international organizations;

ALSO RECALLING also the 1995 United Nations 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, the objective of which is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, by inter alia, requiring States to cooperate in this respect through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements (RFMO/As) particularly in areas beyond national jurisdiction, and the provisions of the 1993 FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas.

TAKING NOTE of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the related International Plans of Action (IPOAs), Strategies and Guidelines which promote responsible fishing and fisheries activities, accounting for all their relevant biological, technological, economic, social, environmental and commercial aspects, whilst ensuring the protection of living aquatic resources and their environments and coastal areas;

ACKNOWLEDGING the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 61/105, 62/177, 63/112, 64/72, 65/38, 66/68 and 67/69 on Sustainable Fisheries, particularly those paragraphs which call upon flag States and RFMO/As to sustainably manage fish stocks and protect vulnerable marine ecosystems in general, as well as to manage bottom fisheries on the high seas, in order to prevent significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems and to ensure the long term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the 2009 FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas which guides States and RFMO/As to formulate and implement appropriate measures for the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas, through a range of management tools and measures necessary to ensure the conservation of target and non-target species, as well as affected habitats;

CONSIDERING the role of the GFCM, as a RFMO/A, and in particular as the FAO regional fishery body competent over the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources, and to these ends, to keep under review the state of these resources and the fisheries based thereon, as well as to formulate and recommend appropriate measures;

UNDERLYING that area-based management of fisheries is recognized to be an area-based management tool contributing to the maintenance and/or recovery of marine living resources to healthy state and the conservation of marine biodiversity important for the sustainable exploitation within an ecosystem approach to fisheries management , and that the GFCM has already taken action in this regard through the setting up of Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs);

WELCOMING the cooperation established, through Recommendation GFCM/31/2007/2, between the GFCM Secretariat and the Pelagos Secretariat on the exchange of data related to the *Pelagos Sanctuary for the Conservation of Marine Mammals*, recognized as a Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) by the Contracting Parties of the 1995 Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD) of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the definition of Fisheries Restricted Area as endorsed by the GFCM on the basis of a SAC formulation which stipulates that a FRA is a geographically defined area in which all or certain fishing activities are temporarily or permanently banned or restricted in order to improve the exploitation and conservation of harvested living acquatic resources or the protection of marine ecosystems;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the definition of SPAMI as stipulated by the Protocol SPA/BD of the Barcelona Convention;

DEEMING the memorandum of understanding adopted by FAO/GFCM and UNEP–Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) as the instrument that aims at promoting cooperation between these two organizations, within their respective mandates, including in harmonizing existing respective criteria to identify FRAs and SPAMIs for the cases where their location may be coincident, in particular those located partially or wholly on the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ);

WELCOMING the collaboration between GFCM and ACCOBAMS under the memorandum of understanding which foresees close collaboration in the elaboration of measures contributing to the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean and in the Black Sea;

RESOLVES that:

1. The designation of Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs) for the conservation and management of fisheries resources within an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, including for the cases where their location may be totally or partially coincident with that of SPAMIs shall be done by GFCM in particular for areas in the High Seas.

2. Paragraph 1 is without prejudice to actions taken by a GFCM Contracting Party and/or by a Cooperative Non-Contracting Party (hereinafter collectively referred to as CPCs) to excert their rights and fulfill their obligations for the designation of FRA, including fisheries management measures, within the waters under their sovereignity or jurisdiction.

3. The designation of a FRA by the GFCM shall be based on sound scientific and technical identification by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), based inter-alia on proposals by CPCs, Party Organizations, scientific institutions and observers, with a view to maintain and/or recovery of marine living resources to an healthy state while ensuring the conservation of marine biodiversity for the sustainable exploitation. The identification of a FRA shall follow as minimum standard those criteria and conditions as stipulated by the GFCM “Standard Form”.

4. In case GFCM intend to designate a FRA that may be totally or partially in a SPAMI such a decision may only be taken if appropriate cooperation and coordination have taken place between GFCM and UNEP/MAP and other competent regional organizations, such as ACCOBAMS.

5. The provisions in paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 are without prejudice to any collaboration which the GFCM may pursue with other party international organisations in connection with area-based management tools to promote the conservation of marine biodiversity with a view of sustainable exploitation in its Convention Area, including the Black Sea.

APPENDIX F

Resolution GFCM/37/2013/2
on Guidelines on the management of fishing capacity in the GFCM area

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

RECALLING that the objectives of the Agreement establishing the GFCM are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources;

FURTHER 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;

NOTING the International Plan of Action (IPOA) for the management of fishing capacity elaborated within the framework of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries which calls upon States to cooperate, where appropriate, through regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements and other forms of co-operation, with a view to ensuring the effective management of fishing capacity;

ENDORSING Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3 on the implementation of the GFCM Task 1 Statistical Matrix, Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/5 on the establishment of the GFCM Regional Fleet Register, Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/6 on the establishment of a GFCM record of vessels over 15 metres authorized to operate in the GFCM area, and Recommendation GFCM/34/2010/2 on the management of fishing capacity;

CONSIDERING that according to the advice by the GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) most demersal and small pelagic stocks are currently considered overexploited, some of which with high risk of overfishing, and that sustainable management requires measures aimed at controlling or reducing the fishing effort from 10% up to 40% and more;

EMPHASIZING that in cases where no scientific information on the status of fisheries and of exploited marine resources is available precautionary approach should be adopted;

ACKNOWLEDGING that any possible limitation of the fleet capacity at regional level shall not prevent or hinder transferability of fishing fleet capacity from one GFCM Member to another and from one geographical sub-area (GSA) to another, provided that the targeted fisheries are exploited sustainably and that the overall capacity does not increase;

RESOLVES that:

Definitions

"Capacity": an input-based estimate (i.e. vessels numbers, size (GT, LOA), engine power (kW)) or an output-based estimate, (i.e. the maximum potential harvest or output that could be realized if only the fixed factors limited production). As a minimum common standard GT and/or kW must be used to establish capacity.

"Fishing capacity": a fishing vessel's tonnage in GT and/or GRT and its engine power in kW. The fishing capacity level per GFCM Member shall be tantamount to the sum of its vessels expressed in tonnage (GT and/or GRT) and engine power (kW).

"Overcapacity": in input terms "overcapacity" means that there is more than the minimum fleet and effort required to produce a given output (e.g. harvested catch) level; in output terms,

"overcapacity" means that the maximum harvest level that a fishermen could produce with given levels of inputs (e.g. fuel, amount of fishing gear, ice, bait, engine horsepower and vessel size) would exceed the desired level of harvesting.

Principles

for the management of fishing capacity the following principles are relevant:

Responsible management for sustainable exploitation: the social and economic impacts of measures addressing overcapacity, including those that stop fishing activities and reduce fleet capacity, will be taken into account. Open access to fisheries is not an option compatible with sustainable exploitation of fisheries.

Overall fishing capacity: the levels of the overall fishing capacity in the GFCM area will be determined based on a national fishing capacity management plans and scientific advice.

Optimal fishing capacity: the optimal capacity in each fishery will reflect the balance between economic and biologically sustainable exploitation.

Capacity measurement: GFCM Members will ensure the successful and complete implementation of the regional Vessel Records and use the agreed regional fishing capacity measure units as established in the Recommendations GFCM 33/2009/5 and GFCM 34/2010/2, respectively.

Results-based management approach: GFCM Members will endeavour to apply a results based management approach in relation to the management of fishing capacity.

Long-term economic efficiency: short term profitability will not lead to investments that undermine long-term economic efficiency.

Safety: the management of fishing capacity will not preclude consideration of issues such as safety, including vessel design, size and ability to catch fish, as well as best practices in fish handling, hygiene and quality whilst ensuring that overall fishing capacity is not increased.

New technologies: The management of fishing capacity will take into account the incorporation of environmentally sound and evolving fishing technologies in all fisheries in the GFCM area.

Complementarity, coherence and consistency: GFCM Members will work to ensure that efforts to address the management of fishing capacity are complementary, coherent and consistent with current activities, actions and international commitments, including the ecosystem approach to fisheries.

Flexibility, adaptability, transparency and accountability: the principles of flexibility, adaptability, transparency and accountability are fundamental elements of management plans on fishing capacity.

Objective

GFCM, taking also in account the scientific advice by SAC including *inter alia* on updated stock assessments, on implication of possible extension/creation of EEZs and with the corresponding studies on socio-economic aspects, will provide guidance in the development and implementation of

actions at national level for the management of fishing capacity so to rationalize the management of fishing capacity at regional level.

This text is intended as guidelines only and is by no means binding to concerned Members.

Actions at national level

Pending availability of solid scientific evidence, the following actions may be implemented by GFCM Members and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) to manage fishing capacity (they shall be without prejudice to additional or stricter measures taken or to be taken for the management and reduction of national fleets and may consider existing measures in all GFCM Members):

- Take into consideration the advice by SAC on the current levels and options for desired levels of fishing capacity, including per GSA, in relation to fleet segmentation, fishing type, species and fishing gears.

- Undertake capacity reduction programs where there is evidence of overcapacity, consistent with the application of the precautionary approach.

- Use the agreed regional fishing capacity measure units, as established in Recommendation GFCM 33/2009/5.

- Evaluate the effects of modernization, new fishing practices, and technology creep on the management of their fishing capacity. In cases where fleet modernization programs are being undertaken, provide evidence to the GFCM Secretariat that overall capacity is not increasing.

- Consider the use of license-based fisheries systems in situations such as, but not limited to, fisheries restricted areas (FRAs).

- Freeze fishing capacity at levels in line with Recommendation 34/2010/2 based on and with reference to the GFCM Vessel Records. Should a CPC have an obsolete fleet/be in the process of developing its fleet/experience structural problems, it will promptly inform the GFCM Secretariat of the situation it hampered to freeze capacity at said levels.

- Consider the use of some limitations or other mechanisms in order to prevent negative impacts of the transfer of fishing capacity from one operational unit to another, thereby endangering the stability of biodiversity.

- Subject to the maintenance of the overall fishing capacity, fishing vessels larger than 15 metres LOA may be transferred from one GSA to another by those CPCs concerned. The GFCM shall consider the evaluation of the issue of fishing capacity for vessels shorter than 15m LOA, including small scale fisheries.

A mechanism will be developed to monitor fishing capacity levels through, *inter alia*, the regional vessel records and other data collection schemes. To this end, the GFCM Secretariat will be responsible for updating and displaying the current levels of fishing capacity in GFCM Members.

The Commission, through its Compliance Committee, will monitor the implementation of these actions through annual reports submitted by the CPCs. It will consider the update/further development of these actions every 3 years, including through binding recommendations and in light of any additional management measures that could be adopted in the meantime.

Rationalizing the management of fishing capacity at regional level

The rationalization of the management of fishing capacity at regional level will be facilitated through the use of the different financial, technical, administrative and legislative instruments available.

Financial instruments

Financial instruments will be used with caution knowing that even so-called “good” subsidies can create incentives to increase, rather than reduce, fishing capacity. Efforts towards disinvestments in the fisheries sector should be encouraged where overcapacity and sustainable exploitation may be a concern.

Any financial instrument designed to help fleets reductions will guarantee an efficient decrease in fleet capacity taking into consideration that continuous technological creep is also increasing fishing capacity.

Financial assistance with public funds for the management of fishing capacity shall not in any circumstance lead to an increase in the catch capacity or the power of fishing vessel's engines. Nonetheless, public financial assistance may contribute to improving safety on board, working conditions, hygiene and quality of products, energy saving and improve catch selectivity provided that it does not increase the ability of the vessels to catch fish. No public aid should be granted for the construction of fishing vessels or for the increase of vessel fish holds.

Financial investments/assistance with private funds will be allowed to operate only within an organized fisheries management framework designed and monitored to deliver sustainable exploitation on the basis of scientific advice and rationale management.

Technical instruments

Indicators of fishing capacity will be developed to evaluate the balance between fleet capacity and fishing opportunities – both qualitatively and quantitatively.

The efficiency of fishing gear and electronic equipment, such as those used for detecting fish, will be taken into consideration in the management of fleet capacity.

The collection of data at the national level regarding the status of various stocks – and particularly shared stocks – will underpin the management of fishing capacity;

The monitoring of fishing capacity will be supported by the use of existing tools, such as logbooks, catch documentation systems and VMS, as appropriate.

Administrative and legal instruments

Policies and regulatory frameworks in CPCs on the management of fishing capacity will be harmonized, including on the basis of relevant GFCM decisions regarding the management of fishing capacity and other relevant management measures, such as temporary closures or fisheries for other effort limitations.

A transparent entry/exit regime that applies to CPCs with the view to avoid future increases of overall fishing capacity will be established.

Measures on freezing fishing capacity, when necessary, will be adopted based on scientific evidence, best practices and lessons learned.

Regulation of new constructions and imports of fishing vessels

The freeze of fishing capacity is without prejudice to Members and CPCs who have substandard fishing fleets (e.g. navigation and safety capabilities), have obsolete fleets, are in the process of developing/upgrading their fleets, or have other structural problems. These countries are encouraged to follow this guidance to the extent possible.

For countries that can comply with this guidance, then in exceptional cases where scientific evidence shows that there are sustainable new fishing opportunities, keeping in mind best practices and lessons learned as well as socio-economic concerns for local communities, new constructions and/or imports of vessels may be allowed, but all new constructions will be certified to be in compliance with GFCM decisions by the competent authorities and reported to the GFCM Secretariat.

Furthermore, in situations where there may not be new fishing opportunities but there is a desire for new constructions or import of vessels, then there will be a system of control as follows:

- all new constructions shall have official authorisation;

- to authorize a new construction or import, it will be necessary the destruction or exit from the register of at least the same tonnage and power that the one intended to be built. Priority consideration should be given to situations which enable the transfer of capacity from fleet segments in which there is overcapacity;

- the tonnage and power of a new vessel will be equal to/less than the tonnage and power of vessel(s) removed from the register of active vessels (i.e. registered and currently fishing vessels).

Fishing licenses of withdrawn vessels should be transferred to the replacement vessel, taking into account that the indivisible “vessel unit” to transfer is composed of tonnage + power + fishing license.

Human resources development for management of fishing capacity

Communication and awareness programmes related to the management of fishing capacity will be established amongst stakeholders and the general public to make the problems of overcapacity known.

Effective participation of stakeholders, including women and fisheries organizations, will be supported by access to information and education. The diversification by fishermen engaged in non-fishing activities should be encouraged.

CPCs are encouraged to seek assistance in the monitoring of fishing capacity and in the development and implementation of national plans of action for the management of fishing capacity.

APPENDIX G

Recommendation GFCM/37/2013/1
on a multiannual management plan for fisheries on small pelagic stocks in the GFCM-GSA 17 (Northern Adriatic Sea) and on transitional conservation measures for fisheries on small pelagic stocks in GSA 18 (Southern Adriatic Sea)

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 proper utilization of living marine resources;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/27/2002/1 on the management of selected demersal and small pelagic species and, notably, Article 2 therein;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/30/2006/1 on the management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and small pelagic and, notably, Article 2 and 3 therein;

RECALLING the Guidelines on a general management framework and presentation of scientific information for multiannual management plans for sustainable fisheries in the GFCM area agreed during its 36 Session;

NOTING that for anchovy and sardine in GSA 17 the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) has recurrently advised not to increase the fishing effort and the fishing –mortality though the fishery is considered sustainable;

NOTING the strong changes occurred in 2010 as for the assessment of the status of the small pelagic stocks in GSA 17 that, with a view to focus scientists attention, call for a setting up of an agreed multiannual management system at multilateral level;

NOTING that for anchovy and sardine stocks in GSA 18 the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) is not yet in the position to establish a formal assessment

CONSIDERING that fishing mortality should be kept below safe thresholds to ensure long-term high yields while limiting the risk of stock collapse and guaranteeing stable and more viable fisheries

CONSIDERING that the small pelagic fishery is multispecies and that management decisions should therefore be taken considering at least both sardine and anchovy;

CONSIDERING that small pelagic stocks play a fundamental ecological role in transmitting biomass and energy from short trophic webs towards higher trophic levels;

CONSIDERING the socio-economic importance of fisheries exploiting small pelagic stocks and the need to ensure their sustainability

CONSIDERING that certain fisheries management measures need to be revised and adapted to the evolution of both the state of exploited stocks and of the scientific knowledge and that an appropriate method to this end shall be established;

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

PART I
General objectives, scope and definitions

General objectives of the multiannual plan

1. A multiannual management plan for the fisheries exploiting the small pelagic stocks in GFCM-GSA 17 "Northern Adriatic" must be developed and be coherent with the precautionary approach and designed to provide high long-term yields consistent with the maximum sustainable yield and to guarantee a low risk of stocks collapse while maintaining sustainable and relatively stable fisheries.

2. Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs) of GFCM whose vessels have been actively fishing for the small pelagic stocks including, inter alia, sardine, anchovy in GFCM GSA 17 agree to implement such a multiannual management plan for the fisheries concerned and in accordance with the general and specific objectives and measures set by this recommendation.

3. A set of transitional precautionary management measures for the fisheries exploiting the small pelagic stocks in GFCM-GSA 18 "Southern Adriatic" must be developed in order to ensure that, pending formal scientific advice from the SAC, the stocks and fisheries are kept out of undesirable state

4. Members and Cooperating non-Members of GFCM whose vessels have been actively fishing for the small pelagic stocks including, inter alia, sardine and anchovy in GFCM GSA 18 agree to implement such transitional management measures for the fisheries concerned and in accordance with the general and specific objectives set by this recommendation.

Geographical scope

5. The multiannual management plan provided by the present recommendation shall apply in the GFCM-GSA 17 "Northern Adriatic" as defined in Resolution GFCM/33/2009/2 which lies northward to the straight line connecting the point of 41° 55' N and 15° 08' E on the Italian coastline and the terrestrial border between Croatia and Montenegro.

6. The set of transitional measures provided by the present recommendation shall apply in the GFCM-GSA 18 "Southern Adriatic" as defined in Resolution GFCM/33/2009/2 which lies from the coast lines 41º 55’ N 15º 08’ E (Croatia–Montenegro border) and 40º 04’ N 18º 29’ (Albania–Greece border).

Definitions

7. For the purpose of this recommendation

a) Vessel actively fishing for small pelagic stocks: means any vessel equipped with either trawl nets, purse seiners or other type of surrounding nets where the total catch of small pelagic stocks of sardine, anchovy and sprat, account for at least 50% of the catch in live weight.

b) Fishing day: means any continuous period of 24 hours, or part thereof, during which a vessel is present within the GSA 17 and/or GSA 18 absent from port.

PART II
Specific objectives of the multiannual management plan for GSA 17 and of the transitional measures for GSA 18

8. Pending the identification of target reference points in line with the maximum sustainable yields, the general objectives of the plan set out in point 1 above shall be attained while maintaining:

a) the exploitation rate E (=F/Z) at less than 0.4 per year on appropriate age groups both for anchovy, sardine stocks while considering that the average natural mortality over the same age groups is of 0.81 for anchovy and 0.76 for sardine.

b) a precautionary mid-year spawning stock biomasses, estimated in a consistent manner with the same methodology, above 109 200 tonnes for sardine and 250 600 tonnes for anchovy (hereinafter SSBpa).

c) the levels of fishing fleet capacity and fishing effort at the levels authorized and exerted in the year 2011 for the exploitation of small pelagic stocks in GSA 17.

9. In the event that the mid-year spawning stock biomass level falls below 179 000 tonnes for anchovy or 78 000 tonnes for sardine (hereinafter SSBlim), the procedure under paragraph 16e shall apply.

10. The objective of the transitional measures for the small pelagic fishery in GSA 18 is to start preparing the ground for a future management plan while reducing the risk that, in the absence of relevant scientific assessment, the biomass level of the stock could drop below undesirable values with negative consequences also on the economic viability of the fisheries concerned.

PART III
Scientific monitoring, adaptation and revision of the plan

11. Members and Cooperating non-Members of GFCM shall ensure adequate annual scientific monitoring of the status of the small pelagic stocks in GSAs 17 and 18 in particular of sardine and anchovy as well as of the fisheries concerned.

12. SAC shall provide on annual basis as from 2014 advice on the status of the small pelagic stocks (sardine, anchovy) in GSA 17, including catch forecasts in line with the precautionary approach and the maximum sustainable yields, and in GSA18.

13. Based on the SAC advice, the GFCM may review the content of the management plan.

14. Whenever the GFCM, on the basis of advice from SAC, finds that the fishing mortality or the exploitation rate and associated spawning stock biomass levels, specified in point 8 are no longer appropriate to achieve the objectives specified in point 1 above, then it shall revise those exploitation rate and/or biomass levels accordingly.

15. Where SAC advice indicates that the general or specific objectives of the multiannual plan are not being met the GFCM shall decide on additional and/or alternative management measures to ensure that those objectives are met.

PART IV
Management measures

16. ***a***– When SAC considers that the mid-year spawning stock biomass level will continue to be equal or superior to 109 200 tonnes for sardine and 250 600 tonnes for anchovy in the subsequent year

and the exploitation rate has been less than 0.4, then the fishing effort, both in terms of capacity and fishing activity, for small pelagic shall be maintained at the level of 2011.

16. ***b***– When SAC considers that the mid-year spawning stock biomass level will continue to be equal or superior to 109 200 tonnes for sardine and 250 600 tonnes for anchovy in the subsequent year and the exploitation rate is above 0.4, then GFCM shall decide on the modalities to ensure that there is adequate adaptation of the fishing effort with respect to the fishing effort exerted the previous year, either in terms of capacity and/or fishing activity, for small pelagic

16. ***c***– When SAC considers that the size of the stock is below the precautionary mid-year spawning stock biomass level of 109 200 tonnes for sardine and 250 600 tonnes for anchovy and above or equal to the biomass limit reference point, as set in point 9 above, then GFCM shall decide on the modalities to ensure that the fishing effort exerted the previous year, either in terms of capacity and/or fishing activity, is adapted according to the highest ratio, amongst the two species, of the difference between the precautionary biomass and the current biomass levels with respect to the difference between the precautionary biomass level and the minimum biomass acceptable level. (*i.e*. SSBpa-SSBcurr)/(SSBpa-SSBlim).

16. ***d***– When SAC considers that the size of the stock of one of the two species (either anchovy or sardine) is above the biomass threshold reference point (SSBpa) whilst the current size of the stock of the other species is between the biomass limit reference point (SSBlim) and the biomass threshold reference point (SSBpa) then GFCM shall decide on the modalities to ensure that the fishing effort exerted the previous year by the small pelagic fishing fleets, either in terms of capacity and/or fishing activity, shall be:

i) kept unchanged if the stock size is greater than halfway between the SSBlim and SSBpa;
or
ii) adapted according to the difference between the precautionary biomass and the current biomass levels with respect to the difference between the precautionary biomass level and the minimum biomass acceptable level. (*i.e*. SSBpa-SSBcurr)/(SSBpa-SSBlim).

16. ***e***– When SAC considers that the size of the stock of one of the two species (either anchovy or sardine) is above the biomass threshold reference point (SSBpa) whilst the size of the stock of the other species is below the biomass limit reference point (SSBlim), then GFCM shall decide on the emergency measures to be taken in order to ensure a recovery of the stock, including closure of the fishery.

Such decision shall take into account the evaluation by SAC of the different alternative management scenarios as well as the market and socio-economic consequences that these scenarios could imply.

16. ***f***– Where for whatever reason (e.g. lack of appropriate data) the SAC is not in a position of providing an accurate advice on the state of the small pelagic stocks and on the exploitation level, GFCM shall decide on the most appropriate management measures to ensure sustainability of the fishery. These measures should be based on SAC recommendations taking into consideration the socio-economic elements pertaining to the relevant fishery. The revocation of these measures shall be subject to the availability of appropriate scientific advice.

17. As from 2015 and based on the assessment by SAC of the impact of management measures referred to under Article 16 a-f, GFCM may consider adopting additional measures including catch limitations to achieve the objectives of this plan for the small pelagic fisheries in GSA 17 and 18.

PART V
Technical Conservation Measures

18. Fishing for fry of small pelagic stocks shall be prohibited with all fishing gears in GSA 17 and GSA 18.

19. Anchovy and sardine smaller than the minimum conservation size in total length as reported below shall not be caught, retained on board, transshipped, transferred, stored, sold, displayed or offered for sale:

Anchovy	9 cm
Sardine	11 cm

The minimum size in length may be converted into 110 specimens per kg of anchovy and 55 specimens per kg of sardine. Specimens which are smaller than the minimum conservation size are hereby named "undersized specimens".

20. The areas of aggregation of anchovy and sardine juveniles in their first year of life shall be protected from fishing activities with fishing gears suitable to catch them. Members shall communicate to GFCM the areas and period protected to this scope by making reference to the GFCM statistical grids as established by Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/1[1].

21. Notwithstanding paragraph 19, when due to an unavoidable circumstances undersized specimens of anchovy and/or sardine have been effectively caught, masters of the catching vessel shall record those catches (estimated weight and numbers) of undersized specimens in a specific section of the logbook. Without prejudice to provisions foreseen in paragraph 19 and when a system of avoiding discards and obligation to land all catches has been established by a CPC, the master of the fishing vessel will not be allowed to discard those catches and shall therefore land the fish caught independently of the size of the fish caught in line with the provisions stipulated by the CPC. All quantities landed shall be recorded and shall not be displayed, offered for sale or used for human consumption.

CPCs implementing a landing obligations scheme shall notify its content and characteristics to the GFCM Secretariat in advance of the subsequent GFCM plenary session with a view to inform the other Parties.

PART VI
Fishing effort and fish capacity control

22. The Members and Cooperating non-Members of GFCM shall communicate to GFCM Secretariat, not later than 30 November 2013 the list of all trawlers (single and pair trawlers), purse seiners and surrounding nets without purse line authorized to fish for small pelagic stocks and registered in harbours located in GSAs 17 and 18 or operating in GSA 17 and/or 18 although registered in harbours located in other GSA at the date of 31 October 2013 (hereinafter referred to as the reference fishing capacity for small pelagic stocks).

Trawlers and purse seiners are classified as fishing actively for small pelagic stocks when sardine and/or anchovy accounts for at least 50% of the catch in live weight.

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[1] Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/1 concerning the establishment of a GFCM logbook, amending Recommendation GFCM/34/2010/1

The list shall contain for each vessel the information referred to in Annex I.

23. Any fishing vessel not included in the list established by point 22 above shall not be allowed to fish for, or retain on board or land any quantity greater than 20% of anchovy, and/or sardine if the vessel is engaged on a fishing trip in GSA 17 and/or GSA 18.

24. The CPCs of GFCM shall promptly notify the GFCM Secretariat of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the fishing fleets, as identified under point 22 above, for small pelagic stocks authorized to operate in GSA 17 and/or GSA 18 at any time such changes occur.

25. The GFCM Secretariat shall maintain updated the list of fishing vessels authorized to fish for small pelagic stocks in GSA 17 and/or GSA 18 and place it on the GFCM website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by Members.

26. The CPCs of GFCM shall ensure that the overall fleet capacity of trawlers and purse seiners actively fishing for small pelagic stocks in GSA 17, both in terms of gross tonnage (GT) and/or gross registered tonnage (GRT) and in engine power (kW), as recorded both in the national and in the GFCM fleet registers, does not exceed at any time the reference fishing capacity for small pelagic stocks as established under paragraph 22 above.

27. Trawlers and purse seiners for small pelagic stocks as identified in paragraph 22 second paragraph above, irrespective of the vessel's length overall, shall not operate for more than 5 fishing days per week and shall not exceed 180 fishing days per year.

28. Each CPC shall ensure to set up adequate mechanisms in terms of recording each fishing vessel in a national fleet register, of recording vessels' catches and fishing effort via both the logbook and the remote sensing and monitoring of fishing vessels activities and landings via catch and effort sampling surveys according to the rules stipulated by each CPC.

The above 1st subparagraph is without prejudice to Recommendation GFCM 33/2009/7 concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a vessel monitoring system in the GFCM area.

PART VII
National programmes for control, monitoring and surveillance

29. National control programmes for the implementation of the provisions of this recommendation shall be established by the concerned parties through specific plans. These plans shall contain the elements listed in Annex II and ensure, *inter alia*, a proper and accurate monitoring and recording of the monthly catches and fishing effort deployed so that a mechanisms is set-up at national level to avoid fishing effort overshooting.

30. Those national control programmes and plans shall be communicated each year to the GFCM Secretariat, during the last quarter of the precedent year and not later than 30 October each year. If the GFCM finds a serious fault in the plans submitted by a CPC and cannot endorse the plan, the GFCM shall decide by mail vote, by 15 December, on the suspension of small pelagic fisheries for the CPC concerned in the subsequent year. The Compliance Committee shall adopt specific rules and procedures to prepare the necessary examination.

31. CPCs non-submitting the plan by the deadline specified in paragraph 30 above, are not allowed to carry out the small pelagic fisheries in the area until the plan is submitted and endorsed by the GFCM.

Appendix G/Annex I

The list referred to in Part VI, Point 22 shall contain for each vessel the following information:

- Name of vessel
- Vessel register number (code assigned by Members)
- GFCM registration number (country ISO 3-alpha code + 9 digits, e.g. xxx000000001)
- Port of registration (full name of the port)
- Previous name (if any)
- Previous flag (if any)
- Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
- International radio call sign (if any)
- VMS (indicate Y/N)
- Vessel type , length overall and gross tonnage (GT) and/or gross registered tonnage (GRT) and engine power expressed in kW
- Name and address of owner(s), and/or charter and/or operator(s)
- Main target species
- Main gear(s) used for small pelagic and fleet segment allocation and operational unit as identified in TASK 1 statistical matrix
- Time period authorized for fishing with pelagic trawlers or purse seiners for small pelagic (if any of such authorization)

Appendix G/Annex II

Guidelines for the preparation of specific monitoring and control plans for small pelagics in the Adriatic Sea

Specific monitoring and control plans shall clearly define the following:

a) Means of control

Description of human, technical and financial means specifically available for the implementation of the plans. Particular attention shall be given to the description of the patrol vessels, including details on the organisms managing them as well as their spatial and temporal autonomy and on board facilities (number of beds, etc.).

b) Annual fishing plans

The details of any system in place for national monitoring and control of the fishing plan. The methodology to ensure the respect of rules of recording of catches (completion/submission of logbooks; landing declarations and sales notes) and the mechanisms established to cross-check and verify information received from different sources.

c) Sampling methodologies

Each country shall specify and describe which sampling strategy will be applied to verify weighing of catches at first sale as well as sampling strategy for vessels not subject to logbook/landing declaration rules.

d) Inspection protocols

Define inspection tasks and procedures in accordance with inspections and proceedings to ensure in particular continuity of evidences observed during inspections.

e) Guidelines

Explanatory guidelines for inspectors, producer's organizations and fishermen, regarding the set of rules in place for the small pelagic fishery:

- ✓ Rules of completion of various documents including completion of inspection reports, fishing logbooks, transshipment declarations, landing and take-over declarations, transport documents, sales notes,
- ✓ Technical measures in force, including mesh size and/or mesh dimensions, minimum catching size, temporary restrictions, etc.,
- ✓ Sampling strategies,
- ✓ Cross-check mechanisms

f) Inspection benchmarks

- ✓ Objective

Each country shall set specific inspection benchmarks in accordance with risk-based methodologies.

- ✓ Strategy

Inspection and surveillance of fishing activities shall concentrate on fishing vessels likely to catch small pelagic. In addition to specific benchmarks defined, random inspections of transport and marketing of this species shall be used as a complementary cross-checking mechanism to test the effectiveness of inspection and surveillance. Moreover the strategies and action plans for the control of markets and transport shall be included.

✓ Priorities

When defining risks, different gear types shall be subject to different levels of prioritization, depending on the extent to which the fleets are affected by fishing opportunity limits. For that reason, each country shall set specific priorities.

✓ Target benchmarks

Member countries shall implement their inspection schedules taking account risk based methodologies and defining specific targets. Minimum benchmarks are defined below.

- Level of inspection in ports
  - As a general rule, the accuracy to be achieved should be at least equivalent to what would be obtained by a simple random sampling method, where inspections shall cover 20 % of all landings of small pelagic by weight in the country.

- Level of inspection of marketing
  - Inspection of 5 % of the quantities of small pelagic offered as first sale.

- Level of inspection at sea

Flexible benchmark: to be set after a detailed analysis of the fishing activity in each area by analysing VMS tracks and the results of aerial surveillance. Benchmarks at sea shall refer to the number of patrol days at sea in the management areas.

g) Joint operations

Concerned countries shall define together on joint actions at sea and ashore to fight against illegal and unrecorded catches. That joint actions shall de defined in accordance with control and inspection criteria and priorities agreed between them.

APPENDIX H

Recommendation GFCM/37/2013/2
on the establishment of a set of minimum standards for bottom-set gillnet fisheries for turbot and conservation of cetaceans in the Black Sea

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 proper utilization of living marine resources;

RECALLING the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development of 2002 and in particular its Plan of Implementation;

REAFFIRMING the principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and recalling the precautionary and ecosystem approach to fishery management;

RECOGNIZING that some fishing operations carried out in the Convention area can adversely affect marine mammals and there is a need to implement measures to mitigate these adverse effects;

RECOGNIZING that these fishing operations shall be consistent with the sustainable exploitation and conservation of the fish species targeted

AIMING to improve the knowledge about the impact that certain fisheries have on marine mammals

AIMING to reduce the incidental taking of marine mammals in certain fisheries

TAKING into account the SAC advice on the need to endorse measures for the reduction of the by-catch of marine mammals

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

PART I
Scope

1. Members and cooperating non-Members of GFCM shall adopt fisheries management measures in the Black Sea Region to ensure adequate conservation of turbot

2. Members and cooperating non-Members of GFCM shall adopt fisheries management measures to study, monitor, prevent, reduce and, to the extent possible, eliminate incidental taking of cetaceans during fishing operations.

PART II
Definitions

3. For the purposes of this Recommendation the following definitions shall apply:

- "Black Sea" means the GFCM geographical sub-area n° 29 as defined in resolution GFCM/33/2009/2
- "Turbot" means fishes pertaining to the species *Psetta maxima*
- "Picked dogfish" means fishes pertaining to the species *Squalus acanthias*
- "Bottom-set gillnet" means any net made up of a single piece of net held vertically in the water by floats and weights fixed or capable of being fixed by any means to the bottom of the sea and maintain the gear in place either close to the bottom or floating in the water column.
- "Mesh size" means:
    - For knotted netting: the longest distance between two opposite knots in the same mesh when fully extended (stretched mesh);
    - Fr knotless netting: the inside distance between the opposite joints in the same mesh when fully extended (stretched mesh) along its longest possible axis.

PART III
Fisheries management measures related to Turbot in the Black Sea

4. Members and cooperating non-Members of GFCM shall ensure that turbot in Black Sea waters is exclusively fished using bottom-set gillnets and that the following conditions are respected:

- Mesh size is greater or equal to 400 mm

The mesh size of the net shall be determined as the mean value of the series of 20 selected meshes; in case of different mesh sizes in the fishing net, the meshes shall be selected from the part of the fishing net having the smallest meshes.

Meshes shall be measured only when wet and unfrozen; meshes that have been broken or have been repaired shall not be included.

- Turbot with a size less than 45 cm measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail fin (total length) shall not be caught

PART IV
Fisheries management measures for the mitigation of marine mammals' by-catch

5. In order to mitigate the impact of bottom-set gillnet fisheries on marine mammals' populations, Members and cooperating non-Members of GFCM shall ensure that monofilament or twine diameter shall not exceed 0.5 mm.
Monofilament or twines shall be assessed when unfrozen.
Monofilament of twines within a mesh that are broken or have been repaired shall not be selected

6. Members and cooperating non-Members of GFCM should set up adequate monitoring in order to collect reliable information on the impact that bottom-set gillnets targeting picked dogfish have on cetaceans' populations in the Black Sea.

APPENDIX I

Guidelines on precautionary conservation measures pending the development and adoption of GFCM multiannual management plans for relevant fisheries at sub-regional levels 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 Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development of 2002 and in particular its Plan of Implementation;

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;

REAFFIRMING the principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and recalling the precautionary and ecosystem approach to fishery management;

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/27/2002/1 on the management of selected demersal and small pelagic species;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/30/2006/1 on the management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and small pelagic and calling to develop a management programme of fishing effort in several geographical sub-areas as well as in adjacent sub-areas as relevant;

CONSIDERING that fishing mortality should be kept below safe thresholds to ensure long-term high yields while limiting the risk of stock collapse and guaranteeing stable and more viable fisheries

CONSIDERING that the small pelagic fishery is multispecies and that management decisions should therefore be taken considering at least both sardine and anchovy;

CONSIDERING that small pelagic stocks play a fundamental ecological role in transmitting biomass and energy from short trophic webs towards higher trophic levels;

CONSIDERING the socio-economic importance of fisheries exploiting small pelagic stocks and the need to ensure their sustainability

CONSIDERING that certain fisheries management measures need to be revised and adapted to the evolution of both the state of exploited stocks and of the scientific knowledge and that an appropriate method to this end shall be established;

CONSIDERING that the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) in its recurrent scientific advices consider that several stocks are subject to high overfishing and that sustainable management requires measures aimed at controlling or reducing the fishing effort and to improve the exploitation pattern safeguarding the juveniles;

RECALLING Resolution GFCM/2009/1 on the management of demersal fisheries in the GFCM area resolving that unless proven unnecessary by sound scientific advice, a reduction of a minimum of 10% of bottom trawling fishing effort shall be applied in all GFCM areas;

RECALLING the Guidelines on a general management framework and presentation of scientific information for multiannual management plans for sustainable fisheries in the GFCM area agreed at its 36th Session (hereinafter named GFCM guidelines for management plans);

*CONSIDERIN*G that preventing actions are needed to counteract and control excessive fishing mortality levels pending the development and adoption of the multiannual management plans for the relevant stocks and fisheries concerned;

DETERMINED to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of exploited marine living resources with particular attention to straddling fish stocks and on fish stocks exploited by more than one Member of the GFCM;

RESOLVES, that:

PART I
Fostering multiannual management plans

1. Members and Cooperating non-Members of GFCM (hereafter referred to as CPCs), whose vessels exploit either the small pelagic or demersal stocks such as the one listed in Annex I and which may be exploited by more than one CPC in any of the GFCM Geographic Subareas (GSAs) in particular in the high seas, are encouraged to develop, whenever advisable and through regional and sub-regional cooperation, joint fisheries management measures. Such measures, which ideally could be based on national management plans, should contribute to the development of multiannual management plans for the mixed fisheries concerned that may be subsequently be the basis for management plans by GFCM.

The list of species in Annex I from which CPCs can choose the species or the mix of species considered to be a priority for their fisheries, is not deemed to be exhaustive and may be revised on the basis of either SAC advice or on demand of CPCs. Notwithstanding Annex I, upon request from a CPC the SAC may include additional relevant species, in the analysis of different management scenarios for the development of multiannual management plans for the fisheries concerned at sub-regional level.

The management measures to be identified shall be based on the evaluation of different management scenarios by SAC and shall be in line with the GFCM guidelines for management plans and, in particular, with the following general objectives:

- to counteract and/or to prevent overfishing with a view to ensure the sustainable economic viability of fisheries;
- to provide high long-term yields;
- to restore and/or to maintain, to the extent possible, the stock size of harvested species at least at levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield;
- to guarantee a low risk of stocks falling outside safe biological limits;
- to ensure protection of biodiversity;
- to avoid undermining ecosystems' structure and functioning.

2. The coordination and cooperation among concerned CPCs, as referred to in paragraph 1, shall be further promoted with a view for GFCM to adopt further multiannual management plans for fisheries concerning more than one CPC, if possible as from 2014. The process to develop and adopt the multiannual management plans is not constrained by an ending date to accomplish such a goal.

3. Notwithstanding provisions under paragraph 1, fisheries exploiting marine living resources exclusively distributed in territorial waters or in waters under national jurisdiction of a coastal State, which are not exploited by more than one CPC, shall not be included in a GFCM multiannual plan, unless specifically requested by the concerned CPC.

4. In view of allowing CPCs to develop the approach referred to in paragraph 1, they are encouraged to ensure:

a. the quality and completeness of the primary data collected under their national programmes, and for the detailed and aggregated data derived therefrom which are transmitted to the GFCM Secretariat for SAC scientific analysis as a basis for advice on different management scenarios for sustainable fisheries

b. an adequate annual scientific monitoring and data gathering both on the exploitation levels of their fisheries and of the status of the marine living resources exploited by them. To this end appropriate data shall be collected, analysed and made available at SAC working groups and Subcommittees meetings for assessment of the stocks.

5. Notwithstanding data submission through the TASK I statistical matrix as requested by recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3, the GFCM Secretariat, on behalf of SAC, may request, through specific calls, the detailed and aggregated data needed to perform the scientific and impact assessment analysis. The GFCM Secretariat with the assistance of the SAC, and on the basis of advice by its Subcommittees, is requested to provide the format for the data submissions

6. With a view to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of the SAC scientific advice-making process, the CPCs may coordinate themselves at sub-regional level to facilitate the sharing of data and carrying out of preliminary scientific analysis to be subsequently presented and discussed at the SAC working groups and its Subcommittees. Scientific analysis done outside the SAC working groups must be presented using the SAC Assessment Forms including the input and output tables together with the diagnostic of the method(s) applied. As appropriate, the GFCM and its CPCs should individually and collectively, engage in capacity building efforts and other research cooperatives activities to improve knowledge on fisheries and exploited stocks.

7. Pending the adoption of multiannual management plans, elaborated through the sub-regional working groups, management measures (e.g. fishing effort, seasonal closures, minimum size, selectivity and characteristics of fishing gears, etc.) will be defined at sub-regional level by stock or group of stocks.

PART II
Improvement of the exploitation pattern

8. Pending the adoption of the management plans the CPCs shall promote more selective fisheries to improve their exploitation patterns with a view to reduce and eliminate, to the extent possible, discards while avoiding capture of juveniles at least below a certain minimum conservation size.

9. CPCs are encouraged to apply, on a voluntary basis, the minimum conservation size as indicated in Annex 2 of these guidelines.

10. When a CPC decides to apply such conservation size, a marine organism which is smaller than the minimum conservation size specified in Annex 2 (hereinafter undersized marine organism) shall not be caught, retained on board, transhipped, transferred, sold, displayed or offered for sale.

11. The size of marine organism shall be measured in accordance with the following criteria:

a. total length (from the tip of the snout to the end of the tailfin) for finfishes,

b. for crustaceans

i. either the length of carapace, parallel to the midline, from the back of either eye socket to the midpoint of the distal dorsal edge of the carapace

or

ii. the total length, from the tip of the rostrum to the rear end of the telson not including the setae where present.

12. If more than one method of measuring size is permitted, the marine organisms shall be deemed to be of the required size if at least one of the stipulated measurements is equal to or greater than the relevant minimum conservation size.

13. Provisions under paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 above are without prejudice to stricter measures adopted by a CPC.

14. Notwithstanding paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 when due to unavoidable circumstances undersized marine organisms have been actually caught, the master of the catching vessel shall record those catches of undersized specimens (estimated weight and numbers) in a specific section of the logbook.

15. Without prejudice to provisions foreseen in paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 when a system of avoiding discards and obligation to land all catches has been established by a CPC, the master of the fishing vessel will not be allowed to discard those catches and shall therefore land the fish caught independently of the size of the fish caught in line with the provisions stipulated by the CPC. All quantities landed shall be recorded and shall not be displayed, offered for sale or used for human consumption.

16. CPCs implementing a landing obligations scheme as stipulated by paragraph 17 shall notify its content and characteristics to the GFCM Secretariat in advance of the subsequent GFCM plenary session with a view to inform the other Parties.

17. SAC is requested to provide synoptic tables reporting, for the main demersal resources exploited by the bottom trawl and bottom-set nets Operational Units at subregional level and, where possible by GSA, the following information:

a. the minimum size of maturity,
b. the sizes at first maturity (25%; 50% and 75%)
c. the minimum size of capture
d. the size at first capture (25%, 50% and 75%)

Priority shall be given to cover the FAO Subareas 37.3 (Eastern Mediterranean) and 37.4 (Black Sea).

18. CPCs implementing on a voluntary basis provisions stipulated in paragraphs 9 and 10 shall notify the modalities and conditions of application at national level to the GFCM Secretariat in advance of the subsequent GFCM plenary session with a view to inform the other Parties.

APPENDIX I/Annex I

Indicative list of species*, from which CPCs can choose the species or the mix of species considered to be a priority for their fisheries, that may be included in regional or sub-regional multiannual management plans by fishery(ies).

Aristaeomorpha foliacea	ARS	Giant red shrimp
Aristeus antennatus	ARA	Blue and red shrimp
Coryphaena hippurus	DOL	Common dolphinfish
Dicentrarchus labrax	BSS	Sea bass
Eledone cirrhosa	OCM	Horned octopus
Eledone moschata	OCM	Musky octopus
Engraulis encrasicolus	ANE	Anchovy
Eutrigla gurnardus	GUG	Grey gurnard
Helicolenus dactylopterus	BRF	Rockfish
Illex coindetii	SQM	Broadtail squid
Lophius budegassa	ANK	Black-bellied angler
Lophius piscatorius	MON	Anglerfish
Merlangius merlangus	WHG	Whiting
Merluccius merluccius	HKE	European hake
Micromesistius poutassou	WHB	Blue whiting
Mugilidae	MUL	Grey mullets
Mullus barbatus	MUT	Red mullet
Mullus surmuletus	MUR	Striped red mullet
Mustelus mustelus		smoothound
Nephrops norvegicus	NEP	Norway lobster
Pagellus acarne	SBA	Axillary seabream
Pagellus bogaraveo	SBR	Blackspot seabream
Pagellus erythrinus	PAC	Common Pandora
Parapenaeus longirostris	DPS	Deep water rose shrimp

Phycis blennoides	GFB	Greater forkbeard
Psetta maxima	TUR	Turbot
Raja clavata	RJC	Thornback ray
Raja asterias		Starry ray
Raja clavata		Thornback ray
Raja miraletus		Brown ray
Rapana venosa	RPW	Rapa whelk
Sardina pilchardus	PIL	Sardine
Scomber spp.	MAZ	Mackerel
Sepia officinalis	CTC	Common cuttlefish
Solea solea	SOL	Common sole
Spicara smaris	SPC	Picarel
Sprattus sprattus	SPR	Sprat
Squalus acanthias	DGS	Piked dogfish
Squilla mantis	MTS	Spottail mantis squillids
Trachurus mediterraneus	HMM	Mediterranean horse mackerel
Trachurus trachurus	HOM	Horse mackerel
Trigla lucerna (= Chelidonichthys lucerna)	GUU	Tub gurnard
Trisopterus minutus capelanus	POD	Poor cod

***** Subject to further advice from the SAC

APPENDIX I/Annex II

Minimum conservation size of marine organisms

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Minimum size
1. Fishes		
Engraulis encrasicolus *	European anchovy	9 cm
Merluccius merluccius	Hake	20 cm
Mullus spp.	Red mullets	11 cm
Pagellus bogaraveo	Red sea-bream	33 cm
Pagellus erythrinus	Common pandora	15 cm
*Sardina pilchardus***	European sardine	11 cm
Solea solea	Common sole	20 cm
2. Crustaceans		
Nephrops norvegicus	Norway lobster	20 mm CL 70 mm TL
Parapenaeus longirostris	Deep water rose shrimp	20 mm CL

(*) Anchovy: CPCs may convert the minimum size into 110 specimens per kg;

(**) Sardine: CPCs may convert the minimum size into 55 specimens per kg;

APPENDIX J

Roadmap on fighting IUU fishing in the Black Sea[2]

ASPECTS TO BE ADDRESSED	PROPOSED ACTIONS TO FIGHT IUU FISHING IN THE BLACK SEA	OBJECTIVES/METHODOLOGY
Political and Institutional Aspects	Political will of the six Black Sea riparian States will be needed at one point to tackle IUU fishing	To address IUU fishing in any future relevant document to be discussed and agreed upon by the six Black Sea riparian States
	Strengthen mechanisms to facilitate cooperation and coordination among Black Sea riparian States, including through existing international and regional agreements, and encourage governments to integrate their body of law (also see Appendix E) to harmonize fisheries regulations and laws	Efforts to fight IUU fishing in the Black Sea should depart from the implementation of existing measures. Black Sea riparian States should more promptly cooperate with existing international and regional agreements
Legal Aspects	Develop a regional plan of action to fight IUU fishing and related activities in the Black Sea *Elaborate an inventory of the existing legal instruments*	The lack of common rules shared by Black Sea riparian States, coupled with the joint dimension of the problems posed by IUU fishing, calls for the elaboration of a regional plan of action to fight IUU fishing tailored for the Black Sea. This could be done on the basis of the FAO IPOA-IUU/other relevant instruments
	Elaborate a regional strategy to regulate small-scale fisheries in the Black Sea *Prepare a background document about the importance of small-scale fisheries for the next Symposium in November 2013*	Small-scale fisheries account for important share of the fish caught in the GFCM area. They have a huge value, also cultural, and have often been overlooked by policy making, including in the Black Sea. Black Sea riparian States are invited to actively participate in the first GFCM Symposium on Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (Malta, November 2013) and report there on salient aspects of this sector. Also, they are invited to attend the FAO technical consultations to be held in May 2013 (Rome)

[2] Including comments, in italics and underlined, by the Working Group on the Black Sea (WGBS) (Varna, Bulgaria, 24-26 April 2013)

ASPECTS TO BE ADDRESSED	PROPOSED ACTIONS TO FIGHT IUU FISHING IN THE BLACK SEA	OBJECTIVES/METHODOLOGY
Scientific Aspects	Develop and agree on standard methodologies to evaluate illegal, unreported and unregulated catches in support of stock assessments	Species to be considered are anchovy, horse mackerel, sprat, sturgeon, spiny dogfish, turbot and whiting. A collection of existing studies would be necessary as a basis for the work
	Inventory of data collection frameworks existing at national level *Propose to circulate the questionnaires for data collection to the non GFCM members (in collaboration with BSC).*	Because data collection is limited in scope and national systems in the Black Sea region lack harmonization, existing gaps and needs should be appraised. The inventory should be carried out within the remit of those GFCM Framework Programme actions relating to data collection (Varna, Bulgaria, April 2013)
	Provide technical assistance to strengthen capacity in the domain of data collection/processing/analysis/sharing *Identify training activities for the next WGBS meeting.*	Consider the possibility of endowing the BSC and the GFCM with efficient and reliant data submission systems through technical support to Black Sea riparian States
	Strengthen national statistical systems of Black Sea riparian States, including through the elaboration of common formats for reporting of data and establishing regional common database *The replies to the questionnaires should be considered first by the AGLFOMR and secondly by the SCSI meetings.*	*Ad hoc* measures should be identified (e.g. separate landings of sprat from those of anchovies) and referred to the ongoing actions relating to data collection within the remit of the GFCM Framework Programme. Focal points of Black Sea riparian States should work together, including by sharing software employed by their fishing vessels, and use as reference point existing statistical frameworks
	Promote scientific research in the Black Sea through FAO Regional Projects (e.g. BlackSeaFish), the GFCM Framework Programme and any other relevant project *Results of ongoing Projects should be reported to the WGBS, which can facilitate identifying priorities for further actions.*	Existing initiatives should be pursued in order to build up regional undertakings in the scientific domain

ASPECTS TO BE ADDRESSED	PROPOSED ACTIONS TO FIGHT IUU FISHING IN THE BLACK SEA	OBJECTIVES/METHODOLOGY
Technical Aspects	Elaborate a catalogue of fishing gears and vessel types used in the Black Sea *The WGBS was informed that a new book, to be published by October 2013, included a chapter on fishing gear in Black Sea. (countries' initiatives). Find complementarities, if any, with the proposed catalogue.* *Ensure that the GFCM catalogue includes in the possible additional information could include statistics of the different type of gears used by the different fleet segments.*	Available information should be collected by Black Sea riparian States and the GFCM could be the repository of this information
	Scientific studies on selectivity should be collected. On the basis of gaps identified in the studies, further papers should be drafted	Particular attention should be given in studies to the implications for reducing by catch, particularly of cetaceans, and discards. The positive and negative implications of monofilaments should be considered
	MPAs have to be properly managed according to existing rules in place in the Black Sea. Further studies should be carried out to assist States in establishing MPAs in the Black Sea *Establish a Fisheries Restricted Area in the longer term*	A network of MPAs in the Black Sea should be established and Black Sea riparian States should consider the creation of Fishing Restricted Areas through GFCM, where necessary
	Study the mitigation of the impacts of IUU fishing on cetaceans	In view of mitigating the impacts of IUU fishing on cetaceans, a project should be launched under the auspices of ACCOBAMS, BSC and the GFCM
	Standardization of the following instruments of management in the Black Sea would be required: fishing seasons, fishing areas, minimum length size of priorities species, registering and marking of fishing gears, technical specifications for mesh size, mitigation of by-catch and banning or progressive reduction of discards *The WGBS and BSC should dedicate effort to propose ways of harmonizing existing measures among riparian countries*	Under the guidance of the GFCM Working Group on the Black Sea, Black Sea riparian States should elaborate recommendations on the basis of relevant technical elements for the States to adopt. Other potential fora should be also considered

ASPECTS TO BE ADDRESSED	PROPOSED ACTIONS TO FIGHT IUU FISHING IN THE BLACK SEA	OBJECTIVES/METHODOLOGY
Technical Aspects	Perform joint stock assessments of priority species *The first Working Group on stock assessment for the black sea will be organized in Oct-Nov 2013 together with some training sessions. It is suggested that this first exercise will be for shared stocks. An effort has to be done to collate information from different countries on a limited number of priority species (turbot, sprat, anchovy and whiting) and to be prepared in advance to perform this joint assessment exercise.*	Black Sea riparian States, including through the FAO and UNEP, should seek funding opportunities to support research in the Black Sea. The results of stock assessments performed for priority species should be brought to the GFCM Working Group on Stock Assessment, the GFCM Sub Committee on Stock Assessment and the BSC
	Carry out joint surveys at sea (demersal and small pelagic species) *Prepare a cooperation programme for extending the current survey protocols being carried out at present to the other countries.*	Launch common initiatives, including through the FAO/GFCM framework, for the direct evaluation of the status of the priority species
Socio-economic and Educational Aspects	Awareness campaigns for the protection of Black Sea fisheries against IUU fishing should be launched	A network of relevant actors in the Black Sea should be established to raise awareness. The establishment of a network of experts through the BSC and the GFCM could be instrumental to this action
	Facilitate the development and involvement of NGOs, professional associations and the civil society in the management of Black Sea fisheries	The current lack of participation of NGOs should be considered by Black Sea riparian States and their contribution to the conservation of the Black Sea ecosystems and the sustainable use of their living resources could benefit from their involvement
	Invite the public opinion not to criminalize the fishery sector as a whole because of some IUU practices	The alarming recourse to violence in relation to IUU fishing activities in the Black Sea has to be duly addressed. Black Sea riparian States should endeavour to promote the positive role of fisheries
	Promote sustainable aquaculture activities	Opportunities for the development of aquaculture in the Black Sea should be sought. The GFCM, through its CAQ, and EIFAAC, could cooperate to assist Black Sea riparian States

ASPECTS TO BE ADDRESSED	PROPOSED ACTIONS TO FIGHT IUU FISHING IN THE BLACK SEA	OBJECTIVES/METHODOLOGY
MCS related Aspects	Improve market control and traceability mechanisms and take measures to minimize the trade of IUU products	A deterrent system to fight IUU fishing would have to ensure that controls are performed from the net to the plate. Work done by the FAO and the GFCM could be taken into account as well as the requirements by EU regulations. Market related measures should be developed, departing from the IPOA IUU of the FAO
	Joint adaptive inspection schemes and national observer programmes have to be envisaged	Coordination among controlling organs operating at regional level (e.g. coast guard, border guards and financial police) would have to be pursued, including through the existing regional network of coast guards in the Black Sea
	Carry out joint training of fisheries inspectors and other enforcement authorities	Common training based on best practices on controls in the six Black Sea riparian States should be organized. The GFCM could organize training sessions with the cooperation of the EU (European Commission and if so agreed, the European Fisheries Control Agency)
	Reinforce MCS and develop cost effective options to that end	Facilitate, through competent organizations, technical assistance and capacity building opportunities for the control of fishing fleets, including through VMS, in the Black Sea

APPENDIX K

Report of the seventh session of the Committee of Compliance (CoC)

Split, Croatia, 14 May 2013

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The seventh session of the Compliance Committee (CoC) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) was held in Split, Croatia, on 14 May 2013. The session was attended by delegates of 21 Members, 1 non Member (Russian Federation) and representatives of several intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

2. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr Samir Majdalani, who welcomed participants and presented the intersessional activities of CoC on the basis of document COC:VII/2013/2.

3. The Chairman drew the attention of the meeting on the statement of competence and voting rights by the EU and its Member States (document COC:VII/2013/Inf.4).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

4. The meeting adopted the agenda without changes, as reproduced in Annex A.

5. The documents before the committee are listed under Annex B.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF GFCM DECISIONS BY MEMBERS

6. Mr Federico De Rossi, from the GFCM Secretariat, introduced document COC:VII/2013/Inf.5 and noted that 13 national reports (Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, EU, Japan, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey) on the status of implementation of GFCM decisions had been received, corresponding to 54 percent of the Members. He underlined that this represented an improvement compared to the previous year. In spite of the progress recorded, the implementation of GFCM decisions by Members was deemed to be uneven. Difficulties would remain in particular for the implementation of recommendation relating to monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS).

7. In this respect, the delegate of Egypt confirmed that MCS remained a problematic area for his country, with specific regard to the establishment of a vessel monitoring system (VMS) due to various constraints. However, he reported that enhanced controls would result in empowering fishermen and in assisting national administrations for the sake of responsible management of fisheries. He also reported that Egypt was testing alternative technologies to VMS with local engineers and the assistance of the Secretariat in order to develop a national control system.

8. The delegate of the EU indicated that the issue of submitting national reports to the Secretariat was being addressed through a process of internal review. The EU would inform the Secretariat before next session of CoC in order to indicate the way that the EU and its Member States would submit the report.

IDENTIFICATION OF CASES OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH GFCM DECISIONS IN REFERENCE TO THE RECOMMENDATION GFCM/34/2010/3

Status of data and information submissions by Members

9. A presentation on the status of submission of data and information based on document COC:VII/2013/Inf.7 was delivered by the GFCM Secretariat. It was recalled that a summary table describing the different frameworks for the submission of data and information requirements was available on the GFCM web site. Although there was a quantitative and qualitative increases in reported data, an additional of effort in reporting was deemed necessary, particularly for fleet related data and Task 1. The progress made was attributed to the network of focal points appointed within the remit of the FWP.

10. The delegate of EU pointed out that data submission was sometimes linked to the transposition of relevant GFCM decisions into national legislation. There were cases whereby this exercise was self-executing whereas other cases required enacting additional measures. The latter scenario would not imply altogether non-compliance as a more time consuming procedure could be necessary to implement GFCM decisions.

11. It was explained that national reports were the appropriate means to submit data as they gave Members the possibility to inform therein on possible constraints and special situations which might hinder data submission. Data submitted would be used to obtain information on action taken at national level to ensure implementation with GFCM decisions and to advise the Commission on selected matters (e.g. data on fleet would inform on appropriate measures on fishing capacity). Attention was drawn on the development of the DCRF which would facilitate data related tasks.

12. It was proposed that CoC should meet during the intersession to make the necessary recommendations as to how ensuring timely data submission.

Format for identification letters

13. As the status of data and information submitted by Members hinted at possible cases of non-compliance, the Executive Secretary introduced two identification letters formats of cases of non-compliance for Members and non-Members. He recalled relevant provisions in Recommendation GFCM/34/2010/3 which, together with the mandate of CoC, justified the adoption of said letters.

14. The committee agreed that Recommendation GFCM/34/2010/3 had to be observed so that action could be taken in order to elicit compliance of Members and non-Members. It was indicated that the recommendation applied specifically to lack of implementation of GFCM management decisions, whereas obligations linked to data collection would not automatically be followed by an identification process.

15. Because the transmission of a letter of identification to a Member would imply lack of compliance with GFCM decisions, it was noted that this might give a negative impression despite possible efforts to ensure implementation. A proposal was made to defer the transmission of the letter of identification to governments by the Executive Secretary on behalf of the Commission through usual diplomatic channels, as foreseen by the recommendation.

16. The Committee insisted on the importance of setting up a network of national focal points in charge of overseeing matters linked to CoC. This would allow the Secretariat to appraise the status of implementation of GFCM decisions and would facilitate communication when data were not accurate or lacking. In light of the key role of to be played by said national focal points, the Secretariat was invited to make the necessary arrangements for governments to proceed with nominations.

17. It was recommended that further work was necessary during the intersession to address issues

relating to non-compliance, including identification processes. Also, gaps and needs at national level should be examined so that technical assistance to facilitate the implementation of relevant GFCM decisions, including under the FWP, could be deployed.

18. With regard to non-Members, the Committee approved the format letter of identification (Annex C) and requested the Executive Secretary to take the appropriate steps on behalf of the Commission, as foreseen by the recommendation.

19. The delegate of Turkey indicated that in the case of Black Sea riparian States currently non-Members the existence of an advisory group on fisheries within the Black Sea Commission had to be recalled. Said forum could work with GFCM, according to the memorandum of understanding with the Black Sea Commission, to obtain information on fishing activities by Georgia, Russian Federation and Ukraine.

20. The delegate of Russian Federation recognized the importance of the issue for his country and informed the Committee that at national level process was advanced regarding the accession to GFCM. He indicated that in the meantime the Russian Federation was cooperating with GFCM and its experience in MCS and the fight against IUU fishing was regarded as beneficial to GFCM. The Russian Federation stood ready to submit relevant information on its fishing activities in the Black Sea subject to the transmission of an official letter by the Executive Secretary to request such information.

21. After the discussions on identification of cases of non-compliance, the Committee decided to establish an ad hoc informal working group to review information available to the Secretariat and finalize proposals of identification to the Commission. Also, this group was requested to draft the mandate for a possible intersessional meeting of CoC. The outcomes of the discussions were submitted directly to the Commission at its thirty-seventh session for approval (Annex D).

PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM AND RELATED CONTROL SYSTEMS IN THE GFCM AREA

22. The GFCM Secretariat provided a report on the progress on the establishment of VMS and related control systems in the GFCM area through an analysis of the status of the implementation of Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/7. Also, key technical, administrative, legal and financial constraints experienced by coastal States Members were addressed. The need to adopt a capability approach to VMS was advocated and it was underlined that efforts were on-going to assist Members in controlling small scale fisheries.

23. The delegate of Morocco informed the Committee that the national fleet was now under the obligation to have VMS installed for all vessels over 2 TGB and that a legal framework had been developed.

24. The delegate of Tunisia reported that the national legal framework for VMS had been prepared. He called for increased harmonization of national legal frameworks of VMS with Recommendation GFCM/2009/33/7 as countries might rely on technologies other than satellite to ensure controls.

25. The delegate of Algeria underlined the importance of ensuring that all Members could control their fleet.

26. The delegate of EU recalled the difficulties inherent in control issues and encouraged the Secretariat to consider the testing of alternatives to VMS which could be used for small scale fisheries.

27. The committee decided to establish a working group on control within CoC to address issues relating VMS and regional controls. In this respect, the Committee was informed that a specific activity on VMS was envisaged in the FWP thanks to funds provided by Italy.

ELECTION OF THE COC BUREAU

28. The President and first Vice-Chair of the bureau of CoC were re-elected. The proposal by the delegate of Algeria to replace Mr Khaled Fliti with Ms Samia Lounis Abdoun as second Vice-Chair was endorsed.

WORK PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE

29. The Chairperson presented the work plan on the basis of document COC:7/2013/2. It was agreed that the proposed work plan would be adopted by the Commission at its thirty-seventh session.

ANY OTHER MATTER

30. There were no other matters brought to the attention of the CoC.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE EIGHTH SESSION

31. It was agreed that the date and venue of the eighth session would be decided by the Commission at its thirty-seventh session.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

32. This report was adopted on 16th May 2013.

APPENDIX K/Annex A

Agenda

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the session
3. Status of implementation of GFCM decisions by Members
4. Identification of cases of non-compliance with GFCM decisions in reference to the Recommendation GFCM/34/2010/3
5. Progress on the implementation of a Vessel Monitoring System and related control systems in the GFCM area
6. Review of the Compendium of GFCM decisions
7. Harmonization of fishery legislations in the GFCM area of competence
8. Work programme of the Compliance Committee
9. Election of the CoC Bureau
10. Any other matter
11. Date and venue of the eighth session
12. Adoption of the report and closure of the session

APPENDIX K/Annex B

List of documents

COC:VII/2013/1	Provisional agenda and timetable
COC:VII/2013/2	Executive report on selected issues before the Compliance Committee
COC:VII/2013/Inf.1	List of documents
COC:VII/2013/Inf.2	Terms of reference of the Compliance Committee
COC:VII/2013/Inf.3	Report of the sixth session of the Compliance Committee
COC:VII/2013/Inf.4	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights by the European Union and its Member States
COC:VII/2013/Inf.5	Status of implementation of GFCM decisions by Members
COC:VII/2013/Inf.6	Compendium of GFCM decisions
COC:VII/2013/Inf.7	Identification of cases of non compliance with GFCM decisions in accordance with recommendation GFCM/34//2010/3
COC:VII/2013/Inf.8	Progress on the implementation of a Vessel Monitoring System and related control systems in the GFCM area
COC:VII/2013/Inf.9	Harmonization of fisheries legislations in the GFCM area of competence
COC:VII/2013/Dma.1	Interactive e-compendium of GFCM decisions (CD Rom) (in English only)

APPENDIX L

Outcomes of the Informal working group meeting of the Compliance Committee

14-15 May 2013, Split, Croatia

1. Following the discussions at the seventh session of the Compliance Committee (CoC) on the draft model letters of identification of cases of non-compliance prepared in accordance with Recommendation GFCM/34/2010/3, it was agreed to establish an informal working group that would examine matters pertaining to the implementation of GFCM decisions. The following Members agreed to participate in the meeting of this working group, which took place on 14–15 May 2013: Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, EU, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco and Tunisia. The meeting was chaired by the President of the Bureau of CoC, Mr Samir Majdalani, and was also attended by representatives of the GFCM Secretariat.

2. The meeting discussed various options that were available to identify cases of non-compliance. One possibility examined was to send a communication to national administrations of fisheries through a letter of identification by the Executive Secretary on behalf of CoC.

3. It was considered that the best option was to proceed in two phases:

a) in a first phase, action would be taken on a case by case basis under the broader mandate of CoC through requests of clarifications to all Members concerning the status of implementation of GFCM decisions;

b) in a second phase, the CoC would be given the mandate by the Commission to proceed to the identification of cases of non-compliance during an inter-sessional meeting.

4. The meeting acknowledged that this was a very serious approach and thanked the Secretariat for the work done.

5. In light of the above, the meeting focused first on assessing the status of implementation of relevant GFCM decisions at national level as a first step. Information submitted via national reports by each Member was reviewed, including in the case of Members that were not participating in the meeting. To provide a detailed picture the Secretariat prepared an indicative table where the status of implementation of relevant GFCM decisions was presented under various categories (e.g. fully implemented, not reported, etc.). The final table is reproduced after this paragraph. It was agreed that this table be transmitted to all Members which were given a deadline to provide additional clarifications on action taken to implement GFCM decisions.

6. The meeting proposed that on the basis of the tables received by Members if it appeared that GFCM decisions were not being implemented a request of clarification would be sent. This would apply to all Members, even those that were not implementing one single GFCM decision. The request of clarification should be sent by the Executive Secretary on behalf of CoC to national administrations of fisheries via the Permanent Representation of the FAO with a copy sent to the national focal point. In cases where such Representations would not exist, the Executive Secretary would send the communication to the Permanent Mission of States to the FAO.

7. In the case of EU Member States, it was proposed that the EU should be the only recipient of the request of clarification through their Permanent Mission to the FAO. The EU would therefore ensure coordination internally, including with the Member State recipient of the request for clarification.

8. In the text of the request of clarification the Executive Secretary would recognize the efforts made by the Member concerned to implement GFCM decisions while noting lack of actions, where existing. It was recommended that this communication should not amount to an identification and the very words used in the text would not encompass “identification”. However, the request should draw the attention of the Member on the need to respond to the Executive Secretary within a precise delay in order to avoid that a proper identification would be carried out during the second phase.

9. For the second phase, identification of cases of non-compliance would be performed according to recommendation GFCM/2010/34/3. It was suggested that the Commission gives mandate to the CoC to host an inter-sessional meeting three months ahead of the annual session of CoC at the latest. This meeting would be chaired by the President of the Bureau of CoC and the Secretariat would provide all required assistance. It would be opened to representative of Members, possibly legal experts.

10. It was agreed that the intersessional meeting had to follow up on the responses received to requests of clarification based on information provided by Members. In cases where the responses were not deemed satisfactory the Secretariat should address a letter in the format displayed in Appendix O of the report of the thirty-seventh session of the GFCM. The terms of reference for the intersessional meeting of CoC were developed.

11. It was decided that the draft letter forms of identification annexed to document COC:7/2013/2 would be streamlined to avoid that they could be considered offensive by the recipients. In addition, a draft request of clarification form would be prepared. The new texts would be submitted to the Commission for adoption.

APPENDIX M

Indicative table on the status of implementation of GFCM decisions by Contracting Parties[3]

	Rec. GFCM/36/2012/2	Rec. GFCM/36/2012/3	Rec GFCM/36/2012/1 and GFCM/35/2011/2	Res. GFCM/35/2011/1
	Conservation of cetaceans	Conservation of sharks and rays	Red coral	On the submission of combined data on fishing vessels
Albania	Implementation in progress	Implementation in progress	Not Applicable	Partly Implemented
Algeria	Implementation in progress	Implemented	Implementation in progress	Not Implemented
Bulgaria	Partly implemented	Partly implemented	Not applicable	Implemented
Croatia	Implementation in progress	Implemented	Implementation in progress	Partly Implemented
Cyprus	Partly implemented	Partly implemented	Not applicable	Partly Implemented
Egypt	Not Implemented	Implemented	Not Applicable	Implementation in progress
EU	Partly Implemented	Partly Implemented	Partly Implemented	Implemented
France	Partly Implemented	Partly Implemented	Partly Implemented	Implemented
Greece	Implemented	Implemented	Partly implemented	Implemented
Israel	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Implemented
Italy	Partly implemented	Partly implemented	Partly implemented	Implemented
Japan	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Partly Implemented
Lebanon	Not Implemented	Implementation in progress	Not Applicable	Partially implemented
Libya	Implementation in progress	Implementation in progress	Not Applicable	Implementation in progress
Malta	Partly implemented	Partly implemented	Not Applicable	Partly Implemented
Monaco	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Montenegro	Not Implemented	Not Implemented	Unclear situation	Not Implemented
Morocco	Partly Implemented	Implemented	Not Applicable	Implemented
Romania	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Implemented
Slovenia	Implemented	Implemented	Not Reported	Implemented
Spain	Partly Implemented	Partly Implemented	Implemented	Implemented
Syrian Arab Republic	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Implemented
Tunisia	Implementation in progress	Not reported	Implementation in progress	Not Implemented
Turkey	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Implemented

[3] Definitions are provided at the end of the document.

	Rec. GFCM/35/2011/1	Rec. GFCM/35/2011/3	Rec. GFCM/35/2011/4	Rec. GFCM/35/2011/5	Rec. GFCM/35/2011/6
	Logbook	By-catch of seabirds	By-catch of sea turtles	Conservation of the Monk seal	On reporting of aquaculture
Albania	Partly Implemented	Not Reported	Implementation in progress	Not Reported	Implemented
Algeria	Implementation in progress	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented
Bulgaria	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Not applicable	Implemented
Croatia	Implemented	Not implemented	Not implemented	Not implemented	Implemented
Cyprus	Implemented	Not Implemented	Implemented	Partly Implemented	Implemented
Egypt	Partly Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Not Applicable	Partly Implemented
EU	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Partly Implemented	Implemented
France	Implemented	Partly Implemented	Partly Implemented	Partly Implemented	Partly Implemented
Greece	Implemented	Not Implemented	Not Implemented	Not Implemented	Implemented
Israel	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Implemented
Italy	Implemented	Not Implemented	Not Implemented	Not Implemented	Implemented
Japan	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Applicable
Lebanon	Not Implemented	Implementation in progress	Implemented	Implemented	Implementation in progress
Libya	Not implemented	Implementation in progress	Implemented	Not Applicable	Implementation in progress
Malta	Implemented	Partly Implemented	Partly Implemented	Not Applicable	Implemented
Monaco	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Montenegro	Implementation in progress	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Implemented
Morocco	Partly Implemented	Implementation in progress	Partly Implemented	Not Applicable	Implemented
Romania	Implemented	Not Reported	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Partly Implemented
Slovenia	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Not Applicable	Implemented
Spain	Implemented	Partly Implemented	Partly Implemented	Partly Implemented	Implemented
Syrian Arab Republic	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Implemented
Tunisia	Implementation in progress	Not Reported	Implementation in progress	Implementation in progress	Implemented
Turkey	Implemented	Not Reported	implemented	implemented	Implemented

	Rec. GFCM/34/2010/2	Rec. GFCM/33/2009/1	Rec. GFCM/33/2009/2	Rec. GFCM/33/2009/3
	On the management of fishing capacity (Report FC in 2007, 2008 and 2009)	Fisheries Restricted Area in the Gulf of Lions	Minimum mesh size in the codend of demersal trawl nets	Task 1
Albania	Not Reported	Not Applicable	Implementation in progress	Implemented
Algeria	Not Implemented	Not Applicable	Implemented	Implemented
Bulgaria	Implemented	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Implemented
Croatia	Not Implemented	Not Applicable	Partly Implemented	Implemented
Cyprus	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented
Egypt	Not Implemented	Not Applicable	Implementation in progress	Implemented
EU	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Not Applicable
France	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented
Greece	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented
Israel	Not Implemented	Not Applicable	Not Reported	Not Implemented
Italy	Implemented	Implemented	Partly Implemented	Implemented
Japan	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Reported	Not Applicable
Lebanon	Not Implemented	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Implemented
Libya	Partly Implemented	Not Applicable	Implemented	Partly Implemented
Malta	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented
Monaco	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Montenegro	Not Implemented	Not Applicable	Implementation in progress	Implemented
Morocco	Implemented	Not Applicable	Implemented	Implemented
Romania	Implemented	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Implemented
Slovenia	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented
Spain	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented
Syrian Arab Republic	Not Implemented	Not Applicable	Not Reported	Not Implemented
Tunisia	Partly Implemented	Not Applicable	Implementation in progress	Implemented
Turkey	Implemented	Not Applicable	Partly Implemented	Implemented

	Rec. GFCM/33/2009/7	Rec. GFCM/33/2009/8	Rec. GFCM/2008/1	Rec. GFCM/2006/2	Rec.GFCM/2006/3	Rec.GFCM/2005/1
	Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)	list of vessels IUU fishing	Port state measures	Closed season dolphinfish fisheries based on fishing aggregation devices (FADs)	On the establishment of 3 Fisheries Restricted Areas	Trawl banning below 1000 m
Albania	Implemented	Implementation in progress	Partly Implemented	Implementation in progress	Implementation in progress	Implemented
Algeria	Implementation in progress	Not Reported	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not applicable	Implemented
Bulgaria	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Not Applicable	Implemented	Implemented
Croatia	Implemented	Implemented	Not Reported	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Implementation in progress
Cyprus	Implemented	Implemented	Not Reported	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented
Egypt	Implementation in progress	Implementation in progress	Not Applicable	Implemented	Not Reported	Not Applicable
EU	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented
France	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Not Applicable	Implemented
Greece	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Not Applicable	Implemented
Israel	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Applicable	Not Reported	Not Reported
Italy	Implemented	Implemented	Not Implemented	Implemented	Not Reported	Implemented
Japan	Not Reported	Not Applicable	Not Reported	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Implemented
Lebanon	Not Implemented	Not Reported	Implemented	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Libya	Partly Implemented	Partly Implemented	Implementation in progress	Implemented	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Malta	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Not Applicable	Implemented
Monaco	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Reported	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Montenegro	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Applicable	Not Reported	Unclear situation
Morocco	Implemented	Not Applicable	Implementation in progress	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Implemented
Romania	Implemented	Implemented	Not Reported	Not Applicable	Not Reported	Not Applicable
Slovenia	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Not Applicable	Implemented
Spain	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Not Applicable	Implemented
Syrian Arab Republic	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Applicable	Not Reported	Not Reported
Tunisia	Implementation in progress	Not Reported	Not Reported	Implementation in progress	Not Reported	Implemented
Turkey	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Not Applicable	Implemented

Definitions

STATUS	DEFINITION
1. Implemented:	The Contracting Party reported that the decision is implemented and transposed into national legislation
2. Partly Implemented:	The Contracting Party reported that the decision is only partially implemented, either because it is not fully transposed into domestic legislation (e.g. legislation only covers a subset of cases – species, areas, data requirements) or because the domestic legislation is fully-encompassing but only partially being complied with.
3. Implementation in progress:	The Contracting Party reported one the following actions in anticipation of the upcoming implementation of the decision: **3.1 Difficulties in implementation**: The Contracting Party declared it is addressing technical difficulties instrumental to implement the decision. **3.2 Under development**: There are no technical difficulties/technical difficulties have been successfully addressed and the Contracting Party is transposing the decision into domestic legislation. **3.3 Management Plan under development**: There are no technical difficulties/technical difficulties have been successfully addressed and the Contracting Party is developing a management plan which would encompass, inter alia, the decision. **3.4 Trial experiments in place**: The Contracting Party is carrying out experiments towards the implementation of the decision.
4. Not Implemented:	The Contracting Party reported that the decision has not been transposed into domestic legislation/the decision has been transposed but it is not yet complied with.
5. Not Applicable:	The Contracting Party does not have to implement the decision because one of the following reasons: **5.1 No fishing activities**: The Contracting Party is not engaged in any fishing activity in the area subject to the decision. **5.2 Closed fisheries**: The Contracting Party has closed the fishery concerned by the decision. **5.3 Prohibited**: The Contracting Party has prohibited fishing the species concerned by the decision.
6. Not Reported:	The Contracting Party has not reported whether action has been taken to implement the decision and transpose it into domestic legislation or, in case of decisions requiring to submit data/information, the Contracting Party has not submitted requested data/information.

APPENDIX N

Model letter concerning clarifications requested on the status of implementation of GFCM recommendations by Contracting Parties

Your Excellency,

Please allow me, at the outset, to express my sincere appreciation for your Government's continuing commitment in supporting the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

I would also like to thank you for the information that was made available by [COUNTRY] to the Compliance Committee in occasion of its XX session (PLACE, DATE) regarding the implementation of GFCM recommendations, as indicated in the annexed table. According to this information, [COUNTRY] does not yet fully implement recommendations _____. Furthermore, the Compliance Committee has not received any report regarding the state of implementation by [COUNTRY] of recommendations _____.

I should be grateful if you could let us know whether there have been any developments in the implementation of the above recommendations and indicate if there have been any particular constraints which have hampered their enforcement.

I would appreciate receiving your reply by [DATE].

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration,

APPENDIX O

Model letter concerning identification of non-compliant Contracting Parties

Your Excellency,

I would like to thank you for the additional information provided by your Government regarding the status of implementation of GFCM recommendations.

In order to ensure the correct implementation with GFCM conservation and management measures, the Compliance Committee has the task of identifying cases of non-compliance by GFCM Contracting Parties. This was endorsed by recommendation GFCM/34/2010/3 "Concerning the identification of non-compliance", which was adopted by at the 34th Session of the Commission.

According to the provisions of this recommendation the GFCM, through its Compliance Committee, is to ensure that recommendations in force are correctly implemented and transposed into national legislations in accordance with Articles III.1(b) and V of the GFCM Agreement.

The analysis of the most updated information received from your Government, indicates that [COUNTRY] is not yet implementing the following recommendations:

- [REASON]
-
-

Please note that, in line with recommendation GFCM 34/2010/3, [COUNTRY] has the right to respond to the Compliance Committee until 30 days before the next plenary session of the Commission, and provide all relevant complementary information, including actions planned to rectify the situation.

I should be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this notification on behalf of your Government.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration,

APPENDIX P

Model letter of identification of non-Members in accordance with Recommendation GFCM/34/2010/3

Your Excellency,

Please allow me, at the outset, to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of [XXXX].

I have the pleasure to recall with this letter the scope of recommendation GFCM/34/2010/3 "Concerning the identification of non-compliance", which was adopted by at the thirty-fourth session of the Commission. According to its provisions the GFCM, through its Compliance Committee, is to ensure that recommendations in force are correctly implemented and transposed into national legislations in accordance with Articles III. 1(b) and V of the GFCM Agreement. At the thirtieth session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, Recommendation GFCM/30/2006/5 "Criteria for obtaining the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party in the GFCM area" was adopted. This recommendation invites States fishing in the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and connecting waters to become "Cooperating non-Contracting Parties" of the GFCM. This status identifies States which voluntarily fish in conformity with the conservation and management measures adopted by the GFCM. Your government has presently not applied to obtain such a status and it is therefore a non-Member of the GFCM.

Customary international law, as reflected in Article 8 of the "United Nations 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" (New York, 1995), recognizes that States have a duty to cooperate to the conservation of marine living resources, including through existing regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs).

In Article 8(4) of this agreement it is further stated that:
"Only those States which are members of such an organization or participants in such an arrangement, or which agree to apply the conservation and management measures established by such organization or arrangement, shall have access to the fishery resources to which those measures apply".

Consistent with this provision, and bearing in mind that the GFCM is the competent RFMO for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, all States fishing in this area are expected to abide by recommendations in place, as adopted at the annual sessions of the GFCM (a full list is available online at: www.gfcm.org).

In order to clarify whether or not and to what extent your government is engaged in fishing activities in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, I would be pleased if you could kindly consider attending the next session of the Commission (DD/MM/YYYY) where cases of non-compliance with recommendations in place will be identified and possible actions against those that fish in a manner diminishing their effectiveness will be discussed.

Furthermore, consistent with the degree of engagement of your government in fishing activities in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, I would invite you to consider to become a GFCM Member or to attain a "Cooperating non-Contracting Party" status.

I would be pleased to provide any further information or clarification on this issue which you may require. Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration,

APPENDIX Q

Report of the fourth session of the Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF)

Split, Croatia, 13 May 2013

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) held its fourth session in Split, Croatia on 13 May 2013. The session was attended by delegates of 21 GFCM Members as well as observers from non GFCM Member nations (Russian Federation) and from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

2. The meeting was called to order by Mr Aleksandar Joksimovic, first Vice-Chairperson of CAF, who welcomed the participants and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Croatia for hosting the session in Split and for the excellent organization of the event.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

3. The Vice-Chairperson referred to the Statement of Competence and Voting Rights by the European Union and its Member States as provided in CAF:IV/2013/Inf.4.

4. The agenda, attached in Annex A, was adopted with minor changes.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ISSUES

5. Mr Abdellah Srour, Executive Secretary of the GFCM, introduced the "Report of the Secretariat on Administrative and Financial Issues" (CAF:IV/2013/2), summarizing the administrative and financial situation. After highlighting the impacts of the result-oriented approach adopted by the GFCM Secretariat and its key role within the process launched by FAO regarding bodies established within Article XIV of the FAO Constitution, the presentation touched upon, *inter alia*, topics such as the GFCM headquarters, staffing, material and infrastructure, activities carried out by the Task Force, actions for the Black Sea, cooperation activities and high-level visits and coordination meetings, meetings, publications, cooperation with partners, status of payment of contributions made by Members to the autonomous budget and review of the statement of the expenditures made in 2012, including extra-budgetary resources.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Recommendations adopted under Article V of the GFCM Agreement

6. The Committee was informed that the Secretariat had officially transmitted the text of recommendations adopted at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission (Morocco, May 2012) to Members and observers. After a "grace period", the relevant decisions entered into force on 6 October 2012.

Specific actions of GFCM for the Black Sea

7. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee on the most significant outcomes of activities for the Black Sea, highlighting in particular the nomination of focal points for each riparian State, the creation of a regional online database for experts and institutions of the Black Sea, the organization of two workshops on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance and data collection, respectively. He stressed in particular the marked interest shown by member and non-member countries towards GFCM activities and strengthened cooperation with Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey.

Activities and functioning of the Secretariat

8. The Committee was informed that the intersessional activities of the Secretariat included the organization and coordination of 22 meetings agreed by the Commission, including 9 meetings of subsidiary bodies and the annual Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), 4 meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) and the eighth session of the CAQ, including SIPAM. In addition, GFCM held 3 meetings of the GFCM Bureau, COC Bureau and WGBS and organized 4 sub-regional workshops under the first FWP. The Secretariat produced 35 technical and administrative documents.

9. The Committee was informed that the Fishery Resources Officer (Professional Category P-4), Mr Miguel Bernal (Spanish citizen), was recruited in July 2012 and that the Scientific Editor/Translator (P-2), Ms Dominique Bourdenet (French citizen), was recruited in October 2012. Moreover, the post of Ms Claudia Escutia was upgraded from Administrative Assistant G-5 to Programme Assistant G-6 to better reflect the responsibilities and job profile of the position. The selection of the Fisheries Officer on Legal and Institutional matters (P-3), the Office Assistant (G-3) and Security Guard (G-2) were ongoing. Security duties had been performed by a temporary team of four FAO retirees working on shift. A temporary Office Assistant (G-3) had been recruited for 6 months to replace the GFCM Office Clerk in maternity leave, and security tasks had been performed by consultants. One Intern and several consultants provided support to activities in 2012-2013.

Information technologies and information systems

10. CAF was informed that a permanent IT cloud-based infrastructure had been set up with the objectives to: i) provide adapted interactive tools in support to intersessional activities, subsidiary bodies and the FWP; ii) build an integrated solution to enable interested Parties to communicate and store common data; and iii) improve the efficiency of the Secretariat and enhance cost-effectiveness.

GFCM Headquarters

11. The Committee was reminded that the headquarters of the GFCM Secretariat were financed through a contribution from FAO (€46 000per year) and from Italy (€100 000per year). Infrastructures and security material were installed and IT equipment was bought.

Status of ratification of the Amendments to the GFCM Agreement

12. The Committee was informed on the status of acceptance of 1997 amendments to the GFCM agreement, which remained unchanged, i.e. 21 Members had deposited their instruments of acceptance while Egypt (remitting its contribution) and Israel had not yet done so. A letter from the Embassy of Syria informing that Syria had ratified the Agreement had been received in September 2010.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

Member contributions to the autonomous budget

13. The Secretariat informed the Committee that the "Call for funds" letter was sent in June 2012. By December 2012, most Members had settled their contributions. In total, 18 Members deposited their instruments of acceptance and remitted their contributions; Lebanon, Libya and Malta had deposited their instruments of acceptance but had not paid their contributions, while the Syrian Arabic Republic and Israel had neither deposited their instrument of acceptance nor paid their contribution.

14. The delegate of Algeria raised the issue of unsubmitted contributions, stressing the need to ensure that all Members equally fulfil their obligations when due and without delays, so to allow the Secretariat to work at full capacity. Delegations with outstanding contributions were called to clarify. Malta and Libya assured the CAF those would be timely submitted.

2012 financial situation: autonomous budget, arrears and trust funds

15. The Committee was informed on the main expenditures incurred during the intersession, set according to the priorities and work plan adopted.

16. Information on the status of GFCM extra-budgetary resources (i.e. voluntary contributions from Members for specific activities) received from FAO, EU and Italy was provided.

17. The Committee thanked the Secretariat for the thorough presentation made on administrative and financial issues.

18. The EU delegate mentioned the increasing amount of GFCM activities undertaken thanks to extra-budgetary resources and highlighted the need for Members to have a full picture of additional finances that come to feed the agreed intersessional activities. He stressed the importance of budgetary transparency so that Members could take informed decisions when examining the annual work plan. In this regard, he suggested that the Secretariat should prepare an additional report regarding extra-budgetary resources exclusively – to be submitted together with the usual report on administrative and financial issues – which could sustain the analysis of the work plan and the identification of priorities.

19. This proposal was strongly supported by the delegate of France, who insisted on the importance to see under which administrative umbrella (autonomous budget, extra-budgetary funds, FWP, other) each intersessional activity had been conducted. In this regard, it was recalled that actions carried out in collaboration with the FAO Regional Projects could not be accounted for.

Provisional GFCM budget and Member contributions for 2013

20. The Executive Secretary presented the GFCM budget and Member contributions for 2013 (CAF:IV/2013/3).

21. The proposed budget for the given period had been prepared assuming that the recruitment of the Fishery Officer on Legal and Institutional Matters (P-3), the Office Assistant (G-3) and the Security Guard (G-2) would be completed by November 2013, as well as the upgrade of the Programme/System Analyst (G5) to IT Assistant (G6) starting from 2014.

22. The total sum of the autonomous budget for 2013 was estimated at US$1 940 973 while that for 2014 was estimated at US$2 056 017. Those figures would represent a 7.53 percent increase in 2013 in relation to 2012, and a 5.93 percent increase in 2014 in relation to the budget proposed for the previous financial year.

23. The budget proposal for 2013 was also prepared assuming that FAO would continue to contribute to the Secretariat with €46 000 per annum along with technical backstopping; and that the Government of Italy would continue to disburse €100 000 yearly to cover part of GFCM running costs.

24. Regarding the willingness informally expressed by Montenegro to cover the outstanding contribution of Serbia due before its withdrawal from the Commission amounting to US$8 785,42, the delegate of Montenegro assured that this would be discussed bilaterally at Ministry level and that the final decision would be communicated as soon as possible for consideration of the Commission.

25. The delegate of Algeria supported the proposal of the Executive Secretary on covering the costs of vice-presidents of committees and proposed to examine the possibility that these costs be covered by their countries.

26. The EU delegation praised the level of detail of the presentation made by the Secretariat, allowing for a sound examination of efforts made by the Secretariat to deliver all expected outputs, improve its efficiency and optimize expenses. In this regard, they suggested giving Members more time to analyse the figures, especially in light of the discussions still to be held during the week.

27. The Committee agreed that a final decision on staffing, budget adoption and priorities would be taken during the week, further to the review of the 2013 work plan.

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

28. Considering the importance of the CAF mandate, the delegate of Tunisia raised the possibility of holding a meeting of the CAF Bureau during the intersession for the necessary coordination with other committees and preparation of financial matters. In the ensuing discussions, it was however suggested to carry out such preparation via electronic means (teleconference or other) rather than putting a significant burden on existing expenses with the organisation of another meeting.

ELECTION OF THE CAF BUREAU

29. The Executive Secretary recalled the rules for the election of the Bureau of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission. Several delegations were in favour of re-electing the current Bureau, considering the challenges posed by the ongoing modernisation of the Commission for which continuous involvement of the persons already in charge was important.

30. Due to the absence of Mr Mohamed Najih, the CAF unanimously elected Ms Mimoza Cobani (Albania) as second Vice-Chair of the Committee.

ANY OTHER MATTER

31. Referring to Article II (1) of the GFCM Agreement and particularly to Rule III (2) of the GFCM Rules of Procedure whereby “at each session, the Secretary shall receive the credentials of delegations, observer nations and international organization participating as observers and such credentials shall conform to the standard form set by the Secretariat”, the Executive Secretary presented a standard form for consideration of the Commission.

32. Delegates from France and Algeria supported the proposal, recalling that such practice was already in force in other RFMOs and that it would further strengthen the role and mandate of national representatives to the sessions.

33. The standard format was adopted with some changes suggested by delegations. It was agreed that the Secretariat would send the format to Members in due time prior to each session.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE FIFTH SESSION

34. The delegates of Egypt and Tunisia considered necessary to keep the CAF within (and not prior to) the annual session of the Commission, although they both stated that it should be held later during the week to tackle priorities and activities to be undertaken first and then consider the related budgetary implications.

35. It was agreed that the date and venue of the sixth session would hence be decided by the Commission at its thirty-seventh session.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

36. This report was adopted on 16 May 2013.

APPENDIX Q/Annex A

Agenda

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the session
3. Conclusions of the Task Force on administrative and financial issues
4. Reports from the Secretariat on administrative and financial issues
    - Activities and functioning of the Secretariat, including staffing issues
    - Status of ratification of the Amendments to the GFCM Agreement
    - Status of Member Contributions to the autonomous budget
    - 2012 financial situation: autonomous budget, arrears and trust funds
5. Provisional GFCM budget and Member contributions for 2013
6. Work programme of the Committee on Administration and Finance
7. Election of the CAF Bureau
8. Any other matter
    - Proposal for a standard format for Credentials to GFCM statutory sessions
9. Date and venue of the fifth session
10. Adoption of the report and closure of the session

APPENDIX R

Standard form for the presentation of credentials to GFCM statutory sessions

" Upon instructions of [the Representative of the responsible authority] I wish to inform you that [name of GFCM Member] will participate in the [...] Session of the General Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and will be represented by the following delegation (or by M...if the delegation is constituted by only one person...):

- M … (title) Head of delegation
- M … (title) Alternate(s)
- M … (title) Expert(s)
- M … (title) Adviser(s)

M …, Head of Delegation or, in his/her absence, the alternate or any other member of the Delegation designated by him/her, is authorised to fully take part in the proceedings of the Session and take, on behalf of the Government (or Authority concerned for REIO) of [name of GFCM Member], any action or any decision required in relation with this Session.

Signature

[Minister or responsible Authority] "

The letter should preferably be signed by the Minister concerned; it could also be signed on his behalf by another authorised Authority (the DG MARE, for instance).

The credentials should be addressed to the Executive Secretary of the GFCM.

APPENDIX S

Terms of Reference of the Working Group for the revision of the GFCM Agreement

The overall objective of the Working Group, which will act under the authority of the Task Force, is to identify and propose amendments to the GFCM Agreement, Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations, based on the conclusions and recommendations issued at the validation meeting of the "Task Force to improve and modernise the legal and institutional framework of the GFCM".

The Task force should ensure an appropriate consultation and inclusion in this process of the observers to GFCM and if necessary, of other stakeholders.

The Working Group will address the following issues as a priority:

The GFCM Basic Framework: in particular the mandate which may be expanded and the objectives and scope of the organisation, which should be clearly stated. The name should also be modified to include the Black Sea and an adequate dispute settlement mechanism should be put in place. Moreover a complete set of definitions grouped on a glossary should be elaborated.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Management: to ensure sustainability of activities from an environmental social and economic point of view, with the aim of obtaining long term high yields. The group will assess the feasibility of a functional re-organisation of the GFCM Commission, including the layout of a mechanism facilitating the implementation of a sub-regional approach, with a view to establishing multiannual management plans, to ensure an improvement of GFCM activities. In this context synergies and possible duplications with other initiatives should be assessed. In the case of aquaculture, the group should assess whether the existing multi-stakeholders Mediterranean platform should include other GFCM members.

Compliance and Enforcement: Strengthening of the compliance mechanisms, assessing the possibility to have a sanction system and developing concrete proposals to enhance the fight against IUU and to enhance control and monitoring of fishing activities through international cooperation.

Governance of the Organisation:

- Financial and Administrative issues, including financial audit and possible alternative funding mechanisms for extra-budgetary supported activities.
- Broad GFCM Administrative Arrangement, in particular the role and functions of the GFCM Chairperson and Executive Secretary, as well as the link with FAO Regional Projects.
- Functioning of subsidiary bodies and their efficiencies
- Decision-making process, including options to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of GFCM annual session and of its subsidiary bodies. Consultation with stakeholders should also be facilitated. In addition the mandate of the mechanism referred to in Article 7(h) of the Draft Amendments as presented by the Task Force shall be duly elaborated and its budgetary implications should be taken into account.
- Status of observers

The group should finalise its Tasks by 15 March 2014 at the latest.

APPENDIX T

GFCM autonomous budget for 2013

AUTONOMOUS BUDGET	US Dollars	Share of total (%)
ADMINISTRATION		
Professional staff		
Executive Secretary – D-1	256 000	13.19 %
Deputy Executive Secretary – P-5 (frozen)*	0	
Senior Aquaculture Officer – P-5	237 000	12.21 %
Fishery Resources Officer – P-4	192 000	9.89 %
Fishery Information Officer – P-2	145 000	7.47 %
Data Compliance Officer – P-2	123 000	6.34 %
Scientific Editor/Translator – P-2	115 000	5.92 %
Fishery Officer (Legal and Institutional matters) – P-3 (2 months)	20 000	1.03 %
Sub-total professional	**1 088 000**	**56.05 %**
Administrative staff		
Programme Associate - G-6	105 000	5.41 %
Programmer/System Analyst - G5 (upgrade to I.T. Assistant G-6 in 2014 proposed)	91 000	4.69 %
Administrative Assistant - G3	70 000	3.61 %
Office Assistant – G3 (2 months)	10 000	0,52 %
Security Guard – G-2 (2 months)	9 000	0,46 %
Sub-total Administrative support	**285 000**	**14.68 %**
Total Staff	**1 373 000**	**70,74 %**
ACTIVITIES		
Temporary human resources (Security guards, Office Helper, Overtime)	85 000	4.38 %
Consultancies (WG moderators etc.)	25 000	1.29 %
Travel (Staff, Bureau, Coordinators, Experts' DSA and ticket)	100 000	5.15 %
Chargeback (including interpretation)	155 000	7.99 %
Training	10 000	0.52 %
Equipment	4 000	0.21 %
Operating and Overhead Expenses	25 000	1.29 %
Contracts (including publications)	17 000	0.88 %
Task Force/Framework Programme	30 000	1.55 %
Interpreters' travel	15 000	0.77 %
Sub-total Activities	**466 000**	**24.01 %**
AUTONOMOUS BUDGET	**1 839 000**	
Miscellaneous (1% of autonomous budget)	18 390	
FAO Servicing Costs (4.5% of total)	83 583	
TOTAL AUTONOMOUS BUDGET	**1 940 973**	

* to be partially covered by the Fishery Officer (Legal and Institutional Matters)

APPENDIX U

Contributions to the GFCM budget for 2013

Member	US$	%	US$	Index	US$	Weighted Total	US$
Albania	17 175	0.88	8 439	1	4 246	18 430	4 490
Algeria	66 182	3.41	8 439	1	4 246	219 578	53 497
Bulgaria	12 685	0.65	8 439	1	4 246		
Croatia	79 168	4.08	8 439	10	42 459	116 038	28 271
Cyprus	93 357	4.81	8 439	20	84 918		
Egypt	78 552	4.05	8 439	1	4 246	270 352	65 867
France	93 357	4.81	8 439	20	84 918		
Greece	50 898	2.62	8 439	10	42 459		
Israel							
Italy	93 357	4.81	8 439	20	84 918		
Japan	93 390	4.81	8 439	20	84 918	137	33
Lebanon	14 986	0.77	8 439	1	4 246	9 445	2 301
Libya	85 151	4.39	8 439	10	42 459	140 593	34 253
Malta	50 898	2.62	8 439	10	42 459		
Monaco	8 439	0.43	8 439				
Montenegro	9 445	0.49	8 439			4 131	1 006
Morocco	32 590	1.68	8 439	1	4 246	81 701	19 905
Romania	12 685	0.65	8 439	1	4 246		
Slovenia	50 898	2.62	8 439	10	42 459		
Spain	93 357	4.81	8 439	20	84 918		
Syrian Arab Republic	14 987	0.77	8 439	1	4 246	9 451	2 303
Tunisia	75 410	3.89	8 439	1	4 246	257 457	62 726
Turkey	211 033	10.87	8 439	1	4 246	814 121	198 348
EC	602 973	31.07	8 439			2 440 263	594 534
		100		160		4 381 697	
	1 940 973		**194 097**		**679 341**		**1 067 535**

Total budget	**1 940 973**	**US$**
Basic fee	10%	of total budget
	194 097	US$
Number of Members*	**23**	
Total budget less basic fee	1 746 876	US$
GDP component	35%	of total budget
	679 341	US$
Catch component	55%	of total budget
	1 067 535	US$

* Members paying their contributions to the autonomous budget

The thirty-seventh session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), including the fourth session of the Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF) and the seventh session of the Compliance Committee (CoC), was attended by representatives from 21 Contracting Parties, one non-GFCM Member country, and 11 observers. The Commission reviewed the intersessional activities of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) as well as the outcomes of the Task Force established to modernize the GFCM legal and institutional framework. Among the measures adopted this year by the Commission, a recommendation on a multiannual management plan and on transitional conservation measures for fisheries of small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea has set actions aimed at minimizing the threat of overfishing and stock decline and encouraging the sustainable exploitation of these important target species while maintaining stable yields. In the Black Sea area, the Commission adopted a recommendation on the establishment of minimum standards for bottom-set gillnet fisheries for turbot and conservation of cetaceans, in order to guarantee the protection of juvenile turbots until they reach the reproductive size therefore contributing to the renewal of this population in the Black Sea. This measure also foresees standards for turbot fisheries aimed at reducing by-catch of cetaceans. In addition to these binding recommendations, the Commission approved two resolutions to promote the implementation of marine protected areas (including Fisheries Restricted Areas – FRAs) and to adopt guidelines on the management of fishing capacity according to resource availability in order to strengthen the control and monitoring of fishing effort and fishing capacity. Another outcome of the session was the adoption of guidelines on precautionary conservation measures aimed at minimizing undesirable effects on stocks and improving fisheries economic profitability. In the field of aquaculture, taking into account the key role to be played by this sector towards food security and economic growth and recognizing the need to foster its sustainable development in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, the Commission agreed to establish the first multi-stakeholder platform involving all players in the sector. The Commission adopted its 2013 autonomous budget, amounting to US$1 940 973, along with its programme of work for the intersession, including under the first GFCM Framework Programme for 2013–2018. The creation of five new working groups was agreed: three working groups on methodologies for socio-economic analysis, on small scale/artisanal fisheries and on recreational fisheries under the Subcommittee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS), one transversal working group on marine protected areas involving all subcommittees, and a working group for the revision of the GFCM Agreement. This year's session was marked by substantial steps forward to support the reform process launched in 2009 with the aim to modernize the institutional framework and ensure a more efficient functioning of the GFCM. The working group for the revision of the GFCM Agreement will be called to play a substantial role in this reform process, which should lead to enhanced sub-regional cooperation, the set-up of efficient mechanisms to ensure compliance to binding decisions, the establishment of a roadmap to fight illegal fishing, thus leading to improved long-term sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. An extraordinary session, to be held in 2014, will examine the outcomes of this reform process.

ISBN 978-92-5-108206-5 ISSN 1020-7236

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I3656E/1/02.14