



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN
Twenty-third Session
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Options for the Structure and Functions of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of GFCM and Preparations for its First Session

INTRODUCTION

1. The Twenty-second Session of the GFCM noted that the terms of reference of SAC should be guided by Rule X.2 in Appendix E. Rule X.3 stipulates that the Commission may establish such other committees and working parties as it considers desirable.
2. The present document reviews some of the options for the structure and the composition of SAC. It indicates few practical pending issues to be clarified to allow operationalizing SAC, including references to financial implications related to these options. Parallels are drawn with similar bodies in other independent regional fishery commissions.

CONTEXT FOR IDENTIFYING A POSSIBLE STRUCTURE FOR SAC

3. Rule X.2 of the GFCM agreement and the report (esp. paragraph 28) of the Twenty-second Session of the Commission provide the framework and some general terms of reference for the mandate and composition of SAC. It seems intended that SAC should deal with any biological, socio-economic and technological issue relevant to the assessment, monitoring and responsible management of Mediterranean capture fisheries. The members of SAC should be senior experts in fisheries technical and scientific matters (statistics, stock assessment, economics, etc.) as this capacity will be required to assess the reports of the Working Group. It would, in particular, "provide scientific, social and economic information, data or advice relating to the work of the Commission". It

can be assumed that reference is made to independent advice at the technical level, possibly based on the best scientific evidence available, upon which GFCM will then formulate its formal Resolutions. The Resolutions to be taken by the Commission regarding the access to the resources shall be drawn in the light of the advice of the Committee.

4. The Commission noted that SAC should meet and submit its report one month before the meetings of the Commission, i.e SAC should meet at least once a year. With regard to the composition of SAC, the Commission suggested that each GFCM member designate one (or a maximum of two) representatives onto SAC, who may be accompanied by experts with advisory status. It further requested that proposals be made for the establishment of other necessary subsidiary structures and working procedures, to enable SAC to fulfil its terms of reference. This implies that SAC is not expected to be competent to deal with issues concerning aquaculture, which will be addressed through the Aquaculture Committee and its networks⁴. The GFCM has decided, however, to endow SAC with a broad and multidisciplinary mandate, encompassing the whole spectrum of technical issues related to fisheries conservation and management. Preliminary technical activities of the SAC will necessarily be carried out, however, within specific subsidiary bodies to be set up on an *ad hoc* basis and that the financing and operation of these will need to be taken into account at an early stage.

Establishment of Subsidiary Bodies

5. With regard to the establishment of subsidiary bodies by SAC, the following considerations seem to follow:

- Referring to Articles VII.1 and VII.4 of the GFCM Agreement, the establishment of temporary, special or standing subsidiary bodies shall be subject to the availability of the necessary funds.
- As for SAC, participants to these working groups should be experts with specialized knowledge either of stock assessment, statistics, economic analysis or other specialities to cover the the broad spectrum of topics included in the mandate of SAC. These experts would presumably be senior scientists in their countries or other persons with multidisciplinary or specialized skills and background relevant to the immediate agenda items;
- With respect to Rule X.2(c), which deals in particular with analysis of data and provision of advice concerning the state of shared and straddling resources, it can be further assumed that :
- for large pelagic stocks, the scientific lead role of ICCAT will continue to be recognized, and the present *ad hoc* joint GFCM/ICCAT working group, or its equivalent, will continue to function, presumably as a subsidiary of SAC;
- for the assessment of other shared and straddling stocks, working groups of assessment scientists will have to be established. A strict interpretation

of Rule X.2(c) will exclude from consideration by these groups those resources which are not transboundary or high-seas by nature unless a specific request is received from the coastal country or countries within whose jurisdiction they lie. Since a substantial proportion of the Mediterranean continental shelf and its living resources fall within national jurisdiction, living resources occurring solely in these areas will be placed before SAC only if the member country (or countries, in the case of shared stocks) decide to do so;

- in the case of local, shared or straddling stocks, the last paragraph raises the question of the membership of sub-regional bodies of assessment scientists reporting to SAC. Should the subsidiary body be Mediterranean-wide in membership or be comprised of those countries in the sub-region concerned who harvest the resource in question? This issue is suggested here for immediate consideration by the Commission.
- fisheries management issues, such as the monitoring of investments in fleets and other socio-economic parameters or issues related to recreational fisheries (as suggested at the last GFCM Session), especially if sub-regional, would have to be dealt with through mechanisms or subsidiaries still to be identified and the advice of the Commission is requested on this point.

6. Judging again from Rule X.2 and the report of the Twenty-second Session of GFCM, a number of questions will need to be clarified as a prerequisite for operationalizing SAC and organizing its first meeting. These include the following:

- The role of SAC will most likely be influenced, in the wider sense, by the mandate of other subsidiaries of the Commission. For example, it has been proposed that the fisheries industry (paragraph 44 of the report) should play a role in the decision-making process of the Commission. Such a participation could be envisaged through an *ad hoc* technical panel or by participation as advisers in national delegations to Commission meetings. At present, apart from the Committee on Aquaculture and SAC, the only formal subsidiary of the Commission is the Working Party on Fisheries Economics and Statistics. The informal subsidiaries of the former Council were the *ad hoc* working groups, namely the sub-regional technical consultations on stock assessment and the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Stocks, of which the latter has been dealt with above. The need for sub-regional bodies equivalent to the technical consultations to take into account sub-regional issues tackled by SAC will need to be clarified: given that this former mechanism was the main source of advice to the Council, this seems to confirm the need for such sub-regional bodies, and, as a minimum, these would seem to be required for the Western and Eastern Mediterranean and for the Black Sea.
- In this respect, experience suggests that the Mediterranean is best characterized as a series of linked basins, each to a significant extent with

its own characteristics, resources and riparian countries. The principle of subsidiarity of subregional resources and/or geographical sub-areas will need to be taken into account in properly identifying the most suitable devolved structure for SAC and the Commission as a whole. This will imply distinguishing issues that are regional by nature (e.g. environment, migratory or large pelagic resources and issues relating to the principles of fisheries management, control and surveillance, etc.) from those which are essentially sub-regional (e.g. issues relevant to the assessment and management of most demersal, invertebrate or small-pelagic fisheries).

Working Procedures of SAC

7. One possible way to address these questions of subsidiarity is to assume that SAC will have three main types of issues to be dealt with. Two of them, namely the collation and analysis of socio-economic information and statistics for monitoring means of production and stock assessments for monitoring the state of the resources, will each have to be performed on a regular (if not necessarily annual) basis. The third type of issue mainly relates to special topics that are unlikely to fall within the competence (or interest) of all members of SAC.

8. For these latter issues, it is suggested to follow the practice adopted by most similar regional fishery commissions; namely, that when or where a specialized topic has to be raised that is unlikely to be of concern of most members (e.g. issues on gear technology, pollution science, fisheries employment, recreational fisheries) or that is unlikely to form a major item on the agenda of all meetings of the Scientific Committee (e.g. oceanography, fisheries surveillance, population genetics, costs and earnings of fleets), SAC and the GFCM Secretary may commission a specialized study to be written and presented by an independent expert or a group of experts in a manner so as to be understandable in its implications to a more general audience. Instructions for such special non-repeated expenditures will be provided by the Commission itself. If the need arises, and subject to the Commission's agreement on availability of funds, a temporary working group or mini-symposium can be established to follow-up on such issues. For those technical subjects or activities requesting regular monitoring, however, the Commission will need to make decisions on a number of options concerning the structure of SAC.

MAIN OPTIONS FOR THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONING OF SAC

9. Fundamentally, SAC will have to provide regular advice to the Commission on problems connected with fisheries management, in particular on the status of stocks and on the fishing mortality exerted on them by fleets. In addition to this central mandate, the number of technical subjects that SAC will be able to consider in an (annual) meeting of a maximum of four days' duration will need to be carefully assessed, making the formulation of the agenda a key question. Like most other Commissions dealing with the management of regional

fisheries, as a matter of first priority the GFCM would be likely to routinely request advice primarily on those issues where a basis of factual data to support technical analyses exists or can be assembled. This may include issues dealing with the social and economic aspects of fishing operations as well as the assessment of fisheries resources. The Commission will presumably need to monitor also the state of supporting research activities and relevant interregional cooperation. Given the broad mandate of SAC, member countries will need to ensure that advisers or experts participating in the meetings of SAC include reasonable representation of social scientists as well as natural resource experts, either as members or advisors.

(a) Statistical data collection and socio-economic analysis

10. Concerning activities related to **statistical data collation and socio-economic analysis**, two main options can be envisaged:

- **First option:** Such activities continue to be reviewed by the present Working Party on Fisheries Economics and Statistics (WPES) which still remains a subsidiary body of the Commission in addition to SAC and the Aquaculture Committee. In this case, the Commission needs to decide on the role of this body and whether the WPES would continue to report directly to the Commission or to SAC.
- **Second option:** WPES is abolished and replaced by a working group, subsidiary of SAC. Such a working group could have the same terms of reference as the present Working Party or it can be endowed with a new mandate. This could be, for example, to review socio-economic issues, reporting to either SAC or the Commission. This might leave questions of statistics to be absorbed within the terms of reference of those sub-regional *ad hoc* groups reporting to SAC. The advice of the Commission is needed on this point.
- **Third option:** WPES is abolished and SAC will decide on how statistical, resource and economic advice is to be analysed and presented to the Commission.

(b) Assessment of stocks

11. Concerning **stock assessment activities**, the Commission will need to consider at what technical level SAC should perform its work, including the specification of the resources to be assessed.

12. From the experience of other commissions or arrangements (Appendix 2), the standard approach taken by stock assessment working groups assessing resources of common interest to two or more member countries is that all experts bring their national and special biological data in a common pre-determined format. They then spend several days running a series of mathematical routines allowing them to build a picture of the state of each key resource in relation to one

or several reference points that have been decided as relevant by the overview advisory committee to which they report. Obviously, such working groups must consist of experts with the necessary quantitative skills, access to the basic data and should have agreed on, or been given, a common format for their final report and advised on the priorities in terms of unit resources to evaluate.

13. In the GFCM context, this will require significantly strengthening over the short/medium term the available regional expertise on fish stock assessment, mathematical modelling and population analysis, as well as enhancing the global knowledge of associated management issues. Over the medium to long term, it implies a GFCM strategy exists to build regional expertise in population dynamics and other quantitative skills, since *ad hoc* working groups should be able to undertake agreed technical analyses and report to SAC on their conclusions in the form of quantitative or semi-quantitative options, including, if possible, reservations as to the level of uncertainty of the analyses they present and the data shortcomings. These reports should be presented in a manner readily understandable by an audience with only a general understanding of resource assessment theory.

14. Assuming that the *ad hoc* Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group continues to play a lead role in developing technical advice on tunas and billfish as a subsidiary to SAC (including research and data gathering on large pelagic catches by non-member countries of ICCAT), the following three options could be considered:

- **First option:** SAC performs assessments itself, in which case its members should be the best experts at the working level in the member countries concerned. For practicality, the membership must be strictly limited in number in order to conduct efficiently the work, and for efficiency SAC would have to limit somewhat its terms of reference with respect to other specialities. If, in this case, the groundwork needs to be done by consultants preparing specific studies, funding for this will have to be allowed for.
- **Second option:** SAC receives complete assessment advice for selected stocks or sub-regional areas from subsidiary *ad hoc* groups which perform pre-analysis relative to the management options suggested by SAC. These subsidiary groups should report in a clear, standardized manner for each stock discussed so that a decision can be made by SAC on the basis of general policy considerations. Under this option, the subsidiary bodies are essential and should receive requests for advice from SAC specified in such detail that their work can be directed to subject-areas of major concern. These subsidiary bodies could be two or more sub-regional working groups which meet prior to meetings of SAC to prepare material for its consideration.
- **Third option:** This option would be for SAC to request outside entities working on resource questions in the Mediterranean region to operate in a

network fashion with GFCM. These institutions might be regional projects such as COPEMED in the Western Mediterranean (or the COPADRIA project proposed for the Adriatic); various EC committees deal with resources in European waters, and for the Mediterranean as a whole, such as the CIESM DYNPOP working group. This latter group meets regularly to discuss issues related to population dynamics methodology. Without prejudice to the competence of any of these groups, they would all, to some extent, have to change their *modus operandi* in order to accomplish this task. At first sight, this may seem the most cost-effective alternative, but additional expenses will undoubtedly be involved which would require to be discussed with the organizations concerned.

15. A first evaluation suggests that the first option is less feasible if the Scientific Advisory Committee is to deal with a wide range of aspects such as biology, socio-economics, statistics, environment, etc., where the various specialist groups are unlikely to be able to make a major contribution to debate on the other subject areas, unless SAC splits up into informal working groups in the session. Under this first option, other drawbacks related to the subregional nature of Mediterranean fisheries will have to be solved. For example, delegates from the Eastern Mediterranean may have to spend a significant part of the meeting listening to issues relevant to (for example) the trawl fishery of the Gulf of Lions, until issues related to their area/resources/fisheries are reached on the agenda. However, the major disadvantage of this option is that it does not allow for peer review of the analyses conducted.

16. Given the difficulty of finding costs of attending the meeting for many countries, it might be advisable that option two or three be considered, whereby analyses are developed first at the level of a sub-regional or subsidiary body before being placed before SAC for review and as a basis for preparing management advice for the Commission. Either of these options raise the need for subsidiarity in dealing with technical issues such as stock assessment. This will evidently require addressing the issue raised earlier, namely that of **sub-regionalization**². One possibility mentioned at the last meeting of GFCM was for a series of sub-regional panels or working groups which should meet regularly to assess sub-regional resources and report to the Scientific Committee.

17. Option two envisages sufficient budgetary resources being made available to establish at least two *ad hoc* working groups dealing with demersal and small-pelagic resources respectively for the Western and Central Mediterranean and for the Eastern Mediterranean. Subject to availability of more budgetary resources, a specific Central Mediterranean and Adriatic Working Group could later be envisaged. The question of the Black Sea remains pending until riparian States have taken a formal decision on the mandate of the forthcoming Black Sea Fishery Commission.

18. The rationale of option three is mainly that of integrating one or more of the existing external mechanisms or institutions mentioned above with GFCM, in the hope of achieving networking and some possible cost savings. Its relevance may also be that of keeping subsidiary bodies for which GFCM must find funding to a necessary minimum. If GFCM has to bear the full cost of annual meetings of two or three working groups to carry out the preliminary resource assessment work, as well as other *ad hoc* meetings addressing specific topics, costs will be higher than when making use of existing external institutions where this can be arranged. However, the feasibility of this third option as a complete solution appears questionable, at least in the short/medium term.

19. A composite of options two and three for resource assessment work, and for socio-economic aspects, option two, may be necessary to ensure a smooth flow of management advice (see Figure 1 below).

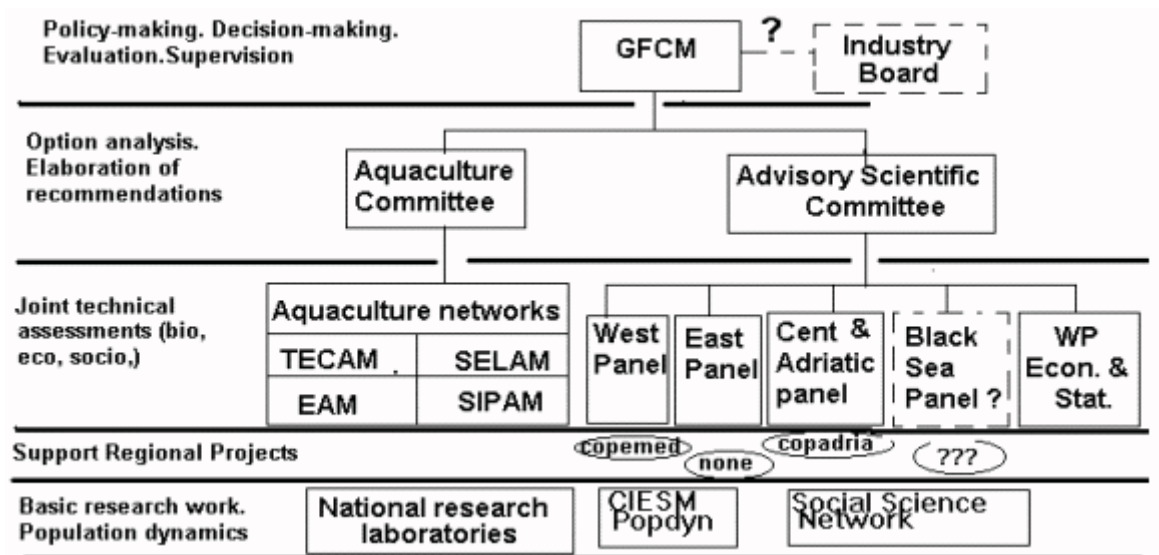


Figure 1. One option for structure and functions of a renovated GFCM.

REMARKS ON THE COMPOSITION OF SAC AND ITS WORKING PROCEDURES

20. Assuming that the framework such as suggested in the figure above is acceptable for a multi-disciplinary committee, membership will have to be decided at each level in the advisory structure, as well as working procedures for the bodies concerned and their respective sources of funding. For comparison, characteristics of scientific/advisory committees in some other regional fishery bodies are summarized in Appendix 2.

(a) Working procedures

21. Concerning **working procedures**, judging from Rule X.4 of the GFCM, the Commission will need to evaluate the extent to which SAC will be allowed flexibility in internal practices in order to ensure the highest level of independent and objective advice. Other issues to be resolved include:

- the degree to which all participants must reflect a national stance, or whether some proportion of independent experts can participate in the debate;
- whether recommendations should be by consensus, majority vote or other criteria;
- the official languages to be used;
- terms of reference of officers of each group and
- mandate of the Chairperson, including or not power to convene *ad hoc* panels of experts for any specific purpose.

(b) Composition

22. Concerning the **composition** of the Committee, during the debate at the Twenty-second session of the GFCM, some dissent was expressed on Rule X.2(b), which provides for only one SAC member per country but an unlimited number of subject-matter advisers. Assuming that delegations to SAC will effectively comprise one delegate, as for the former GFCM Committee on Fisheries Management, the corresponding number of specialists each member will be allowed to bring along, and the possibility of independent experts being present, and their right to vote, remain to be decided upon by the Commission.

23. A practical limitation to the number of attendees, as noted, relates to the impossibility of carrying out detailed analysis of technical data in a committee with unlimited membership and/or observers present and is reflected in the position taken by similar bodies. For example, the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) of the EC allows for "not more than 28 members"³; in the Advisory Committee on Fisheries Management (ACFM) of ICES each member State has equal representation by one scientist. The Chairman of ACFM is appointed by the Council after being elected by ACFM members. In contrast, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) of ICCAT has members from the Contracting Parties but participants are scientists designated by the latter, and there is no restriction on the number of attendees.

24. Considering the multi-disciplinary nature of management advice, experts in the appropriate discipline may have to be present as required, either as a member or adviser to members of the Committee. Advice is required from the Commission on how to organize multi-disciplinary work, bearing in mind that unlimited membership by advisers from a wide range of disciplines will make the work and agenda of SAC very unwieldy.

25. Since for many member countries funding attendance of even one member without observers is not going to be easy, especially on an annual basis, there is a serious risk of technical bias towards the Committee accepting advice mainly from countries with the necessary financial resources to bring multiple observers. An important aspect of organizational structures and procedures is the question of agreeing on an **agenda**, and on the research programme of SAC. In most similar bodies, agenda items for the equivalent body to the Scientific Committee are set by the Commission, as modified by technical issues which arise in the course of implementation of these. Sufficient technical and financial resources must be provided for SAC and its subsidiary bodies to be effective. At the same time, the agenda must be tightly focused, where possible, on a limited number of subject matters so that the number of specialized advisers attending any one session can be limited to the extent possible. For comparison, it can be noted that:

- for STECF, members are nominated by the Commission from highly qualified scientists; individual experts can be invited;
- for ACFM, each member country is represented, there are no advisors, but twelve standing or working groups exist;
- for SCRS, there are many subsidiary groups established by SCRS itself after approval of the Commission. Additional examples are given in Appendix 2.

26. Similarly, and judging from GFCM proven practice, in addition to the annual report of SAC the Commission will require SAC to provide a draft programme of work and forecast of expenditure for each year to be considered at its next session. This is likely to include a draft agenda with indication of which topics must be dealt with by a given working group, study group or meeting, and the types of specialized expertise that will have to be involved. This should include terms of reference for each meeting or study, and the name of the chairman or team leader. This information should be presented to the Commission by the Chairman of SAC or his delegate. Only those activities which have been endorsed by the Commission would remain on the yearly agenda of the Committee.

27. It can also be expected that the overall mandate of the working groups should be to report to SAC on the matters designated by the latter and specified in terms of reference set by SAC, and that procedures for deciding on a common research programme, as for most similar bodies in other Commissions, will start in principle with a scientific paper, whose soundness and relevance should be discussed and amended at all levels of the organizational structure in such a way that a scientific initiative is translated into results.

28. Another obvious constraint to the work of SAC will come from the **funding** available to run a series of annual subsidiary bodies and the Scientific Committee itself. With respect to the cost of annual meetings, these will be dominated by the cost of simultaneous interpretation, accommodation for the

meeting and travel of members and observers, if any. On this last point, an equitable and balanced Committee will need to sustain equal representation by all those members, both regionally and by economic group. The creation of subsidiaries would have to be in conformity with Article VII.4 of the GFCM Agreement which stipulates that "the establishment of committees and working parties ... shall be subject to the availability of necessary funds....".

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

29. In considering the terms of reference of its proposed Scientific Advisory Committee, the Commission may need to take into account a number of key issues which will affect the success of this new body, a body which has been made central to the future work of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. Some of these issues are as follows:

(1) The extent to which subsidiary bodies of SAC are required, both by subject matter and geographical representation, needs to be taken into account in deciding the level of technical analysis that must be actually carried out in SAC sessions. This is in contrast to SAC sessions being mainly devoted to reviewing summaries of resource recommendations and other matters prepared by subsidiary bodies that will need to be specified.

(2) In this respect, the Commission may wish first to make a decision between options one to three outlined in paragraph 14 of this document in deciding on the most practical way to proceed.

(3) As a consequence of its decision, the Commission will need to specify what subsidiary bodies will be required in order for SAC to operate efficiently and what will be the linkages of SAC with other GFCM subsidiary bodies.

(4) Although broad terms of reference have been proposed for SAC, it will be important for the Commission to consider to what extent the efficient accomplishment of its work programme is compatible with the number and status of national representatives, observers and independent experts attending its sessions. The decision on the number of participants should also be compatible with the balance of national interests in resources of common concern. How this balance can be best achieved, and how it could affect those countries whose capacity to bring large delegations to meetings is strictly limited, needs to be considered.

(5) The Commission's decisions on subject coverage by SAC will affect the requirement for the presence of different subject experts at its meetings, and this will affect the scheduling of subjects on its agenda. Experience by other fishery commissions which operate such scientific committees is suggested as providing some criteria for consideration by the Commission on this issue.

30. The final decision on the terms of reference of SAC, and its requirement for subsidiary bodies, will also depend on the availability of funds to support the activity of SAC and its subsidiaries and on national contributions, and these aspects need to be taken into account in discussing items (1) to (5) above.

Appendix 1

RULE X.2 of the GFCM Agreement

2. (a) *There shall be established a Scientific Advisory Committee which shall provide scientific, social and economic information, data, or advice relating to the work of the Commission.*

(b) *The Committee shall be open to all members of the Commission. Each Member of the Commission may designate a member of the Committee, and a member may be accompanied by experts.*

(c) *The Committee may establish working groups to analyze data and to advise the Commission on the state of shared and straddling resources.*

(d) *The Committee shall provide independent advice on the technical and scientific bases for decisions concerning fisheries conservation and management, including biological, social and economic aspects, and in particular, it shall:*

(1) *assess information provided by members and relevant fisheries organisations or programmes on catches, fishing effort, and other data relevant to the conservation and management of fisheries;*

(2) *formulate advice to the Commission on the conservation and management of fisheries;*

(3) *identify cooperative research programmes and coordinate their implementation;*

(4) *undertake such other functions or responsibilities as may be conferred on it by the Commission.*

(e) *Members have an obligation to provide information on catches and other data relevant to the functions of the Committee in such a way as to enable the Committee to fulfil its responsibilities under this paragraph.*

Appendix 2

Table summarizing characteristics of scientific committees of various regional fishery organizations

	ICCAT	NAFO	ICES	CCAMLR	NASCO
Name of Committee	Standing Committee on Research and Statistics	Scientific Council	Advisory Committee on Fisheries Management (ACFM)	Scientific Committee for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (SC-CAMLR)	Standing Scientific Committee
Terms of reference	See Convention	See Convention		Covered in Article XV of the Convention.	To assist in developing the requests to ICES for advice.
Frequency of meetings	Plenary session is held annually; many working groups etc., under the Committee hold various inter-sessional meetings at irregular frequencies.	Main assessment meetings in June (3 w/g). Few stocks assessment meetings during September (Annual Meeting of NAFO). Shrimp stock assessment meeting in November.	Two meetings per year (10 days each).	The Scientific Committee "shall meet as often as may be necessary to fulfil its functions" (Art.XVI); however, it meets once a year in conjunction with annual meeting of CCAMLR.	
How are members appointed?	Members are the Contracting Parties to the Convention.	"Representatives", "Advisors" and "Experts" are nominated in advance of each meeting, by Contracting Parties.	One member (+ alternate) appointed by each country, + Fish Committee Chairmen (elected), + ACFM Chairman (elected).	Each member of the Commission (CCAMLR) is a member of SC-CAMLR	Comprises two representatives (one scientist and one administrator) and is chaired by the Assistant Secretary.
Are there advisors and members?	Participants are scientists designated by the Contracting Parties and observers admitted by the Commission. There are no separations between members and advisors.	See above box. Admission of "Observers" is also done by Contracting Parties (by vote, if needed).	No. Working Group Chairmen may be invited by ACFM for particular meetings	No advisory state; however, States acceded to the Convention can participate in meetings of SC-CAMLR only as observers.	NASCO requests its advice from ICES (or other appropriate fisheries/scientific organizations).
	ICCAT	NAFO	ICES	CCAMLR	NASCO
Is there a limit on the number of members that each country can bring to meetings?	There are no restrictions on the number of scientists from one country to any of the meetings.	No.	Yes, for ACFM. Not for Working Groups.	Each national representative to SC-CAMLR may be accompanied by other experts and advisors. So far, no limits exist as to the number of experts and advisors.	
Can NGOs attend?	NGOs can attend if the NGO took proper procedures to be admitted as an observer to any Commission meeting.	By application, in advance and approved by Contracting Parties (by vote, if needed).	No.	NGOs can attend a meeting of SC-CAMLR on invitation from SC-CAMLR unless a Member of the Scientific Committee objects (Rules 19-21 of the Rules of Procedure of the SC-CAMLR).	Meetings of Committee are not open to NGOs but the Report (in the form of a request to ICES) is made available to all delegates.
What are the rules as to formation of (ad hoc or standing)	Any subsidiary groups can be formed by the decision of the	By decision of Scientific Council (usually by unanimous	Annually ACFM proposes establishment and meetings of	SC-CAMLR can establish with approval of the Commission such	

subsidiary groups?	Standing Committee itself, which will be approved by the Commission at a later session. Some small working groups can also be formed by the Chairman of the Committee.	consent).	Working Groups or Study Groups, sets terms of reference for each meeting and names Chairman. Endorsement by Council required.	subsidiary bodies as may be required for the performance of its functions.	
What do these meetings cost the Organization?	The Commission's budget for the plenary of the SCRS for 1998 is 4 000 000 Pts (\$270 000 approx.). Working Group meetings are generally paid by host governments unless held at HQ.	Meeting operation and publications/communications are covered by NAFO budget. Subject to where it is held, number of people, length of meetings.	ACFM meetings (incl. Travel/DSA for participants) + cost of servicing Working Groups (excl. travel/ DSA). Cost in 1996 was US\$ 550 000. This was fully recovered from DG-XIV, NEAFC, NASCO and IBSFC.	In 1997 the cost of all meetings of SC-CAMLR (one annual meeting of the Committee, two meetings of its WGs and one workshop) amounted to A\$ 443 200. For 1998 (same number of meetings) the cost is A\$ 446 500.	The meeting of the Standing Scientific Committee is held during the Annual Meeting of the Council and Commissions, so there are no costs to the Organization.
	ICCAT	NAFO	ICES	CCAMLR	NASCO
Who pays for travel/ subsistence allowance?	The Commission pays travel and subsistence for their staff attending these meetings. The participants are generally supported by their own governments and/or organizations. There have been some special cases where the Commission prepared some funding to support participants' travel and subsistence, particularly those experts from developing countries.	Contracting Parties for their own delegations.	ICES pays travel and DSA for ACFM participants. Countries pay for all participants in Working Group meetings.	Participation at CCAMLR meetings is covered by participants.	
Who do the committees report to?	The Committee reports to the Commission.	The Scientific Council is a Constituent body of NAFO, able to decide for NAFO.	ACFM has been delegated the authority to give advice directly on behalf of ICES. It is ultimately responsible to the Council.	Under the Convention SC-CAMLR transmits its report and the Commission takes full account of findings and recommendations.	The Committee reports initially to the three Commissions and following their approval of the request for advice to the Council.
Are there subsidiary bodies?	Yes.	Yes.	Yes. Twelve WGs or SGs.		
What is the predominant professional background of committee members?	- Director or institute - Working level stock assessment expert			Predominant professional background of national representatives, directors of national Antarctic research programs and directors of research institutes or their deputies.	

1

However, SAC may need to be informed of some issues related to aquaculture (e.g. in relation with escape of pathogens into the wild or with impact of offshore cage-culturing developments). When the need arises for addressing problems of common interest, joint *ad hoc* meeting of the Chairpersons of the two Committees could be envisaged.

2

In previous years, GFCM has made full use of a series of sub-regional *ad hoc* technical consultations on stock assessment that have provided similar sub-regional focus, but it will not be possible to assume that FAO will have funding for these to meet annually or even regularly.

3

Official Journal of the European Communities,
L 297/25; Decision 93/619/EC; Article 3.