

**GENERAL
FISHERIES
COMMISSION
FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN**

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GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

REPORT OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION
Athens, 12–17 April 2010

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document is the final version of the report adopted in Athens by the thirty-fourth session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) on 17 April 2010

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ABSTRACT

The thirty-fourth session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) was attended by representatives from 17 Contracting Parties as well as from 9 observers. The Commission also held the first session of its Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF) and the fourth session of its Compliance Committee (CoC). It reviewed the intersessional activities of its scientific and technical subsidiary bodies and adopted three management decisions concerning the establishment of a GFCM logbook, the management of fishing capacity in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and the identification of non-compliance with GFCM binding decisions. It also endorsed three Recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) regarding the management of swordfish and bluefin tuna fisheries and on selected Shark species associated with tuna fisheries in the GFCM competence area. The session acknowledged the progress on the performance review of the GFCM launched in 2009, to be continued in 2010, renewed the bureau of its Compliance Committee and agreed on the new approach to the functioning of its SAC-Working groups on stock assessment. The Commission further noted the positive progress in the field of sustainable aquaculture. During this session, the 2010 programme of work of the GFCM subsidiary bodies was approved by the Commission which also adopted the 2010 autonomous budget at the level of US\$ 1 624 000. Finally the Commission decided that the election of the Executive Secretary would be done during the thirty-fifth ordinary session scheduled to be held in 2011, according to the established procedure and that the Deputy Secretary shall continue filling this position until completion of the selection process and appointment of the new Secretary. The Commission amended its Rules of procedure and extended the mandate of the GFCM Bureau until the thirty-fifth session.

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OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) held its thirty-fourth session as well as the first session of the Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF) and the fourth session of the Compliance Committee (CoC) in Athens, Greece from 12 to 17 April 2010. It was attended by delegates from 17 Members of the Commission, as well as by observers from the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), the International Confederation of Sport Fishing (CIPS), Greenpeace, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), OCEANA, Mediterranean Regional Advisory Council (RAC-MED), the Mediterranean Action Plan for the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (UNEP-MAP RAC/SPA) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The list of delegates and observers is provided in Appendix B to this report.

2. The Chairperson referred to the Statement of Competence and Voting Rights by the European Union (EU) and its Member States as provided in document GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.12.

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

4. Mrs Katerina Batzeli, Minister of Rural Development and Food, addressed the Plenary and warmly welcomed the Delegations to Greece. She noted that the history of people around the Mediterranean basin was directly and inextricably linked to the sea and referred to the joint responsibility to preserve this invaluable asset. She reaffirmed the commitment of Greece to support responsible fishing, strengthening of cooperation as well as the adoption of common standards and measures. The Minister augured all delegates a pleasant stay in Athens and expressed her best wishes for a fruitful meeting.

5. Mr Jean François Pulvenis de Séligny, Director, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Economics Division, welcomed the participants on behalf of Mr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, and Mr Ichiro Nomura, Assistant Director-General, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. He stressed the importance of that meeting, particularly when the newly established Committee of Administration and Finance (CAF) would hold its first session. He recalled with affliction the premature passing away of the Executive Secretary of the Commission, Mr Alain Bonzon, and, after praising Mr Bonzon's strong commitment and essential contributions to the work of the Commission, he asked the participants to observe a minute of silence in his memory, and in memory of Mr Habib Ben Alaya, a former GFCM Executive Secretary who also passed away recently. He stressed the need to initiate a reflexion on the future strategy of the Commission, in particular on the basis of the ongoing performance review, for its strengthening and improved efficiency. While recalling FAO's own commitment to provide support to the Commission, he emphasized the efforts to be made by the GFCM members in this respect, in particular to ensure that the Commission is provided with the human resources needed for its work. He highlighted the importance in these circumstances of the voluntary support provided by some members, highlighting among others that of Greece in relation to EastMed Project. He referred to some of the constraints that the Commission was facing (e.g. the delays in the payment of some of the contributions to the autonomous budget and the need still to solve some pending issues linked to the transfer of the Commission and its Secretariat to its new headquarters). He drew the attention of participants on the proposals submitted to them for decision at that session. He thanked the Government and people of Greece for their hospitality and stressed the importance for this meeting to be hosted, in Athens, by a nation which had made a fundamental contribution to the formation of the Mediterranean culture and civilization.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

6. The Agenda was adopted with some changes and is attached as Appendix A.
7. The documents which were before the Commission are listed in Appendix C.

REPORT ON THE 2009 INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Activities of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

8. Mr Henri Farrugio, Chairperson of SAC presented the activities of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies on the basis of document GFCM:XXXIV/2010/2 and GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.9. He referred to the 11 meetings held during the intersessional period, including the Coordinating Meeting of the Sub-Committees (CMSC), and summarized the main results of the work undertaken during workshops and by the working groups as follows:

- The Transversal Workshop on the GFCM Logbook drew up a draft format of the GFCM logbook, and suggested that the GFCM logbook should consider both fishing effort and catch of GFCM priority species;
- The Transversal Workshop on fishing capacity in the GFCM Area, appraised the strengths and weaknesses of national fishing fleets and existing national mechanisms to control and manage fishing capacity, and identified specific areas for action and possible options for the way forward on the management and monitoring of fishing capacity in the region.
- A Transversal Workshop was dedicated to address issues on selectivity improvement and bycatch reduction. It identified key elements for a standard protocol for the collection of information and mitigation measures on bycatch of species of conservation concern;
- The Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information (SCSI) reviewed the outcome and proposals of the Workshop on the GFCM Logbook and evaluated the Task 1 XML data exchange protocol and Task 1 data entry software developed by the Secretariat, as well as the current STATLANT 37A data submission system;
- The Sub-Committee on Economics and Social Sciences (SCESS) addressed issues related to the sector of “Non-Professional Commercial Fishing” and “Recreational Fisheries”. It discussed the socio-economic effects of the improvement in gear

selectivity, the increase in fuel prices and the added pressure on the fishing industry to decrease CO₂ emissions. For both cases, it stressed the urgent need for adequate collection of economic data and information;

- The Sub-Committee on the Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE) revised the criteria for the identification of sensitive habitats and discussed on the bycatch of endangered species. It drew up a draft project on elasmobranch species and addressed various other subjects such as alien species and marine protected areas;
- The Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA) reviewed the outcomes of the two working groups on stock assessment, together with 29 technical papers on demersal species and 17 technical papers on small pelagic species. The Sub-Committee also reviewed the list of priority species and shared stocks and suggested to improve the current stock assessment forms.

9. The Chairperson of SAC also reported on the work of the Coordinating Meeting of the Sub-Committees (CMSC) that reviewed the main conclusions and recommendations drawn up by the Sub-Committees and the transversal session, and provided consolidated advice to the Scientific Advisory Committee. He stressed that strengthening the human resources of the Secretariat became a priority.

10. Among other subjects, the CMSC stressed the importance of the timely submission of data and information by GFCM Members in order for SAC to fulfil its work and evaluated the functioning of the SCSA and its Working Groups on stock assessment and proposed a revised working strategy to improve it.

11. The Commission thanked Mr Farrugio for his presentation and commented the extensive work carried out by SAC, its Sub-Committees and its subsidiary bodies. It also noted the work carried out by the Secretariat for the organization of all SAC activities.

12. The Commission also stated that the work of the SAC still needs to be expanded in terms of both stakeholder participation and geographical coverage. In particular the stock assessment work should be expanded to cover all areas including the more active

participation of all GFCM members, notably in providing required data and participation to their analysis as well as to the formulation of related diagnosis and management advice.

13. Following some discussion on the report of the consultant on the reference frame of SAC, the chairperson of the SAC clarified that the view of the SAC was that the work on assessment of single stocks should be continued, as these are the basis even for multispecies fisheries management. In addition he stated that the SAC shared the view that stock status diagnostics should be based on the Biological Reference Points (BRPs).

14. The delegate from the European Union noted that work still needs to be more focused both on establishing biological reference points (BRPs) for several exploited stocks and fisheries and on their use in the formulation of fisheries management advice.

Activities of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ)

15. The chairperson of the Committee of Aquaculture (CAQ), Mr Spyros Klaoudatos, presented the main achievements of the activities carried out during the intersessional period on the basis of the documents GFCM: XXXIV/2010/7 and GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.11.

16. He reported that a total of ten meetings were held as follows:

- WGSA (InDAM) – The expert Meeting on “Indicators for the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean sea” identified and selected preliminary indicators corresponding to the economic, environmental, social and governance dimensions of Sustainable Aquaculture;
- WGSC (SHoCMed) – The workshop on “national legislation related to siting, monitoring programmes and environmental impacts” focused *inter alia* on a first review of legal aspects for site selection in aquaculture and, delivered a heterogeneous picture in view of difficulties in the harmonization of aquaculture legal aspects within the GFCM region;
- WGSA – The technical meetings of the InDAM Pilot Studies in Mugla (Turkey) and in Monastir (Tunisia) produced local feedback from stakeholders on the

indicators and, among other things, identified the main attributes for the identification of such indicators;

- WGSC – The workshop on Siting and Carrying Capacity (SHoCMed) highlighted the need to integrate aquaculture into the coastal zone management, based on a participatory approach and within an ecosystem perspective, and concluded that space availability, allocation and licence procedures still remain the main constraints for any further development of aquaculture;
- WGMA – The MedAquaMarket Workshop on “Development of a strategy for marketing and promotion of Mediterranean aquaculture” indicated that knowledge on the demand of consumer markets and the improvement of the image of aquaculture products are essential to improve cost competitiveness of the industry;
- WGSa – The workshop on guidelines and application of indicators for sustainable development of aquaculture (InDAM) highlighted that the indicators should be considered within a sustainable reference system in a multidisciplinary context and that pilot case studies are essential to establish a local reference system for the development of sustainable aquaculture;
- The workshop on harmonization of standards for Mediterranean aquaculture data collection adopted specific definitions for data collection and considered that data on production centres should be provided according to the segment of production (hatchery, farms, etc.), number of production centres per segment, cultured species, volume unit and destination of product;
- The eleventh session of the Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM) amended and updated the data collection scheme on the reporting of aquaculture data and information in relation to the Production Centre;

- The Third Coordinating Meeting of the CAQ Working Groups reviewed, discussed and analysed the conclusions and recommendations drawn up by the WGs and SIPAM during 2009.

17. The CAQ Chairperson noted with satisfaction that the activities of the CAQ have been reinitiated through strong efforts made by the Secretariat.

18. The representative from Turkey expressed his satisfaction for the work done and recalled that his country participated in the pilot project on indicators for sustainable aquaculture and confirmed that Turkey will continue to support the activities of the CAQ.

19. The delegate from Tunisia noted with satisfaction the extensive activities carried out by the CAQ and recalled that the aquaculture sector in the Mediterranean countries plays an important role in increasing the production of fisheries products.

20. The Italian representative recalled that the priorities identified and considerations made by the CAQ are the most emerging topics within the aquaculture development agenda. He stressed that, a well harmonized interaction between capture fisheries and fish farming is considered to be vital for the future development of these industries, as is the case of bluefin tuna.

21. The delegate from Croatia suggested that, when the CAQ deals with aquaculture siting and carrying capacity as well as environmental impact assessments, any recommendation should be considered within a strategic coastal zone planning context. He also suggested that the CAQ should take on board the support of the countries in the preparation of such a plan.

22. Delegations highlighted the relevance of the indicators for sustainable aquaculture and of the two cases study implemented by the CAQ and expressed their interest in the follow up of these activities through the production of guidelines.

23. The Acting Executive Secretary recalled that the work done was also possible thanks to the support made by the donor countries and hoped that this support will be sustained in the future.

24. The Commission expressed its satisfaction with the progress made in the development and implementation of the work made by the CAQ with the support of the Secretariat.

Report of the FAO regional projects

25. The report on regional projects was presented by Mr Pedro de Barros, Fisheries Resources Officer, FAO, who informed the Commission on the main activities performed by the FAO Mediterranean regional projects in support of GFCM. He recalled that, for the first time during this intersessional period the whole Mediterranean was covered by FAO Regional Projects. He highlighted the main activities carried out and the outputs achieved by the projects AdriaMed, MedSudMed, CopeMed II, ArtFiMed, EastMed, Med-Fisis and MED-LME. Moreover, he announced that the project formulation phase of the BlackSeaFish project could probably be initiated soon. The role of the donor countries and of the project coordinators was highlighted.

26. The Delegates of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Tunisia and Algeria expressed their thanks to the donors and to the MedSudMed and CopeMed II Projects for their assistance in training scientists and promoting scientific cooperation in the region.

27. The Delegate of Turkey expressed his full support for the Black Sea-Fish project, the implementation of which is temporarily delayed due to some legislative constraints, on account of the nature of the bilateral agreement within the Turkish Administration.

28. The EU delegation stated that it looks with great interest on the development of scientific cooperation for sustainable exploitation of marine resources in the Black Sea region and is ready to support and participate in any development as considered adequate.

29. The delegate of Romania stated that there is an urgent need that GFCM could focus more on the improvement of sustainable exploitation of fisheries in the Black Sea and collaborate with Romania specifically in the field of assessment of main fish stocks and assessment of bycatches of cetaceans

30. The Delegates of Algeria and Morocco reiterated the importance of the regional projects CopeMed II and ArtFiMed, recalling their role in support of GFCM activities.

31. The Delegates of Croatia and Montenegro underlined the importance of the AdriaMed project in promoting regional cooperation in the Adriatic and in helping their countries to achieve sustainable fishery development. They expressed the necessity to extend this project.

32. The Delegate of the European Union acknowledged the important role of the regional projects in particular in connection with SAC-GFCM activities and expressed the willingness of the European Union to continue supporting these projects. He underlined the fact that more effort should be directed towards the transmission of the results and data obtained by the projects to SAC-GFCM.

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

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TRANSVERSAL WORKSHOP ON FISHING CAPACITY

34. The Acting Executive Secretary introduced this item on the basis of document GFCMXXXIV/2010/Inf.10 and GFCMXXXIV/2010/Inf.15, recalling the proposal made by the EU during the Thirty-third Session on the management of fishing capacity and the request by the Commission to convene a meeting expert on fishing capacity. He made reference to the two main options suggested by the workshop with regards to assessment, monitoring and management of fishing capacity in the GFCM Area.

35. Mr Matthew Camilleri (GFCM Secretariat) presented the proceedings of the workshop referred to above. He informed the Commission that on the basis of the information received in the questionnaires, the information delivered by participants during the workshop and the discussions which took place, the workshop proposed a list of pertinent elements for the management of fishing capacity and proposed possible options for the way forward.

36. The Commission congratulated all the staff of the Secretariat for the substantial work carried out which ensured the successful and fruitful outcome of the workshop.

37. Several delegations stated that the measure of freezing fishing capacity should not be taken singly but in combination with other effective management measures, including those which may be in place at national level. Some delegations added that national fisheries development plans should also be taken into consideration when establishing regional plans of action.

38. The EU delegation stressed that regional measures to manage fishing capacity should take into account the common interest of Members, especially the sustainable exploitation of shared fisheries resources. It added that establishing a ceiling for fishing capacity should be seen as a first step in a Regional Plan of Action which would be followed by more specific fleet management measures by area and fishery when more detailed information is available. It insisted that the creation of a flexible instrument to adapt the fleet capacity to fishing opportunities was urgent.

39. Upon a proposal of the Acting Executive Secretary, the Commission agreed that the two main options proposed by the workshop should be taken in combination and reflected in a revised draft of the proposal tabled by the European Union. In this regard, the Commission called upon an ad hoc drafting group to produce a new draft for its final endorsement during the present Session.

MANAGEMENT OF MEDITERRANEAN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Report of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

40. Mr Henri Farrugio, Chairperson of the SAC, presented the main conclusions and advice emanating from the SAC on the basis of document GFCM:XXXIV/2010/4.

41. It was stated that most of the stocks (85 percent) that have been assessed were considered to be fully exploited or overexploited, with most of the fisheries being based on the exploitation of juveniles or individuals smaller than the size at first maturity. Therefore,

he highlighted the urgent need to establish multilateral management measures. The specific advice put forward by the SAC was the following:

- Convert Resolution GFCM:XXXI/2009/1 on the reduction of general fishing effort to protect demersal stocks in the Mediterranean into a binding Recommendation under Article V of the GFCM Agreement.
- Focus the measure for a reduction in demersal fishing effort on fleet capacity and operations, which would be more useful to fisheries managers.
- Develop a regional plan of action for the management of fishing capacity in the GFCM area which would include specific actions and activities to be identified at subregional workshops to be convened in 2010 and 2011. This would have to be closely allied with full implementation of the fleet register.
- Complete the common database for sardine and anchovy in GSA 17 and carry out a new assessment in 2010, using the most recent information while providing full documentation on the changes introduced and analyzing their impact;
- Establish an ad hoc joint working group of Moroccan and Spanish scientists to analyse existing data on black spot seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) in geographical sub-area 3 (GSA3).
- Strengthen cooperation between France and Spain in updating catch, effort and biological data gathered by the two countries engaged in sardine fisheries in the Gulf of Lions.
- Monitor the fry fishery in the south of Sicily, the impact of which on sardine fisheries is unknown.
- Carry out an acoustic survey of small pelagic fish resources of the Mediterranean coast of Egypt.
- Include in all future assessments and related management advice, whenever possible, information on Biological Reference Points on biomass and fishing mortality.

42. Furthermore, it was suggested that the SAC should investigate the likely consequences of changing the current framework for management of bottom trawl fisheries to one in which specific areas for trawling would be designated.

43. In the field of data collection and statistics, it was reported that the SAC suggested that a regional logbook format, containing specific information, should be established.

44. It also suggested that the Task 1 data entry software should be translated into the GFCM working languages, and that the possibility of converting Task 1 component 1.5 into Task 2 should be addressed.

45. On socio-economic issues, Mr Farrugio reported that the SAC recommended the following:

- Carry out an extended analysis of the socio-economic impacts of proposed changes in gear selectivity, as well as of the increase in fuel prices and of the call for further reduction of CO₂ emissions, including the collection of multidisciplinary data;
- Develop a dedicated cooperative project on reinforcing the regional capacity for socio-economic work;
- Revise the definitions of recreational fisheries ensuring appropriate monitoring of recreational fisheries.

46. The Chairperson of the SAC also presented three selected decisions from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) on bluefin Tuna, swordfish and thresher sharks, and invited the Commission to consider them for possible endorsement.

47. The Commission thanked Mr Farrugio for the presentation and congratulated the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Secretariat for the extensive high quality work carried out during the intersessional period.

48. During the discussion that followed, the EU delegation presented a proposal for a GFCM Recommendation on the establishment of a GFCM logbook. Some delegations raised the issue that in many countries the level of education of fishers does not allow them to easily fill the required information.

49. The Commission therefore agreed that the filling of the logbook should be compulsory only for vessels longer than 15 m in length overall.

50. Considering the request made by some delegations it was also agreed that the glossary as well as the logbook and Task 1 data fields should be translated into all GFCM working languages, taking into consideration the availability of funds. Concerned delegations were invited to assist the GFCM Secretariat in this endeavour.

51. Some delegations drew the attention of the Commission on the need of educating fishers on fisheries management, especially on the need of adjusting capacity to the fishing opportunities; otherwise it would be very difficult to control fishing effort. The Commission recognized that this question will also be addressed as a part of the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF), which should be the main framework for fisheries management in the foreseeable future.

Report of the Committee of Aquaculture (CAQ)

52. Mr Spyros Kilaoudatos, the Chairperson of CAQ reported on the advice summarized by the CMWG on Mediterranean aquaculture which, among other matters includes: the integration of aquaculture into coastal zone management, the harmonization of legislation on site selection and licensing procedure, the establishment of a sustainable reference system for aquaculture development, the promotion of market oriented production and the improvement of data collection.

53. Furthermore the advice made by the Coordination meeting of the working group focused on the following:

- the need that sustainable development of marine aquaculture in Mediterranean should be ensured through a normative and procedural approach and should be adopted by the countries;
- the need to monitor and assess the environmental impact and interaction of aquaculture activities and to establish an effective procedure for aquaculture development to undertake environmental assessments and monitoring programmes;
- the need for the establishment of a regional sustainable reference framework for the development of aquaculture bearing in mind the regional dimension of marine aquaculture activities in Mediterranean;

- the need to assist the GFCM Members in the process of harmonizing strategies for aquaculture management in consideration of the regional emerging issues (*global market, environmental issues, transboundary aquatic ecosystem, product safety and certification*).

54. The chairperson of the CAQ also presented the proposed amendments to the Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/04 on the reporting of data on aquaculture in accordance with the results of the CAQ workshop on data harmonization and the requirement of information on production centres as adopted by SIPAM and taking into account the new harmonized terminology endorsed by the CMWG.

55. The delegate from France stressed the role of GFCM as a regional fisheries management organization in promoting the sustainable development of aquaculture in its Convention Area. He also recalled that aquaculture is an activity operating in an area along with other users and stakeholders and thus a special governance framework is required.

56. Several delegates fully supported the recommendation made by the CAQ in relation to the development of strategic multi-user coastal zone management plans and environmental monitoring.

57. The Delegates pointed out that monitoring activities of the environment should be considered not only for considering the impact of aquaculture on the environment but also for the impact of other human activities on the environment surrounding the fish farms, as well as other natural environmental fluctuations.

Decisions on fisheries management

Recommendation concerning the establishment of a GFCM logbook

58. The Commission thoroughly discussed the Recommendation proposed by the EU delegation reflecting the results of a discussion and collaboration between several delegations. The Commission unanimously decided to adopt this Recommendation as developed, in light of the discussions held. The adopted Recommendation is reproduced in Appendix D with the quote GFCM/34/2010/1.

Recommendation on the management of fishing capacity

59. The Commission discussed extensively the proposed recommendation which was a result of a fruitful collaboration spirit among the GFCM delegations. The final adopted Recommendation quoted GFCM/34/2010/2 is reproduced in Appendix E.

Recommendation on the identification of non-compliance

60. Upon a proposal by the EU, the Commission thoroughly discussed a draft recommendation on the identification of non compliance. It introduced some amendments and adopts it as Recommendation GFCM/34/2010/3. The text of this Recommendation is reproduced as Appendix F of this report.

Proposal for the amendment Recommendation GFCM/22/2009/4 on reporting of aquaculture data and information

61. Considering the advice given by SIPAM meeting and the CAQ-CMWG, a proposal for the amendment of proposal for Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/4 on reporting of aquaculture data and information was tabled by the Chairperson of CAQ (Appendix M). Since the Commission did not have enough time to review the proposed amendments, it was decided to postpone the decision on the matter to the thirty-fifth session. The draft proposal is reproduced as Appendix K to this report.

Proposed recommendations of ICCAT of relevance for the Mediterranean

62. On the basis of document GFCM: XXXIV/2010/Inf.13 as presented by the SAC Chairperson, the Commission decided to adopt three ICCAT recommendations relevant to Mediterranean fisheries, namely:

- (i) ICCAT recommendation [09–04] for a management framework for the sustainable exploitation of Mediterranean swordfish and replacing ICCAT recommendation [08-03];

- (ii) ICCAT recommendation [09–06] amending recommendation [08-05] to establish a multi-annual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean;
- (iii) ICCAT recommendation [09–07] on the conservation of thresher sharks caught in association with fisheries in the ICCAT convention area.

63. The Recommendation GFCM/34/2010/4 reproduces the three above mentioned recommendations (Appendix G)

REPORT OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (COC)

64. The Chairperson of the Compliance Committee presented the report of the CoC (GFCM:XXXIV/2010/5). He reported that the CoC had addressed the status of implementation of GFCM decisions by Members, the status of data and information by members and management of GFCM databases by the Secretariat, as well as the follow up to the Compendium of GFCM decisions.

65. The Committee had noted that the examination of implementation of GFCM decisions by Members required a greater amount of time, and the possibility of having a longer meeting was considered. Some delegations, noting a need for technical and financial resources in this regard, called on the FAO regional projects to provide additional support for technical capacity building.

66. The Commission acknowledged that significant progress had been made by certain members in submitting data but emphasized that greater effort and commitment were required and that standards and protocols applying to data submission should be respected. The Committee also agreed that the GFCM Unique Identifier must be included in all lists of vessels submitted to the Secretariat to ensure the sound management of the related databases.

67. The Committee noted the usefulness of the Compendium of GFCM decisions, available in interactive format on the Web site and on CD-ROM, in helping Members to implement the Commission's decisions.

68. The Commission thanked the Compliance Committee for its achievements. It also congratulated the Secretariat for its work.

69. The EU delegation, in response to the concern of WWF regarding the issue of a list of vessels fishing in the Gulf of Lions, confirmed that the list of vessels has been forwarded to GFCM, even if it was after the required original deadline, and the extensive checks have been made in order to ensure that this information is reliable and credible. It stated that the EU will continue to update these lists in the coming weeks in order to provide up-to-date information in this area.

70. In relation to the requests for national reports on compliance and other matters as well as data, it was agreed that these should be passed through official diplomatic channels to ensure that required information is received.

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

AMENDMENT TO THE GFCM RULE OF PROCEDURE

72. Mr Srour, the GFCM Secretary, introduced this agenda item by recalling the suggestion of the Committee on Administration and Finance to amend the GFCM Rules of Procedure in order to reflect the terms of reference of the new Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF) established at the thirty-third session of the Commission (March 2009) as well as the procedure of selection and nomination of the Executive Secretary, as adopted by the Commission at the session.

73. The Commission agreed to endorse the Amended Rule of Procedures as reproduced in Appendix H.

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD 2010

Programme of work of the Scientific Advisory Committee

74. With reference to documents GFCM:XXXIV/2010/6 and GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.9, the Commission was presented with the draft programme of work, suggested by SAC for the intersessional period 2010 as identified by the four SAC Sub-Committees and reviewed and completed by the SAC at its twelfth Session.

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

Stock assessment

- Pursue activities on stock assessment using both commercial data and surveys at sea.
- Pursue the work aimed at developing a GFCM protocol for undertaking surveys at sea.
- Improve knowledge on biology, life history parameters and stock structure, including the spatial location of nurseries and spawning areas.
- Agree on a set of biological parameters to be used for the stock assessments in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, either by Geographical Sub Area (GSA) or by merging adjacent GSAs.
- Draw up and include additional sheets, related to survey-based assessment methods, in the stock assessment form.
- Improve biological indicators and further develop reference points with the view to evaluate the status of the stocks and fisheries including the effects on exploited stocks within Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs).
- Organize the meetings of the Working Groups on stock assessment of demersal and small pelagic resources, considering the new functioning approach.
- Carry out a review of the current scenario and knowledge on age reading in the GFCM area.
- Contribute to the implementation of the medium-term working programme to improve knowledge and to assess the status of the stock of elasmobranches.

- Contribute to the performance of case studies on the implementation of the minimum mesh size of 40 mm (square mesh) or 50 mm (diamond mesh) in demersal fisheries, as well as on the EAF.
- Collate information on the stocks of *Anguilla anguilla*.

Marine environment and ecosystems

- Identify sensitive habitats for each GFCM priority species, to be submitted to the next SCMEE meeting.
- Prepare a detailed form for data collection on the bycatch of endangered species, to be included in the Task 1 system.
- Update the knowledge on artificial reefs.
- Organize a workshop on alien species and their interaction with fisheries, back-to-back with the SCMEE meeting.
- Organize a transversal workshop on selectivity improvement, bycatch reduction and alternative gears.
- Implement the programme on elasmobranch species, including an expert meeting and training course.
- Contribute to the performance of case studies on the implementation of the minimum mesh size of 40 mm (square mesh) or 50 mm (diamond mesh) in demersal fisheries, as well as on the EAF.

Statistics and information

- Organize a workshop on data collection methods applied to all segments of the fleet, and their coherence with the requirements of the GFCM Task 1.
- Carry out further analysis on the optimum weight threshold for the reporting of catches in the GFCM logbook.
- After reception by the GFCM Secretariat of the Task 1.1, 1.2, and 1.4 datasets:
 - update the statistical bulletin accordingly;
 - work on proposing data summary outputs and data access functions to be presented at the next SCSI meeting.
- Work on a data policy in relation to the Task 1 dataset.

Economic and social sciences

- Constitute an expert network for the analysis on the fishers' social structure across all Mediterranean countries, along with the compilation of studies through email exchange.
- Open a section in the GFCM Web site to contain all related studies on the impact of changes in the cost of energy.
- Organize a Workshop on Monitoring Recreational Fisheries in the GFCM area.
- Contribute to the performance of case studies on the implementation of the minimum mesh size of 40 mm (square mesh) or 50 mm (diamond mesh) in demersal fisheries, as well as on the EAF.
- Carry out further economic analysis on the impact of fuel prices and reduction in CO₂ emissions and collect information on potential technologies and methods to decrease fuel consumption.

Other transversal issues

- Launch a working program to improve knowledge and assess the state of red corals in the Mediterranean, starting with the organisation of a workshop to review the available information on the biology, fishery, regulations and existing management plans for this species in the Region.
- Follow up on the request by twenty-seventh session of SAC to report on the geographical occurrence and seasonality of mucilaginous algal blooms. A workshop is to be organised during the intersessional period to address this subject.
- Analyse the impact of the establishment of a closed season for the FAD dolphinfish fisheries on the stocks of this species and to recommend any change that may be deemed necessary to improve its effectiveness, in order to evaluate possible modifications to the closure and/or to propose additional management measures.
- Develop a Regional Plan of Action for the management of fishing capacity.

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

Meetings	Place/Date
Ninth Session of the CMSC	Rome, Italy/9–10 June 2010
Transversal Workshop on red coral	Italy/16–17 September 2010
First Expert Meeting on the status of elasmobranchs in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea	Sfax, Tunisia/20–22 September 2010
Transversal workshop on European Eel	Salambo, Tunisia/23–24 September
Transversal workshop on Fishing capacity	Rome, Italy 27–28 September 2010
Workshop on data collection methods applied to all segments of the Fleet and their coherence with the requirements of the GFCM Task 1	Rome, Italy/29 September–1 October 2010
Workshop on algal and jelly fish blooms	Istanbul, Turkey/6–8 October 2010
Working Group on stock assessment of demersal species	Istanbul, Turkey/18–23 October 2010
Workshop on monitoring recreational fisheries in the GFCM area	Palma de Mallorca, Spain/20–22 October 2010
Transversal Workshop on selectivity improvement, bycatch reduction and alternative gears	Egypt/25–27 October 2010
Working Group on stock assessment of small pelagic species	Mazzara del Vallo, Italy/1–6 November 2010
Session of the SCSA	Malta/29 November–2 December 2010
Session of the SCESS	Malta/29 November–2 December 2010
Session of the SCSI	Malta/29 November – 2 December 2010
Session of the SCMEE	Malta/29 November – 2 December 2010
Workshop on alien species and their interaction with fisheries (back-to-back with the SCMEE meeting)	Malta/29 November 2010
10th Session of the CMSC	Malta/3 December 2010
Thirteenth session of the SAC	France/7–11 February 2011

77. Delegates thanked the SAC chairperson for the work carried out and the presentation made. The Commission recalled that all the activities considered by the SAC are relevant for the Commission.

78. Several countries mentioned the lack of information at regional level on European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), the inclusion of this species in the CITES Annex II and problems met by some Members to export this fishery product. It was recalled that this species is already included in the list of GFCM priority species and that scientific available information at national level should be collected and provided to the SAC.

79. The delegation of Algeria, supported by other delegations, proposed to carry out a research on the European eel. He expressed his wish to include a study on the development of a regional management plan for eel in the SAC 2010 workplan. The representative of RAC/SPA, offered the support of his organization to hold a meeting devoted entirely to this subject.

80. The delegate from Romania expressed his concern on the delay in implementing specific activities in the Black Sea. He proposed to start by compiling the existing information on this area and to present a report to the Commission on the main problems and situation of the stocks. The Turkish delegate agreed with the proposal and offered support for the organisation of an informal meeting on this specific issue.

81. The status of elasmobranch stocks was raised and Tunisia offered to organize the first meeting on the status of such stocks in the GFCM area together with the service of a Tunisian expert to prepare the meeting including gathering the required information and coordination of the meeting. The observer from the RAC/SPA recalled that his organisation has an Action Plan on elasmobranches in place and offered their support to the meeting.

82. It was agreed that the training course on age reading and growth parameters on elasmobranch species should be postponed once additional information of the status of the resources are provided to the Commission.

83. The proposal to organise a transversal workshop on vessel monitoring system (VMS) data was discussed. Considering that the implementation of the VMS will take effect in 2013

the Commission decided to postpone this meeting. The EU delegation raised the effort made to obtain funds for organizing the above mentioned workshop. It stated that such funds could not be used to support other activities.

84. A working group on fishing capacity was proposed in order to follow up on the work and outputs of the workshop carried out in February 2010

85. The observer from ACCOBAMS pointed out the good collaboration with GFCM in the areas of common interest to the two organizations. She thanked the Acting Executive Secretary for his availability and his openness for the collaboration as proved by the presence of numerous observers of the Commission. She further underlined the interest to collaborate on specific issues and inform the Commission that the next meeting of ACCOBAMS Contracting Parties, that only takes place every three years, will be held in Monaco from 9 to 12 November 2010. An invitation was extended to the Secretariat to attend this important meeting.

Programme of work of the Committee on Aquaculture

86. With reference to the documents GFCM/XXXIV/2010/7 and GFCM/XXXIV/2010/Inf. 11, the Commission endorsed the programme of work as proposed by the CAQ-CMWG suggested at its third meeting:

Working Group on Sustainability on Aquaculture

- Carry out new pilot case studies to test the Indicators Reference System at local level.
- Disseminate the InDAM results, outputs and documentation and preparation of guidelines on the application of indicators.
- Undertake the analysis of a minimum set of indicators for sustainable aquaculture to be established at Mediterranean level.

Working Group on Siting and Carrying Capacity

- Prepare a review on Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZA) and finalization of the review on legal aspects related to site selection and carrying capacity.
- Prepare a Glossary on Site Selection and Carrying Capacity for aquaculture activities.
- Prepare a technical document including a review of the Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) and monitoring in Mediterranean aquaculture.

Working Group on Marketing of Aquaculture

- Prepare a project for improving the image of aquaculture production including pilot action proposals for organizing training/workshops on responsible aquaculture.
- Prepare a review of legislation of Producer's Organization (PO) in GFCM member countries.
- Organize a meeting on the marketing data collection scheme.

Information System for the Development of Aquaculture (SIPAM)

- Update the Production Statistics data-entry forms.
- Finalise the newly established sections and related databases on "Marketing", "Siting and Carrying Capacity" and "Indicators for Sustainable Aquaculture".
- Prepare a Mediterranean regional aquaculture review based on the available information taking into consideration the availability of funds.

Project on Lagoon Management

- Definition of a standard for the preparation of national report on coastal lagoon on management for aquaculture and capture fisheries.
- Establishment of a regional network on expert on management on coastal lagoon.

- Identification of priorities and issues to be addressed within the project “Lagoon management: interaction between aquaculture and capture fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black sea area”.

87. The Commission agreed to convene the following meeting during the intersessional period.

Meeting	Place/Date
WGSC–SHoCMed workshop on Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (*)	Sevilla, Spain/27–30 September 2010
First Workshop on Lagoon Management and interaction between aquaculture and capture fisheries	Rome, Italy/2–5 November 2010
WGMA–SIPAM joint meeting on marketing data scheme and marketing data collection	Malta/22, November 2010
WGSC–SHoCMed – Meeting on Environmental Quality Standards for marine fish farms(*)	Malta/23–25 November 2010
Twelfth Session of the SIPAM	Malta/23–25 November 2010
WGSA–InDAM expert meeting Definition of Regional minimum set of the indicators for sustainable aquaculture(*)	Malta/25–26 November 2010
Fourth Session of the Coordination Meeting of the Working Groups	Malta/26–27 November 2010
Seventh Session of Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ)	FAO HQ, Rome/ 8–11 March 2011

88. The Secretary provided the Commission with additional information on budget estimates related to CAQ activities and it was recalled that they are mainly based on donors’ contributions and the involvement of partner institutions.

89. The EU delegation acknowledged the methodology applied by the CAQ Working Groups based on specific outputs and a project-based approach that can assist countries in the development of sustainable aquaculture. He confirmed EU's attention to activities related to on-site selection and carrying capacity on aquaculture and sustainable indicators. The delegate of France expressed his interest to convene a joint meeting between the SAC and CAQ as was recalled in several occasions by the Commission. Some delegates saw the opportunity for promotion of participation of fisheries scientists on workshop on lagoon management and interaction between aquaculture and capture fisheries.

90. The Commission thanked the donors, namely Spain and EU, for the funds provided for CAQ related activities.

91. The Commission also welcomed the new project including a component on "Lagoon management and the interaction between aquaculture and capture fisheries" and expressed its gratitude to the government of Italy for funding the project.

92. The delegate from Tunisia underlined the increasing demand for organic aquaculture products as a market opportunity for countries and farmers and suggested to schedule a meeting/working group on the impact of environment on aquaculture (SHoCMed)

93. Some delegates suggested that the establishment of a Mediterranean Observatory on Sustainable Aquaculture should be considered at a later stage when the selection process of indicators will be finalized and tested.

94. Delegates discussed the impact of alien species on aquaculture and the impact of the culture of exotic species on the autochthonous species and the environment, and considered these issues as a common point for possible cooperation between the CAQ and the SAC. It was also suggested that another point of common interest between the two subsidiary bodies could be common priority species such as eels.

95. Mr Vamvakas, invited expert, informed about the possibilities of collaboration between GFCM and some international aquaculture platforms, ie. the ASEM Aquaculture platform and European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATIP). He has also informed on some issues discussed in the advisory group for Framework Programme 7

(EU DG Research) under the theme “Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Biotechnology” concerning the call for proposals for 2011 and 2012.

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

96. The GFCM Chairperson presented the report of the Committee (GFCM:XXXIV/2010/3) by recalling some relevant issues such as the GFCM headquarters and the election of the Executive Secretary of the Commission.

97. With regards to the question of the new headquarters of the Commission, the acting Executive Secretary reported briefly on the present situation. He informed on the issue of the running costs (estimated at € 146 000.00 per year) to be covered by a voluntary contribution from FAO to cover specific expenses (estimated € 46 000.00) as well as by a contribution from Italy.

98. The representative of Italy thanked the Acting Executive Secretary for his efforts and confirmed Italy’s interest in supporting GFCM activities within the Mediterranean as demonstrated by the financial contributions towards AdriaMed, MedSudMed and EastMed regional projects as well as the disposal of the new GFCM headquarters. She also informed the Commission that the constraints encountered in supporting the running costs related to the new Headquarters were only related to internal administrative issues that are being solved.

99. Delegates from Morocco and Turkey commended the valuable support of Italy to GFCM activities notably through funding cooperative projects and acknowledged the effort being made to solve the issue of the running costs to allow the transfer of the Secretariat to the new HQ as soon as possible.

100. Regarding the election of the Executive Secretary, the Commission agreed that it was not necessary to hold an extraordinary session for this purpose and that this election will be held at the Thirty-fifth Session of the GFCM. It considered that the Secretariat is in the position to continue ensuring the functioning of the Commission as demonstrated.

101. In this respect, the Commission commended the Secretariat for its excellent work. In particular, the Commission congratulated the Acting Executive Secretary for his continuing commitment to the achievement of the objectives of the Commission during the last two intersessional periods, despite the difficult circumstances.

102. Consequently, the Commission decided that Mr Abdellah Srour, Deputy Executive Secretary, shall continue filling the vacant position of Executive Secretary (D-1) until the election and nomination process is achieved.

103. The Commission endorsed the report of the Committee on Administration and Finance, including the procedure of the selection of the Executive Secretary. The report of the Committee is included in Appendix J of this report.

GFCM BUDGET AND MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

104. Mr. Abdellah Srour, the Acting Executive Secretary presented detailed information on the main chapters of the budget for the financial period 2010.

105. The delegations expressed some concern for the substantial increase of the budget. Further information was requested on the additional costs in relation to travel and the organization of the annual sessions. Mr Srour provided the Commission with supplementary details and explanation on these issues.

106. The Commission further agreed to adopt the budget for 2010 for a total amount of USD 1 624 000 as indicated in Appendix M as well as the contribution of the Members to the GFCM budget (Appendix L).

ANY OTHER MATTERS

107. On the issue of the timing of the presentation of proposals for recommendations or resolutions, the delegates of Algeria and Tunisia supported by several delegations stated that it was difficult, if not impossible, to discuss or approve such proposals when they are presented for the first time during the Session. Delegations agreed that any new proposal should be sent to the Secretariat, for further distribution among the members, at least 30 days

before the Commission's Session. The EU delegation pointed out that while it is necessary to send the proposals for recommendation 30 days before, delegates should be ready to discuss, review and eventually change them during the sessions as appropriate.

108. The Acting Executive Secretary requested the guidance of the Commission on the submission procedures and mechanisms to submit proposals on management of fisheries and aquaculture.

109. The representative of ICCAT reported on the developments within this Commission in relation to scientific work and new management measures for large pelagic species, namely tuna and swordfish together with elasmobranchs. He commended the excellent collaboration between the Secretariats of the two organizations and stated that the sound implementation of these management measures also depended on the collaboration with GFCM which he augured would be maintained.

110. The representative of IUCN welcomed and commended the extensive scientific work carried out by the SAC and the CAQ and that his organisation strongly believed in the role of GFCM in the management of living marine resources in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. However, he expressed his disappointment that very few decisions on management measures were taken despite the remarkable work carried out.

111. Finally the Commission thanked the Greek authorities and local staff for the logistic assistance and hospitality. The efficient support provided before and during the meeting contributed to the smooth running of the activities of the Commission.

ELECTION OF THE GFCM BUREAU

112. The Commission unanimously extended the mandate of the GFCM Bureau until the thirty-fifth session. The election of a new bureau will be scheduled to be held at that session.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

113. The Commission decided to hold its thirty-fifth session in Rome. The exact date will be set according to the meeting schedule of the SAC and the CAQ as well as of their respective subsidiary bodies.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

114. The report, including its appendixes, was adopted on Saturday 17 April 2010.

Agenda

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the Session
 - Presentation and adoption of the agenda
 - Introduction of delegations of Members
 - Introduction of delegations of observers
 - Meeting arrangements
3. Report on the intersessional activities 2009
 - Report of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)
 - Sub-Committees of SAC
 - Coordinating meeting of the Sub-Committees (CMSC)
 - Update of the reference frame and establishment of a medium term strategic plan for the future of SAC
 - Report of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ)
 - Working Group of CAQ
 - Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM)
 - Coordination Meeting of the Working Groups (CMWGs)
 - Report on the FAO Regional projects
4. Conclusions and recommendations of the Transversal Workshop on the assessment, management and monitoring of fishing capacity in the GFCM Area
5. Management of Mediterranean fisheries and aquaculture
 - Fisheries Management advice emanating from the SAC
 - Aquaculture Management advice emanating from the CAQ/CMWG
 - Draft Recommendation on the management of the fishing capacity
 - Recommendations from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) of relevance for the Mediterranean
6. Report of the fourth session the Compliance Committee (COC)
7. Amendments to the GFCM Rules of procedure
8. Programme of work for the intersessional period 2010

- Programme of work of the Scientific Advisory Committee
 - Programme of work of the Committee on Aquaculture
 - Programme of work of the Compliance Committee
 - Programme of work of the Committee on Administration and Finance
9. Report of the first session of the Committee on Administration and Finance including issues on:
 - The progress report on the GFCM performance review process
 - New GFCM headquarters
 - Functioning of the Secretariat
 - The selection of the GFCM Executive Secretary
 10. GFCM budget and Member contributions for 2010–2011
 11. Any other matters
 12. Election of the GFCM bureau and endorsement of the nomination of the CoC and SAC bureaux
 13. Date and place of the thirty-fifth session
 14. Adoption of the Report and closure of the meeting

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List of documents

GFCM:XXXIV/2010/1	Provisional Agenda and Timetable
GFCM:XXXIV/2010/2	Intersessional activities of the SAC for 2009
GFCM:XXXIV/2010/3	Report of the GFCM Committee on Administration and Finance
GFCM:XXXIV/2010/4	Management of Mediterranean fisheries
GFCM:XXXIV/2010/5	Report of the GFCM Compliance Committee
GFCM:XXXIV/2010/6	Programme of work of the SAC for the intersessional period 2010
GFCM:XXXIV/2010/7	Report on intersessional activities for 2009, recommendations and workplan for 2010 of the CAQ and its subsidiary bodies
GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.1	Provisional List of Documents
GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.2	Provisional List of Participants
GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.3	Agreement for the Establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, Financial Rules and Rules of Procedures
GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.4	Report of the Secretariat on administrative and financial issues
GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.5	GFCM budget and Members contribution for 2010–2011
GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.6	Amended GFCM Rules of Procedure
GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.7	Procedure for the selection and appointment of the GFCM Executive Secretary
GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.8	Report of the thirty- third session of GFCM (Tunis, Tunisia, 23–27 March 2009)
GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.9	Report of the twelfth session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) (Budva, Montenegro, 25–29 January 2010)
GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.10	Report of the Transversal Workshop on the assessment, management and monitoring of fishing capacity in the GFCM Area (FAO HQs, Rome, Italy, 17–19 February 2010)
GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.11	Report of the CAQ Coordinating meeting of the Working Groups (CMWGs) (FAO HQs, Rome, Italy, 24–26 February 2010)
GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.12	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights by the European Union and its Member States

- GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.13 ICCAT Recommendations of relevance to the Mediterranean
- GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.14 Major activities of the FAO Regional Projects in 2009
- GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.15 Draft Recommendation on the management of the fishing capacity¹
- GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.16 Draft document on updating the SAC reference frame and establishing a medium-term strategic plan for the future (by J.J. Maguire) (Available only in English)
- GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.17 Draft glossary of scientific terms of interest for the SAC (Available only in English)
- GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Dma.1 Status of alien species in the Mediterranean and in the Black Sea. GFCM Studies and Reviews No. 87. Rome, FAO. 2010. (Advance copy) (Available only in English)
- GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Dma.2 Fish trade of Mediterranean countries: intraregional trade and import-export with the European Union. GFCM Studies and Reviews No. 86. Rome, FAO. 2010. (Advance copy) (Available only in English)
- GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Dma.3 Draft document before editing: “Indicators for Sustainable Development of Mediterranean Aquaculture (WGSA – InDAM first year)” (Available only in English)
- GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Dma.4 SIPAM – Production Statistics – Quick Star Guide for National Coordinators (Available only in English)
- GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Dma.5 Regional synthesis of the Mediterranean marine finfish aquaculture sector and development of a strategy for marketing and promotion of Mediterranean aquaculture (MedAquaMarket). GFCM Studies and Reviews No. 88. Rome, FAO. 2010. (Advance copy) (Available only in English)

¹ Refer to the Appendix S of the report of the thirty-third Session (page 123)

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/34/2010/1 CONCERNING THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A GFCM LOGBOOK**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

RECALLING the Rule X (2) (e) of the GFCM agreement in which Members have an obligation to provide information on production and other data relevant to the enable the SAC to carry out its duties;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/6 concerning the establishment of a GFCM Record of Vessels over 15 metres authorized to operate in the GFCM area amending the Recommendation GFCM/29/2005/2;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/5 concerning the establishment of the GFCM Regional Fleet Register (RFR);

CONSIDERING the importance of knowing the spatial allocation of the fishing effort;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/32/2008/1 on a regional scheme on port State measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the GFCM area;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3 on the implementation of the GFCM Task 1 statistical matrix;

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

1. The masters of fishing vessels more than 15 meters in overall length (LOA) authorized to fish in the GFCM area and registered on the GFCM Record of Vessels shall keep a bound logbook of their operations, indicating particularly quantities of each species caught and kept on board, above 50 kg in live weight, whether the catches are weighed or estimated, the date and geographical position of such catches and the type of gear(s) used in accordance with the minimum specifications and information set out in **Annex 1**.
2. The minimum quantity referred to in paragraph 1 shall be without prejudice to stricter rules implemented by Members and may be adjusted in the light of further work to be undertaken under the GFCM framework.
3. The provisions of this recommendation shall not affect more detailed or stricter obligations on the use of logbooks, including on the use of electronic means, adopted and implemented by Members.

4. Members are committed to implement gradually this recommendation in order to be fully effective from 1 January 2013.

Minimum specification for the GFCM logbook:

1. The logbook shall be numbered by sheets (3 digit country code and 7 digit unique reference).
2. The logbook shall be filled in every day (preferably by midnight) and before port arrival.
3. The logbook shall be completed in case of at sea inspections or at the request of the flag state.
4. One copy of the sheets shall remain attached to the logbook.
5. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-year operation or the quota period.

Minimum standard information for the GFCM logbook:

1. Master(s) name (s) and address.
2. Date, time and port of departure; date, time and port of arrival.
3. Vessel name, call-sign, GFCM unique number and IMO number (if available).
4. Fishing gear (FAO code and units) and dimension, mesh size and/ number of hooks:
5. Operations at sea with one line (minimum) per day of trip, providing:
 - a) Activity (fishing, steaming, etc.),
 - b) Position: Geographical positions, recorded for each fishing operation or at noon when no fishing has been conducted during this day as well as GFCM geographical sub area and/or the number of the rectangle 30'x30' of the GFCM Statistical grid,
 - c) Record of catches by species:
6. Species identification:
 - a) by FAO code,
 - b) round (RWT) weight in kg per day for all species ,
 - c) number of pieces per day (only for tunas, swordfish and highly migratory sharks).
7. Master(s) signature(s).
8. Observer signature (if applicable).
9. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board and/or counting of containers (boxes, baskets, etc).

Minimum information in case of landing and/or trans shipment:

1. Date, time and port of landing and/or trans shipment
2. Products
 - (a) presentation,
 - (b) number of fish or containers and quantity in kg.
3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent.
4. Receiving vessel details [trans shipment] (name, call-sign, markings, flag and any other characteristics)
5. The permitted margin of tolerance of 10 percent shall be expressed as a percentage of the actual determined live weight equivalent of each species retained on board.

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/34/2010/2
ON THE MANAGEMENT OF FISHING CAPACITY**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

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

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/27/2002/1 which urges the control of fishing effort and the improvement of the exploitation pattern of demersal fisheries, as well as limiting catches of juveniles of small pelagic species;

CONSIDERING that in the advice for 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 the GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) considered that several demersal and small pelagic stocks are overexploited, some with high risk of recruitment overfishing, and that sustainable management requires measures aimed at controlling or reducing the fishing effort from 10 percent up to 40 percent and more;

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

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

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

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

RECALLING 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 cooperation, with a view to ensuring the effective management of fishing capacity, as specified in article 27 of the IPOA.

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/34/2009/3 on the implementation of the GFCM Task 1 Statistical Matrix including in particular mandatory submission of the components Tasks 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4 by February 2010 for the first time while Task 1.3 and Task 1.5 by January 2011 and noting that the SAC calls for a mandatory submission by the Members as from 2009 of several components of Task 1 statistical matrix including in particular Tasks 1.1, 1.2, and 1.4;

NOTING that GFCM, at its thirty-second session, requested the SAC to carry out an evaluation of consequences of a possible freezing of the fleet capacity and the proposals and results of the workshop on the assessment, management and monitoring of fishing fleet capacity held in February 2010;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/34/2009/6 on the establishment of a GFCM record of vessels over 15 metres authorized to operate in the GFCM area;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/34/2009/5 on the establishment of the GFCM Regional Fleet Register by June 2010 to contain information on all vessels, boats, ships or other crafts that are equipped and used for commercial fishing activity and as from 2011 Contracting Parties shall submit a full data base at least at the beginning of each calendar year followed by updates as appropriate;

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

1. In order for the GFCM to be able to develop an action plan to manage fishing capacity at regional level (Regional Plan Of Action), including actions to monitor and manage fishing capacity and, where appropriate, measures to tackle overcapacity based on scientific advise shall be taken.
2. For the purpose of this recommendation, "Fishing capacity" means 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 the sum of its vessels expressed in tonnage (GT and/or GRT) and engine power (kW).
3. The levels of the overall fishing capacity in the GFCM area shall be determined based on a Regional Plan of Action considering the national and regional fishing capacity management plans and scientific advice.
4. All Members and Cooperating entities shall submit to the Secretary and via the electronic tools available on the GFCM web-site an updated list of their respective vessels greater than 15 metres LOA that were entitled to fish in the GFCM area of Competence in 2007, 2008 or 2009, before the thirty-fifth annual session.

These lists shall contain the following information for each vessel:

- Name of vessel
- Registration number
- GFCM unique identifier
- Previous flag
- Previous details of deletion from the other registries

- International radio call sign
- Vessel type, length overall, gross tonnage and/or gross registered tonnage and engine power expressed in kW
- Name and address of owner, and/or charterer, and/or operator
- Main target species
- Main gears used and fleet segment allocation and Operational Unit as identified in the GFCM TASK 1 statistical matrix
- Geographical sub-area/areas (GSAs) where fishing occurred.

5. Sub regional and national measures such as temporary closures or fisheries management for other effort limitations shall be taken into account when establishing actions and measures referred to under paragraph 1.

6. The levels of fishing capacity of vessels larger than 15 metres LOA referred to in paragraph 4 shall be without prejudice to the transferability of fishing capacity from the one Member to another Member provided that overall fishing capacity of Members or Cooperating non-members concerned and authorised and licensed to fish in the GFCM area does not increase.

7. The overall level of fishing capacity shall not be exceeded when vessels are replaced.

8. The existing fishing capacity management plans shall be transmitted to the GFCM secretariat 30 days before each annual session, at the latest.

9. The provisions of this Recommendation shall not affect more detailed or stricter obligations adopted and implemented by Members or other RFMOs.

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/34/2010/3 CONCERNING
THE IDENTIFICATION OF NON-COMPLIANCE**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

RECALLING that the FAO Council adopted on 23 June 2001 an International Plan of Action (IPOA) aiming to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/30/2006/6 on the terms of reference for the GFCM Compliance Committee;

CONSIDERING the need for action to ensure the effectiveness of the GFCM objectives;

CONSIDERING the obligation of all Members and cooperating non-Members of GFCM to respect the GFCM conservation and management measures;

AWARE of the necessity for coordinated and timely actions by all Members and cooperating non-Members of GFCM to ensure the enforcement of GFCMs conservation and management measures, and the need to encourage all Members and cooperating non-Members of GFCM to abide by these measures;

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

1. The GFCM, through its Compliance Committee shall identify each year:

- (i) Members that have not met their obligations under the GFCM Agreement in respect of the GFCM conservation and management measures, in particular, by not taking the required measures and actions or not exercising effective control according to national rules and regulations to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures by the vessels flying their flag; and/or
- (ii) Cooperating non-Members that have failed to discharge their obligations under international law to cooperate with GFCM in the management of living marine resources, in particular, by not taking measures or exercising effective control according to national rules and regulation to ensure that their vessels do not engage in any fishing or fisheries related activity that undermines the effectiveness of GFCM conservation and management measures.
- (iii) These identifications shall be based on a review of all available information required by GFCM decisions including, for example: catch or effort data, trade information etc.

- (iv) In deciding whether to make identification, the Compliance Committee shall consider all relevant evidence and information available.
2. The GFCM shall request the Members and Cooperating non-Members concerned to rectify the act or omission identified under paragraph 2 so as not to diminish the effectiveness of the GFCM management measures.
3. The Executive Secretary shall, by more than one means of communication, within 10 working days following the approval of the report of the Compliance Committee, transmit the GFCM's request to the identified Member or Cooperating non-Member. The Executive Secretary shall seek to obtain confirmation from the Member or Cooperating non-Member that it received the notification. The notification shall contain the following:
 - (a) the reason(s) for the identification with all available supporting evidence and information;
 - (b) the right to respond to the GFCM in writing at the latest 30 days before the next plenary session of the Commission with regard to the identification decision and other relevant information, for example, evidence refuting the identification or, where appropriate, a plan of action for improvement and the steps they have taken to rectify the situation; and,
 - (c) in the case of a Cooperating non-Member, an invitation to participate as an observer at the annual session where the issue will be considered.
4. Members and Cooperating non-Members are encouraged jointly and individually to request the Members and Cooperating non-Members concerned to rectify the act or omission identified under paragraph 2 so as not to diminish the effectiveness of the GFCM management measures.
5. The Compliance Committee shall evaluate the response of Member or Cooperating non-Member, together with any new information, and propose to the GFCM to decide upon one of the following actions:
 - (a) the revocation of the identification; or
 - (b) b) the continuation of the identification status of the Member or Cooperating non-Member.
6. The absence of response from the Member or Cooperating non-Member concerned within the time limit shall not prevent action from the Commission.

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/34/2010/4
CONCERNING SELECTED ICCAT RECOMMENDATIONS**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

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

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM34/2010/4 (A)
RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR A MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR
THE SUSTAINABLE EXPLOITATION OF MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH
AND REPLACING ICCAT RECOMMENDATION 08-03**

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

NOTING that the SCRS in its assessment in 2007, as reaffirmed in its 2009 advice, estimated that fish less than three years old usually represent 50-70 percent of the total yearly catches in terms of numbers and 20-35 percent in terms of weight and indicates that a reduction in the volume of juvenile catches would improve yield per recruit and spawning biomass per recruit levels,

RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT Relating to Mediterranean Swordfish* [Rec. 03-04], which encourages Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) to take measures to reduce juvenile Mediterranean swordfish catches,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the SCRS advice given in 2008 and 2009, advocating seasonal closures pending the adoption of a more comprehensive management plan for Mediterranean swordfish,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the SCRS advise that swordfish and in particular juvenile swordfish is also caught as a bycatch in other fisheries and that all catches of swordfish should stop during the closed period,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that *Recommendation by ICCAT on Mediterranean Swordfish* [Rec. 08-03] needs to be replaced to set the basis for such a more comprehensive management plan for Mediterranean swordfish,

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

1. Catching of swordfish, both as a targeted fishery and as bycatch, shall be prohibited in the Mediterranean during the period from 1 October to 30 November each year, until a long-term management plan is decided by ICCAT. Mediterranean swordfish shall not be retained on board, transhipped or landed during the period of closure.
2. CPCs shall monitor the effectiveness of this closure and submit relevant information on appropriate controls and inspections to ensure compliance with the measure by 15 October each year.
3. CPCs shall ensure the maintenance or development of adequate scientific information in the formats requested by ICCAT and in the smallest time-area possible on the swordfish catches, on the size and age distributions of all swordfish catches and on the fishing effort (fishing days per vessel, number of hooks per vessel, longline units per vessel, overall length of longline per vessel) by each pelagic longline fishery for highly migratory pelagic stocks in the Mediterranean. They shall provide these data annually by 30 June to the SCRS.
4. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT list of all fishing vessels authorised to catch swordfish in the Mediterranean Sea and make it available at the latest by 31 August each year. For the purposes of this recommendation, vessels not entered into the ICCAT list of all vessels authorised to swordfish in the Mediterranean Sea are deemed not to be authorised to catch, retain on board, tranship, transport, process or land swordfish.
5. CPCs shall communicate electronically to the ICCAT Secretariat not later than 30 June each year, the list of its fishing vessels that were authorized to carry out pelagic longline fisheries for highly migratory pelagic species in the Mediterranean during the preceding year in the format set out in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT. The list of vessels shall contain the following information for each vessel:
 - name of vessel;
 - register number;
 - external marking;
 - previous name (if any);
 - previous flag (if any);
 - type of vessel, length and gross tonnage (GT) and/or gross registered tonnage (GRT);
 - period(s) fished and total annual number of fishing days by fishery (i.e. by target species and area);
 - geographical areas, by ICCAT statistical rectangles, where fishing by fishery (i.e. by target species and area) was carried out;
 - number of hooks used by fishery (i.e. by target species and area);
 - number of longline units used by fishery (i.e. by target species and area);
 - overall length of all longline units by fishery (i.e. by target species and area).
6. Procedures referred in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels over 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area [09-08]* shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

7. CPCs shall grant special fishing permits to vessels authorised to participate in pelagic longline fisheries for highly-migratory pelagic stocks in the Mediterranean for each fishery (i.e. by target species and area).
8. The SCRS shall provide in 2010 an updated assessment of the state of the stock on the basis of updated data from 2009. It shall assess the effects of the seasonal closure and provide advice on possible spatial temporal closures, as well as other possible technical measures, pertaining notably to rigging techniques, hook sizes and shapes, with a view to reducing by-catches of juvenile swordfish by pelagic longline fisheries. On the basis of the information provided under paragraph 5, the SCRS shall also provide an assessment of fishing capacity and possibly on a minimum catching size to achieve high yields and compatible with the selectivity of the fishing gear.
9. Based on such scientific advice, the ICCAT shall decide, by end of 2010, a more comprehensive long-term management plan for swordfish including, in particular, the identification of closure periods for specific areas, the establishment of fishing effort reference level and technical measures for all pelagic longline fisheries catching swordfish either as targeted or as bycatch.

This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Mediterranean Swordfish*

RECOMMENDATION GFCM34/2010/4 (B)
RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 08-05
TO ESTABLISH A MULTIANNUAL RECOVERY PLAN FOR BLUEFIN TUNA
IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN

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

Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and associated conditions

1. The total allowable catches for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna shall be set at 13 500 tonnes in 2010. The allocation scheme established by Recommendation 08-05 shall remain unchanged.
2. The SCRS shall present a Kobe II strategy matrix reflecting recovery scenarios of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna in accordance with the multiannual recovery plan of the present Recommendation.
3. The Commission shall establish at its 2010 meeting a three-year recovery plan for 2011-2013 with the goal of achieving B_{MSY} through 2022 with at least 60 percent of probability, on a basis of the SCRS advice described in paragraph 2 above.
4. If the SCRS stock assessment detects a serious threat of fishery collapse, the Commission shall suspend all the fisheries for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna in 2011. Contracting Party, and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall immediately intensify research activities so that SCRS

can conduct further analysis and present recommendations on conservation and management measures necessary to resume the fisheries.

Closed fishing season

5. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be prohibited in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 15 June to 15 May.
6. The bad weather clause allowing for a possible extension of up to 5 days until 20 June (paragraph 21 of Rec. 08-05) shall be cancelled.

Further reduction of fishing capacity

7. Without prejudice to paragraph 45 of Rec. 08-05, each CPC shall reduce its fishing capacity referred to in paragraphs 42, 43 and 44 of Rec. 08-05 so as to ensure that the discrepancy between its fishing capacity and its fishing capacity commensurate with its allocated quota in 2011, 2012 and 2013, in accordance with the methodology approved at the 2009 annual meeting, shall be reduced by:
 - a) at least 50 percent in 2011
 - b) 20 percent in 2012
 - c) 5 percent in 2013
8. Management plans on fishing capacity for the remaining period shall be submitted annually for discussion and approval by the Commission.

Joint fishing operations

9. For each CPC, the number of joint fishing operations between CPCs from 2010 shall be limited to the level of 2007, 2008 or 2009. Before the start of the fishing season, each concerned CPC shall notify the number of its joint fishing operations with other CPCs to the ICCAT Secretariat.

Inter sessional meeting on compliance

10. The Commission shall review and determine each CPC's compliance, in particular that with paragraph 1 above and paragraph 46 of Recommendation 08-05, at its special session before the 2010 fishing season starts.
11. The Commission shall decide on the interim suspension or reduction of quota for the declared non compliant CPC, depending on the extent of the established non-compliance.

RECOMMENDATION GFCM34/2010/4 (C)
RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE CONSERVATION
OF THRESHER SHARKS CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION
WITH FISHERIES IN THE ICCAT CONVENTION AREA

RECALLING that the Commission adopted the *Resolution by ICCAT on Atlantic Sharks* [Res. 01-11], the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT* [Rec. 04-10], the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Recommendation 04-10 on the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with the Fisheries Managed by ICCAT* [Rec. 05-05], the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Sharks* [Rec. 07-06] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Bigeye Thresher Sharks (*Alopias superciliosus*) Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT* [Rec. 08-07],

CONSIDERING that thresher sharks of the family *Alopiidae* are caught as by-catch in the ICCAT Convention area,

NOTING that at its 2009 Meeting the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) recommended that the Commission prohibit retention and landings of bigeye thresher shark (*Alopias superciliosus*),

RECALLING the need to annually report Task I and Task II for catches of sharks in conformity with the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT* [Rec. 04-10],

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

1. Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall prohibit, retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of bigeye thresher sharks (*Alopias superciliosus*) in any fishery with exception of a Mexican small-scale coastal fishery with a catch of less than 110 fish.
2. CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, bigeye thresher sharks when brought along side for taking on board the vessel.
3. CPCs should strongly endeavour to ensure that vessels flying their flag do not undertake a directed fishery for species of thresher sharks of the genus *Alopias spp.*
4. CPCs shall require the collection and submission of Task I and Task II data for *Alopias spp* other than *A. superciliosus* in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements. The number of discards and releases of *A. superciliosus* must be recorded with indication of

status (dead or alive) and reported to ICCAT in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements.

5. CPCs shall, where possible, implement research on thresher sharks of the species *Alopias spp* in the Convention area in order to identify potential nursery areas. Based on this research, CPCs shall consider time and area closures and other measures, as appropriate.
6. *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Bigeye Thresher Sharks (Alopias superciliosus) Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT [Rec. 08-07]* is superseded by this Recommendation.

RULES OF PROCEDURE (AMENDED)**RULE I: Definitions**

For the purpose of these Rules, the following definitions apply:

Agreement: The Agreement for the establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean adopted in Rome (Italy) on 24 September 1949, as amended in accordance with Article X thereof, hereinafter referred to as the Agreement.

Commission: The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean.

Chairperson: The Chairperson of the Commission.

Vice-Chairpersons: The Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission.

Delegate: The representative of a Member as specified in Article II, paragraph 1 of the Agreement.

Delegation: The delegate and his alternate, experts and advisers.

Member: Members and Associate Members of the Organization, and non-members of the Organization, or regional economic integration organizations as may be Members of the Commission.

Executive Secretary: The Secretary of the Commission.

Organization: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Conference: The Conference of the Organization.

Council: The Council of the Organization.

Director-General: The Director-General of the Organization.

Headquarters: The headquarters of the Commission under Article II, paragraph 11 of the Agreement.

Observer Nation: A nation that is not a Member of the Commission or a Member of FAO or Associate Member of the Organization, but which is a Member of the United Nations, any of its Specialized Agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, attending a session of the Commission while not being a Member of the Commission.

International organization participating as observer: An international, intergovernmental or non governmental organization attending a session of the Commission or its Committees or its subsidiary bodies while not being a Member of the Commission.

RULE II: Sessions of the Commission

1. In pursuance of, and in accordance with, Article II, paragraph 10 of the Agreement, the Commission shall, at each regular annual session decide the time and place of the next session in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's programmes and the terms of the invitation of the country in which the session is to be held, as appropriate. Sessions of the Commission may be held in a country which is a Member of the Commission or at its headquarters or at the headquarters of the Organization.
2. The Chairperson may convene an extraordinary session of the Commission at the request or with the approval of a majority of the Members.
3. Invitations to a regular session of the Commission shall be issued by the Executive Secretary on behalf of the Chairperson and sent to Members, observer nations and international organizations participating as observers, not less than sixty days in advance of the date fixed for the opening of the session. Invitations to extraordinary sessions shall be issued not less than forty days in advance of the date fixed for the opening of the session.
4. In order that a proposal to hold a session of the Commission or any of its organs, in a given country, may be considered, such country must have (a) ratified without reservation the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, or (b) given the assurance that all delegates, representatives, experts, observers, or other persons entitled to attend such session in accordance with the terms of the Agreement or these Rules, will enjoy the privileges and immunities necessary for the independent exercise of their function in connection with the session.

RULE III: Registration and Credentials

1. The Executive Secretary shall make arrangements for the registration of delegates and observers, including by establishing a standard format to that effect. The Executive Secretary shall report to the Commission on the registration of delegates and observers, as may be required.
2. At each session, the Secretary shall receive the credentials of delegations, observer nations and international organization participating as observers. Such credentials shall conform to the standard form set by the Secretariat. Upon examination thereof the Secretariat shall report to the Commission for the necessary action.

RULE IV: Agenda

1. The agenda for each regular session shall include the following items:
 - (a) election of the Chairperson and of two Vice-Chairpersons as provided under Article II, paragraph 9 of the Agreement, as appropriate;
 - (b) adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) a report by the Executive Secretary on the financial and administrative affairs of the Commission and a report by the Chairperson or the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission;
 - (d) consideration of the proposed budget;
 - (e) reports on intersessional activities of the committees and the subsidiary bodies;
 - (f) consideration of the time and place of the next session;
 - (g) applications for membership in accordance with Article XIII, paragraph 2 of the Agreement, from States which, while not Members of the Organization, are Members of the United Nations, any of its Specialized Agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency;
 - (h) items referred to the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean by the Conference, the Council or the Director-General of the Organization.

2. The agenda shall also include, upon approval by the Commission:
 - (a) items approved at the previous session;
 - (b) items proposed by the committees and the subsidiary bodies;
 - (c) items proposed by a Member.

3. The provisional agenda shall be sent by the Executive Secretary to Members, observer nations and international organizations participating as observers not less than thirty days before the opening of the session, together with reports and documents available in connection therewith.

4. The agenda of an extraordinary session shall consist only of the items relating to the purpose for which the session was called.

RULE V: The Secretariat

1. The Secretariat shall consist of the Executive Secretary and such staff responsible to him as may be appointed in accordance with the Agreement and other relevant rules and procedures as appropriate.
2. The Executive Secretary shall be appointed by the Director General following the approval of the Commission in accordance with the selection procedure agreed upon by the Committee.
3. The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the implementation of the policies and activities of the Commission and shall report thereon to the Commission
4. The procedure for the selection and appointment of the GFCM Executive Secretary is provided in Appendix 1
5. The duties of the Executive Secretary shall include:
 - (a) receive and transmit the Commission's official communications;
 - (b) maintain contacts with appropriate government officials, fishery institutions and international organizations concerned with the development, conservation, rational management and utilization of fisheries, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Region of the Commission, to facilitate consultation and cooperation on all matters pertaining to the objectives of the Commission,
 - (c) maintain an active and effective network of national focal points for routine communication on progress and results of the activities of the Commission;
 - (d) prepare and implement work programmes, prepare budgets and ensure timely reporting to the Commission;
 - (e) authorize disbursement of funds in accordance with the Commission's autonomous budget and account for the funds of the Commission's autonomous budget;
 - (f) participate in the formulation of proposals regarding the budget and programme of work or other activities of the Commission financed by the regular budget of the Organization;
 - (g) stimulate interest among Members of the Commission and potential donors in the activities of the Commission and in possible financing or in implementing cooperative projects and complementary activities;
 - (h) promote, facilitate and monitor the development of databases for fisheries

assessment and monitoring and technical, biological and socio-economic research to provide a sound basis for fisheries management and aquaculture development;

- (i) coordinate the Members' programmes of research, when required;
- (j) participate, as appropriate, in the oversight of activities of projects carried out under the general framework of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies;
- (k) organize sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and other related ad hoc meetings;
- (l) prepare, or arrange for the preparation, of background documents and papers and a report on the Commission's activities and the programme of work for the submission to the Commission at its regular sessions, and arrange for the subsequent publication of the report and the proceedings of the Commission as well as its subsidiary bodies and related ad hoc meetings;
- (m) take such appropriate steps as may be required to ensure coordination between the activities of the Commission and those carried out by the Organization through its Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, with particular reference to all matters having policy, financial or programme implications;

6. Copies of all communications concerning the affairs of the Commission shall be sent to the Executive Secretary for purposes of information and record.

RULE VI: Plenary meetings of the Commission

Plenary meetings of the Commission shall be held in public unless otherwise decided by the Commission. When the Commission decides to hold a private meeting, it shall at the same time determine the scope of such a decision with respect to observers.

RULE VII: Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

The Commission shall elect, from among delegates or alternates attending the session at which they are elected, the Chairperson and the first and second Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission, who shall assume office immediately following the regular session at which they were elected and who shall be elected for two regular sessions. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons shall be eligible for re-election for a further two regular sessions.

RULE VIII: Functions of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons in connection with meetings of the Commission

1. The Chairperson shall exercise the functions conferred on him elsewhere in these Rules and, in particular, shall:
 - (a) declare the opening and closing of each plenary meeting of the Commission;
 - (b) direct the discussions at such meetings and ensure observance of these Rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions;
 - (c) rule on points of order;
 - (d) subject to these Rules, have complete control over the proceedings of the session;
 - (e) appoint such committees of the session, as the Commission may direct.
2. In the absence of the Chairperson, or at his request, his functions shall be exercised by the Vice-Chairperson or, in the absence of the latter, by the second Vice-Chairperson.
3. The Chairperson, or the Vice-Chairpersons when acting as Chairpersons, shall not vote and another member of their delegations shall represent their governments.
4. The Executive Secretary shall temporarily exercise the functions of the Chairpersons in the event that the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons should be unable to serve.
5. The Commission may adopt rules, consistent with the present Rules, clarifying the functions of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, with particular reference to any functions performed during the inter-session period.

RULE IX: Voting arrangements and procedures

1. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph 4 of this Rule, voting in plenary meetings shall be by show of hands, except that a vote by roll call shall be taken if a special majority is required by the Agreement or these Rules, or if a request for a vote by roll call is made by any delegation.
2. A vote by roll call shall be conducted by calling upon delegations in the French alphabetical order.
3. The record of any roll call vote shall show the votes cast by each delegate and any abstention.
4. Voting on matters relating to individuals, except the election of the Bureau of the Commission and its committees, shall be by secret ballot.

5. When no nominee for an office obtains on the first ballot a majority of the votes cast, there shall be taken a second ballot confined to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If, on the second ballot, the votes are equally divided, the Chairperson shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

6. If the Commission is equally divided when a vote is taken on a question other than an election, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting of the current session. If the Commission is then equally divided, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

7. Voting arrangements and other related matters not specifically provided for by the Agreement, or by these Rules, shall be governed, “mutatis mutandis”, by Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization.

RULE X: Committees, working groups and other subsidiary bodies

Committee on Aquaculture

1. There shall be established a Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) which shall monitor trends and promote the sustainable development and responsible management of marine and brackish water aquaculture in the region. The Committee:

- (a) shall provide independent advice on the technical, socio-economic, legal and environmental bases for common standards, norms and guidelines and management measures for consideration by the Commission;
- (b) 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) may establish working groups to analyse scientific and technical data and information and to advise the Committee on issues related to sustainable development of aquaculture (such as markets, environmental interactions, health, social, and other relevant issues) and the integration of marine aquaculture into coastal zone management, and ensure their coordination through a Coordinating Meeting of the Working Groups (CMWG);
- (d) the Committee shall in particular:
 - (i.) assess information provided by Members and relevant aquaculture related stakeholders or programmes on production statistics, market

- data, culture systems, technologies used, farmed species, and maintain related databases, including relevant socio-economic, environmental, biotic and abiotic indicators;
- (ii.) promote the formulation of common standards and guidelines for the Commission, on sustainable development of aquaculture;
 - (iii.) identify cooperative research and training programmes and coordinate their implementation:
 - (iv.) carry out other duties, functions or responsibilities related to aquaculture promotion that may be conferred to it by the Commission.
- (e) Members have an obligation to provide information on production 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.

Scientific Advisory Committee

2. 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.
- (a) 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.
 - (b) The Committee may establish working groups to analyze data and to advise the Committee of the state of shared and straddling resources.
 - (c) The Committee shall provide independent advice on the technical and scientific basis for decisions concerning fisheries conservation and management, including biological, environmental, social and economic aspects and, in particular, it shall:
 - (i.) assess information provided by Members and relevant fisheries organizations or programmes on catches, fishing effort, fleet capacity, and other data relevant to the conservation and management of fisheries;
 - (ii.) formulate advice to the Commission on the conservation and management of fisheries;
 - (iii.) identify cooperative research programmes and coordinate their implementation;

- (iv.) undertake such other functions or responsibilities as may be conferred on it by the Commission.
- (d) 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.

Compliance Committee

3. There shall be established a Compliance Committee that will meet during the annual Commission Session and will be entrusted with the following functions:

- (a) review compliance with conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and make such recommendations to the Commission as may be necessary to ensure their effectiveness;
- (b) review the implementation of measures on monitoring, control, surveillance, and enforcement adopted by the Commission and make such recommendations to the Commission as may be necessary to ensure their effectiveness;
- (c) define, develop and make recommendations to the Commission concerning the phased development and implementation of the GFCM Control and Inspection scheme;
- (d) monitor, review and analyze information pertaining to the activities of Non-Contracting Parties and their vessels which undermine the objectives of the Agreement including, in particular, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and recommend actions to be taken by the Commission to discourage such activities;
- (e) perform such other tasks as directed by the Commission.

4. The Committees may establish such working groups to deal with particular subject matters as may be decided, subject to the provisions of Article VII, paragraph 3 of the Agreement.

5. The Commission may establish such other committees and working groups as it considers desirable, subject to the provisions of Article VII, paragraph 3 of the Agreement.

6. The Committees and working groups shall be governed, *mutatis mutandis*, by the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, as well as such other supplementary procedures, consistent with the present Rules, as the Commission established.

7. The relationship between the Commission and its subsidiary committees and working groups and networks or Coordinators, or national focal points, or other entities as may deal with matters within the purview of the Commission may be clarified, as appropriate, through specific decisions by the Commission or arrangements to be concluded on behalf of the Commission and the relevant interested parties.

Committee on Administration and Finance

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

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

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

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

RULE XI: Budget and finance

1. Any estimates of expenditures to be covered by the general budget of the Organization shall be submitted by the Executive Secretary to the Commission for approval. Once approved, as part of the general budget of the Organization, without prejudice to the

relevant rules of the Organization and the decisions of its Governing Bodies, they will constitute the limits within which funds may be committed for purposes approved by the Conference of FAO.

2. The Commission shall determine the extent to which travelling expenditures incurred by the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission and of any subsidiary bodies, in connection with their functions, may be covered by the autonomous budget of the Commission.

3. Subject to Article IX of the Agreement, any budgetary or financial matters relative to the autonomous budget of the Commission shall be dealt with in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Commission.

RULE XII: Participation by observers

1. Any Member or Associate Member of FAO that is not a Member of the Commission may, upon its request, be invited as an observer at sessions of the Commission, its Committees and its subsidiary bodies.

2. States which, while not Members of the Commission nor Members or Associate Members of FAO, are Members of the United Nations, any of its Specialized Agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency may, upon request and subject to the concurrence of the Commission through its Chairperson, and to the provisions relating to the granting of observer status to nations adopted by the Conference of FAO, be invited to attend sessions of the Commission, its Committees and its subsidiary bodies as observers.

3. The Commission may invite international organizations to participate as observers, upon request, having special competence in the field of activity of the Commission, including its Committees and its subsidiary bodies, to attend such of its meetings as the Commission may specify.

4. Unless the Commission expressly determines otherwise, observers may attend the plenary meetings of the Commission and participate in the discussions at any committee and subsidiary body sessions which they may be invited to attend upon request. In no case will they be entitled to vote.

RULE XIII: Reports, Recommendations and Resolutions

1. At each session, the Commission shall approve a report embodying its views, recommendations, resolutions and decisions, including, when requested, a statement of minority views. The report shall be made available on the Web site of the Commission.
2. Subject to the provisions of Article V of the GFCM Agreement, the conclusions, resolutions and recommendations of the Commission shall be transmitted to the Director-General at the end of the session. The Executive Secretary shall, on behalf of the Chairperson, circulate them to Members of the Commission, nations and international organizations which were represented at the session. Similarly, these documents may be made available to other Members and Associate Members of the Organization for their information, as appropriate.
- 3 Resolutions and recommendations having policy, programme or financial implications for the Organization shall be brought by the Director-General to the attention of the Conference through the Council of the Organization for action.
4. Subject to the provisions of the preceding paragraph, the Chairperson may request Members of the Commission to supply information on action taken on the basis of the recommendations made by the Commission.
5. The Commission may adopt recommendations for action by Members on any matters pertaining to the functions covered by Article III of the Agreement. Recommendations adopted under Article V of the Agreement shall be governed by the provisions of that Article.
6. The Executive Secretary shall receive on behalf of the Commission the replies of the Members in respect of such recommendations and shall prepare a summary and an analysis of such communications for presentation at the next session.

RULE XIV: Amendments to the Agreement

1. Proposals for the amendment of the Agreement as provided by Article XII of the Agreement may be made by any Member in a communication addressed to the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall transmit to all Members and to the Director-General a copy of such proposals for amendment immediately upon their receipt.

2. No action on a proposal for the amendment of the Agreement shall be taken by the Commission at any session, unless it has been included in the provisional agenda of the session.

RULE XV: Suspension and amendment of Rules

1. Subject to the provisions of the Agreement, any of the foregoing Rules, other than Rules IV, V, XI, XII, XIV paragraph 2, and XVI, may be suspended on the motion of any delegation by a majority of the votes cast at any plenary meeting of the Commission, provided that announcement is made at a plenary meeting of the Commission and copies of the proposal for suspension have been distributed to the delegations not less than forty-eight hours before the meeting at which action is to be taken.

2. Amendments of, or additions to, these Rules may be adopted on the motion of any delegation by a two-thirds majority of the Members of the Commission, at any plenary meeting of the Commission, provided an announcement is made at a plenary meeting and copies of the proposal for the amendment or addition have been distributed to delegations not less than twenty-four hours before the meeting at which action is to be taken.

3. Any amendments to Rule XVI which may be adopted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Rule shall not become effective until the next session of the Commission.

RULE XVI: Official languages of the Commission

1. The official languages of the Commission shall be such languages of the Organization as the Commission itself may decide. The delegations may use any one of these languages at sessions and for their reports and communications.

2. During the meetings, interpretation in one or more of the official languages will be provided by the Secretariat when requested by one of the delegates present.

3. Publications of reports and communications shall be in the language in which they are submitted and, when required by the Commission, abstracts in translation may be published.

PROCEDURE FOR THE SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

1. The procedure, including the different stages in the selection and appointment of the Secretary and the corresponding elements relating to the vacancy announcement, be as follows:

Vacancy announcement

The Members agree to a text for the vacancy announcement, including the required qualifications and the job description for the post of Executive Secretary (see below). The Director-General of FAO sees that the vacancy announcement is duly posted on the FAO and GFCM Websites and is publicized elsewhere, as appropriate, in accordance with the additional guidelines of the Commission.

Closing date for applications

Applications are accepted by FAO (Fisheries and Aquaculture Department) during a period of six weeks from the date of announcement of the vacancy notice.

Screening of applications

The applications received are examined by a Selection Committee comprising:

- the Chair and two Vice-chairs of the GFCM;
- the Chair of the GFCM Committee on Administration and Finance;
- the Chair of the GFCM Compliance Committee;
- two representatives of the Director-General of FAO;
- a representative from EU Member States;
- a representative from non EU Member States

2. The Selection Committee meets at FAO Headquarters within four weeks of closure of the vacancy announcement. With the assistance of the FAO Secretariat, the Committee is charged with eliminating those candidates that do not explicitly meet the required qualifications for the vacancy and with identifying a maximum of 20 eligible candidates.

3. The list of eligible candidates is communicated to the Members of the GFCM for evaluation and ranking. For information, the Members also receive a list of the other applicants.

Ranking of candidates

4. Five candidates are ranked by order of preference by the Members, on a point score of five to one, applying the criteria set out in the section of this document headed “Required qualifications” (the best candidate receiving 5 points).

5. The Members then send the Selection Committee their list of preferences within four weeks of receipt of the applications. The Selection Committee calculates these preferences and sends the Members a short list of the 5 candidates scoring the most points.

Short list and interview process

6. The five candidates with the most points are invited by the GFCM Chair to the following session of the Commission for interview by the Heads of Delegation of Commission Members. These interviews are presided by the GFCM Chair and covered by simultaneous interpretation in the languages of the Organization.

Interview process

7. The Chair, in agreement with the Heads of Delegation, draws up a list of 5 questions to be asked to the 5 candidates during their separate interviews, each lasting a maximum of 50 minutes.

Voting

8. After the interviews, ballots are held as follows until one candidate attains the required majority:

- (a) A first ballot for all five candidates. The two candidates receiving the least votes are eliminated from the selection process.
- (b) A second ballot for the remaining three candidates. The candidate receiving the least votes is eliminated.
- (c) A third ballot between the remaining two candidates. The candidate receiving the most votes is selected.

9. If, during the course of a ballot, two candidates receive the same number of votes, a separate round of voting is held to eliminate one of those candidates.

10. Notwithstanding the above paragraphs, if one of the candidates obtains the required majority, he is selected without the need for further ballots. The required majority is more than half of the votes cast.

11. In accordance with Rule IX.7 of the GFCM Rules of Procedure, matters not specifically provided for in this procedure are governed, *mutatis mutandis*, by the provisions of Article XII of the General Rules of the Organization.

Appointment of the new Secretary

12. The name of the candidate selected by the Commission in accordance with the above procedure is proposed by the GFCM Chair to the FAO Director-General so that he can appoint the new Secretary.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THE POST

13. The following qualifications, which duly reflect the conditions applicable under the United Nations Common System, are proposed for review by the Commission:

- (a) The incumbent should hold a university degree, preferably at post-graduate level, in fisheries biology, fisheries science, fisheries economics, administration, law or related fields. He should have at least ten years of experience in fisheries management and policy formulation, and preferably in bilateral and international relations, including knowledge of regional fisheries organizations such as the GFCM and ICCAT. He should have proven ability to exercise a high degree of professional initiative. The incumbent should be able to prepare budgets and documents and in the organization of international meetings. He should have working knowledge (level C) of two of the following official languages of the Commission: Arabic, English, French or Spanish. Knowledge, even limited, of one of the other cited languages will be considered an additional asset.

- (b) Other essential qualifications include competence in the selection of staff; demonstrated ability to conduct professional oversight in appropriate fields, and familiarity with word processing, spreadsheets and database management systems.
- (c) Desirable requirements include a high degree of adaptability and the ability to cooperate effectively with people of different nationalities, cultures, social origins and educational levels.
- (d) Candidates should have the age that allows to perform a full term mandates of five years.

14. The post of Secretary is at D-1 grade based on the United Nations salary scale for high-ranking administrators and professionals. The Secretary is also entitled to a variable element for post-adjustment, pension contributions, health insurance, etc. He is a member of FAO staff and is appointed under the terms of FAO Staff Regulations and Rules.

ENTRY ON DUTY

15. In view of the time needed to complete the administrative formalities, both within FAO and, as appropriate, within the incumbent's administration at the time of appointment, it is suggested that entry on duty be envisaged as early as possible after selection by the Commission, and in any case within a maximum period of four months.

16. The interviews and voting for selection of the Secretary will take place at a regular or extraordinary Session of the GFCM to be convened at a date to be determined by the Commission.

TERM OF OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

17. The incumbent shall be appointed for a period of five years. An incumbent selected for a period of five years may be reselected for a further term of five years. At the third regular session following regular session of the Commission during which the Executive Secretary was selected, or at the fourth regular session following the selection of the Executive Secretary, in the case in which selection took place at an extraordinary session of the Commission, selection of the next Executive Secretary should be placed on the GFCM agenda. The Commission decides the necessary arrangements for the next selection of Executive Secretary, in accordance with the procedure in place.

**REPORT OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
(CoC)**

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The fourth session of the Compliance Committee of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) was held in Athens, Greece on 12 and 13 April 2010.
2. The Session was attended by delegations of fifteen Members and observers from OCEANA and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
3. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the Compliance Committee (CoC), Mr Boudjelida Khatir (Algeria), who welcomed the participants.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

4. The Chairman invited the delegations to consider the draft agenda before the Committee. It was adopted without changes as given in Appendix A.
5. The documents at the disposal of the Committee are listed in Appendix C.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF GFCM DECISIONS BY MEMBERS

6. Mr Abdellah Srour, Acting Executive Secretary, introduced this item on the basis of document COC:IV/2010/2, "Status of Implementation of GFCM Decisions by the Members", and presented the information reported by Members to the Secretariat through the standard reporting form. He highlighted the fact that very few Members had submitted their National Report well in advance of the meeting and this situation did not allow for the Secretariat to conduct a thorough analysis of their content.

7. The Committee noted that more time is needed to review the implementation of decisions by Members and pondered on the possibility of convening the Committee's session at a different period to that of the Commission and for a longer duration.

8. The European Union tabled a proposal concerning the identification of non-compliance, aiming to improve the monitoring of compliance by Members and to enhance the working procedures of the CoC. The Committee agreed in principal with the proposal whilst noting the suggestion made by some delegations that criteria for the identification of non-compliance of Members need to be better defined. In this context, it decided to call upon an ad hoc working group composed of some participants to review and fine tune the proposal before being submitted to the Commission for its consideration.

9. Some delegations stressed on the fact that technical and financial resources may not always be available at national level in order to fully comply with certain decisions. In this respect, they called upon FAO regional projects for additional support in technical capacity building.

10. Furthermore, the Committee agreed that, from now on, requests for the submission of national reports on compliance as well as required data submission should be channelled through the official diplomatic channels.

11. In relation to Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/1 concerning the fisheries restricted area in the Gulf of Lions, WWF representative expressed concern that with the current management measure applied to the FRA, compliance is difficult to assess, as validation tools are lacking to establish a credible list of vessels that fished in the area of the FRA in 2008, especially for vessels below 15m that are not equipped with VMS.

STATUS OF DATA AND INFORMATION SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS AND MANAGEMENT OF GFCM DATABASES BY THE SECRETARIAT

12. Mr Matthew Camilleri (GFCM Secretariat), delivered a presentation on the status of submission of data and information, as well as the progress made in the development and management of related databases by the Secretariat, on the basis of document COC:IV/2010/2 and considering submissions delivered during the last few weeks prior to the meeting. He

referred individually to the twelve different frameworks within which Members are obliged to submit data and information, highlighting the status of compliance by Members together with the quality of data submitted.

13. Mr Camilleri also briefly introduced the Task 1 Regional Database and Information System, currently under development by the Secretariat, which imports data files compliant with the established standards and business rules, and includes various data processing functions and outputs useful for both scientists and managers alike.

14. The Committee noted significant progress made by some Members in submitting data particularly those connected to Task 1 and aquaculture production, with ten and thirteen Members submitting data respectively. With regards to aquaculture data, the Committee observed, however, that some countries involved in the production of large quantities of aquaculture products had not submitted any data yet.

15. On other fronts, the Committee stressed that more effort and commitment was required in submitting and updating data and called upon delegations to ensure that data submission standards and protocols are adhered to when affecting such submissions. Furthermore, the Committee agreed that the GFCM Unique Identifier must be included in all lists of vessels submitted to the Secretariat in order to ensure the sound management of the concerned databases including the historical tracking of vessels.

16. Some delegations reiterated the need for support from FAO regional projects in the field of data collection and database development, in order to place themselves in a favourable condition to submit the required information.

17. The Committee congratulated the Secretariat for the progress made in the development of regional databases and for the extensive amount of work conducted in the fields of data management and statistics.

FOLLOW UP TO THE COMPENDIUM OF GFCM DECISIONS

18. Mr Srour reported that the Compendium of GFCM Decisions had been translated into French and Arabic, the latter being carried out thanks to the translation services of the

European Union (EU). Furthermore, he announced that the Secretariat had produced the interactive electronic version of the Compendium, which was available on a CD-ROM as well as the GFCM website.

19. Mr Federico De Rossi, GFCM Consultant on data management, presented the key interactive features of the electronic version of the Compendium. He demonstrated the “simple search” and “advanced search” functions, through which search parameters and criteria could be defined in a multitude of ways. He also highlighted features such as the availability of summary sheets for each decision, deadline details, links to related decisions, record marking, printing and file export, as well as access to the complete text of the various decisions.

20. The Committee noted that this was a culmination of considerable effort by the GFCM Secretariat and referred to the general usefulness of the information, including its value for Members in their endeavours to implement GFCM decisions.

ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

21. Mr Srour informed the Committee that first term of the CoC bureau had come to an end and that if the Committee desired it could be re-elected for a second term.

22. The Committee agreed to re-elect Mr Boudjelida Khatir (Algeria), to serve as Chairperson, Mr Alexander Joksimovic (Montenegro) as First Vice-Chairperson. The post of the Second Vice-Chairperson is vacant, the Committee agreed to fill this position during the forthcoming Commission meeting.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE FIFTH SESSION

23. It was agreed that the date and venue of the Fifth Session of the Compliance Committee would be decided by the Commission at its Thirty-fourth Session.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

24. This report was adopted on 13 April 2010.

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 (list attached)
4. Status of data and information submissions by Members and management of GFCM databases by the Secretariat
5. Follow up on the Compendium of GFCM decisions
6. Any others matters
7. Election of the bureau
8. Date and venue of the fifth session
9. Adoption of the report and closure of the session

List of the main GFCM decisions for the period 2005-2009

- Recommendation GFCM/2005/2 concerning the establishment of GFCM record of vessels over 15 meters authorized to operate in the GFCM area;
- Recommendation GFCM/2006/2 concerning the establishment of a closed season for the Dolphin fish fisheries using fish aggregation devices (FADs);
- Recommendation GFCM/2006/3 on the establishment of fisheries restricted areas in order to protect the deep sea sensitive habitats;
- Recommendation GFCM/2007/1 on the mesh size of trawlnets exploiting demersal resources;
- Recommendation GFCM/2008/1 on a regional scheme on port state measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the GFCM area.
- Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/1 on the establishment of a Fisheries Restricted Area in the Gulf of Lions;
- Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/2 on a minimum mesh size in the codend of demersal trawl nets;
- Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3 on the implementation of the GFCM Task 1 statistical matrix;
- Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/4 on reporting of aquaculture data and information;
- Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/5 on the establishment of the GFCM Regional Fleet Register;
- Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/6 concerning the establishment of a GFCM record of vessels over 15 metres authorized to operate in the GFCM Area;
- Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/7 concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a vessel monitoring system in the GFCM Area;
- Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/8 on the establishment of a list of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing in the GFCM Area, amending Recommendation GFCM/2006/4;

List of documents

COC:IV/2010/1	Provisional agenda and timetable
COC:IV/2010/2	Status of implementation of GFCM decisions by Members (in English only)
COC:IV/2010/3	Status of data and information submissions by Members and management of GFCM databases by the Secretariat
COC:IV/2010/4	Status of the Compendium of GFCM decisions
COC:IV/2010/Inf.1	List of documents
COC:IV/2010/Inf.2	Terms of reference of the Compliance Committee
COC:IV/2010/Inf.3	Draft Compendium of GFCM decisions
COC:IV/2010/Inf.4	Report of the third session of the Compliance Committee
COC:IV/2010/Dma.1	Interactive e-compendium of GFCM decisions (CD Rom) (in English only)

REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE (CAF)

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) held its first session in Athens, Greece, on 12 to 13 April 2010. The session was attended by the delegates of 15 GFCM Members as well as Observers from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

2. In the absence of Mr Mohamed Fathy Osman, Chairperson of CAF, the session was called to order by Mr Mohamed Haj Ali Salem, Chairperson of the Commission, who welcomed the participants and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Greece for hosting the session and the excellent organization.

Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the session

3. The Chairperson referred to the Statements of Competence and Voting Rights by the European Community and its Member States as provided in GFCM: XXXIV/2010/Inf.12.

4. The agenda was adopted without changes and is attached in Appendix A.

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARIAT ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ISSUES

Administrative issues

5. Mr Abdellah Srour, Acting Executive Secretary, introduced this point of the agenda on the basis of document CAF:I/2010/2 "Report of the Secretariat on Administrative and Financial Issues". He started by providing a summary of actions taken in relation to the administration of the Secretariat (Administrative Report), including issues such as staffing,

the GFCM Performance Review (PR), the new headquarters, meetings, publications and the status of ratification of the GFCM Agreement as amended in 1997. He also addressed issues related to the status of payment of contributions to the autonomous budget and the statement of expenditures for 2009 (Financial Report).

Recommendations adopted under Article V of the GFCM Agreement

6. The Committee was informed that the Secretariat had officially transmitted to Members and Observers the text of recommendations and resolutions adopted at the Thirty-Third Session of the Commission (March 2009). After the “grace period”, the decisions entered into force on 9 September 2009.

GFCM Performance Review

7. The Acting Executive Secretary reported briefly on the selection and nomination process of external experts for the GFCM Performance Review. The Committee was informed that these experts were chosen by the Selection Panel from a list of potential candidates identified by the Secretariat. The Performance Review started on January 2010 and was in progress. It is expected that a preliminary report be circulated in June 2010.

8. He also informed the CAF that Ms Judith Swan, the coordinator of the team of experts in charge of the Performance Review, is attending the different sessions of GFCM in her capacity of external expert and kindly invited the delegates to complete the questionnaire sent by the Performance Review team in order to contribute to the evaluation process.

Activities and functioning of the Secretariat

9. The Committee was informed that the intersessional activities of the Secretariat included organizing and coordinating several meetings such as the annual session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), the Subsidiary Bodies of the SAC and of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) including the Coordinating Meeting of the Working Groups. The Secretariat produced several technical and administrative documents, available on the GFCM Web site and some of which are published as “Studies and Reviews”.

10. The Committee was informed on the progress made in filling the vacant posts within the Secretariat. The bilingual secretary, Ms Claudia Escutia and the administrative assistant/typist, Ms Raffaella Dirat have been selected between September and December 2009. The delegates were further informed that the recruitment of the Information Management Officer will be made in due course. In relation to the urgent need to strengthen the Secretariat in terms of technical staff, a proposal for three additional posts within the course of the next two years was brought to the attention of the Committee: Stock Assessment/Population Dynamics expert, Editor/Translator of technical documents and publications, Manager of Information on Compliance and Aquaculture.

Headquarters of the Commission

11. With regards to the question of the new headquarters of the Commission, the acting Executive Secretary reported briefly on the present situation. He informed on the issue of the running costs (estimated at € 146 000.00 per year) to be covered by a voluntary contribution from FAO to cover specific expenses (estimated € 46 000.00) as well as by a contribution from Italy (the remainder) in relation to which no formal indication had been received yet by the Secretariat. The representative of Italy confirmed Italy's interest in supporting GFCM activities within the Mediterranean as demonstrated by the financial contributions towards AdriaMed, MedSudMed and EastMed regional as well as the disposal of the new GFCM Headquarters. He also informed the Commission that the constraints encountered in supporting the running costs related to the new Headquarters were only related to internal administrative issues that have been solved and that additional information would be given by the Italian delegation during the GFCM Session.

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. The situation remained unchanged, i.e. 21 Members had deposited their instruments of acceptance while Egypt and Israel have not yet done so. Regarding the case of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Secretariat received a letter on 17 September from the Syrian Embassy in Rome notifying that Syria ratified the agreement on 12 July 2009. However, according to FAO Legal Office, this letter could not be considered as a formal ratification since the specific standard model for the ratification process had not been used.

Financial issues

Member contributions to the autonomous budget

13. The Secretariat informed the Committee that the “Call for funds” letter was sent in June 2009. By December 2009 most Members had settled their contribution. In total eighteen Members deposited their instruments of acceptance and remitted their contributions; three Members (Bulgaria, Italy and Malta) deposited their instruments of acceptance but have not paid their contribution for 2009; two Members (Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic) have not yet deposited their formal instruments of acceptance; the Syrian Arab Republic has not paid its contribution; one Member (Israel) has not deposited its instrument of acceptance (nor participated in the vote for the selection of Executive Secretary), nor paid its contribution. Mr Srour informed the Committee that the 2009 contribution of Egypt was recently paid.

14. The representative of Italy informed that the contribution of its country to the GFCM had been paid and that it would be available to the Commission shortly.

15. The representative of Malta informed the Committee that all the necessary actions had already been initiated so that due payments in respect of contributions for 2008 and 2009 will be affected as soon as possible

2009 financial situation: autonomous budget, arrears and trust funds

16. The Committee was informed on the main elements of the budget for the intersessional period, during which the Secretariat managed the expenditure according to the priorities and work plan adopted by the Commission.

17. Information on the status of GFCM extrabudgetary resources (i.e. voluntary contribution from Members) received from EU and Spain in support of the activities of the subsidiary bodies of the CAQ was given.

18. The Committee thanked the Secretariat for the detailed and clear presentation made on administrative and financial issues. The discussion of the Committee focused on the additional future costs which have been anticipated by the Secretariat through the

presentation.

19. Some delegations stated that the request of additional personnel was motivated by the amount of additional activities requested to the Secretariat to perform the activities and the workplan made by the Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission.

20. The EU delegate, supported by the EU Member States and some other delegations, proposed that the strengthening of human resources of the Secretariat should be considered and carried out only after the election and appointment of the new Executive Secretary and in consideration of the outcome of the Performance Review. He pointed out that a clear definition of the role of the Secretariat was needed and the increase of staff should focus more on the administrative issues rather than specific technical topics.

21. With reference to the proposal to the recruitment of an expert of stock assessment, the delegate of Tunisia requested to consider the hire of an expert with different areas of field of expertise in fisheries sciences, including expertise on population dynamics.

22. Some delegates mentioned also that many of the activities requested to the Secretariat could be carried out by consultants and that this should be reflected in the revised version of the budget.

23. The chairman thanked the Secretariat for the presentation made and thanked the donors, namely EU and Spain, for the support provided which made some activities on aquaculture possible.

24. The Committee agreed that a final decision should be adopted according to the discussions on other issues such as the election of the Executive Secretary and the review of the workplan for 2010.

PROCEDURES FOR THE SELECTION OF THE GFCM EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

25. In relation to the issue of the procedure of selection and appointment of the GFCM Executive Secretary, a proposal was put forward by the Secretariat (ref. CAF:I/2010/3 - GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.7). The proposed procedure draws upon the ad hoc procedure

adopted at the extraordinary session of the Commission held in Malta in 2004 and applied subsequently at the twenty-ninth Session of the Commission in February 2005, with certain amendments. The Committee was also invited to decide on the duration of the Executive Secretary's mandate, a matter that had not been addressed in the past.

26. Delegates underlined the urgent need for the election of the Executive Secretary and suggested to hold an extraordinary session possibly during the current year, assuming that related budget implications be covered by the 2010 budget. They agreed on the general principles of the selection criteria proposed by the Secretariat. Nonetheless, making reference to the composition of the Selection Committee, delegates underlined that representatives of two Members should be included in that committee:

- a representative from EU Member States
- a representative from a non EU Member State

27. Concerning the length of the mandate, delegates agreed on a time span of five years, with the possibility of extension for a second term, as proposed by the Secretariat.

AMENDED GFCM RULES OF PROCEDURE

28. Based on the document CAF:I/2010/4 the Committee was informed on the proposed amendments the GFCM Rules of Procedure which intended to reflect the terms of reference of the new Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF) established at the thirty-third Session of the Commission (March 2009). The Committee also suggested that the procedure of selection and nomination of the Executive Secretary be included as annex to the Rules of Procedure.

Provisional GFCM budget and Member contributions for 2010–2011

29. The Executive Secretary, introduced this Agenda item based on document GFCM Budget and Member Contributions for 2010–2011 (CAF:I/2010/5 – GFCM:XXXIV/2010/Inf.5).

30. The document presents an estimate of forecasted expenditures under the autonomous budget and includes a breakdown of the main budget chapters for 2010 and 2011 financial

years. The share of the autonomous budget to be financed by each Member is calculated on the scale featured in the GFCM Financial Regulations. The document should be read in conjunction with the draft programme of work of the Commission for 2010 (documents GFCM:XXXIV/2010/6 and 7) to assess the budgetary implications.

31. The forecasted budget included in the document is based on the proposed programme of work of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) for 2010, as adopted at its Twelfth Session and the Programme of Work of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) for 2010, as adopted at its Sixth Session and adjusted at the Third Session of the Coordinating Meeting of the Working Groups (CMWG). The budget is also adjusted according to an update of the Secretariat administrative and operational costs and does not include any new activity proposed by the Commission, CAF or CAQ. Additional activities would need to be added to this estimate. As requested by the Commission, the budget of cooperative projects financed from extrabudgetary resources and executed by the Secretariat is dealt with separately from the GFCM global budget.

32. The budget was estimated assuming that voting for the selection of the Executive Secretary would take place at the 35th Session; that the subsidiary bodies of the Committees would be adequately supported in order to address in a timely manner the logistics of the organisation of a similar number of meetings in 2011; that the Members would provide effective support to the work of national scientists, experts, administrators and focal points; that FAO would maintain its technical support and that the Commission would not disburse any funds for the functioning of the new GFCM headquarters.

33. With reference to the GFCM Autonomous Budget, Mr Abdellah Srouf presented also the GFCM Member contributions for 2010–2011. The draft budget for the next financial year was presented in accordance with the provisions of Article X of the Financial Regulations and the decision taken by the Commission at its 32nd Session.

34. On the basis of the information and data available to the Secretariat and assuming the Commission approves all proposed expenditures, the total sum of the autonomous budget for 2010 is estimated at 1 691 665 US dollars, while that for 2011 is estimated at 1 920 944 US dollars. This would represent a 14.38 percent increase in 2010 in relation to the initial budget adopted for 2009 and a 13.55 percent increase in 2011 in relation to the budget proposed for the previous financial year.

35. The document also addressed the extrabudgetary resources (i.e. those from voluntary contributions of certain Members) that are essentially allocated to supporting the Committee on Aquaculture and its working groups, as well as funds provided to support the SIPAM Regional Centre. Specifically, these incomes come from Tunisia for the cooperative project in support of the SIPAM Regional Centre; Spain for the cooperative project in support of the working group on marketing of the Committee on Aquaculture (MedAquaMarket); European Union for the cooperative project in support of the working groups of the Committee on Aquaculture, namely on sustainable aquaculture development (InDAM) and on site selection and carrying capacity (SHoCMed); and finally Italy for the cooperative project for strengthening cooperation on fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

36. Upon request of the CAF, the Acting Executive Secretary presented a proposal of a revised budget on the basis of the first version and on the basis of the necessity for the implementation of the workplan as indicated by the subsidiary bodies of the GFCM. He informed the participants that the changes made concerned the deletion of the stock assessment and scientific editor posts previously proposed and the consequent increase in the consultancy budget line, together with the introduction of the budget line for the extraordinary session including the cost of the Selection Panel Members (the Secretariat's proposed budget is in Appendix D)

37. The representative of the EU, supported by other EU Member states and other delegations expressed some concern on the proposed revised budget and stressed that this does not reflect the discussions. Furthermore he requested some clarification concerning the use of the arrears of 2009, the costs of the official travel and those related to the extraordinary session.

38. The Acting Executive Secretary gave additional information about the arrears and informed the Committee that, as indicated by the Commission and according to the administrative procedures, contributions paid after 31 December of each year will be part of the capital fund to cover unforeseen expenses occurred during the first four months of 2010. He added that it is very difficult to manage the activities of the Secretariat including the organization of a meeting such the CAF, CoC and GFCM session, without the availability of funds. The costs indicated for the official travel are the direct results of the scheduled meetings as reported in the workplan of the subsidiary bodies. The cost related to the

organization of the Extraordinary Session (about 52.000 US dollars) reflects the request made by the CAF on a two days meeting in which are considered the costs of: the costs of the travel and board and lodging for the different members of the selection committee and of the selected applicants, the costs of translation and of reporting and the other relevant costs

39. The representative of Tunisia recalled that the discussion should not concentrate only on the costs of the Extraordinary Session but the proposal of the revised budget should reflect the deletion of the costs of additional staff proposed by the Secretariat. He also proposed that firstly an extraordinary session should be organized for the election of the Executive Secretary.

40. The discussion which followed focused on the estimated cost for the extraordinary session as well as the global budget proposal for 2010–2011.

41. The representative of the EU proposed the bringing together of a small informal group (composed of 3 Members) within the CAF to work on a budget proposal, in collaboration with the Secretariat.

42. After in-depth discussion, the CAF agreed on this proposal. It was also stressed that this group would serve to facilitate the understanding of decisions on budget related issues, whilst taking into consideration the workplan priorities of SAC and CAQ.

Agenda

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the session
3. Reports from the Secretariat on administrative and financial issues
 - 3.1 Activities and functioning of the Secretariat and needs for the future
 - 3.2 Progress on the issue of the new Headquarters of the Commission
 - 3.3 Status of ratification of the Amendments to the GFCM Agreement
 - 3.4 Contributions by Members to the autonomous budget
 - 3.5 2009 financial situation: autonomous budget, arrears and trust funds
4. Procedures for the selection of the GFCM Executive Secretary
5. Amended GFCM rules of procedure
6. Provisional GFCM budget and Member contributions for 2010–2011
7. Any others matters
8. Date and venue of the second session
9. Adoption of the report

List of documents

CAF:I/2010/1	Provisional Agenda and Timetable
CAF:I/2010/2	Report of the Secretariat on administrative and financial issues
CAF:I/2010/3	Procedure for the selection and appointment of the GFCM Executive Secretary
CAF:I/2010/4	Amended GFCM Rules of Procedure
CAF:I/2010/5	GFCM budget and Members contribution for 2010–2011
CAF:I/2010/Inf.1	Provisional List of Documents
CAF:I/2010/Inf.2	Agreement for the Establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, Financial Rules and Rules of Procedure
CAF:I/2010/Inf.3	Terms of reference of the Committee on Administration and Finance
CAF:I/2010/Inf.4	Duties and responsibilities of an expert in stock assessment/ population dynamics within the GFCM Secretariat
CAF:I/2010/Inf.5	Duties and responsibilities of a scientific editor within the GFCM Secretariat

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

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRODUCTION STATISTICS

- Culture environment (brackish, marine and freshwater)
- Cultured species (scientific and common name)
- Method of culture (extensive, semi-intensive, extensive)
- Farming structure (cages, ponds, raceways, hatchery, etc.)
- Type of product (food for human consumption, eggs, fingerlings, etc.)
- Quantity (tonnes / units)
- Value (currency)

INFORMATION ON PRODUCTION CENTRES

- Segments of production (hatcheries, ongrowing farms)

- Number of production centres per segment
- Cultured species per segment
- Total volume (m³) of facilities of production centres per segment
- Destination of product per segment (consumption, ongrowing, restocking, ornamental)

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

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

GFCM autonomous budget for 2010

AUTONOMOUS BUDGET	US Dollars	Share of total (%)
ADMINISTRATION		
Professional staff		
Executive Secretary	-	-
Deputy Secretary	232 000	14.29
Aquaculture Expert	225 000	13.85
Bio-statistician	158 000	9.73
Fishery Information Officer (6 months)	60 000	3.69
Sub-total professional	675 000	41.56
Administrative staff		
Programmer/System Analyst	93 000	5.73
Bilingual Secretary	90 280	5.56
Administrative Assistant/typist	71 900	4.43
Temporary staff and overtime	35 000	2.16
Sub-total Administrative support	290 180	17.87
Total Staff	965 180	59.43
ACTIVITIES		
Consultancies	60 000	3.69
Travel (Staff, Bureau, Coordinators' DSA and ticket)	165 000	10.16
Chargeback (including interpretation)	160 000	9.85
Training	7 500	0.46
Equipment	10 000	0.62
Operating and Overhead expenses	24 000	1.48
Contracts	25 000	1.54
Performance review	50 000	3.08
Interpreters' travel (DSA and ticket)	72 000	4.43
Sub-total Activities	573 500	35.31
AUTONOMOUS BUDGET	1 538 680	
Miscellaneous (1% of autonomous budget)	15 387	
FAO Servicing Costs (4.5% of total)	69 933	
TOTAL AUTONOMOUS BUDGET	1 624 000	

Appendix M

Contributions to the GFCM budget for 2010 (based on 2005–2007 averages)

Member	Total		Basic fee	GDP component		Catch component	
	US\$	%	US\$	Index	US\$	Weighted total	US\$
Albania	14 707	0.91	7 061	1	4 339	17 156	3 308
Algeria	49 911	3.07	7 061	1	4 339	199 748	38 511
Bulgaria	11 400	0.70	7 061	1	4 339		
Croatia	68 040	4.19	7 061	10	43 389	91 232	17 589
Cyprus	50 450	3.11	7 061	10	43 389		
Egypt	53 180	3.27	7 061	1	4 339	216 705	41 780
France	93 839	5.78	7 061	20	86 779		
Greece	50 450	3.11	7 061	10	43 389		
Israel							
Italy	93 839	5.78	7 061	20	86 779		
Japan	94 173	5.80	7 061	20	86 779	1 732	334
Lebanon	13 218	0.81	7 061	1	4 339	9 429	1 818
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	26 285	1.62	7 061	1	4 339	77 205	14 885
Malta	50 450	3.11	7 061	10	43 389		
Monaco	7 062	0.43	7 061	0	0	5	1
Montenegro	7 365	0.45	7 061	0	0	1 577	304
Morocco	29 602	1.82	7 061	1	4 339	94 409	18 202
Romania	11 400	0.70	7 061	1	4 339		
Slovenia	50 450	3.11	7 061	10	43 389		
Spain	50 450	3.11	7 061	10	43 389		
Syrian Arab Republic	13 435	0.83	7 061	1	4 339	10 557	2 035
Tunisia	65 451	4.03	7 061	1	4 339	280 352	54 051
Turkey	198 595	12.23	7 061	1	4 339	970 936	187 195
EU	520 247	32.03	7 061			2 661 776	513 186
US\$	1 624 000		162 400	131	568 400	4 632 819	893 200

Total budget	1 624 000 US\$
Basic fee	10% of total budget
	162 400 US\$
Number of Members*	23
Total budget less basic fee	1 461 600 US\$
GDP component	35% of total budget
	568 400 US\$
Catch component	55% of total budget
	893 200 US\$

* Members paying their contributions to the autonomous budget

The thirty-fourth session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) was attended by representatives from 17 Contracting Parties as well as from 9 observers. The Commission also hold the first session of its Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF) and the fourth session of its Compliance Committee (CoC). It reviewed the intersessional activities of its scientific and technical subsidiary bodies and adopted three management decisions concerning the establishment of a GFCM logbook, the management of fishing capacity in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and the identification of non-compliance with GFCM binding decisions. It also endorsed three Recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) regarding the management of swordfish and bluefin tuna fisheries and on selected Shark species associated with tuna fisheries in the GFCM competence area. The session acknowledged the progress on the performance review of the GFCM launched in 2009, to be continued in 2010, renewed the bureau of its Compliance Committee and agreed on the new approach to the functioning of its SAC-Working groups on stock assessment. The Commission further noted the positive progress in the field of sustainable aquaculture. During this session, the 2010 programme of work of the GFCM subsidiary bodies was approved by the Commission which also adopted the 2010 autonomous budget at the level of US\$ 1 624 000. Finally the Commission decided that the election of the Executive Secretary would be done during the thirty-fifth ordinary session scheduled to be held in 2011, according to the established procedure and that the Deputy Secretary shall continue filling this position until completion of the selection process and appointment of the new Secretary. The Commission amended its Rules of procedure and extended the mandate of the GFCM Bureau until the thirty-fifth session.

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