

# COMPENDIUM OF DECISIONS

of the

**GENERAL**

**FISHERIES**

**COMMISSION FOR THE**

**MEDITERRANEAN**



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## Preface

The need for a GFCM Compendium on GFCM decisions was requested by the Commission at its 29<sup>th</sup> Session. In this regard, the GFCM Secretariat has undertaken an extensive review of all GFCM decisions and with the guidance of the Compliance Committee has finalised this version of the Compendium which includes all binding decisions, currently in force, adopted after 1976 in accordance with Article III and Article V of the GFCM Agreement. The decisions in this document are classified according to their scope into the following categories:

<b>REC.CM</b>	Recommendations on Conservation and Management
<b>REC.MCS</b>	Recommendations on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
<b>REC.DIR</b>	Recommendations on Data and Information Reporting
<b>REC.ICCAT</b>	ICCAT recommendations relevant to the Mediterranean
<b>RES</b>	Resolutions
<b>OTH</b>	Other decisions

# C O N T E N T S

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### **1.1 Recommendations on Conservation and Management (REC.CM)**

<a href="#">REC.CM-GFCM/37/2013/1</a>	<a href="#">On a multiannual management plan for fisheries on small pelagic stocks in the GFCM-GSA 17 (Northern Adriatic Sea) and on transitional conservation measures for fisheries on small pelagic stocks in GSA 18 (Southern Adriatic Sea)</a>
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<a href="#">REC.CM-GFCM/36/2012/1</a>	<a href="#">On further measures for the exploitation of red coral in the GFCM area .....</a>
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<a href="#">REC.CM-GFCM/27/2002/1</a>	<a href="#">Management of selected demersal and small pelagic species .....</a>
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### **1.2 Recommendations on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (REC.MCS)**

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<a href="#"><u>OTH-GFCM/30/2006/1</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Guidelines on sustainable Bluefin Tuna farming practices in the Mediterranean.....</u></a>

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<sup>1</sup> Appendix I GFCM Report of the 37<sup>th</sup> session.

<sup>2</sup> Appendix J GFCM Report of the 37<sup>th</sup> session.

<sup>3</sup> Appendix I GFCM Report of the 36<sup>th</sup> session.

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**- 1.1 -**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS ON CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES (REC.CM )**

**REC.CM-GFCM/37/2013/1**

**On a multiannual management plan for fisheries on small pelagic stocks in the GFCM-GSA 17 (Northern Adriatic Sea) and on transitional conservation measures for fisheries on small pelagic stocks in GSA 18 (Southern Adriatic Sea)**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

## **PART I**

### **General objectives, scope and definitions**

#### **General objectives of the multiannual plan**

1. A multi-annual management plan for the fisheries exploiting the small pelagic stocks in GFCM-GSA 17 "Northern Adriatic" must be developed and be coherent with the precautionary approach and designed to provide high long-term yields consistent with the maximum sustainable yield and to guarantee a low risk of stocks collapse while maintaining sustainable and relatively stable fisheries.
2. Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs) of GFCM whose vessels have been actively fishing for the small pelagic stocks including, inter alia, sardine, anchovy in GFCM GSA 17 agree to implement such a multi-annual management plan for the fisheries concerned and in accordance with the general and specific objectives and measures set by this recommendation.
3. A set of transitional precautionary management measures for the fisheries exploiting the small pelagic stocks in GFCM-GSA 18 "Southern Adriatic" must be developed in order to ensure that, pending formal scientific advice from the SAC, the stocks and fisheries are kept out of undesirable state
4. Members and Cooperating non-Members of GFCM whose vessels have been actively fishing for the small pelagic stocks including, inter alia, sardine and anchovy in GFCM GSA 18 agree to implement such transitional management measures for the fisheries concerned and in accordance with the general and specific objectives set by this recommendation.

#### **Geographical scope**

5. The multiannual management plan provided by the present recommendation shall apply in the GFCM-GSA 17 "Northern Adriatic" as defined in Resolution GFCM/33/2009/2 which lies northward to the straight line connecting the point of 41° 55' N and 15° 08' E on the Italian coastline and the terrestrial border between Croatia and Montenegro.
6. The set of transitional measures provided by the present recommendation shall apply in the GFCM-GSA 18 "Southern Adriatic" as defined in Resolution GFCM/33/2009/2 which lies

from the coast lines 41° 55' N 15° 08' E (Croatia-Montenegro border) and 40° 04' N 18° 29' (Albania-Greece border).

### **Definitions**

7. For the purpose of this recommendation
  - a) Vessel actively fishing for small pelagic stocks: means any vessel equipped with either trawl nets, purse seiners or other type of surrounding nets where the total catch of small pelagic stocks of sardine, anchovy and sprat, account for at least 50% of the catch in live weight.
  - b) Fishing day: means any continuous period of 24 hours, or part thereof, during which a vessel is present within the GSA 17 and/or GSA 18 absent from port.

## **PART II**

### **Specific objectives of the multiannual management plan for GSA 17 and of the transitional measures for GSA 18**

8. Pending the identification of target reference points in line with the maximum sustainable yields, the general objectives of the plan set out in point 1 above shall be attained while maintaining:
  - a) the exploitation rate  $E (=F/Z)$  at less than 0,4 per year on appropriate age groups both for anchovy, sardine stocks while considering that the average natural mortality over the same age groups is of 0.81 for anchovy and 0.76 for sardine.
  - b) a precautionary mid-year spawning stock biomasses, estimated in a consistent manner with the same methodology, above 109 200 tonnes for sardine and 250 600 tonnes for anchovy (hereinafter SSBpa).
  - c) the levels of fishing fleet capacity and fishing effort at the levels authorized and exerted in the year 2011 for the exploitation of small pelagic stocks in GSA 17.
9. In the event that the mid-year spawning stock biomass level falls below 179 000 tonnes for anchovy or 78 000 tonnes for sardine (hereinafter SSBlim), the procedure under paragraph 16e shall apply.
10. The objective of the transitional measures for the small pelagic fishery in GSA 18 is to start preparing the ground for a future management plan while reducing the risk that, in the absence of relevant scientific assessment, the biomass level of the stock could drop below undesirable values with negative consequences also on the economic viability of the fisheries concerned.

## **PART III**

### **Scientific monitoring, adaptation and revision of the plan**

11. Members and Cooperating non-Members of GFCM shall ensure adequate annual scientific monitoring of the status of the small pelagic stocks in GSAs 17 and 18 in particular of sardine and anchovy as well as of the fisheries concerned.
12. SAC shall provide on annual basis as from 2014 advice on the status of the small pelagic stocks (sardine, anchovy) in GSA 17, including catch forecasts in line with the precautionary approach and the maximum sustainable yields, and in GSA18.
13. Based on the SAC advice, the GFCM may review the content of the management plan.
14. Whenever the GFCM, on the basis of advice from SAC, finds that the fishing mortality or the exploitation rate and associated spawning stock biomass levels, specified in point 8 are no longer appropriate to achieve the objectives specified in point 1 above, then it shall revise those exploitation rate and/or biomass levels accordingly.
15. Where SAC advice indicates that the general or specific objectives of the multi-annual plan are not being met the GFCM shall decide on additional and/or alternative management measures to ensure that those objectives are met.

#### **PART IV**

##### **Management measures**

16. **a-** When SAC considers that the mid-year spawning stock biomass level will continue to be equal or superior to 109 200 tonnes for sardine and 250 600 tonnes for anchovy in the subsequent year and the exploitation rate has been less than 0,4, then the fishing effort, both in terms of capacity and fishing activity, for small pelagic shall be maintained at the level of 2011.
16. **b-** When SAC considers that the mid-year spawning stock biomass level will continue to be equal or superior to 109 200 tonnes for sardine and 250 600 tonnes for anchovy in the subsequent year and the exploitation rate is above 0,4, then GFCM shall decide on the modalities to ensure that there is adequate adaptation of the fishing effort with respect to the fishing effort exerted the previous year, either in terms of capacity and/or fishing activity, for small pelagic
16. **c-** When SAC considers that the size of the stock is below the precautionary mid-year spawning stock biomass level of 109 200 tonnes for sardine and 250 600 tonnes for anchovy and above or equal to the biomass limit reference point, as set in point 9 above, then GFCM shall decide on the modalities to ensure that the fishing effort exerted the previous year, either in terms of capacity and/or fishing activity, is adapted according to the highest ratio, amongst the two species, of the difference between the precautionary biomass and the current biomass levels with respect to the difference between the precautionary biomass level and the minimum biomass acceptable level. (*i.e.*  $\frac{SSBpa-SSBcurr}{SSBpa-SSBlim}$ ).
16. **d-** When SAC considers that the size of the stock of one of the two species (either anchovy or sardine) is above the biomass threshold reference point (SSBpa) whilst the current size of the stock of the other species is between the biomass limit reference point (SSBlim) and the biomass threshold reference point (SSBpa) then GFCM shall decide on the modalities to ensure that the fishing effort exerted the previous year by the small pelagic fishing fleets, either in terms of capacity and/or fishing activity, shall be:

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

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

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

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

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

## PART V

### Technical Conservation Measures

18. Fishing for fry of small pelagic stocks shall be prohibited with all fishing gears in GSA 17 and GSA 18.
19. Anchovy and sardine smaller than the minimum conservation size in total length as reported below shall not be caught, retained on board, transshipped, transferred, stored, sold, displayed or offered for sale:

Anchovy            9 cm

Sardine            11 cm

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

20. The areas of aggregation of anchovy and sardine juveniles in their first year of life shall be protected from fishing activities with fishing gears suitable to catch them. Members shall communicate to GFCM the areas and period protected to this scope by making reference to the GFCM statistical grids as established by Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/1<sup>4</sup>.
21. Notwithstanding paragraph 19, when due to an unavoidable circumstances undersized specimens of anchovy and/or sardine have been effectively caught, masters of the catching vessel shall record those catches (estimated weight and numbers) of undersized specimens in a specific section of the logbook. Without prejudice to provisions foreseen in paragraph 19 and when a system of avoiding discards and obligation to land all catches has been established by a CPC, the master of the fishing vessel will not be allowed to discard those catches and shall therefore land the fish caught independently of the size of the fish caught in line with the provisions stipulated by the CPC. All quantities landed shall be recorded and shall not be displayed, offered for sale or used for human consumption.

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

## **PART VI**

### **Fishing effort and fish capacity control**

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

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

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

23. Any fishing vessel not included in the list established by point 22 above shall not be allowed to fish for, or retain on board or land any quantity greater than 20% of anchovy, and/or sardine if the vessel is engaged on a fishing trip in GSA 17 and/or GSA 18.
24. The CPCs of GFCM shall promptly notify the GFCM Secretariat of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the fishing fleets, as identified under point 22 above,

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<sup>4</sup> Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/1 concerning the establishment of a GFCM logbook, amending Recommendation GFCM/34/2010/1

for small pelagic stocks authorized to operate in GSA 17 and/or GSA 18 at any time such changes occur.

25. The GFCM Secretariat shall maintain updated the list of fishing vessels authorised to fish for small pelagic stocks in GSA 17 and/or GSA 18 and place it on the GFCM website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by Members.
26. The CPCs of GFCM shall ensure that the overall fleet capacity of trawlers and purse seiners actively fishing for small pelagic stocks in GSA 17, both in terms of gross tonnage (GT) and/or gross registered tonnage (GRT) and in engine power (kW), as recorded both in the national and in the GFCM fleet registers, does not exceed at any time the reference fishing capacity for small pelagic stocks as established under paragraph 22 above.
27. Trawlers and purse seiners for small pelagic stocks as identified in paragraph 22 second paragraph above, irrespective of the vessel's length overall, shall not operate for more than 5 fishing days per week and shall not exceed 180 fishing days per year.
28. Each CPC shall ensure to set up adequate mechanisms in terms of recording each fishing vessel in a national fleet register, of recording vessels' catches and fishing effort via both the logbook and the remote sensing and monitoring of fishing vessels activities and landings via catch and effort sampling surveys according to the rules stipulated by each CPC.

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

## PART VII

### National programmes for control, monitoring and surveillance

29. National control programmes for the implementation of the provisions of this recommendation shall be established by the concerned parties through specific plans. These plans shall contain the elements listed in Annex II and ensure, *inter alia*, a proper and accurate monitoring and recording of the monthly catches and fishing effort deployed so that a mechanisms is set-up at national level to avoid fishing effort overshooting.
30. Those national control programmes and plans shall be communicated each year to the GFCM Secretariat, during the last quarter of the precedent year and not later than 30 October each year. If the GFCM finds a serious fault in the plans submitted by a CPC and cannot endorse the plan, the GFCM shall decide by mail vote, by 15 December, on the suspension of small pelagic fisheries for the CPC concerned in the subsequent year. The Compliance Committee shall adopt specific rules and procedures to prepare the necessary examination.
31. CPCs non-submitting the plan by the deadline specified in paragraph 32 above, are not allowed to carry out the small pelagic fisheries in the area until the plan is submitted and endorsed by the GFCM.

## Annex I

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

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

## Annex II

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

Specific monitoring and control plans shall clearly define the following:

#### *a) Means of control*

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

#### *b) Annual fishing plans*

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

***c) Sampling methodologies***

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

***d) Inspection protocols***

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

***e) Guidelines***

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

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

***f) Inspection benchmarks***

- ✓ Objective

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

- ✓ Strategy

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

- ✓ Priorities

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

- ✓ Target benchmarks

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

- Level of inspection in ports
  - As a general rule, the accuracy to be achieved should be at least equivalent to what would be obtained by a simple random sampling



method, where inspections shall cover 20 % of all landings of small pelagic by weight in the country.

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

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

***g) Joint operations***

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

**REC.CM-GFCM/37/2013/2**

**On the establishment of a set of minimum standards for bottom-set gillnet fisheries for turbot and conservation of cetaceans in the Black Sea**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**PART I**  
**Scope**

1. Members and cooperating non-Members of GFCM shall adopt fisheries management measures in the Black Sea Region to ensure adequate conservation of turbot
2. Members and cooperating non-Members of GFCM shall adopt fisheries management measures to study, monitor, prevent, reduce and, to the extent possible, eliminate incidental taking of cetaceans during fishing operations.

## **PART II Definitions**

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

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

4. Members and cooperating non-Members of GFCM shall ensure that turbot in Black Sea waters is exclusively fished using bottom-set gillnets and that the following conditions are respected:
- Mesh size is greater or equal to 400 mm

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

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

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

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

5. In order to mitigate the impact of bottom-set gillnet fisheries on marine mammals' populations, Members and cooperating non-Members of GFCM shall ensure that monofilament or twine diameter shall not exceed 0.5 mm.

Monofilament or twines shall be assessed when unfrozen.

Monofilament of twines within a mesh that are broken or have been repaired shall not be selected

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



REC.CM-GFCM/36/2012/1

**On further measures for the exploitation of red coral in the GFCM  
Competence Area**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/2 on the exploitation of red coral in the GFCM Competence Area and in particular Paragraph 10 which refers to the development of an adaptive regional management plan;

RECALLING that red coral is listed in the Annex III of the Protocol concerning the Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (hereinafter SPA/BD Protocol) of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) which implies that its exploitation needs to be properly regulated at national and international level (consistent with the high conservation standards laid down in those acts)

CONSIDERING the importance of establishing minimum common harvesting standards pending the development of an adaptive regional management plan

TAKING NOTE of the latest scientific advice on the red coral's minimum size for exploitation, as transmitted by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

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

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-contracting Parties of the GFCM (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall ensure that red coral colonies whose basal diameter is smaller than 7 mm at the trunk, measured within one centimetre from the base of the colony, is not harvested, retained on board, transhipped, landed, transferred, stored, sold or displayed or offered for sale as raw product.
2. By way of derogation from Paragraph 1, Parties may authorize a maximum tolerance limit of 10 % in live weight of undersized (<7 mm) red coral colonies provided that a strict national management framework has been developed ensuring an authorization system and specific monitoring and control programmes are in place.
3. By 31st December 2014 at the latest, the SAC is requested to assess the impact that the implementation of the 10% tolerance margin can have on the size composition of catches and on the sustainability of red coral harvesting.
4. Provisions under paragraphs 1 and 2 above are without prejudice to stricter measures which may be adopted or maintained by CPCs in their national management framework.

5. With a view to ensure adequate monitoring and data gathering needed to set up the adaptive regional management plan based, whenever available, on national plans, the CPCs shall ensure that red coral catches are landed only in a limited number of designated ports with adequate port facilities. The list of designated ports shall be communicated to the GFCM Secretariat not later than 31st January 2013.
6. In addition to substantiate the Terms of Reference provided in the 2012 Work Plan of its Sub-Committee for Marine Environment and Ecosystems, and pending the development of a regional management plan for red coral, as requested by the Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/2, the SAC shall also evaluate the feasibility and implications, including services needed and economic consequences, to establish traceability mechanisms including, inter alia, a DNA bar-coding system for red coral.
7. The GFCM Secretariat is requested to take actions in support of the SAC with a view to put into operation, not later than 31 May 2013, the adaptive regional management plan.
8. In order to collect data on harvesting of red coral, CPCs shall compile data collection forms provided by the Secretariat. CPCs shall return the filled forms by 31st January of each year starting with the 2013 harvesting season.

**REC.CM-GFCM/36/2012/2**

**On mitigation of incidental catches of cetaceans in the GFCM area**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

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

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

CONSIDERING that the incidental catch of cetacean species in relation with fishing activities may seriously affect cetacean populations in the GFCM Area;

RECOGNIZING that some fishing operations carried out in the GFCM Area, including the risk of unaccounted catches of cetaceans due to the loss of these gears at sea (so called "ghost fishing"), can adversely affect cetaceans and there is a need to better understand the phenomenon to conceive and implement measures to mitigate these adverse effects;

RECALLING the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) whose objectives include the mitigation of negative impacts between cetaceans and fishing activities;

RECALLING the Protocol concerning the Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (hereinafter SPA/BD Protocol) of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and the listing of several cetaceans species occurring in the Convention Area therein;

RECALLING the Recommendation GFCM/2005/3(A) prohibiting the use of driftnet for fisheries of large pelagic species;

AIMING to reduce cetaceans by-catch in the GFCM Competence Area, thus contributing to improve the conservation status of these animals in line with an ecosystem approach to fisheries management;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the SAC advice on the need to endorse measures for the reduction of the by-catch of cetaceans;

RECOGNIZING, also, the need to collect more data and technical information in order to fully assess the advantages and risks associated with the possible adoption of other types of measures modifying the characteristics of fishing gear, as well as any other potential impacts on fisheries activities;

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

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-contracting Parties of the GFCM (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall take actions to study, monitor, prevent, mitigate and, to the extent possible, eliminate incidental taking of cetaceans during fishing operations.
2. For the purpose of mitigating the by-catch of cetaceans during fishing operations, the CPCs shall:
  - a) prohibit, not later than 1st January 2015, gillnet fisheries using monofilament greater than 0.5 mm;
  - b) require vessels flying their flag to promptly release alive / unharmed to the extent practicable cetaceans that have been incidentally caught and brought alongside the vessel.
3. The CPCs shall collect and forward to the GFCM Secretariat, both through their national reporting to SAC and the Task 1.4, information on by-catch rates of cetaceans taking into account, amongst other relevant information: fisheries concerned, characteristics of gear type, times, locations (either by GSA or statistical rectangles) and affected cetacean species.
4. The SAC, in coordination with the GFCM Secretariat and relevant partner organizations, shall compile all available data and other relevant information from commercial fisheries and scientific literature with a view to assess, from a scientific, environmental and socio-economic perspective, the conservation benefits, feasibility, alternative solutions and potential impacts of measures such as:
  - restricting/prohibiting the use of inoxidable steel hooks and metallic branch lines (snoods) in bottom and demersal longlines fishing;
  - limiting the maximum dimensions, both in terms of drop and length overall, of bottom-set nets towards ranges of common values considered adequate at subregional level to tackle the problem of cetacean incidental taking;
  - limiting the soaking time for bottom-set net fishing including the implementation of time-data logger, taking also into consideration subregional specificities of fisheries.
  - assess the impact of using bottom set-gillnets with twine diameter equal or smaller than 0.5 mm on the fisheries, from a biological and socio-economic point of view.
5. The SAC, in coordination with the GFCM Secretariat and relevant partner organizations shall assess the feasibility of other possible mitigation measures, such as the use of pingers and acoustically reflective nets for the remediation of cetacean by-catches in fishing gear.
6. The SAC shall report back to the GFCM in 2015 in time for its 39th session.
7. Taking into account the possible technical interactions between different fishing gear in fisheries, the GFCM Secretariat is requested to coordinate, whenever appropriate, with the Secretariat of ICCAT with a view to properly address the items identified in Paragraph 4.
8. Upon receipt of advice from the SAC, the GFCM will consider, if appropriate, the adoption of further measures to mitigate incidental catches of cetaceans in the fisheries concerned.



9. The provisions of this recommendation are without prejudice to additional or stricter measures adopted or that could be adopted by the CPCs, in particular for what concerns measures in Paragraph 2.a) above.

**REC.CM-GFCM/36/2012/3**

**On fisheries management measures for conservation of sharks and rays in the GFCM area**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

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

RECALLING the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference for Sustainable Development of the Fisheries in the Mediterranean held in Venice on 2003;

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

RECALLING the FAO International Plan of action for the Conservation and the management of Sharks (IPOA-sharks);

RECALLING the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and the listing of some sharks species in either Annex II or Annex III of its Protocol concerning the Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (hereinafter SPA/BD Protocol);

NOTING the importance of harmonizing conservation and management measures with other international conventions responsible for the protection of these species;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the SAC advice and in particular the needs for species identification and to ensure better conservation status to sharks including protection of coastal areas from most active fishing gear;

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

**PART I**  
**Scope**

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-contracting Parties of the GFCM (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall ensure that sharks are kept on board, transhipped, landed and marketed at first sale in a way that species are recognizable and identifiable and catches, incidental takings and, whenever appropriate, releases by species can be monitored and recorded.

2. CPCs shall adopt fisheries management measures to ensure adequate conservation status to sharks.

**Definitions**

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

‘Shark’ means any fish of the taxon Elasmobranchii

‘Shark fins’ means any fins of sharks including caudal fins, but excluding the pectoral fins of rays, which are a constituent part of ray wings;

‘finning’ means the removal of fins at sea and discarding of carcass;

‘trawl nets’ means nets which are actively towed by the main boat engine and consisting of a cone- or pyramid-shaped body (as trawl body) closed at the back by a cod-end and which can extend at the opening by the wings or can be mounted on a rigid frame. Horizontal opening is either obtained by otter boards or provided by a beam or frame of variable shape and size. Such nets can be towed either on the bottom (bottom trawl net) or in midwater (pelagic trawl net);

## PART II

### Fisheries management measures

4. CPCs shall ensure that:

- ‘finning’ shall be prohibited;
- beheading and skinning of specimens on board and before landing shall be prohibited. Beheaded and skinned sharks cannot be marketed at the first sale markets after landing;
- It shall be prohibited to purchase, offer for sale or sell shark fins which have been removed, retained on board, transhipped or landed in contravention of this Recommendation.

5. Reduction of trawl fishing in coastal areas to enhance protection of coastal sharks

A. CPCs shall ensure that fishing activities carried out with trawl nets are prohibited within 3 nautical miles off the coast, provided that the 50 meters isobath is not reached, or within the 50 meters isobath where that depth is reached at a shorter distance from the coast.

B. Specific and spatially limited derogation may be granted by the Members on condition that affects a limited number of vessels and provided that such derogation:

- d) is justified by particular geographical constraints, such as the limited size of continental shelf along the entire coastline of a Member State or the limited extent of trawlable fishing grounds due to different causes;

and/or

- e) concerns small trawl vessels of less than or equal to 12 metres overall length and engine power of less than or equal to 85 kW traditionally carried out in coastal areas;

or

- f) concerns a limited number of vessels during a seasonal fishing campaign;

and

- g) has no significant impact on the marine environment.

- C. CPCs shall inform the GFCM on the modalities of applying the derogation under point B) no later than 31 March 2013. This notification shall include:
  - a. a list of authorised trawl fishing vessels with their characteristics,
  - b. zones as identified by geographic coordinates both on land and at sea and by GFCM statistical rectangles as defined in Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/1.
  - c. Measures taken to monitor and mitigate impact on marine environment
- D. CPCs shall establish a specific monitoring plan for the trawl fisheries operating under derogation as stipulated by point B).
- E. These provisions are without prejudice to more detailed or stricter rules implemented by Members.

**Elasmobranchs species under Annex II (list of endangered or threatened species) and Annex III (list of species whose exploitation is regulated) of the SPA/BD Protocol to the Barcelona Convention**

- 6. CPCs shall ensure a high protection from fishing activities to elasmobranchs species listed in Annex II of the SPA/BD protocol of the Barcelona Convention that must be released unharmed and alive to the extent possible.
- 7. Specimens of sharks' species listed in Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol cannot be retained on board, transshipped, landed, transferred, stored, sold or displayed or offered for sale.
- 8. CPCs shall ensure that catches of tope shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*) taken with bottom-set nets, long lines and in tuna traps shall be promptly released unharmed and alive to the extent possible.

**PART III**  
**Monitoring, data collection and research**

- 9. CPCs shall ensure that:
  - a. information on fishing activities, catch data, incidental taking, release and/or discarding events for sharks species listed either in Annex II or III of the SPA/BD Protocol, must be recorded by the ship-owners in the logbook or equivalent document, in line with requirements of Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/1 establishing the GFCM logbook;
  - b. this information must be reported to the national authorities for notification to GFCM Secretariat within the annual national reporting to SAC and through the Task 1;
  - c. any other additional measures are taken to improve data gathering in view of scientific monitoring of the species.

10. As appropriate, the GFCM and its CPCs should, individually and collectively, engage in capacity building efforts and other research cooperative activities to improve knowledge on sharks and sharks fisheries and to support the effective implementation of this recommendation, including entering into cooperative arrangements with other appropriate international bodies.

11. The provisions referred to in Paragraphs 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are without prejudice to stricter rules implemented by the CPCs.

REC.CM-GFCM/35/2011/2

**On the exploitation of red coral in the GFCM Competence Area**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

*RECALLING* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development of 2002 and particularly its Plan of Implementation;

*RECALLING* the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference for Sustainable Development of the Fisheries in the Mediterranean held in Venice in 2003;

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

*RECALLING* the past involvement of GFCM, especially in the 1980s, resulting in three Technical Consultations on Red Coral (Spain 1983, Italy 1988 and Algeria 1989);

*TAKING* into account the SAC advice on red coral exploitation, as provided at its Thirteenth Session;

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

10. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) in the GFCM Competence Area shall prohibit the use of any kind of towed gear, irrespective of the specific name, to exploit red coral. The only permitted gear for the harvesting shall be a hammer used by a scuba diver. This provision is without prejudice to stricter measures which may be adopted or maintained by CPCs.
11. CPCs shall prohibit the use of the Remotely Operated underwater Vehicles (ROVs) in the GFCM Competence Area for the exploitation of red coral.
12. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, formally granted by a Contracting Party on the basis of a specific fisheries authorisation, the use of ROV may be authorized in zones under national jurisdiction only and subject to the following conditions:
  - a) In Contracting Parties where ROV is already authorized only for reasons of observation and prospection and provided that ROV models cannot be equipped with manipulator arms or any other device allowing the cutting and harvesting of red coral. Contracting Parties concerned shall provide to the GFCM Secretariat the list of authorizations issued (specifying the date of their issuance) not later than the end of September 2011 and shall ensure that no new authorisation will be granted. The authorisation of ROV for prospection shall only be allowed until 2015, unless scientific advice states otherwise.

- b) The provision in paragraph (a) above is without prejudice to Contracting Parties which have not yet authorised the ROV for prospection and may wish to do so. This authorisation shall be granted only on the basis of scientific results obtained in the context of national management plans and showing no negative impact on the sustainable exploitation of red coral.
- c) Within a framework allowing for scientific experimental campaigns both for observation and harvesting during a limited period not extending beyond 2015, carried out under the supervision of national research institutions and/or in collaboration with national, international bodies as well as any other relevant stakeholder. The scientific results of these studies will be presented to the SAC, through the GFCM Secretariat, for its consideration and advice, including the status of the stock, the impact and the advisability of using ROV for direct harvesting of red coral. This derogation shall be without prejudice to stricter measures which may be adopted or maintained by Contracting Parties.
13. CPCs shall ensure the prohibition of the exploitation of red coral populations at depth less than 50 m until scientific studies, as validated by GFCM-SAC, indicate otherwise.
14. By way of derogation from paragraph 4, Contracting Parties may authorize exploitation of red coral at less than 50 m provided that an appropriate national management framework has been developed ensuring an authorization system and that only a limited number of red coral banks are exploited by the establishment of adequate spatio-temporal closures. This derogation shall be without prejudice to stricter measures which may be adopted or maintained by Contracting Parties.
15. Detailed information of the national management framework and the studies carried out at national level to apply this derogation must be provided within the annual national report to GFCM Secretariat for transmission to SAC for its considerations and advice.
16. CPCs shall ensure that authorized fishermen record and report to national authorities the daily catches and fishing effort by area and depths (e.g. number of fishing days, numbers of diving, etc) while allowing, whenever the case, comparisons with results of ROV experimental campaigns. This information must be made available to GFCM Secretariat for transmission to SAC for its considerations and advice.
17. SAC is requested to advice on the status of red coral banks and, not later than 2014, on the impact and adequacy for the continuation of using ROV for the prospection and harvesting of red coral banks.
18. As appropriate, the GFCM and its Members should, individually and collectively, engage in capacity building efforts and other research cooperative activities to improve knowledge on red coral and red coral fisheries and to support the effective implementation of the present Recommendation as well as of other management measures, including entering into cooperative arrangements with other appropriate international bodies and promote participatory programmes with relevant stakeholders.
19. Scientific and technical knowledge acquired through the actions stipulated under paragraphs 3 (c), 5, 7 and 9 above shall be taken into account by SAC with a view to develop

an adaptive regional management plan.



REC.CM-GFCM/35/2011/3

**On reducing incidental bycatch of seabirds in fisheries in the GFCM Competence Area**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

*RECALLING* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development of 2002 and particularly its Plan of Implementation;

*RECALLING* the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference for Sustainable Development of the Fisheries in the Mediterranean held in Venice in 2003;

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

*TAKING* into account the International Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (IPOA Seabirds) adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);

*CONSIDERING* that some seabirds species are listed under Annex II on endangered and threatened species of the SPA/BD Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention), and that a regional action plan has been implemented by RAC/SPA;

*CONSIDERING* the need to develop a common regional strategy to understand and possibly reduce the effect of fisheries on seabirds also on the basis of information collected through unified protocols;

*RECOGNIZING* that the longline fisheries is mainly responsible for seabirds bycatches in the Mediterranean and to reduce seabird bycatch some mitigation measures should be developed;

*HAVING* regard to ICCAT Recommendation 07-07 on reducing incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries;

*CONSIDERING* that synergies on issues of reciprocal interest shall be sought between ICCAT and GFCM;

*TAKING* into account the SAC advice on incidental taking of seabirds;

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

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-contracting Parties of GFCM (CPCs) should develop mechanisms to ensure that incidental taking of seabirds in fishing activities is

monitored, recorded and kept to the lowest level as possible in particular for species under the Annex II of the SPA/BD protocol of the Barcelona Convention.

2. SAC and the GFCM Secretariat will assist in developing mechanisms to enable the CPCs to monitor and record data on seabirds and fishing interactions including regular reporting to the GFCM-Secretariat, either within the national annual reporting to SAC or through the Task 1;
3. Any event of incidental taking and release shall be recorded by the vessel owner/master in the logbook (or any equivalent document as developed by a Contracting Party to this specific end) and reported to national authorities for notification to GFCM Secretariat, the first time being no later than June 2013.
4. The SAC is invited to evaluate on the basis of available information, and in close cooperation with relevant international scientific committees, the risk of seabirds incidental taking and mortality in different types of Mediterranean fisheries, taking into account also areas and seasons, and compare the effects of bycatches among them. In addition, SAC shall advice on the most adequate mitigation measures also in comparison to relative effect caused by anthropic disturbances due to other than fishing activity.
5. The SAC, in close cooperation with scientific committees of other international organisations, and in line also with the FAO International Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (FAO-IPOA Seabirds), is requested to advice on the technical details, feasibility, likely effectiveness and side effects, in particular, of the following options for the mitigation of seabirds' bycatches in the Mediterranean fisheries:
  - Setting of demersal and/or pelagic longlines only at night (one hour after dusk and one hour before dawn);
  - Prohibition to set demersal and/or pelagic longlines one hour after dawn till noon;
  - Use of bird-scaring lines and wrap scares, in case of longlines setting during the day;
  - Setting of a minimum bait weight
  - Use of only thawed baits conditioning instead of frozen baits;
  - Discards and excess bait shall not be rejected at sea during setting or hauling operations;
  - Setting of a minimum distance to set bottom-set nets from sea-birds breeding areas.
6. The SAC is invited to provide, also on the basis of the work done under the relevant international scientific committees, and in line with the FAO-IPOA Seabirds, a unified protocol for the collection of information on seabirds bycatches in fishing activities with high risk of interaction with seabirds in the Mediterranean.
7. The GFCM shall, upon reception of SAC advice, consider adopting additional measures for the mitigation of incidental taking of seabirds whenever is considered endangering the survival of seabirds populations while taking into account the socio-economic impact to fisheries.

REC.CM-GFCM/35/2011/4

**On the incidental bycatch of sea turtles in fisheries in the GFCM  
Competence Area**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

*RECALLING* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development of 2002 and particularly its Plan of Implementation;

*RECALLING* the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference for Sustainable Development of the Fisheries in the Mediterranean held in Venice in 2003;

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

*CONSIDERING* that Mediterranean sea turtles are listed in Annex II on endangered and threatened species of the SPA/BD Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and a regional action plan has been implemented by RAC/SPA;

*HAVING* regard to ICCAT Recommendation 10-09 on the bycatch of sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries;

*RECOGNIZING* that also some other types of fishing operating in the GFCM Competence Area can adversely affect sea turtles and there is a need to implement measures to mitigate these adverse effects;

*NOTING* the importance of harmonizing conservation and management measures with other organization responsible for managing international fisheries;

*EMPHASIZING* the need to improve the collection of scientific data regarding all sources of mortality for sea turtle populations including but not limited to data from fisheries within the GFCM Competence Area;

*TAKING* into account the SAC advice on the use of de-hooking devices by longliners;

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

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-contracting Parties of GFCM (CPCs) should ensure the implementation of fisheries management measures that strongly mitigate or eliminate the risk of incidental taking of sea turtles in fishing operations and/or the mortality associated with those incidental takings.

2. Specimens of sea turtles accidentally taken in fishing gears shall be safely handled and released unharmed and alive to the extent possible.
3. Any kind of vessels of CPCs shall be prohibited to take on board, tranship and land sea turtles unless otherwise required to rescue and to secure assistance for the recovery of harmed and comatose individual animals and provided that the competent national authorities concerned have been duly and officially informed in advance.
4. SAC shall provide in 2011 information useful for fishermen on the procedure to identify comatose turtles and release them when they are safe.
5. Any event of incidental taking as well as releasing or discarding shall be recorded by the ship-owner/master in the logbook (or any other equivalent document as developed by a CP to this specific end) and reported to national authorities for notification to GFCM Secretariat within the annual national reporting to SAC.
6. CPCs shall ensure that incidental taking of sea turtles in fishing activities is monitored and recorded. Starting no later than 2013, the SAC annual national reports shall contain information on the interaction of the fishing fleets with sea turtles in GFCM fisheries by gear type and characteristics: times, soak duration, depths and locations, target species, sea turtles species and disposition status of sea turtle specimen(s) (i.e. discarded death or released alive).
7. CPCs are strongly encouraged to facilitate the cooperation between scientists and fishermen to collect this information.
8. CPCs shall require, not later than 2013, that :
  - a) to the extent practicable, fishing vessels using purse seines for small pelagic in the GFCM Competence Area avoid encircling sea turtles and and release encircle or incidently entangled sea turtles;
  - b) to the extent practicable, fishing vessels using surrounding nets without purse line for pelagic species, including on Fish Aggregating Devices, avoid encircling sea turtles and release encircle or entangled sea turtles;
9. With a view to meet the requirements of paragraph 2, fishing vessels using longlines and bottom-set nets in the GFCM Competence Area shall carry on board safe handling, disentanglement and release equipment, capable of releasing sea turtles unharmed and in a manner that maximizes the probability of their survival. This provision must be fully implemented not later than 2014, unless otherwise stipulated by stricter measures adopted by a Contracting Party.
10. The GFCM Secretariat shall compile, no later than 2013, the data collected under paragraph 4 as well as, in close cooperation with ICCAT and other appropriate international bodies, the available information from the scientific literature and other relevant sea turtle bycatch mitigation information, and report to the SAC for its consideration.
11. The SAC shall provide advice if possible in 2013, and no later than 2014, on the characteristics of devices, fishing gears and fishing operations or other approaches to mitigate/eliminate sea turtles bycatch and to release them alive.

12. The SAC shall identify current gaps in the scientific knowledge and experiments, including socio-economic aspects, with a view to overcome them and obtain more robust and implementable results. If necessary, SAC shall provide the protocol and the sampling design to carry out these additional studies under the responsibility of the Contracting Parties.

13. Guidelines should be produced by SAC in 2012, then widely published and distributed and made available in the GFCM web-site in order to mitigate sea turtles bycatches, including information on already existing kits for de-hooking turtles and provision of training materials on use of this equipment.

14. Upon receipt of advice from the SAC, the GFCM shall consider, if necessary, additional measures to mitigate sea turtle bycatch in those fisheries which have been considered most relevant

15. As appropriate, the GFCM and its Members should, individually and collectively, engage in capacity building efforts and other cooperative activities to support the effective implementation of the present Recommendation, including entering into cooperative arrangement with other appropriate international bodies.

REC.CM-GFCM/35/2011/5

**On fisheries measures for the conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal  
(*Monachus monachus*) in the GFCM Competence Area**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

*RECALLING* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development of 2002 and particularly its Plan of Implementation;

*RECALLING* the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference for Sustainable Development of the Fisheries in the Mediterranean held in Venice in 2003;

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

*CONSIDERING* that the Mediterranean Monk Seal is listed under Annex II on endangered and threatened species of the SPA/BD Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention), and that a regional management plan has been implemented by RAC/SPA;

*RECOGNIZING* that some fishing operations carried out in the GFCM Competence Area can adversely affect Mediterranean monk seals (hereafter referred to as monk seal) and there is a need to implement measures to mitigate these adverse effects;

*AIMING* to reduce the incidental taking of monk seals in certain fisheries;

*TAKING* into account the SAC advice on the need to endorse measures for the reduction of the bycatch of monk seals;

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

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-contracting Parties of GFCM (CPCs) shall ensure the implementation of fisheries management measures that strongly mitigate the risk of incidental taking of monk seals during fishing operations.
2. Fishing vessels of CPCs shall be prohibited to take on board, tranship and land monk seals in the GFCM Competence Area of unless otherwise required to rescue and to secure assistance for the recovery of harmed individual animals and provided that the competent national authorities concerned have been duly and officially informed in advance.

3. Specimens of monk seals accidentally taken in fishing gears shall be released unharmed and alive. Should it be already dead, the carcass will be landed and national authorities notified at the latest upon arrival at port.
4. Any event of incidental taking and release shall be recorded by the vessel-owner/master in the logbook (or any other equivalent document developed by a Contracting Party to this specific end) and reported to the respective national authorities for notification to GFCM Secretariat.
5. CPCs shall adopt, not later than 2015, fisheries management measures based on scientific studies under their responsibility and designed, whenever appropriate, in line with SAC scientific advice guidance, in order to have very low and close to 0 risk of monk seals incidental taking and mortality in fishing activities/operations.
6. CPCs shall provide, to the best extent possible, to GFCM Secretariat, the related map and geographical positions identifying the location of already known, past and current, monk seal caves with information on fishing fleets using bottom-set nets registered in the ports close to the caves locations within a maximum range of 20 miles. The preliminary maps and lists of geographical positions shall be established for the first time by December 2011 and notified to GFCM not later than 31 January 2012.
7. With a view to ensure that the information provided by the Contracting Parties on maps and geographic positions of monk seal caves is not detrimental to the monk seal survival, such information is transmitted to GFCM Secretariat and treated in a restricted manner in line with the provisions of Resolution GFCM/35/2011/2. The GFCM Secretariat shall ensure that this information is only available to carry out scientific and conservation work as required by the GFCM or by the Contracting Party providing the original data.
8. Technical and scientific information on measures adopted under paragraph 5 must be notified to GFCM Secretariat within the annual national reporting to SAC.
9. SAC, in close cooperation with scientific bodies including committees of other multilateral organizations partners of GFCM, shall provide, not later than February 2012, a protocol and a sampling design to carry out, whenever appropriate, new studies as referred to in paragraph 5, as well as to set a work programme with a view to evaluate the soundness of measures taken and, if the case, to advice on additional measures including the socio-economic impact.
10. As appropriate, the CPCs should, individually and collectively, engage in capacity building efforts and other research cooperative activities to improve knowledge on monk seals and to support the effective implementation of this recommendation, including entering into cooperative arrangements with other appropriate international bodies and promote participatory programmes with relevant stakeholders.

REC.CM-GFCM/33/2009/1

**On the establishment of a Fisheries Restricted Area in the Gulf of Lions to protect spawning aggregations and deep sea sensitive habitats**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*PENDING* the delivery of this additional information by the SAC

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

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



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

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

**REC.CM-GFCM/33/2009/2**

**On the minimum mesh size in the codend of demersal trawl nets**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

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

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

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

*RECALLING* resolution GFCM/31/2007/3 on the voluntary implementation of 40 mm square mesh size in codend of trawl nets exploiting demersal resources

*CONSIDERING* the recurrent advice on implementing a minimum 40 mm square mesh in the codend of demersal trawl fisheries exploiting several demersal stocks as also given at the 11th sessions of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC);

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. The Members and Cooperating entities of GFCM shall adopt and implement, at latest by 31 January 2012, a minimum 40 mm square mesh codend or a diamond mesh size of at least 50 mm, of acknowledged equivalent or higher size selectivity, for all trawling activities exploiting demersal stocks when operating in the GFCM Area;
2. The provision referred to in Article 1 above is without prejudice to the operation of certain local and seasonal trawl fisheries operating in derogation to a minimum 40 mm codend mesh size until 31 May 2010 as authorized in line with GFCM Recommendation 31/2007/1;
3. The Members and Cooperating entities of GFCM shall communicate to GFCM Secretariat every three months, starting from 1 October 2009, the list of fishing vessels, and their percentage out of the whole national demersal trawl fleet, equipped with a trawl cod-end mesh size as stipulated in Article 1 above;
4. The list of vessels referred to in Article 3 above shall contain the following information for each vessel:
  - Name of vessel
  - Register number
  - GFCM unique identifier (country ISO-3 code + 9 digits, e.g. xxx000000001)
  - Previous name (if any)
  - Previous flag (if any)
  - Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
  - International radio call sign (if any)
  - Type of vessel, length and gross tonnage (GT) and/or gross registered tonnage (GRT)
  - Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
  - Main gears used
  - Time period authorized for fishing with demersal trawl gear
5. Each Members and Cooperating non-Members of GFCM shall promptly notify, as from 31 January 2012, the GFCM Secretariat of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the demersal trawl fleet referred to in Article 3 above at any time such changes occur;
6. The GFCM Secretariat shall maintain such a list of demersal trawl fishing vessels and

take any measure to ensure publicity of the record including through electronic means and placing it on the GFCM website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by Members;

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

REC.CM-GFCM/31/2007/1

**Mesh size of trawl nets exploiting demersal resources**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

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

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

*NOTING* that the wide diversity of fishing fleets and gear used in the zone under the competence of the Commission makes it essential to establish a general regulatory framework that permits the formulation and application of national regulations adapted to individual cases, in an effort to achieve the maximum effectiveness of sustainable management of living marine resources;

*NOTING* that some local and seasonal trawl fisheries exploiting not-shared demersal stocks in coastal areas may need some more time to adjust to the diamond mesh size of 40 mm;

*RECOGNIZING* that from a socio-economic point of view it is necessary to avoid immediate disruption of those local and seasonal fisheries while ensuring their gradual phasing out;

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

1. By way of derogation from Article 1 of Recommendation REC.CM-GFCM/29/2005/1 establishing the immediate implementation of at least a 40 mm diamond mesh size for the whole codend of demersal trawlers, the Members of GFCM may continue authorizing, until 31 May 2010 only, the use of codend mesh size smaller than 40 mm to operate in certain local and seasonal demersal trawl fisheries exploiting not-shared demersal stocks.
2. The derogation referred to in Article 1 above shall apply only to fishing activities already formally authorized by the GFCM Members and shall not involve any future increase in fishing effort provided.
3. A list of authorized fishing vessels involved in the fisheries, referred to in paragraph 1, and their characteristics together with the indication of the exploited resources and mesh size characteristics shall be communicated to the Secretariat at least two months before the next 32nd Session of the GFCM.

REC.CM-GFCM/30/2006/1

**Management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and small pelagic**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

*RECALLING* the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference for the Sustainable Development of the Fisheries in the Mediterranean held in November 2003 in Venice;

*CONSIDERING* that in the advice for 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 the SAC considered that certain stocks are overexploited, some with a high risk of recruitment overfishing, and that sustainable management requires that measures aimed at controlling or reducing the fishing effort;

*RECALLING* Recommendation REC.CM-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;

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

**Management of fishing effort for certain demersal fisheries**

1. GFCM shall develop a management programme of the fishing effort concerning in particular demersal trawling fisheries exploiting inter alia, the following species: hake (*Merluccius merluccius*), blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*), red mullet (*Mullus barbatus*), Striped mullet (*Mullus surmuletus*), red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) and Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) in the following geographic sub-areas : Northern and Southern Alboran Sea (GSA 1 and 3), Northern Spain (GSA 6), Balearic Islands (GSA 5), Gulf of Lions (GSA 7), Corsica Island (GSA 8), Ligurian and North Tyrrhenian Sea (GSA 9), South and Central Tyrrhenian Sea (GSA 10), Sardinia (GSA 11), South of Sicily (GSA 16), Northern Adriatic Sea (GSA 17), Southern Adriatic Sea (GSA 18), Western Ionian Sea (GSA 19), Eastern Ionian Sea (GSA 20), Aegean Sea (GSA 22) as well as in the adjacent sub-areas, if relevant.

**Management of fishing effort for certain small pelagic fisheries**

2. GFCM shall develop a management programme of the fishing effort concerning in particular pelagic trawling and purse seines in the pelagic fisheries exploiting, inter alia, the following species : anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*), sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) and sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) in particular in the following geographic sub-areas (GSAs) : Northern and

Southern Alboran Sea (GSAs 1 et 3), Northern Spain (GSA 6), Gulf of Lions (GSA 7), Northern Adriatic Sea (GSA 17), South of Sicily (GSA 16) and Aegean Sea (GSA 22), as well as in the adjacent sub-areas, if relevant.

3. In order to develop management programmes of the fishing effort referred to in paragraph 1 and 2, the SAC shall in 2006 identify:

- The reference year
- The operational units
- The parameters to measure the fishing effort both in terms of capacity, fishing activity and, if relevant, number and dimension of fishing gears.

The SAC shall transmit to the Commission in 2006 the results of this identification.

**REC.CM-GFCM/30/2006/2**

**Establishment of a closed season for the dolphin fish fisheries using Fishing Aggregation Devices (FADs)**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

*RECALLING* the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference for the Sustainable Development of the Fisheries in the Mediterranean held in November 2003 in Venice;

*NOTING* that the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) recommends that fisheries exploiting dolphin fish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) and using fish aggregating devices (FADs), could operate, in all geographical sub-areas (GSAs), only between 15 August and 31 December of each year;

*NOTING* that SAC has considered that this type of measure can significantly contribute to the reduction of the catches of small specimen of dolphin fish and contribute to the sustainability of this stock;

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

1. In order to protect the dolphin fish (*Coryphaena hippurus*), in particular small fish, exploited by fleets flying the flag of Members, the dolphin fish fisheries using fish aggregating devices (FADs) shall be prohibited from 1 January to 14 August of each year, in all geographical sub-areas.

By way of derogation, if a Member can demonstrate that due to bad weather, fishermen of this Member were unable to utilise their normal fishing days (notified in advance to the Executive Secretary), then the Member can carry over days lost by this fleet in FAD fisheries until 31 January of the following year.

The Member shall notify these measures to the Executive Secretary, who will circulate the information to all the Members.

2. Each Member involved by the fishery referred to in paragraph 1 shall take the necessary measures to ensure the respect of the measure referred to in paragraph 1.
3. Each Member shall adopt the necessary measures to ensure the reporting of their total



landings and transshipments of dolphin fish carried out by the vessels that fly their flag. Each Member shall also expand, or maintain, an appropriate system of collection and treatment of fisheries catch and effort data.

4. The Commission requests SAC to analyse for the first time in 2010, the impact of this measure on the stocks 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.
5. Members involved by the fishery referred to in paragraph 1 will submit an Annual Report on their implementation to the Secretariat. The Executive Secretary shall report to the Commission.

**REC.CM-GFCM/30/2006/3**

**Establishment of fisheries restricted areas in order to protect the deep sea sensitive habitats**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

*RECALLING* the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference for the Sustainable Development of the Fisheries in the Mediterranean held in November 2003 in Venice;

*RECALLING* the Resolution 59/25 of the United Nations General Assembly and in particular paragraph 66 and 67 calling the regional fisheries management organizations to adopt appropriate conservation and management measures in order to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems;

*RECALLING* the Recommendation REC.CM-GFCM/29/2005/1 on the management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and deepwater species;

*CONSIDERING* that integration of environmental concerns in fisheries management is a way to protect the structure and functioning of the marine ecosystems that are in turn fundamental to the overall production of the seas, including the exploited resources and to the benefit of sustainable fisheries;

*CONSIDERING* that also human activities other than fisheries should care of the structure and functioning of the marine ecosystems to the benefit of healthy environment and sustainable fisheries;

*NOTING* that the Scientific Advisory Committee recommends to ban bottom trawling activity in the deep water coral reefs located in international waters (referred to as Lophelia reef off Capo Santa Maria di Leuca) in order to protect the coral;

*NOTING* that the Scientific Advisory Committee has indicated that the area referred to as “The Nile Delta area cold hydrocarbon seeps” is characterized by an exceptional concentration of cold hydrocarbon seeps which had favoured the development of a unique living community and recommends that the area should be given a full protection status by avoiding demersal fishing practices;

*NOTING* that the Scientific Advisory Committee recommends to ban trawling activities in the area referred to as “The Eratosthemes Seamount” located in the Eastern Mediterranean between the Levantine Platform to the south and the Cyprus margin to the north near the subduction zone of the African plate, in order to protect the deep sea sensitive habitat;

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

1. Fishing with towed dredges and bottom trawl nets shall be prohibited in the areas bounded by lines joining the following coordinates:

**a) Deep Sea fisheries restricted area “Lophelia reef off Capo Santa Maria di Leuca”**

39° 27.72' N, 18° 10.74' E  
39° 27.80' N, 18° 26.68' E  
39° 11.16' N, 18° 04.28' E  
39° 11.16' N, 18° 32.58' E

**b) Deep Sea fisheries restricted area “The Nile delta area cold hydrocarbon seeps”**

31° 30.00' N, 33° 10.00' E  
31° 30.00' N, 34° 00.00' E  
32° 00.00' N, 34° 00.00' E  
32° 00.00' N, 33° 10.00' E

**c) Deep Sea fisheries restricted area “The Eratosthemes Seamount”**

33° 00.00' N, 32° 00.00' E  
33° 00.00' N, 33° 00.00' E  
34° 00.00' N, 33° 00.00' E  
34° 00.00' N, 32° 00.00' E

2. For the same areas, Members shall call the attention of the appropriate authorities in order to protect these areas from the impact of any other activity jeopardizing the conservation of the features that characterize these particular habitats.

**REC.CM-GFCM/29/2005/1**

**Management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and deepwater species**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

*RECALLING* the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference for the Sustainable Development of the Fisheries in the Mediterranean held in November 2003 in Venice and, in particular, paragraph 4, third indent;

*RECALLING* that effective management measures aim to curb the decline in stocks identified in the scientific advice, and to improve the exploitation pattern in the fisheries;

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

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

*NOTING* that the selectivity of codend mesh sizes currently in use in the various demersal trawl fisheries is not suitable to ensure adequate protection for juveniles of several species, as well as to reduce discarding practices;

*CONSIDERING* also that in the advice for 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004 the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) considered that certain stocks are overexploited, some with a high risk of collapse, and that sustainable management requires that measures aimed at limiting the capture of juveniles are implemented;

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

*RECALLING* Recommendation REC.CM-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;

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

**DEMERSAL FISHERIES**

1. The Members of GFCM shall adopt measures aimed at increasing the selectivity of demersal trawlnets, notably by immediate implementation of at least a 40 mm mesh size opening for the whole demersal trawl codend. Members are invited to explore and implement additional measures in order to improve further the selectivity.

### **DEEPWATER FISHERIES**

1. The Members of the GFCM shall prohibit the use of towed dredges and trawlnets fisheries at depths beyond 1 000 m of depth.

### **GENERAL ASPECTS**

2. The Members of GFCM shall notify the Executive Secretary, each year, one month prior to the Plenary Session of the Commission, with a report on the implementation of the management measures adopted.

3. The Scientific Advisory Committee shall evaluate the impact of the implementation of the management measures and shall recommend, if necessary, to the GFCM either possible adjustments or new additional measures.

REC.CM-GFCM/27/2002/1

**Management of selected demersal and small pelagic species**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

*RECALLING* that effective management measures aim to curb the decline in stocks targeted by scientific advice, and to improve their exploitation;

*NOTING* that the wide diversity of fishing fleets and gear used in the zone under the competence of the Commission makes it essential to establish a general regulatory framework that permits the formulation and application of national regulations adapted to individual cases, in an effort to achieve the maximum effectiveness of sustainable management of living marine resources;

*CONSIDERING* the advice on demersal and small pelagic species given at the Fifth session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC);

*CONSIDERING* that, in its advice of 2002, the Scientific Advisory Committee estimated that certain stocks are overexploited and that sustainable management measures should therefore be put into effect for the fisheries concerned;

*CONSIDERING* that the Members of the GFCM should therefore implement measures aimed at gradually adjusting fishing effort and reducing the capture of juveniles;

*NOTING* that the stock assessments conducted by the SAC only concern specific geographical sub-areas corresponding to the data supplied by certain Members and that the assessed stocks may be shared with adjacent GFCM geographical sub-areas, all the Members concerned should ensure that the stocks are managed according to the following provisions:

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean **RECOMMENDS**, in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 1(b) and (h) of Article III and Article V of GFCM Agreement, that:

1. The Members in the GFCM geographical sub-areas concerned are encouraged to adopt measures aimed at adjusting the fishing effort for selected demersal species (*Merluccius merluccius*, *Aristeus antennatus*, *Mullus barbatus*) and to rationalize their exploitation on the basis of the advice of the Scientific Advisory Committee;
2. The Members in the GFCM geographical sub-areas concerned are encouraged to take measures aimed at minimizing the capture of small pelagics below the size needed to maintain recruitment stock at a level compatible with sustainable resource exploitation.

REC.CM-GFCM/22/1997/1

**Limitation of the use of driftnets in the Mediterranean**

*(original decision: resolution 97/1<sup>5</sup> )*

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*CONSIDERING* that on 22 December 1989, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted by consensus Resolution 44/225 on large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas;

*CONSIDERING* that uncontrolled expansion and growth of driftnetting may entail serious disadvantages in terms of increased fishing effort and increased by-catches of species other than the target species, and that it was therefore desirable to regulate fishing with driftnets;

Accordingly *ADOPTS*, under Article V of the GFCM Agreement, the following recommendation:

1. No vessel flying the flag of a Contracting Party of GFCM may keep on board, or use for fishing, one or more driftnets whose individual or total length is more than 2.5 kilometres;
2. Throughout the fishing referred to in paragraph 1, the net must, if it is longer than one kilometre, remain attached to the vessel. However, within the 12 mile coastal band, a vessel may detach itself from the net, provided it keeps it under constant observation.

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<sup>5</sup> Report of the 22nd Session of GFCM (Appendix G)

REC.CM-GFCM/13/1976/3

**Improvement of estimation of catches, evaluation of components of fishing effort and strengthening of programmes for biological sampling; need to recruit a regional statistician**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*CONSIDERING* that the development and proper utilization of fishery resources depend primarily on accurate information on stocks and fisheries;

*NOTING* that the dispersed character of the Mediterranean fisheries further accentuates the difficulties of collecting information;

*REALIZING* that to reduce the serious shortcomings of data on catches, fishing effort and stock structure, the skill needed for the design and conduct of effective statistical sampling, data collection and processing programmes should be strengthened at the regional level;

*RECOMMENDS*, under Article V of the GFCM Agreement, that the member nations, in liaison with the Secretariat, make a special effort to improve the estimation of annual catches from the principal stocks, to evaluate more rigorously the components of the fishing efforts corresponding to the catches (fishing methods, power of fleets, duration of operations and location of catches) and to strengthen standing programmes for the biological sampling of stocks of major commercial importance;



[1]

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.2 -

### **RECOMMENDATIONS ON MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE (REC.MCS)**

**REC.MCS-GFCM/35/2011/1**

**Concerning the establishment of a GFCM Logbook, amending  
Recommendation GFCM/34/2010/1**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

*RECALLING* the Rule X (2) (e) of the GFCM Agreement in which Contracting Parties have an obligation to provide information on production and other data relevant to enable the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) to carry out its duties;

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

*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 and origin of the catches, at the highest possible level of resolution, for sound scientific monitoring and management of fisheries;

*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. Contracting Parties shall require that 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 positions 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 Contracting Parties who may define a lower threshold between 0 and 50 kg in the light of further work to be undertaken under the GFCM framework.

3. The provisions of the present 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 Contracting Parties.

4. Contracting Parties are committed to implement this recommendation as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013.

a) 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 for each fishing operation carried out 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 shall be kept on board to cover a period of one-year operation or the quota period.

b) Minimum standard information for the GFCM logbook:

1. Master(s) name (s) and address(es);
2. Date and time for departure and return from/to port;
3. Vessel name, call-sign, GFCM unique number and IMO number (if available);
4. Fishing gear (FAO code and units) and their dimension, mesh size and number of hooks;
5. Operations at sea with (minimum) one line 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) The numbers of a rectangle in the GFCM statistical grid is a 5 digits code, as identified by the following rule and reported in the Annex 2 of this Recommendation:
    - (i) Latitude is covered by a composed 3digits code of letter and number. Maximum range from M00 (30°N) up to M34 (47°30'N),
    - (ii) Longitude is covered by a composed code of a letter and a number. The letter range is from A to J and number range per letter is from 0 to 9. Maximum range from A0 (6°W) up to J5 (42°E).
  - d) Record of catches by species.
6. Species identification:
  - a) by FAO code,
  - b) round weight (RWT) in kg per day for all species,
  - c) number of fish caught 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).

c) Minimum information in case of landing and/or transshipment:

1. Date, time and port of landing and/or transshipment;

2. Products:
  - a) presentation,
  - b) number of fish or containers and quantity in kg.
3. Signature of the Master(s) or Vessel Agent(s);
4. Vessel details [transshipment] (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.

## Digits for the codification of the rectangles in the statistical grid

### LATITUDE

<b>Digit 2-3</b>		
<b>code</b>	<b>from</b>	<b>to</b>
<b>00</b>	30°N	30°30'N
<b>01</b>	30°30'N	31°N
<b>02</b>	31°N	31°30'N
<b>03</b>	31°30'N	32°N
<b>04</b>	32°N	32°30'N
<b>05</b>	32°30'N	33°N
<b>06</b>	33°N	33°30'N
<b>07</b>	33°30'N	34°N
<b>08</b>	34°N	34°30'N
<b>09</b>	34°30'N	35°N
<b>10</b>	35°N	35°30'N
<b>11</b>	35°30'N	36°N
<b>12</b>	36°N	36°30'N
<b>13</b>	36°30'N	37°N
<b>14</b>	37°N	37°30'N
<b>15</b>	37°30'N	38°N
<b>16</b>	38°N	38°30'N
<b>17</b>	38°30'N	39°N
<b>18</b>	39°N	39°30'N
<b>19</b>	39°30'N	40°N
<b>20</b>	40°N	40°30'N
<b>21</b>	40°30'N	41°N
<b>22</b>	41°N	41°30'N
<b>23</b>	41°30'N	42°N
<b>24</b>	42°N	42°30'N
<b>25</b>	42°30'N	43°N
<b>26</b>	43°N	43°30'N
<b>27</b>	43°30'N	44°N
<b>28</b>	44°N	44°30'N
<b>29</b>	44°30'N	45°N
<b>30</b>	45°N	45°30'N
<b>31</b>	45°30'N	46°N
<b>32</b>	46°N	46°30'N
<b>33</b>	46°30'N	47°N
<b>34</b>	47°N	47°30'N

## LONGITUDE

Digit 4-5		
code	from	to
A0	6°W	5°30'W
A1	5°30'W	5°W
A2	5°W	4°30'W
A3	4°30'W	4°W
A4	4°W	3°30'W
A5	3°30'W	3°W
A6	3°W	2°30'W
A7	2°30'W	2°W
A8	2°W	1°30'W
A9	1°30'W	1°W
B0	1°W	0°30'W
B1	0°30'W	0°W
B2	0°E	0°30'E
B3	0°30'E	1°E
B4	1°E	1°30'E
B5	1°30'E	2°E
B6	2°E	2°30'E
B7	2°30'E	3°E
B8	3°E	3°30'E
B9	3°30'E	4°E
C0	4°E	4°30'E
C1	4°30'E	5°E
C2	5°E	5°30'E
C3	5°30'E	6°E
C4	6°E	6°30'E
C5	6°30'E	7°E
C6	7°E	7°30'E
C7	7°30'E	8°E
C8	8°E	8°30'E
C9	8°30'E	9°E
D0	9°E	9°30'E
D1	9°30'E	10°E
D2	10°E	10°30'E

Digit 4-5		
code	from	to
D3	10°30'E	11°E
D4	11°E	11°30'E
D5	11°30'E	12°E
D6	12°E	12°30'E
D7	12°30'E	13°E
D8	13°E	13°30'E
D9	13°30'E	14°E
E0	14°E	14°30'E
E1	14°30'E	15°E

E2	15°E	15°30'E
E3	15°30'E	16°E
E4	16°E	16°30'E
E5	16°30'E	17°E
E6	17°E	17°30'E
E7	17°30'E	18°E
E8	18°E	18°30'E
E9	18°30'E	19°E
F0	19°E	19°30'E
F1	19°30'E	20°E
F2	20°E	20°30'E
F3	20°30'E	21°E
F4	21°E	21°30'E
F5	21°30'E	22°E
F6	22°E	22°30'E
F7	22°30'E	23°E
F8	23°E	23°30'E
F9	23°30'E	24°E
G0	24°E	24°30'E
G1	24°30'E	25°E
G2	25°E	25°30'E
G3	25°30'E	26°E
G4	26°E	26°30'E
G5	26°30'E	27°E

Digit 4-5		
code	from	to
G6	27°E	27°30'E
G7	27°30'E	28°E
G8	28°E	28°30'E
G9	28°30'E	29°E
H0	29°E	29°30'E
H1	29°30'E	30°E
H2	30°E	30°30'E
H3	30°30'E	31°E
H4	31°E	31°30'E
H5	31°30'E	32°E
H6	32°E	32°30'E
H7	32°30'E	33°E
H8	33°E	33°30'E
H9	33°30'E	34°E
I0	34°E	34°30'E
I1	34°30'E	35°E
I2	35°E	35°30'E
I3	35°30'E	36°E
I4	36°E	36°30'E
I5	36°30'E	37°E

I6	37°E	37°30'E
I7	37°30'E	38°E
I8	38°E	38°30'E
I9	38°30'E	39°E
J0	39°E	39°30'E
J1	39°30'E	40°E
J2	40°E	40°30'E
J3	40°30'E	41°E
J4	41°E	41°30'E
J5	41°30'E	42°E

**REC.MCS-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.

**REC.MCS-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.

**REC.MCS-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**

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

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

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

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

1. The Commission shall establish a GFCM record of fishing vessels larger than 15 metres in length overall authorized to fish in the GFCM Area. For the purpose of this Recommendation, the vessels larger than 15 metres in length overall not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship or land species covered by the Commission.
2. Each Contracting Party shall submit electronically to the GFCM Executive Secretary before 31 December of each calendar year, the list of its vessels that are authorized to operate in the GFCM Area. This list shall include the following information:
  - Name of vessel
  - Vessel Register number

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

3. Each Contracting Party shall promptly notify the GFCM Executive Secretary of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the GFCM record at any time such changes occur.

4. The GFCM Executive Secretary shall maintain the GFCM record, and take any measure to ensure publicity of the record including through electronic means and placing it on the GFCM website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by Members.

5. The flag Contracting Party of the vessels on the record shall:

- a) authorize their vessels to operate in the GFCM Area only if they are able to fulfil in respect of these vessels the requirements and responsibilities under the Agreement and its conservation and management measures;
- b) take necessary measures to ensure that their vessels comply with all the relevant GFCM conservation and management measures;
- c) take necessary measures to ensure that their vessels on the GFCM record keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorization to fish and/or tranship;
- d) ensure that their vessels on the GFCM record have no history of IUU fishing activities or that, if those vessels have such history, the new owners have provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owners and operators have no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control over those vessels, or that having taken into account all relevant facts, their vessels are not engaged in, or associated with, IUU fishing;
- e) ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and operators of their vessels on the GFCM record are not engaged in, or associated with, fishing activities conducted by vessels not entered into the GFCM record in the GFCM Area;
- f) take necessary measures to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners of the vessels on the GFCM record are citizens or legal entities within the flag Contracting Party so that any control or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them, and
- g) keep consistency between the GFCM record and ICCAT record of vessels.

6. The Contracting Parties shall review their own internal actions and measures taken

pursuant to paragraph 5, including punitive and sanction actions and in a manner consistent with domestic law as regards disclosure, report the results of the review to the Commission at its 2007 meeting and annually thereafter. In consideration of the results of such review, the Commission shall, if appropriate, request the flag Contracting Party of vessels on the GFCM record to take further action to enhance compliance by those vessels to GFCM conservation and management measures.

7. The Contracting Parties shall take measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the fishing for, the retaining on board, the transshipment and landing of species in the GFCM Area by the vessels larger than 15 metres in length overall which are not entered into the GFCM record.

8. Each Contracting Party shall notify the GFCM Executive Secretary of any factual information showing that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting vessels not on the GFCM record to be engaged in fishing for and/or transshipment in the GFCM Area.

9. a) If a vessel mentioned in paragraph 8 is flying the flag of a Contracting Party, the Executive Secretary shall request that the Contracting Party take measures necessary to prevent the vessel from fishing in the GFCM Area. b) If the flag of a vessel mentioned in paragraph 8 cannot be determined or is of a non-Contracting Party, the Executive Secretary shall compile such information for future consideration by the Commission.

10. The Commission and the Contracting Parties concerned shall communicate with each other, and make the best effort with FAO and other relevant regional fishery management bodies to develop and implement appropriate measures, where feasible, including the establishment of records of a similar nature in a timely manner so as to avoid adverse effects upon fisheries resources in other oceans. Such adverse effects might consist of excessive fishing pressure resulting from a shift of the IUU vessels from the Mediterranean to other seas or oceans.

**REC.MCS-GFCM/33/2009/7**

**Concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) in the GFCM area**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

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

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

*FURTHER RECOGNIZING* the need for laying down agreed standards for the establishment of VMS in the GFCM Area,

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

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

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

**Objective**

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

**Application**

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

3. Each flag Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party (CPnC) shall implement no later than 31st December 2012, a satellite-based VMS for its commercial fishing vessels exceeding 15 meters length overall, in conformity with the requirements laid down in this



recommendation, without prejudice to stricter obligations that Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties may have engaged in.

### **Satellite tracking devices requirements**

4. While specific operational details of Parties'/CPnCs' VMS may vary and include hybrid systems they shall ensure that the satellite tracking devices fitted onboard fishing vessels shall enable the fishing vessel to continuously collect and transmit automatically the following data, at least every two hours while out of its base port, to the Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC), or an equivalent authority, in the Flag State:

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

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

5. Each Party/CPnC shall:

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

### **Duties of the masters and owners/licensees of fishing vessels subject to VMS**

6. Masters and/or owners/licensees of fishing vessels subject to VMS shall ensure that the satellite tracking device(s) on board their vessels are permanently operational and that the

information identified in paragraph 4 is collected at least every two hours. Masters and/or owners/licensees of fishing vessels subject to VMS shall in particular ensure that:

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

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

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

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

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

### **Role of the Parties/CPnCs**

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

11. When Parties/CPnCs have reasons to doubt the correctness of the data transmission they have received and suspect that the fishing vessel concerned will seek access to the ports of a third Country within the GFCM Area, they shall notify the port State. The port State shall

ensure either that the fishing vessel is refused access to its ports or that the fishing vessel is subject to inspection, consistent with the provisions in recommendation GFCM/2008/1 on a regional scheme on port State measures to combat IUU fishing in the GFCM Area;

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

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

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

### **Role of the Secretariat**

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

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

### **Confidentiality/Data Security**

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

**REC.MCS-GFCM/33/2009/8**

**On the establishment of a list of vessels presumed to have carried out iuu fishing in the GFCM area repealing recommendation GFCM/30/2006/4**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

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

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

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

*CONSIDERING* the Declaration of the Third Ministerial Conference on the Sustainable Development of Fisheries in the Mediterranean which was held in Venice from 25 to 26 November 2003;

*CONSCIOUS* of the need to address, as a matter of priority, the issue of large-scale fishing vessels conducting IUU fishing activities;

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

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

**Application**

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

- a) undertake any of the following activities in contravention of GFCM conservation and management measures:
    - i) harvest fish in the GFCM Area;
    - ii) fail to report the catches or make false or misleading reports;
    - iii) take or land undersized fish;
    - iv) fish during closed fishing periods or in closed areas;
    - v) use prohibited fishing gear; or
    - vi) engage in fishing activities contrary to any other GFCM conservation and management measure.
  - b) tranship or participate in joint operations such as re-supply or refuelling with vessels included in the GFCM IUU Vessel List;
  - c) harvest fish in maritime waters under the national jurisdiction of a coastal State in the GFCM Area, without the permission of that State or in contravention of its laws and regulations; and
  - d) being without nationality, harvest fish in the GFCM Area.
2. The Commission may review and, as appropriate, revise this Recommendation with a view to its extension to other types of IUU fishing activities.

### **Information on presumed IUU fishing activities**

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

### **Draft IUU Vessel List**

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

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

6. Where a vessel appears on a Draft IUU Vessel List drawn up in accordance with paragraph 4, the flag State shall notify the owner of the vessel flying its flag of its inclusion in

the Draft IUU Vessel List and of the consequences that may result from being confirmed in the IUU Vessel List to be adopted by the Commission.

### **Consideration and Adoption of the Provisional IUU Vessel List**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **IUU Vessel List**

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

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

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

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

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

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

- a) ensure that IUU vessels are not authorized to land, refuel, re-supply or engage in other commercial transactions;
- b) prohibit the entry into their ports of vessels included on the IUU Vessel list, except in case of force majeure;
- c) refuse to grant their flag to vessels included in the IUU Vessel List, except if the vessel has changed owner and/or operator; and the sufficient evidence has been provided that demonstrates that the previous owner or operator has no further legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control of, the vessel, or having taken into account all relevant facts, the flag Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, determines that granting the vessel its flag will not result in IUU fishing activities; and
- d) prohibit the imports, or landing and/or transshipment, of any fish from vessels included in the IUU Vessel List;

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

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

- a) there is satisfactory information to establish that the vessel did not engage in any IUU fishing activities or that effective action has been taken in response to the IUU fishing

activities in question, including, inter alia, prosecution and imposition of penalties or sanctions of adequate severity;

- b) there is satisfactory information to establish that none of the requirements mentioned in a) above has been met with regard to a vessel deleted from the respective lists; or
- c) there is insufficient information to make a determination pursuant to sub-paragraph a) or b), above, within 30 days. In the event of an objection to a vessel listed by another RFMO being incorporated into or deleted from the GFCM IUU Vessel List, such vessel shall be placed on the Provisional IUU Vessel List.

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

#### **Deletion from the IUU Vessel List**

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

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

#### **Intersessional modification of the IUU Vessel List**

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

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

21. The Contracting Parties shall review the removal request and notify their opinion on whether the vessel should be removed from, or maintained on the IUU Vessel List by electronic means to the Executive Secretary within 30 days following the notification by the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary, in close coordination with the COC Bureau, shall review the responses within 30 days following the last day for receipt of the



responses. If a Contracting Party does not respond within the given period, it will be considered as an abstention from the vote and part of the quorum for the decision-making.

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

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

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

### **Final Provision**

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

**Information to be included in all IUU Vessel Lists**

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

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

**REC.MCS-GFCM/32/2008/1**

**Regional scheme on port State measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities in the GFCM area**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*RECALLING* the 2003 Declaration of the Ministerial Conference for the Sustainable Development of Fisheries in the Mediterranean;

*RECALLING* further the 2005 FAO Model Scheme on Port State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing endorsed by the Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries;

*RECALLING* further the Sustainable Fisheries Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly adopted in 2005, 2006 and 2007 calling for the development of a legally-binding instrument on port State measures;

*RECALLING* further part three of the 2005 General Guidelines for a GFCM Control and Enforcement Scheme and Recommendation GFCM/2006/4 on the Establishment of a List of Vessels Presumed to have carried out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the GFCM Area;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the decision of the Twenty-seventh Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries to develop a legally-binding instrument on port State measures;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the draft Agreement on port State measures developed by the FAO Expert Consultation to Develop a Legally-binding instrument on Port State Measures held 4-8 September 2007 in Washington DC USA;

*NOTING* port State measures that have been adopted by various regional fisheries management organizations;

*CONCERNED* by the fact that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) activities in the GFCM area continue, and that these activities diminish the effectiveness of the GFCM conservation and management measures,

*RECOGNIZING* the potential effectiveness of strengthened and harmonized Port State Measures in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities, and the need to develop and to implement such measures in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner;

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

**Objective**

1. The objective of this Recommendation is to contribute to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources in the GFCM Area through strengthened, harmonized and transparent port State measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

### **Definitions**

2. For the purposes of this Recommendation, “fish” means all species of living marine resources, whether processed or not; “fishing” means:

(i) the actual or attempted searching for, catching, taking or harvesting of fish in the GFCM Area; and

(ii) engaging in any activity which can reasonably be expected to result in the locating, catching, taking or harvesting of fish in the GFCM Area;

“fishing related activities” means any operation in the GFCM Area in support of, or in preparation for fishing, including the processing, transshipment or transport of fish that have not been previously landed and offloaded at a port, as well as the provision of personnel, fuel, gear and other supplies at sea;

“vessel” means any vessel, ship of another type, boat and other craft used for, equipped to be used for, or intended to be used for, fishing or fishing related activities in the GFCM Area;

“port” includes offshore terminals and other installations for landing, transshipping, processing refuelling or resupplying;

“illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing” has the same meaning as set out in the paragraph 3 of the 2001 FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and applies to all marine fisheries;

“regional economic integration organization” means a regional economic integration organization to which its member States have transferred competence over matters covered by this Recommendation, including the authority to make decisions binding on its member States in respect of those matters;

“regional fisheries management organization” means an intergovernmental fisheries organization or arrangement, as appropriate, that has the competence to establish conservation and management measures.

### **Application**

3. This Recommendation only applies to vessels which are within the GFCM Area.

4. Each Contracting Party shall, in its capacity as a port State, apply this Recommendation in respect of vessels that are not flying its flag that are seeking access to its port(s) or are in one of its ports.

5. Each Contracting Party shall take additional measures, as it deems necessary, to reinforce effective jurisdiction and control over the fishing and fishing related activities of vessels flying its flag. To the greatest extent possible, such measures shall include mutatis mutandis the port State measures set forth in this Recommendation in respect of such vessels.

### **Integration and coordination**

6. To the greatest extent possible, Contracting Parties shall:

(a) integrate port State measures into a broader system of port State controls;

- (b) integrate port State measures with other measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing; and
- (c) take measures to share information among relevant national agencies and to coordinate the activities of such agencies in the implementation of this Recommendation.

### **Cooperation and exchange of information**

7. In the implementation of this Recommendation and with due regard to appropriate confidentiality requirements, Contracting Parties shall cooperate and exchange information with the GFCM Secretariat, relevant States and international organizations and other entities, including, as appropriate, by:

- (a) requesting information from, and providing information to, relevant databases;
- (b) requesting and providing cooperation to promote the effective implementation of this Recommendation.

8. The Contracting Parties shall, to the extent possible, ensure that national fisheries related information systems allow for the direct electronic exchange of information on port State inspections between them and with the GFCM Secretariat, with due regard to appropriate confidentiality requirements, in order to facilitate the implementation of this Recommendation;

9. The Contracting Parties shall establish a list of contact points in the relevant administrations in order to take due note of any reply or any actions proposed or taken by the flag State of the inspected vessel. The list shall be transmitted to the Executive Secretary of GFCM and to the other Contracting Parties no later than 30 days after the entry into force of this Recommendation.

### **Designation of Ports**

10. The Contracting Parties shall designate and publicize national ports to which foreign vessels may be permitted access and, to the greatest extent possible, shall ensure that every port designated and publicized has sufficient capacity to conduct inspections and take other port State measures in accordance with this Recommendation.

11. The Contracting Parties shall notify the GFCM Secretariat of the ports designated under paragraph 10 within 10 (ten) days of such designation.

### **GFCM Register of Ports**

12. The GFCM Secretariat shall establish and maintain a register of designated and publicized national ports based on the lists submitted by Contracting Parties. The register shall be published on the GFCM website.

### **Prior Notice of Entry into Port**

13. The Contracting Parties shall, before granting access to their designated ports, require the masters of vessels to notify the competent authorities of the port they wish to use at least 72 hours before the estimated time of arrival. However, a Contracting Party may make provision for another notification period, taking into account, inter alia, the distance between

the fishing grounds and its ports. The notification shall include, as a minimum standard, the information set out in Annex A.

### **Port Entry Authorization**

14. Each Contracting Party, through its competent authorities, shall communicate in a written form the authorization, or denial, for access to the port for landing, transshipping or processing to the master of the vessel seeking access to its ports. The master of the vessel shall present the authorization for access to the port to the competent authorities of the Contracting Party upon arrival at port before commencing authorized activities.

### **Denial of use of port**

15. A Contracting Party shall not allow a vessel to use its ports for landing, transshipping or processing of fish if the vessel:

- (a) at the relevant time was engaged in fishing in the GFCM Area and was not flying the flag of a Contracting Party; or
- (b) has been sighted as being engaged in, or supporting, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the GFCM Area, unless the vessel can establish that the catch was taken in a manner consistent with relevant GFCM conservation and management measures.

16. A Contracting Party shall not allow a vessel to use its ports for landing, transshipping or processing of fish if the vessel is included in a list of vessels having engaged in, or supported, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing adopted by a regional fisheries management organization in accordance with the rules and procedures of such organization.

17. A Contracting Party shall not allow a vessel to use its ports for landing, transshipping or processing of fish where there are reasonable grounds for believing that the vessel does not have a valid and applicable authorization to engage in fishing and fishing related activities in the GFCM Area.

18. A Contracting Party shall, in appropriate situations, deny a vessel referred to in paragraphs 15, 16 and 17 access to port services, including, inter alia, refuelling and resupplying services but not including services essential to the safety, health and welfare of the crew.

19. Where a Contracting Party has denied the use of its ports in accordance with this Recommendation, it shall promptly notify the master of the vessel, the flag State and, as appropriate, the relevant coastal State(s), the GFCM Secretariat and other relevant organizations of such action.

### **Withdrawal of denial of use of port**

20. A Contracting Party may withdraw its denial of the use of its port in respect of a vessel only if the Contracting Party is satisfied that there is sufficient proof to show that the grounds on which the use was denied were inadequate or erroneous or that such grounds no longer apply.

21. Where a Contracting Party has withdrawn its denial pursuant to paragraph 20, it shall promptly notify those to whom a notification was issued pursuant to this Recommendation.

### **Non-authorized entry**

22. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that any vessel or vessel engaged in fishing related activities that enters into its port without prior authorization shall be automatically subject to inspection.

### **Inspections**

23. Each Contracting Party shall inspect at least 15 per cent of the total number of port entries of vessels in the previous year in accordance with this Recommendation.

24. In determining which vessels to inspect, a Party shall give priority to:

- (a) vessels that have previously been denied the use of a port in accordance with this Recommendation; or
- (b) requests from other relevant States or regional fisheries management organizations that particular vessels be inspected.

25. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that inspections of vessels in its ports are carried out in accordance with the inspection procedures set out in Annex B.

26. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that requirements are established for the certification of its inspectors. Such requirements shall take into account the elements for the training of inspectors provided in Annex C.

27. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that inspectors make all possible efforts to avoid unduly delaying vessels and that vessels suffer the minimum interference and inconvenience possible and that degradation of the quality of the fish is avoided.

28. Each Contracting Party shall, as a minimum standard, require the information set out in Annex D to be included in the report of the results of each inspection.

29. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that the results of port inspections are always presented to the master of the vessel for review and signature and that the report is completed and signed by the inspector. The master of the inspected vessel shall be given the opportunity to add any comment to the report and, as appropriate, to contact the relevant authorities of the flag State, in particular when there are serious difficulties in understanding the contents of the report.

30. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that a copy of the report of inspection shall be provided to the master of the inspected vessel for retention on board the vessel.

31. Where there is reasonable evidence for believing that a vessel has engaged in or supported IUU fishing activities, the relevant port State shall:

- (a) transmit the results of the inspection without delay to the flag State of the inspected vessels to the GFCM Secretariat and other Contracting Parties;
- (b) deny use of their ports to the vessel for landing, transshipping or processing of fish.

32. Contracting Parties may take measures other than those in paragraph 31, provided they are provided for in their national laws and regulations and consistent with international law.

### **Standardized information on port inspections**

33. Each Contracting Party shall handle information on port inspections in a standardized form, consistent with Annex E.

### **Regional information system**

34. A regional information system which includes port State information shall be developed by the GFCM to better monitor and control the GFCM Area.

### **Force majeure or distress**

35. Nothing in this Recommendation affects the access of vessels to port in accordance with international law for reasons of force majeure or distress.

### **Role of the flag State**

36. Each Contracting Party shall, in its capacity as a flag State, cooperate with other Contracting Parties.

37. When a Contracting Party has reasonable grounds to believe that a vessel flying its flag has engaged in or supported illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and is seeking access to or is in the port of another Contracting Party, it shall, as appropriate, request that Contracting Party inspect the vessel and to advise them of the results.

38. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that vessels entitled to fly its flag land, tranship and process fish, and use other port services, in ports of other Contracting Parties that are acting in accordance with, or in a manner consistent, with this Recommendation.

39. The Flag State shall ensure that the master of a fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag shall when being inspected:

- a) co-operate with and assist in the inspection of the fishing vessel conducted pursuant to these procedures, and not obstruct, intimidate or interfere with the inspectors in the performance of their duties
- b) provide access to any areas, decks and rooms of the fishing vessel, catch (whether processed or not), nets or other gear, equipment, and any information or documents which the inspector deems necessary in undertaking an inspection;
- c) provide access to registration documents, fishing authorizations or any other documentation as required by the inspector.

40. If the master of a fishing vessel refuses to allow an authorized inspector to carry out an inspection in accordance with these procedures, the master shall offer an explanation of the reason for such refusal. The port inspection authorities shall immediately notify the authorities of the fishing vessel, as well as the GFCM, of the master's refusal and any explanation.

41. If the master does not comply with an inspection request, the Flag State shall be requested to suspend the vessel's authorization to fish and order the vessel to remain in port or



take other measures that it deems appropriate. The Flag State shall immediately notify the port inspection authorities and the GFCM of the action it has taken in these circumstances.

## ANNEX A

### Information to be provided in advance by vessels

#### 1. Vessel identification

- Name of the vessel;
- External Identification Number;
- International Radio Call Sign;
- Lloyd's IMO Number (where appropriate);
- Flag State;
- Vessel owner (name, address, contact, unique identity for company and registered owner);
- Vessel operator if different from owner (name, address, contact);
- Beneficial owner if different from owner (name, address, contact);
- Vessel master;
- Vessel agent (name, address, contact);
- VMS (where appropriate):
  - (i) type of VMS required by the flag State and/or relevant regional fisheries management organization;
  - (ii) details of the VMS unit to enable communication.
- Previous Names(s) and Flag State(s), if any.

#### 2. Access to port

- Purpose(s);
- Intended port of call;
- Estimated time of arrival.

#### 3. Fishing authorization (licenses/permits)

- The vessel's authorization(s) to fish or transport fish and fish products;
- State(s) issuing the authorization(s);
- Terms of the authorization(s), including areas and duration;
- Areas, scope and duration of the authorization(s);
- Details of allocation authorized – quota, effort or other;
- Species, bycatch and fishing gear authorized; and
- Transshipment records and documents (where applicable).

#### 4. Fishing trip information

- Dates, times, zone and place of current fishing trip;
- Areas visited (entry and exit from different areas), including GSAs, High Seas and others, as appropriate;
- Transshipment activities at sea (date, species, quantity of fish transhipped)

- Last port visited; and date.

## **5. Species information**

- Log Book – Yes/No
- Fish species and fishery products onboard;
- Areas of capture or collection – areas under national jurisdiction, high seas;
- Product type;
- Estimated Processed weight;
- Estimated Equivalent live weight;
- Estimated Quantity to be landed; and
- Intended destination of landed fish.

## **6. Other**

- as required by Port States.

## **ANNEX B**

### **Port State Inspection Procedures for Vessels**

#### **1. Vessel identification**

The port inspector(s) shall:

- a) verify that the official documentation onboard is valid, if necessary, through appropriate contacts with the flag State or international records of vessels;
- b) where necessary, arrange for an official translation of the documentation;
- c) be assured that the vessel's name, flag, any external identification number and markings (and IMO ship identification number when available) and the international radio call sign are correct;
- d) to the extent possible, examine whether the vessel has changed name and/or flag and, if so, note the previous name(s) and flag(s);
- e) note the port of registration, name and address of the owner (and operator and beneficial owner if different from the owner), agent, and master of the vessel, including the unique ID for company and registered owner if available; and
- f) note name(s) and address(es) of previous owner(s), if any, during the past five years.

#### **2. Authorization(s)**

The port inspector(s) shall verify that the authorization(s) to fish or transport fish and fishery products are compatible with the information obtained under paragraph 1 and examine the duration of the authorization(s) and their application to areas, species and fishing gear.

### **3. Other documentation**

The port inspector(s) shall review all relevant documentation, including documents in electronic format. Relevant documentation may include logbooks, in particular the fishing logbook, as well as the crew list, stowage plans and drawings or descriptions of fish holds if available. Such holds or areas may be inspected in order to verify whether their size and composition correspond to these drawings or descriptions and whether the stowage is in accordance with the stowage plans. Where appropriate, this documentation shall also include catch documents or trade documents issued by any regional fisheries management organization.

### **4. Fishing gear**

- a) The port inspector(s) shall verify that the fishing gear on board is in conformity with the conditions of the authorization(s). The gear may also be checked to ensure that features such as, inter alia, the mesh size(s) (and possible devices), length of nets, hook sizes conform with applicable regulations and that identification marks of the gear correspond to those authorized for the vessel.
- b) The port inspector(s) may also search the vessel for any fishing gear stowed out of sight and for fishing gear that is otherwise illegal.

### **5. Fish and fishery products**

- a) The port inspector(s) shall, to the greatest extent possible, examine whether the fish and fishery products on board were harvested in accordance with the conditions set out in the applicable authorization(s). In doing so, the port inspector(s) shall examine the fishing logbook, reports submitted, including those transmitted by a vessel monitoring system (VMS), as appropriate.
- b) In order to determine the quantities and species on board, the port inspector(s) may examine the fish in the hold or during the landing. In doing so, the port inspector(s) may open cartons where the fish has been pre-packed and move the fish or cartons to ascertain the integrity of fish holds.
- c) If the vessel is unloading, the port inspector(s) may verify the species and quantities landed. Such verification may include product type, live weight (quantities determined from the logbook) and the conversion factor used for calculating processed weight to live weight. The port inspector(s) may also examine any possible quantities retained onboard.
- d) The port inspector(s) may review the quantity and composition of all catch onboard, including by sampling.

### **6. Verification of IUU fishing**

If the port inspector(s) has reasonable grounds to believe that a vessel has engaged in, or supported IUU fishing, the competent authority of the port State shall as soon as possible contact the flag State authorities to verify whether the fish and fishery products have been harvested or collected in the areas as recorded in the relevant documents. As appropriate, the competent authority may also contact a coastal State where the fish was allegedly taken.

### **7. Report**

A written report shall be prepared and signed by the inspector on completion of the inspection and a copy provided to the master of the vessel in accordance with paragraph 29 of the Recommendation.

## ANNEX C

### Training of Port State Inspectors

1. Elements of a training programme of port State inspectors should include at least the following areas.
2. Training in inspection procedures.
3. Relevant laws and regulations, areas of competence and conservation and management measures of relevant regional fisheries management organizations, and applicable rules of international law.
4. Information sources, such as log books and other electronic information that may be useful for the validation of information given by the master of the vessel.
5. Identification of fish species and measurement calculation.
6. Monitoring catch landing, including determining conversion factors for the various species and products.
7. Identification of vessels and gear and gear measurements and inspections.
8. Vessel boarding/inspection, hold inspections and calculation of vessel hold volumes.
9. VMS equipment and operation.
10. Collection, evaluation and preservation of evidence.
11. The range of measures available to be taken following the inspection.
12. Health and safety issues in the performance of inspections.
13. Conduct during inspections.
14. Relevant languages, particularly English.

## ANNEX D

### Results of Port State Inspections

Results of port State inspections shall include at least the following information:

#### 1. Inspection references

- Inspecting authority (name of inspecting authority or the alternate body nominated by the authority);
- Name of inspector;
- Date and time of inspection;
- Port of inspection (place where the vessel is inspected); and
- Date (date the report is completed).

#### 2. Vessel identification

- Name of the vessel;
- Type of vessel;
- Type of gear;

- External identification number (side number of the vessel) and IMO-number (if available) or other number as appropriate;
- International Radio Call Sign;
- MMSI-number (Maritime Mobile Service Identity number), if available;
- Flag State (State where the vessel is registered);
- Previous name(s) and flag(s), if any;
- Home port (port of registration of the vessel) and previous home ports;
- Vessel owner (name, address, contact of the vessel owner);
- Vessel beneficial owner if different from the vessel owner (name, address, contact);
- Vessel operator responsible for using the vessel if different from the vessel owner (name, address, contact);
- Vessel agent (name, address, contact)
- Name(s) and address(es) of previous owner(s), if any;
- Name, nationality and maritime qualifications of master and fishing master;
- Crew list

### **3. Fishing authorization (licenses/permits)**

- The vessel's authorization(s) to fish or transport fish and fish products;
- State(s) issuing the authorization(s);
- Terms of the authorization(s), including areas and duration;
- Relevant regional fisheries management organization;
- Areas, scope and duration of the authorization(s);
- Details of allocation authorized – quota, effort or other;
- Species, bycatch and fishing gear authorized; and
- Transshipment records and documents (where applicable).

### **4. Fishing trip information**

- Date, time, zone and place current fishing trip commenced;
- Areas visited (entry and exit from different areas);
- Transshipment activities at sea (date, species, place, quantity of fish transhipped)
- Last port visited; and
- Date and time where current fishing trip ended
- Intended next port of call, as appropriate.

### **5. Result of the inspection on the catch**

- Start and end of discharge (times and date);
- Fish species;
- Product type;
- Live weight (quantities determined from the log book);
- Relevant conversion factor;
- Processed weight (quantities landed by species and presentation);
- Equivalent live weight (quantities landed in equivalent live weight, as “product Weight multiplied with the conversion factor”); and
- Intended destination of fish and fishery products inspected.
- Quantity and species of fish retained on board, if any.

### **6. Results of gear inspection**

- Details of gear types.

## **7. Conclusions**

- Conclusions of the inspection including identification of the violations believed to have been committed and reference to the relevant rules and measures. Such evidence shall be attached to the inspection report.

## **ANNEX E**

### **Information System on port State Inspections**

#### **1. Communication between Contracting Parties and the Secretariat, and the relevant Flag States as well as between Contracting Parties and relevant regional fisheries management organizations would require the following:**

- data characters;
- structure for data transmission;
- protocols for the transmission; and
- formats for transmission including data element with a corresponding field code and a more detailed definition and explanation of the various codes.

#### **2. International agreed codes shall be used for the identification of the following items:**

- States: 3-ISO Country Code;
- fish species: FAO 3-alpha code;
- vessels: FAO alpha code;
- gear types: FAO alpha code;
- devices/attachments: FAO 3-alpha code; and
- ports: UN LO-code, or codes as provided by the Port State.

#### **3. Data elements shall at least include the following:**

- inspection references;
- vessel identification ;
- fishing authorization(s) (licenses/permits);
- trip information;
- result of the inspection on discharge;
- quantities inspected;
- result of gear inspection;
- irregularities detected;
- actions taken; and
- information from the flag State.

**REC.MCS-GFCM/30/2006/5**

**Criteria for obtaining the status of cooperating non-contracting party in GFCM area**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*NOTING* the imperative international responsibility concerning the conservation of the living marine resources in the Mediterranean Sea for the needs of present and future generations;

*NOTING* that the sustainability can be ensured only if all the Parties which fish for marine resources cooperate with the Commission, which is the competent international body for the conservation and management of these marine resources within its area of competence;

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

1. Each year, on the basis of information supplied to GFCM by Members, the Secretary shall contact all non-Contracting Parties known to be fishing in the GFCM Area for species under GFCM competence to urge them to become a Contracting Party to GFCM in accordance with the provisions of the GFCM Agreement, or attain the status of a Co-operating non-Contracting Party. In doing so, the Secretary shall provide a copy of all relevant Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by the Commission;
2. Any non-Contracting Party requesting the status of a co-operating non-Contracting Party shall apply to the Secretary. Requests must be received by the Executive Secretary no later than ninety (90) days in advance of an Annual Session of the Commission, to be considered at that meeting;
3. Non-Contracting Parties requesting the status of Co-operating non-Contracting Party shall provide the following information in order to have this status considered by the Commission:
  - a) where available, data on its historical fisheries in the GFCM Area, including nominal catches, number/type of vessels, name of fishing vessels, fishing effort and fishing areas;
  - b) all the data that Contracting Parties have to submit to GFCM based on the recommendations and resolutions adopted by GFCM;
  - c) details on current fishing presence in the GFCM Area, number of vessels and vessel characteristics; and
  - d) information on any research programmes it may have conducted in the GFCM Area and the information and the results of this research.
4. An applicant for Co-operating non-Contracting Party shall also:
  - a) confirm its commitment to respect the Commission's conservation and management measures and;
  - b) inform GFCM of the measures it takes to ensure compliance by its vessels of GFCM conservation and management measures.

5. The Compliance Committee shall be responsible for reviewing requests for co-operating status and for recommending to the Commission whether or not an applicant should receive co-operating status. In this review, the Compliance Committee shall also consider information regarding the applicant available from other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) as well as data submission of the applicant. Caution shall be used so as not to introduce into the GFCM Area the excessive fishing capacity of other regions or IUU fishing activities by granting cooperating status to the applicant;
6. Co-operating non-Contracting Parties status shall be annually reviewed and renewed unless revoked by the Commission due to non-compliance with GFCM conservation and management measures.



**[1]**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**- 1.3 -**

**RECOMMENDATIONS ON DATA AND INFORMATION  
REPORTING (REC.DIR)**

REC.DIR-GFCM/35/2011/6

**On reporting of aquaculture data and information, amending  
Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/4**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*RECALLING* the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries which calls for sustainable development and 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 Contracting Parties have an obligation to provide information on production and other data relevant to the function of the CAQ;

*CONSIDERING* the development of the Information System 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 Thirty-first Session recommended that the responsibilities of the SIPAM National Coordinators be formally endowed with a national institution;

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

1. Contracting Parties shall submit the data for all the parameters listed below on an annual basis to the GFCM Secretariat:

**PRODUCTION STATISTICS BY:**

- CWP<sup>1</sup> Statistical Areas;
- Culture environment (brackish, marine and freshwater);
- Cultured species (scientific and common name; including capture-based species);
- System of culture (extensive, semi-intensive, intensive);

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<sup>1</sup> See *The Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics: Its Origin, Role and Structure*. FAO Fisheries Circular. No. 193. December 1995.

- Type of culture (cages, ponds, raceways, hatchery, etc.);
- Type of product (ongrowing, eggs, fingerlings, etc.);
- Capture-based aquaculture input (seed quantity: eggs, wild fingerlings, wild fish etc.);
- Production quantity (tonnes/units);
- Production value (currency);

#### PRODUCTION CENTRES

- Unit (segment) of production (hatcheries, ongrowing farms);
- Number of production centres per unit (segment);
- Cultured species per unit (segment);
- Total volume (m<sup>3</sup>) of facilities of production centres per segment;
- Destination of product per segment (consumption, ongrowing, restocking, ornamental).

#### MARKET

- Feed, Fishmeal and Fish Oil:
  - Domestic production (tonnes)
  - Feed prices for major farmed species (per tonne)
  - Domestic Prices (per tonne)
- Trade and Consumption:
  - Import and export of aquatic products (weight and value)
  - Import and export of major farmed species (weight and value)
  - Main export destination for farmed species
  - National per capita consumption of aquatic products

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.

**REC.DIR-GFCM/33/2009/3**

**On the implementation of the GFCM Task 1 statistical matrix and repealing resolution GFCM/31/2007/1**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. The GFCM Task 1 statistical matrix (Annex 3) is an adequate tool to communicate in a standardised format relevant information for fisheries management to the GFCM Secretary with a view to develop the GFCM database;
2. Members and Cooperating non-members shall submit to the GFCM Secretary the complete Task 1.1, Task 1.2 and Task 1.4 of the statistical matrix referred to in paragraph 1 for the first time by February 2010 at the latest, and subsequently update the relevant data by transmissions to the GFCM Secretariat not later than May each calendar year, and in

accordance with appropriate data submission standards and protocols to be set by the Secretariat;

3. Members and Cooperating non-members shall submit Task 1.3. and Task 1.5, by January 2011 at the latest, in coherence with the SAC assessment forms, and subsequently update the relevant data by transmissions to the GFCM Secretariat not later than May each calendar year, and in accordance with appropriate data submission standards and protocols to be set by the Secretariat;

4. Resolution GFCM/31/2007/1 is hereby repealed.

## GFCM/SAC Fleet Segmentation

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

Description of segments

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

M Polyvalent vessels longer than 12 m. All vessels over 12 metres in length (LOA), that use different gears during the year without clear predominance of one of them or that use a gear not considered in this classification.

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

Table on fishing effort<sup>2</sup> measurement

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

<sup>2</sup> It refers to nominal effort.

<sup>3</sup> Should be referred to a particular area (indicating the surface) to estimate fishing intensity (effort • km<sup>-2</sup>) and to relate the effort to exploited communities

<sup>4</sup> The effort measures that do not include a time activity should be referred to a period of time (i.e. by year).

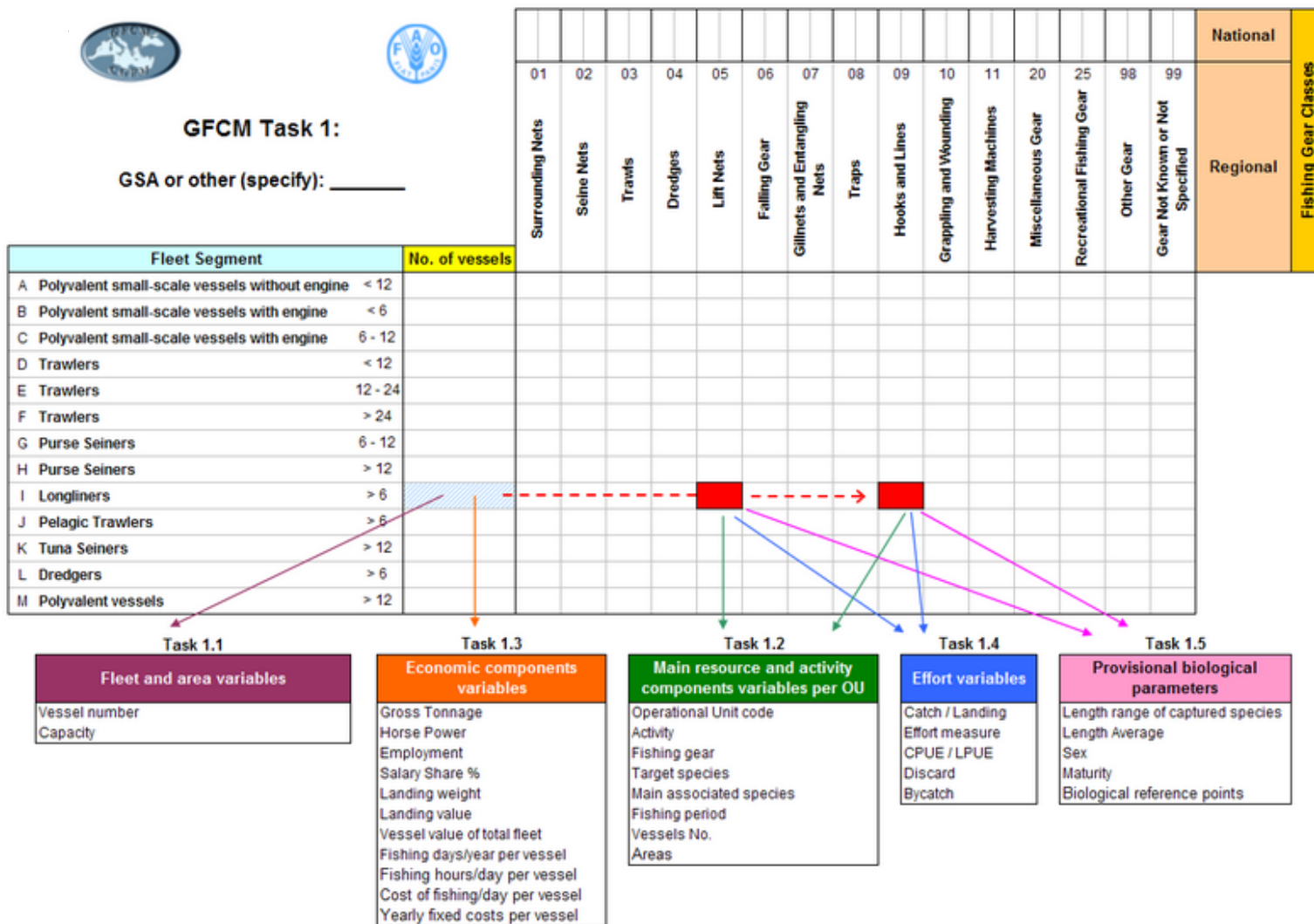


**GFCM Task 1 – Operational Units (*REVISED FLEET SEGMENT NAMES*)**



**GFCM Task 1:**

GSA or other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_



**REC.DIR-GFCM/33/2009/5**

**On the establishment of the GFCM regional fleet register**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

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

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

*RECOGNISING* that the GFCM record of vessels authorised to fish in the GFCM area established under Recommendation GFCM/2005/2 is a subset of the regional fleet register.

*NOTING* the request made by the Commission during its 32nd Session to address fleet capacity monitoring and management issues.

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

1. The GFCM shall establish by 30 June 2010 a Regional Fleet Register (RFR) to contain information on all vessels, boats, ships, or other crafts that are equipped and used for commercial fishing activity in the GFCM Area;
2. As from 2011 Contracting Parties shall submit a full dataset at least at the beginning of each calendar year followed by updates as appropriate. The updating of the GFCM RFR lies within the responsibility of the Contracting Parties and should fully reflect the situation of their fleets at any time;
3. The list of data fields and related definitions, reference codes (tables 1-7) and confidentiality status are included in Annex 1;
4. Contracting Parties who are not able to submit a full data set as from 2011 shall do so as soon as possible according to the state of their preparation;
5. The GFCM Secretariat shall establish appropriate data submission standards and protocols to be followed by Contracting Parties in transmitting data and shall maintain a Regional Fleet Register database which should be published through an information system

on the GFCM website, in a manner consistent with the GFCM confidentiality policy and procedures established under Recommendation GFCM/2006/7.

6. The RFR information system shall include relevant fleet capacity monitoring tools, such as dynamic charts on fleet capacity in terms of tonnage (GT) and power (kW), and other data browsing facilities.

## ANNEX 1

	Fields	Description	Optional / Mandatory	Public / Restricted
1	Country (ISO-3)	Flag under which the vessel is operating	M	P
2	Registration authority	Authority having issued the registration	M	P
3	Vessel name (if any)	Name of vessel	M	P
4	Vessel register number	Code assigned by Members	M	P
5	GFCM registration number	Registration number assigned to the fishing vessel by the National Authorities (ISO 3 Country code + 9 digits).	M	P
6	IMO registration number	Code IMO given by Lloyds company	O	P
7	Previous vessel name (if any)	Previous name of vessel (if any)	O	P
8	Previous flag State (if any)	Previous flag of vessel (if any)	O	P
9	Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)	Details of deletion from other registries (if any)	O	P
10	International radio call sign (if any)	International radio call sign (if any) Mandatory $\geq$ 24 m LOA	O	P
11	Vessel type	Type of vessel according to the International Standard Classification of Fishery Vessels by Vessel Types. (The 'International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishery Vessels by Vessel Types' (ISSCFV), based on the type of gear used by the vessels, approved by the CWP in 1984).	M	P
12	Operational status Active Indicator	Active / Inactive. Permanent status until receiving allowance to return into activity Indicator Y/N	M	P
13	Port of registration	Full name of the port	M	P
14	Year of entry into fishing activity	Year of entry into fishing activity	M	P
15	Events codes	Code identifying the type of event reported	M	P
16	Event date	Event date (Format: .yyyymmdd)	M	P
16.1	Year	Event date: year	M	P
16.2	Month	Event date: month (numerical)	M	P
16.3	Day	Event date: day (numerical)	M	P
17	Authorisation to fish License indicator	Any authorisation to fish, e.g. licence, permit or any other official denomination Indicator Y/N	M	P
18	Period authorized for fishing and/or transshipping	Time period authorized for fishing and/or trans-shipping.	O	P
18.1	Starting date	Starting date (Format )	O	P
18.1.1	Year	Starting date: year	O	P
18.1.2	Month	Starting date: month (numerical)	O	P
18.1.3	Day	Starting date: day (numerical)	O	P
18.2	Ending date	Ending date (Format yyyymmdd)	O	P
18.2.1	Year	Ending date: year	O	P
18.2.2	Month	Ending date: month (numerical)	O	P
18.2.3	Day	Ending date: day (numerical)	O	P
19	Main fishing statistical area	GSA where the vessel is authorised to fish and operates the majority of the year.	O	P

	Fields	Description	Optional / Mandatory	Public / Restricted
20	Secondary fishing statistical area	GSA where the vessel is authorised to fish and operates occasionally	O	P
21	Tertiary fishing statistical area	GSA where the vessel is authorised to fish and operates occasionally	O	P
22	Fishing Gear used	Main gear according to the fishing license of the vessel or the owner/operator, using the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear (The International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear (ISSCFG) was adopted during the 10th Session of the CWP (Madrid, 22-29 July 1980).	M	P
23	Secondary Fishing Gear	Secondary gear according to the fishing license of the vessel or the owner/operator, using the same International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear as "Fishing gear used"	M	P
24	Length Overall (LOA)	Length Over All (LOA, in metres). The principle longitudinal dimension of the hull of the vessel. Accuracy of 2 digits	M	P
25	Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT)	Gross Registered Tonnage according to the Oslo Convention (1947) (in use until 1995). (GRT represented the total measured cubic content of the permanently enclosed spaces of a vessel, with some allowances or deductions for exempt spaces such as living quarters [1 gross register ton = 100 cubic feet = 2.83 cubic metres]).	O	P
26	Gross Tonnage (GT)	Gross Tonnage according to the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, London, 1969 (in use since 1996) for vessels $\geq 15$ m.	M	P
27	Construction year		M	P
28	Hull material	Code	M	P
29	Powered/Motorised	Power of the main engine $> 0$ Indicator Y/N	M	P
30	Power of the main engine(s)	Total maximum continuous rated output power in kW of all the vessel's main propulsion machinery which appears on the vessel's certificate or registry or other official document (STCW-F convention)	M	P
31	Power of auxiliary engine(s) (if any)	Includes all installed engine power not included under the heading "Power of the main engine(s)"	M	P
32	Owner	Owner		R
32.1	Name	Name of owner(s).	M	R
32.2	Address	Address of owner(s).	M	R
33	Operator (if different from owner)	Operator		R
33.1	Name	Name of operator(s).	M	R
33.2	Address	Address of operator (s).	M	R
34	Min number of the crew	Minimum number for conducting fishing operation	O	R
35	Max number of the crew	Number of the crew for conducting specific fishing operation if superior to "Min number of the crew"	O	R

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

**Table 1 - Classification of Fishery Vessels by Vessel Types**

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

ISSCFV	Vessel type	Standard abbreviation
0100	Trawlers	TO
0200	Purse Seiners	SP
0300	Dredgers	DO
0400	Lift Netters	NO
0500	Gill Netters	GO
0600	Trap Setters	WO
0700	Long Liners	LL
0710	Other Liners	LOX
0900	Multipurpose vessels	MO
4900	Fishing Vessels not specified	RO
1100	Motherships	HO
1200	Fish Carriers	FO
1400	Protection and Survey Vessels	BO
1500	Fishery Research Vessels	ZO
1600	Fishery training Vessels	CO
9900	Non-Fishing Vessels	VOX

**Table 2 – Code for type of events**

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

**Table 3 – Code for hull material**

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

**Table 4 – Code for navigation equipment**

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

**Table 5 – Code for communication equipment**

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

**Table 6 – Code for fish finder equipment**

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

**Table 7 – Code for Deck machinery to operate fishing gear**

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



[Type text]

[1]

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**[- 1.4 -  
ICCAT RECOMMENDATIONS RELEVANT TO THE  
MEDITERRANEAN (REC.ICCAT)]**

**REC.ICCAT-GFCM/35/2011/7 (A)**

**ICCAT Recommendation [10-04] amending the Recommendation by  
ICCAT to establish a Multi-annual recovery plan for Bluefin Tuna in the  
Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean**

*FOLLOWING* the advice of the SCRS based on the stock assessment carried out in 2010,

*DESIRING* to achieve a stock level consistent with the objective of the Convention through 2022,

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

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

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

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

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

**Part I**

**General provisions**

1. The Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs), whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus thynnus*) in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean shall implement a 15 year Recovery Plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean starting in 2007 and continuing through 2022, with the goal of achieving  $B_{MSY}$ , with at least 60 percent probability.

**Definitions**

2. For purposes of this Plan:
  - a) "Fishing vessel" means any vessel used or intended for use for the purposes of the commercial exploitation of bluefin tuna resources, including catching vessels, fish processing vessels, support ships, tug and towing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment and transport vessels equipped for the transportation of tuna products and auxiliary vessels, except container vessels;
  - b) "Catching vessel" means a vessel used for the purposes of the commercial capture of bluefin tuna resources;
  - c) "Processing vessel" means a vessel on board of which fisheries products are subject to one or more of the following operations, prior to their packaging: filleting or slicing, freezing and/or processing;

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

### **Length of vessels**

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

## **Part II**

### **Management measures**

#### **TAC and quotas**

4. The total allowable catches (TACs) shall be set at 12,900 t annually, effective beginning in 2011 and thereafter, until such time the TAC is changed following the SCRS advice.
5. The SCRS shall monitor and review the progress of the Plan. In 2012, and thereafter every three years, the SCRS will conduct a stock assessment and provide advice to the Commission on the appropriate management measures, *inter alia*, on total allowable catch levels for future years.

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 plans of the present Recommendation.

6. The recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean shall be reviewed in 2012.
7. 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 the following year. 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.
8. The allocation scheme from 2011 is set in the table below.

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota</i>	<i>percent</i>
Albania	32.33	0.2506266
Algeria	138.46	1.0733333
China	36.77	0.2850125
Croatia	376.01	2.9148371
Egypt	64.58	0.5006266
European Union	7,266.41	56.3287720
Iceland	29.82	0.2311278
Japan	1,097.03	8.5041103
Korea	77.53	0.6010025
Libya	902.66	6.9973935
Morocco	1,223.07	9.4811529
Norway	29.82	0.2311278
Syria	32.33	0.2506266
Tunisia	1,017.56	7.8880702
Turkey	535.89	4.1541604
Chinese Taipei	39.75	0.3081704
TOTAL	12,900	100

9. With a view to ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Recommendation, each CPC shall submit fishing, inspection and capacity reduction plans to the inter-sessional meeting of the Compliance Committee scheduled before the 2011 fishing season starts. If the Compliance Committee finds a serious fault in the plans submitted by a CPC and cannot endorse the plans, the Commission shall decide on suspension of bluefin tuna fishing by that CPC in 2011 by E-mail: vote. Such plans for the 2012 and 2013 fishing seasons shall be submitted to the Commission one month prior to its annual meeting in the preceding year for their endorsement, without which the CPC shall not engage in bluefin tuna fishing in that fishing season. Such system shall be reviewed at the 2012 annual meeting of the Commission.

#### **Associated conditions to TAC and quotas**

10. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the fishing effort of its catching vessels and its traps are commensurate with the fishing opportunities on bluefin tuna available to that CPC in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, including by establishing individual quotas for its catching vessels over 24 m included in the list referred to in paragraph 55.a).
11. Each CPC shall draw up an annual fishing plan for the catching vessels and traps fishing bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. The annual fishing plan shall identify, *inter alia*, the catching vessels over 24 meters included in the list referred to in paragraph 55.a) and the individual quota allocated to them and the method used to allocate quota as well as the measure to ensure the respect of the individual quota.
12. Each CPC shall also allocate a specific quota for the purpose of recreational and sport fisheries as defined in paragraph 2.m) and n).
13. No later than 1 March each year, the annual fishing plan shall be transmitted by each CPC to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat. Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan or to the specific method used to manage their quota shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat at least 10 days before the exercise of the activity corresponding to that modification.
14. No later than 15 October, each CPC shall report to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat on the implementation of their annual fishing plans for that year. Those reports shall include:
- a) the number of catching vessels actually engaged in active fishing activities involving bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean;
  - b) the catches of each catching vessel; and
  - c) the total number of days each catching vessel fished in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.
15. The flag CPC may require the catching vessel to proceed immediately to a port designated by it when the individual quota is deemed to be exhausted.
- 16.
- a) No carry-over of any under-harvests shall be made under this Plan.
  - b) By derogation to paragraph 4 of the 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning a Multi-year Conservation and Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 02-08], no more than 50 percent carry-over of any under-harvests arising from 2005 and/or 2006 may be made under this Plan. Paragraph 2 of the 1996 *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* [Rec. 96-14] shall not apply for the overages in 2005 and 2006.
  - c) The underages of Libya, Morocco and Tunisia in 2005 and 2006 may be carried over to 2009 and 2010 as follows:

<i>CPCs</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Libya	145 t	145 t
Morocco	327 t	327 t
Tunisia	202 t	202 t

- d) Any overage of a CPC shall be deducted from the next year's quotas of that CPC. Notwithstanding this provision, the payback of the European Union for its overage in 2007 shall be spread over 2009-2012 (500 t in 2009 and 2010, 1,510 t in 2011 and 2012). This payback shall be reviewed in the light of a general transparency and incentive provision on overages to be adopted by ICCAT at the latest in 2010.
17. CPCs shall be encouraged to voluntarily reduce their catches of bluefin tuna in eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean in 2009. Notwithstanding paragraph 16.a), the voluntary reduced portion of the CPC's allocation may be carried over to 2011 on condition that such voluntary reduced portion is notified to the ICCAT Secretariat before 1 March 2009.
18. Private trade arrangements and or transfer of quotas/catch limits between CPCs shall be done only under authorization by the CPCs concerned and the Commission.
19. To comply with paragraph 1 of 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering* [Rec. 02-21], the percentage of a CPC's bluefin tuna quota/catch limit that may be used for chartering shall not exceed 60 percent, 40 percent and 20 percent of the total quota in 2007, 2008, 2009, respectively. No chartering operation for the bluefin tuna fishery is permitted from 2010.
20. No JFOs between different CPCs shall be permitted. However, a CPC with less than 5 authorized purse seiners may authorize joint fishing operations with any other CPC. Each CPC conducting a JFO shall be responsible and accountable for the catches made under this JFO.

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

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

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

Each CPC shall transmit all this information to the ICCAT Secretariat at least ten days before the start of the operation.

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

### **Closed fishing seasons**

21. Bluefin tuna fishing shall be prohibited in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean by large-scale pelagic longline catching vessels over 24 m during the period from 1 June to 31 December with the exception of the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N, where such fishing shall be prohibited from 1 February to 31 July.

22. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be prohibited in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 15 June to 15 May.
23. Bluefin tuna fishing by baitboats and trolling boats shall be prohibited in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 15 October to 15 June.
24. Bluefin tuna fishing by pelagic trawlers shall be prohibited in the eastern Atlantic during the period from 15 October to 15 June.
25. Bluefin tuna recreational and sport fishing shall be prohibited in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean from 15 October to 15 June.

### **Spawning grounds**

26. The SCRS shall continue working on the identification as precisely as possible of spawning grounds, in the Atlantic and Mediterranean. It shall advise the Commission in 2012 on the creation of sanctuaries.

### **Use of aircraft**

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

### **Minimum size**

28. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg.
29. By derogation of paragraph 28, a minimum size for bluefin tuna of 8 kg shall apply to the following situations in accordance with the procedures set out in **Annex 1**.
  - a) Bluefin tuna caught by baitboats and trolling boats in the eastern Atlantic.
  - b) Bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes.
  - c) Bluefin tuna caught in the Mediterranean Sea by the coastal artisanal fishery for fresh fish by baitboats, longliners and handliners.
30. For catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna, an incidental catch of maximum 5 percent of bluefin tuna weighing between 10 and 30 kg may be authorized. This percentage is calculated on the total incidental catches in number of fish retained on board this vessel, or their equivalent in percentage in weight. Incidental catches must be deducted from the quota of the flag State CPC. The procedures referred to in paragraphs 62, 63, 64, 65, 67, 68 and 69 shall apply to the incidental catch.

### **Bycatch**

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

The procedures referred to in paragraphs 62, 63, 64, 65, 67, 68 and 69 shall apply to the bycatch.

### **Recreational fisheries**

32. Recreational fisheries on bluefin tuna shall be subject to the authorization for each vessel issued by the flag State CPC.
33. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than one bluefin tuna in each sea trip.
34. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational fishing shall be prohibited except for charitable purposes.
35. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data from recreational fishing and transmit them to the SCRS. Catches of recreational fisheries shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 12.
36. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of bluefin tuna caught alive, especially juveniles, in the framework of recreational fishing.

### **Sport fisheries**

37. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to regulate sport fishing, notably by fishing authorizations.
38. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in sport fishing competitions shall be prohibited except for charitable purposes.
39. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data from sport fishing and transmit them to the SCRS. Catches of sport fishing shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 12.
40. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of the bluefin tuna caught alive, especially juveniles, in the framework of sport fishing.

## **Part III Capacity measures**

### **Adjustment of fishing capacity**

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



in paragraphs 43 to 49, as well as detailed information regarding the ways used by CPCs to eliminate overcapacity in addition to scrapping.

### **Freezing of fishing capacity**

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

### **Reduction of fishing capacity**

47. Without prejudice to paragraph 46, each CPC shall reduce its fishing capacity referred to in paragraphs 43, 44 and 45 so as to ensure that the discrepancy between its fishing capacity and its fishing capacity commensurate with its allocated quota, in accordance with the methodology approved at the 2009 annual meeting, shall be reduced by:
  - a) at least 25 percent in 2010;
  - b) at least 75 percent in 2011;
  - c) at least 95 percent in 2012;
  - d) 100 percent in 2013.
48. To calculate its fishing capacity reduction, each CPC shall take into account *inter alia*, the estimated yearly catch rates per vessel and gear.
49. This reduction may not apply to certain CPCs that demonstrate that their fishing capacity is commensurate with their allocated quotas.

### **Adjustment of farming capacity**

50. Each farming or fattening CPC shall establish a management plan over 2010-2013. Such plan shall be submitted to the Commission by 15 September 2009 for discussion and approval by the Commission at its annual meeting in 2009, and shall be reviewed at its annual meeting in 2010. Such plan shall include the information referred in paragraphs 51 to 54.
51. Each CPC shall limit its tuna farming capacity to the farming capacity of the farms that were registered in the ICCAT list or authorized and declared to ICCAT as of 1 July 2008.

52. Each CPC shall establish for 2010 a maximum input of wild caught bluefin tuna into its farms at the level of the input quantities registered with ICCAT by its farms in 2005, 2006, 2007 or 2008.
53. Within the maximum input quantity of wild caught bluefin tuna referred to in paragraph 52, each CPC shall allocate inputs to its farms.
54. Further adjustment of farming capacity shall be decided by the Commission at its annual meeting in 2010, depending on the level of the TAC after 2010.

## **Part IV Control measures**

### **Records of ICCAT vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna**

55.

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

During a calendar year, a fishing vessel shall be registered in only one of the ICCAT records referred to paragraphs a) and b). Without prejudice to paragraph 31, for the purposes of this recommendation, fishing vessels not entered into one of the ICCAT records referred to in paragraph a) and b) are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

56. Each flag CPC shall submit electronically each year to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, at the latest one month before the beginning of the fishing seasons referred to in paragraphs 21 to 24, when applicable, and otherwise by 1 March, the list of its catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna and the list of its other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 55.a), in accordance with the format set in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

No retroactive submissions shall be accepted. Any subsequent changes shall not be accepted unless a notified fishing vessel is prevented from participation due to legitimate operational reasons or force majeure. In such circumstances, the CPC concerned shall immediately inform the ICCAT Executive Secretary, providing:

- a) full details of the intended replacement fishing vessel(s) referred to in paragraph 55;
- b) a comprehensive account of the reasons justifying the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence or references.

57. Conditions and procedures referred in the 2009 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 09-08] (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

### **ICCAT record of tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna**

58. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. For the purposes of this recommendation, tuna traps not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to be used to fish for, retain, transfer or land bluefin tuna.

59. Each CPC shall submit electronically to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, by 1 March each year, the list (including the name of the traps, register number) of its authorized tuna

traps referred to in paragraph 58. Conditions and procedures referred in Recommendation Rec. 09-08 (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

### **Information on fishing activities**

60. By 1 March each year, each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat the list of the catching vessels included in the ICCAT record referred to in paragraph 55.a)) that have fished for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean in the preceding fishing year.
61. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of any information concerning vessels not covered in paragraph 60 but known or presumed to have fished for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. The ICCAT Secretariat shall forward such information to the flag State for action as appropriate, with a copy to other CPCs for information.

### **Transshipment**

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

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

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

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

The masters of the transshipping fishing vessels shall complete the ICCAT transshipment declaration in accordance with the format set out in Annex 3.

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

- d) the name of the receiving fishing vessel, its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea,
- e) the tonnage and the geographic area of the catch of bluefin tuna to be transhipped.

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

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

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

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

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

### **Recording requirements**

65. The masters of catching vessels shall keep a bound or electronic logbook of their operations, indicating particularly the quantities of bluefin tuna caught and kept on board, whether the catches are weighed or estimated, the date and location of such catches and the type of gear used in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2**.

66. The masters of the catching vessels involved in a joint fishing operation shall record in their logbook:

- a) as regards the catching vessel transferring the fish into cages:
  - its name and international radio call sign;
  - the date and the time of the catch and of the transfer,
  - the location of the catch and of the transfer (longitude/latitude),
  - amount of catches taken on board, and amount of catches transferred into cages,
  - amount of catches counted against its individual quota,
  - the name of the tug boat and its ICCAT number.
- b) as regards the other catching vessels not involved in the transfer of the fish:
  - their names and international radio call signs;
  - the date and the time of the catch and of the transfer,
  - the location of the catch and of the transfer (longitude/latitude),
  - that no catches have been taken on board or transferred into cages,
  - amount of catches counted against their individual quotas,
  - the name and the ICCAT number of the catching vessel referred to in (a),

– the name of the tug boat and its ICCAT number.

67. Fishing vessels shall only land bluefin tuna catches in designated ports of CPCs. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which landing of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 March each year.

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

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

68. Prior to entry into any port, the fishing vessels or their representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the port, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:

- a) estimated time of arrival,
- b) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board,
- c) the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken;

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

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

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

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

69. The masters of fishing vessels shall complete and transmit to their flag State the ICCAT transshipment declaration no later than 48 hours after the date of transshipment in port.

### **Communication of catches**

70.

- a) Each CPC shall ensure that its catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall communicate by electronic or other means, to their competent authorities, a weekly catch report, with, as a minimum, information on the catch amount, including nil catch returns, the date and the location (latitude and longitude) of the catches. This report shall be transmitted by the latest Monday noon with the catches taken in the Plan Area during the preceding week ending Sunday midnight GMT. This report shall include information on the number of days in the Plan Area since the beginning of the fishing or since the last weekly report.
- b) Each CPC shall ensure that its purse seine catching vessels and its other catching vessels over 24 m fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall communicate, except in case of nil catch returns, by electronic or other means, to their competent authorities, a daily catch report, with, as a minimum, information on the catch amount, the date and

the location (latitude and longitude) of the catches. If a CPC requires such daily reports even in case of nil catch returns, the weekly reports referred to in a) shall not be required.

- c) On the basis of the information referred to in (a) and (b), each CPC shall transmit without delay weekly catch reports for all vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 5**.

### **Reporting of catches**

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

### **Cross check**

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

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

### **Transfer operations**

75. Before any transfer operation, as defined in paragraph 2.g), the master of the catching or towing vessel or its representatives or the representative of the farm or trap, where the transfer' in question originates as appropriate shall send to its flag State or farm state CPC authorities before the transfer, a prior transfer notification indicating:
- name of the catching vessel or farm or trap and ICCAT number record,
  - estimated time of transfer,
  - estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna to be transferred,
  - information on the position (latitude/longitude) where the transfer will take place and identifiable cage numbers,
  - name of the towing vessel, number of cages towed and ICCAT number record where appropriate,
  - Port, farm or cage of destination of the bluefin tuna.

76. The flag State shall assign and communicate to the master of the fishing vessel, or trap or farm as appropriate, an authorization number for each transfer operation. The transfer operation shall not begin without the prior authorization issued in accordance with a unique numbering system that includes the 3 letters CPC code, 4 numbers showing the year and 3 letters that indicate either positive authorization (AUT) or negative authorization (NEG) followed by sequential numbers, by the CPC flag State authorities of the catching vessel, the towing vessel, farm or trap.

If the flag State of the catching vessel, the towing vessel or the authorities of the CPC where the farm or trap is located considers on receipt of the prior transfer notification that:

- a) the catching vessel or the trap declared to have caught the fish does not have sufficient quota,
- b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or a trap or had not been authorized to be caged and not taken into account for the consumption of the quota that may be applicable,
- c) the catching vessel declared to have caught the fish is not authorized to fish for bluefin tuna, or
- d) the tug vessel declared to receive the transfer of fish is not registered in the ICCAT record of all other fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 55.b) or is not equipped with a Vessel Monitoring System, it shall not authorize the transfer.

In case the transfer is not authorized the catching CPC shall issue a release order to the master of the catching vessel, shall inform the master of the catching vessel that the transfer is not authorized and to proceed to the release of the fish into the sea according to the procedures described in the paragraph below.

In case the transfer is not authorized, the catching vessel CPC shall issue a release order to the master of the catching vessel.

The transfer shall be authorized or not authorized by the flag State of the catching vessel farm or trap as appropriate within 48 hours following the submission of the prior transfer notification. In case that the transfer is not authorized the captain of the catching vessel, the owner of the farm or trap as appropriate has to release the fish into the sea according to the following procedures.

The release of bluefin tuna into the sea shall be recorded by video camera and observed by an ICCAT regional observer who shall draft and submit the report together with the video recording to the ICCAT Secretariat.

77. The masters of catching or towing vessels or the representative of the farm or trap shall complete and transmit to their flag State the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 4**.

- a) The transfer declaration forms shall be numbered by the flag authorities of the vessel, farm or trap from where this transfer originates. The numbering system shall include the 3 letters CPC code, followed by 4 numbers showing the year and 3 sequential numbers followed by the 3 letters ITD (CPC-20 /xxx/ITD).



- b) The original transfer declaration shall accompany the transfer of fish. A copy of the declaration must be kept by the catching vessel or trap and towing vessel.
- c) Masters of vessels carrying out transfer operations (including towing vessels, shall report on their daily log the quantities transferred and the number of fish, as well as the catching vessel name, flag and ICCAT number, the name of the other vessel(s) involved and their ICCAT number, the date and position of transfer and the farm of destination. The daily log shall contain the details of all transfers carried out during the fishing season. The daily log shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

78. The authorization for transfer by the flag State does not prejudice the authorization of the caging operation.

79. The master of the catching vessel or the representative of the farm or trap, where appropriate, shall ensure that the transfer activities shall be monitored by video camera in the water.

One video record shall be produced and transmitted each to the regional observer and to the CPC observer aboard the towing vessel, the latter of which shall accompany the transfer declaration and the associated catches to which it relates. At the beginning and/or end of each video, the ICCAT transfer declaration number must be displayed. The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed through out each video record.

The CPCs shall provide copies of video records to the SCRS upon request. SCRS shall keep confidentiality of commercial activities.

80. The ICCAT Regional Observer on board the catching vessel, as referred to in the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (**Annex 7**), shall record and report upon the transfer activities carried out, verify the position of the catching vessel when engaged in transfer operation, observe and estimate catches transferred and verify entries made in the prior transfer authorization as referred to in paragraph 76 and in the ICCAT transfer declaration as referred to in paragraph 77.

In cases where the estimation by the regional observer is at least 10 percent higher by number and/or average weight than declared by the master of the catching vessel, an investigation shall be initiated by the flag State of the catching vessel and concluded prior to the time of caging at the farm. Pending the results of this investigation, caging shall not be authorized and the catching section of the BCD shall not be validated.

81. The ICCAT Regional Observer shall sign with clearly written name and ICCAT number the ICCAT transfer declaration. He shall verify that the ICCAT transfer declaration is properly filled and transmitted to the master of the tug vessel.

The tuna trap operator shall complete and transmit to its CPC the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation to the fishing vessel, in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 4**.

### **Caging operations**

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

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

83. Before any caging operation into a farm, the flag CPC of the catching vessel shall be informed by the competent authority of the farm State of the caging of quantities caught by catching vessels flying its flag. If the flag CPC of the catching vessel considers on receipt of this information that:

- a) the catching vessel declared to have caught the fish had not sufficient quota for bluefin tuna put into the cage,
- b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported by the catching vessel and not taken into account for the calculation of any quota that may be applicable,
- c) the catching vessel declared to have caught the fish is not authorized to fish for bluefin tuna, it shall inform the competent authority of the farm State to proceed to the seizure of the catches and the release of the fish into the sea according to the procedures described in paragraph 76.

The caging shall not begin without the prior authorization of the catching vessel's flag State.

Fish shall be caged before the 31st of July unless the farm CPC receiving the fish provides valid reasons including force majeure, which shall accompany the caging report when submitted.

84. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall take the necessary measures to prohibit placing in cages for farming or fattening bluefin tuna that are not accompanied by accurate, complete and validated documentation required by ICCAT.

85. The caging shall be authorized or not authorized by the flag State of the catching vessel, farm or trap, as appropriate, within 48 hours following the submission of the information mentioned in paragraph 83. In case the caging is not authorized the catching vessel CPC shall issue a release order to the flag CPC of the towing vessel and/or CPC farm authority, as appropriate, according to the procedures described in paragraph 76.

86. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm is located shall ensure that transfer activities from cages to the farm shall monitored by video camera in the water.

One video record shall be produced for each caging operation. At the beginning or end of each video, the ICCAT transfer declaration number must be displayed. The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed through out each video record.

In cases where there is more than a 10 percent difference either by average weight and/or number between the estimate by the regional observer and the farm operator an investigation

shall be initiated by the farm CPC in cooperation with flag state of the catching vessel. This difference is calculated by number and/or average weight. If the investigation is not concluded within 10 working days or if the outcome of the investigation indicates that the number and or average weight of bluefin tuna is in excess of 10 percent of that declared by the farm operator, then the flag CPCs authorities of the catching vessel shall issue a release order for the number and or weight in excess.

The CPCs farm authorities shall ensure that the release order is carried by the farm operator within 48 hours following the arrival of a regional observer. The release shall be carried out in accordance to the procedures described in paragraph 76. Pending the results of this investigation, harvesting shall not take place and the farming section of the BCD shall not be validated.

In the event that the final estimation at the time of caging in the farm is greater than the final estimation at the time of first transfer from the catching vessel, the CPC of the catching vessel shall decide on the final quota uptake that they shall validate in the BCD(s) concerned.

87. CPCs shall initiate pilot studies on how to better estimate both the number and weight of bluefin tuna at the point of capture and caging including through the use of stereoscopic systems and report the results to the SCRS.

SCRS shall explore operationally viable technologies and methodologies for determining the size and biomass at the points of capture and caging.

A sampling programme and/or an alternative programme shall be established at the time of caging in order to improve the counting and the weight estimations of the caged fish.

### **Trap activities**

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

### **VMS**

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

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

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

The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall make available without delay the information received under this paragraph to CPCs with an active inspection presence in the Plan Area and to SCRS, at its request.

On request from CPCs engaged in inspection at sea operations in the convention area in accordance with the ICCAT scheme of joint international inspection referred to in paragraphs 99 and 100 of this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall make available the messages received under paragraph 3 of Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Data Exchange Format and Protocol in Relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the Bluefin Tuna Fishery in the ICCAT Convention Area [Rec. 07-08] to all fishing vessels.

The transmission of VMS data by fishing vessels included in the ICCAT bluefin tuna record of catching vessels to ICCAT shall start at least 15 days before the opening of the fishing seasons and shall continue at least 15 days after the closure of the fishing seasons unless the vessel is removed by the flag State authorities.

For control purposes, the transmission of VMS bluefin tuna authorised fishing vessels shall not be interrupted when vessels are in port unless there is a system of hailing in and out of port.

Fishing vessels included in the ICCAT bluefin tuna record of other vessels shall transmit VMS data to ICCAT throughout the whole period of authorization.

### **CPC Observer Programme**

90. Each CPC shall ensure observer coverage on vessels active in the bluefin tuna fishery on at least:

- 100 percent of its active purse seine vessels equal or less than 24 m in 2011;
- 100 percent of its active purse seine vessels equal or less than 20 m in 2012;
- 20 percent of its active pelagic trawlers (over 15m);
- 20 percent of its active longline vessels (over 15m);
- 20 percent of its active baitboats (over 15m);
- 100 percent during the harvesting process for tuna traps;
- 100 percent of towing vessels.

The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

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

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

In implementing this observer requirement, CPCs shall:

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

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

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

### **ICCAT Regional Observer Programme**

91. An ICCAT Regional Observer Programme shall be established to ensure an observer coverage of 100 percent:
- of purse seine vessels over 24 m length during the 2011 fishing season (Annex 7);
  - of purse seine vessels over 20 m length during the 2012 fishing season (Annex 7);
  - of all purse seine vessels irrespective of their length during all the annual fishing season from 2013 onward, (Annex 7);
  - during all transfer of bluefin tuna to the cages and all harvest of fish from the cage.

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

In case that bluefin tuna is harvested from the cage and traded as fresh products the regional observer that observes the harvest may be a national of the farm CPC.

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

The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

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

### **Enforcement**

93. CPCs shall take enforcement measures with respect to a fishing vessel, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that the fishing vessel flying its flag does not

comply with the provisions of paragraphs 21 to 25, 28 to 30 and 65 to 69 (closed seasons, minimum size and recording requirements).

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

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

94. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall take enforcement measures with respect to a farm, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that this farm does not comply with the provisions of paragraphs 82 to 86 and 92 (caging operations and observers) and with Recommendation 06-07.

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

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

#### **Access to and requirements for video records**

95. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the video records as referred in paragraphs 79 and 86 are made available to the ICCAT inspectors and ICCAT observers.

The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the video records as referred in paragraphs 79 and 86,) are made available to its inspectors and its observers.

Each CPC shall establish the necessary measures to avoid any replacement, edition or manipulation of the original video record.

#### **Market measures**

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

- to prohibit domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species that are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation required by this Recommendation and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 08/12 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme* [Rec. 09-11] on a Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme.
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, placing in cages for farming, processing, exports, re-exports and the transshipment within their jurisdiction, of eastern and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species caught by fishing vessels whose flag State either does not have a quota, catch limit or allocation of fishing effort for that species, under

the terms of ICCAT management and conservation measures, or when the flag State fishing possibilities are exhausted, or when the individual quotas of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 11 are exhausted;

- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, processing, exports from farms that do not comply with Recommendation Rec. 06-07.

### **Conversion factors**

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

### **Growth factors**

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

## **Part V ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection**

99. In the framework of the multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna, each CPC agrees, in accordance with Article IX, paragraph 3, of the ICCAT Convention, to apply the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection adopted during its Fourth Regular Meeting, held in November 1975 in Madrid, as modified in Annex 8.

100. The Scheme referred to in paragraph 99 shall apply until ICCAT adopts a monitoring, control and surveillance scheme which will include an ICCAT scheme for joint international inspection, based on the results of the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group, established by the *Resolution by ICCAT for Integrated Monitoring Measures* [Res. 00-20].

101. When at any time, more than 15 fishing vessels of anyone CPC are engaged in bluefin tuna fishing activities in the Convention area, the CPC shall, during that time have an inspection vessel in the Convention area, or shall cooperate with another CPC to jointly operate an inspection vessel.

## **Part VI Final provisions**

102. Availability of data to the SCRS

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

All data shall be treated in a confidential manner.

### 103. Evaluation

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

### 104. Cooperation

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

### 105. Repeals

This Recommendation repeals paragraph 10 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 06-07] and paragraph 6 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Data Exchange Format and Protocol in Relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the Bluefin Tuna Fishery in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec, 07-08].

This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 08-05] and the *Recommendation Amending Recommendation 08-05 to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 09-06].



**Specific Conditions Applying to the Catching Vessels Referred to in Paragraph 29**

1. CPCs shall limit:
  - The maximum number of its baitboats and trolling boats authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna to the number of the vessels participating in directed fishery for bluefin tuna in 2006.
  - The maximum number of its artisanal fleet authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in Mediterranean to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008.
  - The maximum number of its catching vessel authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in Adriatic to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008. Each CPC shall allocate individual quotas to the concerned vessels.
2. By 30 January each year, CPCs shall submit to ICCAT Secretariat, the number of catching vessels established pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Annex.
3. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to the catching vessel referred to in paragraph 1 and shall transmit the list of such catching vessels to ICCAT Secretariat.
4. Any subsequent changes shall not be accepted unless a notified catching vessel is prevented from participation due to legitimate operational reasons or force majeure. In such circumstances CPC concerned shall immediately inform the ICCAT Executive Secretariat, providing:
  - a) full details of the intended replacement of the catching vessel referred to in paragraph 3 of this Annex;
  - b) a comprehensive account of the reasons justifying the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence or references.
5. Each CPC shall allocate no more than 7 percent of its quota for bluefin tuna among its baitboats and trolling boats, with up to a maximum of 100 t of bluefin tuna weighing no less than 6.4kg caught by baitboat vessels of an overall length of less than 17 m by derogation to paragraph 29 of this Recommendation.
6. Each CPC may allocate no more than 2 percent of its quota for bluefin tuna among its coastal artisanal fishery for fresh fish in the Mediterranean.

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

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

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

8. Prior to entry into any designated port, authorized catching vessels in accordance with paragraph 4 of this Annex or their representative, shall provide the competent port authorities at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival with the following:
  - a) estimated time of arrival,
  - b) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board,
  - c) information on the zone where the catches were taken;

Each landing shall be subjected to an inspection in port.

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

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

**Minimum specification for logbooks:**

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

**Minimum standard information for logbooks:**

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

**Minimum information in case of landing, transshipment/transfer:**

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

**Document No. ICCAT Transhipment Declaration**

<p><b>Carrier vessel</b>                  Name of vessel and radio call sign:                  Flag:                  Flag State authorization No.                  National Register No.                  ICCAT Register No.                  IMO No.</p>	<p><b>Fishing Vessel</b>                  Name of the vessel and radio call sign,                  Flag:                  Flag State authorization No.                  National register No.                  ICCAT Register No.                  External identification:                  Fishing logbook sheet No.</p>	<p>Final destination:                  Port                  Country                  State:</p>	
--	--	--	--

Day Month Hour Year |2\_|0\_|\_|\_| F.V Master's operator name: Carrier Master's name: LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT

Departure |\_|\_| |\_|\_| |\_|\_| from |\_\_\_\_\_|

Return |\_|\_| |\_|\_| |\_|\_| to |\_\_\_\_\_| Signature:

Signature:

Tranship. |\_|\_| |\_|\_| |\_|\_| |\_\_\_\_\_|

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

Port	Sea Lat. Long.	Species	Number of unit of fishes	Type of Product Live	Type of Product Whole	Type of Product Gutted	Type of Product Head off	Type of Product Filleted	Type of Product	Further transhipments
										Date:
										Place/Position:
										Authorization CP No.
										Transfer vessel
										Master signature:
										Name of receiver vessel:

												Flag
												ICCAT Register No.
												IMO No.
												Master's signature
												Date:
												Place/Position:
												Authorization CP
												No.
												Transfer vessel
												Master's signature:
												Name of receiver
												vessel:
												Flag
												ICCAT Register No.
												IMO No.
												Master's signature

ICCAT Observer signature (if applicable).

Obligations in case of transshipment:

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

Document No	ICCAT Transfer Declaration		
<b>1 - TRANSFER OF LIVE BFT DESTINATED FOR FARMING</b>			
Fishing vessel name:  Call sign: Flag: Flag State transfer authorisation no. ICCAT Register no. External identification: Fishing logbook no. JFO no.	Trap name:  ICCAT Register no.	Tug vessel name:  Call sign: Flag: ICCAT Register no: External identification:	Farm of destination name:  ICCAT Register no:
<b>2 - TRANSFER AFTER HARVESTING</b>			
Farm name:  ICCAT Register no.	Trap name:  ICCAT Register no.	Transport vessel name:  Flag: ICCAT Register no. External identification:	Processing carrier vessel name:  Call sign: Flag: ICCAT Register no: External identification:
<b>3 - TRANSFER INFORMATION</b>			
Date: __/__/____	Place or position:	Port:	Lat: Long:
Number of individuals:	Total weight in Kg:	Species:	
Type of product: Live <input type="checkbox"/> Whole <input type="checkbox"/> Gutted <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify):			
Master of fishing vessel / trap operator / farm operator name and signature:		Master of receiver vessel (tug, processing, carrier) name and signature:	
<b>4 - TRANSFER OF DEAD FISH TO AUXILARY VESSEL</b>			
Auxiliary vessel name:	Flag:	Quantity in Kg	Number of individuals:
Date: __/__/____	Position:	Lat:	Long: Port of landing:
<b>5 - FURTHER TRANSFERS</b>			
Date: __/__/____	Place or position:	Port:	Lat: Long:
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.

Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:	
Date: __/__/____	Place or position:      Port:	Lat:	Long:
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:	
Date: __/__/____	Place or position:      Port:	Lat:	Long:
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:	

**Catch Report Form**

<i>ICCAT Weekly Catch Report</i>										
<i>Flag</i>	<i>ICCAT Number</i>	<i>Vessel Name</i>	<i>Report Start date</i>	<i>Report End date</i>	<i>Report Duration (d)</i>	<i>Catch date</i>	<i>Caught</i>			<i>Attributed Weight in case JFO (kg)</i>
							<i>Weight (kg)</i>	<i>Number of Pieces</i>	<i>Average Weight (kg)</i>	





### **ICCAT Regional Observer Programme**

1. Each CPC shall require its farms and all its purse seine vessels as referred to in paragraph 91 to carry an ICCAT observer during all the fishing and harvesting period in the Convention area.
2. The Secretariat of the Commission shall appoint the observers before 1 March each year, and shall place them into farms and on board the purse seine vessels flying the flag of Contracting Parties and of non-Contracting Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that implement the ICCAT observer program. An ICCAT observer card shall be issued for each observer.
3. The Secretariat shall issue a contract listing the rights and duties of the observer and the master of the vessel or farm operator. This contract shall be signed by both parties involved.
4. The Secretariat shall establish an ICCAT Observer Programme Manual.

#### **Designation of the observers**

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

#### **Obligations of the observer**

6. Observers shall:
  - a) have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by ICCAT;
  - b) be nationals of one of the CPCs and, to the extent possible, not of the farm State or flag State of the purse seine vessel;
  - c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 7 below;
  - d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the Secretariat of the Commission;
  - e) not have current financial or beneficial interests in the bluefin tuna fishery.
7. The observer tasks shall be, in particular:
  - a) As regards observers on purse-seine vessels, to monitor the purse seine vessels' compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
    - i) In cases where the observer observes what may constitute non compliance with ICCAT recommendation he/she shall submit this information without delay to the

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observer implementing company who shall forward it to the flag state authorities of the catching vessel. For this purpose the observer implementing company shall set up a system through which this information can be securely communicated.

- ii) record and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
  - iii) observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;
  - iv) issue a daily report of the purse seiner vessels' transfer activities;
  - v) sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;
  - vi) record and report upon the transfer activities carried out;
  - vii) verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transfer;
  - viii) observe and estimate products transferred, including through the review of video recordings;
  - ix) verify and record the name of the fishing vessel concerned and its ICCAT number;
  - x) carry out scientific work such as collecting Task II data when required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS.
- b) As regards observers in the farms, to monitor the farms' compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
- i) verify the data contained in the transfer declaration and caging declaration, including through the review of video records;
  - ii) certify the data contained in the transfer declaration and caging declaration;
  - iii) issue a daily report of the farms' transfer activities;
  - iv) countersign the transfer declaration and caging declaration;
  - v) carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS.
- c) establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the master and farm operator the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.
- d) submit to the Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation.
- e) exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.
8. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transfer operations of the purse seiners and of the farms and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer;
9. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag or farm State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel or farm to which the observer is assigned.
10. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behavior which apply to all vessel and farm personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel and farm personnel set forth in paragraph 11 of this Programme.

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

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11. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag States of the purse seine vessels and their masters shall include the following, notably:
  - a) Observers shall be allowed to access to the vessel and farm personnel and to the gear, cages and equipment;
  - b) Upon request, observers shall also be allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned, in order to facilitate the carrying out of their duties set forth in paragraph 7:
    - i) satellite navigation equipment;
    - ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
    - iii) electronic means of communication;
  - c) Observers shall be provided accommodations, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
  - d) Observers shall be provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties; and
  - e) The flag States shall ensure that masters, crew, farm and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.

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

#### **Observer fees**

11.
  - a) The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the farm operators and purse seiner's owners. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the program. This fee shall be paid into a special account of the ICCAT Secretariat and the ICCAT Secretariat shall manage the account for implementing the program;
  - b) No observer shall be assigned to a vessel or farm for which the fees, as required under subparagraph a), have not been paid.

## **ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection**

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

### **I. Serious violations**

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

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CPC shall require the fishing vessel to proceed within 72 hours to a port designated by it, and where an investigation shall be initiated.

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

In the case an inspection that has detected an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, the vessel should be reviewed under the procedures described in the *Recommendation to Establish a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 09-10], taking into account any response actions and other follow up.

## **II. Conduct of inspections**

5. Inspection shall be carried out by inspectors of the fishery control services of Contracting Governments. The names of the inspectors appointed for that purpose by their respective governments shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission;
6. Ships carrying inspectors shall fly a special flag or pennant approved by the ICCAT Commission to indicate that the inspector is carrying out international inspection duties. The names of the ships so used for the time being, which may be either special inspection vessels or fishing vessels, shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission, as soon as may be practical;
7. Each inspector shall carry an identity document supplied by the authorities of the flag State in the form shown in paragraph 20 of this Annex and giving him an appointment stating that he has authority to act under arrangements approved by the ICCAT Commission. This identity document shall be valid for a minimum of five years;
8. Subject to the arrangements agreed under paragraph 15 of this Annex, a vessel employed for the time being in fishing for tuna or tuna-like fishes in the Convention area outside the waters within its national jurisdiction shall stop when given the appropriate signal in the International Code of Signals by a ship carrying an inspector unless it is actually carrying out fishing operations, in which case it shall stop immediately once it has finished such operations. The master of the vessel shall permit the inspector, who may be accompanied by a witness, to board it and in this respect must provide a boarding ladder. The master shall enable the inspector to make such examination of catch or gear and any relevant documents as the inspector deems necessary to verify the observance of the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel concerned and the inspector may ask for any explanations that he deems necessary;
9. An inspector party shall consist of a maximum of two ICCAT inspectors unless additional inspectors are warranted by circumstances. An assistant can accompany the inspector party for trainee purposes only.
10. On boarding the vessel an inspector shall produce the document described in paragraph 6 of this Annex. Inspections shall be made so that the vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience and the quality of the fish does not deteriorate. An

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inspector shall limit his enquiries to the ascertainment of the observance of the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel concerned. In making his examination an inspector may ask the master for any assistance he may require. He shall draw up a report of his inspection in a form approved by the ICCAT Commission. He shall sign the report in the presence of the master of the vessel who shall be entitled to add or have added to the report any observations which he may think suitable and must sign such observations.

11. Copies of the report shall be given to the master of the vessel and to the inspector's government, which shall transmit copies to the appropriate authorities of the flag State of the vessel and to the ICCAT Commission. Where any infringement of the recommendations is discovered the inspector should, where possible, also inform the competent authorities of the flag State, as notified to the ICCAT Commission, and any inspection ship of the flag State known to be in the vicinity;
12. Resistance to an inspector or failure to comply with his directions shall be treated by the flag State of the vessel in a manner similar to resistance to any inspector of that State or a failure to comply with his directions;
13. Inspector shall carry out their duties under these arrangements in accordance with the rules set out in this recommendation but they shall remain under the operational control of their national authorities and shall be responsible to them;
14. Contracting Governments shall consider and act on reports of foreign inspectors under these arrangements on a similar basis in accordance with their national legislation to the reports of national inspectors. The provisions of this paragraph shall not impose any obligation on a Contracting Government to give the report of a foreign inspector a higher evidential value than it would possess in the inspector's own country. Contracting Governments shall collaborate in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from a report of an inspector under these arrangements;
15. a) Contracting Governments shall inform the ICCAT Commission by 1 March each year of their provisional plans for participation in these arrangements in the following year and the Commission may make suggestions to Contracting Governments for the coordination of national operations in this field including the number of inspectors and ships carrying inspectors;  
b) the arrangements set out in this recommendation and the plans for participation shall apply between Contracting Governments unless otherwise agreed between them, and such agreement shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission.

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

16. a) the fishing gear shall be inspected in accordance with the regulations in force for the subarea in which the inspection takes place. The inspector will state the nature of this violation in this report;  
b) inspectors shall have the authority to inspect all fishing gear in use or that fishing gear on deck ready for use;
17. The inspector shall affix an identification mark approved by the ICCAT Commission to

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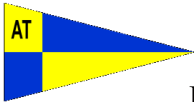
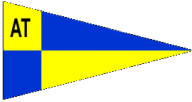
any fishing gear inspected which appears to be in contravention of the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel concerned and shall record this fact in his report;

18. The inspector may photograph the gear in such a way as to reveal those features which in his opinion are not in conformity with the regulation in force, in which case the subjects photographed should be listed in the report and copies of the photographs should be attached to the copy of the report to the flag State;
19. The inspector shall have authority, subject to any limitations imposed by the ICCAT Commission, to examine the characteristics of catches, to establish whether the ICCAT Commission's recommendations are being complied with.

He shall report his findings to the authorities of the flag State of the inspected vessel as soon as possible.

20. New proposed model Identity Card for inspectors.

*Dimensions: Width 10.4cm, Height 7cm*

<p><b>INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA</b></p>  <p><b>ICCAT</b></p> <p><b>Inspector Identity Card</b></p> <p><b>Contracting Party:</b></p> <p><b>Inspector Name:</b></p> <p><b>Card n°:</b></p> <p><b>Issue Date:</b>                      Valid five years</p>	 <p><b>ICCAT</b></p> <p>The holder of this document is an ICCAT inspector duly appointed under the terms of the Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Surveillance of the International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tuna and has the authority to act under the provision of the ICCAT Control and Enforcement measures.</p> <p>..... ICCAT Executive Secretary Issuing Authority</p> <p>..... Inspector</p>
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REC.ICCAT-GFCM/35/2011/7 (B)

**ICCAT Recommendation [10-06] on Atlantic Shortfin Mako sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT**

*CONSIDERING* that Atlantic shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) are caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* that the 2008 ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) stock assessment indicated North Atlantic shortfin mako stock was depleted to about 50 percent of biomass estimated for the 1950s, and some model outcomes indicated that the stock biomass was near or below the level that would support MSY and current harvest levels are above  $F_{MSY}$ ;

*RECALLING* Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT [Rec. 04-10], Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend Recommendation [Rec. 04-10] Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT [Rec. 05-05], and the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Sharks [Rec. 07-06], including the obligation of CPCs to annually report Task I and Task II data for catches of sharks, in accordance with ICCAT data reporting procedures;

*ALSO RECALLING* the need to improve species-specific Task I and Task II data for sharks, as recommended by SCRS;

*RECOGNIZING* the continuing obligation to reduce mortality of North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks under Recommendations 05-05 and 07-06;

*NOTING* that the 2008 ecological risk assessment conducted by the SCRS concluded that the shortfin mako shark has low biological productivity, making it susceptible to overfishing even at low levels of fishing mortality;

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

1. CPCs shall include information in their 2012 Annual Reports on actions taken to implement Recommendations 04-10, 05-05, and 07-06, in particular the steps taken to improve their Task I and Task II data collection for direct and incidental catches;
2. Actions taken by CPCs, as described in paragraph 1, shall be reviewed annually by ICCAT's Compliance Committee, beginning in 2012;
3. CPCs that do not report Task I data for Atlantic shortfin mako sharks, in accordance with SCRS data reporting requirements, shall be prohibited from retaining this species, beginning in 2013 until such data have been received by the ICCAT Secretariat;
4. The SCRS shall conduct a stock assessment for shortfin mako sharks in 2012 and advise the Commission on:

- a) the annual catch levels of shortfin mako that would support MSY;
- b) other appropriate conservation measures for shortfin mako sharks, taking into account species identification difficulties;

The SCRS shall complete its shark identification guide and circulate it to CPCs before the 2011 Commission meeting.

REC. ICCAT-GFCM/35/2011/7 (C)

**ICCAT Recommendation [10-08] on Hammerhead sharks (family *Sphyrnidae*) caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT**

*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 of ICCAT* [Rec. 05-05] and the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Sharks* [Rec. 07-06].

*NOTING* that *Sphyrna lewini* and *Sphyrna zygaena* are among the shark species for which there are sustainability concerns.

*CONSIDERING* that it is difficult to differentiate between the various species of hammerhead sharks except for the bonnethead (*Sphyrna tiburo*) without taking them on board and that such action might jeopardize the survival of the captured individuals.

*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 TUNAS (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 hammerhead sharks of the family *Sphyrnidae* (except for the *Sphyrna tiburo*), taken in the Convention area in association with ICCAT fisheries.
2. CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag, to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, hammerhead sharks when brought alongside the vessel.
3. Hammerhead sharks that are caught by developing coastal CPCs for local consumption are exempted from the measures established in paragraphs 1 and 2, provided these CPCs submit Task I and, if possible, Task II data according to the reporting procedures established by the SCRS. If it is not possible to provide catch data by species, they shall be provided at least by genus *Sphyrna*. Developing coastal CPCs exempted from this prohibition pursuant to this paragraph should endeavor not to increase their catches of hammerhead sharks. Such CPCs shall take necessary measures to ensure that hammerhead sharks of the family *Sphyrnidae* (except of *Sphyrna tiburo*) will not enter international trade and shall notify the Commission of such measures.
4. CPCs shall require that the number of discards and releases of hammerhead sharks are 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 hammerhead sharks 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. As appropriate, the Commission and its CPCs should, individually and collectively, engage in capacity building efforts and other cooperative activities to support the effective implementation of this Recommendation, including entering into cooperative arrangements with other appropriate international bodies. `

**REC. ICCAT-GFCM/35/2011/7 (D)**

**ICCAT Recommendation [10-09] on the bycatch of sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries**

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

*EMPHASIZING* the need to improve the collection of scientific data regarding all sources of mortality for sea turtle populations, including but not limited to data from fisheries within the Convention area;

*CONSISTENT* with the call for the minimization of waste, discards, catch of non-target species (both fish and non-fish species), and impacts on associated or dependent species, in particular endangered species, in the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and U.N. Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;

*GIVEN THAT* the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) adopted the *Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations* at its Twenty-sixth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, held in March 2005, and recommended their implementation by regional fisheries bodies and management organizations;

*NOTING* the importance of harmonizing conservation and management measures with other organizations responsible for managing international fisheries, in particular following through on the commitments that have been made throughout the Kobe meeting process;

*RECALLING* the recommendation from the independent performance review in September 2008 that ICCAT “develop a stronger approach generally to bycatch and develop and adopt appropriate mitigation measures including reporting on the effectiveness of these measures throughout the fisheries”;

*FURTHER RECALLING* the *Resolution by the ICCAT on Sea Turtles* [Res. 03-11] and the *Resolution by ICCAT on Circle Hooks* [Res. 05-08];

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

1. Each CPC shall collect, and annually report to ICCAT no later than 2012 information on the interactions of its fleet with sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries by gear type, including catch rates that take into consideration gear characteristics, times and locations, target species, and disposition status (i.e., discarded dead or released alive). Data to be recorded and reported must also include a breakdown of interactions by sea turtle species, and, where possible, include the nature of the hooking or entanglement (including with Fish Aggregating Devices or FADs), bait type, hook size and type, and the size of the animal. CPCs are strongly encouraged to use observers to collect this information.
2. CPCs shall require that:

- a) purse seine vessels flagged to that CPC operating in the Convention area avoid encircling sea turtles to the extent practicable, release encircled or entangled sea turtles, including on FADs, when feasible, and report interactions between purse seines and/or FADs and sea turtles to their flag CPC so that this information is included in the CPC reporting requirements specified in paragraph 1;
  - b) pelagic longline vessels flagged to that CPC operating in the Convention area carry on board safe-handling, disentanglement and release equipment capable of releasing sea turtles in a manner that maximizes the probability of their survival;
  - d) fishermen on pelagic longline vessels flagged to that CPC operating under their flag use the equipment specified in item 2b above to maximize the probability of sea turtle survival and are trained in safe-handling and release techniques.
3. In advance of the 2011 SCRS meeting, if possible, and no later than 2012, the ICCAT Secretariat shall compile the data collected under paragraph 1 as well as available information from the scientific literature and other relevant sea turtle bycatch mitigation information, including that provided by CPCs and report it to the SCRS for its consideration.
  4. SCRS shall also provide advice to the Commission on approaches for mitigating sea turtle bycatch in ICCAT fisheries, including reducing the number of interactions and/or the mortality associated with those interactions. Such advice should be provided, as appropriate, whether or not an assessment as envisioned in paragraph 5 has been conducted.
  5. Based on the activities undertaken in paragraph 3, SCRS shall initiate an assessment of the impact of the incidental catch of sea turtles resulting from ICCAT fisheries as soon as possible and no later than 2013. After the initial assessment is complete and the results presented to the Commission, SCRS shall advise the Commission on the timing of future assessments.
  6. Upon receipt of advice from the SCRS, the Commission shall consider additional measures to mitigate sea turtle bycatch in ICCAT fisheries, if necessary.
  7. As appropriate, the Commission and its CPCs should, individually and collectively, engage in capacity building efforts and other cooperative activities to support the effective implementation of this recommendation, including entering into cooperative arrangements with other appropriate international bodies.
  8. In their Annual Reports to ICCAT, CPCs shall report on the implementation of this Recommendation, focusing on paragraphs 1, 2, and 7. In addition, CPCs should report on other relevant actions taken to implement FAO's *Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations* with respect to ICCAT fisheries in their Annual Reports.
  9. This recommendation replaces the *Resolution by ICCAT on Sea Turtles* [Res. 03-11] in its entirety.

**ICCAT Recommendation [07-07] on reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries**

*RECOGNISING* the need to strengthen mechanisms to protect seabirds in the Atlantic Ocean;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (IPOA-Seabirds), and the IOTC Working Party on Bycatch objectives;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that to date some Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as “CPCs”) have identified the need for, and have either completed or are near finalized, their National Plan of Action on Seabirds;

*RECOGNISING* the concern that some species of seabirds, notably albatross and petrels, are threatened with extinction;

*NOTING* that the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels has entered into force;

*RECALLING* the *Resolution by ICCAT on Incidental Mortality of Seabirds [Res. 02-14]*;

*CONSCIOUS* that there are on-going scientific studies which may result in the identification of more effective mitigation measures and therefore that these current measures should be considered provisional;

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

1. The Commission shall develop mechanisms to enable CPCs to record data on seabird interactions, including regular reporting to the Commission, and seek agreement to implement such mechanisms as soon as possible thereafter.
2. CPCs shall collect and provide all available information to the Secretariat on interactions with seabirds, including incidental catches by their fishing vessels.
3. CPCs shall seek to achieve reductions in levels of seabird bycatch across all fishing areas, seasons and fisheries, through the use of effective mitigation measures.
4. All vessels fishing south of 20°S shall carry and use bird-scaring lines (tori poles):
  - Tori poles shall be used in consideration of the suggested tori pole design and deployment guidelines (provided for in Annex 1);
  - Tori lines are to be deployed prior to longlines entering the water at all times south of 20°S;
  - Where practical, vessels are encouraged to use a second tori pole and bird-scaring line at times of high bird abundance or activity;

- Back-up tori lines shall be carried by all vessels and be ready for immediate use.

5. Longline vessels targeting swordfish using monofilament longline gear may be exempted from the requirements of paragraph 4 of this Recommendation, on condition that these vessels set their longlines during the night, with night being defined as the period between nautical dusk/dawn as referenced in the nautical dusk/dawn almanac for the geographical position fished. In addition, these vessels are required to use a minimum swivel weight of 60g placed not more than 3m from the hook to achieve optimum sink rates.

CPCs applying this derogation shall inform the SCRS of their scientific findings resulting from their observer coverage of these vessels.

6. The Commission shall, upon receipt of information from the SCRS, consider, and if necessary, refine, the area of application of the mitigation measures specified in paragraph 4.

7. This measure is a provisional measure which will be subject to review and adjustment in the light of future available scientific advice.

8. The Commission shall consider adopting additional measures for the mitigation of any incidental catch of seabirds at its annual meeting in 2008 based on the results of the ICCAT seabird assessment which is currently underway.

*Annex 1*

## **Suggested Guidelines for Design and Deployment of Tori Lines**

### **Preamble**

These guidelines are designed to assist in preparation and implementation of tori line regulations for longline vessels. While these guidelines are relatively explicit, improvement in tori line effectiveness through experimentation is encouraged. The guidelines take into account environmental and operational variables such as weather conditions, setting speed and ship size, all of which influence tori line performance and design in protecting baits from birds. Tori line design and use may change to take account of these variables provided that line performance is not compromised. On-going improvement in tori line design is envisaged and consequently review of these guidelines should be undertaken in the future.

### **Tori line design**

1. It is recommended that a tori line 150 m in length be used. The diameter of the section of the line in the water may be greater than that of the line above water. This increases drag and hence reduces the need for greater line length and takes account of setting speeds and length of time taken for baits to sink. The section above water should be a strong fine line (e.g. about 3 mm diameter) of a conspicuous color such as red or orange.

2. The above water section of the line should be sufficiently light that its movement is unpredictable to avoid habituation by birds and sufficiently heavy to avoid deflection of the line by wind.

3. The line is best attached to the vessel with a robust barrel swivel to reduce tangling of the line.



4. The streamers should be made of material that is conspicuous and produces an unpredictable lively action (e.g. strong fine line sheathed in red polyurethane tubing) suspended from a robust three-way swivel (that again reduces tangles) attached to the tori line, and should hang just clear of the water.
5. There should be a maximum of 5-7 m between each streamer. Ideally each streamer should be paired.
6. Each streamer pair should be detachable by means of a clip so that line stowage is more efficient.
7. The number of streamers should be adjusted for the setting speed of the vessel, with more streamers necessary at slower setting speeds. Three pairs are appropriate for a setting speed of 10 knots.

### **Deployment of tori lines**

1. The line should be suspended from a pole affixed to the vessel. The tori pole should be set as high as possible so that the line protects bait a good distance astern of the vessel and will not tangle with fishing gear. Greater pole height provides greater bait protection. For example, a height of around 6 m above the water line can give about 100 m of bait protection.
2. The tori line should be set so that streamers pass over baited hooks in the water.
3. Deployment of multiple tori lines is encouraged to provide even greater protection of baits from birds.
4. Because there is the potential for line breakage and tangling, spare tori lines should be carried onboard to replace damaged lines and to ensure fishing operations can continue uninterrupted.
5. When fishers use a bait casting machine (BCM), they must ensure coordination of tori line and machine by:
  - (i) ensuring the BCM throws directly under the tori line protection, and
  - (ii) when using a BCM that allows throwing to port and starboard, ensure that two tori lines are used.
6. Fishers are encouraged to install manual, electric or hydraulic winches to improve ease of deployment and retrieval of tori lines.

**REC.ICCAT-GFCM/34/2010/4 (B)**

**Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation [08-05]  
to establish a multiannual recovery plan for bluefin tuna  
in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean**

The 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 (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.

**REC.ICCAT-GFCM/34/2010/4 (C)**

**Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of thresher sharks caught in association with fisheries in the ICCAT convention area**

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 (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 REC.ICCAT- GFCM/34/2010/4 (C) (*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.

**REC.ICCAT- GFCM/33/2009/9 (B)**

**Recommendation [08-05] amending the recommendation by ICCAT to establish a multiannual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

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

**RECOMMENDATION 08-05 AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH A MULTIANNUAL RECOVERY PLAN FOR BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Part I**

### **General provisions**

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

#### **Definitions**

2. For the purposes of this Plan:

- a) "Fishing vessel" means any vessel used or intended for use for the purposes of the commercial exploitation of bluefin tuna resources, including catching vessels, fish processing vessels, support ships, tug and towing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment and transport vessels equipped for the transportation of tuna products and auxiliary vessels, except container vessels;
- b) "Catching vessel" means a vessel used for the purposes of the commercial capture of bluefin tuna resources;
- c) "Processing vessel" means a vessel on board of which fisheries products are subject to one or more of the following operations, prior to their packaging: filleting or slicing, freezing and/or processing;
- d) "Auxiliary vessel" means any vessel used to transport dead bluefin tuna (not processed) from a cage to a designated port.
- e) "Fishing actively" means, for any catching vessel, the fact that it targets bluefin tuna during a given fishing season;
- f) "Joint fishing operation" means any operation between two or more catching vessels flying the flag of different flag States CPCs where the catch of one catching vessel is attributed to one or more other catching vessels in accordance with an allocation key;
- g) "Transfer activities" means:
  - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the catching vessel net to the transport cage;
  - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage to another transport cage;
  - any transfer of dead bluefin tuna from the transport cage to an auxiliary vessel.
  - any transfer from a bluefin tuna farm or a tuna trap to a processing vessel, transport vessel or to land.
- h) "Tuna trap" means fixed gear anchored to the bottom usually containing a guide net that leads fish into an enclosure.
- i) "Caging" means the transfer of bluefin tuna from the transport cage to the fattening and farming cages.

- j) "Fattening" means caging of bluefin tuna for a short period (usually 2-6 months) aiming mostly at increasing the fat content of the fish.
- k) "Farming" means caging of bluefin tuna for a period longer than one year, aiming to increase the total biomass.
- l) "Transshipment" means the unloading of all or any of the fish on board a fishing vessel to another fishing vessel at port.
- m) "Sport fishery" means a non-commercial fishery whose members adhere to a national sport organization or are issued with a national sport license.
- n) "Recreational fishery" means a non-commercial fishery whose members do not adhere to a national sport organization or are not issued with a national sport license.

**Length of vessels**

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



## **Part II**

### **Management measures**

#### **TAC and quotas**

4. The total allowable catches (TACs) are fixed:
  - 2007: 29,500 t
  - 2008: 28,500 t
  - 2009: 22,000 t
  - 2010: 19,950 t<sup>1</sup>
  - 2011: 18,500 t
5. The SCRS shall monitor and review the progress of the Plan and submit an assessment to the Commission in 2010.
6. The TAC for 2011 onwards may be adjusted following the SCRS advice. The relative shares shall be decided by the Commission in 2010.
7. The allocation scheme for 2007-2010 is set in Annex 4 to this Recommendation.

#### **Associated conditions to TAC and quotas**

8. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the fishing effort of its catching vessels and its traps are commensurate with the fishing opportunities on bluefin tuna available to that CPC in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, including by establishing individual quotas for its catching vessels over 24 m included in the list referred to in paragraph 54 a).
9. Each CPC shall draw up an annual fishing plan for the catching vessels and traps fishing bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. The annual fishing plan shall identify, inter alia, the catching vessels over 24 meters included in the list referred to in paragraph 54 a) and the individual quota allocated to them and the method used to allocate quota as well as the measure to ensure the respect of the individual quota.
10. Each CPC shall also allocate a specific quota for the purpose of recreational and sport fisheries as defined in paragraph 2 m) and n).
11. No later than 1 March each year, the annual fishing plan shall be transmitted by each CPC to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat. Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan or to the specific method used to manage their quota shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat at least 10 days before the exercise of the activity corresponding to that modification.
12. No later than 15 October, each CPC shall report to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat on the implementation of their annual fishing plans for that year. Those reports shall include:
  - a) the number of catching vessels actually engaged in active fishing activities involving bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean;
  - b) the catches of each catching vessel; and

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<sup>1</sup> This TAC may be adjusted at 2009 annual meeting of the Commission in case of substantial overharvest of TAC identified in 2009 and/or new relevant scientific findings and/or relevant international developments.

- c) the total number of days each catching vessel fished in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

13. The flag CPC may require the catching vessel to proceed immediately to a port designated by it when the individual quota is deemed to be exhausted.

14.

- a) No carry-over of any under-harvests shall be made under this Plan.
- b) By derogation to paragraph 4 of the 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning a Multi-year Conservation and Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 02-08], no more than 50 % carry-over of any under-harvests arising from 2005 and/or 2006 may be made under this Plan. Paragraph 2 of the 1996 *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* [Rec. 96-14] shall not apply for the overages in 2005 and 2006.
- c) The underages of Libya, Morocco and Tunisia in 2005 and 2006 may be carried over to 2009 and 2010 as follows:

<i>CPCs</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Libya	145 t	145 t
Morocco	327 t	327 t
Tunisia	202 t	202 t

- d) Any overage of a CPC shall be deducted from the next year's quotas of that CPC. Notwithstanding this provision, the payback of the European Community for its overage in 2007 shall be spread over 2009-2012 (500 t in 2009 and 2010, 1,510 t in 2011 and 2012). This payback shall be reviewed in the light of a general transparency and incentive provision on overages to be adopted by ICCAT at the latest in 2010.

15. CPCs shall be encouraged to voluntarily reduce their catches of bluefin tuna in Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean in 2009. Notwithstanding paragraph 14 a), the voluntary reduced portion of the CPC's allocation may be carried over to 2011 on condition that such voluntary reduced portion is notified to the ICCAT Secretariat before March 1, 2009.

16. Private trade arrangements and or transfer of quotas/catch limits between CPCs shall be done only under authorization by the CPCs concerned and the Commission.

17. To comply with paragraph 1 of 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering* [Rec. 02-21], the percentage of a CPC's bluefin tuna quota/catch limit that may be used for chartering shall not exceed 60%, 40% and 20% of the total quota in 2007, 2008, 2009, respectively. No chartering operation for the bluefin tuna fishery is permitted in 2010. By derogation to paragraph 3 of the 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering* [Rec. 02-21], only bluefin tuna catching vessels flying the flag of a CPC can be chartered. The number of bluefin tuna catching vessels chartered and the duration of the charter shall be commensurate with the quota allocated to the charter nation.

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

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

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

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

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

### **Closed fishing seasons**

19. Bluefin tuna fishing shall be prohibited in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean by large-scale pelagic longline catching vessels over 24 m during the period from 1 June to 31 December with the exception of the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N, where such fishing shall be prohibited from 1 February to 31 July.

20. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be prohibited in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 15 June to 15 April.

21. If a CPC can demonstrate that due to bad weather (more than 7 knots) certain of its purse seine catching vessels have been unable to utilize the fishing days referred to in paragraph 20, the CPC may carry over a maximum of 5 days lost until 20 June. This CPC shall notify by 15 June to the ICCAT Secretariat the information on the additional fishing days granted, with evidence of bad weather. The ICCAT Secretariat shall forward without delay this information to other CPCs.

22. Bluefin tuna fishing by baitboats and trolling boats shall be prohibited in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 15 October to 15 June.

23. Bluefin tuna fishing by pelagic trawlers shall be prohibited in the East Atlantic during the period from 15 October to 15 June.

24. Bluefin tuna recreational and sport fishing shall be prohibited in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean from 15 October to 15 June.

### **Spawning grounds**

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

### **Use of aircraft**

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

### **Minimum size**

27. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus thynnus*) weighing less than 30 kg.

28. By derogation of paragraph 27, a minimum size for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus thynnus*) of 8 kg shall apply to the following situations in accordance with the procedures set out in Annex 1.

- a) Bluefin tuna caught by baitboats and trolling boats in the eastern Atlantic.
- b) Bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes.
- c) Bluefin tuna caught in the Mediterranean Sea by the coastal artisanal fishery for fresh fish by baitboats, longliners and handliners.

29. For catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna, an incidental catch of maximum 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 10 and 30 kg may be authorized. This percentage is calculated on the total incidental catches in number of fish retained on board this vessel, or their equivalent in percentage in weight. Incidental catches must be deducted from the quota of the flag State CPC. The procedures referred to in paragraphs 61, 62, 63, 64, 66, 67 and 68 shall apply to the incidental catch.

### **By-catch**

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

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

### **Recreational fisheries**

31. Recreational fisheries on bluefin tuna shall be subject to the authorization for each vessel issued by the flag State CPC.

32. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than one bluefin tuna in each sea trip.

33. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational fishing shall be prohibited except for charitable purposes.

34. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data from recreational fishing and transmit them to the SCRS. Catches of recreational fisheries shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 10.

35. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of bluefin tuna caught alive, especially juveniles, in the framework of recreational fishing.

### **Sport fisheries**

36. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to regulate sport fishing, notably by fishing authorizations.

37. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in sport fishing competitions shall be prohibited prohibited except for charitable purposes.

38. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data from sport fishing and transmit them to the SCRS. Catches of sport fishing shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 10.

39. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of the bluefin tuna caught alive, especially juveniles, in the framework of sport fishing.

## **Part III Capacity measures**

### **Adjustment of fishing capacity**

40. Each CPC shall ensure that its fishing capacity is commensurate with its allocated quota.

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

### **Freezing of fishing capacity**

42. CPCs shall limit the number, and the corresponding gross registered tonnage, of their fishing vessels to the number and tonnage of their vessels that fished for, retained on board, transshipped, transported, or landed bluefin tuna during the period 1 January 2007 to 1 July 2008. This limit shall be applied by gear type for catching vessels and by vessel type for other fishing vessels.

43. Paragraph 42 shall not be interpreted to affect the measures contained in Annex 1 paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Recommendation.

44. CPCs shall limit the number of their traps engaged in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery to the number authorized by each CPC by 1 July 2008.

45. This freezing may not apply to certain CPCs, in particular developing States that demonstrate that they need to develop their fishing capacity so as to fully use their quota.

Such CPCs shall indicate in their management plans the programming of the introduction of additional fishing capacity into the fishery.

### **Reduction of fishing capacity**

46. Without prejudice to paragraph 45, each CPC shall reduce its fishing capacity referred to in paragraphs 42, 43 and 44 so as to ensure for 2010 that at least 25% of the discrepancy between its fishing capacity and its fishing capacity commensurate with its allocated quota in 2010 is achieved.

47. To calculate its fishing capacity reduction, each CPC shall take into account inter alia, the estimated yearly catch rates per vessel and gear.

48. This reduction may not apply to certain CPCs that demonstrate that their fishing capacity is commensurate with their allocated quotas.

### **Adjustment of farming capacity**

49. Each farming or fattening CPC shall establish a management plan over 2010-2013. Such plan shall be submitted to the Commission by 15 September 2009 for discussion and approval by the Commission at its annual meeting in 2009, and shall be reviewed at its annual meeting in 2010. Such plan shall include the information referred in paragraphs 50 to 53.

50. Each CPC shall limit its tuna farming capacity to the farming capacity of the farms that were registered in the ICCAT list or authorized and declared to ICCAT as of 1 July 2008.

51. Each CPC shall establish for 2010 a maximum input of wild caught bluefin tuna into its farms at the level of the input quantities registered with ICCAT by its farms in 2005, 2006, 2007 or 2008.

52. Within the maximum input quantity of wild caught bluefin tuna referred to in paragraph 51, each CPC shall allocate inputs to its farms.

53. Further adjustment of farming capacity shall be decided by the Commission at its annual meeting in 2010, depending on the level of the TAC after 2010.

## **Part IV Control measures**

### **ICCAT bluefin tuna records of vessels**

54.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **ICCAT record of tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna**

57. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. For the purposes of this recommendation, tuna traps not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to be used to fish for, retain, transfer or land bluefin tuna.

58. Each CPC shall submit electronically to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, by 1 March each year, the list (including the name of the traps, register number) of its authorized tuna traps referred to in paragraph 57. Conditions and procedures referred in the 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels Over 24 Meters Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 02-22] (except paragraph 3) shall apply mutatis mutandis.

### **Information on fishing activities**

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

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

### **Transshipment**

61. Transshipment at sea operations of bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea shall be prohibited.

62. Fishing vessels shall only tranship bluefin tuna catches in designated ports of CPCs. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which transshipping of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 March each year.

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

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

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

63. Prior to entry into any port, the receiving fishing vessel or its representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the Port State at least 48 h before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:

- a) estimated time of arrival,
- b) estimated quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board, and information on the geographic area where it was taken;
- c) the name of the transshipping fishing vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of



other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea,

- d) the name of the receiving fishing vessel, its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea,
- e) the tonnage and the geographic area of the catch of bluefin tuna to be transhipped.

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

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

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

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

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

### **Recording requirements**

64. The masters of catching vessels shall keep a bound or electronic logbook of their operations, indicating particularly the quantities of bluefin tuna caught and kept on board, whether the catches are weighed or estimated, the date and location of such catches and the type of gear used in accordance with the requirements set out in Annex 2.

65. The masters of the catching vessels involved in a joint fishing operation shall record in their logbook:

- a) as regards the catching vessel transferring the fish into cages:
  - its name and international radio call sign;
  - the date and the time of the catch and of the transfer,
  - the location of the catch and of the transfer (longitude/latitude),
  - amount of catches taken on board, and amount of catches transferred into cages,
  - amount of catches counted against its individual quota,
  - the name of the tug boat and its ICCAT number.
- b) as regards the other catching vessels not involved in the transfer of the fish:
  - their names and international radio call signs;

- the date and the time of the catch and of the transfer,
- the location of the catch and of the transfer (longitude/latitude),
- that no catches have been taken on board or transferred into cages,
- amount of catches counted against their individual quotas,
- the name and the ICCAT number of the catching vessel referred to in (a),
- the name of the tug boat and its ICCAT number.

66. Fishing vessels shall only land bluefin tuna catches in designated ports of CPCs. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which landing of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 March each year.

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

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

67. Prior to entry into any port, the fishing vessels or their representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the port, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:

- a) estimated time of arrival,
- b) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board,
- c) the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken;

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

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

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

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

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

### **Communication of catches**

69.

- a) Each CPC shall ensure that its catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall communicate by electronic or other means, to their competent authorities, a weekly catch report, with, as a minimum, information on the catch amount, including nil catch returns, the date and the location (latitude and longitude) of the catches. This report shall be transmitted by the latest Monday noon with the catches taken in the Plan Area during the

preceding week ending Sunday midnight GMT. This report shall include information on the number of days in the Plan Area since the beginning of the fishing or since the last weekly report.

- b) Each CPC shall ensure that its purse seine catching vessels and its other catching vessels over 24 m fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall communicate, except in case of nil catch returns, by electronic or other means, to their competent authorities, a daily catch report, with, as a minimum, information on the catch amount, the date and the location (latitude and longitude) of the catches. If a CPC requires such daily reports even in case of nil catch returns, the weekly reports referred to in a) shall not be required.
- c) On the basis of the information referred to in (a) and (b), each CPC shall transmit without delay weekly catch reports for all vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the format set out in Annex 5.

### **Reporting of catches**

70. Each CPC shall report its provisional monthly catches of bluefin tuna. This report shall be sent to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catches were made.

71. The ICCAT Secretariat shall within 10 days following the monthly deadlines for receipt of the provisional catch statistics collect the information received and circulate it to CPCs together with aggregated catch statistics.

72. The Executive Secretary shall notify without delay all CPCs of the date on which the accumulative reported catch taken by catching vessels of the CPCs is estimated to equal 85% of the concerned CPC quota for this stock. The CPC shall take the necessary measures to close its bluefin tuna fisheries before its quota is exhausted and notify this closure without delay to the ICCAT Secretariat which will circulate this information to all CPCs.

### **Cross check**

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

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

### **Transfer operations**

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

- name of the catching vessel and ICCAT number record,
- estimated time of transfer,

- estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna to be transferred,
- information on the position (latitude/longitude) where the transfer will take place,
- name of the tug vessel, number of cages towed and ICCAT number record.

75. The transfer operation shall not begin without the prior authorization of the catching vessel flag State. If the flag State of the catching vessel considers on receipt of the prior transfer notification that:

- a) the catching vessel declared to have caught the fish had not sufficient quota for bluefin tuna put into the cage,
- b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported and not taken into account for the consumption of the quota that may be applicable,
- c) the catching vessel declared to have caught the fish is not authorized to fish for bluefin tuna, or
- d) the tug vessel declared to receive the transfer of fish is not registered in the ICCAT record of all other fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 54 b) or is not equipped with a Vessel Monitoring System,

it shall inform the master of the catching vessel that the transfer is not authorized and to proceed to the release of the fish into the sea.

76. The masters of catching vessels shall complete and transmit to their flag State the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation to the tug vessel, in accordance with the format set out in Annex 3.

77. The transfer declaration shall accompany the transfer of fish during transport to the farm or a designated port.

78. The authorization for transfer by the flag State does not prejudice the authorization of the caging operation.

79. The master of the caging vessel shall ensure that the transfer activities shall be monitored by video camera in the water.

80. The ICCAT Regional Observer on board the catching vessel, as referred to in the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (Annex 7), shall record and report upon the transfer activities carried out, verify the position of the catching vessel when engaged in transfer operation, observe and estimate catches transferred and verify entries made in the prior transfer operation as referred to in paragraph 75 and in the ICCAT transfer declaration as referred to in paragraph 76.

81. The ICCAT Regional Observer shall countersign the prior transfer notification and the ICCAT transfer declaration. He shall verify that the ICCAT transfer declaration is properly filled and transmitted to the master of the tug vessel.

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

### **Caging Operations**

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

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

83. Before any transfer operation into a farm, the flag CPC of the catching vessel shall be informed by the competent authority of the farm State of the transfer into cage of quantities caught by catching vessels flying its flag. If the flag CPC of the catching vessel considers on receipt of this information that:

- a) the catching vessel declared to have caught the fish had not sufficient quota for bluefin tuna put into the cage,
- b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported and not taken into account for the calculation of any quota that may be applicable, or
- c) the catching vessel declared to have caught the fish is not authorized to fish for bluefin tuna,
- d) it shall inform the competent authority of the farm State to proceed to the seizure of the catches and the release of the fish into the sea.

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

84. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall take the necessary measures to prohibit placing in cages for farming or fattening bluefin tuna that are not accompanied by accurate, complete and validated documentation required by ICCAT.

85. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm is located shall ensure that transfer activities from cages to the farm shall be monitored by video camera in the water. This requirement shall not apply where the cages are directly fixed to the mooring system.

### **Trap activities**

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

### **VMS**

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

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

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

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

On request from CPCs engaged in inspection at sea operations in the convention area in accordance with the ICCAT scheme of joint international inspection referred to in paragraphs 97 and 98 of this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall make available the messages received under paragraph 3 of Recommendation [07-08] to all fishing vessels.

### **CPC Observer Program**

88. Each CPC shall ensure observer coverage on its catching vessels actively fishing for bluefin tuna over 15 m in overall length of at least:

- 20% of its active purse seine vessels between 15 m and 24 m in overall length;
- 20% of its active pelagic trawlers,
- 20% of its active longline vessels,
- 20% of its active baitboats,
- 100% during the harvesting process for tuna traps.

The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

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

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

In implementing this observer requirement, CPCs shall:

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

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

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

### **ICCAT Regional observer Programme**

89. An ICCAT Regional Observer Programme shall be established to ensure an observer coverage of 100%:

- of purse seine vessels over 24 m during all the annual fishing season (Annex 7);
- of all purse seiners involved in joint fishing operations, irrespective of the length of the vessels. In this respect, an observer shall be present during the fishing operation;
- during all transfer of bluefin tuna to the cages and all harvest of fish from the cage.

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

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

The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

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

### **Enforcement**

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

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

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

92. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall take enforcement measures with respect to a farm, where it has been established, in accordance

with its law that this farm does not comply with the provisions of paragraphs 82 to 85 and 90 (caging operations and observers) and with the Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming [Rec. 06-07].

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

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

### **Access to video records**

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

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

### **Market measures**

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

- to prohibit domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species that are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation required by this Recommendation and Recommendation [08-12] on a bluefin tuna catch documentation programme.
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, placing in cages for farming, processing, exports, re-exports and the transshipment within their jurisdiction, of eastern and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species caught by fishing vessels whose flag State either does not have a quota, catch limit or allocation of fishing effort for that species, under the terms of ICCAT management and conservation measures, or when the flag State fishing possibilities are exhausted, or when the individual quotas of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 9 are exhausted;
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, processing, exports from farms that do not comply with the Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming [Rec. 06-07].

### **Conversion factors**

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

### **Growth factors**



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

## **Part V**

### **ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection**

97. In the framework of the multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna, each CPC agrees, in accordance with Article 9, paragraph 3, of the ICCAT Convention, to apply the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection adopted during its Fourth Regular Meeting, held in November 1975 in Madrid<sup>2</sup>, as modified in Annex 8.

98. The Scheme referred to in paragraph 97 shall apply until ICCAT adopts a monitoring, control and surveillance scheme which will include an ICCAT scheme for joint international inspection, based on the results of the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group, established by Resolution 00-20.

## **Part VI**

### **Final provisions**

#### **99. Availability of data to the SCRS**

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

All data shall be treated in a confidential manner.

#### **100. Evaluation**

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

#### **101. Cooperation**

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

#### **102. Repeals**

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<sup>2</sup> Note from the Secretariat: See Appendix II to Annex 7 in Report for Biennial Period, 1974-75, Part II (1975).

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

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

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

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

Each CPC may allocate no more than 90% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its catching vessel in Adriatic for farming purposes.

7. Authorized catching vessels pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Annex shall only land bluefin tuna catches in designated ports. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which landing of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 March each year.

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

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

8. Prior to entry into any designated port, authorized catching vessels in accordance with paragraph 4 of this Annex or their representative, shall provide the competent port authorities at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival with the following:

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

Each landing shall be subjected to an inspection in port.

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

9. CPCs shall implement a catch reporting regime that ensures that an effective monitoring of the utilization of each vessels quota.

10. Bluefin tuna catches may not be offered for retail sale to the final consumer, irrespective of the marketing method, unless appropriate marking or labeling indicates:

- a) the species, fishing gear used,
- b) the catch area and date.

11. Beginning 1 July 2007, CPCs whose baitboats, longliners, handliners and trolling boats are authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean shall institute tail tag requirements as follows:

- a) Tail tags must be affixed on each bluefin tuna immediately upon offloading.
- b) Each tail tag shall have a unique identification number and be included on bluefin tuna catch documents and written on the outside of any package containing tuna.

12. The master of the catching vessel shall ensure that any quantity of bluefin tuna landed in designated port shall be weighed before first sale or before being transported elsewhere from the port of landing.

Minimum specification for logbooks:

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

Minimum standard information for logbooks:

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

Minimum information in case of landing, transshipment/transfer:

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

Document No.

**ICCAT TRANSFER/TRANSHIPMENT DECLARATION**

<p><b>Tug/Carrier vessel</b>                  Name of vessel and radio call sign:                  Flag:                  Flag State authorization No.                  National Register No.                  ICCAT Register No.                  IMO No.</p>	<p><b>Fishing Vessel</b>                  Name of the vessel and radio call sign,                  Flag:                  Flag State authorization No.                  National register No.                  ICCAT Register No.                  External identification:                  Fishing logbook sheet No.</p>	<p><b>Farm of destination</b>                  Name                  ICCAT Register number</p>	<p><b>Trap</b>                  Name                  ICCAT Register number</p>
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	Day	Month	Hour	Year	2_ 0_ _ _	F.V Master's/trap operator name:	Tug/Carrier Master's name:	LOCATION	OF
<b>TRANSHIPMENT</b>									
Departure	_ _	_ _	_ _	from	_ _ _	Signature:	Signature:		
Return	_ _	_ _	_ _	to	_ _ _				
Transfer/Transh.	_ _	_ _	_ _		_ _ _				

For transhipment, indicate the weight in kilograms or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit: |\_|\_| kilograms.  
 In case of transfer of live fish indicate number of unit and live weight

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

*REC.ICCAT- GFCM/33/2009/9 (B)*

ICCAT Observer signature (if applicable).

Obligations in case of transfer/transhipment:

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

## Allocation Scheme for 2007-2010

## Recovery Plan for a four-year period (Unit: t)

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

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





**Joint Fishing Operation**

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

Date .....

Validation of the flag State .....

### ICCAT Regional Observer Programme

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

#### Designation of the observers

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

#### Obligations of the observer

7. Observers shall:  
have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by ICCAT;
  - a) be nationals of one of the CPCs and, to the extent possible, not of the farm State or flag State of the purse seine vessel;
  - b) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 8 below;
  - c) be included in the list of observers maintained by the Secretariat of the Commission;
  - d) not have current financial or beneficial interests in the bluefin tuna fishery.
8. The observer tasks shall be in particular:
  - a) As regards observers on purse-seine vessels, to monitor the purse seine vessels' compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
    - i) record and report upon the fishing activities carried out;

- ii) observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;
  - iii) issue a daily report of the purse seiner vessels' transfer activities;
  - iv) sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;
  - v) record and report upon the transfer activities carried out;
  - vi) verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transfer;
  - vii) observe and estimate products transferred, including through the review of video recordings;
  - viii) verify and record the name of the fishing vessel concerned and its ICCAT number;
  - ix) carry out scientific work such as collecting task II data when required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS.
- b) As regards observers in the farms, to monitor the farms' compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
- i) verify the data contained in the transfer declaration and caging declaration, including through the review of video records;
  - ii) certify the data contained in the transfer declaration and caging declaration;
  - iii) issue a daily report of the farms' transfer activities;
  - iv) countersign the transfer declaration and caging declaration;
  - v) carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS.
- c) establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the master and farm operator the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.
- d) submit to the Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation.
- e) exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.

9. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transfer operations of the purse seiners and of the farms and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer;

10. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag or farm State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel or farm to which the observer is assigned.

11. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behavior which apply to all vessel and farm personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel and farm personnel set forth in paragraph 12 of this program.

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

12. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag States of the purse seine vessels and their masters shall include the following, notably:

- a) Observers shall be allowed to access to the vessel and farm personnel and to the gear, cages and equipment;

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

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

#### **Observer fees**

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

## ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

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

### I. Serious violations

1. For the purposes of these procedures, a serious violation means the following violations of the provisions of the ICCAT conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission:

- a) fishing without a license, permit or authorization issued by the flag CPC,
- b) failure to maintain sufficient records of catch and catch-related data in accordance with the Commission's reporting requirements or significant misreporting of such catch and/or catch-related data;
- c) fishing in a closed area;
- d) fishing during a closed season;
- e) intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of any applicable conservation and management measure adopted by the ICCAT;
- f) significant violation of catch limits or quotas in force pursuant to the ICCAT rules;
- g) using prohibited fishing gear;
- h) falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel;
- i) concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to investigation of a violation;
- j) multiple violations which taken together constitute a serious disregard of measures in force pursuant to the ICCAT;
- k) assault, resist, intimidate, sexually harass, interfere with, or unduly obstruct or delay an authorized inspector or observer;
- l) intentionally tampering with or disabling the vessel monitoring system;
- m) such other violations as may be determined by the ICCAT, once these are included and circulated in a revised version of these procedures;
- n) fishing with assistance of spotter planes;
- o) interference with the satellite monitoring system and/or operates without VMS system;
- p) transfer activity without transfer declaration.

2. In the case of any boarding and inspection of a fishing vessel during which the authorized inspectors observe an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, as defined in paragraph 1, the authorities of the inspection vessels shall immediately notify the authorities of the fishing vessel, directly as well as through the ICCAT Secretariat.

3. The flag State CPC shall ensure that, following the inspection referred to in paragraph 2 of this Annex, the fishing vessel concerned ceases all fishing activities. The flag State CPC shall require the fishing vessel to proceed immediately to a port designated by it, and where an investigation shall be initiated.

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

## **II. Conduct of inspections**

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

5. Ships carrying inspectors shall fly a special flag or pennant approved by the ICCAT Commission to indicate that the inspector is carrying out international inspection duties. The names of the ships so used for the time being, which may be either special inspection vessels or fishing vessels, shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission, as soon as may be practical;

6. Each inspector shall carry an identity document supplied by the authorities of the flag State in the form shown in paragraph 17 of this Annex and giving him an appointment stating that he has authority to act under arrangements approved by the ICCAT Commission. This identity document shall be valid for a minimum of five years;

7. Subject to the arrangements agreed under paragraph 12 of this Annex, a vessel employed for the time being in fishing for tuna or tuna-like fishes in the Convention Area outside the waters within its national jurisdiction shall stop when given the appropriate signal in the International Code of Signals by a ship carrying an inspector unless it is actually carrying out fishing operations, in which case it shall stop immediately once it has finished such operations. The master<sup>1</sup> of the vessel shall permit the inspector, who may be accompanied by a witness, to board it. The master shall enable the inspector to make such examination of catch or gear and any relevant documents as the inspector deems necessary to verify the observance of the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel concerned and the inspector may ask for any explanations that he deems necessary;

8. On boarding the vessel an inspector shall produce the document described in paragraph 6 of this Annex. Inspections shall be made so that the vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience and the quality of the fish does not deteriorate. An inspector shall limit his enquiries to the ascertainment of the observance of the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel concerned. In making his examination an inspector may ask the master for any assistance he may require. He shall draw up a report of his inspection in a form approved by the ICCAT Commission. He shall sign the report in the presence of the master of the vessel who shall be entitled to add or have added to the report any observations which he may think suitable and must sign such observations. Copies of the report shall be given to the master of the vessel and to the inspector's government, which shall transmit copies to the appropriate authorities of the flag State of the vessel and to the ICCAT Commission. Where any infringement of the recommendations is discovered the inspector should, where possible, also inform the competent authorities of the flag State, as notified to the ICCAT Commission, and any inspection ship of the flag State known to be in the vicinity;

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<sup>1</sup> Master refers to the individual in charge of the vessel.

9. Resistance to an inspector or failure to comply with his directions shall be treated by the flag State of the vessel in a manner similar to resistance to any inspector of that State or a failure to comply with his directions;

10. Inspector shall carry out their duties under these arrangements in accordance with the rules set out in this recommendation but they shall remain under the operational control of their national authorities and shall be responsible to them;

11. Contracting Governments shall consider and act on reports of foreign inspectors under these arrangements on a similar basis in accordance with their national legislation to the reports of national inspectors. The provisions of this paragraph shall not impose any obligation on a Contracting Government to give the report of a foreign inspector a higher evidential value than it would possess in the inspector's own country. Contracting Governments shall collaborate in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from a report of an inspector under these arrangements;

12.

a) Contracting Governments shall inform the ICCAT Commission by 1 March each year of their provisional plans for participation in these arrangements in the following year and the Commission may make suggestions to Contracting Governments for the coordination of national operations in this field including the number of inspectors and ships carrying inspectors;

b) the arrangements set out in this recommendation and the plans for participation shall apply between Contracting Governments unless otherwise agreed between them, and such agreement shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission:

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

13.

a) the fishing gear shall be inspected in accordance with the regulations in force for the subarea in which the inspection takes place. The inspector will state the nature of this violation in this report;

b) inspectors shall have the authority to inspect all fishing gear in use or that fishing gear on deck ready for use;

14. The inspector shall affix an identification mark approved by the ICCAT Commission to any fishing gear inspected which appears to be in contravention of the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel concerned and shall record this fact in his report;

15. The inspector may photograph the gear in such a way as to reveal those features which in his opinion are not in conformity with the regulation in force, in which case the subjects photographed should be listed in the report and copies of the photographs should be attached to the copy of the report to the flag State;





16. The inspector shall have authority, subject to any limitations imposed by the ICCAT Commission, to examine the characteristics of catches, to establish whether the ICCAT Commission's recommendations are being complied with.

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

17. New proposed model Identity Card for inspectors.

Dimensions: Width 10.4cm, Height 7cm

<p>INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA</p>  <p><b>ICCAT</b></p> <p>Inspector Identity Card</p> <p><b>Contracting Party:</b></p> <p><b>Inspector Name:</b></p> <p><b>Card n°:</b></p> <p><b>Issue Date:</b> Valid five years</p> <p>Photograph</p>		 <p><b>ICCAT</b></p> <p>The holder of this document is an ICCAT inspector duly appointed under the terms of the Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Surveillance of the International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tuna and has the authority to act under the provision of the ICCAT Control and Enforcement measures.</p> <p>..... ICCAT Executive Secretary Issuing Authority</p> <p>..... Inspector</p>
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**REC.ICCAT-GFCM/32/2008/2**

**ICCAT recommendation [07-01] on Mediterranean swordfish**

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 provisions 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 [07-01] BY ICCAT ON MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH**

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

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

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

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

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

1. Fishing for Mediterranean swordfish shall be prohibited in the Mediterranean Sea during the period from October 15 to November 15, 2008.
2. CPCs shall monitor the impact of this closure and submit relevant information to the SCRS.
3. CPCs shall ensure the maintenance or development of adequate scientific information in the formats requested by ICCAT and in the smallest time-area possible on the size distributions of the catches.

**REC.ICCAT-GFCM/31/2007/3 (B)**

**ICCAT recommendation [06-07] on bluefin tuna farming**

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 provisions of paragraph 1 (h) of Article III and Article V of the GFCM Agreement the following Recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT):

**RECOMMENDATION [06-07] BY ICCAT ON BLUEFIN TUNA FARMING**

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the increasing development of bluefin tuna farming activities, especially in the Mediterranean;

*RECALLING* the conclusions of 6th Ad Hoc GFCM/ICCAT Joint Working Group Meeting on Stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean Sea relative to the effects of the bluefin tuna farming and on the solutions that could be studied to regulate this activity;

*CONSIDERING* the advice of the 2001 Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) on effects of bluefin tuna farming in the Mediterranean on the collection of data and consequently on stock assessment procedures;

*DESIRING* to gradually implement effective management measures that permit the development of bluefin tuna farming in a responsible and sustainable manner in relation to the management of bluefin tuna;

*NOTING* the potential advantages of the use of underwater video monitoring in estimating the number of fish,

*CONSIDERING* the on-going work to establish a Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme,

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

1. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) whose flag vessels fish or transfer quantities of bluefin tuna to cages for farming shall undertake the necessary measures:

- a) to require that the captains of vessels (including tugs and towing vessels) carrying out transfer operations of bluefin tuna for caging maintain vessel logs and report the quantities transferred and the number of fish as well as the date, place of harvest and

name of the vessel and of the company responsible for the caging. This detailed information shall be entered into a register which shall contain details of all the transshipments carried out during the fishing season. This register shall be kept onboard and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

- b) to require the reporting of the total amount of the transfers of bluefin tuna including loss in quantity and number during the transportation to the cages by farm for fattening and farming, carried out by their flag vessels.
- c) to set up and maintain a list of their flag vessels that fish for, provide or transport bluefin tuna for farming purposes (name of the vessel, flag, license number, gear type), i.e., fishing boat, transport vessel, vessels with pools, etc.
- d) to equip these tugs and towing vessels with an operational satellite tracking and monitoring system (VMS).

2. The CPCs under whose jurisdiction the farms for bluefin tuna are located in the Convention area shall adopt the necessary measures to:

- a) assign an identifiable different number to each cage of its farming facility.
- b) ensure that a caging declaration is submitted to the farming CPCs by the operator for further submission to the Commission in accordance with the ICCAT format in the attached Annex, on each fishing or transport vessel that participated in the transfer of tuna to cages for fattening, including the quantities of bluefin tuna destined for farming. This declaration shall include information relative to the validation numbers and dates of the bluefin tuna statistical document(s), the quantities (in t) of fish transferred to the cages, the number of fish, loss during transportation, the date, the place, the location of the catch, the name of the vessel, fishing methods used, as well as its flag and license number;
- c) ensure that the tuna farms and the national scientific institutes obtain data as specified in the following paragraph on the size composition of the fish caught as well as the date, time and area of catch and the fishing method used, in order to improve statistics for stock assessment purposes. To this end, establish a sampling program for the estimation of the numbers-at-size of the bluefin tuna caught which requires notably that size sampling (length or weight) at cages must be done on one sample (=100 specimens) for every 100 t of live fish, or on a 10% sample of the total number of the caged fish. Size samples will be collected during harvesting at the farm and on the dead fish during transport, following the ICCAT methodology for reporting Task II. The sampling should be conducted during any harvesting, covering all cages. Data must be transmitted to ICCAT, by 31 July for the sampling conducted the previous year.
- d) ensure the reporting of the quantities of bluefin tuna placed in cages and of estimates of the growth and mortality while in captivity and of the amounts sold (in t);
- e) set up and maintain a registry of the farming facilities under their jurisdiction;
- f) each CPC referred to in this paragraph shall nominate a single authority responsible for coordinating the collection and verification of information on caging activities and for reporting to and cooperating with the CPC whose flag vessels have fished the caged tuna.

This single authority shall submit, to the CPCs whose flag vessels have fished the caged tuna, a copy of each caging declaration referred to in paragraph 2a and of its supporting Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document, within one week after the completion of the transfer operation of bluefin tuna into cages.

3. CPCs mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received and shall cooperate to ensure that quantities caged are consistent with the reported catches (logbook) amount of each fishing vessel.
4. The CPCs that export farmed bluefin tuna products shall ensure that these products be accompanied by the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document and, where appropriate, that these products be identified as "farmed" with cage number of 2 a) and ICCAT FFB Record Number on the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document.
5. The CPCs shall transmit, each year, to the Executive Secretary, prior to 31 August:
  - the total amount of the transfer of bluefin tuna by farm 1 b).
  - the list of flag vessels provided for in paragraph 1c),
  - the results of the program referred to in paragraph 2 b),
  - the quantities of bluefin tuna placed in cage and estimate of the growth and mortality by farm 2d),
  - the quantities of bluefin tuna caged during the previous year,
  - the quantities by sourcing of origin marketed during the previous year.
6. The CPCs mentioned in this recommendation as well as the Contracting Parties that import bluefin tuna shall cooperate, particularly through the exchange of information.
7. The Commission shall request non-Contracting Parties that farm bluefin tuna in the Convention area to cooperate in the implementation of this recommendation.
8. Based on the information referred to in paragraph 4 on the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document reports and the Task I data, the Commission shall review the effectiveness of these measures.
9.
  - a) The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of farming facilities authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area (hereafter referred to as FFBs). For the purposes of this recommendation, FFBs not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area.
  - b) Each CPC under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall submit electronically, where possible, to the ICCAT Executive Secretary by 31 August 2004 the list of its FFBs that are authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna. This list shall include the following information:
    - name of the FFB, register number,
    - names and addresses of owner (s) and operator (s),
    - location,
    - farming capacity (in t)
  - c) Each CPC shall notify the Executive Secretary, after the establishment of the ICCAT record of FFBs, of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record of FFBs at any time such changes occur.
  - d) The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT record of FFBs, and take any measure to ensure publicity of the record through electronic means, including placing it on

the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.

- e) The CPCs under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall take the necessary measures to ensure that their FFBs comply with the relevant ICCAT measures.
- f) To ensure the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures pertaining to bluefin tuna:
  - (i) CPCs under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall validate Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents only for the farms on the ICCAT record of FFBs,
  - (ii) CPCs shall require farmed bluefin tuna, when imported into their territory to be accompanied by the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document.
  - (iii) CPCs importing farmed bluefin tuna and the States that authorize the FFB shall cooperate to ensure that the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents are not forged or do not contain misinformation.
- g) Each CPC shall take the necessary measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the imports and sale of bluefin tuna into and from farms not registered in the ICCAT record of farming facilities authorised to operate as well as those that do not respect the sampling requirements foreseen in paragraph 2c and/or do not participate in the sampling programme referred to in paragraph 2c.

10.

- a) The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of vessels that fish for, provide or transport bluefin for farming, i.e., fishing boats, transport vessels, vessels with pools, etc. For the purpose of this recommendation the vessels not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, provide or transport bluefin tuna for farming.
- b) Each CPC shall submit, electronically where possible, to the ICCAT Executive Secretary by 31 August 2006 the list of the vessels that are authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna. This list shall include the following information:
  - name of the vessel, registry number
  - previous flag (if any)
  - previous name (if any)
  - previous details of deletion for other registers (if any)
  - international radio call sign (if any)
  - type of vessels, length and gross registered tonnage (GRT)
  - name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
  - gear used
  - time period authorised for fishing and/or providing or transporting bluefin tuna for farming.
- c) Each CPC shall promptly notify, after the establishment of the initial ICCAT record, the ICCAT Executive Secretary of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record and any time such changes occur.
- d) The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT record and take any measure to ensure publicity of the record and through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirement noted by CPCs.

11. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures so that the FFBs do not receive bluefin tuna from vessels that are not included in the ICCAT record (fishing vessels, transport vessels, vessels with pools, etc).

12. The SCRS shall undertake trials to identify growth rates including weight gains during the fattening or caging period.

13. This Recommendation replaces the Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Recommendation on Bluefin Tuna Farming [Rec. 05-04].





**REC.ICCAT-GFCM/31/2007/3 (C)**

**ICCAT recommendation [06-11] establishing a programme for transshipment**

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 provisions of paragraph 1 (h) of Article III and Article V of the GFCM Agreement the following Recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT):

**RECOMMENDATION [06-11] BY ICCAT  
ESTABLISHING A PROGRAMME FOR TRANSHIPMENT**

*TAKING ACCOUNT* of the need to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing activities because they undermine the effectiveness of the conservation and management measures already adopted by ICCAT;

*EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN* that organized tuna laundering operations have been conducted and a significant amount of catches by IUU fishing vessels have been transshipped under the names of duly licensed fishing vessels;

*IN VIEW THEREFORE OF THE NEED* to ensure the monitoring of the transshipment activities by large-scale longline vessels in the Convention area, including the control of their landings;

*TAKING ACCOUNT* of the need to collect catch data of such large-scale longline tuna to improve the scientific assessments of those stocks;

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

**SECTION 1. GENERAL RULE**

1. Except under the special conditions outlined below in Section 2 for transshipment operations at sea, all transshipment operations of tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area must take place in port<sup>13</sup>.

2. The flag Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall take the necessary measures to ensure that large-

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<sup>13</sup> By derogation, this provision shall not apply until 31 December 2009 to four Russian vessels, the characteristics of which shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat. However, the extension to 2009 shall be subject to the results of the review process in 2008.

scale tuna vessels (hereafter referred to as the “LSTVs”) flying their flag comply with the obligations set out in Annex 3 when transshipping in port.

## **SECTION 2. PROGRAMME TO MONITOR TRANSHIPMENT AT SEA**

3. The Commission shall establish a program of transshipment which applies initially to large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels (hereafter referred to as the “LSTLVs”) and to carrier vessels authorized to receive transshipment from these vessels. The Commission shall at its 2008 annual meeting, review and, as appropriate, revise this Recommendation. Pending this review, small-scale albacore longline vessels shall be exempt from the requirements of paragraph 4.

4. The flag CPCs of LSTLVs shall determine whether or not to authorize their LSTLVs which fish for tuna and tuna-like species to transship at sea. However, the flag CPC may authorize the at-sea transshipment by its flag LSTLVs on the condition that such transshipment is conducted in accordance with the procedures defined in Sections 3, 4 and 5, and Annexes 1 and 2 below.

## **SECTION 3. RECORD OF VESSELS AUTHORISED TO RECEIVE TRANSHIPMENT IN THE ICCAT AREA**

5. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels authorized to receive tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area from LSTLVs. For the purposes of this Recommendation, carrier vessels not entered on the record are deemed not to be authorized to receive tuna and tuna-like species in transshipment operations.

6. Each CPC shall submit, electronically where possible, to the ICCAT Executive Secretary by 1 July 2006 the list of the carrier vessels that are authorized to receive transshipments from its LSTLVs in the Convention area. This list shall include the following information:

- The flag of the vessel
- Name of vessel, register number
- Previous name (if any)
- Previous flag (if any)
- Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
- International radio call sign
- Type of vessels, length, gross registered tonnage (GRT) and carrying capacity
- Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
- Time period authorized for transshipping.

7. Each CPC shall promptly notify the ICCAT Executive Secretary, after the establishment of the initial ICCAT record, of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record, at any time such changes occur.

8. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT record and take measures to ensure publicity of the record and through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements notified by CPCs for their vessels.

9. Carrier vessels authorized for at-sea transshipment shall be required to install and operate a VMS in accordance with the 2003 Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area [Rec. 03-14].

#### **SECTION 4. AT-SEA TRANSHIPMENT**

10. Transshipments by LSTLVs in waters under the jurisdiction of the CPCs are subject to prior authorization from the coastal State concerned. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure that LSTLVs flying their flag comply with the following:

##### **Flag State authorization**

11. LSTLVs are not authorized to transship at sea, unless they have obtained prior authorization from their flag State.

##### **Notification obligations**

###### *Fishing vessel:*

12. To receive the prior authorization mentioned in paragraph 11 above, the master and/or owner of the LSTLV must notify the following information to its flag State authorities at least 24 hours in advance of the intended transshipment:

- the name of the LSTLV and its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels,
- the name of the carrier vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of carrier vessels authorized to receive transshipments in the ICCAT area, and the product to be transshipped,
- the tonnage by product to be transshipped,
- the date and location of transshipment,
- the geographic location of the tuna catches

The LSTLV concerned shall complete and transmit to its flag State, not later than 15 days after the transshipment, the ICCAT transshipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels, in accordance with the format set out in Annex 2.

###### *Receiving carrier vessel:*

13. The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall complete and transmit the ICCAT transshipment declaration to the ICCAT Secretariat and the flag CPC of the LSTLV, along with its number in the ICCAT record of carrier vessels authorized to receive transshipment in the ICCAT area, within 24 hours of the completion of the transshipment.

14. The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall, 48 hours before landing, transmit an ICCAT transshipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of vessels authorized to receive transshipment in the ICCAT area, to the competent authorities of the State where the landing takes place.

###### *Regional Observer Program*

15. Each CPC shall ensure that all carrier vessels transshipping at sea have on board an ICCAT observer, not later than 31 March 2007, in accordance with the ICCAT regional observer program in Annex 2. The ICCAT observer shall observe the respect of this Recommendation, and notably that the transshipped quantities are consistent with the reported catch in the ICCAT transshipment declaration.

16. Vessels shall be prohibited from commencing or continuing transshipping in the ICCAT area without an ICCAT regional observer on board, except in cases of force majeure duly notified to the ICCAT Secretariat.

## **SECTION 5. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

17. To ensure the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation and management measures pertaining to species covered by Statistical Document Programs:

- a) In validating the Statistical Document, flag CPCs of LSTLVs shall ensure that transshipments are consistent with the reported catch amount by each LSTLV.
- b) The flag CPC of LSTLVs shall validate the Statistical Documents for the transshipped fish, after confirming that the transshipment was conducted in accordance with this Recommendation. This confirmation shall be based on the information obtained through the ICCAT Observer Program.
- c) CPCs shall require that the species covered by the Statistical Document Programs caught by LSTLVs in the Convention area, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party, be accompanied by statistical documents validated for the vessels on the ICCAT record and a copy of the ICCAT transshipment declaration.

18. The CPCs shall report annually before 15 September to the Executive Secretary:

- The quantities by species transshipped during the previous year.
- The list of the LSTLVs registered in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels which have transshipped during the previous year.
- A comprehensive report assessing the content and conclusions of the reports of the observers assigned to carrier vessels which have received transshipment from their LSTLVs.

19. All tuna and tuna-like species landed or imported into the CPCs either unprocessed or after having been processed on board and which are transshipped, shall be accompanied by the ICCAT transshipment declaration until the first sale has taken place.

20. Each year, the Executive Secretary of ICCAT shall present a report on the implementation of this Recommendation to the annual meeting of the Commission which shall review compliance with this Recommendation.

21. This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Programme for Transshipment by Large-scale Longline Fishing Vessels* [Rec. 05-06].

**ICCAT TRANSHIPMENT DECLARATION**

**Carrier vessel**

Name of vessel and radio call sign  
 Flag  
 Flag State authorization number  
 National Register Number  
 ICCAT Register Number, if available

**Fishing vessel**

Name of the vessel and radio call sign  
 Flag  
 Flag State authorization number  
 National Register Number  
 ICCAT Register Number, if available  
 External identification

Carrier:	Day	Month	Hour	Year	2_ 0_ _ _	Agent's name:	Master's name of LSTLV:	Master's name of
Departure	_ _	_ _	_ _	from	_ _ _ _			
Return	_ _	_ _	_ _	to	_ _ _ _	Signature:	Signature:	Signature:
Transshipment	_ _	_ _	_ _		_ _ _ _			

Indicate the weight in kilograms or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit: |\_|\_| kilograms  
 LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT.....

Species	Port	Sea	Type of Product	Type of Product	Type of Product	Type of Product	Type of Product	Type of Product	Type of Product	Type of Product	Type of Product	Type of Product
			Whole	Gutted	Head off	Filleted						

If transshipment effected at sea, ICCAT Observer signature:

## ICCAT REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME

1. Each CPC shall require carrier vessels included in the ICCAT record of vessels authorized to receive transshipments in the ICCAT area and which transship at sea, to carry an ICCAT observer during each transshipment operation in the Convention area.
2. The Secretariat of the Commission shall appoint the observers and shall place them on board the carrier vessels authorized to receive transshipments in the ICCAT area from LSTLVs flying the flag of Contracting Parties and of non-Contracting Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that implement the ICCAT observer program.

### Designation of the observers

3. The designated observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
  - sufficient experience to identify species and fishing gear;
  - satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures;
  - the ability to observe and record accurately;
  - a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel observed.

### Obligations of the observer

4. Observers shall:
  - (a) have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by ICCAT;
  - (b) be nationals of one of the CPCs and, to the extent possible, not of the flag State of the receiving carrier vessel;
  - (c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 5 below;
  - (d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the Secretariat of the Commission;
  - (e) not be a crew member of an LSTLV or an employee of an LSTLV company.
5. The observer tasks shall be in particular to:
  - (a) monitor the carrier vessel's compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
    - i) record and report upon the transshipment activities carried out;
    - ii) verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transshipping;
    - iii) observe and estimate products transshipped;
    - iv) verify and record the name of the LSTLV concerned and its ICCAT number;
    - v) verify the data contained in the transshipment declaration;
    - vi) certify the data contained in the transshipment declaration;
    - vii) countersign the transshipment declaration;
  - (b) issue a daily report of the carrier vessel's transshipping activities;
  - (c) establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the captain the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.

- (d) submit to the Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation.
  - (e) exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.
6. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing operations of the LSTLVs and of the LSTLVs owners and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer;
7. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel to which the observer is assigned.
8. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behavior which apply to all vessel personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel personnel set forth in paragraph 9 of this program.

### **Obligations of the flag States of carrier vessels**

9. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag States of the carrier vessels and their captains shall include the following, notably:
- a) Observers shall be allowed access to the vessel personnel and to the gear and equipment;
  - b) Upon request, observers shall also be allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned, in order to facilitate the carrying out of their duties set forth in paragraph 5:
    - i) satellite navigation equipment;
    - ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
    - iii) electronic means of communication;
  - c) Observers shall be provided accommodations, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
  - d) Observers shall be provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties; and
  - e) The flag States shall ensure that captains, crew and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.

The Secretariat, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, is requested to provide to the flag State of the carrier vessel under whose jurisdiction the vessel transhipped and to the Flag CPC of the LSTLV, copies of all raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip.

The Secretariat shall submit the observer reports to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.

### **Observer fees**

- a) The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the flag CPCs of LSTLVs wishing to engage in transshipment operations. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the program. This fee shall be paid into a special account of the ICCAT

Secretariat and the ICCAT Secretariat shall manage the account for implementing the program;

- b) No observer shall be assigned to a vessel for which the fees, as required under subparagraph a), have not been paid.



### IN-PORT TRANSHIPMENT BY LSTVs

1. Transshipment operations in port may only be undertaken in accordance with paragraph 3 of the Introduction and the procedures detailed below:

#### Notification obligations

2. Fishing vessel

2.1 Prior to transshipping, the captain of the LSTV must notify the following information to the Port State authorities, at least 48 hours in advance:

- the name of the LSTV and its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels,
- the name of the carrier vessel, and the product to be transshipped,
- the tonnage by product to be transshipped,
- the date and location of transshipment,
- the major fishing grounds of the tuna catches

2.2 The captain of a LSTV shall, at the time of the transshipment, inform its flag State of the following;

- the products and quantities involved
- the date and place of the transshipment
- the name, registration number and flag of the receiving carrier vessel
- the major fishing grounds of the tuna catches.

The captain of the LSTV concerned shall complete and transmit to its flag State the ICCAT transshipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels, in accordance with the format set out in Annex 1 not later than 15 days after the transshipment.

#### *Receiving vessel*

3. Not later than 24 hours before the beginning and at the end of the transshipment, the master of the receiving carrier vessel shall inform the port State authorities of the quantities of catches of tuna and tuna-like species transshipped to his vessel, and complete and transmit the ICCAT transshipment declaration to the competent authorities within 24 hours.

#### *Landing State*

4. The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall, 48 hours before landing, complete and transmit an ICCAT transshipment declaration, to the competent authorities of the landing State where the landing takes place.

5. The port State and the landing State referred to in the above paragraphs shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received and shall cooperate with the flag CPC of the LSTV to ensure that landings are consistent with the reported catches amount of each vessel. This verification shall be carried out so that the vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience and that degradation of the fish is avoided.

6. Each flag CPC of the LSTV shall include in its Annual Report each year to ICCAT the details on the transshipments by its vessels.

**REC.ICCAT-GFCM/26/2001/1**

**Recommendation [00-14] by ICCAT regarding compliance with management measures which define quotas and/or catch limits**

*RECOGNIZING* that the *Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* was adopted at the 1996 Commission meeting and it was extended to include compliance in the South Atlantic swordfish fishery at the 1997 Commission meeting;

*NOTING* the treatment of overage and underage differs among the stocks and this complicates quota management and compliance;

*RECOGNIZING* the need to simplify the rules by generalizing the treatment of overage and underage to avoid future confusion;

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

- For any species under quota/catch limit management, underages/overages from one year may be added to/must be subtracted from the quota/catch limit of the management period immediately after or one year after that year, unless any recommendation on a stock specifically deals with overages/underages, in which case that recommendation will take precedence.

[2]

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**RES-GFCM/37/2013/1**

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

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

*ALSO RECALLING* also the 1995 United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, the objective of which is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, by inter alia, requiring States to cooperate in this respect through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements (RFMO/As) particularly in areas beyond national jurisdiction, and the provisions of the 1993 FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**RESOLVES** that:

1. The designation of Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs) for the conservation and management of fisheries resources within an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, including for the cases where their location may be totally or partially coincident with that of SPAMIs shall be done by GFCM in particular for areas in the High Seas.
2. Paragraph 1 is without prejudice to actions taken by a GFCM Contracting Party and/or by a Cooperative Non-Contracting Party (hereinafter collectively referred to as CPCs) to exert their rights and fulfill their obligations for the designation of FRA, including fisheries management measures, within the waters under their sovereignty or jurisdiction.
3. The designation of a FRA by the GFCM shall be based on sound scientific and technical identification by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), based inter-alia on proposals by CPCs, Party Organizations, scientific institutions and observers, with a view to maintain and/or recovery of marine living resources to an healthy state while ensuring the conservation of marine biodiversity for the sustainable exploitation. The identification of a FRA shall follow as minimum standard those criteria and conditions as stipulated by the GFCM "Standard Form".

4. In case GFCM intend to designate a FRA that may be totally or partially in a SPAMI such a decision may only be taken if appropriate cooperation and coordination have taken place between GFCM and UNEP/MAP and other competent regional organizations, such as ACCOBAMS.
5. The provisions in paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 are without prejudice to any collaboration which the GFCM may pursue with other party international organisations in connection with area-based management tools to promote the conservation of marine biodiversity with a view of sustainable exploitation in its Convention Area, including the Black Sea.

**RES-GFCM/37/2013/2**

**On Guidelines on the management of fishing capacity in the GFCM area**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*RESOLVES* that:

**Definitions**

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

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



**“Overcapacity”**: in input terms "overcapacity" means that there is more than the minimum fleet and effort required to produce a given output (e.g. harvested catch) level; in output terms, “overcapacity” means that the maximum harvest level that a fishermen could produce with given levels of inputs (e.g. fuel, amount of fishing gear, ice, bait, engine horsepower and vessel size) would exceed the desired level of harvesting.

### Principles

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Objective

GFCM, taking also in account the scientific advice by SAC including *inter alia* on updated stock assessments, on implication of possible extension/creation of EEZs and with the corresponding studies on socio-economic aspects, will provide guidance in the development and implementation of actions at national level for the management of fishing capacity so to rationalize the management of fishing capacity at regional level.

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

## Actions at national level

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

- Take into consideration the advice by SAC on the current levels and options for desired levels of fishing capacity, including per GSA, in relation to fleet segmentation, fishing type, species and fishing gears.
- Undertake capacity reduction programs where there is evidence of overcapacity, consistent with the application of the precautionary approach.
- Use the agreed regional fishing capacity measure units, as established in Recommendation GFCM 33/2009/5.
- Evaluate the effects of modernization, new fishing practices, and technology creep on the management of their fishing capacity. In cases where fleet modernization programs are being undertaken, provide evidence to the GFCM Secretariat that overall capacity is not increasing.
- Consider the use of license-based fisheries systems in situations such as, but not limited to, fisheries restricted areas (FRAs).
- Freeze fishing capacity at levels in line with Recommendation 34/2010/2 based on and with reference to the GFCM Vessel Records. Should a CPC have an obsolete fleet/be in the process of developing its fleet/experience structural problems, it will promptly inform the GFCM Secretariat of the situation it hampered to freeze capacity at said levels.
- Consider the use of some limitations or other mechanisms in order to prevent negative impacts of the transfer of fishing capacity from one operational unit to another, thereby endangering the stability of biodiversity.
- Subject to the maintenance of the overall fishing capacity, fishing vessels larger than 15 metres LOA may be transferred from one GSA to another by those CPCs concerned. The GFCM shall consider the evaluation of the issue of fishing capacity for vessels shorter than 15m LOA, including small scale fisheries.

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

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

### **Rationalizing the management of fishing capacity at regional level**

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

#### *Financial instruments*

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

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

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

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

#### *Technical instruments*

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

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

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

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

### *Administrative and legal instruments*

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

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

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

### **Regulation of new constructions and imports of fishing vessels**

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

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

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

- all new constructions shall have official authorisation;
- to authorize a new construction or import, it will be necessary the destruction or exit from the register of at least the same tonnage and power that the one intended to be built. Priority consideration should be given to situations which enable the transfer of capacity from fleet segments in which there is overcapacity;
- the tonnage and power of a new vessel will be equal to/less than the tonnage and power of vessel(s) removed from the register of active vessels (i.e. registered and currently fishing vessels).

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

### **Human resources development for management of fishing capacity**

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

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

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

**RES-GFCM/36/2012/1**

**On guidelines on allocated zones for aquaculture (AZA)**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

*RECOGNIZING* that aquaculture plays an important role in terms of contribution to economic development and it represents an important source of food and employment for coastal communities of GFCM Members;

*CONSISTENT WITH* the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, in particular Article 9 which calls upon States, *inter alia*, to produce and regularly update aquaculture development strategies and plans, as required, to ensure that aquaculture development is ecologically sustainable and to allow the rational use of resources shared by aquaculture and other activities;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* relevant provisions in the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development of 2002 and the 1995 Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols as amended, in particular, the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM);

*NOTING* that aquaculture activities are rapidly expanding in the GFCM Area, thus calling for an ICZM consistent planning and management at regional level;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that aquaculture activities affect and are affected by other human activities to the extent that their relative contribution to environmental degradation needs to be controlled and adverse social and environmental interactions with aquaculture activities have to be reduced;

*CONSIDERING* the implementation of a regional strategy for the creation of Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZA) as an immediate priority for the responsible development and management of aquaculture activities in the Mediterranean and Black Sea;

*FURTHER CONSIDERING* that the creation of AZAs may facilitate the integration of aquaculture activities into coastal zone areas exploited by other users and contribute to the enhancement of coordination between the different public agencies involved in aquaculture licensing and monitoring processes;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* conflicts between aquaculture activities and other users of the coastal zone in addition to the main variables and factors affecting the development of aquaculture activities,

*STRESSING IN PARTICULAR* the need for the definition of common criteria for the selection of sites for aquaculture activities,

*BEARING IN MIND* that the sustainable development of aquaculture can be significantly facilitated by a clear vision of Allocation Zones for Aquaculture (AZAs);

*DESIRING* to promote in the GFCM area of competence the establishment of AZAs as a management tool for marine spatial planning;

*ADOPTS*, in conformity with the provision of of Article III paragraph 1 (h) of the GFCM Agreement, that:

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-contracting Parties of the GFCM (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall include in their national marine spatial planning strategy of aquaculture development and management schemes for the identification and allocation of specific zones reserved for aquaculture activities.
2. AZAs shall comprise specific areas dedicated to aquaculture activities, and any future development thereof and their identification shall be based on the best social, economic and environmental information available in order to prevent conflicts among different users for increased competitiveness, sharing costs and services and to assure investments.
3. AZAs shall be established within the remit of local or national aquaculture plans of CPCs with the aim of ensuring the sustainability of aquaculture development and of promoting equity and resilience of interlinked social and ecological systems.
4. AZAs shall be established within the framework of ICZM, with regulations and/or restrictions being assigned to each zone in accordance with their degree of suitability for aquaculture activities and carrying capacity limit.
5. The zoning process for the establishment of AZAs shall follow a participatory approach, be transparent, coordinated by the main authority responsible for marine planning at local level and carried out in cooperation with the different authorities involved in the aquaculture licensing and leasing procedures and monitoring. The coordination of competences among the different public authorities involved in aquaculture licensing and leasing procedures and monitoring shall be ensured at national level.
6. Zones to be allocated to aquaculture activities shall be classified, inter alia, as, “areas suitable for aquaculture activities”, “areas unsuitable for aquaculture activities” and “areas for aquaculture activities with particular regulation and/or restriction”; guidelines shall be developed to this end;
7. AZAs, once established, shall be based on legal and regulatory provisions integrated into the national legislation or other adequate national administration level and on inter-ministerial coordination in order to ensure their effective implementation.
8. For every AZA, an allowable zone of effect of aquaculture activities could be defined in the close vicinity of each farm. Such zone shall be accompanied by a Environmental Monitoring Programme.
9. The Environmental Monitoring Programme shall be flexible and adaptable, taking into account scale (time and space) approach, and monitoring shall be mandatory.

**RES-GFCM/35/2011/1**

**On the submission of combined data on fishing vessels**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*RECALLING* the obligations of Contracting Parties to submit data on fishing vessels, in accordance with established standards and protocols, under Recommendations:

- GFCM/33/2009/1 on the establishment of a Fisheries Restricted Area in the Gulf of Lions to protect spawning aggregations and deep sea sensitive habitats
- GFCM/33/2009/2 on the minimum mesh size in the cod-end of demersal trawlers
- GFCM/33/2009/5 on the establishment of the GFCM Regional Fleet Register, and
- GFCM/33/2009/6 concerning the establishment of a GFCM Record of Vessels over 15 meters authorized to operate in the GFCM Area

*CONSIDERING* that most of the data to be reported under each of these Recommendations are common and that a single transmission of data on fishing vessels, incorporating all the data fields specified in each Recommendation, would facilitate the data submission processes executed by Contracting Parties;

*RESOLVES* that:

1. Contracting Parties shall submit the data specified in Recommendations GFCM/33/2009/1, GFCM/33/2009/2, GFCM/33/2009/5 and GFCM/33/2009/6 as a single dataset, as defined in Annex 1.
2. The data shall be submitted by Contracting Parties to the Secretariat at least at the beginning of each calendar year, and not later than 31<sup>st</sup> March, followed by updates, as appropriate, to fully reflect the situation of their fleets at any given time.
3. The data shall be submitted by Contracting Parties in accordance with the data submission standards and protocols established by the Secretariat, taking into account the provisions under paragraph 1.



Regional Fleet Register (RFR)	ADDITIONAL DATA FIELDS					
	Authorized Vessel List (AVL)	Minimum Mesh Size	Fisheries Restricted Area (FRA)			
<i>Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/5</i>	<i>Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/6</i>	<i>Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/2</i>	<i>Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/1</i>			
All Regional Fleet Register fields (47) as specified in Annex I of Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/5	Indicator Y/N <i>(Automatic on the basis of Regional Fleet Register data)</i>	Indicator Y/N	Indicator Y/N			
		<i>Time period authorized for fishing with demersal trawl gear</i>	<i>Number of fishing days exerted by each vessel in the year 2008</i>	<i>Number of fishing days exerted in the fishery restricted area</i>	<i>Main gear(s) used to fish in the fishery restricted area</i>	<i>Seasonal period authorized for fishing in the fishery restricted area</i>

**RES-GFCM/35/2011/2**

**On data confidentiality policy and procedures, amending Resolution GFCM/30/2006/1**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*RECOGNISING* the need for confidentiality at the commercial and organisational levels for data, reports and messages submitted to GFCM;

*ADOPTS*, in accordance with paragraph 1 (h) of Article III and with Article V of the GFCM Agreement, the following policy and procedures on confidentiality of data:

**1. Field of application**

The provisions set out below shall apply to all data, reports and messages (electronic and of other nature) transmitted and received pursuant to GFCM recommendations.

**2. General provisions**

- a) The Executive Secretary and the appropriate authorities of the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) , transmitting and receiving data, reports and messages shall take all necessary measures to comply with the security and confidentiality provisions set out under paragraphs 3 and 4 of the present Resolution;
- b) The Executive Secretary shall inform all CPCs of the measures taken by the Secretariat to comply with these security and confidentiality provisions;
- c) The Executive Secretary shall take all the necessary steps to ensure that the requirements pertaining to the deletion of data, reports and messages handled by the Secretariat are complied with;
- d) Each CPC shall guarantee the Executive Secretary the right to obtain as appropriate, the rectification of data, reports and messages the processing of which does not comply with the provisions of the GFCM Agreement;
- e) The Commission may instruct the Executive Secretary not to make available the data, reports and messages submitted to the GFCM by a CPC, where it is established that the CPCs in question has not complied with these security and confidentiality provisions.

### **3. Provisions on data confidentiality**

- a) Data, reports and messages shall be used only for purposes stipulated in GFCM Recommendations.
- b) (i) With respect to data provided under Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3, the Secretariat shall develop web-based data access and reporting facilities which should be available, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4 (b), only to:
  - Registered users nominated by the Contracting Party, without any time restrictions unless specified. This nomination could be revoked at any time by the Contracting Party,
  - Registered participants of GFCM meetings with access limited to the period of the respective meetings.
- (ii) General statistical reports and publications shall be made available to the general public without any restriction, in accordance with the guidance of the Commission and the security provisions of paragraph 4.

### **4. Provisions on data security**

- a) CPCs and the Executive Secretary shall ensure the secure treatments of data, reports and messages, in particular where the processing involves transmission over an electronic network. CPCs and the Executive Secretary must implement appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect data, reports and messages against accidental or unlawful destruction or accidental loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure or access, and against all inappropriate forms of processing.

The following security issues must be addressed from the outset:

- System access control: the system has to withstand a break-in attempt from unauthorised persons;
- Authenticity and data access control: the system has to be able to limit the access of authorised parties to a predefined set of data only;
- Communication security: it shall be guaranteed that data, reports and messages that enter the system are securely communicated;
- Data security: it shall be guaranteed that data, reports and messages that enter the system are securely stored for the required time and that they will not be tampered with;
- Security procedures: security procedures shall be designed addressing access to the system, system administration and maintenance, backup and general use of the system.

Having regard to the state of the art and the cost of their implementation, such measures shall ensure a level of security appropriate to the risks represented by the processing of the data, reports and messages.

b) Data security

Access limitation to the data shall be secured via a flexible user identification and password mechanism. Each user shall be given access only to the data necessary for his task.

c) Security procedures

Each CPC and the Executive Secretary shall nominate a security system administrator. The security system administrator shall review the log files generated by the software, properly maintain the system security, restrict access to the system as deemed needed and act as a liaison with the Executive Secretary in order to solve security matters.

**RES-GFCM/35/2011/3**

**Concerning the procedure to submit new proposals of decisions  
to the annual sessions of the GFCM**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

*AWARE* of the necessity for coordinated and timely actions by all Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties of GFCM (CPCs) to ensure the enforcement of GFCM's conservation and management measures, and the need to encourage all CPCs of GFCM to abide by these measures;

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

*TAKING* into account the conclusions of the GFCM Performance Review, in favour of the improvement of the effectiveness of the Commission with regards to the decision-making process in the field of fisheries and aquaculture management;

*NOTING* that the GFCM, at its Thirty-fourth Session, debated on the importance of adopting a strict procedure concerning the submission of new proposals for decisions to the Annual Sessions of the Commission;

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

1. Contracting Parties shall ensure, to the extent possible, to submit to the GFCM Secretariat at least 15 days before the beginning of each Annual Session, any new proposal for decision related to the fisheries and aquaculture management in order to guarantee its communication in timely manner to the other Contracting Parties.
2. All efforts should be endeavored in order for these proposals to be, to the extent possible, elaborated by more than one member and presented in at least two of the GFCM working languages.
3. To ensure the effectiveness of GFCM objectives, paragraphs 1 and 2 are without prejudice to the adoption of any other decision regarding fisheries and aquaculture management needed during the Annual Session.
4. Any new proposal for decision introduced beyond the time-limit fixed under paragraph 1 shall be first submitted to the Commission for approval at the opening of the Annual Session in order to be considered or not during the Session.
5. The submission of proposal for decision shall follow a procedure well defined by the Commission. The Task Force, as established to follow-up on the Recommendations of the GFCM Performance Review, shall review the question and submit a proposal on this

subject to the consideration of the Thirty-Sixth Session of the Commission. The procedure, thus proposed by the Working Group and adopted by the Commission in 2012, shall be annexed to the present Resolution.

**RES-GFCM/33/2009/1**

**On the management of demersal fisheries in the GFCM area**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*RESOLVES* that:

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

**RES-GFCM/33/2009/2**

**Establishment of Geographical Sub-Areas  
in the GFCM area amending the resolution GFCM/31/2007/2**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

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

*CONSIDERING* the decision made by the Commission at its 26th Session (2001) to establish Geographical Sub-Areas (GSAs) in the GFCM area;

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

*ESTABLISHES:*

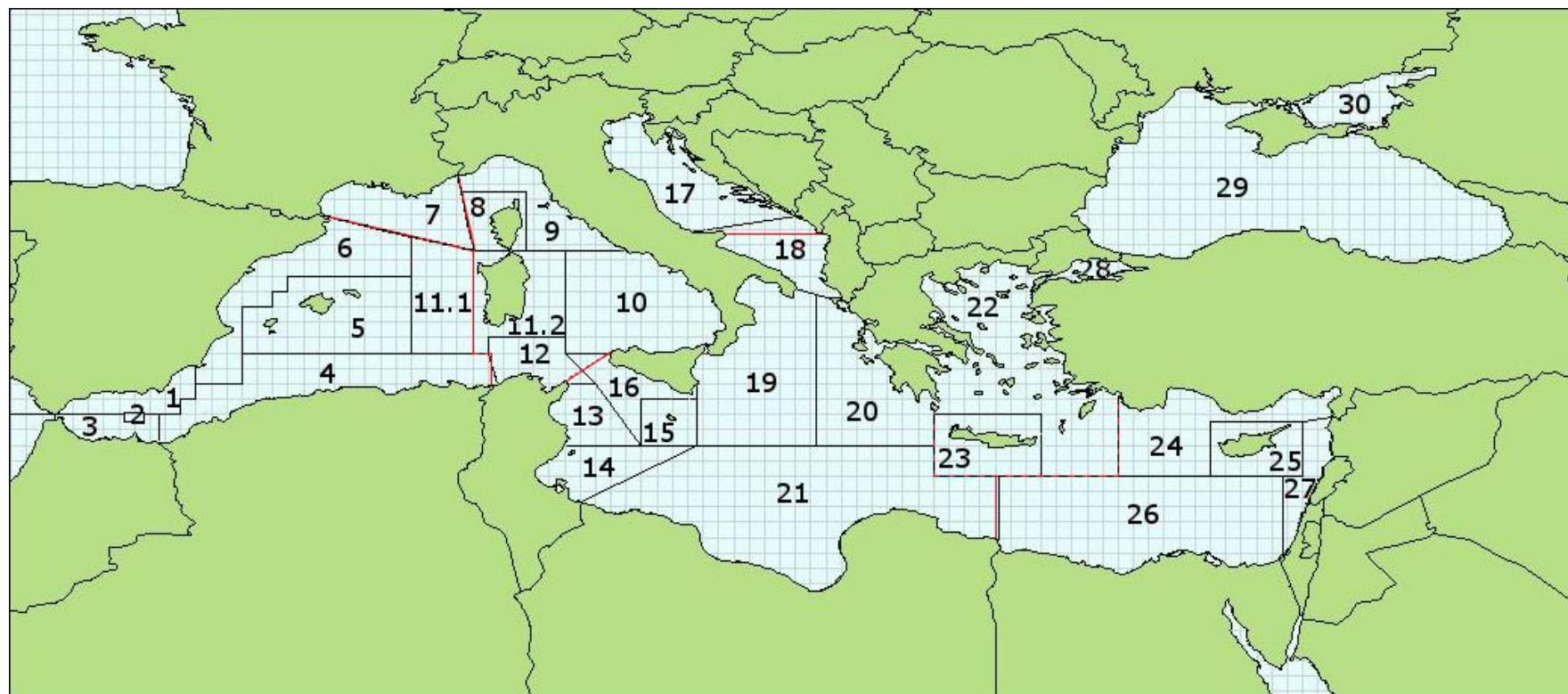
1. Geographical Sub-Areas in the GFCM area as shown in Annexes 1, 2 and 3.



Table of GFCM Geographical Sub-Areas (GSAs) (GFCM, 2009)

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

## GFCM Geographical Sub-Areas (GSAs) (GFCM, 2009)



--- FAO Statistical Divisions (red)      --- GFCM Geographical Sub-Areas (black)

01 - Northern Alboran Sea	07 - Gulf of Lions	13 - Gulf of Hammamet	19 - Western Ionian Sea	25 - Cyprus Island
02 - Alboran Island	08 - Corsica Island	14 - Gulf of Gabes	20 - Eastern Ionian Sea	26 - South Levant
03 - Southern Alboran Sea	09 - Ligurian and North Tyrrhenian Sea	15 - Malta Island	21 - Southern Ionian Sea	27 - Levant
04 - Algeria	10 - South and Central Tyrrhenian Sea	16 - South of Sicily	22 - Aegean Sea	28 - Marmara Sea

05 - Balearic Island	11.1 - Sardinia (west) (east)	11.2 - Sardinia	17 - Northern Adriatic	23 - Crete Island	29 - Black Sea
06 - Northern Spain	12 - Northern Tunisia		18 - Southern Adriatic Sea	24 - North Levant	30 - Azov Sea

## Geographical coordinates for GFCM Geographical Sub-Areas (GSAs) (GFCM, 2009)

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

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

**RES-GFCM/32/2008/1**

**Reporting on the implementation of GFCM management measures**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*RECALLING* the role of the GFCM in promoting development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Convention Area,

*RECOGNIZING* the vital implementation of GFCM measures, as referred to in Article III of the GFCM Agreement, to ensure the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in the Convention Area;

*RECALLING* the obligation of Members to transpose the relevant GFCM Recommendations adopted in virtue of Article V of the GFCM Agreement, into the appropriate policy, legal or institutional framework to which they pertain;

*REFERRING* to the responsibilities of the Compliance Committee in the monitoring of the implementation of GFCM measures;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* that the Compliance Committee underlined the need to improve the quality of information submitted on the implementation of GFCM measures;

*NOTING* the duties of the Secretariat, with particular reference to paragraph 4 (i) of Rule V of the Rules of Procedure;

*UNDERLINING* that the adoption of this Resolution is without prejudice to specific data and information reporting obligations contained in the respective Recommendations and Resolutions.

*RESOLVES* that:

1. Members should report annually to the Secretariat on the implementation of GFCM measures, at least thirty-days prior to each GFCM Session, using the format appended to this Resolution.



**RES-GFCM/31/2007/3**

**40mm square mesh size in codend of trawlnets exploiting demersal resources**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

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

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

*CONSIDERING* the advice on several demersal stocks given at the ninth session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC);

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

*TAKING* into account the need to assess the possible short and long-term socio-economic impact of the change in mesh size;

*ADOPTS* that:

1. Members of GFCM implement on a voluntary basis at least the 40 mm square mesh codend in bottom trawling.
2. Experimental selectivity trials with 40 mm square mesh codend trawlnets are undertaken particularly in those Geographical Sub-Areas (GSAs) where such information is not yet available and Members consider advisable to acquire it before any possible implementation.
3. SAC shall evaluate the results of such trials, including the short and long-term impact, at the latest by 2010 and shall advise accordingly.



**RES-GFCM/31/2007/4**

**On the pelages sanctuary for the conservation of the marine mammals**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*NOTING* the imperative international responsibility concerning the conservation and management of the living marine resources in the Mediterranean Sea for the needs of present and future generations;

*RECALLING* that establishing close or specially regulated fishing areas is recognized to be one of the measures for the reconstitutions of marine fish stocks;

*RECALLING* also that sustainable management of fish stocks is closely linked with and may benefit from, the conservation of other marine biodiversity components and in particular high trophic level species;

*NOTING* that an Intergovernmental “Agreement related to the creation in the Mediterranean of a Sanctuary for Marine Mammals” hereafter named the “Pelagos Agreement”, extends, inter alia, on waters beyond national sovereignties or jurisdictions of the coastal States (as in Annex 1);

*NOTING* also the wishes expressed by the Pelagos Agreement Contracting Parties to cooperate with the GFCM in matters related to fisheries issues;

*TAKING NOTE* of the measures, attached to this Intergovernmental Agreement, related to fisheries matters, in particular Article 7 (b) and (c) by which the Pelagos Contracting Parties:

1. Will comply with the international regulations and those of the European Community (EC), regarding the use and the keeping of fishing equipment known as “pelagic drift net”,
2. Will exchange their view, as deemed necessary, to promote in the appropriate fora and after scientific evaluation, the adoption of regulations relating to the use of new fishing equipment that could result in the indirect capture of marine mammals or that could endanger their sources of prey, while also considering the risk of loss or of deliberate disposal of fishing equipment at sea.

*NOTING* also that the Pelagos Sanctuary, as a Specially Protected Area, refers to the UNEP/CMS/ACCOBAMS Agreement and was recognized by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention’s “Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean” as Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) and as such the Contracting Parties to this Protocol agree (Article 8.3.b) “to comply with the measures applicable to the SPAMI and not to authorize nor undertake any activities that might be contrary to the objectives for which the SPAMIs were established”;

*CONSIDERING* that most of the GFCM Mediterranean Riparian States and the EU are Parties to one or both of the agreements mentioned above and that the Conservation Plan adopted by the Pelagos Contracting Parties refers to the competence of the GFCM, as far as fisheries measures are concerned;

*CONSIDERING* also the Recommendation GFCM/30/2006/5 related to the criteria for obtaining the status of cooperating non-contracting party in the GFCM area;

*NOTING* the interests of the Pelagos Sanctuary as an ecosystem approach experimental zone;

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

1. The GFCM Secretariat is requested to cooperate with the Pelagos Secretariat on the exchange of data and each would report to its respective Governing Body.

Excerpt of the “Agreement related to the creation in the Mediterranean of a Sanctuary for Marine Mammals”:

Article 3

The sanctuary is composed of maritime areas situated within the internal waters and territorial seas of the French Republic, the Italian Republic and the Principality of Monaco, as well as portions of adjacent high seas. The limits of the sanctuary are the following:

- to the west, a line extending from Point Escampobariou (western point of the Giens peninsula: 43° 01' 70" N, 06° 05' 90" E) to Cape Falcone, situated on the western coast of the island of Sardinia (40° 58' 00" N, 008° 12' 00" E),
- to the east, a line extending from Cape Ferro, situated on the north-eastern coast of Sardinia (41° 09' 18" N, 009° 31' 18" E) to Fosso Chiarone, situated on the western Italian coast (42° 21' 24" N, 011° 31' 00" E).

**RES-GFCM/29/2005/2**

**General guidelines for a GFCM control and enforcement scheme:  
needs and principles**

The main aim will be to bring about a scheme of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) that ensures a high degree of compliance with relevant conservation measures and legal certainty and security for the vessel concerned. Furthermore, the intended Scheme must pay due regard to the characteristics and specificities of different GFCM geographical sub-areas (GSAs) and fisheries. An effective Control and Enforcement Scheme should embody a number of principles, namely:

- (i) Consistency with the provision of the Agreement establishing the GFCM and existing instruments of international law.
- (ii) Evaluation of the current GFCM measures and possibly complementing them with new measures.
- (iii) The Scheme would underline the general duty to cooperate and a commitment to transparency taking into account requirements for confidentiality.
- (iv) The Scheme would have two types of measures:
  - Measures applicable to all fisheries. Measures concerning vessels would apply only to vessels beyond a certain size.
  - Measure applicable on a case by case basis to certain fisheries, where and when such a measure would be cost-effective.
- (v) The Scheme should contribute to the improvement of data collection and statistics and timely transmission of statistics, for scientific as well as monitoring purposes.
- (vi) Provisions for ensuring compliance by both Contracting and non-Contracting Parties vessels, thereby seeking to minimize the level of IUU fishing in the GFCM area.
- (vii) The special requirements of Developing States should be fully recognized and active cooperation should be established to facilitate the implementation of the measures by them.

Under these circumstances, a possible GFCM Scheme could consist of the following basic components:

**1) Flag State duties**

The following monitoring measures should be taken by the flag States in regard to vessels entitled to fly their flags in the GFCM area:

- (i) Control of their vessels by:
  - a) adopting measures so that their vessels comply with and do not undermine GFCM conservation and management measures;
  - b) authorizing their vessels to fish in the GFCM Area by means of fishing authorizations, licenses, or permits;

- c) ensuring they do not authorize vessels to fish in the GFCM Area unless they are able to effectively exercise their responsibilities in respect of such vessels, including monitoring and controlling their fishing activities;
  - d) ensuring that their vessels do not conduct unauthorized fishing within areas under the national jurisdiction of other States, through appropriate cooperation with coastal States concerned, and other relevant means available to the flag State;
  - e) requiring their vessels fishing on the high seas to carry the license, authorization or permit on board at all times and to produce it on demand for inspection by a duly authorized person.
- (ii) Establishment of a national record of fishing vessels entitled to fly their flags and authorized to fish in the GFCM Area, which should include vessels of other States authorized under charter agreements, and transmission of this information to GFCM.
  - (iii) Regulation of transshipment.
  - (iv) Measures regarding the operation and control of chartering.
  - (v) Requirements for recording and timely reporting of vessel position, catch of target and non target species, fishing effort and other relevant fisheries data including an estimate of discards, unless GFCM stipulates otherwise. These data should be verified for certain fisheries by observer programs, where these programs have been adopted by the Commission.
  - (vi) Implementation of a vessel monitoring system (VMS).
  - (vii) Investigation of, follow-up to, and report on actions taken in response to an alleged violation by a vessel.

## **2) Obligations of the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties**

The obligations of the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties should include:

- (i) Provision to GFCM, in the manner and at such regular intervals as may be required by GFCM, of compliance reports and information concerning its fishing activities, including fishing area and fishing vessels, in order to facilitate the compilation of reliable fishing statistics on GFCM regulated species (catch, effort, size samples, etc.), and the effective implementation of GFCM compliance program.
- (ii) Compliance with all GFCM conservation and management measures.

## **3) Compliance and enforcement**

The Contracting Parties, through the Commission, should establish an observation and inspection programme to ensure compliance with GFCM conservation and management measures. The programme may inter alia comprise the following elements:

- (i) High seas inspection.
- (ii) Procedures for an effective investigation of an alleged violation of GFCM conservation and management measures, and for reporting to the Commission on the actions taken, including procedures for exchanging information.
- (iii) Provisions for appropriate action to be taken when inspections reveal serious violations as well as the expedient and transparent follow-up of such actions in order to uphold the Flag State's responsibility within the intended programme.
- (iv) Port inspection.

- (v) Monitoring of landings and catches, including statistical follow-up for management purposes.
- (vi) Specific monitoring programmes adopted by GFCM, including boarding and inspection.
- (vii) Observer programs.

#### **4) A programme to promote compliance by vessels of non-Contracting Parties**

Further to existing measures, GFCM should examine measures consistent with international law to deter activities of such vessels which undermine the effectiveness of GFCM conservation and management measures, such as:

- Implementation of all the relevant elements of the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.
- Prohibition of landings and transshipments of GFCM species by vessels of non-Contracting Parties, sighted in the GFCM Area, that do not comply with the relevant GFCM conservation and management measures.

RES-GFCM/21/1995/2

**Reporting on activities of fishing vessels operating in the Mediterranean**

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM), at its Twenty-first Session held in Alicante, Spain, from 22 to 26 May 1995, agreed to set a minimum length limit of 15 metres for the application of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (hereinafter referred to as the Agreement).

The Council,

*MINDFUL* that Article II.2 of the Agreement allows, but does not require a Party to exempt fishing vessels of less than 24 metres in length from the application of the Agreement, subject to two provisions set out in Article II.2.

*NOTING* that Article II.3 of the Agreement provides for coastal States of fishing regions such as the Mediterranean where exclusive economic zones and other zones of extended jurisdiction have not been declared, to set a different length limit below which the Agreement shall not apply, and that the limit would only apply in respect of vessels flying the flag of a coastal State and operating exclusively in that fishing region.

*CONCERNED* that there is no provision for vessels of non-coastal States that operate in the Mediterranean to report on their activities to the GFCM,

*NOTING* also that Article III of the Agreement requires the flag States to ensure that its vessels provide it with the necessary information on their operations, including fishing area, catch and landing data,

*ESTABLISHES*, for the purpose of Article II.3 of the Agreement, a minimum length limit of 15 metres for fishing vessels flying the flag of a coastal State of the Mediterranean and operating exclusively in the Mediterranean.

*REQUESTS* all States without distinction, whose fishing vessels operate in international waters in the Mediterranean to provide information on these vessels, as set out in Article VI of the Agreement, to the Secretariat of the GFCM.

**RES-GFCM/15/1980/1**

**Definition of a littoral management policy**

*CONSIDERING* that the management of the coastal area implies a global process of reflection, discussion and decision-making, taking into account the interaction of all the activities conducted in that area,

*FURTHER CONSIDERING* that this process is based on the definition of a management policy drawn up by all the parties concerned within a multi-disciplinary structure or mechanism,

*FINALLY CONSIDERING* that the authorities responsible for the management of coastal resources should contribute to this process the result of their analysis in order to ensure that the needs and prospects of coastal fisheries and aquaculture are taken fully into consideration in the management of coastal areas,

The Fifteenth Session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean *PROPOSES*

- the definition of a national strategy indicating in particular the place of artisanal fisheries in management schemes;
- the drawing up of coastal occupation plans according to types of utilization;
- the formulation of practical management schemes;
- the strengthening of liaison among fishermen, research workers and administrators by establishing multi-disciplinary reflection, discussion and decision structures.



**RES-GFCM/15/1980/2**

**Evaluation of present coastal resources**

*CONSIDERING* that the management of the coastal area implies a global process of reflection, discussion and decision-making, taking into account the interaction of all the activities conducted in that area,

*FURTHER CONSIDERING* that this process is based on the definition of a management policy drawn up by all the parties concerned within a multi-disciplinary structure or mechanism,

*FINALLY CONSIDERING* that the authorities responsible for the management of coastal resources should contribute to this process the result of their analysis in order to ensure that the needs and prospects of coastal fisheries and aquaculture are taken fully into consideration in the management of coastal areas,

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- the definition of a national strategy indicating in particular the place of artisanal fisheries in management schemes;
- the drawing up of coastal occupation plans according to types of utilization;
- the formulation of practical management schemes;
- the strengthening of liaison among fishermen, research workers and administrators by establishing multi-disciplinary reflection, discussion and decision structures.

**RES-GFCM/15/1980/3**

**Development of the coastal area by artificial structures**

*RECOGNIZING* the interest in pursuing the effort to acquire the know-how leading to an economic return from new aquaculture activities,

*CONSIDERING* the considerable prospects of developing mollusc production in certain coastal areas by means of artificial reefs or the immersion of shellfish culture installations,

*CONSIDERING* further that such installations, by providing shelter and feed, help increase appreciably the biomass directly usable by man,

The Fifteenth Session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean

*DRAWS THE ATTENTION* of the competent national authorities to the interest in promoting the development of such structures in the context of their integrated management plans for coastal exploitation.

[3]

**OTHER DECISIONS (OTH)**

OTH-GFCM/37/2013/1

**Guidelines on precautionary conservation measures pending the development and adoption of GFCM multiannual management plans for relevant fisheries at sub-regional levels in the GFCM area**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

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

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

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

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

*RECALLING* Recommendation GFCM/27/2002/1 on the management of selected demersal and small pelagic species;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*RESOLVES*, that:

**PART I**  
**Fostering multiannual management plans**

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

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

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

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

2. The coordination and cooperation among concerned CPCs, as referred to in paragraph 1, shall be further promoted with a view for GFCM to adopt further multiannual management plans for fisheries concerning more than one CPC, if possible as from 2014. The process to develop and adopt the multiannual management plans is not constrained by an ending date to accomplish such a goal.
3. Notwithstanding provisions under paragraph 1, fisheries exploiting marine living resources exclusively distributed in territorial waters or in waters under national jurisdiction of a coastal State, which are not exploited by more than one CPC, shall not be included in a GFCM multiannual plan, unless specifically requested by the concerned CPC.
4. In view of allowing CPCs to develop the approach referred to in paragraph 1, they are encouraged to ensure:
  - a. the quality and completeness of the primary data collected under their national programmes, and for the detailed and aggregated data derived therefrom which are transmitted to the GFCM Secretariat for SAC scientific analysis as a basis for advice on different management scenarios for sustainable fisheries
  - b. an adequate annual scientific monitoring and data gathering both on the exploitation levels of their fisheries and of the status of the marine living resources exploited by them. To this end appropriate data shall be collected, analysed and made available at SAC working groups and Subcommittees meetings for assessment of the stocks.
5. Notwithstanding data submission through the TASK I statistical matrix as requested by recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3, the GFCM Secretariat, on behalf of SAC, may request, through specific calls, the detailed and aggregated data needed to perform the scientific and impact assessment analysis. The GFCM Secretariat with the assistance of the SAC, and on the basis of advice by its Subcommittees, is requested to provide the format for the data submissions
6. With a view to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of the SAC scientific advice-making process, the CPCs may coordinate themselves at sub-regional level to facilitate the sharing of data and carrying out of preliminary scientific analysis to be subsequently presented and discussed at the SAC working groups and its Subcommittees. Scientific analysis done outside the SAC working groups must be presented using the SAC Assessment Forms including the input and output tables together with the diagnostic of the method(s) applied. As appropriate, the GFCM and its CPCs should individually and collectively, engage in capacity building efforts and other research cooperatives activities to improve knowledge on fisheries and exploited stocks.
7. Pending the adoption of multiannual management plans, elaborated through the sub-regional working groups, management measures (e.g. fishing effort, seasonal closures, minimum size, selectivity and characteristics of fishing gears, etc.) will be defined at sub-regional level by stock or group of stocks.

## **PART II**

### **Improvement of the exploitation pattern**

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

9. CPCs are encouraged to apply, on a voluntary basis, the minimum conservation size as indicated in Annex 2 of these guidelines.
10. When a CPC decides to apply such conservation size, a marine organism which is smaller than the minimum conservation size specified in Annex 2 (hereinafter undersized marine organism) shall not be caught, retained on board, transhipped, transferred, sold, displayed or offered for sale.
11. The size of marine organism shall be measured in accordance with the following criteria:
  - a. total length (from the tip of the snout to the end of the tailfin) for finfishes,
  - b. for crustaceans
    - i. either the length of carapace, parallel to the midline, from the back of either eye socket to the midpoint of the distal dorsal edge of the carapace
    - or
    - ii. the total length, from the tip of the rostrum to the rear end of the telson not including the setae where present.
12. If more than one method of measuring size is permitted, the marine organisms shall be deemed to be of the required size if at least one of the stipulated measurements is equal to or greater than the relevant minimum conservation size.
13. Provisions under paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 above are without prejudice to stricter measures adopted by a CPC.
14. Notwithstanding paragraphs 8, 9 and 102 when due to unavoidable circumstances undersized marine organisms have been actually caught, the master of the catching vessel shall record those catches of undersized specimens (estimated weight and numbers) in a specific section of the logbook.
15. Without prejudice to provisions foreseen in paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 when a system of avoiding discards and obligation to land all catches has been established by a CPC, the master of the fishing vessel will not be allowed to discard those catches and shall therefore land the fish caught independently of the size of the fish caught in line with the provisions stipulated by the CPC. All quantities landed shall be recorded and shall not be displayed, offered for sale or used for human consumption.
16. CPCs implementing a landing obligations scheme as stipulated by paragraph 17 shall notify its content and characteristics to the GFCM Secretariat in advance of the subsequent GFCM plenary session with a view to inform the other Parties.
17. SAC is requested to provide synoptic tables reporting, for the main demersal resources exploited by the bottom trawl and bottom-set nets Operational Units at subregional level and, where possible by GSA, the following information:
  - a. the minimum size of maturity,
  - b. the sizes at first maturity (25%; 50% and 75%)
  - c. the minimum size of capture
  - d. the size at first capture (25%, 50% and 75%)

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

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

## APPENDIX I/Annex I

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

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



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

\* Subject to further advice from the SAC

## Minimum conservation size of marine organisms

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

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

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

## OTH-GFCM/37/2013/2

**Roadmap to fight IUU fishing in the Black Sea**

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

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

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

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

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

OTH-GFCM/36/2012<sup>14</sup>

**Guidelines on a general management framework and presentation of scientific information for multiannual management plans for sustainable fisheries in the GFCM area**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

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

RECALLING the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem of 2001;

RECALLING the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development of 2002 and in particular Article 31a in its Plan of Implementation;

RECALLING the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference for Sustainable Development of the Fisheries in the Mediterranean held in Venice on 2003;

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

RECALLING the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;

RECALLING Recommendations GFCM/27/2002/1, GFCM/30/2006/1 and Resolution GFCM 33/2009/1 on the management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and small pelagic;

CONSIDERING the diversity both of the multispecies fisheries and of the life-history traits of exploited stocks in the GFCM Area;

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

CONSIDERING the socio-economic importance of fisheries and the need to ensure their sustainability to generate benefit for both current and future generations;

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<sup>14</sup> Appendix I GFCM Report of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session, Marrakech, Morocco, 14-19 May 2012.



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

CONSIDERING the SAC advice on the need to develop multiannual management plans based on agreed reference points and to evaluate different management scenarios;

AIMING to develop coherent, effective and efficient precautionary management systems in line with the agreed principles of sustainability and able to take actions on the basis of target and safeguard reference points, either model based or empirical, as well as an associated system of decision control rules;

**RESOLVES**, in conformity with the provision of paragraphs 1 (a), (c), (d), (e) and (h), of Article III of GFCM Agreement that:

## **PART I**

### **General objectives and definitions**

1. GFCM may develop and adopt multi-annual management plans for fisheries exploiting demersal and small pelagic stocks, in particular when shared among GFCM Members, and operating in one or more adjacent GSAs.
2. Such multiannual management plans should be designed to counteract and prevent overfishing while providing high long-term yields and maintaining, to the extent possible, the stocks size of harvested species at levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield and with a low risk of stocks falling outside safe biological limits.
3. Whenever scientifically based and in line with GFCM provisions, they should be coherent with the precautionary and/or ecosystem approaches and minimize the impact of fishing on the sensitive habitats.
4. For this purpose, the SAC will be requested to provide to the GFCM a set of management scenarios for each of the Multiannual management plan to be adopted.
5. Each management scenario may evaluate, as appropriate, different measures including

inter alia:

- fishing gear selectivity, fishing effort regulation, and/or spatio-temporal closures with their timeframe of implementation;
- the probability and timeframe for the recovery of the stock(s) based on adequate reference points;
- the socio economic impacts on fishing activities.

6. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-contracting Parties of the GFCM (hereafter referred to as CPCs), whose vessels carry out fisheries in the GFCM Area, agreed to cooperate

with a view to gradually develop and implement, whenever advisable, multi-annual management plans for the fisheries concerned and in accordance with these guidelines.

7. Such guidelines should not affect the possibility for CPCs to develop their own multiannual management plans, provided that objective and measures therein are not less strict or in contradiction with GFCM measures

### Definitions

8. GFCM multiannual management plans may include where relevant the following elements:
  - **reference point**, i.e. conventional value of an indicator, either model based or empirical, which represents a state of the fishery or exploited fish stocks or stocks assemblage, and whose characteristics are considered to be useful for the management of the fisheries with respect, for example, to an acceptable level of biological risk or a desired level of yield. These values may be key fishing mortality rates (F), total mortality rates (Z), exploitation rate (E), biomass levels, catch rates and related fishing effort or other set of empirical indicators that are related to the maximum potential of a stock or group of stocks and that produce the highest sustainable catches and economic viability of fisheries. In terms of their use the reference points can be classified as Target, Threshold or Limit reference points.
    - **target reference point**, i.e. a management objective based that points to a state of a fishing and/or biological resource which is considered to be desirable. Target reference points should be set sufficiently far away from a limit reference so that the probability that the limits will be exceeded is low. The trajectory toward the target(s) may be represented either on a linear plot with a single target reference point or on a twodimension plot using two target reference points or on a multidimensional plot when more than two target reference points are used.
    - **threshold reference point**, i.e. a precautionary reference point expressed either as fishing mortality rate or a level of biomass or another agreed indicator. They are between the limit and target reference points and used to reduce the probability that the limit reference point will be exceeded. They serve as a red flag and may trigger particular management actions designed to reduce fishing pressure and mortality. After this point pre-negotiated management measures to reverse the situation should be initiated.
    - **limit reference point**, i.e. a conservation reference point expressed either as a fishing mortality rate or level of biomass or another agreed indicator that indicates to a state of a fishery and/or a resource which is considered to be undesirable and which management actions should avoid with high probability. After this point pre-negotiated management measures to reverse the situation should be initiated.

## PART II

### Specific operational objectives, scientific monitoring and adaptation of the plan

9. The general objectives of a management plan adopted according to these guidelines should be attained on the basis of specific target reference points and, whenever possible and appropriate, on the basis of thresholds and/or limit reference points, to be chosen along with a range of management actions on a case by case basis depending on the available scientific and socio-economic advice by the SAC and within lists proposed by SAC as requested by points 12, 13 and 14 below.
10. The specific objective may be to keep, with high probability, and throughout an accepted range of management actions and associated timeframe for their implementation, the fishing mortality and/or the exploitation rate and/or levels of biomass on the most relevant key stock(s) at levels able to deliver long-term high yields while reducing the risk that stock sizes fall below minimum biological acceptable level in order to avoid undermining their production potentials. The key stock(s) may be chosen taking into account in a proportionate manner either the catch composition and/or the economic value as well as, whenever appropriate, the vulnerability of stock(s). The specific objective(s) should be chosen on the basis of simulations and evaluation of different management scenarios carried out by the SAC.
11. The SAC is requested to provide a reasoned list of reference points frequently used in fisheries management and in line with the objectives of a multiannual plan as indicated in points 1 and 7 of these guidelines.
12. The threshold reference points should be chosen by the SAC taking into account the uncertainties in the parameters estimations and, whenever scientifically possible, provide values that result in a 5% probability that the limit reference points will be reached.
13. The list of reference points that will be provided by the SAC on the basis of points 11 and 12 is not deemed to be exhaustive and may be revised on the basis of the SAC advice and GFCM deliberations.

**Scientific monitoring for the conception, adaptation and revision of the plans on the basis of management scenarios**

14. CPCs should ensure adequate annual scientific monitoring of their fisheries and exploited stocks so that SAC is in a position to provide scientific advice, based on evaluation of different management scenarios, adequate to set up

multiannual management plans for relevant shared stocks and fisheries.

15. The SAC, on the basis of stock assessments analysis and Task I data, should provide each year, whenever possible, or on a longer time scale depending on the investigated stocks, advice on the status of exploited stocks and pressure exerted by fishing activities and monitor the achievement and maintenance of the objective(s) of a management plan so that, whenever the case, required adaptation of the multiannual management plan could be attained.
16. Whenever possible and adequate, SAC is requested to use management procedure simulations to the consideration of Members, taking into account the uncertainties in parameter estimation and in implementation, to assess the probability to achieve the management objective(s) under different management scenarios.
17. Whenever the GFCM, on the basis of advice from SAC, finds that the fishing mortality or the exploitation rate and associated spawning stock biomass levels or other suitable indicator are no longer appropriate to achieve the objective(s) of a multiannual plan, then it should revise the reference levels accordingly.
18. Where SAC advice indicates that the specific targets of the multi-annual plan are not being met the GFCM should decide a revision of management measures to ensure the sustainable exploitations of the stock(s).

### **PART III**

#### **Science in support of advice for fisheries management**

19. As appropriate, the GFCM and its CPCs should, individually and collectively, engage in capacity building efforts and other research cooperative activities to improve knowledge on fisheries and exploited stocks and to support the effective implementation of these guidelines including, as adequate, entering into cooperative arrangements with other appropriate international frameworks.
20. With a view to support the SAC in the formulation of adequate scientific advice for multiannual management plans, Members and cooperating non-Members endeavour to:

- i. improve the communication between Members and Cooperating non-Members, the GFCM and the SAC by enabling a constant and regular dialogue;
- ii. improve the implementation of data collection and provision to the SAC;
- iii. support research programmes and projects supporting the work of the SAC;
- iv. facilitate participation in working groups and SAC meetings of scientists from all Members and Cooperating non-Members , as well as other relevant scientific bodies;
- v. contribute to the training of scientific researchers, including young scientists;
- vi. strengthen peer review mechanisms within the SAC by ensuring, inter alia, the wideparticipation of scientists and explore the possibility to publish its main scientific findings in the scientific peer-reviewed literature.

OTH-GFCM/30/2006/1<sup>15</sup>

**Guidelines on sustainable Bluefin Tuna farming practices in the Mediterranean<sup>16</sup>**

**PART 1 – INTRODUCTION**

1. The development of bluefin tuna (BFT) farming<sup>17</sup> practices in the Mediterranean since the mid-1990s has been accompanied by a series of concerns about the sustainability of this important industry and about its impacts. The price of bluefin destined for sashimi, coupled with the ability to rapidly increase the weight of wild-caught bluefin in farms, has created more demand for bluefin captured at sea and, consequently, placed greater pressure on the stock.

2. In 2002, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) called for the establishment of a Working Group, to be convened jointly with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), with a mandate to develop practical guidelines to address known problems, with emphasis on fishing and farming statistics, and to propose research needed in order to investigate potential problems.

3. The Working Group met three times between 2003 and 2005 to develop the Guidelines that are presented in this document.

**PART 2 – NATURE AND SCOPE**

4. The farming of Atlantic bluefin in the Mediterranean Sea should be considered an activity clearly overlapping between capture fisheries and aquaculture. The potential of bluefin farming, all the perceived risks associated with it, and all matters relevant to the sustainability of this recent commercial activity, clearly encompass issues specific to both the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

5. In the long-term, the potential sustainability of BFT farming is linked also to the research advances in the successful “domestication” of the species. Although considerable progress has been made in this regard, the economically feasible “closed-cycle” production of BFT has not been achieved yet. The Guidelines have thus been prepared based on BFT farming as currently practiced in the Mediterranean.

6. The Guidelines encompass a series of statistical, socioeconomic, biological, environmental and management issues. They have been limited to only those issues arising, or

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<sup>15</sup> Paragraph 23 of the Report of the 30th Session

<sup>16</sup> Prepared by the Ad Hoc GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Sustainable Bluefin Tuna Farming/Fattening Practices in the Mediterranean

<sup>17</sup> Tuna farming in the Mediterranean is currently practiced as capture-based aquaculture. It involves the collection of wild fish, ranging from small to large specimens, and their rearing in floating cages for periods spanning from a few months up to 1 to 2 years. Fish weight increment or change in the fat content of the flesh is obtained through standard fish farming practices. Confinement of captured fish during short periods of time (2–6 months) aimed mostly at increasing the fat content of the flesh, which strongly influences the prices of the tuna meat in the Japanese sashimi market, can also be referred to as “tuna fattening”.

potentially arising, because of BFT farming. In other words, the Guidelines do not address the sustainability issues that could exist even without farming. The Guidelines were written by a group of experts – primarily scientists – in these disciplines.

7. The Guidelines are advisory in nature. They are intended to reinforce the basis for the regulations<sup>18</sup> that have already been introduced by GFCM and ICCAT for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean, primarily for the capture fisheries component. The Guidelines could also serve as a basis for a broader management framework that takes into consideration other aspects related to the sustainability of the farming industry.

## **PART 3 – GUIDELINES**

### **3.1 Capture fisheries**

8. Farmed bluefin tuna comes from capture fisheries. The expansion of tuna farming activities in the Mediterranean has generated a growing demand of wild fish specimens. Hence, one of the main concerns about this demand is the current and potential pressure to increase fishing effort. A main step towards responsible and sustainable fishing is to enforce the conservation and management measures of the regional fisheries management organizations, particularly ICCAT and GFCM (e.g. Rec. [02-08]).

9. *Catches.* In order to ensure that the potential pressure to increase fishing effort due to farming is not realized, it is necessary to ensure compliance with the quotas established for the conservation of the stock. In addition, under a number of international instruments, flag States of the fishing vessels have responsibilities to collect and report catch data, irrespective of whether the fish are destined for either the market or farming.

10. *Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.* Every effort should be made to combat and eliminate IUU fishing and farming, including through the development of a responsible trading system among countries, in order to ensure that only fish caught and farmed in accordance with agreed conservation and management rules is allowed to enter into international trade. In particular, the recommendation that ICCAT and GFCM members prohibit landings from fishing vessels, placing in cages for farming and/or the trans-shipment within their jurisdiction of tunas or tuna-like species caught by IUU fishing activities, should be enforced ([Rec. 03-16]).

11. *Other information.* The Recommendation on BFT farming ([Rec. 04-06]) specifies types of data that flag States of fishing or transfer vessels should collect and maintain (vessel logs, quantities, time and place of catch, vessel lists, etc.). In addition to these requirements, research should be conducted on methodologies to obtain accurate estimates of the size composition of the catch; such methodologies should be adopted for the collection and reporting of size composition data.

### **3.2 Transport and transfer**

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<sup>18</sup> Available from [www.iccat.es](http://www.iccat.es) and [www.faogfcm.org](http://www.faogfcm.org). Specific regulations cited in the text are listed at the end for ease of reference.

12. A critical point of this phase is the control of the amount (quantitatively and qualitatively) of fish that are transferred from the fishing gear to the transport and/or farming cages.

13. *Fish transfers.* The traceability of the transfer of live fish into cages should be ensured, particularly when different countries are involved. The ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program ([Res. 94-5], [Rec. 97-04], [Rec. 03-19]) set the modality of collecting trade data but does not cover live fish transfers. The ICCAT Recommendation [03-16] prohibits the transshipment of fish caught by IUU activities. The ICCAT Recommendation [04-06] regulates the statistical data to be taken by tugs or fishing vessels and farms.

14. Research should be promoted to further develop the methods and techniques presently available for quantifying live fish (e.g. underwater video cameras or acoustic methods); standards should be agreed to and adopted as soon as possible, also to allow for fair transactions thus avoiding conflicts between vessel and farm operators.

15. *Scientific research.* The provision of fish specimens to the research community, if required, will ensure the collection of valuable scientific information on the wild BFT population that may benefit both the fishery and farming sectors. Therefore, the industry should be encouraged to facilitate the provision to the research community of specimens accidentally killed during fishing, transfer or transport, as they represent a significant biological sample from the wild stock. Furthermore, specimens collected at the beginning of the farming process will provide 'point zero' information required to properly evaluate the performance of the farming activity at the end of the production cycle. Areas of research could include, among others: reproduction biology, growth, mortality, genealogy, stock structure and behaviour.

### **3.3 Farming**

16. This section refers to the BFT production phase itself. The culture technique follows in some ways the traditional offshore cage system, with similar rearing structures and technical constraints. On the other hand, farming of this pelagic species raises a series of distinct issues that require particular attention.

#### **3.3.1 Registration**

17. Licences/registration. It is essential to adopt a system to license or register farming facilities in order to comply with the requirements for listing authorized facilities in the ICCAT Recommendation [04-06], which should help prevent IUU farming. In addition, if excess farming capacity is deemed undesirable, due consideration should be given to the magnitude of the total allowable catch established for this species in the region.

#### **3.3.2 Socio-economic issues**

18. *Socio-economic issues.* A preliminary socio-economic appraisal to evaluate the context in which farming takes place appears to be an important requisite. Activities linked to BFT farming should be addressed particularly in view of job opportunities.

19. Studies for integrated coastal zone management should be carried out to avoid the possibility of conflicts between the BFT farmers and other resource users including those



from the tourism, other aquaculture activities, and small-scale fisheries sectors. During the site selection process in particular, it would be advisable to give considerable attention to avoidance of conflicts with other sea users; consideration should be given to making arrangements for the involvement and participation by local fishermen, e.g. in the supply of baitfish.

20. *Subsidies.* Currently, BFT farming is unquestionably tied up to the availability and exploitation of natural resources (both seed and baitfish) and the practice of subsidizing activities that utilize limited natural resources is not generally in line with sustainable management policies. In some Mediterranean countries, subsidies for aquaculture development exist including funds for BFT farming. However, it remains unclear whether these will have a positive or negative impact on the development and sustainability of the BFT industry. This important issue certainly requires further monitoring and analysis.

21. The industry, in collaboration with public authorities, should develop, apply and monitor procedures and standards which aim to guarantee appropriate labour and safety conditions in BFT farming operations.

22. The Mediterranean aquaculture sector, including BFT farming, will benefit significantly from human resource development efforts, including capacity-building and promotion of skills on good farm management, as well as training of farm technicians and other farm workers.

### 3.3.3 *Environmental issues*

23. *Feeding.* In the absence of a formulated feed, the current practice is to feed the BFT using frozen baitfish from wild stocks of different geographical origins. The main risks resulting from the use of this kind of feed could be:

- The possible overexploitation of wild stocks of small pelagic baitfish;
- The involuntary introduction of pathogens. Frozen allochthonous species can be vectors to pathogenic organisms as well as potential aetiological disease agents of autochthonous wild populations.

24. The use of baitfish from local fisheries could represent a solution to the risk of introducing new pathogens. However, stock assessment and monitoring of local baitfish populations would be required to prevent the overfishing of these resources and, in the cases in which vessels are providing the baitfish directly to the farm without landing it, the quantities caught should be collected and reported by the flag State in order to be included in the national capture production statistics.

25. A standardized quality-control system should be developed to ensure the quality of baitfish [i.e. screened for heavy metals, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxin, etc.] and to ensure the absence of potential pathogens.

26. Furthermore, it appears essential that research on the nutritional requirements of BFT be promoted with the aim to develop an artificial feed capable of guaranteeing acceptable meat quality standards as required by the market.

27. In order to minimize the amount of baitfish used, and to avoid the polluting effect of uneaten food, improvement of feeding management practices is advisable.

28. *Site selection, Environmental impact Assessment (EIA) and farm design.* The steps of selecting an area where the farms will be located, a specific site within that area, and the evaluation of any potential environmental impacts are closely related. In addition, farm design considerations are important. Once an area is chosen, site selection should be preceded by an EIA. Factors that should be taken into account include, but are not limited to:

- avoiding sensitive ecological areas;
- ensuring the presence of an adequate water current pattern to properly/effectively disperse settling/floating particles/substances/debris and sediments;
- maintaining a safe distance from potential sources of pollution (e.g. industrial parks, urban areas) to prevent contamination of the farmed fish;
- ensuring a safe distance between farms and river beds, in order to avoid potential problems associated with floods;
- ensuring the development and effective implementation of site rehabilitation plans, as appropriate;
- ensuring a minimum and safe distance between farms, as well as a minimum distance between individual cages;
- ensuring a sufficient minimum distance between the cage bottom and the sea bed in order to allow for adequate water circulation;
- minimizing both visual and environmental impacts through farm design;
- avoiding the use of copper- and zinc-based antifouling on nets and mooring systems.

29. *Environmental monitoring.* Approval of farming concessions and licenses should be, for all intents and purposes, linked to the submission of environmental monitoring plans. While all countries involved in BFT farming in the Mediterranean have requirements for EIA and environmental monitoring of aquaculture sites, it would be useful to develop minimum standards to be applied for bluefin at a regional or national level. The Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) of GFCM should consider the feasibility of developing such standardized guidelines. Standard analysis of the main water and sediment's physical, chemical and biological parameters at agreed distances from the farm site should be the norm, at an agreed-upon frequency. As with other aquaculture activities, the results of monitoring procedures should be transparent and available to the public. The frequency of monitoring should be controlled and closely planned with the competent local environmental authorities, and could be conducted with the assistance of accredited independent environmental monitoring and certification services.

30. Environmental monitoring might, when and as appropriate, include the monitoring of ecological effects on (i) the benthos, including changes in biodiversity parameters, and deposition; (ii) the water column and water surface; (iii) interactions with attracted species and populations.

31. Environmental monitoring guidelines may include reference to the need/opportunity for regular assessment, including meaningful quantitative and interpretative analysis of environmental impact status and trends, as well as regular updates on the use of the information thus generated. This includes information on improved management (especially production practice and farm operation; waste reduction/reuse) and contingency planning efforts.

### 3.3.4 Data and research

32. *Farm data and records.* Information concerning farming operations and environmental parameters (fish movements between cages, stocking densities at any possible given/possible time, feed application/use, effective feed consumption, temperature, dissolved oxygen, etc.) should be properly collected, recorded and made available for monitoring purposes. Respecting confidentiality requirements, this information should also be made available for research purposes.

33. *Scientific research.* The farming activity presents a valuable opportunity for cooperative research between the industry and the scientific community, and such collaboration should be encouraged. Furthermore, collaborative efforts should be aimed at designing experiments on live fish during farming, especially on captive behaviour, reproductive physiology, growth performance, nutritional demand and feed conversion rates. The non-marketable parts of fish that die incidentally during recruitment and/or farming should be considered as potentially suitable samples for research.

### 3.3.5 Animal welfare

34. *Animal welfare.* The welfare status of captive livestock is an important determinant of society's overall acceptance of farming technology. In general terms, the following would be advisable:

- During all phases of the production cycle, due care should be taken to avoid inflicting unnecessary stress to farmed fish. Handling of the fish should be reduced to a minimum during both fishing and transfer of the BFT into the transport or final cages.
- Setting an upper limit to the density of the cultured fish in the cages (kg/m<sup>3</sup>). This parameter is closely related to the overall well-being of the fish in terms of its likely correlation with the incidence of pathogens, as well as with stressful conditions at high densities.
- Adequate and standard harvesting procedures should be followed to minimize the suffering of the fish, and to guarantee quality standards of the final product required by the market.

## 3.4 Harvesting and marketing

35. The harvesting process is the production phase in which the data that can be collected and reported for biological and statistical purposes are measurements that are not as affected by estimation error as in the capture/transfer phase. These data, along with the farming reports, can be cross-checked with the estimates of inputs, as a means for validating the initial amount of farmed fish. It is essential that the concerned local authorities survey the correct application of the ICCAT/GFCM recommendations to ensure the accuracy of reported harvest and trade data.

36. *Biological samples and research.* In the input phase, accidentally-killed fish represent valuable specimens for scientific purposes. However, the data on input biomass are estimates. On the other hand, during the harvesting phase, all fish are physically available, such that accurate data and biological samples can be collected from a significant number of fish. The

availability of specimens for sampling and data collection would facilitate the implementation of research activities.

37. *Waste management.* During harvesting and processing of the fish for the market, a large amount of biological waste is produced. Unless used for research purposes, this waste should be properly stored, treated, landed and disposed of. Licensed farms should have approved waste-disposal plans, including plans for farm material subjected to renewal (e.g. nets, ropes).

38. *Farm harvest data.* The output data of the harvesting activity should be recorded and reported.

- For stock assessment purposes, it is important to obtain the size composition of the captured fish. Since there currently are technological difficulties for measuring the fish at the time of capture with the desired degree of accuracy and precision, it is necessary to record and report the size composition at the time of harvesting, as specified in the ICCAT recommendation [04-06, par. 2]. Estimates of the round weight of harvested fish should also be obtained, as these data would be useful for monitoring regional farming activity and for cross-checking inputs and outputs.
- Summary information on annual inputs and outputs to farming operations should also be reported in accordance with the ICCAT Recommendation [04-06, par. 5]. This information should be made available in round weight so that it can be analysed with respect to catch and aquaculture statistics.

39. *Trade.* The traceability of all internationally-traded tuna can be accomplished with instruments such as the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program [Rec. 03-19]. However, the usefulness of this Program should be improved by amending its coverage to include international transfers of live fish, and by ensuring that all ICCAT and GFCM members submit bi-annual summaries of their imports, as required by the Program. The data collected by the Program will also provide information useful for validation and estimating unreported catches.

### **3.5 Summary of statistical issues**

40. From the point of view of the sustainability of the bluefin resource, it is clear that a number of statistics have to be collected, reported and analysed at the regional level, so that the stock can be assessed and managed properly. Such requirements for data collection and reporting in capture fisheries directed at BFT existed well before the practice of farming begun (e.g. in the ICCAT Convention, in various ICCAT recommendations and resolutions, in the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement, in the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries). It is important to obtain the following:

- accurate estimation of total weight of the catch from the wild;
- accurate estimation of the biological characteristics of the catch (e.g. size composition);
- accurate statistics on the origins of the catch (flag, area, season, transfer and destination);
- accurate statistics on purse seine fishing operations (e.g. fishing effort and fishing strategy);
- accurate estimates of input to and output from the cages, growth and conversion rates, and a brief description of the method used to measure the input;

- information on authorized farming facilities.

41. The framework for the separation of the capture and aquaculture components of tuna farming was established by the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP). The CWP noted that “*the problem was to ensure that the weight of the captured organisms is recorded as capture fishery production and that subsequent incremental growth in captivity is recorded as aquaculture, so as to avoid partial or total double counting*”.

42. The data specifically requested on the aquaculture and fisheries components should be reported by members to FAO, GFCM and ICCAT in accordance with the formats established by these organizations. It is important to stress that flag states have the responsibility to collect and report catch data for vessels flying their flag, irrespective of whether the fish are destined for canneries or farms.

43. However, the separate account of the capture and aquaculture components is often difficult to implement. The key point in the collection of statistics from tuna farming remains the measurement/estimation of the number and weight of the fish introduced in the cages.

44. When such techniques are not yet well or completely developed, and considering the uncertainties associated with quantifying fast-moving fish, it would be practical to consider additional sources of information that can be used to complement or cross-check such data. For example, the outputs from farms can be estimated quite accurately and, with a good estimate of growth rates, the initial input into the farms can be back-calculated. Similarly, trade data can be used to validate or complement output reports, although at the current time not all ICCAT Contracting Parties that import bluefin tuna (or its products) provide summaries of the Bluefin Statistical Documents to ICCAT. Thus, full implementation of the Statistical Document Program (which has been recently amended to include information on farming) will strengthen its ability to serve as a validation tool.

45. It is also necessary to ensure that standard types of measurements are used when reporting data, in order to ensure consistent interpretation and comparisons. In general, all fish measurements of weight should be reported in round weight (live weight) and all measurements of size should be reported in fork length in accordance with the ICCAT Field Manual. Although conversion factors and length-weight relationships are available for wild bluefin, these do not necessarily apply to farmed bluefin. Furthermore, the relationships and conversion factors may change depending on the duration of the farming operations, the feed used, and other factors. It is recommended that accurate conversion factors and relationships between measurement types be developed for the different types of farming operations.

#### Recommendations cited

[Res. 94-05] *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Effective implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program.*

[Rec. 97-04] *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program on Re-export.*

[Rec. 02-08] *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning a Multi-year Conservation and Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean.*

[Rec. 03-16] *Recommendation by ICCAT to Adopt Additional Measures Against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing.*

- [Rec. 03-19] *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Amendment of the Forms of the ICCAT Bluefin/Bigeye/Swordfish Statistical Documents.*
- [Rec. 04-06] *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming.*