

RES-GFCM/31/2007/3

40mm square mesh size in codend of trawlnets exploiting demersal resources

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.