

**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.