



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN
COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES
POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

Thirty-second Session

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ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document, along with its Appendixes, provides a summary on the functioning and administration of the Secretariat including in relation to issues such as staffing, meetings, publications, new headquarters (Administrative Report). The document thereafter reviews the status of ratification of the 1997 amendments to the GFCM Agreement, presents the status of the contributions made by Members to the autonomous budget including the status of arrears and provides the statement on expenditures made or committed in 2007 (Financial Report).

II. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Recommendations adopted in virtue of Article V of the GFCM Agreement

2. The Secretariat officially transmitted to Members and Observers, the texts of the Recommendations, as well as of the Resolutions, adopted at the 31st session of the Commission (January 2007), which were also made available on the GFCM website. Upon completion of the “grace” period following the notification of the Recommendations, during which time no official objection was presented and in accordance with Article V of the GFCM Agreement, the aforementioned Recommendations entered into force on 17 July 2007. Members were informed accordingly.

3. It can also be noted that the Government of Turkey expressed an objection with regard to a provision of Resolution GFCM/2007/2 on the establishment of Geographical Sub-Areas in the GFCM area. This was also notified in due time to Members.

4. Members were also reminded of a number of commitments taken by the Commission, including in relation to the submission of a national report on the implementation of the GFCM decisions, the list of vessels authorized to operate in the GFCM Area, the list of vessels flying the flag of non-Contracting Party presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities, the list of vessels that have derogation in relation to the implementation of the 40mm diamond mesh size in codend of demersal

trawlers, on dolphin fish fisheries and on the Task 1. The result of the reporting by Members on the above is provided in document COC/2/2008/1 entitled “Status of Implementation of GFCM decisions by Members”.

Functioning of the Secretariat

Organization of the Secretariat and appointment of staff

5. At its 31st session, the Commission decided to establish a post of Aquaculture Specialist (in the “professional” category) to be filled up in the second half of the year. The post was advertised in August/September. However, due to uncertainties in the remittance of contributions for some Members, it appeared safer to initiate the selection procedure toward the end of the year. Forty-nine applications were received. The selection panel is planned to be convened early February. With the filling of this post, the Secretariat core staffing in the professional category will be completed.

6. During the intersession, the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department continued to provide office premises and related facilities, and supported most of the Secretariat’s running costs. In addition, its Economics and Policy Division kindly put at disposal of the Secretariat a part time Secretary as for preceding years. A Secretary/typist continued to be employed under temporary contracts over a period of 11 months in 2007. She complemented, covering accounting as well, the services of the above mentioned Secretary graciously provided on a part-time basis by the FAO. As a consequence, the filling up of the vacant posts of bilingual Secretary and of Administrative Assistant/typist was again postponed and will wait for the move of the Secretariat to its new Headquarters. The establishment of the post of Programmer and the selection of the incumbent caused some procedural difficulties arising *inter alia* from the qualification of the post in the General Service category and a related inconsistency with FAO Standard Selection procedure. The statistical data quality and management technician who was contracted on a part-time salary basis in 2006, continued to provide assistance to the Secretariat under the same arrangement over the year, in particular for the restructuring and maintenance of the GFCM website and to ensure data flow management and validation procedure. It is suggested to pursue the same *modus operandi* in 2008.

7. The Secretariat further relied on consultancies to address highly specialized issues (e.g.: deep-sea fisheries; gear selectivity, port State measures, Black Sea fisheries) as well as to compensate the delays in recruiting its Aquaculture Expert. It further used the opportunity provided by the “FAO Volunteer Programme”, such as in the case of the legal review of recreational fisheries in the Mediterranean.

GFCM intersessional meetings and meetings at which the Secretariat was represented

8. The Secretariat coordinated and actively contributed to the preparation and the running of nineteen meetings, including fifteen meetings of the subsidiary bodies and the annual session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), one meeting of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ)¹ and the joint FAO/GFCM Workshop on Port State Measures to combat IUU Fishing in the Mediterranean. Hence, almost all the meetings agreed upon by the Commission convened. Arrangements are being presently made for the convening in early 2008 of two meetings of the CAQ Working groups as programmed. The Secretariat also participated to a number of meetings of partner organizations or entities, and selected meetings of the FAO Sub-regional projects. For some of these meetings, the Commission was represented by the Chair or Vice-chair of GFCM or of the concerned Committee. In view of time and budget limitation, the Secretariat further turned down the

¹ In addition, CIHEAM IAZM organized 3 advanced courses of relevance to CAQ.

invitation to about another twenty-five meetings of direct relevance for the work of the Commission. The lists of the above mentioned meetings are provided in Appendix 1 of this document.

Publications

9. During the intersession, the Secretariat produced seventeen technical and administrative documents, as follows: nine as “grey literature” –available on the GFCM website², four already published and four to be published early 2008. The list of publications is provided in Appendix 2.

Projects supporting the work of the Committees

- SAC: close monitoring and inputs were regularly provided for enhancing the coordination of the FAO Regional projects, including to address the concern expressed by some Members in relation to the delay encountered for starting EastMed and CopeMed II and resuming the work of MedFisis after a long installment period. Regarding inputs to MedFisis, a report on the implementation of Medstat in the GFCM area was prepared for consideration by SAC and to help preparing the forthcoming work-plan of the project. Similarly, inputs were provided to finalize the component of the GEF large marine ecosystem programme which will be implemented jointly by FAO and the Secretariat (see document GFCM/32/2008/Inf. 9). In addition, as requested by the Commission, an outline document for a project proposal on Scientific Cooperation for fisheries management in the Black Sea was prepared (see document GFCM/32/2008/Dma4).
- CAQ: a full project document on the “Development of a strategy for marketing and promotion of Mediterranean aquaculture products” was developed and submitted to the Government of Spain (the donor) which approved it and further released related funds, thereby allowing the start of activities in early 2008. The administrative and financial framework concerning the projects entitled respectively “Use of Indicators for sustainable Development of Aquaculture”(INDAM) and “Developing and implementing sitting and carrying capacity guidelines for Mediterranean Aquaculture (SHOCMED)”were prepared. Both projects are under finalisation in conjunction with the European Community (the donor).

Others

10. Several other tasks that are coordinated directly by the Secretariat are not detailed here. These include liaison and communication with Head of Delegations and Focal points, strengthening cooperation with partner organizations, coordination of editing, translation and distribution of documents. It should be noted that the updating of the list of focal points for the SAC, CAQ and CoC entailed limited result.

11. The following should however be noted:

- *Bureau of the Commission:* during the intersession, liaison was strengthened with the GFCM Bureau and those of the Committees. Hence, a mid-term meeting of the GFCM Bureau was organized in March 2007 to review major issues at stake, including the implementation of the work-plan. Regular contacts were maintained especially with the GFCM Chair who kindly accepted to represent the Commission in selected meetings (see Appendix 1)

² It is suggested that for the time being, the reports of the four SAC Sub-Committees as well as the reports of the SAC Coordinating meeting of the Sub-committees (CMSC) be maintained in this category.

- *Memorandum of Understanding with key partners:* following the preliminary review of this issue by the Commission at its 31st session, expression of interest for entering into such arrangement with the Commission was confirmed by the IUCN, the UNEP-RAC/SPA and CIHEAM. Draft Memoranda were jointly prepared with the Secretariats of these Organizations. They are before the Commission under Agenda item 5 (see document GFCM/32/2008/Inf.10).
- *Visibility of GFCM outputs:* the Secretariat pursued efforts to enhance the visibility of the work of the Commission. The new set-up for the GFCM website, designed in cooperation with FAO/FIES was made operational, including access to a number of data bases. Hence, the Web has become the primary vehicle through which the Secretariat make information available to the Commission and the general public; failure to maintain it with necessary human means would imply higher costs for conveying key information to stakeholders.
- *Statistics and information tools:* standard forms to ease the reporting by Members were prepared and provided on line, including for the Task 1 statistical matrix and table, the list of authorized vessels, for monitoring the implementation of the dolphin fish Recommendation, reconciling the FAO STALANT 37, a catch reporting scheme with the GSAs and the inclusion of Operational Units data in the stock assessment forms. In addition, the development of the new SIPAM Information System was completed. The historical SIPAM data were transferred to the new associated databases after validating and adjusting data formats as necessary. The statistical queries and reports of the Aquaculture Production, in particular, have been revised.

Headquarters of the Commission

12. The renovation project for Palazzo Blumensthal, the new Headquarters of the Commission located in Via Vittoria Colonna, 1, Rome, was approved by the competent Italian authorities late September 2005 and the restructuring and repair works began in mid-January 2006. The Delegate from Italy reported on progress of the works being done to refurbish the premises³ at the 30th and 31st session of the Commission and informed on unforeseen structural weaknesses of the whole building that required in-depth consolidation works and related rescheduling of the move of the Secretariat in its new premises.

13. During the intersession, the Secretariat, with support from the FAO Infrastructure and Facilities Management Service and the Legal Office continued to monitor progress for the delivery of fully equipped premises, *inter alia*, through participating in four Coordinating meetings with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other concerned Ministries. These meetings concentrated on issues related to furniture and equipments and the covering of yearly running costs, including utilities, minor maintenance and security. The host country is in the course of devising solutions to support the costs of furniture (estimated in the range of € 124,418.44). However, as a result of a lack of consensus regarding running costs, the Coordinating meeting suggested to put the issue before the Commission for further clarification and guidance. It should be noted that the definite date for the move of the Secretariat (together with the Rome based FAO projects, i.e., AdriaMed and MedsudMed), is now subject to resolving this issue. Details of the forecast of running costs (estimated at €259.642.00 per year) is provided in Appendix 3 for ease of reference.

Status of acceptance of the 1997 amendments to the GFCM Agreement

14. As of the 1st January 2008, the situation was similar than one year ago, i.e.: twenty-one Members have deposited their instruments of acceptance (Appendix 4). Members who have not done so yet remained: Egypt, Syria and Israel.

³Paragraph 47 of the Report of the 30th session; paragraph 43 of the Report of the 31st Session.

15. The withdrawal of the Republic of Serbia from the GFCM membership became effective on 17 July 2007. Pursuant to Article XIII.6 of the GFCM Agreement, a Circular State Letter was sent to inform all Members accordingly. The Republic of Montenegro initiated its internal procedure of adhesion to the GFCM and actively participated to intersessional activities. Informal contacts as well as official correspondence were also pursued with the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Georgia to seek possible adhesion. The Secretariat refrained to undertake advocacy trips *in situ*, as initially planned, in view of the evolving positions of concerned States and the on going process in the sub-region for establishing a separate Black Sea Fishery Commission.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

Status of the contributions to the autonomous budget in 2007

16. In January 2007, the Commission adopted a global budget for 2007 amounting to US \$ 1, 280, 481.00 out of which the share of the autonomous budget was set up at US\$ 1,128,381.00. The remaining was a conservative estimate of the FAO Regular Programme contribution to the GFCM global budget⁴. The Commission further agreed that: i) it was inconvenient to maintain in the estimate of Member contributions, those countries which are not legally or politically bound⁵ (i.e.: Israel), and ii) that the adjustment requested by Egypt in relation to its catch component in the scale of contribution should be internalized, taking into account the related retroactive down-sizing of the contribution for this Member. As a result of these decisions, the forecasted adjusted, or “real” budget corresponding to expected revenues for 2007 amounted to US \$ **1,059,455.00**, equivalent to US \$ 68,926.00 less than that which had been formally adopted by the Commission.

17. The Secretariat sent, through diplomatic channels as well as directly to the GFCM Head of Delegations, the “Call for fund letter” on the 30th of January. A reminder, followed by individual recalls, was sent on the 23rd of July to concerned Parties.

18. Contrary to previous years, the major part of the remittance of the contributions by Members was settled at about mid-year. As of the 31st of December, the actual incomes from contributions for 2007 amounted to US \$ **1,012,705.98** (equivalent to 95.58 % of the “real” adjusted budget), as shown in Appendix 7 to this document.

19. Thus, the status of contributions can be summarized as follows:

- 19 Members⁶ deposited their instruments of acceptance and remitted their contribution in full;
- 1 Member (Lebanon) deposited his instruments of acceptance but did not paid its contribution;
- 1 Member (Egypt), has not yet deposited its instruments of acceptance, but paid its contribution.
- 1 Member (Syria) has not yet deposited its instruments of acceptance, nor paid its contribution (although it participated to the vote for the selection of the Executive Secretary);
- 1 Member (Israel) did not deposit its instruments (nor participated to the vote for the selection of the Executive Secretary) and did not contribute;
- 1 Member (Serbia⁷) withdrew in 2007, but did not pay its contribution for that year.

⁴ Appendix H of the Report of the 31st session.

⁵ Paragrah 50 of the Report of the 31st session.

⁶ Including Italy that officially notified the Secretariat that procedure for remitting contributions was in course.

⁷ At the time of writing this document, Montenegro informed the Secretariat that it will take over the 2007 contribution for Serbia

20. Appendix 5 shows also a positive (excess) balance recorded in favor of Albania (US \$ 1,000.00), while a negative balance can be noted for Tunisia (US \$ 11, 715.41), Bulgaria (US\$ 6,055.00) and Libya (US\$ 450.69), as well as (in the range of US \$ 25 to 28) for two other Members, probably as a result of bank transfer charges.

Payment and use of Arrears

21. It can be recalled that: i) Regulation IV (3) provides that “*any unliquidated prior obligation shall be cancelled or, where an obligation remains a valid charge, transferred against current appropriations*”; ii) “*pending receipt of annual contributions, the Secretary is authorized to finance budgeted expenditures from the uncommitted balance of the autonomous budget*” (Regulations V (1) refers); iii) Regulation V (3) further states that “*as of the 1 January of the following calendar year, the unpaid balance of such contributions shall be considered to be one year in arrears*”; iv) at its 30th session the Commission agreed to use arrears to build a Working Capital Fund to serve as a buffer for the Secretariat in case of delays in the remittance of contributions; v) at its 31st session, the Commission authorized the Secretary to readjust activities and expenditures as required for meeting ongoing obligations at the expiry of 2007, using arrears if necessary⁸.

Arrears

22. As shown in Appendix 5, the balance of accumulated pending contributions⁹ against the 2005, 2006 and 2007 GFCM fiscal years, as of the 31st of December, amounted at US \$ 72,921.09. This represents a remarkable recovery compared to last year, essentially as a result of Egypt, and Turkey settling in full their arrears, Italy is in the process of similar settlement.

23. It should be noted that Montenegro paid arrears on behalf of Serbia for 2005 and 2006. Contributions for 2007 remain due.

Working Capital Fund

24. In view of the above, the GFCM Working Capital Fund, i.e., the contingency fund consisting of the remitted arrears against the years 2005 to 2006, was worth US \$209,712.00, before the 2007 budget revision. It was then reduced to absorb: US \$ 37,060.00 of 2006 carried forward expenses on 2007 budget by FAO system and US \$ 32,874.00 of the 2007 negative balance (see below) which takes into account US \$ 55,815.00 of forecasted expenses in early 2008 (mainly to cover the costs of the 32nd Session of the Commission). On the 1st of March 2008, and assuming that no additional arrears are settled, it is expected that the Working Capital Fund will amount about US \$ 139,778.00 to which should be added US \$ 14,100.88 of interests accumulated since the opening of the autonomous budget in 2005, thus totalling about US \$ 153,878.88.

Budgetary expenses of the Autonomous Budget in 2007

24. The expenses, mainly in kind, imputable to the regular budget of the Organization (FAO share of the global GFCM budget) are not discussed in this report. It can be noted however that they resulted to be about twice the 2007 forecasts (US \$ 152,100.00). This was mainly a consequence of: more accurate assessment of the expenditures made in support of the Commission, strengthened backstopping in support of SAC and CoC activities and the out-posting of six months equivalent salary of a Secretary/typist to the Secretariat as well as the internalization of the running costs associated with hosting the Secretariat in FAO premises.

⁸ Paragraph 93 of the Report of the 31st session

⁹ Excluding Israel.

25. Up to mid year, priority was given to securing the implementation of core activities, salaries and necessary equipments. Hence, the Secretariat pursued its efforts to control each and every expense between the most necessary and essential purchases, including postponing those expenditures less urgent in term of impact on planned activities. As the major part of Member's contributions was ascertained in July, it became possible to fully engage expenditures and to initiate procedure for the recruitment of vacant posts in the Secretariat. The move of the Secretariat to its new Headquarters, originally planned to take place in October 2007¹⁰ did not occur and no related contingency expenditures were to be made.

Statement of the autonomous budget

26. The book keeping activity continued to be ensured in 2007 through FAO central accounting system (based on Oracle) in addition to the Secretariat budget monitoring system that enables keeping track, in real time, of records of budget allocations, forecasts, commitments and expenditures for each budget chapters.

27. Table 1 below provides an overview of the financial statement of the autonomous budget, i.e., the liquidation of total expenses as of December 31st, 2007. Total expenses (US\$ 1,045,580.00) include expenses settled at this date (US \$ 978,171.00), commitments (US \$ 48,654.00) and a provision of US \$ 55,815.00 earmarked as a forecast for the costs of the 32nd session (interpretation, in session translation of draft report, overheads, and report printing) of the GFCM, January and February 2008 salary as well as activity expenditures are excluded. As mentioned above, the expenditures made in 2006 but charged back by the central system in early 2007, -US \$ 37,060.00- are not accounted for, having being charged against the provision of the Working Capital Fund.

28. The financial status, thus, shows a negative balance of **US \$ 32,874.00** in the actual or "income" based budget (i.e., the remitted 2007 contributions, including the readjustment made for Egypt). The balance would have been positive of **US \$ 13,875.00** if all concerned Members had paid their 2007 contributions (pending 2007 contributions equals US \$ 46,749.10). It is theoretically positive of **US \$ 82,801.00** compared to the originally adopted budget.

Table 1: Financial Status in US Dollars

Incomes	
Contributions	1,012,706.00
Total Expenses	1,045,580.00
Expenses	978,171.00
Commitments	104,469.00
Carried forward expenses	-37,060.00
Balance	-32,874.00

29. The financial status for the main budget chapters is provided in Appendix 8. Chapters are based on the FAO/Oracle trust funds standard budget line allocations. They can be divided in three broad categories:

i) salaries of Secretariat staff (59.9% of total expenses)-; ii) activities (35.11%of total expenses);

¹⁰ Paragrah 43 of the Report of the 31st session

iii) miscellaneous and FAO Services costs (5.5 %) being a pre-determined share of the total expenses. The details of the liquidation of expenses for each budget chapters and related lines are further explained in the “explanatory note on budget expenditures” which is provided as Appendix 6 to this document.

Status of GFCM extra-budgetary resources

At its 31st session, the Commission expressed the wish that extra budgetary resources (i.e. from voluntary contribution of selected Members) be reflected as well in the financial statement. This is reported as follows:

Tunisian Cooperative Project in support to the SIPAM Regional Center

30. Following the administrative transfer in 2006 of the SIPAM databases and information system operated by the SIPAM Regional Center, in Tunis (Tunisia), from the FAO Fisheries Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries Service (FIRI) to the GFCM Secretariat, (i.e., as a component of the central GFCM Database and Information System), the Trust fund (TEMP/INT/988/MUL - Assistance to Sipam) was also handed over under the responsibility of the Executive Secretary. This account is funded by a voluntary contribution from the Government of Tunisia in support of the SIPAM Regional Center, amounting between US \$ 15 000 to 20 000 per year.

31. In 2007, incomes (covering 2006 and 2007) were received in two installments of respectively US\$ 16,142.05 and US \$ 15, 801.53. (US \$ 31,943.58). As usual, expenses mainly covered running and associated costs of the Regional Center and amounted to US \$ 15,666.90. Thus, at the end of 2007, the above Trust fund showed, after budget revision, a positive balance of US \$ 22.813, 01, including savings from 2006.

Spanish Cooperative Project in support to the CAQ Working group on Aquaculture Marketing

32. Following the kind offer made by Spain at the 31st session of the Commission, to support the above mentioned project, the following was done. The project document was finalized. The related (framework) Agreement between Spain and the GFCM was prepared for signature in January 2008. In the meantime, pursuant to GFCM request that such financial support be managed by the Secretariat as a separate trust fund from the autonomous budget, “a baby account” to the GFCM Trust Fund was established to accommodate the funding of US \$ 166,326.00 made by the government of Spain on 14 November 2007, for spending in 2008. As a result no expenditures were recorded against the 2007 fiscal year.

European Community Cooperative Projects in support to the CAQ Working groups, respectively on Aquaculture Sustainability (INDAM) and on Sitting and Carrying capacity (ShocMed)

33. With reference to the kind offer made by the European Community at the 31st session of the Commission to contribute financing these two projects, liaison was ensured with the donor concerning the proper (framework) Agreement on the basis of which the projects documents could be developed. At the time of writing this report, the formulation of the documents where under finalisation for signature early 2008. As such, earmarked funds will only be considered in the context of the GFCM 2008 fiscal year.

IV. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

34. The Commission may wish to review the administrative report and provide general guidance, particularly on issues related to the coverage of the running costs associated to the new GFCM Headquarters.

35. The Commission is also invited to discuss the present status of acceptance of the 1997 amendments in relation to the autonomous budget, and, in doing so assess the remittance of contributions by Members with special focus on the situation and use of arrears and on the financial statement of the autonomous budget in 2007.

APPENDIX 1**List of Meetings*****1. GFCM Intersessional Meetings*****Scientific Advisory Committee**

- Transversal Workshop on disaggregated data methodology analysis, 12-16 March 2007, Sète, France;
- Workshop on the Use of Trawl Survey Data, including the outcomes of MEDITS, 26-28 March 2007, Rome, Italy;
- SCSA/SCMEE/SCCESS transversal Workshop on Gear Selectivity, 2-4 April 2007, Barcelona, Spain;
- SCMEE/SCSA/SCCESS transversal Workshop on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) 22-23 May/Tunis, Tunisia;
- SCMEE/SCSA/SCCESS transversal Workshop on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), 24-25 May 2007, Tunis, Tunisia;
- SCSA/SCSA/SCCESS transversal Workshop on the compilation of GFCM Task 1, 19-22 June 2007, Casablanca, Morocco;
- SCCESS Workshop on the use of socio-economic indicators in fisheries management, including with reference to recreational and sport fisheries, 3-5 July 2007, Tripoli, Libya;
- SCSA Working Group on Demersal Species, 10-12 September 2007, Athens, Greece;
- SCSA Working Group on Small Pelagic Species, 13-14 September 2007, Athens, Greece;
- Session of the Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE) 17-20 September 2007, Kavala, Greece;
- Session of the Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information (SCSI), 17-20 September 2007, Kavala, Greece;
- Session of the Sub-Committee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCCESS), 17-20 September 2007, Kavala, Greece;
- Session of the Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA), 17-20 September 2007, Kavala, Greece;
- Coordination Meeting of the Sub-Committees (CMSC), 21 September 2007, Kavala, Greece;
- 10th Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee, 24-27 October 2007, Nicosia, Cyprus.

Committee on Aquaculture

- IUCN-FEAP/CAQ Workshop on Guidelines for the Sustainable Development of Mediterranean Aquaculture- Site selection 22-23 October 2007, Istanbul, Turkey.

Compliance Committee

- Joint FAO/GFCM Workshop on Port States Measures to combat IUU fishing in the Mediterranean 10-12 December 2007, Rome, Italy.

2. Meetings at which the GFCM was represented¹¹

2007

- First Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs, 22-26 January, Kobe, Japan;
- ICCAT Inter-sessional Meeting to Establish an Allocation Scheme for Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna, 29-31 January, Tokyo, Japan
- Meeting of the ICES Planning Group for Commercial Catches, Discards and Biological Sampling (PGCCDBS), 5-9 March 2007, St Julian's, Malta;
- AdriaMed Working Group on Demersal Fisheries Resources, 29-30 March 2007, Rome, Italy;
- 38th CIESM Congress, 9-13 April 2007, Istanbul, Turkey; (*)
- FAO/ICES Working Group on Gear Selectivity in the Mediterranean, 23-27 April 2007, Dublin, Ireland;
- Marevivo Workshop on Fisheries and Respect of the Mediterranean Marine Biodiversity (11th International Campaign "Mediterranean Freedolphin"), 20-22 May 2007, Tunis, Tunisia;
- EU Expert Workshop on the Future of Fisheries and Aquaculture Research, 22 May 2007, Brussels, Belgium;(**)
- ACCOBAMS Italian Workshop on the Interaction between Cetaceans and Fishing, 10-11 September 2007, Rome Italy;
- ICCAT/SCRS Plenary session of the Standing Committee on Statistics and Research, 1-3 October 2007, Madrid, Spain;
- FAO Workshop Knowledge and Data on Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas, 5-7 November 2007 Rome, Italy;
- IUCN Workshop on the Red List of Mediterranean Marine Fish, 12-13 November 2007, Istanbul, Turkey - funded by IUCN-;
- ICCAT 20th Regular Meeting, 12-18 November 2007, Antalya-Turkey;
- IFREMER Colloque Euro-méditerranée: "d'une rive à l'autre, quels programmes de recherche marine pour un espace méditerranéen partagé?" 20-21 November 2007, Toulon, France;(**)
- 9th Coordinating meeting of AdriaMed, 8-19 December 2007, Zagreb, Croatia;

2008

- MedStat II Task force meeting, 15-16 January 2008, St Julian's, Malta;
- MedSudMed Project Sixth meeting of the Coordination Committee, Salammbou, Tunisia, 4-5 February 2008;
- Workshop on the Use of Indicators and Reference Points in the Fisheries Management, 21-22 January 2008, Livorno, Italy;
- CIHEAM, VII Meeting of Agriculture Ministers, 3-5 February, Zaragossa, Spain;
- GFCM/ICCAT Coordinating Meeting on the 8th session of the Working group on Large Pelagic Species, 5 February, Madrid, Spain.

¹¹ (*) by an FAO/GFCM backstopping Officer (FAO Regular budget); (**) by a Member of GFCM or SAC Bureau.

APPENDIX 2**List of publications****1. Grey literature available on-line:**

Reports of each of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of SAC (14 Reports), see Appendix 1 above.

2. Published documents:

- Report of the Thirty-first Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), Rome, Italy, 9-12 January 2007. *GFCM Report* No. 31, Rome, 2007.
- Report of the 10th Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), Nicosia, Cyprus, 22-26 October 2007. *FAO Fisheries Report*. No 856 (Bi), Rome.
- Recreational Fisheries in the Mediterranean countries: A review of existing legal Frameworks *GFCM Studies and Reviews* No. 81. Rome, 2007.
- Marketing of Aquacultured Finfish in Europe Focus on Seabass and Seabream from the Mediterranean Basin. *GFCM Studies and Reviews* No. 82, Rome, 2007.

3. Documents in the pipeline to be issued early 2008

- Etude comparative de la législation des pêches en Méditerranée. *Etudes et Revues de la CGPM* No. 75. (French version)
- Fisheries laws and Regulations in the Mediterranean : a Comparative Study . *GFCM Studies and Reviews* No. 75.(Arabic Version- jointly with Libya)
- Impact des techniques de pêches sur l'environnement en Méditerranée : propositions d'amélioration . *Etudes et Revues de la CGPM* No. 84. Rome 2008
- Report of the FAO/GFCM Workshop on Port State Measures to combat IUU fishing, FAO Fisheries Report No 857, Rome, 2008.

APPENDIX 3

Running costs forecasts for the new GFCM Headquarters

Description of charges	Cost in Euro per year
UTILITIES	
Electricity and for HVAC and hot water	24.052,00
ITC ITEM	
Maintenance of Telephone Exchange	3.000,00
Maintenance of Networking Equipment	4.000,00
Maintenance Video Conference Equipment	2.000,00
Rental of equipment for simultaneous transl	9.000,00
Desk-phone telephone calls	9.600,00
Mobile-phone telephone calls	9.600,00
Technical interventions	3.500,00
Rental of Interconnection Network	24.000,00
Water	1.800,00
Gas for heating and hot water	3.000,00
Garbage	9.800,00
SUBTOTAL	103.352,00
MAINTENANCE	
Cleaning	25.000,00
Cleaning supplies	2.000,00
Housekeeping maintenance	66.000,00
Condominium elevator, cleaning	9.800,00
Leasing of 2 multifunctional photocopiers (copier/printer/fax/scanner)	12.000,00
Insurance	15.000,00
SUBTOTAL	129.800,00
Contingency	20.000,00
Yearly accrual for capital budgeting	6.490,00
TOTAL	259.642,00

APPENDIX 4

Status of acceptance of the GFCM Agreement, as amended in 1997

Members	Acceptance
Albania	10 October 2003
Algeria	26 April 2005
Bulgaria	29 November 2006
Croatia	28 November 2003
Cyprus	3 August 2000
Egypt	-
European Community	27 July 2000
France	30 October 2002
Greece	29 August 2002
Italy	23 August 2000
Israel	-
Japan	30 July 2004
Lebanon	4 March 2005
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	23 December 2003
Malta	23 December 1999
Monaco	12 June 2001
Morocco	24 July 2006
Romania	1 October 2003
Serbia and Montenegro	8 January 2003
Slovenia	29 April 2004
Spain	15 February 2002
Syria	-
Tunisia	30 June 2003
Turkey	5 June 2000

APPENDIX 5

Status of contributions on 31 December 2007

Members	Outstanding 2005-2006 (after adjustm) (1)	Due for 2007	Received 2007	Outstanding 2005-2007
ALBANIA	38.32	10,139.00	11,177.32	-1,000.00
ALGERIA	0.00	40,765.00	40,765.00	
BULGARIA	7,503.72	8,499.00	9,947.72	6,055.00
CYPRUS	0.00	42,676.00	42,676.00	
CROATIA	0.00	17,457.00	17,432.00	25.00
EGYPT	45,037.00	31,925.00	76,962.00	
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY	0.00	368,765.00	368,765.00	
FRANCE	0.00	42,676.00	42,676.00	
GREECE	22.00	42,676.00	42,698.00	
ISRAEL	-	-	0.00	
ITALY (2)	30,061.00	42,676.00	72,737.00	
JAPAN	0.00	80,870.00	80,870.00	
LEBANON	13,693.00	9,916.00	0.00	23,609.00
LIBYA	-12,131.31	27,221.00	14,639.00	450.69
MALTA	15.18	8,499.00	8,514.18	
MONACO	0.00	4,703.00	4,703.00	
MOROCCO	10.00	19,447.00	19,457.00	
ROMANIA	17.57	8,499.00	8,499.00	17.57
SERBIA	12,057.00	8,727.00	11,998.58	8,785.42
SLOVENIA	18.00	42,676.00	42,666.00	28.00
SPAIN	-1,582.98	42,676.00	41,093.02	
SYRIA	13,403.00	9,832.00	0.00	23,235.00
TUNISIA	-2,413.43	49,264.00	35,135.16	11,715.41
TURKEY	131,136.00	98,871.00	230,007.00	
Totals	236,884.07	1,059,455.00	1,223,417.98	72,921.09

(1) Retroactive adjustment made for Egypt. Israel not accounted for;

(2) Italy formally notified the Secretariat that the arrears will be settled before the 32nd session.

APPENDIX 6**Explanatory note on budget expenditures by chapters**

Hereunder are some explanations on the liquidation of expenses by Chapter based on the revenues accrued for 2007 that is the contributions remitted by Members (incomes based budget). This budget draw upon the budget adopted the 31st session¹², as adjusted to incorporate the lifting decided by the Commission¹³, and through applying the corresponding allocation factor for each budget line, as shown in Appendix 7 below.

The financial operations and status by chapters are based on Appendix 8 below which aim at confronting incomes and expenses, following the FAO/Oracle standard budget lines allocation. Total expenses comprise: settled payments up to 31 December 2007 (expenses), commitments made up to that date and a raw estimates of costs associated with the holding of the 32nd session of GFCM (US \$ 55,815.00¹⁴) based related costs of the 31st session (Commitments + forecasts). Other expenses (e.g., salaries) engaged for January and February 2008 are not accounted for as they belong to the 2008 fiscal year.

Chapter 1: Secretariat/staff salaries

This chapter covers salaries and remuneration of Secretariat staff, including a number of overhead costs and allowances (e.g.: basic medical plan; pension plan; child allowance, etc.) and is subject to fluctuations (positive or negative) in the post adjustment (cost of living in Rome) which can hardly be fully anticipated in the forecasted budget. In addition, when adjusting the original (adopted) budget to obtain the income based (real) budget, the budget lines for staff salaries remained constant as related expenditures are, however, incompressible.

Professional staff. The first Sub-chapter includes costs for three staff in the Professional and Higher Categories (an Executive Secretary, a Deputy Executive Secretary and a Bio-statistician) as well as six months equivalent for an Aquaculture expert. The budget line corresponding to the post of Aquaculture expert was partly used through consultancies, in view of the delayed recruitment of the incumbent for this post. The salary of the Executive Secretary and of the Bio-statistician resulted in a negative balance, mainly imputable to a revision of the post adjustment and of the pension scale, by United Nations Civil Service Commission. The sub-chapter showed however a positive balance

Staff in the General category. The second Sub-chapter considers the expenses of Secretariat staff in the General Service Category (forecasted for Programmer/Analyst; a Bilingual Secretary and a Administrative/finance Assistant). Due to administrative difficulties and related delays in recruiting the corresponding budget line was not used for its purposed; it was used for consultancies (budget revision) to compensate the related expertise needs, including covering the function of the Web-master/data management assistant hired on a contractual/consultancy basis over a period of 11 months. The post of Bilingual Secretary remains frozen (unused) as FAO continued to provide such services on a part-time basis. Corresponding allocation was mainly redistributed under Chapter 2 (Activities) and compensated as well the negative balance resulting form the hiring of a Secretary/Typist on temporary contracts over the intersessional period, with related expenses charged against the post of Finance/Administrative Clerk. After budget revision, this sub-chapter will be in equilibrium.

¹² Right column in Appendix F of the Report of the 30th session.

¹³ I.e, the derogatory adjustment made for Egypt and the exclusion of the estimated contribution for Israel.

¹⁴ including: i) against the Chargeback line, US \$ xxxx of interpretation over 5 days, the translation of session documents and the draft report-, ii) against the Contract line, US\$ XXX of publication of Session Report, iii) US \$ 3,200 of consultant in support to the CoC session against the corresponding line.

Chapter 2: Activities

Overtime. This budget line includes overtime of General Service staff in the Secretariat, mainly in conjunction with the convening of the statutory meetings (SAC and GFCM Plenary). It resulted with a negative balance of US \$ 701.00, as a result of holding both SAC and the GFCM sessions over 5 days (in stead of 4, as forecasted).

Consultants. This Sub-chapter covers honoraria of consultants: contractual specialists (in fishing technology, port State measures, project formulation, etc), resource persons at meetings, and the contracting of a statistical data quality and management technician, entrusted with data handling and processing for the GFCM databases and web-site development and maintenance.

Travels. This Sub-chapter covers all travels (ticketing and *per diem*). This included travels for: Members of the GFCM bureau, Secretariat staff, consultants, some national experts (especially in view of reduced support from the FAO regional projects as CopeMed II and Eastmed did not started) and resource persons for technical meetings of SAC and CoC subsidiary bodies, travel of interpreters for the 10th session of SAC as well as the agreed allocation for supporting the Coordinators of SAC and CAQ subsidiaries. Total expenses for this line resulted in a negative balance (US \$ 80,059) which is also to be related to an increased participation to meetings of Partner organizations, compared to 2006.

Chargeback. Costs related to honoraria of interpreters, messengers and technicians, (travel and per diem excluded) for the 10th Session of SAC and the 32nd Session of GFCM, overtime cost for locally related contracted labor, (e.g.: technicians and security staff), expenditures for translation and internal printing of session documents are charged to this line. It also comprises book acquisition, official translation and mailing of official correspondence (e.g.: Call for fund letters; letter of invitation to statutory meetings, GFCM Circular letter, etc.). The negative balance (US \$ 94,249) is mainly attributable, as said above, to running the SAC and the GFCM over five days (instead of four previously).

Training. This included only computer training for Secretariat staff. Forecasted allowance in support of two CIHEAM/IAMZ advance courses and seminars (US \$ 4000) was unused. Language training for Secretariat staff was postponed to 2007. Therefore this Sub-chapter resulted in excess of US \$ 421.

Equipment. This Sub-chapter comprises expendable and non-expendable procurement budget lines. Expenditure included the renewal (US \$ 3,827) of the renting (ItNet srl) of the GFCM server for the databases. The purchase of portable computers and software were postponed to 2008, as such this line resulted positive.

General operating, overhead expenses and miscellaneous. These Sub-chapters cover respectively running costs (electricity, cleaning of premises, heating, etc.), operation and maintenance of equipment and security services, if any. Associated expenditures continued to be covered almost fully by FAO. Only expenditures such as telephone bills (mobile phones, only) were charged to the autonomous budget. Overhead expenses included support costs for the organization of meetings of the subsidiary bodies of SAC; contingencies including meeting documents mailed by DHL (SAC). The budget line miscellaneous (fixed at 1% of the total available budget) was seldom used (hospitality and bus rental), as such kept as a buffer. This resulted with a combination of these Sub-chapters accumulating an excess balance of US\$ 9,484.00, which permitted through the budget revision toward the Charge-back Sub-chapter.

Contracts (including scientific publications). All expenditures related to publications, including, editing, printing of official reports, and printing and translation of scientific publications (e.g, GFCM *Studies and Review Series*), and of published technical reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Committees are charged to this line. It should be read in conjunction with the list of publication provided in Appendix 2, noting an increase of translation and "external" publication costs, especially with regard to the Report of the GFCM session.

Chapter 3: FAO support costs.

The FAO support costs were computed, before closure of the accounts, at 4.5% of the original budget for 2007, *as per* GFCM Financial Regulation III (5).

Finally, it can be noted that the purpose of the columns “balance” in Annex 8 should be read “before budget revision” (i.e., compensation between positive and negative budget lines), as this presentation aims at enlightening those budget lines for which the original allocation resulted to be limited compared to expenditures, thereby indicating where an increases might be considered in the draft budget proposal for 2008 (document GFCM:XXXII/2007/8). The full budget revision in the FAO/Oracle system will be made on the second week of February, i.e. the official date of 2007 account closure in FAO. The details of the above financial statements and related operations could be made available on request at session.

APPENDIX 7

AUTONOMOUS BUDGET	Adopted budget	Adjusted budget	Incomes based budget
Executive Secretary, D-1	226,056	226,056	226,056
Deputy Secretary, P-5	210,720	210,720	210,720
Bio-Statistician, P-3	109,208	109,208	109,208
Aquaculture Expert, P-4 (frozen)	67,080	67,080	67,080
SUB-TOTAL Prof. Salaries	613,064	613,064	613,064
Administrative Asst. G2/3	45,005	45,005	45,005
Programmer/System Analyst G-5	65,920	65,920	65,920
Bilingual Secretary G-5	70,810	70,810	70,810
Overtime	3,500	3,500	3,500
SUB-TOTAL GS Salaries	185,235	185,235	185,235
Consultants	39,000	34,962	30,381
Duty Travel	88,000	54,562	40,508
Chargeback (incl. interpretation)	91,000	68,866	50,635
Training	3,500	3,178	921
Equipment	4,800	4,238	4,960
General Operating and Overhead Expenses	25,500	21,189	15,000
Contracts (Scientific Publications)	19,000	15,892	16,304
TOTAL ACTIVITIES	274,300	202,887	158,709
Miscellaneous (1%)	10,691	10,594	10,127
FAO Services costs (4.5%)	48,591	47,675	45,571
GRAND TOTAL	1,128,381	1,059,455	1,012,706

APPENDIX 8

AUTONOMOUS BUDGET	2007 Original forecasted budget	2007 Income based budget	2007 Expenses	2006 Carried forward expenses	2007 Commit.ts	Forecasts	2007 Total Expenses	Balance
Executive Secretary, D-1	226,056	226,056	239,090	0	0	0	239,090	-13,034
Deputy Secretary, P-5	210,720	206,918	206,918	0	0	0	206,918	+3,802
Bio-Statistician, P-3	109,208	109,208	124,680	0	0	0	124,680	-15,472
Aquaculture Expert, P-4	67,080	67,080	0	0	0	0	0	+67,080
SUB-TOTAL Prof. Salaries	613,064	613,064	570,688	0	0	0	570,688	+42,376
Administrative Asst/typist. G2/3	45,005	45,005	47,270	0	4,495	0	51,765	-6,760
Programmer/System Analyst G-5	65,920	65,920	0	0	0	0	0	+65,920
Bilingual Secretary G-5/6	70,810	70,810	0	0	0	0	0	+70,810
Overtime	3,500	3,500	3,001	0	0	1,200	4,201	-701
SUB-TOTAL GS Salaries	185,235	185,235	50,271	0	4,495	1,200	55,966	+129,269
TOTAL STAFF	798,299	798,299	620,959	0	4,495	1,200	626,654	+171,645
Consultants	39,000	30,381	66,818	-23,243	28,747	3,200	75,522	-45,141
Duty Travel	88,000	40,508	113,253	0	7,314	0	120,567	-80,059
Chargeback (incl. interpretation)	91,000	50,635	95,289	0	1,595	48,000	144,884	-94,249
Training	3,500	921	500	0	0	0	500	+421
Equipment	4,800	4,960	4,957	-4,018	3,690	0	4,629	+331
General Operating and Overhead Expenses	25,500	15,000	15,355	0	288	0	15,643	-643
Contracts (Scientific Publications)	19,000	16,304	24,279	-9,799	2,525	3,415	20,420	-4,116
TOTAL ACTIVITIES	1,069,099	158,709	320,451	37,060	44,159	54,615	367,161	-223,456
Miscellaneous (1%)	10,691	10,127	0	0	0	0	0	+10,127
FAO Services costs (4.5%)	48,591	45,571	36,761	0	0	0	36,761	+8,810
TOTAL	1,128,381	1,012,706	978,171	-37,060	48,654	55,815	1,045,580	-32,874