

**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN
(GFCM)
REPORT OF THE FIRST ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (SCESS)
SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING**

Madrid, Spain 26-28 April, 2000

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr S. Ben Salem, coordinator of the sub-committee, is excused. The list of participants is attached in Annex A. R.Franquesa is invited to coordinate the meeting. He thanks COPEMED for its support to the participation of some members. The provisional agenda is presented by Mr Camiñas and adopted.

2. Objectives of the sub-committee

Objectives: the SCESS sets out to examine issues related to the management of Mediterranean fisheries, provided that they concern various dimensions of social sciences, including economics, legal aspects, anthropology, sociology and political sciences.

It has been stressed that the multi-disciplinary nature of this sub-committee appears to be an additional difficulty, as social scientists working on Mediterranean fisheries are very dispersed and available in very limited number.

It has been emphasised that there is a need for building a Network of social scientists in support of the work of the SCESS. The sub-committee will rely on contributions from the Network in areas such as:

- promoting contact between experts and institutions at Mediterranean level,
- facilitating the gathering and diffusion of information and research outputs,
- promoting international co-operation on research issues and training.

Although the widest participation of experts to the SCESS is welcome, the participants take note that no expert of East Mediterranean and Black Sea countries is present. The SCESS encourages its coordinator to develop a broader participation on the basis of an overall balance of countries and social sciences disciplines.

3. Standards and definitions

Glossary: the SCESS takes note that the glossary presented to the Sub-Committee for Stock Assessment is of a biological nature only and therefore misses social sciences concepts. The sub-committee sets out to:

- incorporate into this glossary the key words of the two glossaries set by the OECD and FAO,
- incorporate the elements of the glossary gathered by Franquesa et al. (2000)¹,
- coordinate the development and updating of the glossary with respect to social aspects. Coordination will be assumed by J.L.Alegret Tejero, in close connection with Mrs Pilar Pereda, responsible for the SAC global glossary. The methodology will be based on the updating of a file developed on <http://biblioteca.udg.es/gespm/sseg>. All participants to the network are invited to contribute to the glossary through members of the SCESS.

Operational Units: the definition put forward at the Barcelona meeting of 25-27 January 2000 has been endorsed with the following remarks:

- homogeneity of social groups of fishermen is a key criterion to be taken into account for the definition of OUs,
- local OUs should be possible to define and consider,
- the concrete definition of specific OUs would need a multi-disciplinary approach, including biological, economic and social aspects.

As for other concepts and definitions, the SCESS will refer to the action mentioned above for the glossary. In addition, certain concepts, the definition of which is based on a biological approach only, may need to be adapted on the basis of a social sciences understanding. It will be proceeded to this adaptation if necessary, subject to the agreement of the SAC.

¹ Franquesa R. Malouli Idrissi M., Alarcon iA.- *Estudia de evaluacion de viabilidad del establecimiento de una base de datos de indicadores socioeconomicos para la pesca en el Mediterraneo*.- Rome: FAO, 2000.

4. Socio-economic data base on experts and studies

The SCESS proposes the creation of its own provisional web page:

<http://biblioteca.udg.es/gespm/scess>.

All potential participants to the SCESS network will be invited to fill the form circulated by the coordinator. The details of forms will be placed on the web page.

The web page will serve to establish links with data bases containing information on social sciences studies on Mediterranean fisheries. The web page will benefit from any contribution by the network, submitted to the sub-committee.

Methodological discussions on the definitive shape of the data base will be developed in the future. The data base will be incorporated into the relevant GFCM data base.

5. Socio-economic data

The co-ordinator had circulated a table to be filled by all SCESS experts, in preparation of the present meeting, as to which data elements characterising the economic situation of the fleets (various running costs, employment, investment) are accessible in each country (see Annex B). However, as only three countries are represented in the present meeting, it appears to be impossible to obtain a complete set of information relating to a sufficient number of GFCM countries.

The SCESS proposes to carry on with this action through the web site: the table will be placed on the web site, as filled whenever possible; information will be improved on the request of any member of the network. Three cases can be identified:

- data is available and published on a regular basis,
- data is collected but with a limited access,
- data is not collected nor available.

Future action will require examining how limited access data can be obtained for further analyses, and whether financial support will be necessary to launch inquiries on selected fleet samples in order to start studying cases where no data is collected.

6. Pilot study on social and economic indicators and follow-up

The study referenced in footnote 1 is presented by R. Franquesa. It has been carried out at the request of the SAC and sponsored by COPEMED and FAO/FIPP.

The study was commissioned by the SAC with the objective of assessing the feasibility of collecting on a regular basis the data necessary to establish a minimum set of social and economic indicators to contribute to the management of Mediterranean fisheries. The study has been undertaken from June 1999 to April 2000 on a pilot basis on the Alboran Sea.

a) The main conclusions of the study are the following:

- the indicators identified are considered to be the minimum required for the management of the GFCM operational unit concerned;
- the data acquired to build the indicators are obtainable at reasonable cost and on a regular basis;
- the preliminary review of the information derived from the indicators offers a wide range of possible analyses on the situation of each of the segment of fleet identified both for local operational units (e.g. : ports) and for the Alboran sea as a whole.

b) The main recommendations for the follow-up of the study are the following:

- the COPEMED project should extend its support to complete the study to the whole Alboran Sea, including the Algerian part;
- to apply the methodology of the pilot study to other GFCM management units with priority being given to the Gulf of Gabes and the Adriatic Sea;
- GFCM member countries should collect, on an annual basis, the data set required to build the selected indicators (see Annex C), and the related data base should be maintained through the SAC sub-committee for statistics;
- in this purpose, national focal points should participate to the collection of the macro-economic data; regional projects (COPEMED, ADRIAMED) would usefully support the field work necessary for the establishment of the data base in its initial phase. The

European Union should take into consideration this data needs when adopting the forthcoming regulation on fisheries statistics;

- the SAC should shortly establish the set of OUs for the whole Mediterranean and Black Sea in order to ensure that socio-economic indicators be homogeneous and comparable, taking into consideration the methodology used by the pilot study for the segmentation of the fleets concerned.

c) The SCESS also recommends that the pilot study be used as a basis for:

- further identifying the potential applications of the indicators for addressing management issues;
- studying the social, cultural and economic causes of changes and trends highlighted by the indicators;
- developing a simulation to forecast the impacts of management options or external shocks (e.g.: price variability);
- undertaking complementary in depth analyses at the level of local operational units, when necessary; these analyses may need inputs from various disciplines of social sciences.

d) The actions recommended above will require:

- to establish a “group on the follow-up and analysis of indicators”,
- to organise two meetings before the next session of the sub-committee:
 - a meeting with the purpose of examining the progress of the work on data collection and the building of indicators;
 - a meeting on simulations, management applications, local in-depth studies and causal analyses.

7. **Research issues**

Several research issues need to be mentioned as critical for the progress of the SCESS work.

- More knowledge is needed on the fishing industry in different countries. This would require undertaking detailed case studies.
- Developing economic analysis needs carrying on several actions:
 - data collection with a view to harmonising information on OUs,
 - developing the use and interpretation of social and economic indicators,
 - developing bio-economic models and making them available to the industry as well as to the administration concerned, for practical application.
- The social and institutional dimensions are as critical for management options on Mediterranean as the economic dimension. More research is needed with regard to comparing national regulatory frameworks, legal provisions and how regulation applies. One can therefore propose the following items as to be further developed:
 - comparison of national legal frameworks,
 - enforcement;
 - co-management.

8. Work programme and schedule for the next year

Co-operation with the other sub-committees is critical, especially with regard to statistical data. In addition, some sub-committees may encounter specific problems in relation to economy and social sciences. It is therefore useful to foresee formal contacts between the SCESS and other sub-committees on a regular basis.

- Carry on and complete work in progress, e.g.:
 - the COPEMED study on artisanal fisheries,
 - the collection of Alboran Sea indicators (which will need to be extended to Algeria).
- Develop the Network by using the SCESS web site to:
 - complete the data base of experts on social sciences,
 - complete the data and links on social sciences studies,

- complete tables on sources and accessibility of socio-economic data in the member states.
- Organise two meetings of the working group on the follow-up and analysis of indicators (see 6.d above). The first meeting could be held in November 00 in Termoli, Italy. The second one could be organised by March 01, location to be determined in due course.
- Organise a workshop on regulation issues and co-management. It is proposed that it be held in Rome, May 01.
- Stimulate the participation of the SCESS network to the training course on bio-economic modelling supported by CIHEAM and COPEMED (Fuengirola, Spain, Sept. 00).

9. Other matters

Regional projects such as COPEMED and ADRIAMED are seen as bringing a most helpful vehicle to the working of the SCESS. The latter expresses its wish that they will carry on contributing and intensifying support to the activities of the SCESS.

The SCESS invites all CGFM member countries to nominate focal points for participating to meetings and activities.

10. Adoption of the report

The report, as drafted herewith, is adopted on 28 Apr. 00.

Annex A. List of Participants**Bonzon, Alain**

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Annex B. Sources and accessibility of socio-economic data in GFCM state members

The information enclosed below should be given by fleet type (Bottom trawlers, pelagic trawlers, purse seiners, long liners, artisanal fishing boats, etc.).

Items	Accessibility	Sources	Level of desegregation
1. fleet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number • Gross Tonnage • Horse Power • Length • Age 			
2. Exploitation strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time at sea (days/year, hours/day) • Nb. of fishing operation/day • Duration of one fishing operation 			
3. Employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct employment (crews on board) • Indirect employment (shipbuilding, ship maintenance, shipchangers, etc.) 			
4. Investment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vessel value ex novo (included equipment and gears) • Investment grants 			
5. Income data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landings weight • Landings value 			
6. Fixed costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurance • Tax • Financial charges • Other fixed costs 			
7. Salary share (%)			
8. Variable costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily cost of gasoline • Ice and Food • Maintenance and repairing (included spare parts) • Taxes and port charges • Other variable costs 			

Sources : Public or private sources, census or sampling, etc.

Level of desegregation : Regional or national level, by fishing vessel, by fleet, etc.)

Annex C. Socioeconomic indicators: data input list1. Country level

Import (weigh and value)

Export (weigh and value)

Interest rate

2. Country and regional level

Population

Active population

Gross National Product

Aquaculture production (weigh and value)

Landings (weigh and value)

Total fishing employment

Fleet data: number by Local Operational Units

3. Local Operational Units (samples)

Vessel data: GT, HP

Employment

Salary share

Landings (weigh and value)

Vessel value

Time at sea (hours by exit, number of exits at year)

Cost by exit

Yearly fixed cost