

Meeting Report
GFCM-SAC, Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information (SCSI)
Malaga, Spain, 10-12 May 2004

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1 Opening of the meeting

The coordinator of the SCSI, Mr. Matthew Camilleri, opened the meeting, welcoming all participants, with a special welcome to the participants from the Eastern Mediterranean countries which are covered by TCP/INT/2904 (Cyprus, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey). He stressed that participants to the meeting are not participating as representatives of their countries, but are participating as national experts.

2 Election of rapporteur

The meeting elected Mr. Felix Marttin (FAO-MedFisis project) as rapporteur.

3 Review of the recommendations from previous SCSI meeting

Going over the agenda, the coordinator reviewed the recommendations from the previous SCSI meeting. The agenda was discussed and one point was added, to be discussed under agenda item 11. Any other matters: the SCSI mailing list.

A time schedule was discussed and agreed upon. After this, the agenda was adopted.

4 Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries (Strategy-STF) as overall framework

The Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries (Strategy -STF) was briefly presented by the FAO-FIDI representatives. Collaboration with Regional Bodies, such as GFCM, is sought for the implementation of the two major components (i.e. "Development of inventories, methodologies, and operational guidelines" and "Field training and implementation") of the Strategy – STF while Regional Bodies can benefit from the methodologies and standards developed at the global level in the framework of the Strategy. The present status and future developments of the "Global inventory of fish stocks and fisheries" and of the FIGIS-FIRMS partnership were also presented. Collaboration between FIGIS and the SAC sub-committee on stock assessment has already started. Contacts will be established with GFCM sub-regional projects ADRIAMED and COPEMED for possible collaboration on Fisheries inventory, taking advantage of the work in progress on Operational Units (OU).

5 Fleet and catch statistics

The SCSI recalled that in the process of merging various sets of data bases, care should be taken to ensure quality control according to established procedures.

5.1 Updates on the MedStat programme in the Adriamed and Copemed areas

Adriamed

Slovenia

Slovenia has adopted the EU legislation, and carried out Fishing Vessel register according to EC Directive 26/2004. At this moment the logbook is in preparation. In the area of Slovenia the following fleet categories are present:

- Pelagic trawl
- Purse seine
- Bottom trawl
- Gill net/Trammel net

Copemed

Tunisia

Tunisia aims to improve its statistical data collection and analysis for fisheries in general and artisanal fisheries in particular. The general fisheries census (fleet and marine environment) started in 2003, enabling a better understanding of the specificities of the fishery sector whilst establishing a database which covers all aspects related to fishery activities.

Technical assistance from the World Bank and COPEMED to assist this improvement of the project will be received in 2004 to develop an adequate system for collecting and analyzing statistical data on artisanal fisheries based on fishing gears. The capacity building of staff of the Directorate General des Peche will also take place in order to ensure the viability and sustainability of the data collection system.

Libya

Libya is revising all fishery survey programmes under one control unit, which will be called the Statistical and Information Unit. This unit will be established at the same time as the regional MedStat programme is implemented in Libya.

Some of the tools which will be needed for the Statistical and Information Unit have been obtained through the Marine Biology Research Centre (MBRC) and FAO-COPEMED. The interface of the LibyaStat software is currently being translated into Arabic with the assistance from COPEMED which is also assisting in the development of a GIS unit.

The Statistical and Information Unit will deal with:

- Frame survey, which started in 1993, and was updated in 2000 and 2003
- Catch assessment surveys. This started two years ago, and is depending on data generated from the frame surveys.
- Socio-economic indicators. In the starting stage.

- Gear technology. In starting stage.
- Tuna study. Started in 1999, and is a data collecting programme from ports. The programme is a seasonal programme.
- Biological studies
- License and registration office

Expected outputs from the Statistical programme:

- Data collected on scientific principles for the decision makers
- Computerized statistical records
- Work reports
- Monitoring system of fishery activities
- Statistical publications
- Portal to international and regional bodies (COPEMED, MedSudMed, GFCM, MedStat)

Morocco

Morocco has an official statistical system which has been established for many years. The ONP (Office National des Pêches) is the organisation charged with the collection of statistical data. Since 2002, with the technical assistance of staff from the COPEMED project and FAO, a pilot study was undertaken on the Mediterranean coast of Morocco with the goal to carry out a regular estimation of catch and effort. Other information, previously not available through the official system, are now available.

Until now, this pilot study has focussed in particular on the methodology to be adopted. In the future, the INRH (Institute of Geo research) will apply this system to the whole Moroccan coast.

Malta

The official national Catch and Effort Assessment Survey was launched in 2003, following a one-year pilot study carried out by the Malta Centre for Fisheries Sciences (MCFS) with the assistance of the FAO fisheries department and COPEMED.

This survey covers all fishing vessels measuring less than 10m in length (92% of the Maltese registered fleet), with the aim to provide national monthly catch and effort estimates by fleet typology, gear used and species for this fleet segment.

Catch and effort estimates were obtained on the basis of a sampling scheme carried out in six representative sampling ports containing almost 48% of the registered vessels under 10m.

The following statistical results were presented:

- The percentage of samples taken by gear
- The operational registered fishing vessels
- The estimated annual landings by gear

- The average daily landings per port by gear
- The percentage and weight of major species landed by gear
- The catch per unit effort (CPUE)
- The operational statistics by gear, i.e. average gear specifications and average fishing time
- The spatial distribution of fishing effort, in graphical format

A paper entitled '*Overview of the Maltese catch and Effort Assessment Survey 2003*' containing these results was also circulated.

5.2 Statistics and information systems in the Eastern Mediterranean – the implementation of Medfisis

The MedFisis project was introduced. MedFisis is focusing during the first year, through the TCP project TCP/INT/2904, 'Enabling Participation in the Fishery Statistics and Information System in the Mediterranean', on five Eastern Mediterranean countries, being Cyprus, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey.

The project started with a coordination meeting in Beirut, January 2004, where high level national representatives and international and regional experts were participating. The result of this meeting was a working strategy, which set out the way the project is envisaged to be implemented.

Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt received missions, to assist these countries in assessing the national fishery statistics system and to discuss their fishing vessel census. Following these visits, Lebanon and Syria received a training for supervisors on fishing vessel census design, and conducting a fishing vessel census, and national fishing vessel census software was developed according to the national and regional needs. The Egyptian software is under development.

The five countries are participating with experts in the SCSI meeting through the assistance of the MedFisis project.

During a discussion following the introduction of the MedFisis project, some participants noted that participating countries have problems with the unavailability of an Arabic interface of the software. This problem is currently being addressed with the assistance of the Egyptian expert, who will investigate if the development of an Arabic interface is possible, and if possible develop the Arabic interface.

The Turkish expert mentioned developments in Turkey in respect to the MedFisis project: A national workshop has been organized, where a practical national goal for participation in the MedFisis project was formulated. The MedFisis project will assist in regionalizing national data.

Cyprus

Since last year (2003), there are no substantial changes for the statistics system of Cyprus. The fleet segmentation remains the same, with minor changes in the numbers of vessels. The fleet register has already been submitted to the European Union (EU). So, Cyprus has the trawl fishery, the inshore fishery, the multipurpose fishery, and the sport fishery. The fisheries statistical system with regards to data collection, data processing, and the dissemination of data have not changed at the

moment. Cyprus' participated in the MedFisis project since last year with the goal to make the system of collection and processing of data more efficient. Cyprus believes that this will help fulfil its obligations to the European. One of the most difficult tasks is the collection of fisheries data in 2005 under the EC regulation 1639/2001. For this purpose the national programme will be submitted to DG fish at the end of May and the programme will start next year.

Lebanon

Last fisheries census was in 1963. 20 years of civil war destroyed official fisheries infrastructure. Country needs interventions at all levels due to lack of experience and resources. Medfisis TCP initiated training for local agriculturists and is in the process of finalizing the questionnaire and software to be used in the fishing census. Field work will launch in June 2004.

Syria

Current Activities dealing with fisheries statistics:

- Eight field recorders were trained by the project, and these officers received a consolidating training together with 10 other trainees from the Fisheries department
- Major/minor fishing harbours identified,
- Fruitful discussions with harbours' authority held.
- Setting up watching points on major fishing harbours,
- Supplying them with working facilities,
- Procuring at least two computers for the two main centers: Lataqia & Tartous,
- Assigning qualified personnel,
- Consolidating the system
- Securing enough information mainly needed for the management of the resources and development planning
- Assessing fishing pressure on fish groups/species, for eventual protection actions
- Evaluating the economic value of the sector in relation to the national economy
- Making cost/benefit analyses needed for either expansion supporting or limiting
- Pinpointing critical issues/gaps that is supposed to be tackled/filled in the sector
- Assessing the national capacity of exploiting national marine resources; territorial sea and exclusive economic zone, for eventual recruitment or licensing of foreign fleets.
- Exchange of information,

- Harmonizing of Marine resources' Management,
- Rationalization of fishing activities in the Mediterranean,
- Maintaining 'Biodiversity and Eco-diversity,
- Achieving a sustainable fishery

5.3 Operational Units pilot studies – Copemed and Adriamed areas

Operational Units and co-management in the Mediterranean Sea: possible COPEMED pilot project on small pelagic fisheries in the Alboran Sea.

An effort control regime based on the concept of operational units has not been applied in GFCM region to date. The reason for this situation was attributed to the mismanagement of available data and information at country and regional level.

A number of data models were considered in order to draw up a data collection structure to serve the management of fisheries by Operational Unit (OU).

The OU Expert Working Group held in Madrid (Dec.'03) proposed the terms of reference for a pilot study on OU of small pelagic fisheries in the Alboran Sea, some of them including components which link this OU study to a broader study on the co-management of fisheries.

Long-term and immediate objectives for this study were presented, as well as the inputs needed to achieve those objectives. Some ideas on the activities to be developed and the expected results were also given in the paper.

The feasibility for pilot project is dependent on the acceptance of its implementation by the concerned Fisheries Administrations of the concerned countries (Spain, Morocco and Algeria) that had already indicated their interest on it during the first dialogue COPEMED Forum among the fishing system actors, Administration-Fishing Industry-Research

Adriatic presentation

Mr. Fabio Massa, the Director of the ADRIAMED and Mr. Paolo Accadia introduced and presented the results of the Working Group on Operational Units (OUs) in the Adriatic Sea (May 2004, Durrës Albania). Experts and Representative of the fisheries directorates from Albania, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia attended the WG and the meeting focused on the following three issues:

- The discussion and the application of the Operational Unit concept in the Adriatic Sea (GSA 17 and the GSA18);
- The most appropriate and practical application of the standard Operational Unit forms adopted by the SAC; and
- The further development of AdriaMed activities in the framework of the OU.

In order to homogenise data aggregation to the basic parameters (fleet segmentation and area; main resource components and effort information; economic structure) required for the identification of the OUs in GSA 17 and GSA 18.

The Durres WG discussed and agreed on the aggregation system. In the short-term, the WG agreed to compile OU tables based on the best information available from national and AdriaMed programmes. The main objective of the tables prepared by the participants was to obtain a first regional picture of the Operational Unit in the Adriatic Sea and ascertain the data availability. Furthermore, this will allow for identifying the basic information that are missing or insufficient and would signal which data are required and the necessary programmes to fill this data gap.

The available tables satisfy the Operational Units economic structure data needs expressed by the SCESS, the effort data needs expressed by the SCIS, and the information needs on target and by-catch species in the biologic table Main Resource components expressed by the SCSA.

Joint discussions with other sub-committees

Discussions on the COPEMED and Adriamed pilot studies were held jointly with the Sub-Committee on Economics and Social Sciences and the Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment. There was general agreement that these pilot studies would help determine the procedure for the identification of Operational Units and would also evaluate the feasibility of managing fisheries through an effort control regime on categories of vessels.

5.4 Issues related to standardization of measurement of fishing effort

SCSI approach to fishing effort standardisation

The SCSI agreed that different measurements of units of fishing effort exist for different Operational Units (OU).

Taking into account the diversity of the methods used to measure the fishing effort, the diversity of the practices for fishing activities and the strategies defined by the different regional or national programs, the fishing effort descriptive data should be presented according a normalisation allowing several precision levels.

The fishing effort measures normalisation implies the management of the reference criteria, identifying a list of appropriate measurement units by type of OU (or by type of gear, type of fleet). These parameters can qualify a potential effort, a nominal effort or an effective fishing effort.

The fishing effort standardisation also implies an analytical approach, which must be tackled by OU on a yearly basis.

The data collection of the fishing effort should take into account several needs:

1. descriptive process : for example, for a set of OUs, characterise the effective effort level against a maximum potential effort level.
2. analytic process:
 - for example, contribute to the translation of SCSA recommendations to modify fishing mortality into fishing effort term,
 - for example, explore the effects of different fishing effort regulation scenarios according to different criteria (economical, environmental, other target species).

Taking into account the above mentioned points, the SCSI recommends the establishment of a small expert working group, and to carry out a pilot study to investigate the feasibility of effort standardization by Operational Unit.

6 Ongoing statistical programmes and associated problems (e.g. discrepancies)

6.1 Eurostat

Eurostat was introduced to the meeting. It was explained that Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Commission, responsible for statistics of the European Union.

- Catch statistics

The data collection on catches for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea is made according to the Commission Regulation 1638/2001 (which is based on FAO STATLANT 37A). The data are collected annually and there is no change foreseen in the near future. Eurostat does not produce any statistics on fishing effort.

- Fleet statistics

As in previous years, Eurostat is compiling statistical tables based on the fleet register maintained by the DG FISH (Directorate General For Fisheries). A recent Commission Regulation provides for a relaxation on the confidentiality of these data.

- Landing statistics

Eurostat is currently working on the possibility to collect data by vessel flag. This has to be done through a change in the EU legislation (Council Regulation 2104/93). Furthermore soon an agreement on the above Regulation will be reached in order to allow a wider use of sampling to collect data (Italy case). This will be done through a 'written procedure' at the Commission level after having reached an agreement at the Standing Committee for Agriculture Statistics.

Socio-Economic statistics

DG FISH and Eurostat are working on a possibility to make available through FIGIS/FIRMS the data that should be collected according to the Commission Regulation 1639/2001 (Community framework for the collection and management of the data needed to conduct the Common Fishery Policy).

6.2 EFARO

EFARO is a forum formed by directors of scientific marine institutes from EC (website :).EFARO's recommendations (Barcelona, 2002):

- enforce collaboration between European countries of Mediterranean,
- facilitate access on information from the Data Collection on fishery program to the GFCM

Data collection is a sampling programme coordinated by DG-Fish for all the EC countries. EFARO entrusted Ifremer to elaborate a proposal with the formal agreement of Greek and Italian Ministries. A project named CoFiMed was proposed in the ERA-NET program:

- coordination between institutes and states for scientific strategies and fisheries management (philosophy of ERA-NET),
- application of Data Collection program to progress into analysis : how to share information between EU and the GFCM and how to design an operative tool.

The March 2004 proposal was an SSA (Specific Support Action, 1 year to prepare partners relationship, specification , planning, budget) to define a final proposal for a multi-annual project. The Coordination of Fisheries in the Mediterranean (CoFiMed) proposal was not accepted in this call proposal. The project can be re-proposed to another scheme.

6.3 GFCM STATLANT 37A

FAO-FIDI collects and disseminates annual capture data by GFCM statistical sub-areas and divisions on behalf of the GFCM and pending the entrance into force of its autonomous budget. The data are collected through the STATLANT 37A questionnaire and disseminated as a dataset that can be consulted with the FISHSTAT+ software. The database presently covers the 1970-2002 period. For the latest statistical inquiries, all the Mediterranean countries provided annual catch data with the only exception of Libya, but there are hopes that also this country will soon resume reporting data on national fishery production.

The analysis by group of species of 2002 catches in comparison with those of 1993 showed that all major group of fishes have significantly reduced and that the total Mediterranean and Black Sea catches have remained stable only for the counterbalancing 30 percent increase of clupeoid catches, a group of species which has lower market value and trophic level respect to the other fish groups. Three quarters of the catch statistics reported for the latest years are at the species level and a considerable improvement was noted in recent years in the reported breakdown of shark species, as a result of a series of initiatives which followed the growing awareness on the needs of better elasmobranch data.

6.4 Other related FIDI-executed programmes

Other FAO-FIDI executed programmes were briefly recalled: a) other fishery statistical databases which include also data for Mediterranean countries; b) the provision of a Secretariat to the Coordinating Working Party on Fisheries Statistics (CWP); c) the recent availability of ARTFISH as a package downloadable from the web and its underway translation into Arabic.

7 Biological survey databases and information systems

7.1 *MedSudMed database and information system*

The creation of Regional Database and the establishment of a Fishery and Ecosystem Information System (called FEIS) is one of the main tasks of the MedSudMed Project. The FEIS is designed to be a system allowing the organization and standardization of the data collected in the MedSudMed Project area. The aim of this system is to create an application for the management, analysis and representation of data relative to fishery resources, their environment and their monitoring. The key information concerns biological aspects of the resources, environmental parameters, fishery statistics and accessory data. The primary motivation is to standardize, aggregate and analyze the data, and give further possibility of exporting them on a Geographic Information System (GIS). The users and beneficiaries are the partner countries of MedSudMed, as well as the scientific bodies of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and FAO. The system structure is constituted by:

- **Corporate Database**, which should contain all agreed data coming from both the participating Institutes and public sources.
- **Applications** including several modules,
 - Data Entry Module assisting the user in the input of data into the corporate Database.
 - Data Management Module for the management of the database structure and the content of the reference tables (list of species, gears, countries, etc.).
 - Data Analysis Module for the data queries, analysis and data export.
- **Web Interface**: allowing the visibility and accessibility on the web of agreed information contained in the system.

At present, the Corporate Database and the applications of the data entry are being developed. The database includes several modules corresponding to different types of data/sampling surveys. The modules related to trawl surveys, echo-surveys and ichthyoplankton surveys are under finalization. Further developments include modules on environmental, benthos, catch and effort data.

7.2 *Medits databases, quality control and recommendations for regional standards on aggregated/elaborated datasets useful for fisheries management*

A document on the Medits programme was prepared by Jacques Bertrand (Ifremer, France) specifically for this meeting in order to strengthen the link between Medits and the GFCM especially in relation to the use of aggregated data for fisheries management in the Mediterranean.

The International bottom trawl survey programme in the Mediterranean (Medits) has been initiated in 1993 from a European Commission's initiative. The project was motivated by the lack of comprehensive biological studies concerning the biological status of most of the demersal fish stocks in the Mediterranean, and the wish to promote such studies to allow the formulation of scientifically-based proposals for improved conservation of the stocks. The programme comprises one survey every

year during the spring-summer period; the first survey has been carried out in 1994. Each yearly survey covers almost all the shelves and upper slopes of the Northern Mediterranean from the Strait of Gibraltar to the Aegean Sea with a network of about 1100 hauls carried out in parallel by about twenty operative units.

At the beginning, the surveys were managed through successive contracts for one or two years between the European Commission and the scientific bodies in charge of the surveys. Since 2002, the Medits surveys managed by the European countries are conducted through the European regulation related to the collection of data in the fisheries sector.

The paper described the elements of the Medits instruction handbook, checking and analysis of data, controls of the sampling gear parameters, taxonomic references, and the deposit of data. It also stated that efforts made since the beginning of the programme to produce outstanding data from the Medits survey have resulted in standardized sets of data giving biological information on the demersal communities at a level never obtained before in the area. However, Jacques Bertrand emphasized that improvements related to Medits data management and spreading of information should be sought in different ways. Moreover, the improvement in the survey methodology, quality control and the generation of aggregated data have recently been identified as immediate priority topics of the Medits working group. The paper concluded that “it would be of common interest to maintain strong links between the Medits surveys and GFCM, by integrating the recommendations coming from this organization, by contributing to its tasks, and to favour the extension of the survey programme to other countries in the Mediterranean”.

7.3 Other national/sub-regional databases related to biological data and information

COPEMED Tuna database

The data base administrated by the COPEMED program focussing the fisheries targeting large pelagic species has been presented. Malta, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco and Spain have been participating to this program which was launched in 1998. This database includes catch and effort data (logbooks and observers), biological data and a fleet register. A more detailed description is available on COPEMED WEB site. This database fulfils the ICCAT requirements in terms of data collection, and the reinforcement of the contribution of to the ICCAT activities is one of the main outputs of this program. It could also contribute to the identification of the Operational Units targeting large pelagic species in the sub-region.

Other information systems

The committee was informed of the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), the information component of the Census of Marine Life. This system is structured as a network of regional nodes sharing georeferenced information. The system includes already georeferenced occurrences of species.

The Syrian expert commented on the Mediterranean OBIS node expressing his appreciation of OBIS as an exceptional database that takes into consideration environmental and geographical criteria. He expressed his disappointment of the fact that no non EU countries bordering the Mediterranean are included in this initiative. The SCSI agreed with the notion that it cannot endorse an initiative that only deals with part of the GFCM area.

COPEMED Resources 2004

The COPEMED computerised application for the management and spatial analysis of the information collected by experimental fishery surveys has been presented. This application has been developed in collaboration with two scientific institutes of Morocco and Tunisia. The development of import-export facilities from (and to) the MEDITS standard exchange format is envisaged for 2004.

8 Updates on the GFCM Information System and development of the GFCM web site and links to programmes and projects

The COPEMED representative reported on the results achieved during the SAC 2003-2004 inter-session as support to the improvement of the GFCM web site and related electronic library. Officers from the FAO Fisheries department share responsibilities and participate to this component of the GFCM information system: The GFCM secretariat, SAC and CAQ back-stopping officers, FIDI officers are responsible for publication of GFCM documents and WEB site management. FAO applications for the management and WEB publication of electronic documents and meeting announcements have been configured in order to fit the GFCM needs. The COPEMED representative informed the subcommittee that there are no resources available to continue the support of the quality control of the web site.

After discussion the subcommittee recommended that existing projects and sub committees of the GFCM area will try contribute to this effort through the provision of documents and other information to the FAO-FIDI staff responsible (Information clerk, Publication Assistant) who will ensure processing of these documents for the web.

Taking note of the presentation and the following discussion, recalling the recommendations of the previous session of the SCSI¹, and in view of the fact that a

¹ It was agreed that existing databases and information systems, particularly those of FAO-FIDI and GFCM regional support projects, should form the basis of those of the GFCM which would be posted on its website. It was suggested that the three FAO fishery services, FIRM, FIDI and FIPL, would coordinate the development of a prototype of the GFCM website through funds (about \$15,000 are needed) which may be granted by the GFCM secretariat upon a formal request by SAC. The participants also agreed that the maintenance of this website would be the responsibility of focal points identified within each of the four sub-committees under the coordination of the Coordinator of the SCSI. It was suggested that the SIPAM aquaculture network website may be used as an example and basis for the GFCM website, whilst focussing on an inventory of databases as an initial component of this website.

web site is a first entry point for stakeholders and other interested parties to access GFCM documents, the meeting recommends that resources are allocated to this purpose.

9 Results achieved during the inter-sessional period by the SCSI

- Operational Units: Substantial work related to the two pilot studies in Alboran and Adriatic Sea was carried out
- National statistical systems continued to develop within the framework of MedStat (supported by Copemed and Adriamed), and progress has also started to be recorded in the Eastern Mediterranean through the MedFisis project.
- The GFCM web-site has been enhanced
- Little work on the issue of standardisation of fishing effort on a regional scale was carried out

10 Recommendations to the SAC

- In the light of the progress made so far on the issue of Operational Units within the framework of the pilot studies in the Alboran Sea and Adriatic Sea, the SCSI recommends the continuation of these studies.
- The SCSI recommends the establishment of a small expert working group to carry out a pilot study to investigate the feasibility of effort standardization by Operational Unit. The SCSI also recommends the nomination of Dr Isaam Krouma as the coordinator of this working group.
- The SCSI recommends that, as a temporary measure, existing projects and sub-committees of the SAC-GFCM should contribute to maintaining the GFCM website through the provision of documents and other information to the FAO-FIDI staff responsible (Information clerk, Publication Assistant) who will ensure processing of these documents for the web.

11 Any other matters

Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing

The Secretary of the GFCM introduce the next point on IUU (Illegal Un-reported and Un-regulated) catches. GFCM has discussed the issue of IUU catches. The GFCM decided that on this issue it would take a step-by-step approach. In this regard the GFCM will address the issue of the Black/White list of vessels. For this list it is needed that all vessels fishing in the Mediterranean Sea are registered, and that these lists of registered vessels are send to FAO according to the HSVAR (High Sea Vessels Authorisation Record) format. The SCSI coordinator remarked that countries

using the MedStat approach are able to have this format included into the software, so that this list can be generated automatically.

There will be a GFCM workshop programmed before and after the FAO technical consultation on International Plan of Action (IPOA) on IUU fishing. The workshop will be held on 23 June (review of IUU fishing the Mediterranean) and 26 June (GFCM workplan for addressing IUU fishing).

Mailing list

The SCSI coordinator recalled the recommendation of the last session of the SCSI² to invite correspondents from the national statistical offices. He informed the meeting that they had been included in the SCSI mailing list but there was limited response to his correspondence from these offices.

The Coordinator requested the participating experts to review the mailing list, and inform him of needed edits. It was suggested to send a message to all addressees requesting them to express their interest in staying on the mailing list. Also Countries are requested to review the mailing list.

12 Adoption of the report

The report was adopted on 12 May 2004

² The meeting agreed that the national statistical offices shall be invited to attend the SCSI meetings and be involved in the intersessional work also to try to solve the issue of discrepancies between the national official statistics and those prepared by research institutions whenever it is the case.

Annex I: Draft Agenda

Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information

Malaga, Spain, 10-12 May, 2004

Draft Agenda Items

1. Opening of meeting
2. Election of rapporteur
3. Review of recommendations from previous SCSI meeting
4. Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries (Strategy-STF) as overall framework
 - 4.1. Implementation in the Mediterranean (inventory of data collection methodologies; new data collection methodologies; inventory of fisheries and relationship to operational units)
 - 4.2. FIGIS/FIRMS as a tool to support implementation
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 - 7.3. Other national / sub-regional databases related to biological data and information and possibility of a Mediterranean OBIS node
8. Updates on the GFCM Information System and development of GFCM web site and links to programmes and projects

9. Results achieved during the intersessional period by the SCSJ

10. Recommendations to SAC

11. Any other matters

12. Adoption of the report

Annex II: Participants list

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