

**GENERAL
FISHERIES
COMMISSION
FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN**

29



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

Rome, 21–25 February 2005

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document is the final version of the report adopted in Rome by the twenty-ninth session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) on 25 February 2005.

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ABSTRACT

The twenty-ninth session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) was attended by delegates from all (twenty-four) Members of the Commission. The Commission decided that the new headquarters of GFCM will be in Palazzo Blumenstihl, Rome, Italy. The Commission agreed that Members would exceptionally participate in the ballots for the selection of the Executive Secretary, provided that they contribute their share to the GFCM autonomous budget prior to the end of 2005. Through interviews and secret ballots, the Commission selected its Executive Secretary. It also agreed on the mandate and on the procedure for the selection of the Deputy Executive Secretary. The Commission established formally the Coordinating Meeting of the Sub-Committees (CMSC) as a subsidiary body of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), as well as a Permanent Working Group on Stock Assessment Methodologies. It favoured the strengthening of the mandate of the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagics and decided to re-establish the Network on Environment and Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (EAM) in support to the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ). The Commission decided to review selected provisions of its Rules of Procedure at the next Plenary session. The Commission adopted binding Recommendations GFCM/2005/1 and GFCM/2005/2, respectively on “The management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and deepwater species”, and on “The establishment of a record of fishing vessels over 15 metres authorized to operate in the GFCM area” as well as six ICCAT Recommendations and “General Guidelines for a GFCM Control Scheme”. The Commission also urged members to develop and adopt National Plans of Action on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU) and invited the MedFisis regional project to give priority to establishing the GFCM vessel register (white list).

Distribution:

Participants in the Session
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OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) held its Twenty-ninth session at FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy, from 21 to 25 February 2005.

2. The Session was attended by delegates from all (24) Members of the Commission. Observers from the Russian Federation, the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), the European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD), the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the Mediterranean Association of Fisheries Organizations (MEDISAMAK), The World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) also attended. The list of delegates and observers is given in Appendix B to this report.

3. The Session was called to order by Mr Abdellatif Berraho, Chairperson of the Commission, who welcomed the participants.

4. On behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf, and of Mr Ichiro Nomura, Assistant Director-General, Fisheries Department, FAO, Mr Pulvenis de Séligny, Director of the Fishery Policy and Planning Division of the Fisheries Department, welcomed the delegates and wished them success in their endeavours. He recalled that this session would mark the launching of a new era for GFCM, in particular with the selection of the Executive Secretary and the choice of new headquarters for the Commission. He thanked the three countries (Spain, Italy and Malta) which had come forward with generous offers to host the Commission. He highlighted the increased level of activities as well as of participation in the work of the Commission, both in terms of countries and fields of knowledge and expertise, and stressed the continuing importance of the role played by the regional projects. He expressed the satisfaction of FAO for these positive developments and reiterated the commitment of the Organization to continue bringing support to the Commission. The full statement of Mr Pulvenis de Séligny is attached as Appendix D.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

5. The Commission agreed to move agenda item 10 (Issues connected with the functioning of the Commission) just after agenda item 7 (Intersessional activities 2003–2004). The delegate from France suggested that the proposals from the European Community (EC) on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU) that have been distributed as document GFCM/XXIX/2005/Dma.9, be reviewed under agenda item 9. The adopted agenda is attached as Appendix A to this report.

6. The documents which were submitted to the Commission are listed in Appendix C.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMISSION

7. The Commission considered documents GFCM/XXIX/2005/2 Rev.1 “Headquarters of the Commission” and GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf.11 “Information note on the procedures for the determination of the headquarters of the Commission and the selection of the Executive Secretary”. The Commission noted that it was required to determine the seat of the Commission under Article II, paragraph 11 of the GFCM Agreement. This provision was part of the set of amendments approved in 1997 which came into force upon approval by the FAO Council, and, therefore, all Members of the Commission would participate in the decision. The Commission further noted that, at its Extraordinary Session, held in Saint Julians, Malta, 19–23 July 2004, it had been decided that all applications by Members interested in hosting the Secretariat, including information on the basis of the criteria for the selection of the headquarters of the Commission as agreed at that time, should be submitted to FAO before 30 September 2004 and that such applications were to be circulated by FAO to the Members as soon as possible thereafter.

8. The Commission noted that FAO had received applications from Italy (for the headquarters to be based in Rome), Malta (for the headquarters to be based in Fort Saint Thomas) and Spain (for the headquarters to be based in Malaga) and that, as foreseen by the approved procedure, such applications had been circulated to all GFCM Members.

9. Each of the candidates presented their proposals for hosting the headquarters of the Commission.

10. The Commission held a secret ballot. On the basis of its result, the Commission decided, under Article II, paragraph 11 of the GFCM Agreement that the seat of the Commission was in Rome, Italy.

SELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

11. The Commission considered documents GFCM/XXIX/2005/3 “Selection of the Executive Secretary” and GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf.11 “Information note on the procedures for the determination of the headquarters of the Commission and the selection of the Executive Secretary”.

12. The Commission noted that the Executive Secretary was to be selected under the terms of Article XI, paragraph 1 of the GFCM Agreement, as amended following the entry into force of the set of amendments approved by the FAO Council at its Hundred and thirteenth Session, Rome, 4–6 November 1997, which involved new obligations for the Members of the Commission. These amendments had come into force on 29 April 2004 with respect to each Member having accepted them. The Commission noted also that, at its Extraordinary Session, it had approved a procedure for the selection of the Executive Secretary. The Commission noted further that the implementation of this procedure had led to the short-listing of six candidates.

13. The Commission conducted the interview process of the short-listed candidates.

14. The Commission then proceeded to implementing the provisions of paragraph 6 of the procedure set out in Appendix H of the report of its Extraordinary Session, as follows:

“At the end of the interview process, a first round of voting shall be held and the two candidates receiving the least number of votes shall be eliminated from the selection process. A second round of voting shall then be held between the remaining three candidates and the candidate receiving the least number of votes shall be eliminated. Should two of the candidates have an equal number of points, a separate vote shall be held between them to eliminate one candidate. A vote shall then take place between the final two candidates and he or she receiving the most votes shall be selected”.

15. The Commission examined at length the question of whether all Members of the GFCM could participate in the above voting process or only the Members having accepted the set of amendments involving new obligations which came into force on 29 April 2004. In this connection, it was recalled that, at its Extraordinary Session, the Commission had acknowledged that only Members having deposited the instruments of acceptance of the amendments involving new obligations would be able to vote on matters covered by the amendments which came into force on 29 April 2004, should a vote be required. The Commission also noted that the matter had been discussed in some detail at that session. At that time, the FAO Legal Office had indicated that, from a legal point of view, having regard to principles of international law as embodied in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, nothing would prevent the Commission from agreeing that all Members could participate in the decision. However, whether or not this approach could be taken was entirely a matter for the Commission to decide upon.

16. Following an extensive debate in the course of which a wide range of views were expressed, it was acknowledged that the Executive Secretary would be required to serve the Commission as a whole and all its Members, including those which had not yet accepted the amendments involving new obligations, and that it was desirable to allow all Members to participate in such an important decision as that of the selection of the Executive Secretary. Therefore and following a proposal by the Member States of the European Union (EU), the Commission agreed that as an exceptional measure limited to that issue only which would not, in any way, set a precedent for any future decisions, all Members could vote. The Commission emphasized that this was done on the agreement that all Members which had not yet deposited the instruments of acceptance of the amendments involving new obligations would do so prior to the end of the year and that they would be contributing to the budget for 2005, as all costs related to the post of Executive Secretary are borne by the autonomous budget. As a result of this decision, all GFCM Member States, with the exception of Israel and Lebanon, participated in the voting.

17. As to the actual voting procedure, the Commission took note of the views presented in document GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf.11 and by the Legal Office that, in the event that a candidate should obtain at the first or second ballot a majority of the votes cast, such candidate would be selected and there would be no need for further ballots. The Commission noted further the views of the Legal Office that this particular situation had not been specifically envisaged in the procedure, as approved at the Extraordinary Session, and, consequently, in accordance with Rule IX, paragraph 7 of the Rules of Procedure, it should be dealt with in accordance with the General Rules of the Organization whereby, successive ballots are taken only “*if a candidate fails on the first ballot to obtain a majority of the votes cast*” (Rule XX, paragraph 11 refers).

18. However, the Commission considered that, when adopting the provisions set out in paragraph 6 of Appendix H of the report of its Extraordinary Session, its intent was very clear that three ballots should take place anyway and, therefore, decided unanimously that such three ballots should be held irrespective of whether or not a candidate obtained the required majority in the first or second ballots.

19. The Commission held three secret ballots, at which twenty one Members participated. As a result, the Commission requested the Chairman of the GFCM to propose to the Director-General that Mr Alain Bonzon (France) be appointed as Executive Secretary of the Commission.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH AND OF THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSIONS OF GFCM

20. The Secretary of GFCM introduced this agenda item on the basis of documents GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf.4 and GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf.5. He briefly reviewed the main recommendations of the Commission as laid down in the respective reports of the Twenty-eighth Session and of the Extraordinary Session. The Secretary informed the Commission on actions taken for implementation and also emphasized the few pending issues. It was noted that all these pending issues were covered in the agenda of the Twenty-ninth Session.

21. The Commission noted with satisfaction the action taken by the Secretariat, by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and by the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) and stressed the important role played by the Regional projects in supporting the follow-up of recommendations on technical issues.

ISSUES RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AUTONOMOUS BUDGET

22. The GFCM Secretary presented this item on the basis of document GFCM/XXIX/2005/4. The status of acceptance of the amendments to the GFCM Agreement relative to the autonomous budget since the Extraordinary Session was reviewed. The Commission was informed that Japan deposited its instrument of acceptance on 30 July 2004 and that Lebanon had unofficially informed the Secretariat late 2004 that it would deposit its instruments of acceptance in the near future. The delegate from Algeria notified the Commission that his Government has deposited its instrument of acceptance with the Director-General of FAO in the course of the Twenty-ninth session.

23. Following the statement made by the Commission at its Extraordinary Session concerning the validation of the wealth and fishery production figures used in the calculation of the scale of contribution, the Secretary reported that no Member had questioned the validity of these figures.

24. The Secretariat reported on action taken by the Organization on the issues of the FAO project servicing costs (PSC) and the currency to be used by Members in relation to the autonomous budget.

25. The Commission noted with satisfaction that a PSC was established at a rate of 4.5 percent of the autonomous budget and acknowledged that contributions could be paid in convertible currency other than United States dollars, especially in Euro.

26. In this respect, it was recalled that, when adopting the Financial Regulations, at its Extraordinary Session, the Commission noted that Financial Regulation III, paragraph 5 would need to be completed through the addition of a rate for project servicing costs to be determined by the Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation (PBE), in accordance with the policy for support cost reimbursement endorsed by the Council of FAO. The Commission considered the Secretariat's proposal that the Financial Regulations refer to the FAO policy on PSC rates without mention of a specific rate, in view of a possibility of upwards or downwards changes under the FAO policy. The Commission, in line with the debates held at the Extraordinary Session, decided that the specific rate of 4.5 percent for cost reimbursement should be referred to in Rule III, paragraph 5 of the Financial Regulations.

27. In this connection, the Commission noted that should there be a need to revise the rate in conformity with the policy for support cost reimbursement as endorsed by the Council of FAO, the matter would be referred to the GFCM and would have to be addressed in conformity with Articles II, paragraph 13 and IX, paragraph 7 of the GFCM Agreement.

28. The Commission endorsed the proposed provisions of Financial Regulation V.4 regarding the currencies of assessment and of payment of the budget of the Commission and noted that these provisions were consistent with those approved by the Conference of FAO at its Thirty-second Session (Rome 29 November–9 December 2003).

29. Various Members of the Commission, especially the delegations of the EC and France, reiterated their request that Euro be the currency of assessment and the currency used by the Commission in its operation.

INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES 2003–2004

Report on the activities of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

30. Mr C. Piccinetti, Chairperson of SAC, reported on the activities of the Committee on the basis of document GFCM/XXIX/2005/5 and GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf.6. He referred to the intense work of the Committee, its Sub-Committees and Working groups during the eleven months of the 2004 intersession, as reflected through the fifteen meetings organized and the scientific and technical documents produced. He further stressed that, with the exception of the workshop on the measurement of fishing effort, all the meetings endorsed by the Commission had been convened.

31. The Commission was further informed that the Seventh session of SAC was characterized by the highest level of participation since the establishment of the Committee. In particular, it was noted that all the Black Sea Members had participated actively in the session. This was also noted, both in term of countries represented and disciplines covered, in relation with the meetings of SAC subsidiary bodies.

32. The Chairperson of SAC emphasized the recommendation made by the Committee on the need to pursue efforts for strengthening the networking and the accountability of national

institutions, especially through the SAC National Focal Points and Coordinators for each Sub-Committee. He also alluded to the implementation of the guiding principles endorsed by the Commission following the evaluation of SAC carried out in 2003. Emphasis was put on the strengthening of methodologies for implementing the ecosystem approach to fisheries and for assessing multispecies fisheries, as well as on ensuring that options be devised regarding management advice, with due consideration to socio-economic dimensions.

33. The Chairperson of SAC stressed that a large amount of information available in Member countries was not presented to the subsidiary bodies. He further informed the Commission of the main activities of the Sub-Committees, as follows.

34. The Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA) reviewed 22 stocks (14 demersals and 8 small pelagics) which included 9 species and covered 7 GFCM Geographical Sub-areas (GSAs), but only 2 shared stocks. SCSA made notable progress to define the length at first maturity for the anchovy of the Western Mediterranean and of the Adriatic. The Sub-Committee favoured the “traffic-light” approach with regard to biological reference points while acknowledging the need to further fine-tune the list of performance indicators and related criteria.

35. The Sub-Committee on Economics and Social Sciences (SCESS) proved the feasibility across the whole Mediterranean of collecting required data by fleet segmentation and, of estimating socio-economic indicators. SCESS made progress on the development of bio-economic models for fisheries management. Fisheries market analysis was launched. SCESS emphasized the need to strengthen collaboration with the Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information as well as with the CAQ Socio-economic and Legal Aspects of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SELAM Network).

36. The Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystem (SCMEE) expressed concern on the development of fishing activities at depths greater than 1 000 metres; it also acknowledged the difficulties to implement the ecosystem approach to fisheries. SCMEE noted the lack of contributions from Members to ensure significant progress in studying the impact of surface and bottom longline fisheries on non commercial species, birds and turtles. SCMEE also stressed the need to strengthen activities on the impact of large scale driftnets fisheries on biodiversity and on threatened or endangered species.

37. The Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information (SCSI) further expanded the coverage of MEDSTAT programme, especially in the Eastern Mediterranean through the MedFisis project. It noted the priority need for making progress on the standardization of fishing effort by Operational Unit, following the positive outputs of the case studies carried out in the Adriatic and in Central and Western Mediterranean. The satisfactory developments of biological survey databases and information systems with support from concerned regional projects were also recorded.

38. The Chairperson of SAC referred to the statements made by the Committee on the need to clarify and expand the mandate of the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Species, especially to endow it with multidisciplinary capacity for analysing fisheries management data. He also mentioned the wish expressed by SAC, in view of current

workload and priorities, to suspend activities for the time being from the Joint EIFAC/GFCM¹ Working Party on the Management of Sturgeon.

39. In the discussions which followed, the Commission expressed great appreciation for the work carried out by SAC, both in terms of quantity and quality of outputs. The apparent trend toward increased participation in the work of the Committee was noted with satisfaction and the support provided by the regional projects in this respect was, once more, acknowledged. Several delegations however stressed the need to further precise priorities to alleviate the workload of the Committee and ensure more focused results, especially for the SCMEE. It was suggested that strengthening the cooperation and coordination with environment entities, such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (Mediterranean Action Plan [MAP], the Regional Activity Centre/Specially Protected Areas [RAC] and the SAP/BIO project), ACCOBAMS, IUCN and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) would facilitate the work of the Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems

40. The Commission further reiterated the need for Members to provide all required data and information, and to ensure a full coverage of all GFCM GSAs. It also stressed the need to translate scientific work into a format that would facilitate decisions by managers, including through providing options on how to implement management advice.

41. The Commission noted that suggestions concerning the strengthening of the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working group on Large Pelagic Species will be discussed under agenda item 8.

42. The Commission endorsed the substitution of Mr P. Oliver with Ms C. Karlou-Riga as Coordinator of the SCSA.

Report on the activities of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ)

43. In the absence of the Chairperson of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ), the GFCM Chair invited the CAQ Technical Secretary to present the main activities carried out during the intersessional period by the Committee and the Networks.

44. The main activities carried out under the framework of CAQ, as summarized in document GFCM/XXIX/2005/5, included the organization of an ad hoc Expert Meeting on the External Evaluation of CAQ and its Networks; the organization of the second Joint ad hoc GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Sustainable Bluefin Tuna Farming in the Mediterranean; the preparation of the revised regional aquaculture project proposal; data collection and processing as well as an ad hoc Coordinating Meeting, by the network on Information Systems for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM); and organization of selected activities by the network on Technology of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (TECAM), coordinated by CIHEAM through the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (IAMZ) in collaboration with local organizations and support of the FAO Fisheries Department; and convening of a special SIPAM Coordinating meeting.

45. The Commission was reminded that the aforementioned activities had been reviewed at the Fourth Session of CAQ, held in June 2004 in Alexandria, Egypt. Regarding SIPAM, the Commission was informed that the Network, through the Regional Centre in Tunisia,

¹ EIFAC: European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission

continued to cover its main tasks which consisted principally in collating, verifying and making available through its Web site aquaculture information submitted by the participating Member countries. During this intersessional period actions had been taken to strengthen the capability of the Regional Centre in the maintenance and upgrading of the SIPAM portal and a SIPAM Web site user manual has been prepared.

46. In the discussion that followed, the importance of the appraisal on the external evaluation of CAQ and its networks was once again acknowledged, particularly as the recommendations made were endorsed by the Committee at its Fourth Session. The commitment in supporting the work of the Committee, especially SIPAM, as indicated in the autonomous budget for 2005 was confirmed. The EC delegate insisted on the particular relevance for the Community to benefit from an efficient Environment and Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (EAM) network. The Commission reiterated the need to re-establishing EAM and to have it functional timely. Following an explicit request from Croatia, the delegate from France expressed willingness to positively consider various options to give a new impetus to EAM.

47. The Commission noted that the third meeting of the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Sustainable Bluefin Tuna Farming had to be postponed and was now scheduled to be convened from 16 to 18 March 2005. In this respect, the delegate of Japan expressed concern regarding the lack of participation of experts from some Member countries and called for a broader involvement of Members engaged in, or related to, this industry.

48. The delegate from Tunisia invited those Members who have not yet done so to adhere to the SIPAM Network. He also stressed the importance for the participating SIPAM countries to review and confirm the nomination of their National Coordinators referring to the Terms of Reference (TORs) adopted at the Fourth session of CAQ. In this respect, the Commission was informed that the contribution of data by the National Coordinators had not been homogenous and that the level of efficiency was still largely dependent upon the personal commitment of each Coordinator. The Commission was invited to ensure that the Coordinators were provided with an institutional mandate and adequate means at national level to enable them to carry out their activities. It was noted that CAQ recommended integrating SIPAM in the overall GFCM information system and that the SIPAM Special ad hoc Coordinating Meeting, held in December 2004, suggested a preliminary mechanism for such development.

49. Some delegations acknowledged the commitment of CIHEAM as Coordinator of the TECAM and SELAM networks and highlighted the importance of reviewing the mandates of these Networks to ensure that, in addition to training activities, they resume with the analysis of emerging regional aquaculture issues. In this connection, the delegate of Cyprus noted that additional financial support will be required for activities of direct interest to the Commission. The delegate of Egypt, referring to the discussions held during the CAQ in relation to revising the draft regional aquaculture project, emphasized the need to develop proposals to tackle issues relevant to the needs of specific sub-regions in the Mediterranean.

Other intersessional activities

50. The GFCM Secretary informed the Commission on a number of transversal or complementary activities implemented during the intersessional period.

51. These included the AdriaMed Expert Consultation on the Interaction between Aquaculture and Capture Fisheries, organized in November 2003. It was noted that the outcome of the Consultation had been particularly well received by CAQ and SAC and that joint activities among the Committees were suggested, especially on areas such as the management of lagoons, biodiversity and environmental considerations, restocking, space competition and market.

52. The Commission also noted that the Workshop of Experts from GFCM Members on IUU Fishing in the Mediterranean had been convened as scheduled in June 2004 with support from Japan and the FAO FishCode Programme. The Workshop, among other, reviewed the status of IUU fishing and identified principles and priority activities to be implemented through a preliminary workplan. The Commission agreed to review thoroughly the Workshop results under agenda item 9.

53. The Commission was also informed of the efforts made by the Secretariat to increase liaison and strengthen cooperation with other regional organizations, including ICCAT, Conseil international pour l'exploration scientifique de la mer Méditerranée (CIEMS), ACCOBAMS, the Mediterranean Action Plan, the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development and IUCN. Reference was also made to the ongoing formulation of the UNEP/Global Environment Facility (GEF) regional project entitled Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem for which GFCM involvement has been anticipated.

ISSUES CONNECTED WITH THE FUNCTIONING OF THE COMMISSION

Strengthening selected subsidiary bodies of SAC

54. The Commission agreed to formalize the SAC Coordination Meeting of the Sub-Committee (CMSC), as a subsidiary body of the Committee. In this respect, the Commission endorsed the proposed mandate and composition of the CMSC and approved the terms of reference prepared for the Coordinators of the Sub-Committees, as reproduced in Appendix E.

55. The Commission also favoured the strengthening of the mandate of the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large pelagic. The Commission reviewed the draft term of reference attached in document GFCM/XXIX/2005/8. It requested the GFCM Chairperson to officially convey this proposal to the ICCAT for its consideration and possible endorsement, prior to adopting them formally.

Procedure for the selection of the Deputy Executive Secretary

56. The Commission considered the issue of the selection and appointment of the Deputy Executive Secretary to which the established procedures for the selection of FAO field project personnel apply. These involve the assessment of the applications by a field selection panel chaired by the Assistant Director-General, Fisheries Department, and two other senior officials of the Organization, which would make a submission to the Director-General for appointment. For the purpose of the selection of the Deputy Executive Secretary, the panel would include, among its members, the Chairpersons of the Commission, the Committee on Aquaculture and the Scientific Advisory Committee, as well as the Executive Secretary. The panel may hold interviews if deemed necessary or useful. The project selection panel will

take into particular account the supervisory role and opinion of the Executive Secretary in the process of formulation of the submission.

57. The Commission expressed the wish that consideration be given to the issue of the geographical distribution of Officers, during the process of selecting the Deputy Executive Secretary.

58. The Commission agreed on the qualifications and terms of reference for the Deputy Executive Secretary subject to adjustments which might be required to take into account relevant standards of classification of posts established by the International Civil Service Commission. These terms of reference are set out in Appendix F.

59. The Commission noted that the issuance of the Vacancy Announcement and the selection process would be carried out by FAO as soon as possible, on the understanding however that the contract will be established only upon receipt of the necessary funds in the autonomous budget of the Commission.

Review of selected provisions of the Rules of Procedures

60. The Commission endorsed the proposal put forward by the Secretariat that a comprehensive document, containing suggestions for revising the GFCM Rules of Procedure, be prepared for consideration at the next session.

MANAGEMENT OF MEDITERRANEAN FISHERIES

Review of the recommendations of the Seventh Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

61. The Chairperson of SAC presented for each of the Sub-Committees the recommendations and advice of the Seventh Session of the Committee as referred to in documents GFCM/XXIX/2005/6 and GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf.6. With reference to the work of the SCSA, he emphasized that only very limited portion of GFCM stocks and species had been assessed.

62. The Commission endorsed the advice on resource management emanating from the SCSA as well as the suggestions identified by the other Sub-Committees as provided for in the report of the Seventh session.

63. The Commission further reiterated its satisfaction for the increasing quality and quantity of work performed by the Committee and thanked the scientists accordingly. Several delegations stressed the efforts made toward formulating integrated advice which include the various dimensions of the management of concerned fisheries and urged the Committee to strengthen this trend.

64. The Commission stressed that major number of stocks and GFCM GSAs should be covered, especially shared stocks. It was acknowledged that this should be favoured by the commencement of the EastMed project.

65. The delegate from Croatia expressed concern in relation to the conclusions of SAC concerning small pelagic species in the Adriatic, especially sardines, as, according to Croatian

estimates the catch of this species might not exceed 10 percent of estimated biomass. He suggested that certain technical management measures, such as protection of spawning stocks and juveniles, and control of commercialisation of undersized specimen should be considered prior to establishing direct fishing effort-related measures. He further suggested that SAC should put more effort on harmonized stock assessment methodologies taking due account of the precautionary approach.

66. The delegate from the EC expressed great concern on the state of small pelagic stocks in the Northern and Central Adriatic and remarked that some of the results of scientific analysis promoted by the AdriaMed project would support this view. He supported the allusion from the Croatian delegation to thoroughly rely on precautionary principles and further stressed the need for common understandings of stock assessment methods. He suggested, and the Commission agreed, to establish a Permanent Working Group on Stock Assessment Methodologies including to certify the quality of methods used.

67. Following the in-depth review of the scientific advice emanating from the SAC, and on the basis of a proposal circulated and submitted by the European Community, the Commission adopted, with reference to Article V of the GFCM Agreement, Recommendation GFCM/2005/1 on the management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and deepwater species. This binding Recommendation is reproduced in Appendix G.

68. The delegate from the EC remarked that, on the basis of the scientific advice prepared by SAC, more emphasis should have been given to freezing fishing effort at current level, and that the adoption of management measures on this issue should be considered at the next session of GFCM.

69. The delegate from Morocco informed the Commission on the ongoing programme launched in his country to progressively eradicate driftnet fishing in the Mediterranean.

70. Following a suggestion by the delegate from Malta, the Commission requested the Secretariat to prepare and maintain a compendium of GFCM recommendations, either binding or not, with the view to better monitoring the implementation of GFCM decisions and measures by Members.

71. The Executive Secretary of ACCOBAMS informed the Commission on the Resolutions adopted at the last plenary session of the Parties to the Agreement, including in relation to the use of acoustic deterrent devices and the assessment and mitigation of negative impacts of fisheries activities on cetaceans. She also alluded to the modalities related to the implementation by the ACCOBAMS Parties, of the ICCAT Recommendation on the prohibition of driftnets and wished that in 2005–2006, joint projects such as on the study and attenuation of the negative impacts of incidental catches of protected species be implemented.

ICCAT Recommendations of relevance to the Mediterranean

72. On the basis of document GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf.10, the Commission reviewed the following Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by ICCAT in 2003 and 2004: [03-04], [03-10], [03-11], [03-21], [04-05], [04-06], [04-07], [04-10], and [04-12]. It noted that Recommendation [03-09] was superseded by [04-06] and therefore decided to discard its consideration.

73. The Commission adopted, with reference to Article V of the GFCM agreement, the ICCAT Recommendations which are reproduced in Appendix G to this report. With respect to the GFCM Members which are Members of ICCAT, the Commission further decided that Recommendations adopted by ICCAT in 2004 will enter into force on 15 June 2005, that is at the date of entry into force of these recommendations for the Contracting Parties of ICCAT.

IUU fishing in the Mediterranean

74. The Secretariat presented the main conclusions and recommendations of the GFCM Workshop on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Mediterranean, held in June 2004, as reproduced in the report of the Workshop (GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf.8). The proposals for an IUU component of the programme of work of the Commission as identified by the Workshop, were emphasized. These included implementing a step by step approach both at national and regional levels, taking into account considerations on cost-effectiveness and the specificities of Mediterranean fisheries.

75. The Commission commended the work of the participants at the Workshop. It considered that this was a sound basis for further follow-up, consistent with the guidance provided by GFCM at its Twenty-eighth session and with the objectives outlined in the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference for the Sustainable Development of Fisheries in the Mediterranean held in November 2003.

76. The delegate from the EC presented two out of six formal draft proposals on IUU fishing submitted by the European Community and the EU Member States that were made available to the Commission as document GFCM/XXIX/2005/Dma.9. These included: a proposal for a GFCM Recommendation for the establishment of a record of fishing vessels over 15 meters in length authorized to operate in the GFCM area and a proposal concerning general guidelines for a possible GFCM control scheme. The delegate of France remarked that these proposals were inspired from similar decisions adopted by ICCAT.

77. After reviewing the draft Recommendation on “The establishment of a record of fishing vessels over 15 metres in length authorized to operate in the GFCM Area”, the Commission adopted it, under Article V of the GFCM Agreement, as binding Recommendation GFCM/2005/2. The delegates of Algeria, Egypt and Libya expressed, however, the wish to further study the Recommendation and referred to their privilege to use the objection procedure stipulated in Article V (3) of the GFCM Agreement. Recommendation GFCM/2005/2 is enclosed as Appendix G to this report.

78. In this respect, some delegations stressed the need to maintain consistency between the GFCM and the ICCAT registers for vessels over 24 metres of length.

79. The Commission also adopted, in application of Article III (h) of the GFCM Agreement, the proposal concerning General Guidelines for a GFCM control scheme, which are attached as Appendix H to this report.

80. The Commission further urged Members to develop and adopt National Plans of Action on IUU fishing.

81. The Commission acknowledged that the four other proposals submitted by the EC, remained before Members for further analysis by competent national authorities with the

understanding that they will be examined at the next plenary session of GFCM. These proposals respectively cover the: i) Establishment of an IUU vessels list (black list); ii) Criteria for obtaining the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party; iii) Terms of reference for the creation of a GFCM Compliance Committee; and iv) Data confidentiality policy and procedures.

82. The Commission also invited the MedFisis project to give priority to establishing a vessel register (white list) under the close supervision of the Executive Secretary.

Review of the recommendations of the Fourth Session of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ)

83. The Technical Secretary of CAQ presented the major conclusions and recommendations of the Fourth Session of the Committee as provided in document GFCM/XXIX/2005/6. He recalled that many conclusions and recommendations derived from the outcome of the Meeting of experts on the External Evaluation of CAQ and its Networks. These included the identification of CAQ main weaknesses, especially the current structure (which made the activities of the Networks so far dependent upon the contributions made by FAO, CIHEAM and the Tunisian Government), the lack of clear terms of references for the Committee and its Networks and the limited input from Members participating in SIPAM.

84. It was also recalled that CAQ had endorsed a series of suggestions for each of the Networks. It was stressed that the SIPAM National Coordinators should be endowed with an institutional mandate and provided with adequate means at national level to carry out their activities. The timely recruitment of the SIPAM Information and Communication Officer was also acknowledged. It was further recommended that TECAM and SELAM provide more focus on analysis of issues of regional concern. This might require seeking additional funding to complement the limited resources provided by CIHEAM and the FAO Fisheries Department and mobilization of national aquaculture institutions. It was also recalled that the Commission recommended at its Extraordinary Session, as a matter of priority, the reestablishment of EAM.

85. It was noted that, following the review of the revised regional aquaculture project proposal, the Committee had identified the divergence of priorities throughout the region as making it difficult for a single project to be endorsed by all Members or to attract donor support. In this regard, CAQ recommended splitting priorities embodied in the project proposal, differentiating issues of regional interest from those specific to a sub-region. The Committee on Aquaculture also identified additional priority issues of regional and sub-regional interest.

86. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of CAQ.

87. In the following discussion, the Observer from CIHEAM reiterated his satisfaction to collaborate with GFCM through TECAM and SELAM. The Commission was reminded that since 1995 CIHEAM had organized a large number of training activities and ensured the publication and distribution of technical documents and reports. The collaboration with FAO was mainly through technical inputs and participation to the activities of the two Networks, noting, however, that such contribution had severely declined in recent years. In this regard, he stressed that the *modus operandi* of the Networks, including the financing of activities, would require clarification under the new functioning of GFCM. The Commission endorsed

the suggestion that the GFCM Secretariat and CIHEAM, as Coordinator of TECAM and SELAM, should review the issue and present options on how future collaboration could be adequately structured.

88. The SIPAM Regional Coordinator referred to the Extraordinary Session, at which the SIPAM Network had been allocated funds to carry out activities in 2005. He called upon the FAO Fisheries Department to possibly assist with advancing some funds, until the autonomous budget become fully operational, especially to convene the SIPAM Annual Meeting at earliest convenience. In addition, he invited the SIPAM participating Member countries to confirm the appointment of their National Coordinators or appoint new ones on the basis of the terms of references approved by the Commission.

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD 2005–2006

Programme of work of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

89. The Chairperson of SAC presented the programme of work adopted by the Seventh session of the Committee on the basis of document GFCM/XXIX/2005/7. He recalled that the activities identified followed the Reference Framework for the mandate of SAC (2003–2004) provided by the Commission at its Twenty-seventh session, and updated at its Twenty-eighth session. He pointed out that the programme for 2005 would mainly consist in finalizing, consolidating or extending most of the current activities for each of SAC subsidiary bodies.

90. With regard to the convening of a Permanent working group on methodologies applied for stock assessment, the Commission agreed that it should include the proposed “Workshop on Stock Assessment Methodology in the Black Sea”. Furthermore the Commission requested that the SCSi transversal Workshop on GFCM Statistical Framework and Databases be held back to back with the meetings of the Sub-Committees and invited these subsidiary bodies to consider reviewing progress made with the establishment of the vessel register during the transversal workshop. In addition, the Commission acknowledged the need to identify technical measures for the management of swordfish fisheries and recommended that Members favour, as a priority, the collection of all available data on the fisheries and on the biology of this species.

91. The Chair of the Committee remarked that, in view of the amount of activities planned, it would be appropriate to convene the meetings of the SAC Sub-Committees in late 2005.

92. The Commission welcomed the offer made by the delegate of Morocco to host the SCSi Workshop on measurement of fishing effort and the offer made by the delegate of Tunisia to host the SCMEE transversal Workshop on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.

93. The Commission noted that the activities proposed in document GFCM/XXIX/2005/7 reflected the needs and priorities identified by the SAC and its Sub-Committees as well as by CAQ and its Networks. The Commission endorsed these proposals and stressed however that these activities should be consistent with the forecast of expenditure adopted through the autonomous budget or, should be adequately complemented with additional financial inputs from other sources.

94. With the view to limiting expenditures from the autonomous budget, the delegate from the EC suggested that consideration be given to possibly hold some of the meetings at the new Headquarters of the Commission.

95. The Commission endorsed the proposed programme of work of SAC and its Sub-Committees and agreed on the following meetings to support it.

Meetings of the Committee	Budget	Date/ Place
Eighth Session of SAC	AB ²	October/TBD ³
Meetings of SAC Sub-Committees, including SCSA Working Groups on Demersal and on Small-pelagic species	AB	September/TBD
SCSI transversal Workshop on GFCM Statistical Framework and Data bases and on IUU white list	AB	TBD/TBD
Third Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Sustainable Bluefin Tuna Farming	FAO	16–18 March/Rome, Italy
SCSI transversal Workshop on Measurement of Fishing Effort	AB	May/Tangiers, Morocco
SCSI transversal Working Group on Operational Units	AB	TBD/TBD
SCSA Workshop on Gear Selectivity	France	9–11 February/Sète, France
SCSA Permanent Working Group on Stock Assessment Methodology, including Workshop on Black Sea assessments	TBD	TBD/TBD
SCMEE transversal Workshop on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries	TBD	TBD/Tunisia

Programme of work of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ)

96. On behalf of the Chairperson of CAQ, the Technical Secretary highlighted the main activities foreseen in the programme of work of the Committee and its Networks for 2005 and 2006 and recalled that they had been already reviewed by the Commission at its Extraordinary Session.

97. The Commission was informed of the resignation of Mr J.P Blancheton as Chairperson of the Committee.

98. The delegate of France confirmed that the first workshop on Bio-indicators for Sustainable Aquaculture will be organized as planned by IFREMER. The second meeting would then be organized and supported by Italy.

99. The Commission welcomed the confirmation of the offer made by the delegate from Croatia to host the SIPAM Annual Meeting in Split. The Commission recommended that the expert meeting for the re-establishment of the EAM Network be convened as soon as the allocated funds become available.

² AB= autonomous budget

³ TBD = To be determined.

100. The Commission noted that the TECAM advanced course on “Design and management of bivalve mollusc hatcheries” had been organized prior to its Twenty-ninth session and that some of the other courses under TECAM and SELAM to be organized by CIHEAM still required funds for their implementation.

101. The Commission confirmed its approval on the activities proposed by CAQ and endorsed the following meetings in support of the programme of work of the Committee.

Meetings of the Committee	Budget	Date/Place
First Workshop on Bio-indicators for Sustainable Aquaculture	France	2005/Montpellier, France
Second Workshop on Bio-indicators for Sustainable Aquaculture	Italy	2006/Italy
Third Joint GFCM/ICCAT ad hoc Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Farming in the Mediterranean	FAO	16–18 March 2005/Rome, Italy
Workshop on Coastal Lagoon Management and its interaction with artisanal fisheries	Italy	TBD/Italy
Expert meeting for the re-establishment of EAM	AB	2005/TBD
Fifth Session of the Committee on Aquaculture	AB/Spain	mid-2006/Madrid, Spain

SIPAM Meetings	Budget	Date/Place
SIPAM Annual Meeting	AB	June 2005/Split, Croatia
Joint SIPAM/SELAM Meeting on Market Analysis of Seabass and Seabream	AB	TBD/TBD

TECAM and SELAM Activities	Budget	Date/Place
Fourth TECAM and SELAM Networks Coordination Committee Meeting	CIHEAM	TBD/Zaragoza, Spain
TECAM advanced course on “Design and management of bivalve mollusc hatcheries”	CIHEAM/FAO	14–19 February 2005/ Zaragoza, Spain
TECAM course on "Use of Geographic Information Systems in Fisheries and Aquaculture"	CIHEAM	13–24 June 2005/Zaragoza, Spain
TECAM advanced course on “Macro and Micro Algae Aquaculture Production”	TBD	TBD/TBD
TECAM advanced course on “Methodologies for Environmental Impact Assessment of Mediterranean Aquaculture Farms”	TBD	TBD/TBD
Updating of the TECAM “Survey on Mediterranean Aquaculture Diagnostic Laboratories”	TBD	TBD/TBD

ANY OTHER MATTERS

102. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission on progress made in the preparation of the project “Regional Programme for Improvement of Fisheries Management in the Eastern Mediterranean” (EastMed). The delegate from Greece stated that his government confirmed its co-financing of EastMed and offered to host the headquarters of the project in Athens.

103. The President of MEDISAMAK thanked the Commission for the granting of an observer statute of his organization with GFCM. He ensured Members that the Association would make every effort to contribute promoting responsible fisheries in the Mediterranean through developing cooperation and partnership with the Commission. Delegations welcomed the participation of the fishing sector in GFCM activities through the Association.

104. The Commission paid special tribute to Mr Rafael Robles and Mr Salvatore Coppola, in occasion of their retirement, for their decisive contribution to the on going regional projects, in particular CopeMed and MedFisis, and expressed the hope that ways would be found in the future to secure their collaboration with GFCM and participation in its work.

105. The delegate from Italy expressed his appreciation to FAO for hiring an economist, through the FAO Visiting Scientists Programme, in relation to the suggestion made by the Commission at its Extraordinary session to consider the secondment of experts to the Secretariat. He invited FAO to make further use of such Programme to undertake trend analysis on Mediterranean capture fisheries and aquaculture as referred by SAC and CAQ.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE THIRTIETH SESSION

106. The Commission decided to hold the Thirtieth Session in January 2006. The Commission welcomed the offer made by Turkey to host the upcoming session of GFCM, subject to confirmation by the relevant national authorities. The exact date and venue will be agreed upon in due course.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

107. The report was adopted on Friday 25 February 2005.

Agenda

- 1. Opening of the Session**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Session**
- 3. Headquarters of the Commission**
- 4. Selection of the Executive Secretary**
- 5. Implementation of the recommendations of the Twenty-eighth and of the Extraordinary sessions of GFCM**
- 6. Issues related to the implementation of the autonomous budget**
 - Status of ratification of the Amendment to the GFCM Agreement
 - Status of Member contributions to the autonomous budget and related issues
- 7. Intersessional activities 2003–2004**
 - Report on the activities of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)
 - Report on the activities of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ)
 - Other intersessional activities
- 8. Issues connected with the functioning of the Commission**
 - Procedure for the appointment of the Deputy Executive Secretary
 - Selected institutional, practical and legal issues (review of the status of some subsidiary bodies and amendments to the Rules of procedure).
- 9. Management of Mediterranean fisheries**
 - Review of the recommendations of the Seventh Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee
 - Review of the recommendations of the Fourth Session of the Committee on Aquaculture
 - Review of ICCAT Recommendations of relevance to the Mediterranean
 - Review of the recommendations of the Workshop on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Mediterranean
- 10. Programme of work for the intersessional period 2005–2006**
- 11. Any other matters**
- 12. Date and place of the Thirtieth Session**
- 13. Adoption of the Report**

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APPENDIX C**List of documents**

GFCM/XXIX/2005/1	Provisional Agenda
GFCM/XXIX/2005/2	Headquarters of the Commission
GFCM/XXIX/2005/3	Selection of the Executive Secretary
GFCM/XXIX/2005/4	Issues related to the implementation of the autonomous budget
GFCM/XXIX/2005/5	Intersessional activities 2003–2004
GFCM/XXIX/2005/6	Management of Mediterranean fisheries
GFCM/XXIX/2005/7	Programme of work for the intersessional period 2005–2006
GFCM/XXIX/2005/8	Issues connected with the functioning of the Commission
GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf.1/Rev.1	Provisional List of Documents
GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf.2	Provisional List of Participants
GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf.3	Agreement for the Establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations
GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf.4	Report of the Twenty-eighth Session of GFCM (Tangiers, Morocco, 14–17 October 2003)
GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf.5	Report of the GFCM Extraordinary Session (Malta, 19–23 July 2004)
GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf.6	Report of the Seventh Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee, SAC (Rome, Italy, 19–22 October 2004)
GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf.7	Report of the Fourth Session of the Committee on Aquaculture, CAQ (Alexandria, Egypt, 7–9 June 2004)
GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf.8	Report of the Workshop on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in the Mediterranean (Rome, Italy 23–26 June 2004)
GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf.9	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights by the European Community and its member States

GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf.10	ICCAT Recommendations of relevance for the Mediterranean
GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf.11	Information note on the procedures for the determination of the headquarters of the Commission and the selection of the Executive Secretary
GFCM/XXIX/2005/Dma.1	Ecosystem effects of fishing in the Mediterranean: an analysis of the major threats of fishing gear and practices to biodiversity and marine habitats; GFCM Studies and Reviews No. 74. (English only)
GFCM/XXIX/2005/Dma.2	Comparative study on fisheries regulatory framework in the Mediterranean; GFCM Studies and Reviews No. 75. (English only)
GFCM/XXIX/2005/Dma.3	Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing: potential effect on fisheries management in the Mediterranean; GFCM Studies and Reviews No. 76. (English only).
GFCM/XXIX/2005/Dma.4	Report of the Ad Hoc Meeting of Experts on the External Evaluation of the Committee on Aquaculture and its Networks (Rome, Italy, 29–30 March 2004)
GFCM/XXIX/2005/Dma.5	Summary review of the activities of the FAO Regional projects in support to the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)
GFCM/XXIX/2005/Dma.6	Interaction between aquaculture and capture fisheries: methodological perspective. Draft GFCM Studies and Reviews No. 78. (English only)
GFCM/XXIX/2005/Dma.7	Summary review of progress achieved through the collaboration of SAC/SCSI and the FAO FIRMS/FIGIS (English only)
GFCM/XXIX/2005/Dma.8	Report of the Special SIPAM Coordinating Meeting on the Future of SIPAM – Its Role in the Framework of the New GFCM Structure, Rome, Italy 9–10 December 2004 (English only)
GFCM/XXIX/2005/Dma.9	Draft European Community Proposals on IUU Fishing in the Mediterranean

Opening statement
by
Mr Pulvenis de Séligny
Director, Policy and Planning Division
FAO Fisheries Department

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Dr Jacques Diouf and of Mr Ichiro Nomura, Assistant Director General of the Fisheries Department, I wish to welcome you at this Twenty-ninth Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

I hardly need to remind you the significance of this session. It is the first ordinary Session of the Commission to be held after the entry into force in April 2004 of the amendments to the GFCM Agreement which had been adopted in 1997. The decisions it will take will mark the launching of a new era for the Commission. These decisions are grounded in the work done by the Extraordinary Session, last July in Malta, which will be recorded as a milestone in the long history of the GFCM. It is important also to recall the significant policy orientations which were affirmed or reaffirmed by the Third Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Development of Fisheries in the Mediterranean, which was held in Venice in November 2003.

These positive developments are deeply satisfactory for FAO. The Organization attaches the utmost importance to the efficient operation of the GFCM and, for more than half of a century, has been providing directly the Secretariat of the Commission and hosted its Headquarters.

The Organization is acutely aware that the Commission, in order to integrate peacefully the interests and concerns of all its members, must operate in a unique geographical, cultural, socio-economic and political environment. That is, a semi-enclosed sea, bordered by States which are endowed with a common but variegated historical heritage and with various levels of development, but States which are all facing the same complex task of sustainably managing multispecies fisheries as well as a rapidly developing marine aquaculture.

A significant step forward taken by the Commission with a view at increasing the efficiency of its work and operation has been its decision in July 2004 to strengthen its Secretariat. The Commission has adopted a procedure for selecting its Executive Secretary. In conformity with that procedure, the Heads of Delegation will interview during this session the short-listed candidates and will proceed to select one of them to be appointed as Executive Secretary of the Commission. On the basis of what was decided during the Extraordinary Session in Malta, it is also expected that, in 2005, a fisheries management specialist will be appointed as Deputy Executive Secretary. Other posts in the Secretariat of the Commission, including a statistician and an aquaculture advisor, have also been earmarked in principle, and may be expected to be filled as soon as the budget allows for it. Success in reaching and ensuring an adequate level of staffing will definitively constitute a decisive factor in bolstering the development and expansion of GFCM programmes and activities.

Another decision of the Commission of major importance has been to provide GFCM with new headquarters of its own. We must thank the three Member States, namely Italy, Malta and Spain, which have come forward with generous offers to host the Commission. These offers will be closely and carefully reviewed during the session and a decision reached, taking into account the criteria which were adopted by the Commission during its Extraordinary Session.

Mr Chairman, distinguished Delegates,

The transition that we are witnessing should not make us forget the other positive trends in the ways the Commission has been operating. The last meetings of the Commission and of its subsidiary bodies have seen the highest level of participation and representation in many years, both in terms of countries and fields of knowledge and expertise. In particular, it is worth highlighting the increased participation of representatives from the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

During the last intersessional period, more than twenty-three meetings have been organized under the aegis of SAC, CAQ, their Sub-Committees, Working groups and Networks. Progress has been made on important issues, such as on operational units and reference points. New areas of concern have been identified such as deep sea fisheries or the implementation of the ecosystem approach. Emphasis was put on the need to renew efforts for establishing the statistical base which is needed for supporting fisheries management analysis, especially for measuring fishing efforts and fleet capacity and establishing a vessels register. An evaluation of the achievements of CAQ was done and several proposals identified to increase outputs from this Committee and its Networks, taking special account of the situation and needs of those Members which are developing countries and countries in transition.

Work has also been done to follow-up the recommendations of the Twenty eighth Session and the Venice Ministerial Declaration on IUU fishing in the Mediterranean.

As a result of these activities, a number of important and concrete proposals, suggestions, advice and recommendations, have been formulated for consideration by the Commission. Their discussion and eventual adoption will contribute to further promote an ethic of responsible fisheries in the region.

Mr Chairman,

Once more, I wish to stress the important role of the regional projects in these undertakings. In many instances, the intersessional workload would have been extremely difficult to manage without the preparatory work and strategic support provided by the regional projects, namely CopeMed, AdriaMed, MedsudMed and MedFisis. For that reason, a significant increase in activities may be expected as a consequence of the launching of the EastMed project, which is programmed to take place in the near future.

The role and contribution of the regional projects demonstrate, once again, that, within the framework of the Commission, technical and scientific cooperation at sub-regional levels, including training, is essential and helps ensuring that all Members participate effectively and efficiently in the work of the Commission and derive benefits from it.

This leads me to reiterate that those Members which support the financing of the regional projects have well earned the gratitude of FAO and of the Commission. This is true also of all Governments which have provided financial or logistical support for meetings during the intersession.

Mr Chairman,

We must recognize that, in recent years, the demands placed on regional fisheries management organizations, such as GFCM, have grown considerably and constitute an ever-increasing burden. GFCM will be facing unprecedented challenges in its efforts to promote and facilitate sustainable fisheries management and regional fisheries governance in the Mediterranean and all its sub-regions, and to ensure that Members effectively implement, enforce and comply with GFCM decisions to that effect.

Mr Chairman,

I must refrain from enumerating or even highlighting the actions and activities that the Commission is expected to consider as part of its programme of work, in order to complete the initiatives that it has already taken or as new endeavours.

I only wish to express once more that FAO, and more particularly the Fisheries Department, are committed to continue providing all the support that may be needed.

In conclusion, I would like to thank beforehand all delegations for the efforts they will make to achieve substantial progress on the various issues that must be considered by the Commission during this session. I wish you every success in this endeavour. I hope that those who have come from their home countries will have a pleasant stay in Rome.

Thank you.

APPENDIX E

**Terms of reference
of the Coordinating Meeting of the Sub-Committees (CMSC)
and of the Coordinators of the Sub-Committees**

1. Membership and *Modus operandi* of the CMSC

The CMSC will comprise the Chair and the two Vice-Chairpersons of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), the Executive Secretary and the Deputy Executive Secretary of GFCM, the Coordinators of the Sub-Committees (SCSA, SCESS, SCIS and SCMEE) and the Coordinator(s) of cross-sectoral Working Groups⁴.

In addition to the assistance of the GFCM Secretariat, the CMSC will be supported in its work by the relevant FAO technical officers, including the Coordinators/Directors of the FAO Regional projects. Pursuant to Rule X (6) of the Rules of Procedure, the procedures of the CMSC shall be governed *mutatis mutandis* by the Rule of Procedures of the Commission.

2. CMSC Mandate

- Propose and/or update elements of the Reference Framework for the mandate of SAC for the intersessional period and plan the distribution of activities among Sub-Committees;
- promote the organization of and the participation in interdisciplinary or cross-sectional working groups answering directly to SAC;
- examine the reports of the interdisciplinary or cross-sectional working groups and Sub-Committees and prepare proposals for an integrated Programme of Work of SAC;
- collate draft recommendations of subsidiary bodies and formulate, as appropriate, multidisciplinary advice on fisheries management for examination by SAC;
- function as editing committee for the selection of scientific and technical documents to be published in the GFCM *Studies and Reviews* series;
- conduct any other task specifically requested by the Commission or SAC or approved by consensus by the members of the CMSC.

3. Mandate of the Coordinators of the Sub-Committees

- Maintain an updated list of the National Focal Points and experts participating in related networks, providing full contact details, and ensure the distribution of related information;
- encourage the participation of experts in Sub-Committee activities and their scientific and technical contributions;
- organize, in close liaison with the CMSC, the activities of the Sub-Committee in such a way that issues raised by GFCM and/or SAC are addressed;
- coordinate intersessional activities, notably the organization of Sub-Committee meetings and, as appropriate, in collaboration with the facilitator, those of the Working group(s), including preparation of the annotated provisional agenda and/or terms of reference;
- supervise the drafting of meeting reports, including the presentation of attached appendixes/reference documents;
- liaise with scientific and technical bodies of other international/regional organizations dealing with topics of common interest;
- represent the Sub-Committee at meetings of the CMSC, in particular for preparing work and advice for SAC.

⁴ “Cross sectoral” or “Transversal” ad hoc Working Groups are those Working Groups reporting directly to SAC, such as the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Species.

APPENDIX F**Qualifications and terms of reference for the post of Deputy Executive Secretary/
Fishery Management Adviser****1. Benefits of the incumbent**

The Deputy Executive Secretary/Fishery Management Advisor will be graded P5 based on the United Nations salary scheme for professional and high categories. He/she will, in addition, be entitled to a variable element for post adjustment, pension, insurance, etc. The Deputy Executive Secretary is an official of FAO and is appointed under the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules of FAO.

The incumbent shall, for administrative purposes, be responsible to the Director-General of FAO and, on technical matters, shall be required to coordinate, through the Executive Secretary, his/her activities with those of the Organization carried out through the Fisheries Department. He/she will be able to draw on the technical expertise available from the Organization.

The following qualification requirements reflect, as appropriate, the United Nations Common System relevant conditions.

2. Qualification

- a) The incumbent should have university degree qualifications, preferably at post-graduate level, in fisheries biology, fisheries science or related fields. He/she should have at least ten years experience in fisheries management, policy formulation, preferably including bilateral and multilateral relations, as well as experience in the operation of regional fisheries management organizations, such as GFCM and ICCAT. He/she should have the ability to exercise a high degree of professional initiative. The incumbent should also be conversant with the preparation of documents and the organization of international meetings. He/she should have working level C of either Arabic, English, French or Spanish. Preference will be given to candidates who have working knowledge in English and French and limited knowledge of a third of these languages.
- b) Other essential qualifications include demonstrated managerial ability to supervise professional matters in subject field; and familiarity with the use word processing; spread sheets and database management systems;
- c) Desirable requirements include: a high degree of adaptability and ability to cooperate effectively with people of different nationalities and of various social and cultural backgrounds and education levels;

3. Terms of reference for the incumbent

Pursuant to Article XI, paragraph 2 of the Agreement for the Establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, the Deputy Executive Secretary shall be responsible for providing support to the activities of the Executive Secretary, as an advisor on technical matters and assisting in administrative matters, including the preparation of meetings and documents to be presented to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. He/she shall report thereon to and act through, the Executive Secretary and act as Technical Secretary for the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and its subsidiary bodies, as required.

He/she will, in particular:

- a) supervise overall technical capture fisheries activities of the Secretariat;
- b) maintain contacts with appropriate government officials, fishery institutions and international organizations concerned with the development, conservation, rational management and utilization of fisheries, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Region of the Commission, to facilitate consultation and cooperation on all matters pertaining to the objectives of the Commission;
- c) prepare and implement work programmes, prepare preliminary budget forecasts and ensure timely reporting to the Committee;
- d) assist in determining data requirements for fisheries management, undertake data processing and analysis, and promote and monitor the development of databases for fisheries assessment and monitoring and technical, biological, environmental and socio-economic research to provide a sound basis for fisheries management;
- e) supervise data outputs in appropriate formats for dissemination through electronic and printed media and of data sets for scientific analysis, and contribute to the maintenance of information on the Commission activities through Internet and printed media;
- f) stimulate interest among National Institutes from Members of the Commission and potential donors in the activities of the Scientific Advisory Committee and in possible financing or in implementing of pilot projects and complementary activities;
- g) maintain an active and effective network of SAC national focal points for routine communication of progress and results of the activities of the Committee and coordinate the Members' programmes of research, when required;
- h) participate, as appropriate, in activities of projects carried out under the general framework of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies;
- i) prepare and arrange for technical inputs, including the preparation of background documents and papers and a report on SAC activities and its programme of work, for the sessions of the Scientific Advisory Committee and its subsidiary bodies and other related Ad Hoc meetings and supervise the preparation of final reports and proceedings thereon and, arrange for their subsequent publication;
- j) contribute to the smooth functioning and reporting of the session of the Commission and assist in providing advice to GFCM Members on management options;
- k) perform other related duties as required.

GFCM recommendations on fisheries management**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/2005/1****ON THE MANAGEMENT OF CERTAIN FISHERIES EXPLOITING
DEMERSAL AND DEEPWATER SPECIES**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

RECALLING that the objectives of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and proper utilization of living marine resources;

RECALLING the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference for the Sustainable Development of the Fisheries in the Mediterranean held in November 2003 in Venice and, in particular, paragraph 4, third indent;

RECALLING that effective management measures aim to curb the decline in stocks identified in the scientific advice, and to improve the exploitation pattern in the fisheries;

RE-AFFIRMING the principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and recalling the precautionary approach to fisheries management therein and, in particular, in relation to the development of new fisheries;

CONSIDERING that in the absence of any scientific information on the status of fisheries and of the exploited resources a more cautious approach is needed and that suitable information coming from adjacent areas could be used for proper and precautionary management of fisheries;

NOTING that the selectivity of codend mesh sizes currently in use in the various demersal trawl fisheries is not suitable to ensure adequate protection for juveniles of several species, as well as to reduce discarding practices;

CONSIDERING also that in the advice for 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004 the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) considered that certain stocks are overexploited, some with a high risk of collapse, and that sustainable management requires that measures aimed at limiting the capture of juveniles are implemented;

NOTING that the stock assessment conducted by the SAC only concern specific geographical sub-areas corresponding to the data supplied by certain Members and that the assessed stocks may be shared with adjacent GFCM geographical sub-areas (GSAs);

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/2002/1 which urges the control of fishing effort and the improvement of the exploitation pattern of demersal fisheries, as well as limiting catches of juveniles of small pelagic species;

ADOPTS, in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 1 (b) and (h) of Article III and Article V of GFCM Agreement that:

DEMERSAL FISHERIES

1. The Members of GFCM shall adopt measures aimed at increasing the selectivity of demersal trawlnets, notably by immediate implementation of at least a 40 mm mesh size opening for the whole demersal trawl codend. Members are invited to explore and implement additional measures in order to improve further the selectivity.

DEEPWATER FISHERIES

2. The Members of the GFCM shall prohibit the use of towed dredges and trawlnets fisheries at depths beyond 1 000 m of depth.

GENERAL ASPECTS

3. The Members of GFCM shall notify the Executive Secretary, each year, one month prior to the Plenary Session of the Commission, with a report on the implementation of the management measures adopted.
4. The Scientific Advisory Committee shall evaluate the impact of the implementation of the management measures and shall recommend, if necessary, to the GFCM either possible adjustments or new additional measures.

RECOMMENDATION GFCM/2005/2

**CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GFCM RECORD
OF VESSELS OVER 15 METRES
AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE IN THE GFCM AREA**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

RECALLING that the objectives of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and proper utilization of living marines resources,

RECALLING GFCM Resolution 95/2 concerning the agreement to set a minimum length of 15 meters for the application of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels in the High Seas; GFCM Resolution 95/4 concerning the preparation of a list of fishing boats in operation from national ports in the Mediterranean and exchange of information on vessels; and GFCM Resolution 97/2 on activities of non-Contracting Parties, and the decision adopted by GFCM at its Twenty-seventh session to establish a fleet segmentation for vessels operating in the Mediterranean,

RECALLING that the FAO Council adopted on 23 June, 2001 an International Plan of Action (IPOA) aiming to prevent, to deter and to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, that this plan stipulates that the regional fisheries management organization should take action to strengthen and develop innovative ways, in conformity with international law, to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and in particular to establish record of vessels authorized to operate and records of vessels engaged in IUU fishing,

CONSIDERING the conclusions of the Third Ministerial Conference on the Sustainable Development of Fisheries in the Mediterranean,

ADOPTS, in accordance with paragraph 1 (h) of Article III and Article V of the GFCM Agreement that:

1. The Commission shall establish and maintain a GFCM record of fishing vessels larger than 15 metres in length overall authorized to fish in the GFCM Area. For the purpose of this Recommendation, the vessels larger than 15 metres in length overall not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship or land species covered by the Commission.
2. Each Contracting Party shall submit electronically to the GFCM Executive Secretary possibly by 1 July 2006, the list of its vessels that are authorized to operate in the GFCM Area. This list shall include the following information:
 - Name of vessel, register number
 - Previous name (if any)
 - Previous flag (if any)
 - Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
 - International radio call sign (if any)
 - Type of vessels, length and gross registered tonnage (GRT)
 - Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
 - Gear used
 - Time period authorized for fishing and/or transhipping
3. Each Contracting Party shall promptly notify, after the establishment of the initial GFCM record, the GFCM Executive Secretary of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the GFCM record at any time such changes occur.
4. The GFCM Executive Secretary shall maintain the GFCM record, and take any measure to ensure publicity of the record including through electronic means and placing it on the GFCM website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by Members.
5. The flag Contracting Party of the vessels on the record shall:
 - a) authorize their vessels to operate in the GFCM Area only if they are able to fulfill in respect of these vessels the requirements and responsibilities under the Agreement and its conservation and management measures;
 - b) take necessary measures to ensure that their vessels comply with all the relevant GFCM conservation and management measures;
 - c) take necessary measures to ensure that their vessels on the GFCM record keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorization to fish and/or transship;
 - d) ensure that their vessels on the GFCM record have no history of IUU fishing activities or that, if those vessels have such history, the new owners have provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owners and operators have no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control over those vessels, or that having taken into account all relevant facts, their vessels are not engaged in, or associated with, IUU fishing;
 - e) ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and operators of their vessels on the GFCM record are not engaged in, or associated with, fishing activities conducted by vessels not entered into the GFCM record in the GFCM Area;
 - f) take necessary measures to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners of the vessels on the GFCM record are citizens or legal entities within the flag Contracting Party so that any control or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them, and
 - g) keep consistency between the GFCM record and ICCAT record of vessels.
6. The Contracting Parties shall review their own internal actions and measures taken pursuant to paragraph 5, including punitive and sanction actions and in a manner consistent with domestic law as regards disclosure, report the results of the review to the Commission at its 2007

- meeting and annually thereafter. In consideration of the results of such review, the Commission shall, if appropriate, request the flag Contracting Party of vessels on the GFCM record to take further action to enhance compliance by those vessels to GFCM conservation and management measures.
7. The Contracting Parties shall take measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the fishing for, the retaining on board, the transshipment and landing of species in the GFCM Area by the vessels larger than 15 metres in length overall which are not entered into the GFCM record.
 8. Each Contracting Party shall notify the GFCM Executive Secretary of any factual information showing that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting vessels not on the GFCM record to be engaged in fishing for and/or transshipment in the GFCM Area.
 9.
 - a) If a vessel mentioned in paragraph 8 is flying the flag of a Contracting Party, the Executive Secretary shall request that the Contracting Party take measures necessary to prevent the vessel from fishing in the GFCM Area.
 - b) If the flag of a vessel mentioned in paragraph 8 cannot be determined or is of a non-Contracting Party, the Executive Secretary shall compile such information for future consideration by the Commission.
 10. The Commission and the Contracting Parties concerned shall communicate with each other, and make the best effort with FAO and other relevant regional fishery management bodies to develop and implement appropriate measures, where feasible, including the establishment of records of a similar nature in a timely manner so as to avoid adverse effects upon fisheries resources in other oceans. Such adverse effects might consist of excessive fishing pressure resulting from a shift of the IUU vessels from the Mediterranean to other seas or oceans.

RECOMMENDATION GFCM/2005/3

CONCERNING SELECTED ICCAT RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

RECALLING that the objectives of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and proper utilization of living marine resources,

ADOPTS, in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 1 (h) of Article III and Article V of the GFCM Agreement the following Recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT):

GFCM/2005/3 (A) RECOMMENDATION [03-04] BY ICCAT RELATING TO MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH

NOTING that the Commission's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) in its May 2003 Mediterranean Swordfish assessment has indicated the presence of a stable recruitment pattern and that the current exploitation pattern and level of exploitation are sustainable, as long as the stock does not decline;

RECOGNIZING that the SCRS recommended that the current levels of exploitation not be exceeded, under the current exploitation patterns;

CONSIDERING that the SCRS also indicated that the percentage of juveniles in the catches is relatively high and a reduction in their catches would improve the yield and spawning biomass per recruit.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. In order to protect small swordfish, Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall take the necessary measures to reduce the mortality of juvenile swordfish in the entire Mediterranean.
2. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall take the necessary technical measures for their longline fisheries in order to ensure compliance with the objective.
3. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall prohibit the use of driftnets for fisheries of large pelagics in the Mediterranean.

GFCM/2005/3 (B)

RECOMMENDATION [04-05] BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE WESTERN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA REBUILDING PROGRAM AND THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN

NOTING that the 2002 amendment to the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 98-07] established a quota sharing arrangement for the United States, Japan, and Canada only through 2004,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the next assessment of Atlantic bluefin tuna was scheduled for 2004 in the 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning a Multi-year Conservation and Management Plan for Bluefin in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 02-08],

CONSIDERING the on-going work of the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies,

DESIRING to align stock management discussions with new scientific advice and, in the meantime, to extend for one year existing management measures which support the western Atlantic bluefin tuna rebuilding program,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Conservation of Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 02-07], which amend the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 98-07], be extended through 2006.
2. All other operative paragraphs of Recommendation 98-07 as amended by Recommendation 02-07 remain unchanged.
3. The Third Meeting of the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies take place in April 2005 in Japan. Its primary objective will be to develop a range of future alternative management approaches which will be submitted to the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) for its opinion. The Commission will review

at its 2005 Meeting the SCRS Report, notably on the feasibility and implications of those alternative management approaches.

4. In 2006, the SCRS will conduct the stock assessment for bluefin tuna for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean and western Atlantic and provide advice to the Commission on the appropriate management measures, *inter alia*, on total allowable catch levels for those stocks for future years. This provision amends paragraph 6 of Recommendation 02-08.

5. At its 2006 meeting, the Commission will consider the distribution of the total allowable catch among Contracting Parties in the western Atlantic and make any necessary changes for future management periods.

GFCM/2005/3 (C)
RECOMMENDATION [04-06] BY ICCAT ON BLUEFIN TUNA FARMING

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the increasing development of bluefin tuna farming activities, especially in the Mediterranean;

RECALLING the conclusions of Sixth Ad Hoc GFCM/ICCAT Joint Working Group Meeting on Stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean Sea relative to the effects of the bluefin tuna farming and on the solutions that could be studied to regulate this activity;

CONSIDERING the advice of the 2001 Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) on effects of bluefin tuna farming in the Mediterranean on the collection of data and consequently on stock assessment procedures;

DESIRING to gradually implement effective management measures that permit the development of bluefin tuna farming in a responsible and sustainable manner in relation to the management of bluefin tuna;

NOTING the potential advantages of the use of underwater video monitoring in estimating the number of fish,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) whose flag vessels fish or transfer quantities of bluefin tuna to cages for farming shall undertake the necessary measures:

- a) to require that the captains of vessels carrying out transfer operations of bluefin tuna for caging maintain vessel logs and report the quantities transferred and the number of fish as well as the date, place of harvest and name of the vessel and of the company responsible for the caging.
- b) to require the reporting of the total amount of the transfers of bluefin tuna for fattening and farming, carried out by their flag vessels, and include this information in the Task I data.
- c) to set up and maintain a list of their flag vessels that fish for, provide or transport bluefin tuna for farming purposes (name of the vessel, flag, license number, gear type), i.e., fishing boat, transport vessel, vessels with pools, etc.

2. The CPCs under whose jurisdiction the farms for bluefin tuna are located in the Convention area shall adopt the necessary measures to:

- a) ensure that a caging declaration is presented by the operator in accordance with the ICCAT format in the attached Annex, on each fishing or transport vessel that participated in the transfer of tuna to cages for fattening, including the quantities of bluefin tuna destined for farming. This declaration shall include information relative to the quantities (in tonnes) of fish transferred to the cages, the number of fish, the date, the place, the location of the harvest, the name of the vessel, as well as its flag and license number;
- b) ensure that the tuna farms and the national scientific institutes obtain data as specified in the following paragraph on the size composition of the fish caught as well as the date, time and area of catch and the fishing method used, in order to improve statistics for stock assessment purposes;

To this end, establish a sampling program for the estimation of the numbers-at-size of the bluefin tuna caught which requires notably that size sampling at cages must be done on one sample (= 100 specimens) for every 100 t. of live fish. Size sample will be collected during harvesting¹ at the farm. For fish farmed more than one year, other additional sampling methods should be established, following the ICCAT methodology for reporting Task II. The sampling should be conducted during any harvesting, covering all cages. Data must be transmitted to ICCAT, by 31 July for the sampling conducted the previous year.

- c) ensure the reporting of the quantities of bluefin tuna placed in cages and of estimates of the growth and mortality while in captivity and of the amounts sold (in t);
- d) set up and maintain a registry of the farming facilities under their jurisdiction;
- e) each CPC referred to in this paragraph shall nominate a single authority responsible for coordinating the collection and verification of information on caging activities and for reporting to and cooperating with the CPC whose flag vessels have fished the caged tuna.

This single authority shall submit, to the CPCs whose flag vessels have fished the caged tuna, a copy of each caging declaration referred to in paragraph 2 a, within one week after the completion of the transfer operation of bluefin tuna into cages.

3. CPCs mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received and shall cooperate to ensure that quantities caged are consistent with the reported catches (logbook) amount of each fishing vessel.

4. The CPCs that export farmed bluefin tuna products shall ensure that the description of these products includes "Farming" in the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BTSD) or the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Re-exportation Certificate (refer to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Amendment of the Forms of the ICCAT Bluefin/Bigeye/Swordfish Statistical Documents* [Rec. 03-19]).

5. The CPCs shall transmit, each year, to the Executive Secretary, prior to 31 August:

- the list of flag vessels provided for in paragraph 1c),
- the results of the program referred to in paragraph 2 b),
- the quantities of bluefin tuna caged during the previous year,
- the quantities marketed during the previous year.

6. The CPCs mentioned in this recommendation as well as the Contracting Parties that import bluefin tuna shall cooperate, particularly through the exchange of information.

7. The Commission shall request non-Contracting Parties that farm bluefin tuna in the Convention area to cooperate in the implementation of this recommendation.

8. Based on the information referred to in paragraph 4, on the BTSD reports and the Task I data, the Commission shall review the effectiveness of these measures.

9. a) The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of farming facilities authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area (hereafter referred to as FFBs). For the purposes of this Recommendation, FFBs not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area.

b) Each CPC under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall submit electronically, where possible, to the ICCAT Executive Secretary by 31 August 2004 the list of its FFBs that are authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna. This list shall include the following information:

- name of the FFB, register number,
- names and addresses of owner (s) and operator (s),
- location,
- farming capacity (in tonnes)

c) Each CPC shall notify the Executive Secretary, after the establishment of the ICCAT record of FFBs, of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record of FFBs at any time such changes occur.

d) The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT record of FFBs, and take any measure to ensure publicity of the record through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.

e) The CPCs under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall take the necessary measures to ensure that their FFBs comply with the relevant ICCAT measures.

f) To ensure the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures pertaining to bluefin tuna:

- (i) CPCs under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall validate Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents only for the farms on the ICCAT record of FFBs,
- (ii) CPCs shall require farmed bluefin tuna, when imported into their territory to be accompanied by statistical documents validated for FFBs on the ICCAT record of FFBs and,
- (iii) CPCs importing farmed bluefin tuna and the States that authorize the FFB shall cooperate to ensure that statistical documents are not forged or do not contain misinformation.

10. The SCRS shall undertake trials to identify growth rates including weight gains during the fattening or penning period.

11. This recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 03-09].

GFCM/2005/3 (E)
**RECOMMENDATION [04-10] BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE CONSERVATION OF
SHARKS CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES MANAGED BY ICCAT**

RECALLING that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for Sharks calls on States, within the framework of their respective competencies and consistent with international law, to cooperate through regional fisheries organizations with a view to ensuring the sustainability of shark stocks as well as to adopt a National Plan of Action for the conservation and management of sharks;

CONSIDERING that many sharks are part of pelagic ecosystems in the Convention area, and that tunas and tuna-like species are captured in fisheries targeting sharks;

RECOGNIZING the need to collect data on catch, effort, discards, and trade, as well as information on the biological parameters of many species, in order to conserve and manage sharks;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) shall annually report Task I and Task II data for catches of sharks, in accordance with ICCAT data reporting procedures, including available historical data.
2. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to require that their fishermen fully utilize their entire catches of sharks. Full utilization is defined as retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts and skins, to the point of first landing.
3. CPCs shall require their vessels to not have onboard fins that total more than 5% of the weight of sharks onboard, up to the first point of landing. CPCs that currently do not require fins and carcasses to be offloaded together at the point of first landing shall take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the 5% ratio through certification, monitoring by an observer, or other appropriate measures.
4. The ratio of fin-to-body weight of sharks described in paragraph 3 shall be reviewed by the SCRS and reported back to the Commission in 2005 for revision, if necessary.
5. Fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping or landing any fins harvested in contravention of this Recommendation.
6. In fisheries that are not directed at sharks, CPCs shall encourage the release of live sharks, especially juveniles, to the extent possible, that are caught incidentally and are not used for food and/or subsistence.
7. In 2005, the SCRS shall review the assessment of shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) and recommend management alternatives for consideration by the Commission, and reassess blue shark (*Prionaca glauca*) and shortfin mako no later than 2007.
8. CPCs shall, where possible, undertake research to identify ways to make fishing gears more selective.
9. CPCs shall, where possible, conduct research to identify shark nursery areas.
10. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing CPCs for the collection of data on their shark catches.

11. This recommendation applies only to sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT.

GFCM/2005/3 (F)
**RECOMMENDATION [04-12] BY ICCAT TO ADOPT MEASURES CONCERNING SPORT
AND RECREATIONAL FISHING ACTIVITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the need to regulate sport and recreational fishing activities to ensure that these activities do not undermine sustainable exploitation of the stocks, notably the bluefin tuna stock, in the Mediterranean Sea,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties, Entities, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter named CPCs) shall take the measures necessary to forbid the use within the framework of sport and recreational fishing of towed nets, encircling nets, seine sliding, dredgers, gillnets, trammelnet and longline to fish for tuna and tuna-like species, notably bluefin tuna, in the Mediterranean Sea.
2. The CPCs shall ensure that catches of tuna and tuna-like species carried out in the Mediterranean Sea from sport and recreational fishing are not marketed.
3. The CPCs shall take the necessary measures so that catch data from sport and recreational fishing are collected and transmitted to the SCRS.

APPENDIX H**General guidelines for a GFCM Control and Enforcement Scheme: needs and principles**

The main aim will be to bring about a scheme of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) that ensures a high degree of compliance with relevant conservation measures, and legal certainty and security for the vessel concerned.

Furthermore, the intended Scheme must pay due regard to the characteristics and specificities of different GFCM geographical sub-areas (GSAs) and fisheries.

An effective Control and Enforcement Scheme should embody a number of principles, namely:

- (i) Consistency with the provision of the Agreement establishing the GFCM and existing instruments of international law.
- (ii) Evaluation of the current GFCM measures and possibly complementing them with new measures.
- (iii) The Scheme would underline the general duty to cooperate and a commitment to transparency taking into account requirements for confidentiality.
- (iv) The Scheme would have two types of measures:
 - Measures applicable to all fisheries. Measures concerning vessels would apply only to vessels beyond a certain size.
 - Measure applicable on a case by case basis to certain fisheries, where and when such a measure would be cost-effective.
- (v) The Scheme should contribute to the improvement of data collection and statistics and timely transmission of statistics, for scientific as well as monitoring purposes.
- (vi) Provisions for ensuring compliance by both Contracting and non-Contracting Parties vessels, thereby seeking to minimize the level of IUU fishing in the GFCM area.
- (vii) The special requirements of Developing States should be fully recognized and active cooperation should be established to facilitate the implementation of the measures by them.

Under these circumstances, a possible GFCM Scheme could consist of the following basic components:

1) Flag State duties

The following monitoring measures should be taken by the flag States in regard to vessels entitled to fly their flags in the GFCM area:

- (i) Control of their vessels by:
 - a) adopting measures so that their vessels comply with and do not undermine GFCM conservation and management measures;
 - b) authorizing their vessels to fish in the GFCM Area by means of fishing authorizations, licenses, or permits;
 - c) ensuring they do not authorize vessels to fish in the GFCM Area unless they are able to effectively exercise their responsibilities in respect of such vessels, including monitoring and controlling their fishing activities;
 - d) ensuring that their vessels do not conduct unauthorized fishing within areas under the national jurisdiction of other States, through appropriate cooperation with coastal States concerned, and other relevant means available to the flag State;

- e) requiring their vessels fishing on the high seas to carry the license, authorization or permit on board at all times and to produce it on demand for inspection by a duly authorized person.
- (ii) Establishment of a national record of fishing vessels entitled to fly their flags and authorized to fish in the GFCM Area, which should include vessels of other States authorized under charter agreements, and transmission of this information to GFCM.
- (iii) Regulation of transshipment.
- (iv) Measures regarding the operation and control of chartering.
- (v) Requirements for recording and timely reporting of vessel position, catch of target and non target species, fishing effort and other relevant fisheries data including an estimate of discards, unless GFCM stipulates otherwise. These data should be verified for certain fisheries by observer programs, where these programs have been adopted by the Commission.
- (vi) Implementation of a vessel monitoring system (VMS).
- (vii) Investigation of, follow-up to, and report on actions taken in response to an alleged violation by a vessel.

2) Obligations of the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties

The obligations of the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties should include:

- (i) Provision to GFCM, in the manner and at such regular intervals as may be required by GFCM, of compliance reports and information concerning its fishing activities, including fishing area and fishing vessels, in order to facilitate the compilation of reliable fishing statistics on GFCM regulated species (catch, effort, size samples, etc.), and the effective implementation of GFCM compliance program.
- (ii) Compliance with all GFCM conservation and management measures.

3) Compliance and enforcement

The Contracting Parties, through the Commission, should establish an observation and inspection programme to ensure compliance with GFCM conservation and management measures.

The programme may *inter alia* comprise the following elements:

- (i) High seas inspection.
- (ii) Procedures for an effective investigation of an alleged violation of GFCM conservation and management measures, and for reporting to the Commission on the actions taken, including procedures for exchanging information.
- (iii) Provisions for appropriate action to be taken when inspections reveal serious violations as well as the expedient and transparent follow-up of such actions in order to uphold the Flag State's responsibility within the intended programme.
- (iv) Port inspection.
- (v) Monitoring of landings and catches, including statistical follow-up for management purposes.
- (vi) Specific monitoring programmes adopted by GFCM, including boarding and inspection.
- (vii) Observer programs.

4) A programme to promote compliance by vessels of non-Contracting Parties

Further to existing measures, GFCM should examine measures consistent with international law to deter activities of such vessels which undermine the effectiveness of GFCM conservation and management measures, such as.

- Implementation of all the relevant elements of the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.
- Prohibition of landings and transshipments of GFCM species by vessels of non-Contracting Parties, sighted in the GFCM Area, that do not comply with the relevant GFCM conservation and management measures.

The twenty-ninth session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) was attended by delegates from all (twenty-four) Members of the Commission.

The Commission decided that the new headquarters of GFCM will be in Palazzo Blumenstihl, Rome, Italy. The Commission agreed that Members would exceptionally participate in the ballots for the selection of the Executive Secretary, provided that they contribute their share to the GFCM autonomous budget prior to the end of 2005. Through interviews and secret ballots, the Commission selected its Executive Secretary.

It also agreed on the mandate and on the procedure for the selection of the Deputy Executive Secretary. The Commission established formally the Coordinating Meeting of the Sub-Committees (CMSC) as a subsidiary body of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), as well as a Permanent Working Group on Stock Assessment Methodologies. It favoured the strengthening of the mandate of the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagics and decided to re-establish the Network on Environment and Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (EAM) in support of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ). The Commission decided to review selected provisions of its Rules of Procedure at the next Plenary session. The Commission adopted binding Recommendations GFCM/2005/1 and GFCM/2005/2 on, respectively, "The management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and deepwater species" and "The establishment of a record of fishing vessels over 15 metres authorized to operate in the GFCM area", as well as six ICCAT Recommendations and "General Guidelines for a GFCM Control Scheme". The Commission also urged Members to develop and adopt National Plans of Action on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU) and invited the MedFisis regional project to give priority to establishing the GFCM vessel register (white list).

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