



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



**Report of the First meeting of the Concerted Action for Lebanon  
GFCM Headquarters, Rome, 3-4 December 2012**

**OPENING, ARRANGEMENT OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

1. The First meeting of the Concerted Action for Lebanon was held at the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean in Rome, from 3 to 4 December 2012. The meeting was attended by five delegates from Lebanon, as well as by two representatives from FAO Lebanon and the FAO Regional Office in the Near East, six experts from the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, five from the FAO Regional Projects, three from the FAO Legal Office, one delegate from the EU Delegation to the Holy See, to the Order of Malta and to the UN, five representatives from research institutions (CIHEAM Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo di Bari, Pesca Libano Project, and IREPA) and the GFCM Secretariat staff. The list of participants is provided in Appendix B of this report.
2. Mr Abdellah Srour, Executive Secretary of the GFCM, welcomed the participants on behalf of the General Fisheries Commission (GFCM) and its President, Mr Stefano Cataudella. He recalled the purpose and background of this first meeting aiming at discussing concerted actions for Lebanon, following a request for technical assistance introduced to GFCM by Lebanon. This meeting was organised following the positive outcome of a meeting at the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture in Beirut in October 2012, where the need for coordination and synergies among ongoing activities in a number of fields emerged. The proposed objective of these two-day discussions was to draw a roadmap for a consistent and integrated intervention identifying priorities for the medium term (2013-2018). He also recalled that among the top priorities for collaboration with Lebanon, data collection, artificial reefs, aquaculture and control of fishing vessels were identified by the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture, who also offered to host a GFCM subregional office for eastern Mediterranean in Lebanon. Finally, the Executive Secretary expressed his gratitude to the FAO Fisheries Department, the FAO Legal Office, the FAO Representation in Beirut and the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa as well as the FAO Regional Projects for their work.
3. Mr Hassan Atwi, Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon delivered an opening speech expressing his high hopes that many aspirations expressed be positively reflected into practical steps to develop the Lebanese fisheries and aquaculture sectors, given their importance for the livelihood of fishermen. Mr Atwi conveyed his gratitude to GFCM for its efforts and thanked FAO, FAO Lebanon and the FAO Regional Project EastMed, Pesca-Libano/CIHEAM as well as the University of Balamand.
4. The agenda was adopted as provided in Appendix A.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING**

5. Mr Nicola Ferri, from the GFCM Secretariat, gave an overview of the Lebanese legal framework in relation to fisheries and then introduced possible perspectives of collaboration. He highlighted

in particular the involvement of Lebanon within GFCM and the most salient information regarding the current situation, the needs expressed to GFCM bodies and main challenges to be overcome at national level.

6. Mr Srouf then underlined that the strategy of work for the meeting was to design a roadmap for the next five years, consistent with the priorities identified and the timeframe set in the GFCM Framework Programme, and to assess in parallel what was done, what is being done, what still needs to be done. He recalled that all actors were invited to bring their contribution in order to undertake a concerted work, establish synergies and avoid duplications.
7. In reply to Mr Blaise Kuemlangan, from the FAO Legal Office, who asked if the report of the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the SAC including specific directives regarding Lebanon had been endorsed within national legislation, Mr Srouf recalled that submitting national reports to the SAC was an obligation for all GFCM members.

### **INTERVENTIONS BY LEBANESE REPRESENTATIVES ON FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE RELATED ISSUES, INCLUDING PRIORITIES FOR ACTION**

8. Mr Samir Majdalani, Head of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at the Ministry of Agriculture of Lebanon, presented an overview of the Lebanese Fisheries sector and its main challenges. He highlighted the main needs as far as monitoring and control, data collection, legislation, aquaculture, environmental issues, education and fishermen cooperatives are concerned. He also presented a list of requests introduced to GFCM and EastMed.
9. In the ensuing discussion Mr Srouf insisted on the necessity to identify four or five main issues and Ms Solange Matta-Saadé, from the FAO Representation in Lebanon, pointed out that standards and norms regarding imports and exports of fisheries products were needed.
10. Mr Gaby Khalaf, Director of the National Centre for Marine Sciences at the Lebanese National Council for Scientific Research, introduced the audience to the structure, activities, main projects, facilities and achievements of the National Centre for Marine Sciences, emphasizing in particular the work done within the Cana and Naqoura projects, both co-funded by the Italian government. (The EastMed project had also provided financial coverage for the participation of experts in selected activities). He finally outlined the most important needs for supporting the sector of fisheries.
11. Mr Manal Nader, Director of the Institute of the Environment of the University of Balamand (in North Lebanon), made a following presentation, focussing on the work carried out by the Institute in the assessment of commercial fish species in Lebanon. He identified in particular the work done in the field of data collection stressing that data on landings were collected by gear type, size composition of landings and effort data were collected for many commercial species. Furthermore, stock assessments and biological studies were also carried out for *Boops boops*, *Diplodus sargus sargus* and *Lagocephalus sceleratus*. The needs and priorities for future activities were also identified.
12. After presentations, a number of comments and issues were raised by the participants regarding in particular:
  - the CANA-CNRS vessel and its activity as a permanent vessel dedicated to research;
  - the capture fisheries sector and the need for a holistic view at policy level for fisheries;
  - the framework of the aquaculture development plan in Lebanon, implemented following the guidelines provided by the Lebanese government;
  - the engagement of the private sector and the need to set up a clear vision and to raise awareness regarding the challenges and opportunities of aquaculture for the private sector;
  - the need for hatcheries in aquaculture.

## **INTERVENTION BY PARTICIPANTS ON PAST AND PRESENT ACTIVITIES OF RELEVANCE TO LEBANON**

13. Mr Blaise Kuemlangan took the floor to present the Lebanon fisheries and aquaculture bill of law, drafted by the FAO Legal Office with the support of the GFCM covering the management of living aquatic resources, marine and inland fishing, biodiversity conservation and preservation of the aquatic environment, aquaculture, handling and marketing, fees, law enforcement and penalties, the establishment and competence of the Division of Fisheries. He stated that this bill, to be shared and discussed, could be used as a framework for the future and that its review by the Lebanese Ministry was underway. He noted that the whole process for reviewing and drafting the law was equally important as the substance of the articles. He noted that this bill built on the draft made by MOA staff.
14. During the discussion that followed the presentation, many issues were raised regarding mainly:
  - the number of staff involved in the Department of Fisheries in Lebanon;
  - the need to invest efforts in building a clear and comprehensive vision so that fisheries become a priority for the government of Lebanon;
  - private sector engagement and the need for incentives to develop the aquaculture sector
  - the need to take into account the fisheries sector in the development of aquaculture in order to have a balanced approach;
  - the competitiveness of aquaculture products in Lebanon;
  - the need to define the best framework for the sustainable development of aquaculture;
  - the need to take into consideration options such as territorial user rights, co-management/self-management for the set up of clear procedures.
15. Ms Michele Kuruc, Senior Fishery Industry Officer at the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department gave a presentation regarding the monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) aspects of dealing with illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. After examining the state of world fish stocks and the need to keep in mind sustainability in the development of fisheries in globalized market situation, she gave an overview of the challenges and impacts of IUU fishing and highlighted their relevance to Lebanon, especially as far as small-scale fisheries are concerned. She then presented the international instruments to combat and prevent IUU fishing focussing on MCS including the implementation of Port State Measures and the setting up of a global record of vessels. She underlined the need to increase MCS in Lebanon and brought up the question of the appropriateness of a VMS system in Lebanon, given the big amount of financial resources required and also given the existence of inexpensive alternative techniques, including voluntary compliance.
16. Several questions were posed by participants after Ms Kuruc's presentation, concerning the following aspects:
  - the difficulty to estimate the amount of IUU fishing in the Mediterranean, although the most targeted species are known (tuna for instance);
  - the problem of small mesh size putting high pressure on fisheries in Lebanon;
  - the importance of small-scale fisheries in Lebanon;
  - the cost of VMS and the derogation asked by Lebanon on the VMS and Logbook, in light of the feasibility study asked to GFCM;
  - the proposal of a new law to authorize foreign vessels to enter the foreseen EEZ;
  - the development of a reporting system for artisanal fisheries and the need to set up clear guidelines to monitor small-scale fisheries (first regional workshop on artisanal fisheries to be held between June and September 2013);
  - the relevance of general guidelines for IUU to the Mediterranean case, due to configuration of fleets and ports, and their translation to a small scale scenario, as well as the applicability of the global record to the case of Lebanon;
  - the use of VMS to reveal the vessel behaviour and deduct the effect of gears

17. Mr Rolf Willmann, Senior Fish Planning Officer at the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, presented an overview of the International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines). He explained the rationale behind the development of guidelines for small-scale fisheries and gave an overview of its scope and focus and its relevance to capture fisheries in marine and inland waters. He also described the development process of the SSF guidelines emphasizing the participatory approach used, the next steps and the way forward.
18. Participants then debated a range of topics, including:
  - the importance of small scale fisheries and the lack of recognition or understanding of this sub-sector at higher policy levels;
  - the role and potentials of ecotourism in the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries;
  - the involvement of local communities in the design process;
  - the importance of territorial users rights and the essential role of community-based management.
19. Ms Solange Matta-Saadé, Assistant to the FAO Representative in Lebanon, took the floor to present strategic considerations on past FAO interventions and projects in the field of fisheries and aquaculture in Lebanon. She illustrated the main projects implemented until 2012, the main areas of technical assistance provided by FAO, in close collaboration with the national governments, in the field of fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the national and regional priorities and their integration into the Country Programming Framework for 2010–2014.
20. This intervention was followed by a presentation by Mr Laurent Gennari, FAO Consultant on aquaculture, on the main findings and recommendations of a FAO mission on aquaculture development opportunities which took place in Lebanon in July 2012. After introducing the objectives and target areas of the survey, he provided an overview of the main findings regarding marine and freshwater aquaculture sites and species in Lebanon. Finally, recommendations for the rehabilitation of the main aquaculture facilities in Lebanon (mainly the Batroun centre) and for the implementation of an overall strategy for aquaculture in Lebanon were presented. Mr Alessandro Lovatelli, FAO Aquaculture Officer, informed that the final and full report of Mr Gennari's mission had been recently sent to the Lebanese authorities and hence would soon be available through the Ministry of Agriculture for consultation.
21. Mr Piero Mannini, Senior Fishery Officer at the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, continued with an introduction of the sustainable development of Lebanese coastal fisheries. After presenting the results of the census of the Lebanese fishing vessels and fishing facilities, which was developed by FAO in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, he provided a description of the Country Programming framework for Lebanon for the period 2012–2015, identifying the relevant priorities, the strategy, and the expected outcomes for the sector of fisheries and aquaculture. He introduced a project outline for the development of the small-scale fishery sector in Lebanon, developed in concurrence with the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Fisheries and Wildlife), and that is particularly focused on the value chain analysis and the optimization of the fish supply chain including post-harvest better practices. He also described as an example a successful FAO project in Morocco and Tunisia for the sustainable development of small-scale artisanal fisheries.
22. Ms Konstantina Karlou-Riga, FAO EastMed Project Coordinator, then took the floor to present the activities carried out with the support of the EastMed project in Lebanon. She mainly focussed on the activities implemented or to be implemented after proposals made by Lebanon in specific fields such as: web-based fishing licensing system ; monitoring, control and enforcement; fish identification; fishing gears; data collection including socio economic; catch assessment; GFCM Task I data reporting; biological parameters of commercial fish species; Puffer fish; stock assessment under Naqoura project by CNRS; trials on modified fishing gears; web-based socio-economic survey; basic training in stock assessment for administrators and managers. To wind up

her presentation, she delivered an overview of the Feasibility study for new fishing vessels designs and/or new vessel building materials and a description of some relevant characteristics and data of the fleet in Lebanon as well as of the expenses incurred during the implementation of the project activities in Lebanon.

23. Mr Constantine Stamatopoulos, FAO EastMed Consultant, provided an overview of methodological concepts related to statistical and IT aspects and presented the statistical programme for estimating catch and effort in Lebanon. He stressed the importance of a sound data collection and sampling methods in this context.
24. Mr. Stefano Lelli, Pesca Libano Project Coordinator, from CIHEAM – Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo di Bari and the National Council for Scientific Research of Lebanon, gave an outline of technical assistance activities to support the Ministry of Agriculture of Lebanon in the field of fishery development implemented within the framework of the Pesca Libano project, funded by the Italian government. He presented in particular the objectives, the synergies with other projects – mentioning in particular a collaboration with GFCM on a VMS feasibility study - and the expected results and the fields of collaboration with external actors.
25. The last presentation was made by Miguel Bernal, Fisheries Officer at the GFCM, and focused on the First GFCM framework programme (2013-2018). He described in particular the main features and concepts of the framework programme, the work plans and actions aiming at: a) improving governance and fisheries management in the GFCM area through an integrated maritime approach; b) strengthening the capacity of national institutions in the field of data collection and supporting the establishment of regional databases and information systems; c) Promoting the role of aquaculture for food security and economic growth; d) Enhancing the development of artisanal fisheries; e) Supporting institutional and technical cooperation in the Southern Mediterranean and the Black Sea. He concluded by identifying possible avenues for collaboration between GFCM and Lebanon within the remit of the first GFCM framework programme, with particular reference to the development of multiannual management plans, the promotion of a subregional approach, the strengthening of data collection systems, the development of strategies for small scale fisheries and the promotion of the sustainable development of aquaculture.
26. During the discussion which took place after these presentations, the following issues emerged:
  - the need to have a holistic view, strategic objectives and vision and the importance of identifying priorities for Lebanon in order to establish an action plan;
  - the need to update and enhance the draft law fisheries and aquaculture for Lebanon in order to take into account the developments which were presented by the participants, with particular reference to security issues related to the licensing systems and vessel gear identification, regulations and requirements for vessel design and VMS;
  - the length of the law enactment process in Lebanon and the possibility to consider a law that could be directly implemented after its approval by the Parliament;
  - the need to support the establishment of national data collection systems;
  - the importance to define aquaculture development as a priority, with particular respect to the rehabilitation of the Batroun Aquaculture Centre and the necessity to set up a legal framework for aquaculture in order to establish a clear strategy;
  - the need to ensure coordinated actions with the European Marine Strategy and the Integrated Maritime Policy (which are already taken into account in the GFCM framework programme);
  - the importance of performing an in-depth analysis in order to define a long-term roadmap and the necessity to set up the pillars and orientations of such a roadmap;
  - the importance of co-management and public-private partnerships, although this might be tackled in a more distant future;
  - the need for a capacity-building plan for capture fisheries;

- the difficulties faced to increase number of staff within the Ministry of Agriculture of Lebanon and the opportunities offered by partnerships and collaborations with universities in order to enhance MOA capacities.
27. Mr Hassan Atwi expressed then his appreciation of Mr Gennari's presentation and formulated four recommendations:
- 1) Infrastructure should be enhanced;
  - 2) The legal framework and the new draft law should be reviewed;
  - 3) Capacity-building and public-private relationships (including training for all stakeholders involved) need to be enhanced;
  - 4) Coordination between the Ministry and all the projects, including the FAO regional project should be ensured.
28. As a conclusion of the discussion and in order to introduce the discussions for the establishment of a roadmap, Mr Srour proposed to concentrate, as a starting point, on the following priorities:
- 1) To support the elaboration of multiannual management plans and the development of the fisheries sector (with particular reference to stock assessment, ecosystem approach, artificial reefs, sustainable development of artisanal fisheries, education, co-management, infrastructures and technical support)
  - 2) to support the sustainable development of aquaculture in Lebanon (AZAs, training, etc.)
  - 3) to support the development of national data collection systems (capacity building, statistical units, technical assistance, reporting compliance etc.)
  - 4) to strengthen the regulatory framework including MCS

#### **ADOPTION OF A ROADMAP FOR LEBANON, INCLUDING MEDIUM-TERM ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT**

29. On the following day, Mr Abdellah Srour presented the table prepared by the GFCM Secretariat illustrating steps towards the establishment of a provisional roadmap (the steps towards achieving the final roadmap including all comments made at the meeting is provided in Appendix C). Participants were invited to review the table and to comment on the priorities identified, challenges and proposed future actions. The roadmap would be finalized at a meeting to be held in Lebanon in spring 2013.
30. The first priority identified was to “support the elaboration of multi-annual management plans, including the development of the fisheries sector”. Among the challenges related to this priority, several comments placed emphasis on the lack of scientific research, the absence of specific programmes for artificial reefs, and the lack of stakeholders' involvement. A number of proposed actions were also suggested by the participants, such as marketing activities for fish products, the promotion of scientific research (including continental shelves, links with pharmaceutical industry regarding TTX and *Lagocephalus*, identification of spawning grounds, management of MPAs, alien species, etc.), the implementation of an ecosystem-based management approach, the establishment partnerships, the involvement of stakeholders through a participatory approach. Several meetings and initiatives were also suggested: a workshop on post-harvesting practices in Mauritania (November 2013); a workshop on artificial reefs in Turkey (September 2013); a meeting to examine the state-of-the art in Lebanon organized by CIHEAM (before June 2013); a kick-off meeting to launch a new initiative called FishinMed in Bari (December 2012). Mr Lelli mentioned that the Pesca Libano project might be able to follow up specific priorities and also suggested to use as a reference for biological parameters and socio-economical aspects a publication on a project called “INCAM - Environmental and coastal ecosystem management” (FP7)” issued by the CNRS. Ms Karlou-Riga indicated that EastMed could also contribute to a number of actions (indicated on the final version of the steps towards the roadmap in Appendix C). Finally, with reference to the circular letter recently sent by the GFCM Secretariat, Lebanon was urged to nominate a focal point to interact with GFCM.

31. The second priority covered was the “Support to the development of national fisheries data collection systems”. During the general discussion on the main challenges to be faced, the problem of administrative constraints was mentioned in particular. Among the proposed actions, participants agreed that the set up of a permanent platform managed by the Ministry of Agriculture in order to ensure the sustainability of data collection work was a key issue to be dealt with. Ms Matta-Saadé underlined that the activities foreseen within this roadmap should be discussed with the Ministry of Agriculture and that a meeting would take place within three weeks so that specific data collection activities could be confirmed and approved. Mr Atwi mentioned the issue of the lack of training in the collection of statistical data in all fields including fisheries. Finally, it was suggested to hold a meeting between EastMed, CNRS, GFCM, MOA, Pesca Libano, the universities and relevant Lebanese institutions and stakeholders in order to review all available data (February or March 2013) and terms of reference were drafted. Ms Karlou-Riga reiterated the availability of the EastMed project to contribute to a number of activities (See steps towards roadmap in Appendix C). Pesca Libano may play a role in the start up of the platform as part of its foreseen tasks.
32. The third priority examined was “Support to the sustainable development for aquaculture”. During the debate, many issues were raised, such as: the importance to understand market-oriented actions versus production-oriented ones; the need for concerted actions with the involvement of stakeholders; the relevance of AZA for management purposes; the importance of a holistic and participatory approach; the need to foresee a feasibility study on investment opportunities; the importance of freshwater aquaculture and freshwater products, and the need for government interventions on water flood events; the need to take into consideration all water resources; national capacity and biosecurity aspects, including the control of fish diseases; environmental monitoring for aquaculture and the necessity to explore marine land-based aquaculture; the limited knowledge not only of aquaculture but also of fisheries markets; the importance of evaluating current public and private facilities; the need to evaluate existing farms and to promote the most appropriate technologies. Mr Lelli mentioned that the National Council (CNRS) could play a role regarding this priority, especially after the work carried out on offshore cages, the reduction of social conflicts and the improvement of social conditions and proposed that the National Council and the Cana project be included as stakeholders in order to capitalize on the work done so far. Finally, it was agreed that the national strategic plan design would also include a reflection on incentives systems to promote a sustainable aquaculture and that FAO and MOA would be working in the future on the strategy for aquaculture development. As far as statistics are concerned, a national focal point is already working with SIPAM and it was mentioned that Lebanon would be invited to actively participate in the SIPAM and CAQ meetings due to take place on 11-15 March 2013 in Paris. Lebanon was also invited to participate in a training in Morocco on site selection and carrying capacity organized by GFCM (February 2013). It was also proposed to plan a meeting between FAO and GFCM in order to decide on operational aspects and schedule activities over a five-year timeline (see steps towards roadmap in Appendix C).
33. “Strengthening the regulatory and institutional frameworks, including for MCS purposes” was the fourth topic discussed. The discussion among the participants highlighted a series of challenges to be included in the roadmap. It was clarified that the purpose was to help Lebanon to become more involved in the regional context and in data reporting in order to meet regional requirements. Many comments related to market and trade issues and the need for a regulatory and institutional framework for MCS were made. Although not starting from scratch, the bill of law for Lebanon would need to be further elaborated, in light of the objectives and relevant information gathered during the meeting, to achieve an effective implementation and compliance and to strengthen penalty provisions in case of infractions. Regarding Port State measures, the issue of landing was also mentioned as irrelevant at the current stage since no foreign fishing vessels can land at Lebanese ports. However, it was pointed out that the identification of landing ports for the strengthening of Port State measures could be foreseen in the future. Among the actions to be proposed, a feasibility study for VMS and logbook was included within the framework of a joint

action with Pesca Libano in 2013. Finally, Lebanon was invited to contribute actively to regional workshops on IUU and MCS in 2013, to participate in a seminar on the adoption of inspection procedures in Lebanon and it was mentioned that EastMed and GFCM would ensure the follow-up on the 1st training workshop on inspection and control.

34. It was also agreed to add in the roadmap a general heading related to both fisheries and aquaculture in order to add more transversal issues and general recommendations. In particular, the need to develop synergies and partnerships, awareness-raising as well as the lack of women involvement were highlighted.
35. The table was updated on the basis of the discussions held and all changes were endorsed by the participants. The GFCM Secretariat will send the roadmap to participants, who will be invited to include comments, concrete actions and proposals, funding opportunities, deadlines, etc within 3 weeks.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

36. During the closing part of the meeting, participants expressed their deep satisfaction for the results achieved and unanimously thanked GFCM for its organisation, as well as the experts, the FAO and the FAO Regional project EastMed, Pesca Libano, CIHEAM and IREPA for their active contribution. The meeting created a good synergy and generated hopes for the achievement of successful outcomes. Many agreed that this initiative offered an excellent opportunity which should be used as an example to be applied to other countries. In fact, it was the first coordinated action of this type and several participants expressed the wish to continue and keep coordinating all stakeholders in future initiatives not only directed to Lebanon but also to other members. Participants agreed that many ideas were presented, that the sector received the attention it deserved and that the initiative would surely be instrumental in helping to make the sector more sustainable. The FAO Regional projects and the partners involved expressed their interest in further collaboration.
37. As follow-up to this meeting, and after the planning exercise, it was deemed useful to consider the design of a fully-fledged programme to be proposed to potential and interested donors. The roadmap was in fact to be considered as a first step which should be followed by the development of a project document capitalizing all the information provided and using also as a basis the CPF, as well as other projects and material. This project document would be then disseminated so that possibilities to foresee contributions could be discussed. Also, it will be translated into Arabic and circulated among the Lebanese authorities. A start up meeting could be held once the project document is finalized in order to launch the implementation phase.
38. In his final address, Mr Atwi expressed his satisfaction for the outcome of the meeting and thanked, on his personal behalf and on behalf of the Minister, Mr Srour and the GFCM staff for the inputs and organization of the meeting, the FAO in Rome, FAO Lebanon, the FAO Regional projects including EastMed, as well as the Italian project Pesca Libano, and all the consultants and academics, in particular the CNRS and the University of Balamand for their presence and participation. He stated that good ideas and suggestions were exchanged and there were hopes to implement the programme soon and raise funding for the initiative.
39. Mr Srour closed the meeting and warmly thanked the Lebanese colleagues underlining that the idea of this action came from the fact that Lebanon was very welcoming and willing to work with GFCM. The continuous links with FAO Beirut and the close work with the Regional projects were instrumental in the success of this initiative. He finally expressed his hopes to work with the same energy and involvement towards the expected objectives.
40. After the meeting, Mr. Manal Nader showed a video on the deployment of the first artificial reefs in Lebanon.



**Agenda**

**Monday 3 December**

***(09:00 – 17:00)***

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Introduction of participants
3. Introduction of the objectives of the meeting (by the GFCM Secretariat)
4. Opening and interventions by Lebanese representatives on fisheries and aquaculture related issues, including priorities for action
  - 4.1 Representatives from the Lebanese Minister of Agriculture
  - 4.2 Representatives of other relevant national institutions
5. Intervention by participants on past and present activities of relevance to Lebanon, including achievements
  - 5.1 Representatives of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
  - 5.2 FAO Lebanon
  - 5.3 FAO Egypt
  - 5.4 FAO Regional Project EastMed
  - 5.5 “Libano Pesca” Project
  - 5.6 GFCM
  - 5.7 Others
6. Open discussions on concerted action for Lebanon

**Tuesday 4 December**

***(Morning 9:00-13:00)***

7. Adoption of a roadmap for Lebanon, including medium-term activities to be carried out
8. Any other matters
9. Conclusions and closure of the meeting

*N.B. Lunch break will be from 13:00 to 14:00. Coffee breaks in the morning and afternoon halfway through each session.*

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**Concerted Action for Lebanon**

3-4 December 2012

GFCM HQ, Palazzo Blumenstihl

**STEPS TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEDIUM-TERM ROADMAP**

<b>PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED</b>	<b>CHALLENGES</b>	<b>PROPOSED FUTURE ACTIONS</b>	<b>COMMENTS BY THE MEETING</b>
<b>Support the elaboration of multi-annual management plans, including development of the fisheries sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absence of strategic vision to establish management plans</li> <li>• Absence of specific programs for artificial reefs</li> <li>• Lack of expertise on stock assessment</li> <li>• Low added-value and low diversity of fish products</li> <li>• Lack of scientific research</li> <li>• Lack of involvement of stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revalorization and Management plans for artisanal fisheries in Lebanon               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop national capacity for stock assessment</li> <li>• Setting up management objectives</li> <li>• Set up an integrated plan to achieve objectives (including MCS)</li> <li>• Promote the value chain for artisanal fishery products</li> <li>• Explore market for new fish products and disseminate information about its edibility, including post-harvest, processing, consumption, consumption habits and marketing</li> <li>• Feasibility study and pilot trials for artificial reefs.</li> <li>• Modernize artisanal fleet</li> <li>• Explore new fishing grounds within future EEZ</li> <li>• Enhance participation of stakeholders</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Set up a fisheries oriented education programme, including professional and higher education phases, and including women empowering topics (education will also focus on co-management)</li> <li>• Promote the research (studies on continental shelves, links with pharmaceutical industry regarding TTX, identification of spawning grounds, establishment and management of MPAs, alien</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistance will be provided by the GFCM within planned activities for 2013 (Workshop and Grant Agreement)</li> <li>• Lebanon will be invited to actively take part in the 1<sup>st</sup> workshop on Artificial Reefs and artisanal fisheries in 2013</li> <li>• FAO Post-harvest seminar – Mauritania, November 2013</li> <li>• Meeting on the status of the art before June 2013, Lebanon – CIHEAM Bari</li> <li>• EastMed can contribute to numbers 1, 8, (partly 9), 10, second and third bullet + artificial reefs</li> <li>• FishinMed project (small scale fisheries, socio-economic) for which kick-off meeting will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> December could contribute with inputs</li> <li>• Lebanon is urged to nominate a focal point for GFCM activities</li> </ul>

PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED	CHALLENGES	PROPOSED FUTURE ACTIONS	COMMENTS BY THE MEETING
		species etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the implementation of ecosystem approach</li> <li>• Establishment of partnerships among concerned institutions and cooperatives, promote joint initiatives and involvement of all stakeholders through a participatory approach</li> <li>• Cetaceans (in collaboration with CNRS/ACCOBAMS)</li> </ul>	

PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED	CHALLENGES	PROPOSED FUTURE ACTIONS	COMMENTS BY THE MEETING
<p><b>Support the development of national fisheries data collection systems</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absence of specialized Fisheries statistical units (due to administrative constraints)</li> <li>• Lack of Data reporting compliance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inventory of a) the existing information directly or indirectly related to fisheries, b) current national information systems focusing on their functionalities.</li> <li>• Assessment of national data program and identification of possible gaps or mechanisms to be improved and/or developed together with the related information systems.</li> <li>• Definition of a minimum standards for data collection in the country (when missing): catch composition, length composition, discard composition, fishing activity, socio-economic variables to be collected as well as a screening of at sea surveys.</li> <li>• Prioritization of stocks (e.g. important fraction of the landing, high value species, etc.) for which biological information are needed to carry out stock assessment.</li> <li>• Establishment of an institutionalized structure to deal with data collection;</li> <li>• Education and training on data collection and fisheries statistics.</li> <li>• Technical guidelines for the sake of enhancing compliance with national and international requirements on fisheries (e.g.: GFCM Task 1, GFCM Vessel Records, FAO Global Record, Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, etc..).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting among concerned institutions to determine and review the available data – early March 2013, Lebanon (MoA and relevant Lebanese institutions, GFCM, FAO, EastMed, Pesca-Libano, CNRS, Universities)</li> </ul> <p><u>ToRs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review and analysis of all available data</li> <li>- Identify further needs</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAOLB is discussing with MoA the possibility to include fisheries in specific studies to be undertaken in 2013 (TBC)</li> <li>• EastMed could contribute on bullets 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6</li> <li>• It is advisable that a permanent structure/platform dealing with fisheries statistics be established</li> </ul>



PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED	CHALLENGES	PROPOSED FUTURE ACTIONS	COMMENTS BY THE MEETING
<b>Support sustainable development of aquaculture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited knowledge on market to plan production strategy (both fisheries and aquaculture)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment and comprehensive overview of national consumption patterns, value chain, distribution channels and forecast production and consumption of fisheries products focused on aquaculture</li> <li>Assess the acceptability, in particular for fresh water products, by the consumers of aquaculture and new aquaculture products including processed ones</li> <li>Food security and food safety: assess the application of certification and traceability schemes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lebanon is invited to actively take part to the next SIPAM and CAQ sessions scheduled for 11-15 March 2013 in Paris</li> <li>FAO and MoA will be working on the strategy for aquaculture development for the next years</li> <li>Meeting should be planned for the prioritization and operationalization of this work plan, Lebanon – preferably back-to-back to other meetings</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of national vision for aquaculture development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design a National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture (technologically, environmentally, economically and socially appropriate to the national condition) for 5-10 years and vision for 20 years. The design will also reflect the needs for incentives to promote sustainable aquaculture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical support and assessment of national public and private facilities from FAO/GFCM</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of statistics and reliable data on aquaculture (marine and fresh water) activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a data collection scheme according to standards (GFCM-FAO) and to assess and forecast production</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set-up a farms census on production centre</li> <li>Training on census and data collection (GFCM – SIPAM support)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited Marine and fresh water Aquaculture activities within the coastal zones</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification and selection of suitable sites for aquaculture activities and attempting to implement Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZAs) to avoid conflicts with other coastal users (tourism, fisheries, etc.)</li> <li>Implementation of Environmental Monitoring programme for aquaculture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility studies (including environmental and economic risk analysis) and pilot actions on identified areas (off-shore and on-shore) FAO/GFCM Support</li> <li>Training and enhancement of national capacity on site selection and site monitoring and management (FAO/GFCM Support)</li> </ul>

PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED	CHALLENGES	PROPOSED FUTURE ACTIONS	COMMENTS BY THE MEETING
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lebanon is invited to attend the GFCM training on site selection and carrying capacity (Morocco, February 2013)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited Veterinary knowledge to prevent and control aquatic animal health/pathologies issues and other biosecurity threats associated to aquaculture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening national capacity on biosecurity, aquatic animal health, veterinary and disease control of aquaculture product</li> <li>Nomination and training of a national coordinator for all fish veterinary concerns to be immediately involved in the ongoing decision-making process</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvement of applied research and production oriented national aquaculture facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rehabilitation and up-grading of the Batroun Institute facilities (marine species)</li> <li>Rehabilitation and up-grading of Chouiafat facilities for fingerlings selection and production (for tilapia)</li> <li>Strengthening the Anjar and Hermel centres for trouts</li> <li>Assi river flood control</li> <li>Strengthening scientific cooperation (participation in regional sharing knowledge activities and regional networks)</li> <li>Identification of research priorities, expertise and technical national capacity</li> <li>Nomination of a national coordinator for all aquaculture concerns to be immediately involved in the ongoing decision-making process and to avoid overlaps risks between the different proposals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation to the GFCM networks;</li> <li>Technical support from FAO/GFCM;</li> </ul>
<b>Strengthen the regulatory and institutional</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to update fisheries and aquaculture legislation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further elaborate parts of the law in light of national fisheries and aquaculture objectives and relevant information to ensure effective</li> </ul>	<p>Led by the MOA with the support of the FAO and the GFCM. This will be also done within existing mechanisms</p>

PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED	CHALLENGES	PROPOSED FUTURE ACTIONS	COMMENTS BY THE MEETING
<b>frameworks, including for MCS purposes</b>		implementation and compliance (including the strengthening the severity of penalties) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate general objective and conditions in fisheries and aquaculture law</li> <li>• Facilitate the participation of stakeholders, fishermen and practitioners and collect their inputs</li> </ul>	improving participatory approach (e.g. Eastmed)
	Need to implement selected GFCM decisions on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logbook</li> <li>• IUU Fishing</li> <li>• VMS</li> <li>• Port State Measures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of logbooks in connection with the foreseen EEZ and for vessels LOA 15m or more and less than 15 m 15 m</li> <li>• Authorization of foreign fishing vessels to fish in the foreseen EEZ</li> <li>• Consultations to determine the extent and impacts of IUU fishing</li> <li>• Consideration of most appropriate measures to fight IUU</li> <li>• Feasibility studies and pilot trials for VMS &amp; Logbook</li> <li>• Testing of alternative to VMS (e.g. GPS, hybrid units, etc.)</li> <li>• Evaluate the strengthening of port State measures for MCS purposes</li> <li>• Adoption of inspection procedure (EastMed and GFCM will ensure follow up under a joint training on inspections and control)</li> <li>• Enactment of sanctions for detected infringements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GFCM and Pesca Libano are already discussing feasibility studies for VMS in Lebanon (as of 2013)</li> <li>• Other feasibility studies will be carried out in relation to relevant proposed actions</li> <li>• Lebanon is invited to actively participate and contribute to foreseen workshops at sub-regional level under the GFCM Framework Programme (first semester 2013)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening of the link between MCS and trade in view of improving access to markets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade national market standards and policies in relation to imported and exported fishery products</li> <li>• Evaluation of export opportunities, including the EU and of the market dimension of Lebanese fishery products</li> <li>• Consideration of trade related measures that could support the Lebanese industry in exporting fishery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The subject will be addressed under the ongoing process of reform of the FAO/GFCM</li> </ul>

PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED	CHALLENGES	PROPOSED FUTURE ACTIONS	COMMENTS BY THE MEETING
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to operationalize marine spatial planning</li> </ul>	<p>products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of marine spatial planning, including MPAs, allocated zones for aquaculture, etc.</li> </ul>	
<b>GENERAL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budgetary constraints for fisheries and aquaculture</li> <li>• Lack of strategic planning</li> <li>• Lack of specialized personnel</li> <li>• Ageing of fishermen and lack of vocational training for the new generations</li> <li>• Employment opportunities for fisheries and aquaculture related graduates</li> <li>• Ageing and/or non-functional fisheries and aquaculture facilities</li> <li>• Lack of women involvement in fisheries and aquaculture related activities</li> <li>• Post-harvesting practices and optimization of fish supply chain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitation of facilities (cranes, ice-making machines, regional centre equipment etc.)</li> <li>• Formulation of a strategic plan for fisheries and aquaculture. The process would involve different stakeholders to ensure appropriate integration</li> <li>• Set up a fisheries and aquaculture oriented education programme, including professional and higher education phases, and including women empowerment topics</li> <li>• Awareness raising</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting more synergies and collaboration among stakeholders (public administrations, civil societies, NGOs etc.)</li> <li>• Facilitate the establishment of partnerships between the MoA and the fishermen cooperatives, including capacity-building on data collection</li> <li>• Way forward: need to formulate a roadmap, fully-fledged field-programme proposal</li> <li>• Formulated roadmap will be circulated to potential donors (FAO including regional projects, GFCM through FWP, etc.)</li> <li>• Extend the experience of this concerted action to other countries in the GFCM competence area (AdriaMed and MedSudMed will collaborate in this framework)</li> <li>• GFCM and EastMed will finalize the roadmap document (by February 2013)</li> <li>• Inception meeting could be organized with potential donors - Lebanon</li> </ul>

