



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



**Third Session of the Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF)**

**Marrakech, Morocco, 14-19 May 2012**

**REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**

#### **OPENING OF THE SESSION**

1. The Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) held its second session in Rome, Italy, on 9 May 2011. The session was attended by delegates of 22 GFCM Members as well as Observers from non GFCM Member nations (the Russian Federation and Ukraine) and from six intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.
2. The meeting was called to order by the CAF Chairman, Mr Mohamed Fathy Osman (Egypt), who welcomed the participants and expressed his gratitude to FAO for hosting the session and for the excellent organization.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION**

3. The Chairperson referred to the Statement of Competence and Voting Rights by the European Union and its Member States as provided in CAF:II/2011/Inf.4.
4. The agenda, attached in Appendix A, was adopted without changes.
5. The documents which were before the Commission are listed in Appendix B.

#### **REPORTS OF THE SECRETARIAT ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ISSUES**

6. The Acting Executive Secretary, Mr Abdellah Srour, made a presentation based on the document CAF:II/2011/2 "Report of the Secretariat on Administrative and Financial Issues". He provided a summary of the main actions taken in relation with the administration and financial situation related to 2010, including topics such as GFCM Recommendations adopted in 2010, GFCM Performance Review, staffing and related issues pertaining the same period and the need for

reinforcement of the Secretariat in 2011-2012, the meetings attended by the staff of the Secretariat and the GFCM Bureau, the publications released and those in preparation, AND the good collaboration with existing partners and the establishment of new linkages with other organizations. The agreement between FAO and the government of Italy in relation with GFCM new headquarters was also presented. In addition, he referred to the ratification status of the GFCM Agreement as amended in 1997. Furthermore, the Acting Executive Secretary made a review on the budget adoption for 2010 and the dynamics that followed along with the budgetary situation by 31 December 2010. Finally, he made reference to GFCM new extra-budgetary resources, which were highlighted by the signature of two agreements with DG Mare (of the European Commission) and another with the Italian government.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

### *Recommendations adopted under Article V of the GFCM Agreement*

7. The Committee was informed that the Secretariat had officially transmitted the text of recommendations and resolutions adopted at the Thirty-fourth Session of the Commission (Greece, April 2010) to Contracting Parties. After the “grace period”, the decisions entered into force on 9 September 2010. The Committee was informed of the scope of a letter received from Lebanon concerning the Recommendations GFCM/34/2010/1 and GFCM/34/2010/2.

### *GFCM Performance Review*

8. The Acting Executive Secretary stressed that the final draft report prepared by the Performance Review Panel and circulated among the GFCM Members for comments in October 2010, was received in its final version in January 2011 which considered the feedback from EU, Italy and Turkey.

9. He also informed that the conclusions of the report regarding the functioning of the technical subsidiary bodies were presented and discussed by a member of the Performance Review Panel during the Thirteenth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) held in February 2011 and in the course of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) held in March 2011. The feedback of the SAC and the CAQ about the Performance Review have been respectively integrated in the final reports of the two Committees.

## **Activities and functioning of the Secretariat and needs for the future**

10. The Committee was informed that the intersessional activities of the Secretariat included the organization and coordination of 29 meetings, of which: 17 meetings of Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) subsidiary bodies and its annual Session, seven meetings of Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) subsidiary bodies and its annual session. The Secretariat produced 41 technical and administrative documents, of which 25 already available on GFCM website, 7 published and 9 to be released presently.

11. The Committee was informed on staffing issues within the Secretariat. Firstly, the recruitment of the Information Management Officer (Professional Category/P2), Ms Pilar Hernandez (Spanish citizen) in August 2010. Moreover, the post of Administrative Assistant (G3) left vacant in December 2010, is in its final stage of recruitment, the appointment being envisaged in June/July 2011. In relation with the need for strengthening the Secretariat in terms of technical staff, a proposal for three additional posts (Stock Assessment/Population Dynamics expert, Editor/Translator of technical

documents and Data Compliance manager) within the course of the next two years was brought to the attention of the Committee. Furthermore, the Committee was sensitized about the urgency to recruit a Security guard/Receptionist (G3) and an Office helper (G2) in view of moving to the new headquarters.

### **Progress on GFCM new Headquarters**

12. With regards to the question of GFCM new headquarters, the acting Executive Secretary recalled that FAO Director-General had approved that FAO contribute on a voluntary basis € 46 000 per annum to cover specific running costs (water, electricity, etc.) while the host country, Italy, would contribute € 100 000 per annum, corresponding to the remaining share of the estimated total of these costs. The Secretariat was coordinating with FAO Infrastructure and Facilities Management Service dealing with logistic and technical matters, in order to ensure the move to the new headquarters by 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2011.

### **Status of ratification of the Amendments to the GFCM Agreement**

13. The Committee was informed on the status of acceptance of 1997 amendments to the GFCM agreement, that remained unchanged, i.e. 21 Members had deposited their instruments of acceptance while Egypt and Israel have not yet done so. Regarding the case of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Secretariat received a letter on 17 September 2010 from the Syrian Embassy in Rome notifying that Syria ratified the agreement on 12 July 2009. However, according to FAO Legal Office, this letter could not be considered as a formal ratification since the specific standard model for the ratification process had not been used.

## **FINANCIAL ISSUES**

### **Member contributions to the autonomous budget**

14. The Secretariat informed the Committee that the “Call for funds” letter was sent the 17 June 2010. By December 2010 most Members had settled their contribution. In total twenty-one Members deposited their instruments of acceptance and remitted their contributions; two Members (the Syrian Arab Republic and Egypt) did not deposit their formal instruments of acceptance but remitted their contribution; one Member (Greece) deposited its instruments of acceptance but did not pay its contribution; one Member (Israel) did not deposit its instrument of acceptance (nor participated in the vote for the selection of Executive Secretary), nor paid its contribution.

### **2010 Financial situation: autonomous budget, arrears and trust funds**

15. The Committee was informed on the main elements of the budget for the intersessional period, during which the Secretariat managed the expenditure according to the priorities and workplan adopted by the Commission.

16. Information on the status of GFCM extra-budgetary resources (i.e. voluntary contribution from Members) received from EU, Italy and Spain in support of the activities of the subsidiary bodies of the CAQ was provided. In this respect, the EU delegate suggested that more details and explanations regarding the extra-budgetary resources should be added as annex to the report. The Committee agreed with this proposal (as set out in Annex C).

17. The Committee thanked the Secretariat for the thorough presentation made on administrative and financial issues. The discussion of the Committee focused on the additional future costs, anticipated by the Secretariat through a second presentation.

18. Although the request for additional personnel was motivated by the increasing amount of activities requested to the Secretariat to perform the workplan set by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, some delegates expressed their concern about the proposal of a budget increase of over 15 percent, bearing in mind the general crisis affecting the Mediterranean region.

19. The EU delegate highlighted the importance to reinforce GFCM Secretariat, pointing out that such strengthening of human resources should be considered after a clear identification of priorities. She also asked clarification about the vacant posts and those already filled in.

20. Some delegates suggested the need for budget optimization, specifically by means of training and support from projects in the region. The proposal of using internet for consultation and downloading of GFCM reports and publications was viewed as a means to reduce costs.

21. The delegate from Monaco expressed his concern about the contribution increase for 2011 and took the opportunity to raise the issue of reconsidering GFCM financial rules related to the calculation of Members contributions.

22. The Acting Executive Secretary explained that such increase was due to inclusion of information provided by World Bank, not available before, which has made the calculation more accurate.

23. The representative of FAO Legal Office stated that the request to amend GFCM financial rules was made by Monaco in timely manner. However he also pointed out that any adjustment to the mentioned regulations should take into consideration all the implications for the other Members.

24. Following the discussion, the Commission agreed to consider the request made by representative from Monaco in a wider context as being of interest of all Members. For this purpose it was underlined the need of addressing the issue in the framework of the proposed ad-hoc task force aiming at identifying the necessary modifications to the GFCM Agreement and associated procedural and financial Rules.

25. The Committee agreed that a final decision on staffing, budget adoption and priorities would be taken during the week, further to the election of the Executive Secretary and the review of 2011 workplan.

### **Progress on the selection of GFCM Executive Secretary**

26. The Committee was reminded that the vacancy announcement for the post of Executive Secretary was posted between 18 November—29 December 2010. The pre-selection panel met on 11 March 2011 and GFCM Members were invited to send their preferences among the 8 pre-selected candidates. A short list of five candidates was prepared on the basis of the results received. The final election, through interview and vote, would lead to the appointment of the new GFCM Executive

Secretary.

**Provisional GFCM budget and member contributions for 2011 and 2012**

27. The Acting Executive Secretary, introduced this Agenda item based on document GFCM Budget and Member Contributions for 2011-2012 (CAF:II/2011/3).

28. The document presented an estimate of forecast expenditures under the autonomous budget and includes a breakdown of the main budget chapters for 2011 and 2012 financial years. The share of the autonomous budget to be financed by each Member is calculated on the scale featured in the GFCM Financial Regulations. The document should be read in conjunction with the draft programme of work of the Commission for 2011 (documents GFCM:XXXV/2011/6 and 7) to assess the budgetary implications.

29. The document put forward two issues for the consideration of the Commission. The first, was related to the payment of US \$ 18 000 related to a debt dating back to 2004. The second referred to a request received from the FAO Technical Cooperation Division to increase FAO project servicing costs at 4.5 percent at the moment. It was decided, in relation to the first issue, to request the cancellation of the debt and, as for the second, the application of the same percentage of project servicing costs to all GFCM project.

30. The forecast budget included in the document is based on the proposed programme of work of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) for 2011, as adopted at its Thirteenth Session and the programme of work of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) for 2011, as adopted at its Seventh Session. The budget is also adjusted according to an update of the Secretariat administrative and operational costs and does not include any new activity proposed by the Commission. Moreover, the estimated budget does not include the unforeseen cost that could result from the move to the new Headquarters. Additional activities would need to be added to this estimate. As requested by the Commission, the budget of cooperative projects financed from extra budgetary resources and executed by the Secretariat is dealt with separately from the GFCM global budget.

31. With reference to GFCM Autonomous Budget, the Acting Executive Secretary presented also GFCM Member contributions for 2011—2012. The draft budget for the next financial year was presented in accordance with the provisions of Article X of the Financial Regulations and decision taken by the Commission at its thirty-second session.

32. On the basis of the information and data available to the Secretariat and assuming the Commission approves all proposed expenditures, the total sum of the autonomous budget for 2011 is estimated at US \$ 1 869 987, while that for 2012 is estimated at US \$ 2 335 711. This would represent a 15.15 percent increase in 2011 in relation to the initial budget adopted for 2010 and a 24.91 percent increase in 2012 in relation to the budget proposed for the previous financial year.

33. The document finally addressed the extra-budgetary resources (i.e. those from voluntary contributions of certain Members) allocated to supporting the Committee on Aquaculture and its working groups. It made reference, specifically, to the agreements with the European Commission for the cooperative project in support of the working groups of the Committee on Aquaculture on sustainable aquaculture development (InDAM Phase 2) and on site selection and carrying capacity (SHoCMed Phase 2); as well as to the Italy funded cooperative project for strengthening cooperation on fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (LaMed).

**ANY OTHERS MATTERS**

34. No other issues were raised.

**ELECTION OF THE BUREAU**

35. The bureau of the CAF was unanimously elected. Mr Hachemi Missaoui (Tunisia) was elected Chairperson while Mr Aleksandar Joksimovic (Montenegro) and Mr Mohamed Najih (Morocco) were elected first and Second Vice-Chairpersons respectively.

**DATE AND VENUE OF THE THIRD SESSION**

36. The date and venue of the third session will be simultaneous to the thirty-sixth session of the Commission.

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

37. The report was adopted on 13 May 2011.

**Appendix A****Agenda**

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the session
3. Reports from the Secretariat on administrative and financial issues
  - 3.1 Activities and functioning of the Secretariat and needs for the future
  - 3.2 Progress on the issue of the new Headquarters of the Commission
  - 3.3 Status of ratification of the Amendments to the GFCM Agreement
  - 3.4 Contributions by Members to the autonomous budget
  - 3.5 2010 financial situation: autonomous budget, arrears and trust funds
  - 3.6 Progress on the selection of the GFCM Executive Secretary
4. Provisional GFCM budget and Member contributions for 2011 and 2012
5. Any others matters
6. Election of the bureau
7. Date and venue of the third session
8. Adoption of the report

**Appendix B****List of documents**

CAF:II/2011/1	Agenda and Timetable
CAF:II/2011/2	Report of the Secretariat on administrative and financial issues
CAF:II/2011/3	GFCM budget and Members contributions for 2011-2012
CAF:II/2011/Inf.1	provisional List of Documents
CAF:II/2011/Inf.2	Agreement for the Establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, Financial Rules and Rules of Procedure
CAF:II/2011/Inf.3	Terms of reference of the Committee on Administration and Finance
CAF:II/2011/Inf.4	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights by the European Union and its Member States
CAF:II/2011/Inf.5	Performance Review of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and Black Sea
CAF:II/2011/Inf.6	Report of the First Session of the Committee on Administration and Finance
CAF:II/2011/Inf.7	Duties and responsibilities of an expert in stock assessment/ population dynamics within the GFCM Secretariat



## Appendix C

**Status of GFCM extra-budgetary resources**

At its Thirty-first Session, the Commission requested that extra-budgetary resources (i.e. voluntary contributions from Members) also be reflected in the financial statement. The situation is as follows:

Recently closed activities

The Tunisian Cooperative Project in support of the SIPAM Regional Centre (TEMP/INT/988/MUL—Assistance to SIPAM) was closed in November 2010.

The Spanish Cooperative Project in support of the CAQ Working Group on Marketing in Aquaculture (WGMA) was executed from April 2008 to June 2010, and was completed in September 2010.

The activities of the Working Group on Sustainability in Aquaculture (WGSA) were carried out with the support of the Project “Developing site selection and carrying capacity for Mediterranean aquaculture within aquaculture appropriate areas” (SHoCMed Phase I). SHoCMed Phase I, funded with the support of the European Union, went from October 2008 to November 2009. In 2010 the cash balance due for the amount of €3 821.70 was received from the donor.

The activities of the WGSA were also implemented thanks to the support of the Project “Indicators for Sustainable Development of Aquaculture and Guidelines for their use in the Mediterranean (InDAM Phase 1)” funded with the support of the European Commission. InDAM Phase I went from December 2008 to December 2009. In 2010 the cash balance due for the amount of €1 834 was received from the donor.

Recently launched activities*European Community Cooperative Project in support of CAQ Working Groups on Aquaculture Sustainability (InDAM Phase 2) and Siting and Carrying Capacity (SHoCMed Phase 2)*

An agreement between DG MARE and GFCM was signed on 24 September 2010 to launch SHoCMed Phase 2 with a contribution of € 60 938.79 (approximately US \$ 85 138.75) representing 30 percent of the project eligible costs. The GFCM received a first payment of € 48 751.03 (US \$ 68 111), of which the amount of US \$ 24 806.07 was spent in 2010 for travel and consultancies.

An agreement between DG MARE and GFCM was signed on 16 November 2010 to launch InDAM Phase 2 with a contribution of € 85 318.37 (approximately US \$ 114 214.98), representing 50 percent of the project eligible costs for the first year. The GFCM received a first payment of € 68 254.70 (US dollars 91 372).

*Italian Cooperative Project in support of GFCM activities: “Strengthening cooperation on fisheries and aquaculture management in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea” (LaMed)*

The project on “Strengthening cooperation on fisheries and aquaculture management in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea” (LaMed), with a total contribution of € 300 000 funded by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies (MiPAAF) was launched on 1 September 2010. The project has two components: Component 1 “Fisheries laws and regulations in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (LaMed-1)” and the Component 2 “Mediterranean coastal lagoons management: interactions between aquaculture and capture fisheries (LaMed -2)”. The GFCM received a first payment of US \$ 171 648.00. The amount of US \$ 25 742 was spent in 2010.