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GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

Third Session

Zaragoza, Spain, 25-27 September 2002

**REVIEW OF THE MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
TWENTY-FIFTH AND TWENTY-SIXTH SESSIONS OF THE GFCM
CONCERNING AQUACULTURE**

1. Two sessions of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) have been held since 2000 when the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) held its Second Session (Rome, Italy, 13-16 June 2000).

Twenty-fifth GFCM Session

2. At its Twenty-fifth Session, held in Sliema, Malta, from 12 to 15 September 2000, the Commission received the report of the Second Session of the CAQ and endorsed the recommendations made during the Session.

3. The Commission was informed that the Consultation on the Application of Article 9 of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in the Mediterranean Region was held in Rome, Italy (19-23 July 1999). The main outcome of the Consultation was the adoption of a Plan of Action that aimed at the implementation of the principles of the Code to Mediterranean aquaculture, the improvement of planning schemes, the conservation of the environment and the stabilization of trade in aquaculture products.

4. The Commission recommended that activities of high regional relevance were to be given priority over more nationally oriented ones and indicated that work on specific matters should have a more open and multidisciplinary treatment in order to follow the orientations of the CCRF.

5. The Commission recommended to strengthen liaison with new organizations such as the European Aquaculture Society (EAS) and to expand environment-related activities.
6. The Commission recommended a better integration of capture fisheries and aquaculture as part of a single system, since subjects such as biodiversity and environmental conservation required a common analysis.
7. The Commission recommended that additional resources be provided to the CAQ network on Information Systems for Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM) and to promote a stronger connection with other similar regional groupings.
8. The Commission also endorsed the recommendation of CAQ concerning the use of four GFCM languages in the future sessions of CAQ.

Twenty-sixth GFCM Session

9. During the Twenty-sixth Session of GFCM, Ischia, Italy, from 10 to 13 September 2001, the Commission was informed of the activities carried out during the intersessional period by the three main networks, SIPAM, SELAM (Socio-Economic and Legal Aspects of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean) and TECAM (Technology and Aquaculture in the Mediterranean). The activities followed the priority listing established at the Twenty-fifth Session of the Commission and were implemented within the limits of the financial resources available.
10. The Commission was informed that activities of the CAQ networks would require adequate funding in order to implement the activities identified and recommended. The Governments of Tunisia and Italy and the FAO Regular Programme had so far mainly supported the SIPAM network.
11. The Commission during the session made no specific recommendations on the CAQ.