



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



COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

Fifth Session

Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 5–7 June 2006

REVIEW OF MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TWENTY-NINTH AND THIRTIETH SESSIONS OF GFCM CONCERNING AQUACULTURE

1. One Extraordinary and two statutory sessions of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) have been held since 2004 when the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) held its Fourth Session (Alexandria, Egypt, 7–9 June 2004).

Extraordinary Session of GFCM

2. The Commission held an Extraordinary session in St Julians, Malta, from 19 to 23 July 2004, to review, among others, the implications of the entry into force of the 1997 amendments to the GFCM Agreement and to adopt Financial Regulations for the autonomous budget, to assess the programme of work and the autonomous budget for 2005, and to review issues connected to the functioning of the Commission. The report of the meeting is available as information document GFCM:CAQ/V/2006/Inf.5.

3. The highlights of this meeting relevant to CAQ include the following: the Commission (i) decided to freeze the proposed post of Aquaculture expert and to temporarily continue to rely upon consultancies; (ii) expressed the preference for statutory meetings to be covered by the autonomous budget; (iii) and gave priority to the strengthening of the Information System for the promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM) and the re-establishment of the Network on Environment and Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (EAM).

Twenty-ninth Session of GFCM

4. At its Twenty-ninth Session, held in Rome, Italy, from 21 to 25 February 2005 (GFCM:CAQ/V/2006/Inf.6), the Commission received the report of the Fourth Session of the CAQ (GFCM:CAQ/V/2006/Inf.4), endorsed all of its recommendations and approved the activities proposed by the Committee. The recommendations also included for the Commission to consider the establishment of a post for an Aquaculture expert in the new GFCM Secretariat.

Many of the recommendations derived from the outcome of the Meeting of experts on the Evaluation of CAQ and its Networks held in FAO, Rome, from 29 to 30 March 2004.

5. In relation to the Network on the Environment and Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (EAM), the Commission recommended that the expert meeting for the re-establishment of this network be convened as soon as funds allocated during its Extraordinary session (St Julians, Malta, 19–23 July 2004) became available.

6. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of CAQ that the National Coordinators (NCs) appointed by the GFCM Members participating in the Network on Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM) should be endowed with an institutional mandate and provided with adequate means at national level to carry out their activities. Furthermore, the Members were urged to confirm the appointment of the NCs or appoint new ones on the basis of the terms or references approved by the Commission.

7. In view of the significance placed in strengthening the SIPAM Network, the Commission further acknowledged the importance of recruiting the SIPAM Information and Communication Officer and for the Secretariat to proceed with the necessary actions at the earliest.

8. With regards to the implementation of activities under the two networks on Technology and Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (TECAM), and Socio-Economic and Legal Aspects of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SELAM), coordinated by the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies / Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (CIHEAM/IAMZ), the Commission endorsed the recommendation that the networks should focus on the analysis of issues of regional concern. It was further acknowledged that this might require additional funding to complement the limited resources provided by CIHEAM and the FAO Fisheries Department and the mobilization of national aquaculture institutions.

9. With specific regards to the *modus operandi* of the TECAM and SELAM networks the Commission also endorsed the suggestion that the Secretariat and CIHEAM review their functioning, the role of CIHEAM and present options on how future collaboration could be adequately structured.

10. The Commission acknowledged that the Secretariat prepared a revised and focused regional aquaculture project proposal. It also recognized that the divergences of priorities throughout the region makes it difficult for a single project to be endorsed by all Members or to attract donor support. In this regards, the CAQ recommendation in differentiating issues of regional interest from those specific to a sub-region was welcomed.

Thirtieth Session of GFCM

11. At its Thirtieth session held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 24 to 27 January 2006, the Commission noted with satisfaction the actions taken by the Secretariat and by the Committee on Aquaculture with regards to follow-up actions taken on prior decisions and recommendations. The report of the meeting is available as information document GFCM:CAQ/V/2006/Inf.7.

12. With regards to the joint GFCM/ICCAT Ad Hoc Working Group on Sustainable Bluefin Tuna Farming/Fattening Practices in the Mediterranean, the Commission was informed that the third and final meeting was held in FAO, Rome, from 16 to 18 March 2005. In this respect, the Commission expressed its satisfaction for the results of this joint activity with ICCAT and endorsed the guidelines produced by the experts. The Commission further invited CAQ to expand the guidelines through the EAM as necessary, especially on issues related to aquaculture and the environment.

13. With reference to tuna farming, the Commission adopted the ICCAT Recommendation [05-04] to amend the Recommendation [04-06] on bluefin tuna farming [GFCM/2006/8 (A)]. The recommendation requires among other things, for fishing vessels to log and report information on the quantity and number of fish transferred to cages and for ICCAT Contracting Parties to set up and maintain a registry of the farming facilities under their jurisdiction.

14. The Commission noted that the Eighth SIPAM Annual Meeting allowed for the identification of a strategy to harmonize FAO/FIDI (Fishery Information, Data and Statistics Unit) aquaculture production statistics and to re-elaborated the system. The Commission further acknowledged the transfer of the coordination of SIPAM from the FAO Inland Water Resources and Aquaculture Service (FAO/FIRI) to the GFCM Secretariat and the responsibility of MedFisic Project, on behalf of the Secretariat, in the implementation of the conceptual and system development tasks for revitalizing SIPAM.

15. In relation to EAM, the Commission endorsed the proposal that EAM should be re-established as a subsidiary body of the Committee on Aquaculture and that it should work through thematic working groups. The Commission also supported that the EAM National Coordinators be identified as soon as possible.

16. The Commission acknowledged that CIHEAM/IAMZ was a primary partner for training in aquaculture as well as fisheries. Furthermore, it agreed for an expert meeting to take place back-to-back with the Fifth session of CAQ for the establishment of a subsidiary body of the Committee covering marketing and industry related issues, in replacement of the TECAM and SELAM Networks.