



**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN**

**COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES POUR
LA MÉDITERRANÉE**



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Committee on Aquaculture

Working Group on Siting and Carrying Capacity Multistakeholder Workshop on Siting and Carrying Capacity (ShocMed)

(Tangier, Morocco 29-30 October 2009)¹

Thursday 29^h October

Morning session (9.30 – 13.00)

1. Opening and arrangements of the meeting

The technical aspects related to the organization and functioning of the meeting will be introduced.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda of the meeting will be introduced and discussed. The rapporteur of the meeting will be designated.

3. Presentation of Working Group on Siting and Carrying Capacity and ShocMed² Project

A general introduction will be made about the overall aspects of the Working Group on Siting and Carrying Capacity as well as on the main topics related with the ShocMed Project. The last will be also introduced to the different stakeholders and participants to the meeting.

4. Interaction between Aquaculture and the Environment in the Mediterranean Sea.

¹ the prospectus of this Workshop is in Appendix. Further information about the logistic arrangements are available at ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/gfcm/caq_wg/2009/CAQ_Tanger/information.pdf

² Project ShocMed. Developing siting and carrying capacity guidelines for Mediterranean aquaculture within aquaculture appropriate areas is operative since October 2008. The project is funded with the contribution of European Commission (EC) DG Mare.

The main issues related to the interaction between the aquaculture and environment in the Mediterranean Sea will be presented and discussed; the main achievements obtained so far will be illustrated

- 4.1 *Review and bibliography analysis of relevant sources of information on aquaculture-environment interactions in the Mediterranean Sea; Key effects that aquaculture production might cause to the Mediterranean environment;*
- 4.2 *Interaction aquaculture-environment and exclusion criteria for site selection*
- 4.3 *Interaction of aquaculture with sensitive habitats and marine protected areas;*

Afternoon session (14.30 – 17.00)

5. Interaction of aquaculture with other uses in the coastal zone and review of bottlenecks

- 5.1 *Interaction of aquaculture with capture fisheries and the other uses in the coastal areas ;*
- 5.2 *Environmental attributes affected by and affecting aquaculture with particular reference to Mediterranean marine ecosystems and review of environmental and socioeconomic bottlenecks for aquaculture production*

6. Review of exiting procedures and guidelines for aquaculture site selection in the Mediterranean region.

- 6.1 *A synthesis of existing procedures and rules for site selection used across the Mediterranean will be illustrated. Presentation of the results of the Workshop on National legislation on Siting, Monitoring programme and Environmental Impacts Assessment regulatory framework for finfish marine aquaculture (13-14 July 2009, Vigo)*
- 6.2 *IUCN-FEAP Guidelines on Site selection and Site Management*
- 6.3 *National regulation and case studies*

Friday 30th October

Morning session (9.30 – 13.00)

7 Brainstorming discussion on the main topics on Siting and Carrying Capacity on Aquaculture.

Brainstorming discussion on the following topics:

- Monitoring marine aquaculture activities.
- Environmental quality standard.
- Environmental impact of aquaculture activities
- Ecosystem approach for aquaculture

Afternoon session (14.30 – 17.00)

8 Conclusion and Recommendations

- Finalization of Discussions and Recommendations
- Priorities of Working Group on Siting and Carrying Capacity
- Follow Up ShocMed and Workplan for second year.

9 Other matters

10 Adoption of the report

Working Group on Siting and Carrying Capacity - **Multistakeholder Workshop on Siting and Carrying Capacity (ShocMed)** - (Tangier, Morocco 29-30 October 2009)³

Prospectus

At its fifth session held in Spain in June 2006, the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) established a Working Group Siting and Carrying Capacity taking also into consideration the outcome and the identified priorities issues of the Expert Meeting on the re-establishment of the Network on Environment and Aquaculture in the Mediterranean, held in Rome (December , 2005).

The Expert meeting, among other identified a series of priorities issues in support to the sustainable development of Mediterranean aquaculture and focussing on environment-aquaculture interactions. The meeting identified also crucial issues that should be addressed such as the necessity of a better integration of aquaculture within integrated coastal zone management and the necessity for an improved public image of aquaculture. Furthermore the meeting placed also emphasis on the implementation of an Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture in the Mediterranean.

The project ShocMed “*Developing siting and carrying capacity guidelines for Mediterranean aquaculture within aquaculture appropriate areas*” attempts to support the CAQ in its effort to address some of the priority issues identified, and endorsed by the GFCM at its 31st session (January 2007). During the 32nd session of the GFCM (Rome, February 2008) the workplan presented by the CAQ was approved by the Commission.

The Project in support to the activities of the GFCM-CAQ Working Group on Siting and Carrying Capacity (WGSC) ShocMed is funded with the contribution of European Commission (EC) DG Mare and is operative since the October 2008 .

The aim of ShocMed is to produce criteria for enhancing the integration of aquaculture in Costal Zone Management by improving site selection and holding capacity standards, in order to provide a basis for harmonization of standards, policies and legal frameworks across the Mediterranean thus ensuring equal terms of market competition and minimal environmental damage.

A meeting of the WGSC was convened at University of Biology of Crete (Greece, October 2008). and focused its discussions on: the parameters for monitoring aquaculture activities; salient aquaculture impacts on the environment; gaps concerning the legal framework for site selection and the implementation of the workplan of ShocMed. Furthermore during such meeting and within the context of the cooperation of the CAQ with IUCN, were presented and summarized the main outcomes of the of IUCN-FEAP guidelines on environmental issues on aquaculture.

The WGSC and within ShocMed activities a “*Workshop on National legislation on Siting, Monitoring programmes and EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) regulatory framework for finfish marine aquaculture (ShocMed)*” was held in July 2009 (Vigo) with the cooperation of CETMAR. The aim of this workshop was to present and discuss on the main key issues on the licensing procedures in the Mediterranean countries and focused also on the environmental aspects related to the site selection and to the environmental impact and monitoring activities. During the workshop the planning activities of ShocMed were discussed as well as a preliminary synthesis of the questionnaires sent to the different Mediterranean countries on the different legal and administrative aspects in monitoring aquaculture activities was made. This analysis served also as basis for a first identification of priorities issues to be addressed on the major gaps in regulation, reporting and

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communication of monitoring program of finfish marine aquaculture including legal aspects and administrative producers. During the meeting was also made the presentation of the final version of the IUCN-FEAP guide, “Site Selection and Site Management” as additional technical contribution to the WGSC.

Furthermore and in addition to the above, for the implementation of ShocMed, the GFCM has envisaged a series of activities focused on reviewing the main issues related to the interaction between the aquaculture and environment and related to the interaction of aquaculture with the other uses in the context of the integrated coastal zone management.

Within the framework of the CAQ-WGSC, the GFCM agreed to hold a “*Multistakeholder Workshop on Siting and Carrying Capacity (ShocMed)*”

Meeting objectives:

The aim of this workshop is to present and discuss on the main issues related to the siting and carrying capacity in view of harmonization standards within the GFCM region.

Furthermore the workshop has been assigned the following objectives:

- a. to present the main achievements and results of the first year of ShocMed;
- b. discuss, make synthesis and identify priorities on the main issues related to the interaction between the aquaculture and environment
- c. discuss, make synthesis and identify priorities toward the definition of harmonized monitoring scheme of marine aquaculture activities and definition of environmental quality standards;
- d. discuss and make a synthesis and identified priorities, including guidelines, on the requirement and administrative procedures for site selection ;
- e. to bring together experts and stakeholders from different Mediterranean countries and present and discuss on the main aspects related to the site selection and to the environmental impact and monitoring within the context of integrated coastal management;
- f. to discuss on the main aspects, and propose workplan for of second year of ShocMed in support to the WGSC based on the work carried out and on the priorities gaps identified.

Workshop aim features:

Participation is open to experts and different stakeholders linked to the aquaculture issues in the GFCM member countries. A number of experts will be invited in their individual capacity from a range of disciplines (technical, legal, policy, environment, etc.), having involvement in the aspects related to the site selection and monitoring marine aquaculture. Active participation from attendees and their inputs on the issues covered are crucial to ensure the success of the workshop.

The outputs of the workshop will serve as basic contribution for the production of criteria and related guidelines for aquaculture site selection in the GFCM region within the activities of CAQ-WGSC (ShocMed Project).

Support documents:

(a list of documents in support to the Working Group will be available in a short time)

Information for Participants

1. Date and Venue

The meeting will be held from 29 – 30 October, 2009 Tangier, Morocco kindly hosted by the Centre Régional de l'Institut National de Recherche Halieutique (INRH) Malabata – Tangier (Morocco)
<http://www.inrh.org.ma/>

2. Contact Information

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Working Group on Siting and Carrying Capacity

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3. Language

Technical documents can be written in English or French. It is expected that the main working language for the meeting will be English, as no simultaneous translation can be provided.

4. Call for paper

Participants are encouraged to submit relevant papers that could be useful for the purposes of the meeting to the GFCM Secretariat (GFCM-Secretariat@fao.org), no later than 15 October 2009

5. Registration.

Participants are invited to register in advance by using the attached registration form.

6. Hotel Information and other

Information on hotels near to the meeting venue and other practical information are available at ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/gfcm/caq_wg/2009/CAQ_Tanger/information.pdf

Participants are kindly requested to make their own hotel reservation or contact the local organizers for logistical issues, including the questions related to the Visa (if required).

The documentation and information for the meeting is available in the GFCM web site (www.gfcm.org)