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منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
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Food  
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Organization  
of  
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United  
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Organisation  
des  
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pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

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## GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

### Twenty-eighth Session

Tangiers, Morocco, 14-17 October 2003

### PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD 2004 - 2005

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The programme of work for the intersessional period 2003-2004 laid down in this document emanates from the Sixth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). It is assumed that it is to be reviewed taking into consideration the guideline provided by the Commission through the rolling "Reference Framework for the mandate of SAC"<sup>1</sup>, to be updated as necessary to cover the intersessional period 2004-2005. The programme of work of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) for its intersessional period 2003-2004 was endorsed by the GFCM at its Twenty-seventh Session, as summarized in paragraph 99 of the Report of that Session (GFCM/XXVII/2003/inf.3) and, therefore, it is not reproduced below. CAQ programme of work for 2005 is to be identified at the Fourth Session of the Committee, scheduled to take place in Alessandria, Egypt<sup>2</sup>, in June 2004.

#### PROGRAMME OF WORK IDENTIFIED BY THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2. The following includes the summary of main activities for the intersessional period 2003-2004 as endorsed by the Committee at its Sixth Session. They reflect the needs and priorities identified by SAC Subsidiaries.

<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 88 and Appendix H of the Report of the Twenty-seventh Session.

<sup>2</sup> Upon confirmation by the relevant Authorities.

**A. Stock Assessment**Large Pelagic Stocks

- a) formulation by mid-2004 of Technical guidelines on sustainable bluefin tuna farming through the convening of two meetings of the Joint *ad hoc* GFCM/ICCAT Working group on Sustainable Tuna Farming in the Mediterranean;
- b) follow-up on Swordfish Stock Assessment undertaken by ICCAT in 2003 and convening of the VIIth Session of the Joint GFCM/ICCAT *ad hoc* Working Party on Large Pelagic.

Small Pelagic and Demersal Stocks

- a) initiate pilot exercises to test and validate the Direct Survival Method (DSM) for stock assessment;
- b) follow-up to management recommendations on demersal and small pelagic species;
- c) finalize the work related to the length at first maturity of Mediterranean anchovy;
- d) formulate and initiate a research project to evaluate the impact of discarded quantities in the stock assessment of small-pelagic species;
- e) pursue the identification and validation of Biological Reference Points, including through convening a Workshop at Mediterranean level, in 2004.

**B. Economic and Social Sciences**Economic and social indicators

- a) organize a fourth meeting of the Working Group on social and economic indicators with emphasis being put on the use of indicators in fisheries management;
- b) finalise studies on economic and social indicators in areas supported by CopeMed and AdriaMed and extend the studies to the other GFCM geographical sub-areas not yet covered, including promoting the utilisation of the related training manual of Fisheries Sampling Surveys;
- c) initiate, in close collaboration with SCSA, case studies on the application of socio-economic indicators in bio-economic models, especially on management scenarios simulation trials and the testing of BEMMFISH.

Studies and analysis

- a) follow-up on the studies on “Legal aspects of management measures” initiated by CopeMed and AdriaMed and extend the analysis to the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea;
- b) pursue, in close collaboration with SCIS, SCSA, and through the two pilot studies proposed by CopeMed and AdriaMed, the identification of Operational Units (OUs);
- c) initiate studies on fish and fish product markets.

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Database

- a) pursue network activities on the GFCM glossary, including through ensuring participation at the December 2003 meeting of the Working group on the Glossary;
- b) provide SCSI with validated data on OUs.

**C. Fishery Statistics and Information**

- a) monitor the implementation of the regional project MedFisis (Mediterranean fishery statistics and information system), including through convening a meeting late 2003 to evaluate the MedStat statistical approach and, early 2004, through finalizing the inventory and initiating the integration all relevant data in various database systems (e.g. CopeMed; AdriaMed; ITAFISH; FAO/FIDI) which could be maintained by the GFCM Secretariat;
- b) pursue cooperation with FIGIS on issues of common concern, especially on FIRMS network;
- c) coordinate the work on and convene a meeting of the Joint *ad hoc* SCISS/SCCESS/SCSA Working Group on Operational Units and establish the related data base; establish a thematic Expert Group on the measurement of fishing effort with the view of establishing Mediterranean standards for the collection of catch and effort data.

**D. Marine Environment and Ecosystems**

- a) monitor closely and implement the new developments on ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF), taking into account the preliminary results of the pilot project executed under the auspices of MedSudMed.
- b) present information in tabular form on incidental catches of protected species and large migratory sharks;
- c) complete work on the mapping of essential fish habitats.
- d) pursue and present in tabular form the results of on going research on impact of driftnets;
- e) pursue the analysis of mucilaginous algae blooms with emphasis on its relation to fisheries and contribute to the Training Workshop to be organized by CopeMed;
- f) complete studies on discards, especially on acoustic deterrent devices (pingers and passive acoustic reflectors) and dolphin tubes as well as on separator grids for escape of small fish in trawl gears;
- g) undertake multidisciplinary research (integrating hydrological, geological and biological aspects) to ascertain the effects of trawlers on bottom sediments.

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**MEETINGS PROPOSED FOR THE NEXT INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD**

3. The following meetings were proposed by SAC.

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Venue<sup>3</sup>/Date</b>	<b>Financing</b>
Seventh Session of SAC	TBD/ June 2004	TBD
Meetings of SAC Sub-Committees	TBD/ May 2004	-
Coordinating Group of the Sub-Committees	TBD/ May, 2004	-
Workshop on the Glossary	Rome/October 2003	
2nd Joint SAC/CAQ/ICCAT Working Group on Sustainable Tuna Farming	Izmir, Turkey/ 15-17 December 2003	-
3rd Joint SAC/CAQ/ICCAT Working Group on Sustainable Tuna Farming	TBD/March-May 2004	Italy/France?
SCCESS Working Group on Socio-Economic Indicators	TBD/TBD	-
Joint SCSA/SCCESS/SCSA Working Group on Operational Units	TBD/TBD	-
SCSA Working Group on Demersal Species	TBD/May 2004	-
SCSA Working Group on Small Pelagic Species	TBD/May 2004	-
Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Party on Large Pelagics	TBD/TBD	TBD
SCSA Workshop on Biological Reference Points	TBD/TBD	
SCMEE Working Group on anthropogenic effects and fishing technology	TBD/TBD	-
SCMEE Working Group on ecology and environment	TBD/TBD	-
SCMEE Training Workshop on mucilaginous algae	Tunis/TBD	COPEMED

4. In addition to the list of meetings of SAC (and CAQ) referred to above, the convening of the Twenty-ninth Session of GFCM should be considered.

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<sup>3</sup> TBD: to be determined.

**SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMISSION**

5. The Commission is invited to review the activities and meetings proposed by the Scientific Advisory Committee for 2003-2004. The Commission may also wish providing guidance for the period 2004-2005 through updating accordingly the “Reference Framework for the Mandate of SAC” and to confirm major activities for the Committee on Aquaculture in 2004. The Commission may wish to take relevant decisions on these matters, including prioritization of activities, guidance on enhancing research planning process of its Subsidiaries and identification of related funding requirements.