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Organización
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para la
Agricultura
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Alimentación

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GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

Twenty-ninth Session

Rome, Italy, 21-25 February 2005

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD 2005 - 2006

INTRODUCTION

1. The programme of work covers: the intersessional period 2005 for the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) as identified by SAC at its Seventh session (October 2004) and the intersessional period 2005-2006 for the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ), as identified by the CAQ at its Fourth session (June 2004). It should be noted that, at its Extraordinary session in July 2004, the Commission earmarked funds for some meetings and related activities in the autonomous budget for 2005 (Appendix G, document GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf.5). There will be thus a need to ensure that the programme of work that will be agreed upon by the Commission on the basis of the activities suggested by the subsidiary bodies remain consistent with the forecast of expenditure in the autonomous budget or, is adequately complemented with additional financial inputs.

PROGRAMME OF WORK IDENTIFIED BY THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2. The following includes the summary of the main activities for the intersessional period 2005 as endorsed by the Committee. They reflect the needs and priorities identified by the Subsidiary bodies of SAC.

3. At the Seventh Session, allusion was made to the Reference Framework for the mandate of SAC (2003-2004) as provided by the Commission at its Twenty-seventh session and further updated at its Twenty-eighth session. It was recalled that GFCM requested that the Framework be updated regularly and that the Chairperson of SAC identify priority activities based on available inputs and achieved results in the intersessional period. The view was expressed that SAC work programme for 2005 should mainly consist in finalizing, consolidating and extending most of current activities laid down in the Reference Framework for 2003-2004. It was felt not advisable to prepare a preliminary biennial Reference Framework (2005-2006), as the Commission has not yet spell out its programming mechanisms in the context of the autonomous budget. Nevertheless,

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reference was made to the short-medium term Programme presented by the Secretariat at the Extraordinary session on the basis of document GFCM:ES/2004/Inf. 4¹. The Committee thus agreed to put before the Commission, a preliminary programme of work for 2005 only, which would comprise the following priority activities and related meetings, for each of its subsidiaries.

Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA)

- carrying out the assessment of shared stocks and priority fisheries;
- pursuing activities on the identification of biological indicators, establishing reference points and testing them on selected fisheries or GSAs;
- completing maps on the distribution of juveniles;
- studying the likely biological impact of different fisheries management options;
- undertaking pilot multispecies stock assessments in selected GSAs.

Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE)

- supporting activities on mapping of sensitive habitats;
- holding a workshop on fisheries management applying the ecosystem approach to fisheries;
- promoting the development of a research programme on the likely impact of fishing at depths greater than 1000 meters, including investigating the use of different deep sea gear types;
- extending analyses on the impacts of driftnets on protected or endangered species to the whole Mediterranean;
- establishing a list of projects involved in the monitoring or control of the impact of fishing on protected or endangered species with the view to enhance coordination;
- monitoring the bycatch of large pelagic shark, taking into consideration protocols such as MED-LEM.

Sub-Committee on Information and Statistics (SCIS)

- developing studies on Operational Units in all GSAs having shared stocks;
- initiating work for preparing maps on the distribution of fishing operations in selected GSAs;
- preparing and holding a workshop on the standardization of fishing effort measurements by Operational Units;
- preparing and holding a transversal workshop on the statistical framework for storing and processing the GFCM data bank, including format and data characteristics of each data base, responding to SAC and GFCM needs.

Sub-Committee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS)

- further developing studies on socio-economic indicators to cover all GSAs and establishing reference point values to be tested in selected areas;
- updating and monitoring information on the fisheries management legal framework in GFCM Members;
- establishing the minimum quality standards for socio-economic data and information;

¹ Available on the GFCM website. www.faogfcm.org

- undertaking market studies in relation to fisheries management in GSAs where indicators are gathered.

Joint GFCM/ICCAT *ad hoc* Working group on Large Pelagics

4. The Committee sought for GFCM guidance on working arrangements regarding this subsidiary, as referred to in documents GFCM/XXIX/2005/5, 6 and 8. SAC therefore refrained suggesting specific activities for 2005.

Meetings

5. The Committee proposed the holding of the following meetings during the next intersession period with the understanding that associated venues and dates for the meetings will be completed at the Twenty-ninth session, as Members indicate their willingness to host meeting.

6. It should be noted that meetings of the Coordinating Meeting of the Sub-committee (CMSC) are not referred to, as SAC suggested that the CMSC meet as often necessary². Although provision has been earmarked in the 2005 autonomous budget for a first meeting of a Special Working group on IUU fishing in the Mediterranean, this is not inserted in the table below, pending confirmation by the Commission, including if relevant, identification of line of accountability and reporting for such a new subsidiary body if the Commission wish to establish it.

Meeting of the Committee	Budget	Date/Place
Eighth Session of SAC	AB	TBD ³ /September
Meetings of SAC Sub-Committees	AB	TBD/late June
SCISS transversal Workshop on GFCM Statistical Framework and Data bases	MedFisis?	TBD/late June
3rd Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Sustainable Tuna Farming	FAO	Rome, Italy/16-18 March
SCIS Workshop on measurement of Fishing effort	AB	TBD/TBD
SCIS transversal Working Group on Operational Units	AB	TBD/TBD
SCSA Workshop on Gear Selectivity	AB/France	Sète, France/9-11 February
SCSA Working Group on Demersal Species	AB	TBD/June
SCSA Working Group on Small Pelagic Species	AB	TBD/June
SCSA Workshop on Stock Assessment Methodology in the Black Sea	TBD	TBD/TBD
Workshop on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries	TBD	Tunisia/TBD

² Paragraph 12 of the Report of the Seventh session of SAC.

³ TBD = To be determined

PROGRAMME OF WORK IDENTIFIED BY THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

7. At its Fourth Session, CAQ agreed upon its programme of work for the intersessional period 2004–2006. In doing so, it identified "transversal" activities which encompass the work of the three Networks and specific activities, respectively for SIPAM, and for SELAM and TECAM. The proposed programme of work mainly includes (i) support to the Information Systems for Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM), Technology and Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (TECAM) and the Socio-Economic and Legal Aspects of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SELAM) networks; (ii) re-establishment of the Environmental and Aquaculture network (EAM); (iii) one regular meeting of the Committee; and (iv) external collaboration within and outside GFCM.

8 It can be recalled that CAQ also identified the following short-medium term fields of priorities of regional interest: a) access to a common market; b) development of regional common/standard regulations (e.g. traceability, food safety) taking into consideration existing EU regulations; c) adoption of a guaranteed safety and quality level for the Mediterranean aquaculture products throughout the region; d) promotion of the image of regional aquaculture production; e) improvement of knowledge on the biology of the bluefin tuna; and f) seminars and workshops to facilitate assessments and consideration by countries. Preliminary priority activities of sub-regional concern included: the development of marine aquaculture in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean regions through establishing regional cooperative projects and undertaking pre-feasibility studies in view of the establishment of i) an on-the-job training centre; ii) a pilot feed mill; iii) a regional centre for bluefin tuna reproduction.

Transversal activities

9. These include the following:
- Two Workshops on Bio-indicators of Sustainability for Aquaculture Production in the Mediterranean to be organized respectively in 2005 and in 2006. The first workshop will be hosted by France and the second by Italy;
 - Third meeting of the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Farming in the Mediterranean;
 - Preparation of a comprehensive assessment on the trends of Mediterranean aquaculture, including prospective analysis for selected species, based on SIPAM data complemented as necessary with information from other sources;
 - Organization of a workshop on coastal lagoon management and its interaction with artisanal fisheries to be funded by Italy;
 - Preparation of the aforementioned pre-feasibility studies.
10. The schedule of the "transversal" meetings of the Committee is forecasted as follows:

Meeting of the Committee	Budget	Date/Place
1 st Workshop on Bio-indicators for Sustainable Aquaculture	France	2005/Montpellier, France
2nd Workshop on Bio-indicators for Sustainable Aquaculture	Italy	2005/Italy
Third Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Bluefin Tuna farming in the Mediterranean	FAO	16–18 March 2005/Rome, Italy
Workshop on coastal lagoon management and its interaction with artisanal fisheries	Italy	TBD/Italy
Fifth Session of the Committee on Aquaculture	AB ⁴ /Spain	mid -2006/Madrid, Spain

⁴ AB = Considered in the 2005 autonomous budget (Appendix G, document GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf.5)

SIPAM activities and meetings

11. A priority activity in relation to the eight SIPAM databases will be the simplification of the databases structure in order to facilitate data collection and data entry by the National Coordinators. Emphasis will be on the supply of updated market information as requested by GFCM Members. SIPAM will also strengthen the interaction with other information systems. The website will provide improved and comprehensive national aquaculture reports as the new reporting structure of the National Aquaculture Sector Overview (NASO) developed by FAO was adopted. Furthermore, its is envisaged to adopt standard and appropriate terminology through interacting with FAO/FIGIS and the FAO glossary on aquaculture. will progress. The pathology data base upgraded and renamed as the 'Fish Health' facility would be linked to the AAPQIS database.

12. Major activities could be summarized as follow:

- regular maintenance of the SIPAM portal and databases and modification of the SIPAM System;
- regular provision of relevant aquaculture data and information;
- interactions with other information systems and updating of selected SIPAM web pages;
- development of National Aquaculture Sector Overviews for all SIPAM participating countries;
- simplify SIPAM databases structure to facilitate data collection and entry;
- recruitment of the Information and Communication Expert and;
- downloading of the TECAM Diagnostic Centres directory The SIPAM meetings and activities during the next intersession are summarized in the table below.

13. Forecasted meetings for SIPAM.

Meeting	Budget	Date/Place
SIPAM Annual Meeting	AB	TBD 2005/Split, Croatia
Joint SIPAM/SELAM meeting on analysis on seabass and seabream	AB	TBD/TBD
Joint SIPAM/TECAM meeting on fish disease	TBD	TBD/TBD
SIPAM Annual Meeting	AB	TBD 2006/TBD

14. It should be recalled that the budget figures for SIPAM, as reported in the autonomous budget, (in addition to US \$ 30,000 for the recruitment of the information officer), US \$ 67,000 for supporting activities without further specification. In this respect, a Special SIPAM Coordinating Meeting was convened by the GFCM Secretariat, in Rome, Italy, from 9 to 10 December 2004. The meeting, among other prepared a report (see document GFCM/XXIX/2005/Dma.8) entitled "*The future of SIPAM – Its role in the framework of the new GFCM structure*" which suggested to allocate the above mentioned \$ 67 000 as follows:

System development	40, 000
SIPAM regional center, including visits to Albania, Greece and France	15, 000
Web provider	2, 000
Support to National coordinators	10, 000

TECAM and SELAM activities

15. The TECAM and SELAM networks coordinated by CIHEAM programmed training contacts, surveys and analysis of aquaculture emerging issues through workshops and seminars. The networks foresee pursuing efforts in consolidating or establishing relationships with other national institutions and regional associations. In addition, CIHEAM-IAMZ is planning to organize the Fourth TECAM and SELAM Networks Coordination Committee Meeting to further discuss, identify and prioritize future activities, taking into account the recommendations made by CAQ at its Fourth Session.

16. The following four activities/meetings were endorsed by the Committee at its Fourth Session. In this respect, it should be recalled that CAQ stated that funds for the activities under the two networks should be made available through the GFCM autonomous budget. It is therefore assumed that this issue, together with clarifications of the *modus operandi* between GFCM and CIHEAM for the functioning of TECAM and SELAM will be addressed prior to preparing the 2006 autonomous budget of the Commission.

Meeting	Budget	Date/Place
Fourth TECAM and SELAM Networks Coordination Committee Meeting	CIHEAM	TBD/ Zaragoza, Spain
TECAM advanced on " <i>Design and management of bivalve mollusc hatcheries</i> "	CIHEAM	14-19 February 2005/Zaragoza, Spain
TECAM course on " <i>Use of Geographic Information Systems in Fisheries and Aquaculture</i> "	CIHEAM	13-24 June 2005/Zaragoza, Spain
TECAM advanced course on " <i>Macro and Micro Algae Aquaculture Production</i> "	TBD	TBD/TBD
TECAM advanced course on " <i>Methodologies for Environmental Impact Assessment of Mediterranean Aquaculture Farms</i> "	TBD	TBD/TBD
Updating of the TECAM " <i>Survey on Mediterranean Aquaculture Diagnostic Laboratories</i> "	TBD	TBD/Zaragoza, Spain

EAM activities

17. CAQ recommended the re-establishment of the network on the Environment and Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (EAM) and this was endorsed by the Commission at its Extraordinary Session. The first step will be the organization of a meeting of experts who will identify the main activities and work programme for this network. Source of funds for this meeting still need to be identified. There will be also the need to identify, if necessary, a Coordinating institution, as MAP-PAP/RAC referred to under Rule X 1. (d) of the Internal Rules of GFCM is no longer operational.

18. In relation to TECAM, SELAM and EAM, it should also be recalled that CAQ invited the Secretariat to prepare draft Terms of References for the Networks for submission at the next session of the Committee.

19. In addition to the list of meetings of SAC, CAQ and their subsidiary bodies, referred to above, the convening of the Twenty-third Session of GFCM should be considered.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

20. The Commission is invited to review the Programme of work and related meetings proposed respectively by the Scientific Advisory Committee for 2005 and by the Committee on Aquaculture for 2005-2006. In so doing, GFCM may consider the budgetary implications of these activities, particularly in relation to the autonomous budget as approved for 2005 and may provide further guidance to the Secretariat on the implementation of the budget.

21. The Commission may wish to update the "Reference Framework for the Mandate of SAC" for the 2005-2006 biennial period.

22. The Commission is invited to take relevant decisions on these matters, including prioritization of activities and identification of complementary funding sources, as may be required.