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والزراعة  
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联合国  
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## GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

### Twenty-ninth Session

Rome, Italy, 21-25 February 2005

### ISSUES CONNECTED WITH THE FUNCTIONING OF THE COMMISSION

#### I INTRODUCTION

1. The item “*Issues Connected with the Functioning of the Commission*” was placed before the Extraordinary Session of the GFCM, held in Malta, from 19 to 23 July 2004. Following a very preliminary exchange of views, the Commission agreed to consider them thoroughly during its next ordinary session.

2. This document presents a series of practical, institutional and legal issues regarding the functioning of the GFCM which, for the most part, were alluded to in July 2004. Some of these issues have been identified over the years, either by the Commission itself or by its Members, as matters requiring clarification. Other issues stem from reflection within the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) on matters concerning their *modus operandi*, following the evaluation of their achievements, made in 2003 and 2004 respectively. Some of these issues could be handled through appropriate decisions of the Commission or adjustments to practices followed so far, while others might involve changes to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission.

#### II STRENGTHENING OF SELECTED SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF SAC AND CAQ

3. The GFCM Agreement (Article VII refers) provides that the Commission may establish temporary, special or standing committees to study and report on matters pertaining to the purposes of the Commission and working groups to study and make recommendations on specific technical problems. The establishment of committees and working groups<sup>2</sup> are subject to the availability of the necessary funds in the relevant chapter of the approved budget of the Commission.

<sup>12</sup> Rule X, paragraph 2 (a) of the Rules of Procedure provide that a subsidiary body of the Scientific Advisory Committee could be established either by the Commission, or the Committee itself.

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### *Coordination Meeting of the Sub-committees (SAC/CMSC)*

4. Until 1997, the Commission held biennial sessions. At that time, the Commission included an Executive Committee<sup>3</sup>. The Executive Committee was required to meet at least once between regular sessions of the Commission and performed a number of tasks, including the formulation of draft resolutions and recommendations for submission to the Commission, the coordination of the committees work and working groups and function as an editorial and publications committee. Along with the decision to hold annual sessions, the decision was also taken to abolish the Executive Committee.

5. During the course of the past few years, experience, gained in the operation of the Commission, has shown that there has been an overall increase in all activities; in particular for the Scientific Advisory Committee. It has been noted that there are a number of administrative, organizational and executive issues that may arise during intersessional periods and which the Secretary may need to handle in a concerted manner. The need to rely on specific arrangements of the nature of an Executive Committee has been underlined with regard to the activities of SAC, in view of its multidisciplinary mandate, especially in relation to the coordination of inputs and outputs among Sub-committees, the provision of guidance with respect to research activities of sub-regional projects and the preparation of multidisciplinary fisheries management advice.

6. In order to respond to the aforementioned requirements, an informal “*Coordinating Meeting of the Sub-committees*” has been operating for the past few years. This entity has been acting *de facto* as a steering group for the SAC. At its Twenty-eighth session, the Commission acknowledged the importance of this group and noted the need that it be endowed with specific terms of reference (TOR's) to be agreed by the Commission<sup>4</sup>. The TOR's were prepared in due course by the CMSC and also for the Coordinators of the Sub-committees. At the Seventh session of the SAC, many delegations reiterated that the CMSC should work as a functional steering group. The Committee however emphasized the need to keep the CMSC flexible and responsive, thereby meeting as often as necessary, and reporting, using the appropriate format, on a formal basis to the SAC<sup>5</sup>.

7. The Commission may consider that an “enlarged Bureau of SAC”, consisting of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons, Coordinators of the Sub-committees and of the cross sectoral Working groups, backed by representatives of the Secretariat, could act as a flexible and responsive steering group, both on a formal and informal basis. At present, this is done on an informal basis in connection with a number of technical committees of FAO. However, formalizing the status of the CMSC may favour increased efficiency and accountability from concerned participants to the Coordinating Meeting. The Commission is, therefore, invited to decide on the opportunity to formalize the CMSC as a subsidiary of the SAC and eventually to review the terms of reference for the GFCM, attached hereto as Appendix 1.

8. In relation to the above, the Commission may note that the expected role of the Coordinators of the Sub-committee is essential for the proper functioning of the CMSC. At its Twenty-eighth session, the GFCM officially endorsed the appointment of the Coordinators as part of the new Bureau of SAC. The Commission may wish to review, for adoption, the TOR's prepared in this context by the CMSC for the Coordinators which are also included in Appendix 1.

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<sup>3</sup> The Committee consisted of the Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons and not more than four Members selected by the Commission at the end of each regular session.

<sup>4</sup> Paragraphs 16 and 19 of the Report of the Session

<sup>5</sup> Paragraphs 13 and 28 of the Report of the 7<sup>th</sup> session of SAC.

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### *Joint ad hoc GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Species*

9. As the GFCM and the ICCAT have the mandate to collect data, carry out assessments and manage tuna and tuna-like species in the Mediterranean, both Commissions have collaborated over the years in order to achieve these objectives. Hence, at its Nineteenth Session in 1989, the GFCM stressed the need for close collaboration with ICCAT in order to develop a basis for the proper assessment of the relevant stocks (especially bluefin tuna and swordfish). It agreed that joint GFCM/ICCAT meetings should aim at evaluating the stocks of large pelagic species in the Mediterranean<sup>6</sup> and, at that time, invited Members to implement ICCAT recommendations. At its Twentieth<sup>th</sup> Session in 1993, the GFCM endorsed the recommendation of the Second GFCM/ICCAT Expert Consultation on Evaluation of Stocks of Large Pelagics and established the Joint GFCM/ICCAT *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Large Pelagic Species, composed of experts from GFCM and ICCAT member countries. The GFCM Secretariat was entrusted with administrative work, while ICCAT provided the technical secretariat<sup>7</sup>.

10. Since its inception, the Joint *Ad Hoc* Working Group has held seven sessions. Until 1998 it met annually and thereafter every two years. The focus of the Working Group was on compilation of statistics and improvement of the knowledge-base for stock assessments. It served as a mechanism to facilitate the sharing and consistency of information and data and as a means to avoid duplication of effort between GFCM and ICCAT. In 1997, the GFCM adopted structural changes in respect of its subsidiary bodies, but did not formally refer to the Joint *Ad Hoc* Working Group which was thus assumed to be a subsidiary of the Sub-committee on stock assessment (SCSA). From 1997 to 2002, the Working Group reported to the SCSA and thereafter directly to the SAC, in order to be consistent with a similar format used when reporting to the ICCAT/SCRS<sup>8</sup>.

11. At its Seventh session, in 2004, the SAC stressed the need for further strengthening collaboration with the ICCAT. The SAC especially emphasized the need for proper monitoring of small tuna species, in addition to the larger pelagic species, including collecting and analysing socio-economic data and environmental information on these fisheries, at the sub-regional and regional levels. It was suggested to fill these gaps through the *ad hoc* Working group, with support from the four Sub-committees, whilst avoiding overlapping with activities fully covered by the ICCAT. The SAC recognized that this would entail updating and formalizing the status of this subsidiary body in order to make it an appropriate *ad hoc* transversal Working group endowed with a mandate broader than gathering data for stock assessments, as it is at present<sup>9</sup>. The SAC favoured the drafting of terms of reference that would clarify the functions of the Working Group for further formalization by the two parent bodies.

12. The issue of the relationship between the GFCM and ICCAT was also raised at the 18th Special Session of ICCAT, held in New Orleans, USA from 15-21 November 2004. The ICCAT favoured the strengthening of the cooperation with the GFCM, including through the Joint Working Group<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> Paragraph 50 of the Report of the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of GFCM (Livorno, Italy, 27 February-3 March 1989).

<sup>7</sup> Paragraph 61 of the Report of the 20<sup>th</sup> Session.

<sup>8</sup> Over the period a practice developed by which the meeting of the Joint Working group was possibly held together or just prior to the ICCAT/SCRC, so that the common data base and assessments could be examined jointly. Thereafter, pertinent Resolution and Recommendations adopted by ICCAT that have relevance to tuna and tuna like-species in the Mediterranean have been reviewed and adopted by GFCM, thus applying also to GFCM Members which were not Members of ICCAT (they were 15 in 1993 which compare to only ten in 2004). Since 1994, GFCM Members also cooperated in providing data for the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Programm.

<sup>9</sup> Doc.No PLE-054/2004 and paragraph 8 of the Report of the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of ICCAT.

<sup>11</sup> Paragraph 52 of the Report of the Fourth session (document GFCM/XXIX/2005/Inf. 7).

13. Following the request of the SAC, the GFCM and ICCAT Secretariats prepared preliminary Terms of reference for the Joint Working Group; these TORs are attached hereto, as Appendix 2 to this document, for the GFCM's consideration.

***Clarification of the relationship between the Committee on Aquaculture and its Network***

14. At its Fourth session, the CAQ stressed that it should be reinforced through a more precise mandate and an adequate share of the autonomous budget<sup>11</sup>. The Committee identified also the need for a better, more precise definition of its statutory responsibilities in relation to the four Networks created as a result of the activities of the UNDP/FAO Mediterranean Regional Aquaculture project (MEDRAP II).

15. In this context, the Commission may wish to note that the Rules of Procedure concerning the Committee on Aquaculture (Rule X (1) refers) requires it to “*oversee and guide work of the four networks [...] in particular by monitoring the progress, evaluating the proposed programmes of the various networks, and directing the work of the SIPAM network through the FAO Secretariat*” and to “*seek additional support to complement the contribution of the institutions which support the established networks, namely, CIHEAM, MAP-PAP/RAC and FAO and to enhance the work of the four networks*”.

16. In June 2004 the CAQ further recommended that the Coordination Committee of **SIPAM** (Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean) be dispersed with its duties being assumed by the SIPAM Regional Centre and that a clear operational set up for the SIPAM National Coordinators be established in the context of the new GFCM structure. In this respect, the CAQ endorsed the TORs prepared for the National Coordinators, which are provided in Appendix 4 hereto, for consideration by the Commission<sup>12</sup>. In addition the decision to recruit a SIPAM information and communication Officer was confirmed by GFCM and funds for this purpose were allocated through the autonomous budget for 2005. The TORs and qualifications requirements for this post are attached as Appendix 5

17. Upon guidance from the CAQ, a Special meeting of the SIPAM Coordinating Meeting was convened in early December 2004. The meeting 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, as an option, that the SIPAM be formally integrated as part of the aquaculture component of the GFCM information and statistical system, presently being established through the GFCM MedFisis regional project. Adequate follow-up to this proposal may require clarifying the role of FAO as statutory Coordinator of this Network, as well as clarifying the statute of the SIPAM Regional Centre based in Tunisia. The Commission may wish to provide its views on the future institutional set-up of the SIPAM.

18. The CAQ further made specific recommendations concerning the strengthening of **TECAM** (Technology of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean), **SELAM** (Socio-economic and Legal aspects of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean) and **EAM** (Environment and Aquaculture in the Mediterranean) Networks. This included the re-establishment of the EAM and the broadening of the scope of activities of SELAM and TECAM to address issues of strategic and regional importance<sup>13</sup>. The Committee further noted that TECAM had undertaken many training activities but there was a need for more analytical activities focused on CAQ priorities. The Committee further requested the Secretariat to draft appropriate Terms of Reference for TECAM, SELAM and EAM to be submitted at the next session of CAQ.

19. At its Extraordinary Session, in July 2004, the Commission earmarked funds from the autonomous budget for the convening of an Expert meeting to re-establish the EAM. However, the GFCM did not provide guidance on a possible institutional framework for coordinating the

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<sup>12</sup> Paragraphs 55 and 56 of the Report.

<sup>13</sup> Paragraph 54 of the Report.

EAM, taking into consideration that the MAP-PAP/RAC Centre in Split, Croatia, endowed to do so, is no longer operational in this respect. An option could be the re-establishment of the EAM as a Sub-committee of the CAQ.

20. The Commission may wish to review the aforementioned options concerning SIPAM and EAM, and to provide its views on the possibility of a more generic wording concerning the relationship between the CAQ and its Networks; taking into consideration that some of the activities are carried out, to a large extent, under the authority of national institutions. The Commission may, in view of its supervisory role and functions with regard to those Networks, consider whether there are risks of liability for the Commission arising from the functioning of those Networks, which legal nature is at times unclear and over which activities the Commission has very limited control.

#### ***Recruitment of the staff of the GFCM Secretariat***

21. The autonomous budget of the Commission for 2005, provides funds , in addition to the Executive Secretary, for the salary of : a Deputy-Secretary/Fishery Management Advisor (at P-5 level), a Secretary/Typist (at G-5 or G-4 level), and a Financial/Administrative Clerk (at G-4 level).

22. The draft TOR's and description of essential qualifications for the post of Deputy-Secretary are attached in Appendix 3, for review by the Commission. Its suggested that the relevant selection and procedures in force in FAO would apply to fill this post

23. The Commission is invited to provide further guidance on this matter, including on the date for entry on duty of that staff in light of the availability of resources of the autonomous budget.

### **III. REVIEW OF SELECTED PROVISIONS OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURES**

24. It might be appropriate for the Commission to undertake a review of its Rules of Procedure, in order to bring them into line with new developments.

#### ***Functions of the focal points and chairperson and vice-chairpersons of the Committees***

25. In its day-to-day functioning, the Committees and Sub-committees rely, through the Secretariat, to a substantial extent on national "*focal points*", in addition to the Coordinators of Sub-Committees and of the Networks. At its Twenty-eight session, the Commission acknowledged this state of affairs and invited Members to complete and update the list of the national focal points of the SAC and CAQ<sup>14</sup>. This was further comforted in the mandate agreed upon for the Executive Secretary which includes *maintaining an active and effective network of national focal points for routine communication of progress and results of the activities of the Commission*.

26. In the same vein, Rule VIII of the Rules of Procedure spells out the functions of the Chair and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission at a given session. No explicit reference is made to the functions being exercised by the office bearers of the SAC and CAQ, except, *mutatis mutandi*, for chairing a session. In particular, their role and responsibilities during the intersessional period is seldom defined. It should be recalled that a detailed mandate covering these functions had been established for the GFCM Executive Committee, abolished in 1997.

27. The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the issue of whether specific provisions on the functions of the Chairpersons and Vice-chairpersons, and of national "*focal points*" are desirable, especially with regard to their responsibilities during the intersessions of the respective Committees.

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<sup>14</sup> Paragraph 28 of th Report of the 28th session.

### ***Functions of the Secretariat***

28. Rule V of the Rules of Procedure defines in general, broad terms, the functions of the Secretariat of the Commission. The question arises as to whether there is a need to revise these provisions to bring them into line with the functions of the Executive Secretary, as defined in the procedure for the selection of the Secretary adopted at the Extraordinary session of GFCM. Another alternative would be to leave the provisions in question as they stand, with their current broad formulation, on the understanding that the functions of the Executive Secretary are not inconsistent with the current wording of Rule V.

### ***Credentials***

29. Rule III of the Rules of Procedure requires that at each session, the Secretary receives the credentials of delegations and observers. Such credentials must conform to the standard set by the Secretariat. The Secretariat is required to examine such credentials and report to the Commission. In the GFCM, over the past few years, delegates have not been required to submit credentials, which, in FAO practice is the case only for the Conference. Delegates are required to register only. It does not seem that there is a need for this provision, the Commission could consider, therefore, recommend that it be deleted and, perhaps, replaced by a reference to the registration of delegates.

### ***Budgetary matters***

30. In the course of the Extraordinary session, the Commission has adopted its autonomous budget and Financial Regulations. In view of the latter, it would appear that Rule XI of the Rules of Procedure<sup>15</sup> and in particular Rule XI (3) and (4) may need to be reconsidered.

### ***Languages of the Commission***

31. Rule XVIII of the Rules of Procedure deals with the “official languages” of the Commission<sup>16</sup>. The issue of the languages of the Commission has been raised on several occasions from various perspectives. It may be of interest to mention in this regard that in 1997, the FAO Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters examined an amendment to the Rules of Procedure of another Commission established by agreement concluded under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution to the effect that a particular language only be considered the “official language” of that Commission. At that time the CCLM “*was of the opinion that the best solution would be to recommend that the official languages remain English and French with the possibility for the Commission to decide on the working language or languages to be used at each of its sessions*” or for each of its documents<sup>17</sup>.

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<sup>15</sup> Rule XI of the Rules of Procedure, reads as follows: “1. Except as otherwise provided in these Rules, the Financial Regulations of the Organization, as amplified by the Administrative Manual and memoranda and the procedures based thereon, shall apply to the Commission. 2. A proposed budget of the Commission for the next succeeding financial period consisting of proposed expenses of the Secretariat, including publications and communications, the proposed travel expenditures of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, when engaged in the work of the Commission between the sessions, and the expense, if any, of the committees, shall after approval by the Commission, be submitted to the Director-General for consideration in preparation of the general budget estimates of the Organization. 3. When adopted by the Conference as part of the general budget of the Organization, the budget of the Commission shall constitute the limits within which funds may be committed for purposes approved by the Conference. 4. All cooperative projects shall be submitted to the Council or the Conference prior to implementation”.

<sup>16</sup> This Rule reads as follows: “1. The official languages of the Commission shall be such languages of the Organization as the Commission itself may decide. The delegations may use any one of these languages at sessions and for their reports and communications. A delegation using a non-official language shall provide for interpretation into one of the official languages. 2. During the meetings, interpretation in one or more of the official languages will be provided by the Secretariat when requested by one of the delegates present. 3. Publications of reports and communications shall be in the language in which they are submitted and, when required by the Commission. Abstracts in translation may be published”.

<sup>17</sup> Document CL112/8, paragraph 11.

32. The possibility of making a distinction between “official” and “working” languages, either through an amendment to the Rules of Procedure or through decisions of the Commission, may be considered. An option would be to continue running the Plenary session of the Commission with the official languages of FAO which apply to the Mediterranean, and to use French and English, for the sessions of the SAC and CAQ. This would entail about US \$ 45 500 yearly savings from the autonomous budget.

33. The Commission may wish to consider the aforementioned suggestion and provide guidance on this matter.

#### ***Recommendations on fisheries management***

34. The GFCM Agreement contains the generic designation of “recommendations”. However, it may be of interest to point out that, through an amendment adopted by the GFCM in 1976, Article III, paragraph 1(b) of the GFCM Agreement refers to recommendations on management measures to which a special procedure, set out in Article V of the GFCM Agreement, applies and makes such recommendations binding. In various Reports of the Commission reference is also made to Resolutions. There may be a need to ensure better coherence in the designation of the various decisions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

35. These recommendations<sup>18</sup> on management measures, when binding, are adopted in accordance with a specific procedure, whereby Members may object to them within one hundred and twenty days from the date of adoption. In the event an objection is made within that period, any other Member may similarly object at any time, within a further period of sixty days.

36. The above periods were established considering that the Commission would meet every two years. Since 1997, the Commission holds annual sessions and has adopted recommendations in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article V of the GFCM Agreement. Apart from the issue of increased recourse to such recommendations whenever possible, it is suggested that binding recommendations be clearly identified as recommendations adopted under Article V of the GFCM Agreement. In addition, the Commission may wish to assess whether the procedure for the entry into force of recommendations adopted under this provision remains adequate since the Commission holds annual sessions.

#### ***Editing of the Rules of Procedure***

37. There is a need to make a number of editorial changes to the Rules. This is, for instance, the case with Rule XVI which makes reference to Article X of the GFCM Agreement as it stood prior to the amendment of 1997, or to Rule X (5) which refers to the provisions of Article VII, paragraph 4 of the Agreement which has been repealed in 1997.

#### **IV. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMISSION**

38. The Commission is invited to review this document, including its appendixes, and to provide such guidance thereon as appropriate.

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<sup>18</sup> In addition, these recommendations are adopted by a two-thirds majority of the Members of the Commission present and voting. The text of such recommendations is to be communicated by the Chairperson of the Commission to each Member. The Members of the Commission undertake to give effect to any recommendations made by the Commission under Article III, paragraph 1(b), from the date determined by the Commission, which may not be before the following period for objection. A Member may also, at any time, withdraw its objection and give effect to a recommendation. If objections to a recommendation are made by more than one-third of the Members of the Commission, the other Members shall be relieved forthwith of any obligation to give effect to that recommendation. However, any or all of them may agree upon themselves to give effect to that recommendation.

39. The Commission is in particular invited to offer its views, and review the relevant appendixes on:

- (a) the status of the Coordinating Meeting of the Sub-Committees;
- (b) the Joint ad hoc GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagics;
- (c) the clarification of the relationship between the Committee on Aquaculture and its Networks;
- (d) the recruitment of the staff of the GFCM secretariat.

40. The Commission is also invited to offer its views on the desirability of amending or reviewing the Rules of Procedure, in light of the observations made in this document, concerning, *inter alia*:

- (a) the functions of focal points and chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of the Committees;
- (b) the functions of the Secretariat;
- (c) budgetary matters;
- (d) the languages of the Commission;
- (e) the recommendations on fisheries management.

## APPENDIX 1

**TERMS OF REFERENCE (TORS) FOR THE COORDINATING MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEES (CMSC) AND FOR THE COORDINATORS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEES****1. Membership and *Modus operandi***

The CMSC will comprise:

*1.1 Statutory members:* the Bureau of the Scientific Advisory Committee<sup>19</sup>, (comprising of the Chairperson and the two Vice-Chairpersons of SAC) and the Coordinators of the four Sub-committees (SCSA, SCESS, SCIS and SCMEE).

*1.2 Permanent Advisors:* the Coordinator(s) of cross-sectoral Working groups<sup>20</sup>, the Coordinators of the FAO Regional projects, the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of GFCM.

Pursuant to Rule X (6) of the Rules of Procedure, the procedures of the CMSC shall be governed *mutatis mutandis* by the Rule of Procedures of the Commission.

**2. CMSC Mandate**

- Propose and/or update elements of the reference framework for the mandate of the SAC for the intersessional period and plan the distribution of activities among sub-committees;
- promote organization of and participation in interdisciplinary or cross-sectional working groups answering directly to the SAC;
- examine the reports of the interdisciplinary or cross-sectional working groups and sub-committees and prepare proposals for an integrated Programme of Work of the SAC;
- collate draft recommendations of subsidiary bodies and formulate, as appropriate, multidisciplinary advice on fisheries management for examination by the SAC;
- function as editing committee for the selection of scientific and technical documents to be published in the GFCM *Studies and Reviews* series;
- conduct any other task specifically requested by the Commission or the Scientific Advisory Committee, or approved by consensus by the members of the Coordinating Committee.

**3. Mandate of Coordinators of the Sub-committees**

- Maintain an updated list of the National Focal Points and experts participating in related networks, providing full contact details, and ensure the distribution of related information;
- encourage the participation of experts in sub-committee activities and their scientific and technical contributions;
- organize the activities of the sub-committee in such a way that they cover the issues raised by the GFCM and/or the SAC, in collaboration with the SAC Coordinating Committee;
- coordinate intersessional activities, notably the organization of sub-committee meetings and, as appropriate, in collaboration with the facilitator, those of the

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<sup>19</sup> As defined in Paragraph 26 of the Report of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission.

<sup>20</sup> transversal ad hoc Working groups are those Working groups reporting directly to SAC, such as such as the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Groups on Large Pelagic Species.

working groups, including preparation of the annotated provisional agenda and/or terms of reference;

- supervise the drafting of meeting reports, including the presentation of attached appendixes/reference documents;
- liaise with scientific and technical bodies of other international organizations dealing with topics of common interest;
- represent the sub-committee at meetings of the SAC Coordinating Meeting of the Sub-committees (CMSC) , in particular for preparing work and advice for the SAC.

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**APPENDIX 2****PRELIMINARY REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE JOINT GFCM/ICCAT WORKING GROUP ON LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN****1. Mandate**

The mandate of the Joint *ad hoc* GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Species in the Mediterranean, as established in 1993, shall be amended so as to extend the functions of the Working Group toward providing biological, social and economic and environmental information and independent advice on all aspects related to the management of Tuna and tuna like species in the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and connecting waters. The Working Group would report respectively to the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and to the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The Working Group should be permanent in nature but it will be convened only upon request of SAC or SCRS.

It shall in particular, and with inputs from other subsidiary bodies of SAC and SCRS, as appropriate:

- assess information provided by national scientists from Members countries, relevant fisheries organizations, programmes and projects on catch and fishing efforts data as well as related biological, socio-economic and environmental information relevant to the conservation and management of tuna fisheries, including stock assessments on large pelagic species and analysis of ecosystem trends and environmental conditions;
- facilitate the collation and analysis of fleet statistics following the agreed criteria relative to the Registers of Vessels;
- analyse the results of intersessional works and formulate preliminary advice and management options to SAC and/or SCRS on the conservation and management of tuna fisheries;
- identify cooperative research programmes and monitor their implementation;
- undertake such other functions or responsibilities as may be conferred on it by the GFCM or ICCAT.

**2. Modus operandi**

The Working Group shall carry its duty in conformity with the relevant provision of the Rules of Procedures of GFCM and ICCAT. It shall, in particular:

- be convened by the Secretariats of the two parent organization (one convenor be appointed by the GFCM Secretariat and one be appointed by the ICCAT Secretariat);
- elect its Chairperson, among the participants, at each meeting;
- prepare draft terms of reference to be endorsed by SAC and/or SCRS, for each of its next meeting. The co-Conveners will refine the terms of reference drafted by the Working Group and develop an agenda following GFCM and/or ICCAT mechanisms for internal consultation.
- meet when requested by the parent bodies;

Both Secretariats should ensure announcement of the meetings to their Members. The Reports of the Joint *ad hoc* Working group shall be published independently by both organizations.

Members have an obligation to provide information on catch and fishing efforts, operational units and other related data relevant to the function of this Joint Working Group, in such a way as to enable the Working Group to fulfil its responsibilities.

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## **REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE POST OF DEPUTY-SECRETARY/FISHERY MANAGEMENT ADVISER**

### **1. Qualification and benefits of the incumbent**

The following qualification requirements, reflecting, as appropriate, United Nations Common System relevant conditions, are proposed for further review by the Commission:

- a) The incumbent should have university degree qualifications, preferably at post-graduate level, in fisheries biology, fisheries science, fisheries economics, administration, law or related fields. He/she should have at least ten years experience in fisheries management, policy formulation, preferably including bilateral and international relations. He/she should have the ability to exercise a high degree of professional initiative. The incumbent should also be conversant with the preparation of documents and the organization of international meetings. He/she should have working level C of either Arabic, English, French and Spanish. Preference will be given to candidates who have working knowledge in English and French and limited knowledge of a third of these languages.
- b) Other essential qualifications include demonstrated managerial ability to supervise professional matters in subject field; and familiarity with the use word processing; spread sheets and database management systems;
- c) Desirable requirements include: a high degree of adaptability and ability to cooperate effectively with people of different nationalities and of various social and cultural backgrounds and education levels;
- d) The Deputy-secretary/fishery management Advisor will be graded P5 based on the United Nations salary scheme for professional and high categories. He/she will, in addition, be entitled to a variable element for post adjustment, pension, insurance, etc. The Deputy-secretary is an official of FAO and is appointed under the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules of FAO.

### **2. Terms of Reference for the incumbent**

The following terms of reference are proposed for review by the Commission.

Pursuant to Article XI, paragraph 2 of the Agreement for the Establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, the Deputy-secretary shall be responsible for providing support to the activities of the Executive Secretary, as an advisor on technical matters and assisting in administrative matters, including the preparation of meetings and documents to be presented to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. He/she shall report thereon to and act through, the Executive-secretary and act as Technical Secretary for the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and its subsidiary bodies, as required.

The incumbent shall, for administrative purposes, be responsible to the Director-General of FAO and, on technical matters, shall be required to coordinate, through the Executive –secretary, his/her activities with those of the Organization carried out through the Fisheries Department. He/she will be able to draw on the technical expertise available from the Organization.

He/she will, in particular:

- a) supervise overall technical capture fisheries activities of the Secretariat;
- b) maintain contacts with appropriate government officials, fishery institutions and international organizations concerned with the development, conservation, rational management and utilization of fisheries, as well as the sustainable development of

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- aquaculture in the Region of the Commission, to facilitate consultation and cooperation on all matters pertaining to the objectives of the Commission,
- c) prepare and implement work programmes, prepare preliminary budget forecasts and ensure timely reporting to the Committee;
  - d) assist in determining data requirements for fisheries management, undertake data processing and analysis, and promote and monitor the development of databases for fisheries assessment and monitoring and technical, biological, environmental and socio-economic research to provide a sound basis for fisheries management;
  - e) supervise data outputs in appropriate formats for dissemination through electronic and printed media and of data sets for scientific analysis, and contribute to the maintenance of information on the Commission activities through Internet and printed media;
  - f) stimulate interest among National Institutes from Members of the Commission and potential donors in the activities of the Scientific Advisory Committee and in possible financing or in implementing of pilot projects and complementary activities;
  - g) maintain an active and effective network of SAC national focal points for routine communication of progress and results of the activities of the Committee and coordinate the Members' programmes of research, when required;
  - h) participate, as appropriate, in activities of projects carried out under the general framework of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies;
  - i) prepare and arrange for technical inputs, including the preparation of background documents and papers and a report on SAC activities and its programme of work, for the sessions of the Scientific Advisory Committee and its subsidiary bodies and other related Ad Hoc meetings and supervise the preparation of final reports and proceedings thereon and, arrange for their subsequent publication;
  - j) contribute to the smooth functioning and reporting of the session of the Commission and assist in providing advice to GFCM Members on management options;
  - k) perform other related duties as required.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SIPAM NATIONAL COORDINATORS**

Recognizing each government's commitment to SIPAM within the *aegis* of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), and the full support of his/her supervisors, the duties of the SIPAM National Coordinators shall include (but not be confined to):

1. The National Coordinator is representing his/her country in SIPAM.
2. In close collaboration with the SIPAM Regional Centre and in coordination with other CAQ Networks Focal Points, be responsible for all SIPAM activities in his/her country.
3. Elaborate through national workshops or other means such as suboffices, and projects and initiatives on aquaculture to be submitted to the SIPAM Network.
4. In conjunction with the SIPAM Regional Centre, prepare annual national SIPAM work programmes in coordination with other national aquaculture bodies.
5. Prepare and submit annual draft budgets for all national SIPAM activities, including essential national and international travel, for government funding.
6. Be responsible for the regular and timely transmission of data and information to the SIPAM Regional Centre also required for the updating of the SIPAM web pages.
7. Attend regional SIPAM meetings.
8. Assist the SIPAM Regional Centre in identifying and soliciting potential non-governmental and private sources of funding to support the SIPAM Network and activities.
9. Fully publicize the existence and value of the information contained in the SIPAM website to the private sector and within his/her government, as well as in relevant institutions such as universities and provide guidance in the use of the SIPAM website.
10. Conduct continuous internal evaluation of the efficacy of information dispersal by SIPAM on a national level in order to improve future services, and suggest ways in which SIPAM can be improved
11. Assist in the promotion and success of SIPAM in any other way as shall be suggested, from time to time, by the SIPAM Regional Coordinator and by the GFCM Secretariat.

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## TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SIPAM INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION OFFICER

### Background

Following the recommendations of the Fourth session of the GFCM Committee on Aquaculture (Alexandria, Egypt 7-9 June 2004) and the decisions taken during the GFCM Extraordinary Session (St Julians, Malta 19-23 July 2004) concerning the funds to be allocated in supporting and strengthening of the Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM), it was decided to recruit an Information and Communication Officer. The main role of such officer would be to strengthen the collection and analysis of regional aquaculture information and to facilitate data and information exchange among the SIPAM Member countries.

The Information and Communication Officer will provide, in collaboration with the SIPAM Regional Centre team and under the overall supervision of the GFCM Secretariat, coordination and management support on the implementation of SIPAM activities and data flow strategies.

### Tasks

The Information and Communication Officer will be responsible for the assessment and exchange of aquaculture related data and information among all SIPAM participants and networking with national governmental institutions, scientific and non-governmental organisations, regional and specialised agencies, for the effective implementation of the Network activities as approved by the CAQ-GFCM Committee. In particular the SIPAM Information and Communication Officer will be required to:

- Design, propose and eventually implement communication/information strategies for the SIPAM Network;
- Liaise with all SIPAM National Coordinators to implement and ensure an efficient data and information flow in SIPAM;
- Encourage the SIPAM National Coordinators to provide data and news on a regular basis;
- Research, analyse and manage information and data from external sources and that provided by the SIPAM National Coordinators;
- Compile and edit a regular information bulletin and other promotional material on SIPAM activities, and ensure its distribution to all SIPAM participants as well as ensure its targeted distribution;
- Define, in collaboration with SIPAM Regional Centre and the GFCM Secretariat, the editorial inputs to the SIPAM website;
- Plan, identify and produce relevant edited and updated SIPAM website contents and ensure their timely publication in the relevant website pages;
- Prepare and distribute news releases and technical reports, as appropriate, to highlight ongoing national and regional aquaculture activities;
- Participate when possible in sector events (e.g. meetings, conferences, workshops, fairs, etc.) and deliver presentations to promote the role of SIPAM;
- Prepare relevant technical reports for the SIPAM annual meetings and for the CAQ biannual session;

- Coordinate and participate in relevant working groups engaged in information collection, analysis and dissemination;
- Maintain communications with all SIPAM National Coordinators and the GFCM Secretariat;
- Liaise with public/private organizations which may support the SIPAM Network;
- Handle relevant correspondence and reply to inquiries for public information materials; and
- Perform any other duties as may be assigned.

**Qualifications**

- University degree or equivalent in marine and aquaculture sciences with at least 5 years of practical experience in information and communication.
- Excellent and proven communication skills with government officials, scientific organizations and other stakeholders engaged in the Mediterranean aquaculture sector.
- Good computer skills including databases and web design and maintenance tools.
- Fluency in written and spoken English and French. Knowledge of one or more of the other languages used in the participating countries is desirable.