



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



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

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**PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL
PERIOD**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) 2007 work programme proposed in this document emanates from the ninth session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the guidance provided by the Fifth session of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ). It includes a number of activities that should be carried out by national research institutions in Member countries as well as by the Secretariat, and which would be reviewed and reconciled through the relevant subsidiary bodies of each Committee. It is anticipated that the funding of these activities is considered in the draft 2007 budget presented in document GFCM:XXXI/2007/8.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR 2007

2. At its 30th session (January 2006), the Commission concurred as to the relevance of all the proposed 2006 SAC activities and meetings. It spelled out an order of priorities for the activities of the Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA) and the Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE)¹. The Commission further endorsed medium term area of work for the Sub-Committee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS) and the Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information (SCSI). This updated Reference framework for the work of SAC is assumed to remain largely valid. It is complemented with additional specific proposals made by SAC (document GFCM:XXXI/2007/Inf.5).

¹ Paragraph 50 of the report of the 30th session of GFCM.

3. Hence, the following summarizes the main activities by topics for the intersessional period 2007 which were identified by the four SAC Sub-Committees and reformatted or endorsed by the Committee. Draft terms of reference for some proposed Working Group or Workshop are appended to this document (Appendix A). It should be noted that SAC adjusted the format of National reports as per Appendix B of this document.

- ***Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment***

Assessment methodologies and formats:

- update the SAC stock assessment forms (template P1) taking into account fleet segments and Units of nominal fishing effort exerted by fleet segment and Operational Units (OUs) and organize a Transversal Workshop (SCSA/SCSI/SCESS) on disaggregated data (*draft Terms of reference available in Appendix A*);
- prepare curricula and identify partner institutions to initiate training course on new methodologies for stock assessment based on trawl survey data;
- standardize the different approach for echo surveys in the Mediterranean;
- promote adaptive approach for small-pelagic assessments through further encouraging the development and execution of recruitment surveys/direct surveys (acoustic and/or egg production) to ensure minimum precautionary levels of spawning stock biomass;
- specify in the assessment documents presented to the SCSA, the area and time of the year suggested in relation to any proposal for reducing fishing effort through temporal and/or spatial closure;
- devise criteria for improving the validation of growth parameters used in stock assessments;

Indicators and reference points:

- promote studies on the identification of environmental parameters and their integration into stock assessment modelling within the framework of the ecosystem approach to fishery (EAF); and ensure that EAF related documents are presented in joint SCMEE/SCSA session during the parallel meeting of the Sub-Committees;

Mapping the distribution of juveniles:

- Use available information to produce reliable maps of nursery areas for selected species to investigate the effect of an area closure to the recruitment of the concerned species. In order to evolve from a descriptive approach to a dynamic approach, it would be necessary that: first, a stock assessment is produced and, then the information on area proposed to be closed or restricted to fishery be specified in terms of management advice;

Priority species and shared stock lists:

- Promote definitive consensus on preliminary criteria to update the priority species list;

Improving fishing gear selectivity:

- devise steps for replacing diamond mesh in bottom trawl cod end with 40 mm square mesh with the view to increasing landing size and long term yield of target species, bearing in mind that this may entail limited short term decrease of commercial yields;
- collect necessary scientific information with the view to investigating the possibility of technical improvements of the gears (in parallel to testing spatial and/or temporal closures) to protect juveniles, particularly to minimize fishing mortality of undersized specimen/smaller than size at first maturity;
- Organize a workshop on fishing gear selectivity.

- ***Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems***

EAF:

- organize a transversal workshop on EAF to review the results of available pilot studies with emphasis on methodological considerations and identification of EAF indicators; this would include further developing the case studies on the “spatial distribution of the different life stages of demersal fisheries resources”, carried out in GSA 15 and on “the use of GIS to integrate environmental and biological data”, carried out in GSA 14, in particular to integrate socio-economic aspects and analysis of ecosystem functioning (*draft Terms of reference available in Appendix A*).

Protected/threatened species:

- integrate the evaluation of the extent of the interactions between cetacean and fisheries (ByCBAMS project) to the knowledge of the cetacean population status (ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative);
- extend the ACCOBAMS/SCMEE initiative on cetaceans-fisheries interactions to other protected/threatened species; and promote robust scientific experiments to assess the impact of different types of pingers on cetacean and fish species;
- establish and operate a transversal Working Group on by- catch (*draft Terms of reference available in Appendix A*);

Sensitive habitats:

- compile an inventory/synthesis of published studies on fisheries and biodiversity of deep sea areas, in order to initiate the process toward the formulation of a management plan (beyond 1000 meters);
- devise a standard procedure to assess the eligibility of new proposals for deep sea fishing reserves or restricted bottom trawl areas;
- organize with partner institutions a workshop to take stock of existing types of MPAs and evaluate the representative ness and the efficiency of their management systems (*draft Terms of reference available in Appendix A*).

- ***Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information (SCSI)***

- pursue practical testing of the Operational Unit concept through further identification of OUs in the Mediterranean area and promote related data collection and analysis *per* OU;
- organize a workshop on the compilation of GFCM Task 1;
- further study the issue of calibration/allocation of fishing effort units with support from the FAO Sub-regional projects;
- harmonize the GSAs boundaries with the FAO-FIDI statistical sub-divisions;
- monitor progress of the Secretariat assisted by the MedFisis project in establishing the GFCM data bases and information system.

- ***Sub-Committee on Economic and Social Sciences (CESS)***

- analyse the impact of market forces on fisheries management, with special reference to sardines in GSA 03; striped mullet in GSA 05, hake in GSA 06 and small-pelagic in GSA 17;
- define a minimum list of sociological indicators to be integrated in the data collection system for the OUs (GFCM Task 1), possibly by organizing *ad hoc* workshops through the Sub-regional projects, as already done by AdriaMed, to: i) define national sociological information needs; ii) implement case studies, and iii) work toward the definition of the GFCM minimal list of indicators to be used within the Operational Units matrix;

- update and expand the scope of the FAO Fisheries Circular No. 978 “The Fish Trade of North African Mediterranean Countries and of the FAO Fisheries Circular No. 927, entitled “Economic Status of Mediterranean Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture”;
 - undertake an analysis of the legal frameworks regarding recreational and sport fisheries and initiate exploratory surveys of the socio-economic status of these fisheries;
 - draft a workbook on the use of socio-economic indicators in fisheries management;
 - organize (within the next SCESS meeting), a Workshop on the use of socio-economic indicators in fisheries management (*draft Terms of reference available in Appendix A*).
- ***Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Species***

It was suggested that the Working group resumes its activities, concentrating on:

 - collecting and analysing information on swordfish recreational fishing;
 - ensuring follow-up to the recommendations of the 7th session of the Joint Working Group concerning small tunas, especially the compilation of statistics and the implementation of scientific research programmes;
 - organizing the 8th session of the Working group accordingly.

Meetings of the SAC and its subsidiary bodies

4. The Scientific Advisory Committee suggested convening the meetings hereafter in 2007.

Meeting	Place/Date
Transversal Workshop on disaggregated data methodology analysis	Sète, France/12-16 March 2007
Workshop on the use of socio-economic indicators in fisheries management, including with reference to recreational and sport fisheries	Libya/19-21 March 2007
Workshop on the Use of Trawl Survey Data, including the outcomes of MEDITS	Rome/26-29 March 2007
Transversal workshop on the compilation of GFCM Task 1	Casablanca, Morocco/17-20 April 2007
Transversal Workshop on Gear Selectivity	Barcelona, Spain/9-11 May
Transversal workshop on EAF	Tunisia/22-24 May 2007
Working Group on Demersal Species	Athens, Greece/4-6 June 2007
Working Group on Small Pelagic Species	Athens, Greece/7-8 June 2007
Workshop on MPAs management systems	Libya/18-20 June 2007
Session of the Sub-Committees (SCSA-SCMEE-SCSI-SCESS)	Kavala, Greece/2-5 July 2007
CMSC	Kavala, Greece /6 July 2007
Tenth session of the SAC	To be defined/to be defined
2 nd Permanent Working Group on Stock Assessment Methodologies, including training course on selected methodologies	To be defined/2008
Transversal Working Group on by-catch/ incidental catches	To be defined/2008
8th session of the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Species, on data analysis and studies of small tunas	Malaga, Spain/2007 or 2008

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE FOR 2007-2008

5. The inaugural session of the Coordinating Meeting of the *ad hoc* Working Groups (CMWG) (held in November 2006) identified and drafted project proposals for the three *ad hoc* Working Groups endorsed by the CAQ at its Fifth session (June 2006). This followed the request made by CAQ to the CMWG to prepare with the Secretariat a medium-term draft work plan and identified related budget requirements for consideration by the Commission. Within the framework of this project-based approach, the priority activities of the respective Working group are expected to represent the major part of the next biannual work plan (2007-2008) of the Committee together with SIPAM activities.

6. Four projects were identified by the CMWG for the 2007–2008 intersessional period in support to the three *ad hoc* Working Groups established by CAQ at its Fifth session. The project proposals as elaborated by the experts attending the CMWG are provided as appendices in document GFCM/31/2007/Inf.10. In view of the substantial funding foreseen, the CMWG stressed that the proposed projects would require extra-budgetary resources for their effective execution. Furthermore, CAQ anticipated on the need to identify Working Group Coordinators for which the Committee defined specific terms of reference² that include facilitating and coordinating the implementation of projects. The proposed project titles, objectives, major activities and outputs are summarized, for ease of reference, in Appendix C to this document. Should the project(s) find difficulties to timely get necessary extra-budgetary support, a standard summary of CAQ workplan is provided below with the view of securing a minimum set of activities for each of the *ad hoc* Working Groups.

- ***Ad hoc* Working Group on Marketing**

Development of a strategy for marketing and promotion of Mediterranean aquaculture products

- Review of existing information and formulation of common methodology and template for national reports;
- Commissioning of national reports;
- Organize an Expert meeting for analysing of findings, identifying strategies and formulating advice for regular monitoring of the sector ;
- Review of aquaculture marketing and related issues in each Mediterranean country and at regional level;
- Editing and publication of final assessment report.

Image building in Mediterranean aquaculture.

- Review of existing information and ongoing projects to identify gaps;
- Methodology for, and implementation of surveys on identification of training needs and communication tools;
- Organize an Expert meeting for analysing survey findings, identifying follow-up activities and formulating advice for improving managerial and marketing skills on communication tools, crisis management and promotion of best management practices;
- Preparation of a follow-up project for implementation of advice for image building based on the involvement of Producers' Associations.

² Appendix D of the Report of the Fifth session.

- **Ad hoc Working Group on Sustainability**

Implementing the ecosystem approach in selection of Indicators for sustainable Development of Aquaculture and guidelines for their use in the Mediterranean (INDAM)

- undertake a survey of regional and national R&D programmes on aquaculture-environment interactions in the Mediterranean;
- prepare a annotated bibliography on existing documents and projects on sustainable development of aquaculture and a census on aquaculture indicators;
- devise a weighting system for indicators for different audiences and different aquaculture systems;
- prepare guidelines for use of the indicators, including feasibility, practicality, expertise-requirements and cost-effectiveness;
- organize an Expert meeting to review and select indicators, adopt draft guidelines on their use and to prepare follow-up activities for implementation and monitoring.

- **Ad hoc Working Group on Siting and Carrying Capacity**

Developing siting and holding capacity guidelines for Mediterranean aquaculture within aquaculture appropriate areas (SHOC-MED)

- undertake a compilation of existing information on schemes for site selection and standards for defining carrying capacity in the Mediterranean;
- produce criteria for enhancing integration of aquaculture in Coastal Zone Management (CZM) through improving site selection and holding capacity standards, including exploration the potential for using Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZA);
- prepare draft reports on site selection schemes and on licence schemes and procedures used for defining holding capacity in Mediterranean countries;
- organize a meeting of experts and stakeholders to validate reports and to define further development of the work programme of SHOC-MED, including the preparation of a final SHOC-MED project proposal and annual work plans and budgets accordingly.

SIPAM

7. The first release of SIPAM2006 was reviewed at the Ninth SIPAM Annual Meeting held in November 2006 (document GCFM/31/2007/Inf.11). It was anticipated that the SIPAM/Medfisis Revitalization Team would ensure the consolidation of the system to be finalized by January 2007. In order to effectively transfer in the course of 2007, SIPAM2006 to the GFCM Secretariat the following additional technical activities were identified:

- migration of validated and complete data banks from the old SIPAM to the new system;
- preparation of an on-line help tool for end users;
- handing over SIPAM2006 to the GFCM system analyst/programmer
- support to the implementation of regional and national communication strategies;
- support data and information needs, as appropriate, to the *ad hoc* Working Groups;
- convene the Tenth SIPAM meeting.

8. The Ninth SIPAM Meeting, also acknowledged that the functioning of SIPAM will require the support at the Secretariat level of an aquaculture/information expert along with the foreseen GFCM system analyst/programmer. It further foresaw understood that the SIPAM Regional Centre in Tunisia will continue working in the validation of the data that will migrate to the new SIPAM2006 and will provide technical and training support to the National Coordinators during this transitional phase, i.e., until the system is relocated in the GFCM Secretariat. The SIPAM Regional Centre team will also work with the aquaculture/information expert in producing analytical reports/studies, as required. Lebanon kindly offered to host the Tenth session of SIPAM, subject to confirmation by the relevant national authorities.

Meetings of the CAQ and its subsidiary bodies

9. It is suggested to convene the following CAQ meetings in 2007; some of them could be held back to back.

Meetings	Place/Date
<i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Marketing	TBD/late 2007
<i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Sustainability	TBD/late 2007
<i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Siting and Carrying Capacity	TBD/late 2007
Tenth SIPAM meeting	TBD/late 2007
2 nd Coordinating Meeting of the <i>ad hoc</i> Working Groups	Rome, late 2007

CIHEAM-IAMZ training activities

10. The International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) through the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (IAMZ) will continue to offer aquaculture training activities to professionals and administrators from the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries. CAQ at its Fifth session did not identify specific training needs to be proposed and discussed with CIHEAM. However, the Committee acknowledged that the currently planned events for 2007, as provided below, were of direct relevance in supporting the activities of its newly established *ad hoc* Working Groups.

CIHEAM Advanced Courses and seminars	Place/Date
Fish reproduction and their application to broodstock management	Castellón, Spain/19–24 Feb. 2007
Design and management of artificial reefs for fisheries	Zaragoza, Spain/7–11 May 2007
Quality and safety control of fish and fish products	Zaragoza, Spain/11–15 June 2007
Marketing of Seafood Products: Trends and Challenges	Zaragoza, Spain/ November 2007

IV. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

11. The Commission is invited to review the activities and meetings proposed by SAC for 2007 and by CAQ for the intersessional period 2007–2008.

12. The Commission may wish to make relevant decisions on these matters, including prioritization of activities, identification of sources of complementary financing, according to the needs and, consider filling the post, currently frozen, of the Aquaculture Expert to allow an effective coordination of CAQ activities by the Secretariat.

APPENDIX A**Preliminary Terms of Reference for the SAC Working groups and Workshops****A. Terms of Reference for the SCSA/SCSI/SCESS proposed Transversal Workshop on methodology to analyze disaggregated fishery data**

1. Taking into account the progress made on operational units concept (OUs) and the results of the First meeting of the PWGAM, and the availability, for some Mediterranean areas, of data series on landings and prices/revenues, disaggregated by day, vessel and species, the SCSI and the SCSA recommended to organize in 2007 a Workshop to develop a common methodology to analyze and compare results from these different series.

2. More specifically, the Workshop will develop standard methods to:

- filter data and detect errors and biases;
- analyze variability of landings at different time scales;
- identify clusters of vessels (potential OUs);
- identify target species;
- identify species composition;
- identify and describe seasonality;
- identify and describe trends, both in fishing activity and in stock abundance;
- identify fishing strategy and tactics (metiers);
- define nominal effort and propose a method to obtain effective effort for each vessel/OUs;
- analyze prices; and
- explore methods to calibrate official landing statistics from sampling on board and field surveys.

3. A description of each data series, including: years covered, vessels and species, number of registers (vessel-day-species-catch-price/revenue) should be provided for the areas concerned before the workshop. The workshop will therefore consist of practical work analysis of the (historical) data series on landings and prices/revenues, disaggregated by day, vessel and species. It should take place only if at least two relevant sets of data are guaranteed to be available before the workshop.

B. Terms of Reference for the SCESS proposed Workshop on the Use of Socio-Economic Indicators in Fisheries Management

1. Economic conditions are one of the factors guiding the decisions within fishing management. Unfortunately, the necessary economic information is not always available for use in fisheries management in the GFCM area. To address this issue, a minimal list of economic indicators for use in fisheries management was defined by SCESS and approved by SAC for application throughout the region.

2. Under the initiative of SCESS and with the support of the AdriaMed and CopeMed projects, pilot studies were undertaken in recent years to provide for data collection and the estimation of economic indicators in various GFCM countries.

3. It is timely to test the use of acquired indicators in actual fisheries management scenarios. A technical workshop will provide the forum for the analysis of real data and the evaluation of practical management situations where the use of these indicators can contribute to the adoption of fisheries management decisions.

4. As part of the preparatory work for this proposed workshop, the following activities would be undertaken:

- ❖ The preparation of a workbook to process available data in a way useful for providing information to fisheries managers. These guidelines would cover the following topics:
 - use of indicators for bio-economic models;
 - use of indicators to establish hierarchy on fleets in relation their profitability, employment or other criteria;
 - use of indicators to predict the economic and social impact of the adoption of measures as fleet reduction, time reduction, or licenses redistribution between fleet segments;
 - use of indicators to establish compensation under action plans projects to involve and stimulate the fishermen participation;
 - use of indicators and reference points in trends analysis.

- ❖ The elaboration of case studies by each invited national researcher in which existing management proposals could be analyzed in fisheries sectors having the required economic indicators. The pre-workshop elaboration of national case studies will assure the existence and availability of the relevant data.

5. These reports would be presented during the workshop and the case studies analyzed by the workshop participants with the aim of contributing to the development of precise management recommendations.

6. The Workshop would produce a final report highlighting key findings, management recommendation, and conclusions of the workshop, a finalized workbook, and recommendations for further work, if warranted. Researchers from the GFCM area with the necessary experience for undertaking such an exercise will be invited to participate in the Workshop. Contributions from individuals outside the GFCM area may be enlisted to share their experiences in the use of socio-economic indicators in fisheries management.

C. Terms of reference of the Workshop on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF)

1. Under the SCMEE agenda item Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, two presentations were given on:

- a case study on waters around the Maltese Islands (GSA 15) with the aim of providing a comprehensive overview of the spatial distribution of the different life stages of demersal

- fisheries resources in relation to the type and distribution of fishing activities as well as oceanographic factors characteristic to the area;
- a case study on the use of GIS to integrate environmental and biological data on the Gulf of Gabès (GSA1b) with the view of selecting marine areas of conservation interest to be proposed as MPAs.
2. While discussing, participants noted that:
- there is a slow progress in defining methodologies for EAF;
 - the EAF is of common interest to all the Sub-Committees;
 - this topic should be addressed during transversal sessions; the SCMEE will however pursue its coordination role concerning the SAC's works on EAF.
3. Therefore the SCMEE recommended organizing in 2007 a SCMEE/SCSA/SCSS/SCSI transversal Workshop on EAF, including relevant GFCM partners (ACCOBAMS, UNEP-RAC/SPA, IUCN and WWF), to:
- review the results of the available pilot studies with the view of giving further consideration to methodologies and identifying EAF indicators in the Mediterranean;
 - develop the case studies in particular through integrating socio-economic aspects and aspects related to the ecosystem functioning;
 - analyze potentials and limitations of the ecosystem approach to fishery;
 - set a common framework and methodology to implement EAF.

D. Terms of reference of the transversal Workshop on MPAs

1. Considering the importance of fishery reserves in the management of fisheries, the SCMEE recommended to organize jointly with RAC/SPA in 2007 a SCMEE/SCSA Transversal workshop on MPAs to:
- make an inventory of existing types of MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea;
 - evaluate their representativity and the efficiency of their management systems;
 - define their role as fisheries management tool;
 - prepare a synthesis on MPAs in the Mediterranean.
2. Information on MPAs will be collected via the SAC focal points and of RAC/SPA and other partner organizations. A standard form to collect data will be elaborated.

APPENDIX B**Format for the preparation of National Reports****Description of the fisheries**

Provide the following information (use tables where appropriate):

Description of the fishing grounds and GSA.

Total landings by main targeted species.

Fleet:

- number of vessels
- LOA (range and average)
- Total KW + GT

Status of stocks of priority species

Indicate the species evaluated during the intersessional period expressing the exploitation status for each stock. The report should also indicate the management units covered by the assessment.

Status of the statistics and information system

Description of the national system of fishery statistics and/or any improvement/change occurred. Participation in regional projects and achievements/ progress in activities related to the collection and processing of fishery statistics. Type of data collected, transfer to GFCM Secretariat and other international bodies. Inventory of existing databases. Synergies with other applications.

Status of research in progress

Description of the results of the continuing and in progress research projects of interest to GFCM Sub-Committees and Working Group, with particular emphasis on management oriented assessment and GFCM priority species.

Status of the social sciences studies in progress or achieved during the intersessional period (economy, relevant legislation, sociology, etc.)

Description of the achievement and/or progress in activities related to the national research on the socio-economic aspects of the fishing communities and fishing sector.

Marine environmental studies in progress

Description of the main results from actions and studies carried out during the intersessional period which are relevant to the impact of the marine environment changes on the priority stocks and on the ecosystem alteration originated by the fisheries activities.

Management measures

Description of the management measures (legislation, regulations, etc) implemented during the intersessional period and their (expected) effects on the fishery.

Research suggestions for consideration by SAC.

APPENDIX C

Draft summary project in support of the CAQ *ad hoc* Working Groups1. Ad hoc Working Group on Marketing

Project title: *Development of a strategy for marketing and promotion of Mediterranean aquaculture products.*

The project foresees the planning and formulation of development strategies for the promotion of a market-oriented, competitive and proactive aquaculture industry in the Mediterranean which requires a clear understanding and regular monitoring of the sector.

Project objectives	Project activities and outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to a better understanding of the Mediterranean aquaculture situation by providing quantitative market data and qualitative assessments of comparative advantages and constraints; • Develop a common methodology and template for collection of future market information and analysis through SIPAM; and • Formulate market advice for the development and promotion of the Mediterranean aquaculture industry and products. 	<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of existing information and formulation of common methodology and template for national reports; • Commissioning of national reports; • Expert meeting for analysis of findings, identifying strategies and formulating recommendations for implementation. <p>Outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common templates for data gathering and reports on aquaculture marketing and related issues (eventually to be used by SIPAM) • Market recommendations for the Mediterranean aquaculture; • Final assessment report

Project title: *Image building in Mediterranean aquaculture.*

Image has been identified as a crucial issue for further development of the aquaculture industry and in numerous instances the sector has shown to be reactive rather than proactive in addressing the issues associated image. The aquaculture industry needs to increase awareness among aquaculture stakeholders through training and developing communication tools. Practical actions and tools must be identified targeting producers, decision-makers and consumers.

Project objectives	Project activities and outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to image building in Mediterranean aquaculture by identifying the training needs for improved managerial/marketing skills in the sector; 	<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of existing information and ongoing projects to identify gaps; • Methodology for, and implementation of surveys on identification of training needs and communication tools;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote best management practices; • Identify the means needed for implementation of the objectives and outcomes of the surveys, including the best communication tools for improving the image of aquaculture; • Promote the involvement of Producers' Associations in image building activities and crisis management; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert meeting for analysing survey findings and identifying follow-up activities; • Editing and publication of final report. <p>Outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey reports on identification of training needs for managers to improve aquaculture image and on the identification of related communication tools; • Recommendations for image buildings on training needs for improving managerial and marketing skills, on communication tools, on crisis management and promotion of best management practices; • Follow-up project for implementation of the recommendations for image building.
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2. Ad hoc Working Group on Sustainability

Project title: *Employing the ecosystem approach in selection of Indicators for sustainable Development of Aquaculture and guidelines for their use in the Mediterranean (INDAM).*

A preliminary study focusing on the selection of indicators for sustainable aquaculture is proposed that will serve as the initial phase of the larger and multi-annual project (INDAM) where candidate aquaculture indicators and their practical use will be evaluated and refined, in an iterative process, by teams of stakeholders and representatives of the aquaculture industry.

Project objectives	Project activities and outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of a list of suitable indicators for Mediterranean aquaculture, as a basis for actions to enhance sustainability of this industry; and • Providing policy makers with a comprehensive decision support tool (composed of indicators) regarding sustainable aquaculture development. 	<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey of regional and national R&D programmes on aquaculture-environment interactions in the Mediterranean; • Census of published indicators on aquaculture sustainability; • Expert meeting to review indicators, develop guidelines on use of specific Mediterranean indicators and preparation of follow-up project activities. <p>Outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annotated bibliography on existing documents and projects on sustainable development of aquaculture and census on aquaculture indicators; • Weighting system for indicators for different audiences and different aquaculture systems; • Guidelines for use of the indicators, including feasibility, practicality, expertise-requirements and cost-effectiveness; • Follow-up project for implementation of the recommendations for image building.

3. Ad hoc Working Group on Siting and Carrying Capacity

Project title: *Developing siting and holding capacity guidelines for Mediterranean aquaculture within aquaculture appropriate areas (SHOC-MED)*

The overall objectives of the SHOC-MED project are 1) to produce criteria for enhancing integration of aquaculture in Coastal Zone Management (CZM) by improving site selection and holding capacity standards; 2) to provide a basis for harmonization of standards across the Mediterranean ensuring equal terms of market competition and minimal environmental damage; 3) to recognize consequences of site selection and holding capacity under a shift in production scale and; 4) to explore the potential for using Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZA) to improve management for a growing sector with the aim to increase production, reduce conflicts and environmental impacts.

A preliminary study aimed at defining the best strategy to arrive at consensus on site selection and establishment of Mediterranean standards for carrying/holding capacity of aquaculture farms is proposed to serve as the initial phase of the larger and multi-annual project (SHOC-MED) as outlined in document GFCM/31/2007/Inf.10.

Project objectives (Phase I)	Project activities and outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary study to design the best strategy for a consensus on site selection and establishment of Mediterranean standards for carrying/holding capacity of aquaculture farms 	<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compilation of existing information on schemes for site selection and standards for defining carrying capacity in the Mediterranean; Meeting of experts and stakeholders to agree on further development of the work programme of SHOC-MED. <p>Outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on site selection schemes; Review of licence schemes and procedures used for defining holding capacity in Mediterranean countries. Final SHOC-MED project proposal and annual work plans and budgets.