



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



**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**First meeting of the Compliance Committee**

**Rome, Italy, 9-12 January 2007**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GFCM RECENT  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 30<sup>th</sup> session, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean established the Compliance Committee (COC) which should address issues such as reviewing compliance with conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and make such recommendations to the Commission as may be necessary to ensure their effectiveness. The Committee should also identify actions to be taken when recommendations are not implemented. Co-operating non-Contracting Parties status should be annually reviewed and renewed unless revoked by the Commission due to non-compliance with GFCM conservation and management measures<sup>1</sup>.

2. The Commission expressed<sup>2</sup> the view that this review on the implementation of its decisions should be the occasion, in the future, for each Member to inform the Commission on actions taken during the intersession to implement the decisions and recommendations of the Commission, especially those related to conservation and management measures. Members were invited to provide the necessary information to the Secretariat well in advance of the session of the Commission to facilitate its processing by the Compliance Committee.

3. The present document aimed at providing the Commission with a synthesis of information received from Members. Early December, only information related to the list of vessels over 15 meters authorized to operate in the GFCM area (Recommendation GFCM/2005/2) was received.

## II. SYNTHESIS OF INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT

4. The Secretariat compiled and analyzed, with the support of the MedFisis project, all information received, using appropriate tools and taking into account the necessary data validation and requirements as regards confidentiality. A format for the transmission of data was made available on the GFCM web site to ease data compilation by the Members, following the guidance provided in

<sup>1</sup> Terms of Reference of COC (document COG/1/2007/Inf.2)

<sup>2</sup> Paragraph 9 of the report of 30<sup>th</sup> session of GFCM

Recommendation GFCM/2005/2 (Appendix) notably with particular care to the GFCM vessel requirements.

5. Nine Members transmitted data to the Secretariat including the European Community (EC). Data from the EC concerned seven European GFCM Members among which four countries transmitted also separately their data. One of EC country is not a GFCM Member. The table below summarizes the status of data transmission by Members but could be a potential candidate to benefit the status of non-contracting Party (*Table 1*).

Country	Transmission date	Authority
<b>Albania</b>	17 November 2006	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration (Directorate of Fishery Policies)
<b>EC (Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain)</b>	30 June 2006	Directorate-General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs (Monitoring and Licences)
<b>Greece</b>	23 June 2006	Ministry of Rural Development & Food (Directorate General of Fisheries - Directorate of Marine Fisheries)
<b>Italy</b>	24 June 2006	Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari e Forestali (Direzione Generale Pesca - Fleet Register Unit)
<b>Lebanon</b>	25 June 2006	Ministry of Agriculture
<b>Malta</b>	20 July 2006	Permanent Representation of Malta to the European Union (Agriculture and Fisheries Unit)
<b>Spain</b>	28 October 2005	Secretaría General de Pesca Marítima (Dirección General de Recursos Pesqueros - Subdirección General del Caladero Nacional)
<b>Tunisia</b>	20 September 2006	Direction générale de la pêche et de l'aquaculture
<b>Turkey</b>	16 June 2006	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (Fisheries Department)

*Table 1:* data transmission by the Members

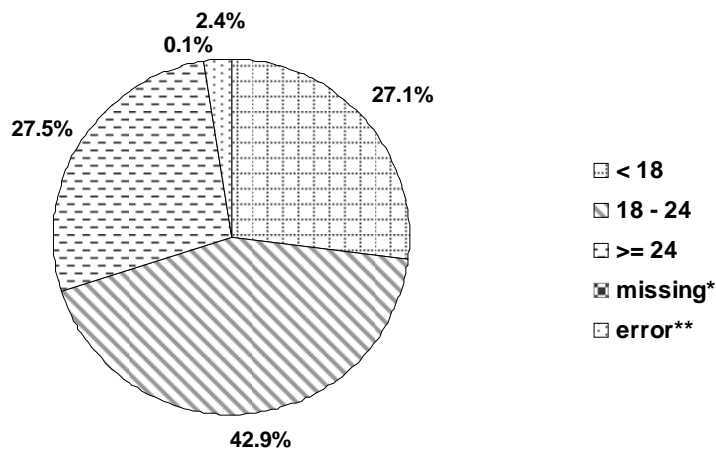
6. A preliminary analysis of this data allow to draw the following main remarks :

- Information regarding the vessel characteristics: only three GFCM required fields have been transmitted for all the vessels by all the countries: Vessel name, Vessel register number and Flag ;
- Codification: fishing gear data supplied by the EC are codified following the EC Regulation No 26/2004 of 30<sup>th</sup> December 2003. Some countries followed the FAO standard codification while others used a mixed codification (FAO and national);
- Vessel type data: the nomenclature used for vessel and gear type are not homogenous and standardized;
- Data source: four countries datasets (Greece, Italy, Malta, Spain) have been supplied by both EC and national authorities. The EC data are more detailed and updated than the countries

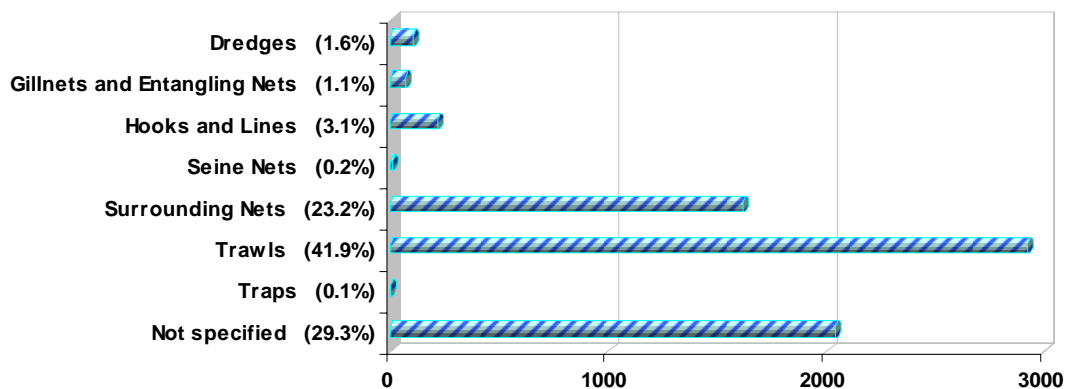
ones. The EC has also communicated the vessels to be removed from the GFCM white list database. Several discrepancies have been noticed between the datasets coming from the two mentioned sources. Mainly the differences concern the Italian and the Spanish fleet.

7. As shown in the figures below, a total of 6969 vessels are currently reported and recorded in the GFCM white list database. Keeping off the ‘error’ class, about half of the fleet belongs to “18-24m” segment and the remaining vessels are more or less equally shared between vessel less than 18 meters and the category with a size higher than 24 meters (*figure 1*). The main gears of the analyzed fleet mostly belong to ‘Trawls’ (41.9%) and ‘Surrounding Nets’ (23.15%) gear classes. Due to the lack of information on fishing gear of two relevant countries, the second main class is the ‘Not specified’ one (29.22%) (*Figure 2*).

8. *Table 2* below provides the result of compilation carried out on fishing gear classes taking into account two key parameters, i.e, the length and the GRT. It can be noted that the average values for the main characteristics oscillates between about 16 and 27 meters for the length and between 63 and 535 for the GRT.



*Figure 1.* Vessel composition by segment



*Figure 2:* Gear composition

Fishing Gear Class	TOT		Length (m)				GRT				
	No.	Coverage*	min	max	AVG	Coverage**	min	max	AVG		
dredges	105	105	100.0%	15.00	18.85	16.17	-	-	-	-	-
Gillnets and Entangling Nets	70	70	100.0%	14.46	30.00	18.00	26	37.1%	3.00	188.00	63.68
Hooks and Lines	214	214	100.0%	14.00	30.60	18.29	12	5.6%	7.00	149.58	75.12
Seine Nets	9	9	100.0%	15.40	23.82	17.22	-	-	-	-	-
Surrounding Nets	1613	1613	100.0%	9.75	81.85	23.32	1083	67.1%	4.00	4558.00	535.02
Traps	2	2	100.0%	25.40	27.20	26.30	2	100.0%	99.86	166.19	133.03
Trawls	2920	2920	100.0%	14.00	87.15	21.74	503	17.2%	2.00	960.00	180.69
Not specified	2036	2029	99.7%	8.50	912.00	21.38	2034	99.9%	0.39	79130.00	103.85
<b>TOT</b>	<b>6969</b>	<b>6962</b>				<b>27.75</b>	<b>3660</b>				<b>241.4</b>
	▶	99.90%					52.52%				

\* Number of vessels for which both Length and Fishing Gear information has been provided

\*\* Number of vessels for which both GRT and Fishing Gear information has been provided

Coverage: the number of vessels for which both Length (GRT) and Fishing Gear information has been provided  
Not specified: fishing gear information not provided

**Table 2:** Distribution by gear class: length and GRT average

### III. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE

9. The Committee is invited to examine the status of data transmission and to provide guidance for further action and follow up.

## APPENDIX

**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/2005/2**  
**CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GFCM RECORD**  
**OF VESSELS OVER 15 METRES**  
**AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE IN THE GFCM AREA**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*RECALLING* that the objectives of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and proper utilization of living marines resources,

*RECALLING* GFCM Resolution 95/2 concerning the agreement to set a minimum length of 15 meters for the application of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels in the High Seas; GFCM Resolution 95/4 concerning the preparation of a list of fishing boats in operation from national ports in the Mediterranean and exchange of information on vessels; and GFCM Resolution 97/2 on activities of non-Contracting Parties, and the decision adopted by GFCM at its Twenty-seventh session to establish a fleet segmentation for vessels operating in the Mediterranean,

*RECALLING* that the FAO Council adopted on 23 June, 2001 an International Plan of Action (IPOA) aiming to prevent, to deter and to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, that this plan stipulates that the regional fisheries management organization should take action to strengthen and develop innovative ways, in conformity with international law, to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and in particular to establish record of vessels authorized to operate and records of vessels engaged in IUU fishing,

*CONSIDERING* the conclusions of the Third Ministerial Conference on the Sustainable Development of Fisheries in the Mediterranean,

*ADOPTS*, in accordance with paragraph 1 (h) of Article III and Article V of the GFCM Agreement that:

1. The Commission shall establish and maintain a GFCM record of fishing vessels larger than 15 metres in length overall authorized to fish in the GFCM Area. For the purpose of this Recommendation, the vessels larger than 15 metres in length overall not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship or land species covered by the Commission.
2. Each Contracting Party shall submit electronically to the GFCM Executive Secretary possibly by 1 July 2006, the list of its vessels that are authorized to operate in the GFCM Area. This list shall include the following information:
  - Name of vessel, register number
  - Previous name (if any)
  - Previous flag (if any)
  - Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
  - International radio call sign (if any)
  - Type of vessels, length and gross registered tonnage (GRT)
  - Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
  - Gear used
  - Time period authorized for fishing and/or transhipping

3. Each Contracting Party shall promptly notify, after the establishment of the initial GFCM record, the GFCM Executive Secretary of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the GFCM record at any time such changes occur.
4. The GFCM Executive Secretary shall maintain the GFCM record, and take any measure to ensure publicity of the record including through electronic means and placing it on the GFCM website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by Members.
5. The flag Contracting Party of the vessels on the record shall:
  - a) authorize their vessels to operate in the GFCM Area only if they are able to fulfil in respect of these vessels the requirements and responsibilities under the Agreement and its conservation and management measures;
  - b) take necessary measures to ensure that their vessels comply with all the relevant GFCM conservation and management measures;
  - c) take necessary measures to ensure that their vessels on the GFCM record keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorization to fish and/or tranship;
  - d) ensure that their vessels on the GFCM record have no history of IUU fishing activities or that, if those vessels have such history, the new owners have provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owners and operators have no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control over those vessels, or that having taken into account all relevant facts, their vessels are not engaged in, or associated with, IUU fishing;
  - e) ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and operators of their vessels on the GFCM record are not engaged in, or associated with, fishing activities conducted by vessels not entered into the GFCM record in the GFCM Area;
  - f) take necessary measures to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners of the vessels on the GFCM record are citizens or legal entities within the flag Contracting Party so that any control or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them, and
  - g) Keep consistency between the GFCM record and ICCAT record of vessels.
6. The Contracting Parties shall review their own internal actions and measures taken pursuant to paragraph 5, including punitive and sanction actions and in a manner consistent with domestic law as regards disclosure, report the results of the review to the Commission at its 2007 meeting and annually thereafter. In consideration of the results of such review, the Commission shall, if appropriate, request the flag Contracting Party of vessels on the GFCM record to take further action to enhance compliance by those vessels to GFCM conservation and management measures.
7. The Contracting Parties shall take measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the fishing for, the retaining on board, the transshipment and landing of species in the GFCM Area by the vessels larger than 15 metres in length overall which are not entered into the GFCM record.
8. Each Contracting Party shall notify the GFCM Executive Secretary of any factual information showing that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting vessels not on the GFCM record to be engaged in fishing for and/or transshipment in the GFCM Area.
9.
  - a) If a vessel mentioned in paragraph 8 is flying the flag of a Contracting Party, the Executive Secretary shall request that the Contracting Party take measures necessary to prevent the vessel from fishing in the GFCM Area.
  - b) If the flag of a vessel mentioned in paragraph 8 cannot be determined or is of a non-Contracting Party, the Executive Secretary shall compile such information for future consideration by the Commission.

10. The Commission and the Contracting Parties concerned shall communicate with each other, and make the best effort with FAO and other relevant regional fishery management bodies to develop and implement appropriate measures, where feasible, including the establishment of records of a similar nature in a timely manner so as to avoid adverse effects upon fisheries resources in other oceans. Such adverse effects might consist of excessive fishing pressure resulting from a shift of the IUU vessels from the Mediterranean to other seas or oceans.