

December 2006



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



**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR  
THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**Thirty-first Session**

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**COMPENDIUM OF GFCM  
RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS<sup>12</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Type of decision: *REC.* = Recommendations; *RES.* = Resolution ; *OTH.* = Other decision

<sup>2</sup> Reference of decision: *DECISION TYPE GFCM / Session number / Session year / Order number*

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**I. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**REC. GFCM/30/2006/1****MANAGEMENT OF CERTAIN FISHERIES EXPLOITING DEMERSAL  
AND SMALL PELAGIC**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*RECALLING* that the objectives of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and proper utilisation of living marine resources;

*RECALLING* the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference for the Sustainable Development of the Fisheries in the Mediterranean held in November 2003 in Venice;

*CONSIDERING* that in the advice for 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 the SAC considered that certain stocks are overexploited, some with a high risk of recruitment overfishing, and that sustainable management requires that measures aimed at controlling or reducing the fishing effort;

*RECALLING* Recommendation GFCM/2002/1 which urges the control of fishing effort and the improvement of the exploitation pattern of demersal fisheries, as well as limiting catches of juveniles of small pelagic species;

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

**Management of fishing effort for certain demersal fisheries**

1. GFCM shall develop a management programme of the fishing effort concerning in particular demersal trawling fisheries exploiting inter alia, the following species: hake (*Merluccius merluccius*), blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*), red mullet (*Mullus barbatus*), Striped mullet (*Mullus surmuletus*), red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) and Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) in the following geographic sub-areas : Northern and Southern Alboran Sea (GSA 1 and 3), Northern Spain (GSA 6), Balearic Islands (GSA 5), Gulf of Lions (GSA 7), Corsica Island (GSA 8), Ligurian and North Tyrrhenian Sea (GSA 9), South and Central Tyrrhenian Sea (GSA 10), Sardinia (GSA 11), South of Sicily (GSA 16), Northern Adriatic Sea (GSA 17), Southern Adriatic Sea (GSA 18), Western Ionian Sea (GSA 19), Eastern Ionian Sea (GSA 20), Aegean Sea (GSA 22) as well as in the adjacent sub-areas, if relevant.

**Management of fishing effort for certain small pelagic fisheries**

2. GFCM shall develop a management programme of the fishing effort concerning in particular pelagic trawling and purse seines in the pelagic fisheries exploiting, inter alia, the following species : anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*), sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) and sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) in particular in the following geographic sub-areas (GSAs) : Northern and Southern Alboran Sea (GSAs 1 et 3), Northern Spain (GSA 6), Gulf of Lions (GSA 7), Northern Adriatic Sea (GSA 17), South of Sicily (GSA 16) and Aegean Sea (GSA 22), as well as in the adjacent sub-areas, if relevant.

3. In order to develop management programmes of the fishing effort referred to in paragraph 1 and 2, the SAC shall in 2006 identify:

- The reference year
- The operational units

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- The parameters to measure the fishing effort both in terms of capacity, fishing activity and, if relevant, number and dimension of fishing gears.

The SAC shall transmit to the Commission in 2006 the results of this identification.

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**REC. GFCM/30/2006/2****ESTABLISHMENT OF A CLOSED SEASON FOR THE DOLPHIN FISH FISHERIES USING FISHING AGGREGATION DEVICES (FADS)**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*RECALLING* that the objectives of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and proper utilisation of living marine resources;

*RECALLING* the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference for the Sustainable Development of the Fisheries in the Mediterranean held in November 2003 in Venice;

*NOTING* that the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) recommends that fisheries exploiting dolphin fish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) and using fish aggregating devices (FADs), could operate, in all geographical sub-areas (GSAs), only between 15 August and 31 December of each year;

*NOTING* that SAC has considered that this type of measure can significantly contribute to the reduction of the catches of small specimen of dolphin fish and contribute to the sustainability of this stock;

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

1. In order to protect the dolphin fish (*Coryphaena hippurus*), in particular small fish, exploited by fleets flying the flag of Members, the dolphin fish fisheries using fish aggregating devices (FADs) shall be prohibited from 1 January to 14 August of each year, in all geographical sub-areas.

By way of derogation, if a Member can demonstrate that due to bad weather, fishermen of this Member were unable to utilise their normal fishing days (notified in advance to the Executive Secretary), then the Member can carry over days lost by this fleet in FAD fisheries until 31 January of the following year.

The Member shall notify these measures to the Executive Secretary, who will circulate the information to all the Members.

2. Each Member involved by the fishery referred to in paragraph 1 shall take the necessary measures to ensure the respect of the measure referred to in paragraph 1.

3. Each Member shall adopt the necessary measures to ensure the reporting of their total landings and transshipments of dolphin fish carried out by the vessels that fly their flag. Each Member shall also expand, or maintain, an appropriate system of collection and treatment of fisheries catch and effort data.

4. The Commission requests SAC to analyse for the first time in 2010, the impact of this measure on the stocks and to recommend any change that may be deemed necessary to improve its effectiveness, in order to evaluate possible modifications to the closure and/or to propose additional management measures.

5. Members involved by the fishery referred to in paragraph 1 will submit an Annual Report on their implementation to the Secretariat. The Executive Secretary shall report to the Commission.

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**REC. GFCM/30/2006/3****ESTABLISHMENT OF FISHERIES RESTRICTED AREAS IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE DEEP SEA SENSITIVE HABITATS**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*RECALLING* that the objectives of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and proper utilisation of living marine resources;

*RECALLING* the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference for the Sustainable Development of the Fisheries in the Mediterranean held in November 2003 in Venice;

*RECALLING* the Resolution 59/25 of the United Nations General Assembly and in particular paragraph 66 and 67 calling the regional fisheries management organizations to adopt appropriate conservation and management measures in order to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems;

*RECALLING* the Recommendation GFCM/2005/1 on the management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and deepwater species;

*CONSIDERING* that integration of environmental concerns in fisheries management is a way to protect the structure and functioning of the marine ecosystems that are in turn fundamental to the overall production of the seas, including the exploited resources and to the benefit of sustainable fisheries;

*CONSIDERING* that also human activities other than fisheries should care of the structure and functioning of the marine ecosystems to the benefit of healthy environment and sustainable fisheries;

*NOTING* that the Scientific Advisory Committee recommends to ban bottom trawling activity in the deep water coral reefs located in international waters (referred to as Lophelia reef off Capo Santa Maria di Leuca) in order to protect the coral;

*NOTING* that the Scientific Advisory Committee has indicated that the area referred to as “The Nile Delta area cold hydrocarbon seeps” is characterized by an exceptional concentration of cold hydrocarbon seeps which had favoured the development of a unique living community and recommends that the area should be given a full protection status by avoiding demersal fishing practices;

*NOTING* that the Scientific Advisory Committee recommends to ban trawling activities in the area referred to as “The Eratosthemes Seamount” located in the Eastern Mediterranean between the Levantine Platform to the south and the Cyprus margin to the north near the subduction zone of the African plate, in order to protect the deep sea sensitive habitat;

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

1. Fishing with towed dredges and bottom trawl nets shall be prohibited in the areas bounded by lines joining the following coordinates:

**a) Deep Sea fisheries restricted area “Lophelia reef off Capo Santa Maria di Leuca”**

39° 27.72' N, 18° 10.74' E

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39° 27.80' N, 18° 26.68' E  
39° 11.16' N, 18° 04.28' E  
39° 11.16' N, 18° 32.58' E

**b) Deep Sea fisheries restricted area “The Nile delta area cold hydrocarbon seeps”**

31° 30.00' N, 33° 10.00' E  
31° 30.00' N, 34° 00.00' E  
32° 00.00' N, 34° 00.00' E  
32° 00.00' N, 33° 10.00' E

**c) Deep Sea fisheries restricted area “The Eratosthemes Seamount”**

33° 00.00' N, 32° 00.00' E  
33° 00.00' N, 33° 00.00' E  
34° 00.00' N, 33° 00.00' E  
34° 00.00' N, 32° 00.00' E

2. For the same areas, Members shall call the attention of the appropriate authorities in order to protect these areas from the impact of any other activity jeopardizing the conservation of the features that characterize these particular habitats.

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**REC. GFCM/30/2006/4****ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIST OF VESSELS PRESUMED TO HAVE CARRIED OUT ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING ACTIVITIES IN THE GFCM AREA**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*RECALLING* that the FAO Council adopted on June 23, 2001 an International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU). This Plan stipulates that the identification of the vessels carrying out IUU activities should follow agreed procedures and be applied in an equitable, transparent and non-discriminatory way;

*CONCERNED* by the fact that IUU fishing activities in the GFCM area continue, and these activities diminish the effectiveness of the GFCM conservation and management measures;

*FURTHER CONCERNED* that there is evidence of a high number of vessel owners engaged in such fishing activities which have re-flagged their vessels to avoid compliance with GFCM management and conservation measures;

*DETERMINED* to address the challenge of an increase in IUU fishing activities by way of counter-measures to be applied in respect to the vessels without prejudice to further measures adopted in respect of flag States under the relevant GFCM instruments;

*CONSIDERING* the results of the Third Ministerial Conference on the Sustainable Development of Fisheries in the Mediterranean which was held in Venice from 25 to 26 November 2003;

*CONSCIOUS* of the need to address, as a matter of priority, the issue of large-scale fishing vessels conducting IUU fishing activities;

*NOTING* that the situation must be addressed in the light of all relevant international fisheries instruments and in accordance with the relevant rights and obligations established in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement;

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

1. For the purposes of this recommendation the fishing vessels flying the flag of a non-Contracting Party are presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities in the GFCM Convention Area, *inter alia*, when a Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, presents evidence that such vessels:
  - a) Harvest species in the GFCM Area and are not registered on the GFCM list of vessels authorized to fish species in the GFCM Area;
  - b) Harvest Tuna or Tuna like species in the Convention Area, whose flag State is without quotas, catch limit or effort allocation under relevant GFCM conservation and management measures
  - c) Do not record or report their catches made in the GFCM Area, or make false reports;
  - d) Take or land undersized fish in contravention of GFCM conservation measures;
  - e) Fish during closed fishing periods or in closed areas in contravention of GFCM conservation measures;
  - f) Use prohibited fishing gear in contravention of GFCM conservation measures;
  - g) Tranship with vessels included in the IUU list;

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- h) Harvest species in the waters under the national jurisdiction of the coastal States in the GFCM Area without authorization and/or infringes its laws and regulations, without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States to make measures against such vessels;
  - i) Are without nationality and harvest species in the GFCM Area; and/or
  - j) Engage in fishing activities contrary to any other GFCM conservation and management measures.
2. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, shall transmit every year to the Executive Secretary before July 15, the list of vessels flying the flag of a non-Contracting Party presumed to be carrying out IUU fishing activities in the GFCM Area during the current and previous years, accompanied by the supporting evidence concerning the presumption of IUU fishing activity.

This list shall be based on the information collected by Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties.

3. On the basis of the information received pursuant to paragraph 2, the GFCM Executive Secretary shall draw up a draft IUU list and shall transmit it together with all the evidence provided to Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, as well as to non-Contracting Parties whose vessels are included on these lists before August 15 of each year. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, shall transmit their comments, as appropriate, including evidence showing that the listed vessels neither have fished in contravention to GFCM conservation and management measures nor had the possibility of fishing species in the GFCM Area, before September 30 to GFCM.

Upon receipt of the draft IUU list, Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, shall closely monitor these vessels included in the draft IUU list in order to determine their activities and possible changes of name, flag and/or registered owner.

4. On the basis of the information received pursuant to paragraph 3, the GFCM Executive Secretary shall draw up a provisional list that he shall transmit two weeks in advance of the Commission Session to the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, together with all the evidence provided.
5. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, may at any time submit to the GFCM Executive Secretary any additional information, which might be relevant for the establishment of the IUU list. The GFCM Executive Secretariat shall circulate the information at latest before the annual Commission Session to the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, and to the non-Contracting Parties concerned, together with all the evidence provided.
6. The GFCM Compliance Committee shall examine, each year, the provisional list, as well as the information referred to in paragraphs 3 and 5. The GFCM Compliance Committee shall remove a vessel from the provisional list if the flag State demonstrates that:
  - a) The vessel did not take part in any IUU fishing activities described in paragraph 1, or
  - b) Effective action has been taken in response to the IUU fishing activities in question, including, *inter alia*, prosecution and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity.
7. Following the examination referred to in paragraph 6, the GFCM Compliance Committee shall submit to the Commission for approval, the provisional list of the vessels identified as carrying out IUU fishing activities in the GFCM Area.

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8. On adoption of the list, the Commission shall request non-Contracting Parties, whose vessels appear on the IUU list:
  - to notify the owner of the vessel identified on the IUU list of its inclusion on the list and the consequences which result from being included on the list, as referred to in paragraph 9;
  - to take all the necessary measures to eliminate these IUU fishing activities, including if necessary, the cancelling of the registration or of the fishing licenses of these vessels, and to inform the Commission of the measures taken in this respect.
9. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, shall take all necessary measures, under their applicable legislation:
  - a) So that the fishing vessels, the mother ships and the cargo vessels flying their flag do not participate in any transshipment with vessels registered on the IUU list;
  - b) So that IUU vessels that enter ports voluntarily are not authorized to land or tranship therein;
  - c) To prohibit the chartering of a vessel included on the IUU list;
  - d) To refuse to grant their flag to vessels included in the IUU list, except if the vessel has changed owner; and the new owner has provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owner or operator has no further legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control of, the vessel, or having taken into account all relevant facts, the flag Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, determines that granting the vessel its flag will not result in IUU fishing;
  - e) To prohibit the imports, or landing and/or transshipment, of any species from vessels included in the IUU list;
  - f) To encourage the importers, transporters and other sectors concerned, to refrain from transaction and transshipment of any species caught by vessels included in the IUU list;
10. The GFCM Executive Secretary shall take any necessary measure to ensure publicity of the IUU vessels list adopted by GFCM pursuant to paragraph 8, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, and through electronic means, by placing it on the GFCM Web site. Furthermore, the GFCM Executive Secretary shall transmit the IUU vessels list to other regional fisheries organizations for the purposes of enhanced cooperation between GFCM and these organizations in order to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.
11. This recommendation shall apply initially to large-scale fishing vessels over 24 metres LOA, flying the flag of non-Contracting Parties. The Commission shall, in future annual meetings, review and, as appropriate, revise this recommendation with a view to its extension to other types of IUU fishing activities of non-Contracting Party vessels and, to Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party.
12. Without prejudice to the rights of flag Contracting Parties or Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, and coastal states to take proper action consistent with international law, the Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, shall not take any unilateral trade measures or other sanctions against vessels provisionally included in the draft IUU list, pursuant to paragraph 3, or which have been already removed from the list, pursuant to paragraph 6, on the grounds that such vessels are involved in IUU fishing activities.
13. A non-Contracting Party whose vessel appears on the IUU list may request the removal of this vessel from the list during the intersessional period by providing the following information:
  - it has adopted measures so that this vessel respects all GFCM conservation measures;
  - it will be able to assume effectively its responsibilities with respect to this vessel in particular as regards the monitoring and control of the fishing activities executed by this vessel in the GFCM Agreement Area;

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- it has taken effective action in response to the IUU fishing activities in question including prosecution and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity, if relevant;
  - the vessel has changed ownership and that the new owner can establish the previous owner no longer has any legal, financial or real interests in the vessel or exercises control over it and that the new owner has not participated in IUU fishing, if relevant.
14. The non-Contracting Party shall send its request for the removal of the identified vessel from the IUU list to the GFCM Executive Secretary accompanied by the supporting information referred to in paragraph 13.
  15. On the basis of the information received in accordance with paragraph 13, the GFCM Executive Secretary will transmit the removal request, with all the supporting information to the Contracting Parties within 15 days following the notification of the removal request.
  16. The Contracting Parties will examine the request to remove the vessel and arrive at a conclusion on either the removal from, or the maintenance of the vessel on the IUU list by mail within 30 days following the notification by the Executive Secretariat. The result of the examination of the request by mail will be checked by the Executive Secretary at the end of the 30-day period following the date of the notification by the Executive Secretary referred to in paragraph 15. If a Contracting Party does not reply the notification from the Executive Secretary, it will be considered as an abstention from the vote and part of the quorum for the decision-making.
  17. The Executive Secretary will communicate the result of the examination of the removal request as of the end of the 30-day period following the date of the notification referred to in paragraph 15 to all Contracting Parties.
  18. If the result of the exercise indicates that there is a two-thirds majority of the Contracting Parties in favour of removal of the vessel from the IUU list, the President of the GFCM, on behalf of the GFCM, will communicate the result to all the Contracting Parties and to the non-Contracting Party which requested the removal of its vessel from the IUU list. In the absence of a two-thirds majority, the vessel will be maintained on the IUU list and the Executive Secretary will inform the non-Contracting Party accordingly.
  19. The Executive Secretary of the GFCM will take the necessary measures to remove the vessel concerned from the GFCM IUU vessels list, as published on the GFCM Web site. Moreover, the Executive Secretary of the GFCM will forward the decision of removal of the vessel to other regional fishery organisations.

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**REC. GFCM/30/2006/5****CRITERIA FOR OBTAINING THE STATUS OF COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTY IN GFCM AREA**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*NOTING* the imperative international responsibility concerning the conservation of the living marine resources in the Mediterranean Sea for the needs of present and future generations;

*NOTING* that the sustainability can be ensured only if all the Parties which fish for marine resources cooperate with the Commission, which is the competent international body for the conservation and management of these marine resources within its area of competence;

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

1. Each year, on the basis of information supplied to GFCM by Members, the Secretary shall contact all non-Contracting Parties known to be fishing in the GFCM Area for species under GFCM competence to urge them to become a Contracting Party to GFCM in accordance with the provisions of the GFCM Agreement, or attain the status of a Co-operating non-Contracting Party. In doing so, the Secretary shall provide a copy of all relevant Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by the Commission;
2. Any non-Contracting Party requesting the status of a co-operating non-Contracting Party shall apply to the Secretary. Requests must be received by the Executive Secretary no later than ninety (90) days in advance of an Annual Session of the Commission, to be considered at that meeting;
3. Non-Contracting Parties requesting the status of Co-operating non-Contracting Party shall provide the following information in order to have this status considered by the Commission:
  - a) where available, data on its historical fisheries in the GFCM Area, including nominal catches, number/type of vessels, name of fishing vessels, fishing effort and fishing areas;
  - b) all the data that Contracting Parties have to submit to GFCM based on the recommendations and resolutions adopted by GFCM;
  - c) details on current fishing presence in the GFCM Area, number of vessels and vessel characteristics; and
  - d) information on any research programmes it may have conducted in the GFCM Area and the information and the results of this research.
4. An applicant for Co-operating non-Contracting Party shall also:
  - a) confirm its commitment to respect the Commission's conservation and management measures and;
  - b) inform GFCM of the measures it takes to ensure compliance by its vessels of GFCM conservation and management measures.
5. The Compliance Committee shall be responsible for reviewing requests for co-operating status and for recommending to the Commission whether or not an applicant should receive co-operating status. In this review, the Compliance Committee shall also consider information regarding the applicant available from other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) as well as data submission of the applicant. Caution shall be used so as not to introduce into the GFCM Area

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the excessive fishing capacity of other regions or IUU fishing activities by granting cooperating status to the applicant;

6. Co-operating non-Contracting Parties status shall be annually reviewed and renewed unless revoked by the Commission due to non-compliance with GFCM conservation and management measures.

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**REC. GFCM/30/2006/6**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE GFCM COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*ESTABLISHES*, in accordance with Article VII (1) of the Agreement creating the GFCM, a Compliance Committee.

The functions of the Compliance Committee shall be to:

- a) Review 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;
- b) Review the implementation of measures of monitoring, control, surveillance, and enforcement adopted by the Commission as may be necessary to ensure their effectiveness;
- c) Define, develop and make recommendations to the Commission concerning the phased development and implementation of the GFCM Control and Inspection scheme;
- d) Monitor, review and analyze information pertaining to the activities of Non-Contracting Parties and their vessels which undermine the objectives of the Agreement including, in particular, IUU fishing, and recommend actions to be taken by the Commission to discourage such activities;
- e) Perform such other tasks as directed by the Commission.

The Compliance Committee will meet during the annual Commission Session.

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**REC. GFCM/30/2006/7****DATA CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*RECOGNISING* the need for confidentiality at the commercial and organisational levels for data, reports and messages submitted to GFCM, the following policy and procedures on confidentiality of data will apply;

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

1. Field of application

The provisions set out below shall apply to all data, reports and messages (electronic and of other nature) transmitted and received pursuant to GFCM recommendations

2. General Provisions

- a) The Executive Secretary and the appropriate authorities of the Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, transmitting and receiving data, reports and messages shall take all necessary measures to comply with the security and confidentiality provisions set out in sections 3 and 4.
- b) The Executive Secretary shall inform all Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties of the measures taken in the secretariat to comply with these security and confidentiality provisions.
- c) The Executive Secretary shall take all the necessary steps to ensure that the requirements pertaining to the deletion of data, reports and messages handled by the Secretariat are complied with.
- d) Each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party shall guarantee the Executive Secretary the right to obtain as appropriate, the rectification of data, reports and messages the processing of which does not comply with the provisions of the GFCM Agreement.
- e) The Commission may instruct the Executive Secretary not to make available the data, reports and messages received by a Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, where it is established that the Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party in question has not complied with these security and confidentiality provisions.

3. Provisions on Confidentiality

Data, reports and messages shall be used only for purposes stipulated in GFCM recommendations.

4. Provisions on Security

- a) Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties and the Executive Secretary shall ensure the secure treatments of data, reports and messages, in particular where the processing involves transmission over an electronic network. Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties and the Executive Secretary must implement appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect data, reports and messages against accidental or unlawful destruction or accidental loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure or access, and against all inappropriate forms of processing.

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The following security issues must be addressed from the outset:

- System access control: the system has to withstand a break-in attempt from unauthorised persons.
- Authenticity and data access control: the system has to be able to limit the access of authorised parties to a predefined set of data only.
- Communication security: it shall be guaranteed that data, reports and messages that enter the system are securely communicated.
- Data security: it shall be guaranteed that data, reports and messages that enter the system are securely stored for the required time and that they will not be tampered with.
- Security procedures: security procedures shall be designed addressing access to the system, system administration and maintenance, backup and general use of the system.

Having regard to the state of the art and the cost of their implementation, such measures shall ensure a level of security appropriate to the risks represented by the processing of the data, reports and messages.

b) Data Security

Access limitation to the data shall be secured via a flexible user identification and password mechanism. Each user shall be given access only to the data necessary for his task.

c) Security Procedures

Each Contracting Party and Cooperating Non-Contracting Party and the Executive Secretary shall nominate a security system administrator. The security system administrator shall review the log files generated by the software, properly maintain the system security, restrict access to the system as deemed needed and act as a liaison with the Executive Secretary in order to solve security matters.

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**RECOMMENDATION GFCM/30/2006/8****CONCERNING SELECTED ICCAT RECOMMENDATIONS**

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 marine resources,

*ADOPTS* in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 1 (h) of Article III and Article V of the GFCM Agreement the following Recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT):

***GFCM/2006/8 (A)******RECOMMENDATION [05-04] BY ICCAT TO AMEND THE RECOMMENDATION [04-06] ON BLUEFIN TUNA FARMING***

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the increasing development of bluefin tuna farming activities, especially in the Mediterranean;

*RECALLING* the conclusions of the 6th Ad Hoc GFCM/ICCAT Joint Working Group Meeting on Stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean Sea relative to the effects of the bluefin tuna farming and on the solutions that could be studied to regulate this activity;

*CONSIDERING* the advice of the 2001 Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) on effects of bluefin tuna farming in the Mediterranean on the collection of data and consequently on stock assessment procedures;

*DESIRING* to gradually implement effective management measures that permit the development of bluefin tuna farming in a responsible and sustainable manner in relation to the management of bluefin tuna;

*NOTING* the potential advantages of the use of underwater video monitoring in estimating the number of fish;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) whose flag vessels fish or transfer quantities of bluefin tuna to cages for farming, shall undertake the necessary measures:
  - a) to require that the captains of vessels (including tugs and towing vessels) carrying out transfer operations of bluefin tuna for caging maintain vessel logs and report the quantities transferred and the number of fish as well as the date, place of harvest and name of the vessel and of the company responsible for the caging. This detailed information shall be entered into a register which shall contain details of all the transshipments carried out during the fishing season. This register shall be kept onboard and be accessible at any time for control purposes;

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- b) to require the reporting of the total amount of the transfers of bluefin tuna for fattening and farming, carried out by their flag vessels, and include this information in the Task I data;
  - c) to set up and maintain a list of their flag vessels that fish for, provide or transport bluefin tuna for farming purposes (name of the vessel, flag, license number, gear type), i.e., fishing boat, transport vessel, vessels with pools, etc;
  - d) these tugs and towing vessels must also be equipped with an operational satellite tracking and monitoring system (VMS).
2. The CPCs under whose jurisdiction the farms for bluefin tuna are located in the Convention area shall adopt the necessary measures to:

- a) ensure that a caging declaration is presented by the operator in accordance with the ICCAT format in the attached Annex, on each fishing or transport vessel that participated in the transfer of tuna to cages for fattening, including the quantities of bluefin tuna destined for farming. This declaration shall include information relative to the quantities (in t) of fish transferred to the cages, the number of fish, the date, the place, the location of the harvest, the name of the vessel, as well as its flag and license number;
- b) ensure that the tuna farms and the national scientific institutes obtain data as specified in the following paragraph on the size composition of the fish caught as well as the date, time and area of catch and the fishing method used, in order to improve statistics for stock assessment purposes;

To this end, establish a sampling program for the estimation of the numbers-at-size of the bluefin tuna caught which requires notably that size sampling at cages must be done on one sample (= 100 specimens) for every 100 t of live fish, or on a 10% sample of the total number of the caged fish. Size samples will be collected during harvesting<sup>3</sup> at the farm, following the ICCAT methodology for reporting Task II. The sampling should be conducted during any harvesting, covering all cages. Data must be transmitted to ICCAT, by 31 July<sup>4</sup> for the sampling conducted the previous year.

- c) ensure the reporting of the quantities of bluefin tuna placed in cages and of estimates of the growth and mortality while in captivity and of the amounts sold (in t);
- d) set up and maintain a registry of the farming facilities under their jurisdiction;
- e) each CPC referred to in this paragraph shall nominate a single authority responsible for coordinating the collection and verification of information on caging activities and for reporting to and cooperating with the CPC whose flag vessels have fished the caged tuna.

This single authority shall submit, to the CPCs whose flag vessels have fished the caged tuna, a copy of each caging declaration referred to in paragraph 2a, within one week after the completion of the transfer operation of bluefin tuna into cages.

3. CPCs referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received and shall cooperate to ensure that quantities caged are consistent with the reported catches (logbook) amount of each fishing vessel.

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<sup>3</sup> For fish farmed more than one year, other additional sampling methods should be established.

<sup>4</sup> For 2006 (transmission of data relative to 2005), this date is advanced to 31 May.

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4. The CPCs that export farmed bluefin tuna products shall ensure that the description of these products includes "Farming" in the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BTSD) or the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Re-exportation Certificate (refer to the 2003 Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Amendment of the Forms of the ICCAT Bluefin/Bigeye/Swordfish Statistical Documents [Rec. 03-19]).
5. The CPCs shall transmit, each year, to the Executive Secretary, prior to 31 August:
  - the list of flag vessels provided for in paragraph 1c)
  - the results of the program referred to in paragraph 2 b),
  - the quantities of bluefin tuna caged during the previous year,
  - the quantities marketed during the previous year.
6. The CPCs referred to in this recommendation as well as the Contracting Parties that import bluefin tuna shall cooperate, particularly through the exchange of information.
7. The Commission shall request non-Contracting Parties that farm bluefin tuna in the Convention area to cooperate in the implementation of this recommendation.
8. Based on the information referred to in paragraph 4 on the BTSD reports and the Task I data, the Commission shall review the effectiveness of these measures.
9.
  - a) The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of farming facilities authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area (hereafter referred to as FFBs). For the purposes of this recommendation, FFBs not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area.
  - b) Each CPC under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall submit electronically, where possible, to the ICCAT Executive Secretary by 31 August 2004 the list of its FFBs that are authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna. This list shall include the following information:
    - name of the FFB, register number,
    - names and addresses of owner (s) and operator (s),
    - location,
    - farming capacity (in t)
  - c) Each CPC shall notify the Executive Secretary, after the establishment of the ICCAT record of FFBs, of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record of FFBs at any time such changes occur.
  - d) The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT record of FFBs, and take any measure to ensure publicity of the record through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT Web site, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.
  - e) The CPCs under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall take the necessary measures to ensure that their FFBs comply with the relevant ICCAT measures.
  - f) To ensure the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures pertaining to bluefin tuna:
    - i) CPCs under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall validate Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents only for the farms on the ICCAT record of FFBs;

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- ii) CPCs shall require farmed bluefin tuna, when imported into their territory, to be accompanied by statistical documents validated for FFBs on the ICCAT record of FFBs and;
  - iii) CPCs importing farmed bluefin tuna and the States that authorize the FFB shall cooperate to ensure that statistical documents are not forged or do not contain misinformation;
  - iv) The CPCs under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall exclude from the ICCAT record the FFBs that do not respect the sampling requirements mentioned in paragraph 2b.
- g) Each CPCs shall take the necessary measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the imports and sale of bluefin tuna from farms not registered in the ICCAT record of farming facilities authorised to operate as well as those that do not respect the sampling requirements foreseen in paragraph 2b and/or do not participate in the sampling programme referred to in paragraph 2 b).
10. a) The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of vessels that fish for, provide or transport bluefin for farming, i.e. fishing boats, transport vessels, vessels with pools, etc.

For the purpose of this recommendation the vessels not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, provide or transport bluefin tuna for farming.

- b) Each CPCs shall submit, electronically where possible, to the ICCAT Executive Secretary by 31 August 2006 the list of the vessels that are authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna. This list shall include the following information:
- name of the vessel, register number
  - previous flag (if any)
  - previous name (if any)
  - previous details of deletion from other registers (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 authorised for fishing and/or providing or transporting bluefin tuna for farming
- c) Each CPC shall promptly notify, after the establishment of the initial ICCAT record, the ICCAT Executive Secretary of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record and any time such changes occur.
- d) The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT record and take any measure to ensure publicity of the record and through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT Web site in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirement noted by CPCs.
11. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures so that the FFBs do not receive tuna from vessels that are not included in the ICCAT record (fishing vessels, transport vessels, vessels with pools, etc.)
12. The SCRS shall undertake trials to identify growth rates including weight gains during the fattening or caging period.
13. This recommendation replaces the 2004 Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming [Rec. 04-06].



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*GFCM/2006/8 (C)**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING A PROGRAMME FOR TRANSHIPMENT BY  
LARGE-SCALE LONGLINE FISHING VESSELS*

*TAKING ACCOUNT* of the need to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing activities because they undermine the effectiveness of the conservation and management measures already adopted by ICCAT;

*EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN* that organized tuna laundering operations have been conducted and a significant amount of catches by IUU fishing vessels have been transshipped under the names of duly licensed fishing vessels;

*IN VIEW THEREFORE OF THE NEED* to ensure the monitoring of the transshipment activities by large-scale longline vessels in the Convention area, including the control of their landings;

*TAKING ACCOUNT* of the need to collect catch data of such large scale long-line tuna to improve the scientific assessments of those stocks;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS  
(ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The Commission establish a program of transshipment which applies initially to large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels (hereafter referred to as the "LSTLVs") and to carrier vessels authorized to receive transshipment from these vessels.

The Commission shall at its 2008 annual meeting, review and, as appropriate, revise this Recommendation.

2. The flag Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (hereafter referred to as CPCs) of LSTLVs shall determine whether or not to authorize their LSTLVs which fish for tuna and tuna-like species to transship at sea. However, the flag CPC may authorize the at-sea transshipment by its flag LSTLVs on the condition that such transshipment is conducted in accordance with the procedures defined in Sections A, B and D below.
3. Transshipments by LSTLVs in waters under the jurisdiction of CPCs are subject to prior authorization from the coastal State concerned.

**A. RECORD OF VESSELS AUTHORISED TO RECEIVE TRANSHIPMENT IN THE  
ICCAT AREA**

4. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels authorized to receive tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area from LSTLVs. For the purposes of this Recommendation, carrier vessels not entered on the record are deemed not to be authorized to receive tuna and tuna-like species in transshipment operations.
5. Each CPC shall submit, electronically where possible, to the ICCAT Executive Secretary by 1 July 2006 the list of the carrier vessels that are authorized to receive transshipments from its LSTLVs in the Convention area. This list shall include the following information:
  - The flag of the vessel
  - Name of vessel, register number

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- Previous name (if any)
  - Previous flag (if any)
  - Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
  - International radio call sign
  - Type of vessels, length, gross registered tonnage (GRT) and carrying capacity
  - Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
  - Time period authorized for transshipping
6. Each CPC shall promptly notify the ICCAT Executive Secretary, after the establishment of the initial ICCAT record, of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record, at any time such changes occur.
7. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT record and take measures to ensure publicity of the record and through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT Website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements notified by CPCs for their vessels.
8. Carrier vessels authorized for at-sea transshipment shall be required to install and operate a VMS in accordance with the 2003 Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area [Rec. 03-14].

## **B. AT-SEA TRANSHIPMENT**

CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure that LSTLVs flying their flag comply with the following:

9. Transshipment operations at sea may only be undertaken in accordance with the procedures detailed below.

### **Flag State authorization**

10. LSTLVs are not authorized to transship at sea, unless they have obtained prior authorization from their flag State.

### **Notification obligations**

#### **11. *Fishing vessel:***

To receive the prior authorization mentioned in paragraph 10 above, the master and/or owner of the LSTLV must notify the following information to its flag State authorities at least 24 hours in advance of the intended transshipment:

- the name of the LSTLV and its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels,
- the name of the carrier vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of carrier vessels authorized to receive transshipments in the ICCAT area, and the product to be transshipped,
- the tonnage by product to be transshipped,
- the date and location of transshipment,
- the geographic location of the tuna catches.

The LSTLV concerned shall complete and transmit to its flag State, not later than 15 days after the transshipment, the ICCAT transshipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels, in accordance with the format set out in Annex 1.

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12. *Receiving carrier vessel*

The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall complete and transmit the ICCAT transshipment declaration to the ICCAT Secretariat and the flag CPC of the LSTLV, along with its number in the ICCAT record of carrier vessels authorized to receive transshipment in the ICCAT area, within 24 hours of the completion of the transshipment.

13. The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall, 48 hours before landing, transmit an ICCAT transshipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of vessels authorized to receive transshipment in the ICCAT area, to the competent authorities of the State where the landing takes place.

14. *Regional Observer Program*

Each CPC shall ensure that all carrier vessels transshipping at sea have on board an ICCAT observer, no later than 1 January 2007, in accordance with the ICCAT regional observer program in Annex 2. The ICCAT observer shall observe the respect of this Recommendation, and notably that the transshipped quantities are consistent with the reported catch in the ICCAT transshipment declaration.

15. Vessels shall be prohibited from commencing or continuing transshipping in the ICCAT area without an ICCAT regional observer on board, except in cases of “force majeure” duly notified to the ICCAT Secretariat.

**C. IN-PORT TRANSSHIPMENTS**

16. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure that LSTLVs flying their flag comply with the obligations set out in **Annex 3**.

**D. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

17. To ensure the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation and management measures pertaining to species covered by Statistical Document Programs:

- a) In validating the Statistical Document, Flag CPCs of LSTLVs shall ensure that transshipments are consistent with the reported catch amount by each LSTLV.
- b) The Flag CPC of LSTLVs shall validate the Statistical Documents for the transshipped fish, after confirming that the transshipment was conducted in accordance with this Recommendation. This confirmation shall be based on the information obtained through the ICCAT Observer Program.
- c) CPCs shall require that the species covered by the Statistical Document Programs caught by LSTLVs in the Convention area, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party, be accompanied by statistical documents validated for the vessels on the ICCAT record and a copy of the ICCAT transshipments declaration.

18. The CPCs shall report annually before 15 September to the Executive Secretary:

- The quantities by species transshipped during the previous year.
- The list of the LSTLVs registered in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels which have transshipped during the previous year.

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- A comprehensive report assessing the content and conclusions of the reports of the observers assigned to carrier vessels which have received transshipment from their LSTLVs.
- 19. All tuna and tuna-like species landed or imported into the CPCs either unprocessed or after having been processed on board and which are transshipped, shall be accompanied by the ICCAT transshipment declaration until the first sale has taken place.
- 20. Each year, the Executive Secretary of ICCAT shall present a report on the implementation of this Recommendation to the annual meeting of the Commission which shall review compliance with this Recommendation.

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ANNEX 1

ICCAT TRANSHIPMENT DECLARATION

Name of vessel and radio External identification: In case of transshipment  
 Call sign if any: ICCAT record number: Name and/or call sign,  
 Flag State authorization number of receiving carrier vessel:

Day Month Hour Year | 2\_0\_ \_ \_ | Agent's name: Master's name of LSTLV: Master's name of Carrier:  
 Departure [ ][ ] [ ][ ] [ ][ ] [ ][ ] from [ ][ ][ ][ ]  
 Return [ ][ ] [ ][ ] [ ][ ] to [ ][ ][ ][ ] Signature: Signature: Signature:  
 Transshipment [ ][ ] [ ][ ] [ ][ ] [ ][ ][ ][ ]

Indicate the weight in kilograms or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit: [ ][ ] kilograms <sup>(3)</sup> <sup>(4)</sup> LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT.....

Species	Port <sup>(2)</sup>	Sea	Type of Product <sup>(1)</sup>	Type of Product <sup>(1)</sup>	Type of Product <sup>(1)</sup>	Type of Product <sup>(1)</sup>	Type of Product <sup>(1)</sup>	Type of Product <sup>(1)</sup>	Type of Product <sup>(1)</sup>	Type of Product <sup>(1)</sup>	Type of Product <sup>(1)</sup>	Type of Product <sup>(1)</sup>
			Whole	Gutted	Head off	Filleted						

If transshipment effected at sea, ICCAT Observer Signature:

**ICCAT REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME**

1. Each CPC shall require carrier vessels included in the ICCAT record of vessels authorized to receive transshipments in the ICCAT area and which transship at sea, to carry an ICCAT observer during each transshipment operation in the Convention area.
2. The Secretariat of the Commission shall appoint the observers and shall place them on board the carrier vessels authorized to receive transshipments in the ICCAT area from LSTLVs flying the flag of Contracting Parties and of non-Contracting Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that implement the ICCAT observer program.

**Designation of the observers**

3. The designated observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
  - sufficient experience to identify species and fishing gear;
  - satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures;
  - the ability to observe and record accurately;
  - a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel observed.

**Obligations of the observer**

4. Observers shall:
  - a) have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by ICCAT;
  - b) be nationals of one of the CPCs and, to the extent possible, not of the flag State of the receiving carrier vessel;
  - c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 5 below;
  - d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the Secretariat of the Commission;
  - e) not be a crew member of an LSTLV or an employee of an LSTLV company.
5. The observer tasks shall be in particular to:
  - a) monitor the carrier vessel's compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
    - (i) record and report upon the transshipment activities carried out;
    - (ii) verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transshipping;
    - (iii) observe and estimate products transshipped;
    - (iv) verify and record the name of the LSTLV concerned and its ICCAT number;
    - (v) verify the data contained in the transshipment declaration;
    - (vi) certify the data contained in the transshipment declaration;
    - (vii) countersign the transshipment declaration;
  - b) issue a daily report of the carrier vessel's transshipping activities;
  - c) establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the captain the opportunity to include therein any relevant information;
  - d) submit to the Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation;
  - e) exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.

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6. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing operations of the LSTLVs and of the LSTLV owners and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer;
7. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel to which the observer is assigned.
8. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behavior which apply to all vessel personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel personnel set forth in paragraph 9 of this program.

#### **Obligations of the flag States of carrier vessels**

9. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag States of the carrier vessels and their captains shall include the following, notably:
  - a) Observers shall be allowed access to the vessel personnel and to the gear and equipment;
  - b) Upon request, observers shall also be allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned, in order to facilitate the carrying out of their duties set forth in paragraph 5:
    - (i) satellite navigation equipment;
    - (ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
    - (iii) electronic means of communication.
  - c) Observers shall be provided accommodations, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
  - d) Observers shall be provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties; and
  - e) The flag States shall ensure that captains, crew and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.

The Secretariat, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, is requested to provide to the flag State of the carrier vessel under whose jurisdiction the vessel transhipped and to the Flag CPC of the LSTLV, copies of all raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip.

The Secretariat shall submit the observer reports to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.

#### **Observer fees**

- a) The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the flag CPCs of LSTLVs wishing to engage in transshipment operations. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the program. This fee shall be paid into a special account of the ICCAT Secretariat and the ICCAT Secretariat shall manage the account for implementing the program;
- b) No observer shall be assigned to a vessel for which the fees, as required under subparagraph a), have not been paid.

**IN-PORT TRANSHIPMENT BY LSTLVs**

1. Transshipment operations in port may only be undertaken in accordance with paragraph 3 of the Introduction and the procedures detailed below:

**Notification obligations****2. Fishing vessel:**

- 2.1 Prior to transshipping, the captain of the LSTLV must notify the following information to the Port State authorities, at least 48 hours in advance:
  - the name of the LSTLV and its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels,
  - the name of the carrier vessel, its number in the ICCAT record of carrier vessels, and the product to be transshipped,
  - the tonnage by product to be transshipped,
  - the date and location of transshipment,
  - the geographic location of the tuna catches.
- 2.2 The captain of a LSTLV shall, at the time of the transshipment, inform its Flag State of the following:
  - the products and quantities involved,
  - the date and place of the transshipment,
  - the name, registration number and flag of the receiving carrier vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of vessels authorized to receive transshipment in the ICCAT area,
  - the geographic location of the tuna catches.

The captain of the LSTLV concerned shall complete and transmit to its flag State the ICCAT transshipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels, in accordance with the format set out in Annex 1 no later than 15 days after the transshipment.

***Receiving vessel:***

3. No later than 24 hours before the beginning and at the end of the transshipment, the master of the receiving carrier vessel shall inform the Port State authorities of the quantities of catches of tuna and tuna-like species transshipped to his vessel, and complete and transmit the ICCAT transshipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of carrier vessels to the competent authorities within 24 hours.

***Landing State:***

4. The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall, 48 hours before landing, complete and transmit an ICCAT transshipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of carrier vessels to the competent authorities of the landing State where the landing takes place.
5. The port State and the landing State referred to in the above paragraphs shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received and shall cooperate with the flag CPC of the LSTLV to ensure that landings are consistent with the reported catches amount of each vessel. This verification shall be carried out so that the vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience and that degradation of the fish is avoided.
6. Each flag CPC of the LSTLV shall include in its annual report each year to ICCAT the details on the transshipments by its vessels.

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**REC. GFCM/29/2005/1****ON THE MANAGEMENT OF CERTAIN FISHERIES EXPLOITING  
DEMERSAL AND DEEPWATER SPECIES**

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 marine resources;

*RECALLING* the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference for the Sustainable Development of the Fisheries in the Mediterranean held in November 2003 in Venice and, in particular, paragraph 4, third indent;

*RECALLING* that effective management measures aim to curb the decline in stocks identified in the scientific advice, and to improve the exploitation pattern in the fisheries;

*RE-AFFIRMING* the principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and recalling the precautionary approach to fisheries management therein and, in particular, in relation to the development of new fisheries;

*CONSIDERING* that in the absence of any scientific information on the status of fisheries and of the exploited resources a more cautious approach is needed and that suitable information coming from adjacent areas could be used for proper and precautionary management of fisheries;

*NOTING* that the selectivity of codend mesh sizes currently in use in the various demersal trawl fisheries is not suitable to ensure adequate protection for juveniles of several species, as well as to reduce discarding practices;

*CONSIDERING* also that in the advice for 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004 the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) considered that certain stocks are overexploited, some with a high risk of collapse, and that sustainable management requires that measures aimed at limiting the capture of juveniles are implemented;

*NOTING* that the stock assessment conducted by the SAC only concern specific geographical sub-areas corresponding to the data supplied by certain Members and that the assessed stocks may be shared with adjacent GFCM geographical sub-areas (GSAs);

*RECALLING* Recommendation GFCM/2002/1 which urges the control of fishing effort and the improvement of the exploitation pattern of demersal fisheries, as well as limiting catches of juveniles of small pelagic species;

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

**DEMERSAL FISHERIES**

1. The Members of GFCM shall adopt measures aimed at increasing the selectivity of demersal trawlnets, notably by immediate implementation of at least a 40 mm mesh size opening for the whole demersal trawl codend. Members are invited to explore and implement additional measures in order to improve further the selectivity.

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**DEEPWATER FISHERIES**

2. The Members of the GFCM shall prohibit the use of towed dredges and trawlnets fisheries at depths beyond 1 000 m of depth.

**GENERAL ASPECTS**

3. The Members of GFCM shall notify the Executive Secretary, each year, one month prior to the Plenary Session of the Commission, with a report on the implementation of the management measures adopted.
4. The Scientific Advisory Committee shall evaluate the impact of the implementation of the management measures and shall recommend, if necessary, to the GFCM either possible adjustments or new additional measures.

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**REC. GFCM/29/2005/2**

**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 marine 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

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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 fulfill 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 transship;
  - 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.

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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.

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**REC. GFCM/29/2005/3****CONCERNING SELECTED ICCAT RECOMMENDATIONS**

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,

*ADOPTS*, in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 1 (h) of Article III and Article V of the GFCM Agreement the following Recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT):

***GFCM/2005/3 (A)******RECOMMENDATION [03-04] BY ICCAT RELATING TO MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH***

*NOTING* that the Commission's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) in its May 2003 Mediterranean Swordfish assessment has indicated the presence of a stable recruitment pattern and that the current exploitation pattern and level of exploitation are sustainable, as long as the stock does not decline;

*RECOGNIZING* that the SCRS recommended that the current levels of exploitation not be exceeded, under the current exploitation patterns;

*CONSIDERING* that the SCRS also indicated that the percentage of juveniles in the catches is relatively high and a reduction in their catches would improve the yield and spawning biomass per recruit.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. In order to protect small swordfish, Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall take the necessary measures to reduce the mortality of juvenile swordfish in the entire Mediterranean.
2. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall take the necessary technical measures for their longline fisheries in order to ensure compliance with the objective.
3. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall prohibit the use of driftnets for fisheries of large pelagics in the Mediterranean.

***GFCM/2005/3 (B)******RECOMMENDATION [04-05] BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE WESTERN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA REBUILDING PROGRAM AND THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN***

*NOTING* that the 2002 amendment to the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 98-07] established a quota sharing arrangement for the United States, Japan, and Canada only through 2004,

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*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* that the next assessment of Atlantic bluefin tuna was scheduled for 2004 in the 2002 Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning a Multi-year Conservation and Management Plan for Bluefin in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean [Rec. 02-08],

*CONSIDERING* the on-going work of the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies,

*DESIRING* to align stock management discussions with new scientific advice and, in the meantime, to extend for one year existing management measures which support the western Atlantic bluefin tuna rebuilding program,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS  
(ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Conservation of Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 02-07], which amend the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 98-07], be extended through 2006.
2. All other operative paragraphs of Recommendation 98-07 as amended by Recommendation 02-07 remain unchanged.
3. The Third Meeting of the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies take place in April 2005 in Japan. Its primary objective will be to develop a range of future alternative management approaches which will be submitted to the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) for its opinion. The Commission will review at its 2005 Meeting the SCRS Report, notably on the feasibility and implications of those alternative management approaches.
4. In 2006, the SCRS will conduct the stock assessment for bluefin tuna for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean and western Atlantic and provide advice to the Commission on the appropriate management measures, *inter alia*, on total allowable catch levels for those stocks for future years. This provision amends paragraph 6 of Recommendation 02-08.
5. At its 2006 meeting, the Commission will consider the distribution of the total allowable catch among Contracting Parties in the western Atlantic and make any necessary changes for future management periods.

***GFCM/2005/3 (C)***

***RECOMMENDATION [04-06 ] BY ICCAT ON BLUEFIN TUNA FARMING***

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the increasing development of bluefin tuna farming activities, especially in the Mediterranean;

*RECALLING* the conclusions of Sixth Ad Hoc GFCM/ICCAT Joint Working Group Meeting on Stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean Sea relative to the effects of the bluefin tuna farming and on the solutions that could be studied to regulate this activity;

*CONSIDERING* the advice of the 2001 Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) on effects of bluefin tuna farming in the Mediterranean on the collection of data and consequently on stock assessment procedures;

*DESIRING* to gradually implement effective management measures that permit the development of bluefin tuna farming in a responsible and sustainable manner in relation to the management of bluefin tuna;

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*NOTING* the potential advantages of the use of underwater video monitoring in estimating the number of fish,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) whose flag vessels fish or transfer quantities of bluefin tuna to cages for farming shall undertake the necessary measures:

- a) to require that the captains of vessels carrying out transfer operations of bluefin tuna for caging maintain vessel logs and report the quantities transferred and the number of fish as well as the date, place of harvest and name of the vessel and of the company responsible for the caging.
- b) to require the reporting of the total amount of the transfers of bluefin tuna for fattening and farming, carried out by their flag vessels, and include this information in the Task I data.
- c) to set up and maintain a list of their flag vessels that fish for, provide or transport bluefin tuna for farming purposes (name of the vessel, flag, license number, gear type), i.e., fishing boat, transport vessel, vessels with pools, etc.

2. The CPCs under whose jurisdiction the farms for bluefin tuna are located in the Convention area shall adopt the necessary measures to:

- a) ensure that a caging declaration is presented by the operator in accordance with the ICCAT format in the attached Annex, on each fishing or transport vessel that participated in the transfer of tuna to cages for fattening, including the quantities of bluefin tuna destined for farming. This declaration shall include information relative to the quantities (in tonnes) of fish transferred to the cages, the number of fish, the date, the place, the location of the harvest, the name of the vessel, as well as its flag and license number;
- b) ensure that the tuna farms and the national scientific institutes obtain data as specified in the following paragraph on the size composition of the fish caught as well as the date, time and area of catch and the fishing method used, in order to improve statistics for stock assessment purposes;

To this end, establish a sampling program for the estimation of the numbers-at-size of the bluefin tuna caught which requires notably that size sampling at cages must be done on one sample (= 100 specimens) for every 100 t. of live fish. Size sample will be collected during harvesting<sup>1</sup> at the farm. For fish farmed more than one year, other additional sampling methods should be established following the ICCAT methodology for reporting Task II. The sampling should be conducted during any harvesting, covering all cages. Data must be transmitted to ICCAT, by 31 July for the sampling conducted the previous year.

- c) ensure the reporting of the quantities of bluefin tuna placed in cages and of estimates of the growth and mortality while in captivity and of the amounts sold (in t);
- d) set up and maintain a registry of the farming facilities under their jurisdiction;
- e) each CPC referred to in this paragraph shall nominate a single authority responsible for coordinating the collection and verification of information on caging activities and for reporting to and cooperating with the CPC whose flag vessels have fished the caged tuna.

This single authority shall submit, to the CPCs whose flag vessels have fished the caged tuna, a copy of each caging declaration referred to in paragraph 2 a, within one week after the completion of the transfer operation of bluefin tuna into cages.

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3. CPCs mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received and shall cooperate to ensure that quantities caged are consistent with the reported catches (logbook) amount of each fishing vessel.

4. The CPCs that export farmed bluefin tuna products shall ensure that the description of these products includes "Farming" in the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BTSD) or the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Re-exportation Certificate (refer to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Amendment of the Forms of the ICCAT Bluefin/Bigeye/Swordfish Statistical Documents* [Rec. 03-19]).

5. The CPCs shall transmit, each year, to the Executive Secretary, prior to 31 August:

- the list of flag vessels provided for in paragraph 1c),
- the results of the program referred to in paragraph 2 b),
- the quantities of bluefin tuna caged during the previous year,
- the quantities marketed during the previous year.

6. The CPCs mentioned in this recommendation as well as the Contracting Parties that import bluefin tuna shall cooperate, particularly through the exchange of information.

7. The Commission shall request non-Contracting Parties that farm bluefin tuna in the Convention area to cooperate in the implementation of this recommendation.

8. Based on the information referred to in paragraph 4, on the BTSD reports and the Task I data, the Commission shall review the effectiveness of these measures.

9. a) The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of farming facilities authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area (hereafter referred to as FFBs). For the purposes of this Recommendation, FFBs not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area.

b) Each CPC under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall submit electronically, where possible, to the ICCAT Executive Secretary by 31 August 2004 the list of its FFBs that are authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna. This list shall include the following information:

- name of the FFB, register number,
- names and addresses of owner (s) and operator (s),
- location,
- farming capacity (in tonnes)

c) Each CPC shall notify the Executive Secretary, after the establishment of the ICCAT record of FFBs, of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record of FFBs at any time such changes occur.

d) The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT record of FFBs, and take any measure to ensure publicity of the record through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.

e) The CPCs under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall take the necessary measures to ensure that their FFBs comply with the relevant ICCAT measures.

f) To ensure the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures pertaining to bluefin tuna:

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- (i) CPCs under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall validate Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents only for the farms on the ICCAT record of FFBs,
- (ii) CPCs shall require farmed bluefin tuna, when imported into their territory to be accompanied by statistical documents validated for FFBs on the ICCAT record of FFBs and,
- (iii) CPCs importing farmed bluefin tuna and the States that authorize the FFB shall cooperate to ensure that statistical documents are not forged or do not contain misinformation.

10. The SCRS shall undertake trials to identify growth rates including weight gains during the fattening or penning period.

11. This recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 03-09].

**ICCAT DECLARATION ON CAGING**

<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>Flag</i>	<i>Registration number</i>	<i>Date of catch</i>	<i>Place of catch</i>	<i>Date of caging</i>	<i>Quantity placed in cage (kg)</i>	<i>Number of fish placed in cage for fattening</i>	<i>Fattening facility*</i>

\* Facility authorized to operate for fattening of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area.

**GFCM/2005/3 (D)**

**RECOMMENDATION [04-07] BY ICCAT ON BLUEFIN TUNA SIZE LIMIT**

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the concerns expressed by the SCRS on the continued high level of undersized catches of bluefin tuna,

*CONSCIOUS* of the need to contribute to the objectives of the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Develop a Plan Aimed at Reducing the Catches of Juvenile Bluefin Tuna in the Mediterranean* [Rec. 02-09] to reduce the catches of under-sized bluefin tuna,

*IN ORDER* to ensure adequate enforcement and monitoring of the minimum size of bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties and Co-operating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch, the retaining on board, landing and/or

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transshipment of any bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) weighing less than 10 kg in the Mediterranean Sea.

2. In the East Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea, CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch, the retaining on board, the landing, the transshipment and the sale of any bluefin tuna under the minimum applicable size. No tolerance shall be granted.

3. The second and third sub-paragraphs of operative paragraph 9 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning a Multi-year Conservation and Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 02-08], as well as the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning a Limit on Bluefin Tuna Size and Fishing Mortality* [Rec. 74-01] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Supplemental Management Measure Concerning Age Zero Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 97-02], are repealed.

***GFCM/2005/3 (E)***

***RECOMMENDATION [04-10] BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE CONSERVATION OF SHARKS  
CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES MANAGED BY ICCAT***

*RECALLING* that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for Sharks calls on States, within the framework of their respective competencies and consistent with international law, to cooperate through regional fisheries organizations with a view to ensuring the sustainability of shark stocks as well as to adopt a National Plan of Action for the conservation and management of sharks;

*CONSIDERING* that many sharks are part of pelagic ecosystems in the Convention area, and that tunas and tuna-like species are captured in fisheries targeting sharks;

*RECOGNIZING* the need to collect data on catch, effort, discards, and trade, as well as information on the biological parameters of many species, in order to conserve and manage sharks;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) shall annually report Task I and Task II data for catches of sharks, in accordance with ICCAT data reporting procedures, including available historical data.

2. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to require that their fishermen fully utilize their entire catches of sharks. Full utilization is defined as retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts and skins, to the point of first landing.

3. CPCs shall require their vessels to not have onboard fins that total more than 5% of the weight of sharks onboard, up to the first point of landing. CPCs that currently do not require fins and carcasses to be offloaded together at the point of first landing shall take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the 5% ratio through certification, monitoring by an observer, or other appropriate measures.

4. The ratio of fin-to-body weight of sharks described in paragraph 3 shall be reviewed by the SCRS and reported back to the Commission in 2005 for revision, if necessary.

5. Fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping or landing any fins harvested in contravention of this Recommendation.

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6. In fisheries that are not directed at sharks, CPCs shall encourage the release of live sharks, especially juveniles, to the extent possible, that are caught incidentally and are not used for food and/or subsistence.
7. In 2005, the SCRS shall review the assessment of shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) and recommend management alternatives for consideration by the Commission, and reassess blue shark (*Prionaca glauca*) and shortfin mako no later than 2007.
8. CPCs shall, where possible, undertake research to identify ways to make fishing gears more selective.
9. CPCs shall, where possible, conduct research to identify shark nursery areas.
10. The Commission shall consider appropriate assistance to developing CPCs for the collection of data on their shark catches.
11. This recommendation applies only to sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT.

***GFCM/2005/3 (F)***

***RECOMMENDATION [04-12] BY ICCAT TO ADOPT MEASURES CONCERNING SPORT AND RECREATIONAL FISHING ACTIVITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA***

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the need to regulate sport and recreational fishing activities to ensure that these activities do not undermine sustainable exploitation of the stocks, notably the bluefin tuna stock, in the Mediterranean Sea,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties, Entities, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter named CPCs) shall take the measures necessary to forbid the use within the framework of sport and recreational fishing of towed nets, encircling nets, seine sliding, dredgers, gillnets, trammelnet and longline to fish for tuna and tuna-like species, notably bluefin tuna, in the Mediterranean Sea.
2. The CPCs shall ensure that catches of tuna and tuna-like species carried out in the Mediterranean Sea from sport and recreational fishing are not marketed.
3. The CPCs shall take the necessary measures so that catch data from sport and recreational fishing are collected and transmitted to the SCRS.

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**REC. GFCM/27/2002/1****ON THE MANAGEMENT OF SELECTED DEMERSAL AND SMALL PELAGIC SPECIES**

*Recalling* that the objectives of the Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and proper utilization of living marine resources;

*Recalling* that effective management measures aim to curb the decline in stocks targeted by scientific advice, and to improve their exploitation;

*Noting* that the wide diversity of fishing fleets and gear used in the zone under the competence of the Commission makes it essential to establish a general regulatory framework that permits the formulation and application of national regulations adapted to individual cases, in an effort to achieve the maximum effectiveness of sustainable management of living marine resources;

*Considering* the advice on demersal and small pelagic species given at the Fifth session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC);

*Considering* that, in its advice of 2002, the Scientific Advisory Committee estimated that certain stocks are overexploited and that sustainable management measures should therefore be put into effect for the fisheries concerned;

*Considering* that the Members of the GFCM should therefore implement measures aimed at gradually adjusting fishing effort and reducing the capture of juveniles;

*Noting* that the stock assessments conducted by the SAC only concern specific geographical sub-areas corresponding to the data supplied by certain Members and that the assessed stocks may be shared with adjacent GFCM geographical sub-areas, all the Members concerned should ensure that the stocks are managed according to the following provisions:

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean recommends that:

1. The Members in the GFCM geographical sub-areas concerned are encouraged to adopt measures aimed at adjusting the fishing effort for selected demersal species (*Merluccius merluccius*, *Aristeus antennatus*, *Mullus barbatus*) and to rationalize their exploitation on the basis of the advice of the Scientific Advisory Committee;
2. The Members in the GFCM geographical sub-areas concerned are encouraged to take measures aimed at minimizing the capture of small pelagics below the size needed to maintain recruitment stock at a level compatible with sustainable resource exploitation.

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**REC. GFCM/27/2002/2****ICCAT RECOMMENDATION [02-08] CONCERNING A MULTI-YEAR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EAST ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN**

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) considers that, according to the quality of the data and the results of the 2002 assessment, it was not in a position to formulate or propose short-term management recommendations, and regretting the increasing degree of uncertainty in the statistics on catch and sizes;

*NOTING* that the SCRS has however pointed out that the current catches or higher catches can be sustained if total fishing mortality or fishing mortality on juveniles could be considerably reduced;

*CONVINCED* of the urgent need to improve scientific knowledge on the stock of East Atlantic bluefin tuna;

*INSISTING* on the need to immediately improve the protection of juveniles and to adjust the minimum sizes for East Atlantic bluefin tuna;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the 2001 *Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*;

*CONVINCED* that this policy constitutes a decisive step in defining a management strategy for tunas over the medium-term and will result in stability in the management of these fisheries;

*NOTING* that the new allocation criteria should be applied in a progressive manner;

*DESIRING* to achieve a fair and equitable allocation of the Total Allowable Catches (TACs) among all the Parties that fish bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic;

*DESIRING* to assure the implementation of effective measures aimed at halting the decline in the stock of East Atlantic bluefin tuna;

*CONSIDERING* that the implementation of a multi-year program of conservation and management over the medium term will assist the management of the bluefin tuna fishery, reducing fishing mortality and the fishing mortality on juveniles.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities whose vessels actively fish bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic implement a multi-year conservation and management program for 2003 to 2006.

*Catch limits*

2. Total allowable catches (TACs) are fixed at 32,000 MT for the years 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006.
3. To establish a fair and equitable allocation of parts of the quotas in the bluefin tuna fishery in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean, an allocation scheme, for a period of four years starting in 2003, shall be established as follows:

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	2003	2004	2005	2006
Algeria	1,500	1,550	1,600	1,700
China (People's Republic)	74	74	74	74
Croatia	900	935	945	970
European Community	18,582	18,450	18,331	18,301
Iceland (1)	30	40	50	60
Japan	2,949	2,930	2,890	2,830
Korea	Pm	pm	pm	pm
Tunisia	2,503	2,543	2,583	2,625
Libya	1,286	1,300	1,400	1,440
Morocco	3,030	3,078	3,127	3,177
Chinese Taipei	pm	pm	pm	pm
Others	1,146	1,100	1,000	823

\*pm: Fishing possibilities attributed to Korea and Chinese Taipei based on their traditional shares of 1.5% and 1.5% will only be activated in a given year when they individually have fished their current level of underages.

(1) Underages in the Icelandic fishery in any given year shall be transferred to the European Community.

4. Notwithstanding paragraph 2 of the 1996 *Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* which is also applicable to the South Atlantic swordfish fishery, any unused part (if this is specified in the pertinent management recommendation) or excess of the annual quota/catch limit shall be deducted from or added to, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year in the following manner:

	Year of Catch	Adjustment Year
East Atlantic/Mediterranean bluefin tuna	2003	2005
	2004	2006
	2005	2007
	2006	2008

5. The provisions of the *Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* adopted at the 1996 Commission meeting and the provisions established in paragraph 3 shall be applied for the implementation of the individual quotas under paragraph 3 and for any Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity. Each year shall be considered as an independent management period such as this term is used in the *Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries*.
6. The TAC and the catch limits for 2006 in paragraph 1 shall be reviewed and, if necessary, revised based upon the results of stock assessments in 2005 by the SCRS. Should adjustments to the TAC for 2006 be required following this assessment, the relative shares of the Parties for 2006 shall remain unchanged from those in the current recommendation.

#### *Closed fishing seasons*

7. Bluefin tuna fishing shall be prohibited in the Mediterranean by large-scale pelagic longline vessels over 24 m in length during the period from 1 June to 31 July
8. Purse seine fishing in the Mediterranean shall be prohibited during the period between 16 July and 15 August in order to protect juveniles.

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*Minimum size*

9. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch, landing or transshipment of bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus thynnus*) weighing less than 6.4 kg.

Notwithstanding this provision, the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall have the possibility to grant tolerances for landing by vessels that have incidentally caught bluefin tuna weighing less than 6.4 kg with the condition that the total of these incidental catches is less than 10% in number of fish per landing of the total bluefin tuna catches of these vessels or their equivalent in percentage in weight.

It is prohibited to retain on board, land or sell bluefin tuna under 4.8 kg in the Mediterranean.

*Data collection*

10. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall respect the guidelines established for the transmission of annual nominal catch data (Task I) for the vessels that fly their flag, as established in the ICCAT *Field Manual for Sampling and Statistics*\*. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall adopt the necessary measures to guarantee the reporting of their total landings, transshipments and caging of bluefin tuna carried out by the vessels that fly their flag.
11. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall provide the SCRS with specific data on bluefin tuna caught within the framework of the sport fishery in order to assess the impact of sport fishing on this species and to make recommendations.
12. The Commission shall consider and, if necessary, adopt at its 2003 meeting, appropriate effective measures to control expansion of fisheries, in particular in the “others” category, which exceed the catch limits set by this recommendation.

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\*Note from Secretariat: the Secretariat annually notifies Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities of reporting requirements and deadlines (see also [www.iccat.es](http://www.iccat.es)).

**REC. GFCM/27/2002/3****ICCAT RECOMMENDATION [02-09] TO DEVELOP A PLAN AIMED AT REDUCING THE CATCHES OF JUVENILE BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

*CONSIDERING* that Commission has, since 1975, established various general recommendations aimed at protecting juvenile bluefin tuna weighing less than 6.4 kg, 3.2 kg, and 1.8 kg, setting different tolerance levels according to the minimum size-weight established, as well as defining closed seasons in the Mediterranean (including the Adriatic).

*CONFIRMING* that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) in its recent assessment in 2002 estimated that in the year 2000, 36% and 40% of the bluefin tuna caught in the overall Mediterranean were less than 3.2 kg or 6.4 kg, respectively, and that it is possible that catches of age 0 fish are being under-estimated.

*CONSIDERING* that the SCRS identifies the lack of size data on many fisheries as one of the sources of uncertainty in its assessments, for which a significant portion had to be estimated by SCRS itself through substitutions among fleets and, therefore, the Committee does not have confidence in the analytical assessments based on such data.

*CONFIRMING* that since January 2002 some countries in the Mediterranean area have prohibited the use of drift nets to catch bluefin tuna, among other species,

*CONFIRMING* that the SCRS recommends doing everything possible to assure compliance with the current minimum size/weight limit of 6.4 kg in order to contribute to the increase in the spawning biomass and to the stock yields, and also reiterates the need to adopt effective measures to avoid the catch of age 0 and 1 fish.

*CONSIDERING* the great variety of gears and fleets that operate in the Mediterranean, industrial as well as artisanal, which constitutes a highly complex framework for scientific monitoring and compliance with the measures in force to protect juveniles in general.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall assure the maintenance or development of adequate schemes to provide scientific information in the formats requested by ICCAT and in smallest time-area possible on the size distributions of the catches taken by the various fishing gears, including fish destined for farming.
2. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall develop in 2003-2004, within the scope of their respective jurisdictions, specific plans directed at reducing their catches of juvenile bluefin tuna in their Mediterranean fisheries with the objective of reaching at least the tolerance levels indicated in the current ICCAT recommendations for the protection of juvenile bluefin tuna which according to SCRS recommendations, would lead to a reduction of at least 60% in the number of fish caught below 6.4 kg in the Mediterranean. Such plans and the results obtained shall be presented to the Commission in 2005.
3. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall develop in 2003-2004 specific scientific programs to identify the various fisheries that fish bluefin tuna as well as the size distribution of their respective catches, including historical catches in their estimates, if these are available. The results of these scientific projects shall be presented to the SCRS in 2005.

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4. Based on this scientific information and other information available, the SCRS shall inform the Commission in 2005 on the availability and improvements in the size data for scientific purposes, for the various Mediterranean gears-fleets. Besides, the SCRS shall evaluate the overall data on the catch levels of juveniles by fishing gear(s), with time-area stratification, if necessary, for more adequate detailed information. This information could be incorporated in the new East Atlantic bluefin tuna assessment aimed at developing possible recovery scenarios.
5. Based on this information from the SCRS, the Commission shall, in 2005, consider additional measures or alternatives for the protection of juvenile bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean.

**REC. GFCM/27/2002/4****ICCAT RECOMMENDATION [02-10]  
ON BLUEFIN TUNA FARMING**

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the increasing development of bluefin tuna farming activities, especially in the Mediterranean;

*RECALLING* the conclusions of the 6th GFCM/ICCAT meeting on the stocks of large pelagics in the Mediterranean relative to the effects of bluefin tuna farming and on the solutions that could be studied to regulate this activity;

*CONSIDERING* the advice of the 2001 Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) on effects of bluefin tuna farming in the Mediterranean on the collection of data and consequently on stock assessment procedures;

*DESIRING* to gradually implement effective management measures that permit the development of bluefin tuna farming in a responsible and sustainable manner in relation to the management of the bluefin tuna stock;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities whose flag vessels fish or transfer quantities of bluefin tuna to cages for farming of the bluefin tuna shall undertake the necessary measures:
  - a) to require that the captains of vessels carrying out the transfer operations of bluefin tuna for farming maintain vessel logs and report the quantities transferred and the number of fish as well as the date, place of harvest and name of the vessel and the company responsible for the farming, in one of the official languages of the Commission.
  - b) to establish national scientific observer programs covering at least 10% of their flag vessels that carry out transfer operations of bluefin tuna for farming. The program shall be designed so as to provide an estimate of the total quantities of bluefin tuna for farming and an estimate of the sizes of the bluefin tuna placed in cages, as well as information on the date, time and area of harvest and fishing method.
  - c) to require the reporting of the total amount of the transfers of bluefin tuna for farming, carried out by their flag vessels, and include this information in the Task I data.
  - d) to set up and maintain a record of their flag vessels that fish for, provide or transport bluefin tuna for farming purposes (name of the vessel, flag, license number, gear type) i.e., fishing boat, transport vessel, vessels with pools, etc.
2. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities under whose jurisdiction are located the farms for bluefin tuna in the Convention area shall adopt the necessary measures to:
  - a) ensure that a report is presented, in one of the official languages of the Commission, on each fishing or transport vessel that participated in the transfer of tuna to cages for fattening, including the quantities of bluefin tuna destined for farming. This report shall include information relative to the quantities (in kg) of fish transferred to the cages, the

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- number of fish, the date, the name and location of the vessel and harvest, as well as its flag and license number.
- b) recommend that the tuna farms and the scientific institutes obtain data on the size of the fish caught as well as the date, time and area of harvest and the fishing method used, in order to improve statistics for stock assessment purposes.
  - c) ensure the reporting of the quantities of bluefin tuna placed in cages and estimates of the growth and mortality while in captivity and the amounts sold.
  - d) set up and maintain a registry of the farming facilities managed by their nationals.
3. The Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that export farmed bluefin tuna products shall ensure that the description of these products includes "Farming" in the "Gear Code" column of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BTSD) or in the right hand column "Description of Fish Re-exported", on the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Re-export Certificate.
  4. The information specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be transmitted by the relevant Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities annually to the Executive Secretary prior to August 31.
  5. The Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities mentioned in this recommendation as well as the Contracting Parties that import bluefin tuna shall cooperate, particularly through the exchange of information.
  6. The Commission shall request non-Contracting Parties that farm bluefin tuna in the Convention Area to cooperate in the implementation of this recommendation.
  7. Based on the reports referred to in paragraph 4, on the BTSD reports and Task I data, the Commission shall review the effectiveness of these measures.

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**REC. GFCM/26/2001/1**

**RECOMMENDATION [00-9] BY ICCAT  
CONCERNING BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH LIMITS  
IN THE EAST ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN**

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) at its 2000 meeting reiterated that the Commission should note that there are numerous sources of uncertainty since no quantitative assessment of East Atlantic bluefin tuna has been conducted and given this situation it maintains its advice of 1998 whereby a level of annual catches equal to or greater than 33,000 MT would not be sustainable;

*RECOGNIZING* that it is essential to reconcile conservation with the needs of the coastal communities that are dependent mainly on the fishing of this stock;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* that Morocco and Libya, in 1999, presented and confirmed their objection to the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Limitation of Catches of Bluefin Tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean*;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT)

*RECOMMENDS THAT:*

1. A total allowable catch (TAC) of 29,500 MT be established for 2001.
2. In order to establish the fishing allocations, the 1993 and 1994 catches (whichever is higher of the two), as established by the SCRS before 1998, be used as a reference.
3. In accordance with paragraph 2, the following allocation plan be established:

<i>Party</i>	<i>Quota (2001)</i>
China (People's Republic)	76 MT
Croatia	876 MT
European Community (EC)	18,590 MT
Japan	2,949 MT
Korea	619 MT
Tunisia	2,144 MT

4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 do not apply to Morocco and Libya, which for 2001, will apply independent conservation and management measures on this stock and will inform ICCAT of these measures.
5. It is noted that Morocco and Libya have indicated they will establish bluefin tuna catch limits for 2001 as follows:
 

*Morocco: 3,028 MT                      Libya: 1,570 MT*
6. For the non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that caught bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period starting in 1993, the catch limit for the year 2001 will be calculated according to paragraph 2:

*2001: 2,291 MT<sup>5</sup>*

<sup>5</sup> This total includes a special allocation of 658 MT for Chinese Taipei in 2001, in virtue of their having been granted Cooperating Status.

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**REC. GFCM/26/2001/2****RECOMMENDATION [00-14] BY ICCAT  
REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH MANAGEMENT MEASURES  
WHICH DEFINE QUOTAS AND/OR CATCH LIMITS**

*RECOGNIZING* that the *Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* was adopted at the 1996 Commission meeting and it was extended to include compliance in the South Atlantic swordfish fishery at the 1997 Commission meeting;

*NOTING* the treatment of overage and underage differs among the stocks and this complicates quota management and compliance;

*RECOGNIZING* the need to simplify the rules by generalizing the treatment of overage and underage to avoid future confusion;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT)*****RECOMMENDS THAT:***

- For any species under quota/catch limit management, underages/overages from one year may be added to/must be subtracted from the quota/catch limit of the management period immediately after or one year after that year, unless any recommendation on a stock specifically deals with overages/underages, in which case that recommendation will take precedence.

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**REC. GFCM/26/2001/3**

**RECOMMENDATION [00-17] BY ICCAT  
CONCERNING REGISTRATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION OF FISHING  
VESSELS FISHING FOR TUNA AND TUNA-LIKE SPECIES IN THE CONVENTION AREA**

*RECALLING* that ICCAT adopted at its 1998 meeting a *Recommendation Concerning Registration and Exchange of Information of Bigeye Tuna Fishing Vessels*,

*FURTHER RECALLING* that ICCAT adopted at its 1994 meeting a *Resolution Regarding the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas*,

*NOTING* that large-scale fishing vessels are highly mobile and easily change fishing grounds from one ocean to another, and have high potential of operating in the Convention Area without timely registration with the Commission,

*RECOGNIZING* that most of the stocks of tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area are fully or over-exploited, and

*FURTHER RECOGNIZING* that the FAO International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity states in its Objective and Principles that "States and regional fisheries organizations confronted with an over-capacity problem, where capacity is undermining achievement of long-term sustainability outcomes, should endeavor initially to limit at present level and progressively reduce the fishing capacity applied to affected fisheries",

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT)**

*RECOMMENDS THAT:*

1. All the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area shall submit to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, by August 31st each year, the list of their respective vessels larger than 24 meters length overall (LOA) (hereinafter referred to as the "large-scale vessels") that are licensed to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area. This list of vessels shall include the following information;
  - name of vessels, register number
  - previous flag (if any)
  - international radio call sign (if any)
  - type of vessels, length and gross registered tonnage (GRT)
  - name and address of owner(s)
2. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall circulate the lists annually or upon request of a Contracting Party or Parties.
3. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall notify the ICCAT Executive Secretary of any information concerning fishing vessels which are not listed according to paragraph 1, but believed to be fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area.

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4. a) If the vessel(s) mentioned in paragraph 3 is (are) flying a flag of an identified Contracting Party or a non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity, the Executive Secretary shall request that Contracting Party or non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity to take the necessary measures to prevent the vessel(s) from fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area.  
  
b) If the flag state of the vessel(s) mentioned in paragraph 3 is not identified, the Executive Secretary shall compile such information for future consideration by the Commission.
5. The *Recommendation Concerning Registration and Exchange of Information of Bigeye Tuna Fishing Vessels* adopted at 1998 Commission meeting be substituted by this Recommendation.

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**REC. GFCM/26/2001/4**

*Without title*

Considering that the issue of over-exploitation of tuna and tuna like stocks was raised at the Twenty-fourth Session of Committee on Fisheries (COFI);

Considering that the COFI report indicated that some Members urged FAO to review and analyse the global status regarding tuna and tuna like stocks and bluefin tuna fisheries, in particular purse seine and longline fisheries;

Considering that this over-exploitation should be addressed firstly at the regional level and that, in this regard, ICCAT was the competent regional organization for this exercise;

Recalling that a wide range of issues needed to be addressed in order to ensure the sustainability of the tuna resources and tuna fisheries, including the issue of increased tuna penning/farming in the Mediterranean;

The Commission requested that the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group address the concerns expressed at the Twenty-sixth Session of the Commission on the sustainability of the bluefin tuna resources including developments in bluefin tuna penning/farming in the Mediterranean.

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**REC. GFCM/24/1999/1**

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE LIMITATION OF CATCHES OF BLUEFIN  
TUNA IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN  
(UPDATE OF GFCM RESOLUTION 95/1)**

*This Recommendation was adopted by ICCAT at its eleventh Extraordinary Session, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 16-23 November 1998.*

*IN VIEW OF* the 1998 stock assessment on bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean by the Commission's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), indicating that an annual catch level equal or higher than 33,000 MT would not be sustainable,

*RECOGNIZING* the need to reconcile the necessary conservation of the stock with the needs of coastal fishing communities which are dependent mainly on fishing for this stock,

*RECALLING* that Croatia was undergoing a state of war during the early 1990s,

***THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS:***

1. That a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 32,000 MT for 1999 and of 29,500 MT for 2000 be established.
2. That in order to establish an allocation of fishing possibilities, the catches of years 1993 and 1994 (whichever is higher), as laid down by SCRS before 1998, be used as reference, except in the case of Croatia, for which a specific quota is set for 1999.
3. That according to paragraph 2 above, the following allocation scheme be established\*

	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
China (People's Republic)	82 MT	76 MT
Croatia	950 MT	876 MT
European Community (EC) **	20,165 MT	18,590 MT
Japan	3,199 MT	2,949 MT
Korea	672 MT	619 MT
Libya	1,300 MT	1,199 MT
Morocco	820 MT	756 MT
Tunisia	2,326 MT	2,144 MT

4. Quantities to be deducted from the 1999 catch quota under the terms of paragraph 2 of the "*Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries*", shall be calculated for all Contracting Parties, with respect to the catch data referred to in paragraph 2 above, as revised by SCRS in 1998.
5. These provisions replace the 1995 "*Recommendation by ICCAT on Supplemental Management Measures for Eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna*".
6. For those non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities with catches of bluefin tuna in the east Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea from 1993 onwards, the catch limit for 1999 and 2000 will be calculated according to paragraph 2.

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<i>1999</i>	<i>2000</i>
2,486***	2,291***

- \* Quota allocations for the year 2000 may be reviewed in light of agreements deriving from discussions of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria that will meet in 1999.
- \* \* This share is calculated by adding the relative shares of each Member State of the European Community, in accordance with the terms of paragraph 2.
- \*\*\* This total includes a special allocation to Chinese Taipei of 714 MT in 1999 and 658 MT in the year 2000, as Chinese Taipei has cooperating status.

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**REC. GFCM/24/1999/2**

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING  
THE CHANGES OF CLOSED SEASON FOR THE PURSE SEINE FISHERY  
FISHING FOR BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA  
(UPDATE OF GFCM RESOLUTION 97/3)**

*This Recommendation was adopted at the 1998 Commission meeting.*

*CONSIDERING* the need to take measures regarding the gears used during periods when their impact is most notable on juveniles as well as on spawning stock;

*CONSIDERING* the insufficient efforts made by Contracting Parties to reduce their own catches of the bluefin tuna in accordance with different Recommendation adopted by the Commission:

*CONSIDERING* the highly-migratory characteristics of bluefin tunas, including juveniles, as well as the appearance of these juveniles at different times in different areas of the Mediterranean Sea:

*CONSIDERING* and *RECALLING* the conclusions of the Commission Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) that the existing closed season is not established on scientific data, as well as the obligation of each Contracting Party to provide data about catch composition throughout the fishing season for the Mediterranean Sea and which was provided for the Adriatic Sea;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS:

1. prohibiting purse seine fishing in the Adriatic Sea during the period from 1 - 31 May, in order to protect juveniles;
2. prohibiting purse seine fishing in the other areas of the Mediterranean Sea during the period from 16 July - 15 August in order to protect juveniles;
3. The border line between Adriatic and other parts of the Mediterranean will be the line which connects the Albanian - Greek border line and Cape Santa Maria-Leuca;
4. that each Contracting Party, Cooperating non-contracting Party, entity or fishing entity which has a purse seine bluefin tuna fishery in areas of the Mediterranean Sea prohibit any transfer of its fleets to either of the two areas during the above respective closed seasons referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above;
5. that this recommendation replace the regulatory measure currently in effect on a closed season for the Mediterranean bluefin tuna purse seine fishing.

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**REC. GFCM/24/1999/3**

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT  
CONCERNING AGE 0 BLUEFIN TUNA**

*The following Recommendation was adopted by the Commission in 1996 and modified in 1998.*

*CONSIDERING* the Recommendations adopted by the Commission in 1974 and 1994 concerning bluefin tuna minimum size;

*IN ORDER* to facilitate commercial transactions without jeopardizing the quality of information on catches and trade of bluefin tuna;

*THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS:*

**FIRST:** the prohibition of retaining on board, landing and sale of fish less than 3.2 kg by fishing vessels of Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties.

**SECOND:** that adequate measures be taken by the Commission in November 1997 to guarantee greater transparency and more reliability of statistics, with the aim of identifying the origin of catches.

This Recommendation is supplemental to the minimum size regulations currently in effect on bluefin tuna.

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**REC. GFCM/24/1999/4**

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT  
ON A SUPPLEMENTAL MANAGEMENT MEASURE  
CONCERNING AGE ZERO BLUEFIN TUNA**

*Adopted at 1997 Commission meeting and modified at 1998 Commission meeting.*

**CONSIDERING** the Recommendations adopted by the Commission in 1974, 1994, and 1996 concerning bluefin tuna minimum size;

**IN ORDER TO** ensure adequate enforcement and monitoring of the prohibition on harvest of age zero bluefin tuna;

*THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:*

In addition to the prohibition on retaining on board, landing and sale of fish less than 3.2 kg by fishing vessels of Contracting Parties and non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities, each Contracting Party and non-contracting party, entity or fishing entity shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the landing, possession, or sale in markets in nations bordering the Convention area of Atlantic bluefin tuna of fish less than 3.2 kg.

This Recommendation is supplemental to the minimum size regulations currently in effect for bluefin tuna.

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**REC. GFCM/18/1986/1**

*Without title*

The Technical Consultation on Fishing Technology and its Socio-Economic Aspects:

Considering that the use of proper mesh sizes constitutes one of the aspects of rational management of fisheries in the Mediterranean;

Considering also that other aspects of this management are control of fishing effort and protection of juveniles;

Regrets that Recommendation I/76/1 on a mesh size of 40mm is not consistently implemented, and

Recommends that member countries of GFCM that have not yet done so take the necessary measures to implement it;

Further recommends that member countries:

- complement this arrangement by the establishment of mechanisms to control fishing effort;
- take measures to encourage and facilitate the conversion of small-scale trawling to small-scale coastal fishing with passive gear;
- encourage initiatives to protect the coastal strip and use it to best advantage.

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**REC. GFCM/15/1980/1****DEFINITION OF A LITTORAL MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Considering that the management of the coastal area implies a global process of reflection, discussion and decision-making, taking into account the interaction of all the activities conducted in that area,

further considering that this process is based on the definition of a management policy drawn up by all the parties concerned within a multi-disciplinary structure or mechanism,

finally considering that the authorities responsible for the management of coastal resources should contribute to this process the result of their analysis in order to ensure that the needs and prospects of coastal fisheries and aquaculture are taken fully into consideration in the management of coastal areas,

the Fifteenth Session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean recommends

- the definition of a national strategy indicating in particular the place of artisanal fisheries in management schemes
- the drawing up of coastal occupation plans according to types of utilization
- the formulation of practical management schemes
- the strengthening of liaison among fishermen, research workers and administrators by establishing multi-disciplinary reflection, discussion and decision structures.

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**REC. GFCM/15/1980/2**

**EVALUATION OF PRESENT COASTAL RESOURCES**

Considering that the definition of a management policy for exploiting coastal areas (including lagoons) calls for appropriate knowledge of coastal fisheries and aquaculture,

recognizing the serious gaps in available data concerning the assessment of potentials and statistics in the broad sense (of production, socio-economic aspects, etc.),

the Fifteenth Session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean recommends

- the compilation of national inventories of lagoon sites and coastal resources in general
- increased data-collection efforts with regard to artisanal fisheries (production, value, socio-economic data)
- the assessment of present coastal production (in tonnage and value) and of the socio-economic role of littoral fisheries
- the intensification of socio-economic studies for assessing the prospects of exploiting the coastal area.

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**REC. GFCM/15/1980/3**

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE COASTAL AREA BY ARTIFICIAL STRUCTURES**

Recognizing the interest in pursuing the effort to acquire the know-how leading to an economic return from new aquaculture activities,

considering the considerable prospects of developing mollusc production in certain coastal areas by means of artificial reefs or the immersion of shellfish culture installations,

considering further that such installations, by providing shelter and feed, help increase appreciably the biomass directly usable by man,

the Fifteenth Session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean draws the attention of the competent national authorities to the interest in promoting the development of such structures in the context of their integrated management plans for coastal exploitation.

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**REC. GFCM/15/1980/4***Without title*

The Fifteenth Session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean,

taking into account the great potential economic and social value of Mediterranean fisheries and the urgent need for their rationalization,

stressing the substantial results achieved through regional collaboration and the highly promising prospects they afford for fishery development in member countries,

being aware of the difficulties met by FAO and UNDP in funding the necessary expansion of the Council's activities, in particular, programmes aimed at supporting the developing countries,

expresses the opinion that the Regional Project for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Mediterranean is essential to the fulfilment of the Council's responsibilities.

approves the Project's strategy and supports it wholeheartedly,

welcomes the highly positive intentions to make voluntary contributions voiced by all the countries represented at the Session,

insistently urges the United Nations Development Programme to give the utmost consideration, taking into account its responsibilities toward developing countries, to the possibility of financing certain basic activities of the Project in order to ensure its neutrality and promote the full participation of all Mediterranean countries,

requests the Director-General of FAO to consult the Members of GFCM as well as possible donors about the nature and amount of their participation in the Project and, to the extent that adequate resources are secured, to take the action required to launch the Project without delay.

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**REC. GFCM/13/1976/1***Without title*

The Thirteenth session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean,

taking into account the importance of fish detection and methods of abundance evaluation, particularly through acoustic methods;

noting that most countries in the Mediterranean area are interested in this specialized field of research;

being aware of the fact that there are many open problems of a technological, biological and statistical nature connected with this kind of research;

decides to establish a Working Party on Acoustic Methods for Fish Detection and Abundance Estimation, open to all Members of the Council.

The terms of reference of this Working Party will be:

- (a) to keep under review the state of development in the following fields: acoustic fish detection, available equipment, operational techniques and their application for fish abundance estimation studies;
- (b) to improve the theoretical and operational studies particularly suitable for the area;
- (c) to coordinate the studies and to compare the results of resource evaluation through direct and indirect methods;
- (d) to promote research planning;
- (e) to facilitate collaboration between countries for future work (training courses, seminars, cruises, etc.);
- (f) to promote exchange of ideas and information with the existing Advisory Committee on Marine Resources Research (ACMRR) of FAO, ad hoc Group of Experts on the Facilitation of Acoustic Research in Fisheries.

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**REC. GFCM/13/1976/2**

*Without title*

The Thirteenth Session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean,

considering

- that the methods of direct evaluation of stocks, and particularly acoustic surveys, will play an ever more important role in the development and rational exploitation of fisheries;
- that the great complexity of the techniques in use as well as the numerous problems yet to be solved demand cooperation among the interested countries;
- that many countries of the region have no, or only very few, specialists capable of utilizing this elaborate technology;

recommends

- that training courses be organized to disseminate these methods and their applications; these courses should make the utmost use of already available means and include both theoretical and ad hoc practical training suited to the backgrounds of the persons involved;
- that the member nations participate and take fullest advantage of these courses and proffer their active assistance;
- that sources of funding and other kinds of aid which would make the realization of this project feasible be explored.

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**REC. GFCM/13/1976/3**

**IMPROVEMENT OF ESTIMATION OF CATCHES, EVALUATION OF COMPONENTS OF FISHING EFFORT AND STRENGTHENING OF PROGRAMMES FOR BIOLOGICAL SAMPLING; NEED TO RECRUIT A REGIONAL STATISTICIAN**

The Thirteenth Session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean

considering that the development and proper utilization of fishery resources depend primarily on accurate information on stocks and fisheries;

noting that the dispersed character of the Mediterranean fisheries further accentuates the difficulties of collecting information;

realizing that to reduce the serious shortcomings of data on catches, fishing effort and stock structure, the skill needed for the design and conduct of effective statistical sampling, data collection and processing programmes should be strengthened at the regional level;

recommends that the member nations, in liaison with the Secretariat, make a special effort to improve the estimation of annual catches from the principal stocks, to evaluate more rigorously the components of the fishing efforts corresponding to the catches (fishing methods, power of fleets, duration of operations and location of catches) and to strengthen standing programmes for the biological sampling of stocks of major commercial importance;

emphasizes the need to recruit a regional statistician whose first task would be to assist requesting national services and institutions in the development of new, or improvement of existing systems on the national and regional levels for the collection, processing and dissemination of fishery statistics and biological data. Moreover, the statistician should contribute to the standardization of procedures for the collection and presentation of data and promote a better circulation of information among collectors and the various national and regional users.

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**REC. GFCM/10/1969/1 (ICSEM)***Without title*

Considering that accurate exploration of the continental slope faces particular difficulties due to the lack of adequate cartographic work on deeper regions in the Eastern Mediterranean and gaps in the information on the Western basin,

the symposium recommends that its organizers request the International Hydrographic Bureau to prepare a general review on the status of hydrographic and bathymetric data throughout the Mediterranean, in close collaboration with the IOC.

**REC. GFCM/10/1969/2 (ICSEM)***Without title*

The symposium recommends that international research projects on the exploration of deep-water resources in the Mediterranean be prepared and implemented within the framework of the Cooperative Investigations in the Mediterranean as well as of the Global Ocean Research Programme, and in accordance with the protocol outlined in paragraphs 39, 40 and 41 of the report of the symposium.

**REC. GFCM/10/1969/3 (ICSEM)***Without title*

Considering that:

- the grounds of the slope are often either unsuitable for trawling or overfished,
- fixed gear may be extremely effective in the exploitation of such areas,
- such gear is more selective and less destructive than trawls,
- high opening bottom trawl is less destructive than the classical trawl

the symposium recommends that GFCM give high priority, in accordance with the protocols outlined in paragraph 44 of the report of the symposium and within the framework of its Working Party on Demersal Resources Appraisal and Exploitation, to the technological research on fixed gear and the high opening bottom trawl which may both become elements of basic importance in Mediterranean fisheries.

This will require the closest possible collaboration between fishery technologists and biologists.

**REC. GFCM/10/1969/4 (ICSEM)***Without title*

Considering that:

- present fishing practices lead to overexploitation of trawlable grounds,
- the limitation of fishing effort and the utilization of the more selective gear can ensure protection of the stocks,

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the symposium recommends to its organizers to induce their Member Nations:

- to facilitate the utilization of more selective fishing gear and techniques, including the high opening bottom trawl
- to establish a common fishery legislation in the Mediterranean basin with a view to the protection of deep biological resources and their rational utilization.

**REC. GFCM/8/1965/1**

**FISHERY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN THE REGION**

“The situation of the fisheries industry, administration and knowledge of resources is very different in the various Mediterranean countries, but in all of them fisheries development is insufficient and is hampered by inadequacies in one or more aspects, such as incomplete knowledge of resources, inadequate fishing techniques, lack of trained personnel, insufficient administrative structure, all this resulting in too small a scale of investment.

“Important efforts have already been made to tackle these problems and many difficulties have been settled. However, major problems, common to most countries, still remain unsolved, and the Council considers that their solution is possible only through concerted action. Many countries, however, are not in a position to make a substantial contribution to this joint approach unless they receive suitable external assistance.

“As a result, the Council considers that fisheries development requires full and co-ordinated use of all the national facilities combined with the various sources of technical assistance from the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance and the Special Fund of the United Nations<sup>6</sup>, and also from the other international sources such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, as well as the proper integration with bilateral and other forms of assistance.

“Therefore, the Council *recommends* that the Mediterranean countries co-operate in the preparation and implementation of regional or subregional plans for fisheries development in which the national plans at present under way or contemplated could be integrated.

“In order to achieve this target, the Member Nations have agreed as a first step to supply the Executive Committee of the GFCM, on the occasion of its next meeting, with suitable proposals for the above-mentioned regional or subregional projects which could be carried out with the assistance of the Special Fund.

“The Member Nations of the GFCM request also FAO to approach in their name the United Nations Special Fund, in order that a mission be formed which would, at the earliest date possible, visit the interested countries to discuss and further elaborate the plans submitted to the Executive Committee and prepare complete proposals for the national, subregional or regional units of projects which may be required. Such proposals would then, with the agreement of the countries concerned, be forwarded to the United Nations Special Fund for consideration.”

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<sup>6</sup> Both EPTA and UNSF now form part of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

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**REC. GFCM/8/1965/2****STRENGTHENING OF THE FISHERIES DIVISION AND ITS REGIONAL BODIES**

“Fisheries development is mainly a national problem, but its success requires a proper integration in a regional context, especially because of the common property nature of marine resources and their exploitation by several nations. The Council was established by the Mediterranean countries to provide a machinery for exchange of information, planning and co-ordination of effort by interested countries toward the rational exploitation and utilization of fish stocks.

“The Council welcomes the proposal of the Director-General for the strengthening of the Fisheries Division, and the plans for improving the degree of assistance and servicing of its regional bodies which are considered of great value for the success of their activities. The members of the Council recognize, however, that its vitality derives fundamentally from that of the national activities and the capacity of member countries to implement approved recommendations and to contribute to activities of the Council.”

**REC. GFCM/8/1965/3****FISHERY STATISTICS**

The Committee *recommends*:

“[forms prepared by FAO] (...) be adopted for statistics collection and reporting systems. The desirability of starting the reporting as from 1966 is also urged.”;

**REC. GFCM/8/1965/4****STATISTICAL AREA BREAKDOWN**

The Committee *recommends*:

“[Map prepared by FAO (Appendix IV of the FAO/GFCM Seminar on Sardine Tagging, Split, Yugoslavia) (...)] be adopted by the Member Nations for catch and effort statistics for sardines. The Group, however, having considered the proposal that the classification of fishing areas for statistical reporting should be based on 5° squares (Report of the First Session of the FAO Expert Panel for the Facilitation of Tuna Research), considers in view of the configuration of the coastline of the Mediterranean that it would not be desirable to introduce such a 5° squares system in this area. It therefore endorses that the above-mentioned map, which is based as far as possible on latitude and longitude, but not necessarily following the 5° latitude and longitude, would enable eventually the introduction of a 1° grid system gradually throughout the Mediterranean, when the member countries develop their statistical system to a level that they can report such detailed catch statistics.

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**REC. GFCM/8/1965/5***Without title*

The Group *recommends*:

that FAO prepare explanatory notes in English, French and Spanish to accompany the statistical forms and distribute them to the national statistical offices to help in the completion of these forms.

**REC. GFCM/8/1965/6****LENGTH REPORTING FORM**

The Committee *recommends*:

that scientists engaged in this field [stock assessment] adopt these forms and, starting from 1966, report their length recording of sardines to the GFCM Secretariat.

**REC. GFCM/8/1965/7****INTERNATIONAL SARDINE TAGGING EXPERIMENT**

The Committee *recommends*:

that member countries engaged in sardine fishing participate in such an experiment, which should be internationally co-ordinated and carried out during 1966, and that each country should devote to it about a month with the object of marking approximately 5,000 fish each. The Group, however, observing that the costs of such an experiment may be above the means of some member countries

**REC. GFCM/8/1965/8***Without title*

The Committee *recommends*:

that, should UNSF projects be contemplated in the region, these experiments could be incorporated into the program, if applicable;

to concentrate for the present on two main topics:

- Statistics of catch and effort;
- Development of tagging problems.

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**REC. GFCM/8/1965/9****ON ECHO-SOUNDERS AND RESEARCH CONCERNING TRAWLING**

The Committee *recommends*:

“[the WG] recommends that an experimental campaign to use trawls with large vertical opening controlled by “netzsonde” be organized. This campaign could take place in the course of 1966 on board *Ichtyos* of the ISTPM, along the lines proposed by Mr. Furnestin;

**REC. GFCM/8/1965/10****ECHO-SOUNDERS AND RESEARCH APPLIED TO PELAGIC FISHERIES**

The Committee *recommends*:

[the WG recommends] the undertaking or continuation, as the case might be, of parallel research on concentrations, location of pelagic fish shoals and on environmental factors;

noting in a precise manner the result of the fishery (quantity and composition of the stocks) in a determined zone where environmental conditions and presence of concentrations of fish are regularly studied.

**REC. GFCM/8/1965/11**

*Without title*

The Committee *recommends*:

the utilization of similar methods, methods which could be defined in the course of a colloquy whose date and place will be determined later; this discussion being, of course, open to all Mediterranean countries interested in this problem. Reference was made to the working group established by ACMRR for direct and speedier estimation of fish abundance by the use of echo-sounders, whose report will be communicated to the members of the working group.

**REC. GFCM/8/1965/12****WESTHOFF MESH GAUGE TRIALS**

The Committee *recommends*:

that, like Spain and Israel, the interested countries, particularly Italy, carry out comparative trials of the Westhoff mesh measuring gauge during 1965, and report on the results of these trials to the Secretariat.

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**REC. GFCM/8/1965/13**

**STANDARDIZATION OF FISH PACKAGING**

The Committee *recommends*:

- That FAO promote a study on the standardization of fish packings and on the nature and properties of the materials used;
- The unification of the code of practice on freezing and storage, particularly with respect to the revision of maximum freezing temperatures, storage and prerefrigeration.

**REC. GFCM/8/1965/14**

**DEFINITION OF FISHING PACKINGS**

The Committee *recommends*:

that the GFCM request the EEC to add the qualificative “appertized” to category (b) “canned products” (to avoid confusion between the different processes for preserving fishery products)

that contact be maintained with EIFAC, under the aegis of FAO, with respect to the following points:

- freshwater fish diseases (especially rainbow trout and carp);
- inventories of the populations in fishing waters;
- artificial feeding of salmonids.

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**REC. GFCM/7/1963/1****MARINE RESOURCES***A. Tunas*

1. The Committee studied the resolutions adopted by the World Scientific Meeting on Tunas and Related Species and associated itself with them, particularly with Resolution No.5 on the international tuna tagging program. The Committee recommended that:
  - a) The undertaking of tagging experiments in the Mediterranean be seriously considered;
  - b) The necessary measures be taken:
    - i) to reward fishermen who have caught tuna for tagging;
    - ii) to establish rewards for the returned tags taken from recaptured tunas.
  - c) The Secretariat be asked to design release and recapture reporting forms and distribute them to the institutions engaged in tuna research, and, upon return of these forms, tabulate and distribute the information to Member Nations

The Marine Resources Committee suggested that GFCM keep in close contact with ICSEM to exchange information on this subject.

## 2. Study of eastern part of the Mediterranean

The Committee invited Member Nations to bring up to date and complete the information already submitted to the Secretariat, particularly the following:

- complete monography of all the information available on the migration of tunas, spawning, fishing zones and other subjects, as well as the oceanographical data, including temperature, salinity, density, oxygen and other data.
- on the basis of this preliminary information, a program of work will be established and the Member Nations which are in a position to co-operate in this common research will be requested to undertake the task which will be assigned to them. Those which are not in a position to take part in the program in view of the lack of personnel, boats, etc., will be asked to take part when it becomes possible for them.

*B. Preparation of synopsis of the oceanography of the Mediterranean Sea*

The Committee suggested that a joint Working Group be formed between GFCM and the ICSEM to study the means of preparing a synopsis on the oceanography of the Mediterranean Sea.

The GFCM members of this Group will be appointed by the Executive Committee. ICSEM is invited to put forward the names of scientists it would like in this Group.

**PRODUCTION***A. Working conditions of fishermen*

The Council wishes to recognize the initiative of the International Labour Office (ILO) in this field and appreciates the attendance of its representative at the 7<sup>th</sup> Session. It notes the reflection of this initiative in three International Conventions adopted by ILO concerning the working conditions in the fishing industry. As fisheries development is closely linked to improving the conditions of work for

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fishermen, the Council urges Fisheries Departments in Member Nations to co-operate fully in the work of ILO and other international agencies concerned.

#### *B. Mesh gauge trials*

The Committee, recognizing the usefulness of standardizing the mesh measurement for selectivity studies in the Mediterranean, and noting the advanced nature of the ICES (Westhoff) mesh gauge, resolved that experiments should be undertaken to study its efficiency under the conditions in the Mediterranean, and decide on its utility after the completion of this work. FAO will provide two gauges for this purpose, and these will be tested in Spain and Israel during 1963 and the results will be communicated to the Member Nations by the Secretariat.

#### *C. Second FAO World Fishing Gear Congress*

The Second FAO World Fishing Gear Congress will be held in London on 25-31 May 1963, when new developments of various fishing gear will be described. It is hoped that Member Governments will avail themselves of this opportunity to acquaint themselves with the most recent developments in gear technology.

### UTILIZATION

#### *A. Frozen fish*

Because of the interest in frozen fish, it is recommended that Member Nations and FAO give priority to this study for the next meeting.

#### *B. Waste fish*

In order to assess the quantities of fish wasted, a questionnaire will be drawn and distributed to Member Nations.

#### *C. Implementation of the program of work*

The Council urges the Technology Branch of FAO Fisheries Division to assist the Committee in the study of the items figuring in its program of work in the order of priority given.

### INLAND WATERS

The Inland Waters Committee suggests that the following two studies, which are of general interest for European countries, be undertaken in collaboration with EIFAC and with the guidance of FAO:

1. *Fish diseases in inland waters (rainbow trout and carp).*
2. *Inventory of stocks in waters where fish culture is practiced.*

### ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

#### *A. Fish marketing study*

To improve marketing of fish produced in the Mediterranean region a study of limiting factors on the disposal of catches should be undertaken by GFCM Member Nations. It is requested that FAO should assist in this study in collaboration with other interested organizations, consistent with its budget and available personnel.

#### *B. Fishery statistics*

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This Committee associates itself with the resolutions of the Special Working Group on Sardines of the Marine Resources Committee with respect to the gradual introduction of a standard statistical system in the Mediterranean region.

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**REC. GFCM/6/1960/1****MARINE RESOURCES***A. Tunas*1) *World Meeting on Tunas and Related Species*

The GFCM has noted the paper presented by the Fisheries Division of FAO concerning the World Meeting on Tunas and Related Species which is to be held in the course of 1962 or 1963.

The GFCM member countries consider co-operating in the preparation of this meeting by taking in the immediate future the following action:

- a) To undertake tagging in the Mediterranean.
- b) To assemble and circulate information of all tagging programmes and to return the tags collected in the Mediterranean or outside the Mediterranean to institutes which have carried out the tagging programme.

In addition, the Marine Resources Committee suggests that the GFCM make the necessary contacts with the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea with a view to obtaining all the oceanographic and biological information in its possession.

2) *Study of the eastern part of the Mediterranean*

The Committee has agreed to the necessity of undertaking an oceanographic survey of the eastern part of the Mediterranean and to establish an overall research programme on tunas based on oceanographical and biological information. Towards this end, the GFCM member countries are invited to supply the following information:

- a) Number of research vessels available, their size, etc.
- b) Names of experts.
- c) Available equipment.
- d) Complete monograph of all the information available on the migration of tunas, spawning, fishing zones, etc., as well as the oceanographical data including temperature, salinity, density, oxygen, etc.
- e) On the basis of this preliminary information, a programme of work will be established and the member countries which are in a position to cooperate in this common research, will have to undertake the task which will be assigned to them. Those which are not in a position to take a direct part in the programme due to the lack of personnel, boats, etc., will be requested to take part when it becomes possible for them.

*B. Cooperative research Programme on sardines and related species in the Mediterranean and adjacent waters*

To initiate cooperation and coordination between the nations fishing sardines and related species, as recommended by the World Scientific Meeting on the Biology of Sardines and Related Species, a group of sardine research workers attending the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the GFCM met to discuss the ways and means of developing cooperation in a practical and technical field.

This working group was formed of the following experts:

Gamulin

Maurin

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Bas Peired  
Mozzi  
Oren

Scaccini  
Miss Duo

The following decisions were made regarding a joint programme:

a) Species to be studied:

- 1) *Sardina pilchardus*
- 2) *Sardinella aurita*
- 3) *Sardinella maderensis*
- 4) *Clupea sprattus*
- 5) *Engraulis encrasicolus*

b) Study of the dynamic of the stocks

- 1) Abundance, estimates by echo-sounders
- 2) Mapping of the monthly occurrence and abundance on standard charts
- 3) Quantitative observations with a standard plankton net to study the renewal of the stocks with relation to egg-production.

The possibilities of estimating the mortality due to predacity is asked to be considered for possible insertion in the programme of work.

- 4) To accept a standard unit of effort for fishing.

It was mentioned that unit of catch per square indicated on a standard chart might be suitable for the nature of the joint work.

c) Behaviour:

Observations on phototropism of species with a view to utilization in fishing.

d) Management:

The compilation of existing regulations for sardine fishing should be reviewed.

It was decided that the coordination of the work of the working group would be carried out by

Mr E. F. Akyuz  
Fisheries Biologist  
Research Program Section  
Fisheries Division

NOTE:

Sardine research workers from countries which were not represented at the working group are invited to join it.

PRODUCTION

A. *Trawling, echo-sounding and light fishing*

FAO is invited to enable the Fishing Gear Section of the Technology Branch to continue to assist the GFCM member countries in testing and introducing new techniques for finding and catching fish:

1. Knotless nets
2. Modern fish finding equipment and methods
3. Light fishing
4. Trawling with high-opening nets and mid-water trawls.

It is hoped that if the budget permits, provision can be made for FAO technicians (Technology Branch) to continue these studies.

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It is suggested that the studies carried out should take into consideration the fact that, apart from general modernization, some countries are now being forced to change pattern of their fishing operations due to the increasing trend towards extending fishing limits further out from the coasts.

Information obtained from the experiments which will be carried out by the FAO staff should be made available as quickly as possible to the GFCM member countries.

#### *B. Fishing Charts*

GFCM member countries are requested to prepare charts of the fishing grounds and to publish them.

Special Rapporteur: M. Oliver (Spain)

### UTILIZATION

#### *A. Fish packing for transportation*

It would be desirable that many technical papers concerning fish transportation be prepared for the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the GFCM.

#### *B. Fish Meal*

The attention of the GFCM was drawn to the necessity of developing fish meal production in those Mediterranean countries where this product is mainly imported, and to consider particularly the possibility of producing fish meal for human consumption.

#### *C. Semi-preserves*

It would be desirable to standardize the process of manufacturing semi-preserves, with regard to the European Common Market.

FAO is invited to establish the complete bibliography of semi-preserves starting with European countries.

#### *D. Standardization of Fish Packing*

With regard to the desire expressed by the Council for more realistic and close collaboration between the GFCM member countries, the Utilization Committee urged that the study of an international standardization of fish packing be initiated. According to the Utilization Committee's conception, this standardization should lead to the adoption of a limited number of boxes, with specific dimensions, each type of box being used only for the transportation of one fish species.

Member countries were invited to contribute to this study, first by the work of their experts and secondly by financial support.

Moreover, FAO was invited to undertake this study, in cooperation with GFCM member countries.

#### *E. Study of tuna fish canning*

FAO is invited to undertake a draft study for tuna fish canning. This study should deal with all technical problems related both with the supply of raw materials and with manufacturing processes. It will take place in one of the member countries chosen by FAO, according to the best possibilities offered. The other member countries would be invited to supply all useful data for the continuation of the experiments, and to contribute to them by a special financial support.

### INLAND WATER

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Following the proposition of the Chairman of the GFCM, the Inland Waters Committee suggests that the following studies of general interest be recommended, and undertaken by various Mediterranean countries and under the aegis of the FAO.

1. Study of the artificial reproduction of *Mugil capito*
2. Inventory of stocks in salmonid waters

#### ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

##### *A. Economic Questions concerning tunas and sardines*

Following the examination of Working document F-1, the wish was expressed that general meetings on sardines and tunas do not omit to consider the economic aspects of these problems.

##### *B. Standardization of Fish Packing*

So far as economics were concerned, it was decided to co-operate in the implementation of the resolution adopted by the Utilization Committee, dealing with the standardization of fish packing.

The Committee will furnish Mr. Lisac (Yugoslavia), Special rapporteur of the Utilization Committee, with the economic information which he may need.

##### *C. FAO Programme*

The Council has decided to support the proposed expansion in the programme of work of the Fisheries Division, as laid down in the Publication "Forward Appraisal of the FAO, 1959-1964" (Document C59/21, 1959), p. 73-79.

##### *D. Demonstration and comparative studies of fishing boats, gear and methods existing in different Mediterranean countries*

With regard to the desire expressed by the Council for a more realistic and close collaboration, it was proposed, in the interval between the Sessions of the Council, to assemble in a Mediterranean port, under the aegis of the GFCM and at a suitable season, fishing boats from member countries, equipped with their gear in order to make a demonstration at sea. On this occasion, an exhibition of gear, as well as lectures, could be organized.

**REC. GFCM/5/1958/1****MARINE RESOURCES**

The Council pointed out that it was necessary for the experts who would take part successfully in both the meetings of the GFCM and of the Symposium to be as completely informed as possible of the points of view of their colleagues, who would participate only in the Fifth meeting of the Council.

The preliminary study which has been made by the Council of all papers related to migratory species has made this possible.

In addition this procedure has enabled the Council to present propositions concerning the programme of the 1960 meeting of the Symposium.

*A. Clupeidae*

The Council proposed that the following questions be inserted in the programme for the 1960 Symposium meeting:

- a) localisation of the spawning zones and nurseries;
- b) study of the first phases of development;
- c) study of the characteristics of the upwelling zones, and quantitative measurement of phytoplankton (chlorophyll);
- d) choice of a scale of sexual maturity.

*B. Tunas*

The Council proposed that the following questions be inserted in the Programme for the 1960 Symposium meeting:

- a) physico-chemical conditions of the fishing grounds;
- b) localisation of the spawning zones;
- c) study of the first phases of development.

The Council suggested that FAO organize a training centre for the detection of fish by echosounder.

*C. Edible Crustaceans*

It is recommended that the study of peneidae of the medio-abyssal zone be intensified.

*D. Study of Trawling Grounds*

The Council expressed the wish that the hydrographic work in various countries be extended beyond the 300 – m. line in the zones of special interest for trawling which could be determined by experts.

*E. International Meeting on Clupeidae*

The Council considered the proposal made by FAO concerning the organization of a World Meeting on Sardines. It has been recognized that such a meeting would be of great interest, especially for Mediterranean countries. However, the Council insisted that the present title be made more precise by the addition of the words “and related species”, in order to avoid any possible confusion.

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## PRODUCTION

### A. Fishing Boats, Gear and Methods

#### 1. *Trawling*

FAO is invited to pursue its work concerning the improvement of the efficiency of the Mediterranean trawl, and to keep the Council informed of the results obtained, in order that the Member Countries may be kept informed.

It is suggested that FAO prepare a paper on that matter for the Sixth Meeting.

#### 2. *Protection of Hulls of Wooden and Steel Boats*

FAO is invited to prepare a paper on this question for the Sixth Meeting of the GFCM.

#### 3. *Echo-sounding*

Note has been taken of the proposal of Mr. Asciak, U.K. Delegate, to make available a research boat of the Fisheries Department of Malta for conducting researches in the central Mediterranean.

The Council greatly appreciated this offer and it was suggested that FAO could make use of this facility to undertake a study on the utilisation of echo-sounders and prepare a paper for the Sixth Meeting of the GFCM.

#### 4. *Fishing with Lights*

FAO is invited to collect information on the use of lights for fishing, and it is suggested that FAO prepare a paper on this matter for the Sixth Meeting, based on the experiments which will be carried out.

### B. Propaganda for Fish Consumption

The Council highly appreciated the study accomplished by FAO.

FAO is invited to supply the GFCM with information which may have been collected by TA experts in various parts of the world, as well as any other publications related to this item.

It would be of great advantage if an expert could visit a certain number of Mediterranean countries to inform Governments about the possibilities and ways for propaganda for fish consumption and education of fish dealers and consumers.

## UTILIZATION

### A. *Fish Packing for Transportation*

It would be advisable that many technical papers concerned with fish transportation should be prepared for the Sixth Meeting of the GFCM.

### B. *Fish Meal*

The attention of the GFCM has been drawn to the necessity of developing fish meal production in those Mediterranean countries where this product is for the most part imported, and to consider especially the possibility of producing fish meal for human consumption.

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### *C. Semi-preserves*

It would be advisable to standardize the process of manufacturing semi-preserves, with regard to the European Common Market.

FAO is invited to establish the complete bibliography for semi-preserves, beginning with European countries.

## INLAND WATERS

GFCM Member Countries are invited:

1. to inform the Secretariat of the people responsible in their countries for each point of the programme;
2. to prepare for the Sixth Meeting a list of freshwater fish of their country (including migratory species) and living in natural lakes, barrage lakes, streams and lagoons.

## ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

### *A. Fishery Statistics*

FAO is invited to supply the GFCM with an extract of the "Yearbook of Fishery Statistics" which would assemble all the statistics pertaining to Mediterranean fisheries. The GFCM stressed the interest for fisheries of biological statistics which are not available in most Mediterranean countries.

In this connection the Council expressed the wish that:

1. some teaching be done in schools for fishermen concerning the collection of basic data;
2. each country nominate in the various coastal districts experts to check, on specially selected fishing boats, the collection of biological data for statistical purposes.

### *B. Sanitary Regulations concerning Molluscs*

The attention of the various governments is called to the problem of sanitary regulations for molluscs (production, transport, storage, distribution and sale).

### *C. Training Centre for Fishery Statisticians*

The Council took cognizance that FAO had decided to establish a Training Centre for Fishery Statisticians in Copenhagen, in conformity with the wish expressed by the Fourth Meeting.

The GFCM wished to thank FAO for this decision which is of importance for the future of fisheries.

### *D. Mediterranean Development Project*

The Council desired to know if the fishing industry was included in the Mediterranean Development Project, at present undertaken by FAO.

In the case that this industry would not be included, the GFCM expressed the wish that the situation could be remedied, and would be glad to give its active support.

REC. GFCM/4/1956/1

## MARINE RESOURCES

## EXPLORATION

A. *Clupeidae*

The Council having accepted working paper 20/1 as a basic document on the method of standardisation of the biometric observations, the Secretariat is requested to call the attention of the experts working on clupeidae in various countries, to the content of the document, and to solicit their opinions.

B. *Tunas*

- a) member countries are invited to undertake a marking experiment, the results of which will be compiled by the Council;
- b) it is recommended that the marking of *Thunnus thynnus* be made on young tunas of 500 gr. to 5 kgs. which can be caught easily, for example, in the sea of Alboran.

C. *Edible crustaceans*

The Council recommends that the study of meso-abyssal peneidae be intensified.

D. *Study of trawling grounds*

- a) the Council invites each member country to appoint a correspondent concerning the trawling grounds of the Mediterranean. A rapporteur will also be appointed by the Committee of Exploration:
  1. to complete the schedule of information mentioned in working paper 20/4 by maps, tables and other illustrations and documentation pertaining to local names, size of trawling ground, nature of the bottom, benthonic species, fishing seasons, main species caught, and their relative importance, as well as with any data on the catches made for each trip by boats of a certain type;
  2. to communicate this information to the appointed correspondents and to ask them to fill any gaps;
  3. to prepare, according to the suggestions in working paper 20/4 (Italy) with, if necessary, the help of the Fisheries Division of FAO, a short and precise report on the present state of knowledge concerning the abundance and bionomics of the main exploited populations of the demersal species, as well as statistics of the catches and estimates of the fishing effort;
  4. to present this report, as well as a revised study of the trawling ground, together with a plan of work on this question, at the next meeting of the Council for discussion.
- b) the Council requests that the investigations concerning new trawling grounds be carried out up to the depth of 800 metres.

E. *Miscellaneous*

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It has been decided that technical documents No. 12 “The influence of the Mediterranean water on the hydrography of the Black Sea” by Mr. Pektaş and No. 13 “A new device for volumetric plankton determination” by Mr. Artüz, will be sent to the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean and it will be proposed that they may be published by that organization.

## PRODUCTION

- A. A meeting organised jointly by FAO, ICES and ICNAF, is to take place in Lisbon in May, 1957 with a view to studying and assembling data on the selectivity and catching power of fishing gear. The Secretariat is invited to send technical papers Nos. 27 and 36 to that meeting, as well as any other documentation which has been received from member countries and which could make possible the comparisons between various experiments. It would be advisable for the GFCM to be represented at the meeting.
- B. It would be advisable for the GFCM to deal with problems relating to propaganda for fish consumption. It is recommended that FAO should contact various governments in order to collect information concerning methods and means which are used (radio, posters, etc.) before the GFCM carry out this operation.
- C. In view of the interest taken in conducting research concerning improvements in the matter of:
  - a. construction of the trawl at present used;
  - b. selectivity by the determination of the optimum mesh size;
  - c. the kind of material used for making nets:

It is recommended that a study be undertaken by FAO with a view to improving the efficiency of the Mediterranean trawl. Such research ought to be undertaken on the basis of the underwater studies made by Dr. Perlmutter, of the American Mission in Israel.
- D. A congress on fishing gear is to be organised under the auspices of FAO in Hamburg, from 7 to 12 October 1957. It is recommended to governments to make the necessary budget provisions to send delegates to that meeting and it is suggested to the organisers of the congress that a special section be established for the study of Mediterranean gear. It would be advisable for the GFCM to be represented at this congress.
- E. It is recommended that, on the occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the GFCM, the Exploration Committee and the Production Committee have joint meetings for the study of the trawling question.

## INLAND WATERS

### A. *Pollution*

It would be advisable to publish working paper 23/1, prepared by Mr. Carlo Maldura and Mr. Paul Vivier, concerning the residual waters of sugar refineries.

### B. *Valliculture*

Mediterranean countries where saline lagoons exist, are invited to furnish precise documentation on them.

### C. *Carp culture*

It would be of very great interest for documentation to be exchanged between the Mediterranean countries on carp diseases and also more generally on fish diseases.

### D. *Barrage lakes*

The GFCM will give special attention to the problem of fisheries in barrage lakes.

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*E. Salmon culture*

The attention of the GFCM has been called to the importance of the problems relating to trout, from the point of view of the development of sport fishing.

*F. Miscellaneous*

- a) It has been decided that no change will be made in the scope of the Inland Waters Committee.
- b) It would be of great advantage if in each country an expert was appointed for each problem which is part of the programme of work, in order to make it easier for the Special Rapporteur to obtain complete documentation.

ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

- A. The Council expressed a wish that the atlas published by Dr. Dieuzeide be completed by the GFCM with the illustrations and with the scientific and common names of fish which are not already included in that publication.
- B. The Council expressed a wish that FAO establish a centre for training statisticians or sponsor courses on fisheries statistics, in which at least two representatives of each Mediterranean country could participate.
- C. The Council, after having discussed a proposal according to which the GFCM should undertake the preparation of international regulations for the fisheries in the high seas, decided that, in view of the conclusions adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Conservation of Living Resources of the Sea (Rome, 18 April – 10 May 1955), it was not possible for the time being to undertake the preparation of such regulations. However, the Council thinks that it would be useful to follow closely the evolution of the situation in various countries and it was decided that all questions of fisheries regulations in marine waters would, in future, be placed under the responsibility of the Economics and Statistics Committee.

**II. RESOLUTIONS**

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**RES. GFCM/25/2000/1 (REV. 95/1)***Without title*

*IN VIEW OF* the 1998 stock assessment on bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean by the ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), indicating that an annual catch level equal or higher than 33,000 MT would not be sustainable,

*RECOGNIZING* the need to reconcile the necessary conservation of the stock with the needs of coastal fishing communities which are dependent mainly on fishing for this stock,

*RECALLING* that Croatia was undergoing a state of war during the early 1990s.

**The Commission recommended:**

- 1) That a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 32,000 MT for 1999 and of 29,500 MT for 2000 be established.
- 2) That in order to establish an allocation of fishing possibilities, the catches of years 1993 and 1994 (whichever is higher), as laid down by ICCAT/SCRS before 1998, be used as reference, except in the case of Croatia, for which a specific quota is set for 1999.
- 3) That according to paragraph 2 above, the following allocation scheme be established.

	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
China (People's Republic)	82 MT	76 MT
Croatia	950 MT	876 MT
European Community (EC)	20,165 MT	18,590 MT
Japan	3,199 MT	2,949 MT
Korea	672 MT	619 MT
Libya	1,300 MT	1,199 MT
Morocco	820 MT	756 MT
Tunisia	2,326 MT	2,144 MT

- 4) Quantities to be deducted from the 1999 catch quota under the terms of paragraph 2 of the "Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries", shall be calculated for all Contracting Parties, with respect to the catch data referred to in paragraph 2 above, as revised by SCRS in 1998.
- 5) These provisions replace the 1995 "A Recommendation by ICCAT on Supplemental Management Measures for Eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna".
- 6) For those non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities with catches of bluefin tuna in the east Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea from 1993 onwards, the catch limit for 1999 and 2000 will be calculated according to paragraph 2.

<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
2,486	2,291

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**RES. GFCM/25/2000/2**

*Without title*

The Commission:

*CONSIDERING* the Recommendations adopted by ICCAT in 1974 and 1994 concerning bluefin tuna minimum size;

*IN ORDER* to facilitate commercial transactions without jeopardizing the quality of information on catches and trade of bluefin tuna;

**The Commission recommended:**

**FIRST:** the prohibition of retaining on board, landing and sale of fish less than 3.2 kg by fishing vessels of Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties.

**SECOND:** that adequate measures be taken by ICCAT in November 1997 to guarantee greater transparency and more reliability of statistics, with the aim of identifying the origin of catches. This Recommendation is supplemental to the minimum size regulations currently in effect on bluefin tuna.

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**RES. GFCM/25/2000/3**

*Without title*

*CONSIDERING* the Recommendations adopted by ICCAT in 1974, 1994, and 1996 concerning bluefin tuna minimum size;

*IN ORDER TO* ensure adequate enforcement and monitoring of the prohibition on harvest of age zero bluefin tuna;

**The Commission recommended that:**

In addition to the prohibition on retaining on board, landing and sale of fish less than 3.2 kg by fishing vessels of Contracting Parties and non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities, each Contracting Party and non-contracting party, entity or fishing entity shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the landing, possession, or sale in markets in nations bordering the Convention area of Atlantic bluefin tuna of fish less than 3.2 kg.

This Recommendation is supplementary to the minimum size regulations currently in effect for bluefin tuna.

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**RES. GFCM/22/1997/1**

*Without title*

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean, meeting in Rome, Italy, from 13 to 16 October 1997,

CONSIDERING that on 22 December 1989, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted by consensus Resolution 44/225 on large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas;

CONSIDERING that uncontrolled expansion and growth of driftnetting may entail serious disadvantages in terms of increased fishing effort and increased by-catches of species other than the target species, and that it was therefore desirable to regulate fishing with driftnets;

Accordingly ADOPTS, under Article V of the GFCM Agreement, the following recommendation:

1. No vessel flying the flag of a Contracting Party of GFCM may keep on board, or use for fishing, one or more driftnets whose individual or total length is more than 2.5 kilometres;
2. Throughout the fishing referred to in paragraph 1, the net must, if it is longer than one kilometre, remain attached to the vessel. However, within the 12 mile coastal band, a vessel may detach itself from the net, provided it keeps it under constant observation.

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**RES. GFCM/22/1997/2***Without title*Resolution on activities of non-Contracting Parties

RECALLING the recommendations adopted by GFCM which are binding upon its members,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the need to promote a wide application of GFCM management and conservation measures in the Mediterranean as the only possible way to ensure its effectiveness,

RECALLING Articles 7.1.4, 7.1.5, and 7.7.5 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, concerning the activities of non-members of regional fisheries organizations,

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean, acting under Article III, paragraph a) of the GFCM Agreement,

CALLS UPON States which are not members of GFCM, but whose vessels engage in fishing activities in the region, to become members of GFCM or otherwise cooperate in the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Council.

CALL UPON members of GFCM to report to the Council on any fishing activities by vessels flying the flag of non-members which undermine the effectiveness of GFCM recommendations, as well as on the activities of flagless vessels.

**RES. GFCM/22/1997/3***Without title*

RECALLING the obligations set out in Resolution 95/1 to the effect of limiting the activity of large long-liners, establishing a minimum landing size and reducing the catch of bluefin tuna by the end of 1998,

CONSIDERING the necessity to take measures regarding the gears used at times when their impact is most notable on juveniles and spawners,

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean, acting under Article V of the GFCM Agreement,

## RECOMMENDS:

FIRST: The prohibition of the bluefin tuna purse seine fishery during the period 1 to 31 August; and

SECOND: The prohibition of the use of airplanes and helicopters in support of such fishing operations in the month of June.

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**RES. GFCM/21/1995/1***Without title*

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean, meeting in Alicante, Spain, from 22 to 26 May 1995,

Considering that:

- There is general international concern and evidence as to the depleted state of the stock of bluefin tuna, (*Thunnus thynnus*) whose migration range includes the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea,
- The principal spawning ground for this stock is the Mediterranean Sea during the months of June and July, at which time it is vulnerable to capture,
- The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) regularly evaluates the state of this bluefin tuna stock based on data supplied by its contracting States and from GFCM, and based on these evaluations, proclaimed at its thirteenth Regular Meeting (Madrid, November 1993), a closed season for fishing with pelagic longlines in the Mediterranean that entered into force on 31 May 1994,
- The majority of coastal States of the Mediterranean are not members of ICCAT but are members of GFCM, and share a common concern with the state of bluefin tuna stocks.

Adopted the following recommendations:

**FIRST:** that during the period from 1 June to 31 July there will be no fishery using large pelagic longline vessels greater than 24 m in length for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean,

that the members of GFCM whose nationals have been fishing for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean using large pelagic fishing vessels greater than 24 m in length take steps to implement this recommendation before 1 June 1995 in accordance with the regulatory procedures of each country,

that, in accordance with the decisions of ICCAT adopted in 1989 and subsequent years concerning fishing activities by non-Contracting Parties, the Council requests the Secretariat to transmit this recommendation to non-Contracting Parties whose pelagic longline fishing vessels are currently fishing for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean.

**SECOND:** that the members of GFCM take the necessary measures to prohibit any taking and landing of bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) weighing less than 6.4 kg,

that notwithstanding the above regulation, the Contracting Parties may grant tolerances to boats which have incidentally captured bluefin weighing less than 6.4 kg, with the condition that this incidental catch should not exceed 15 percent of the number of fish per landing of the total bluefin catch of said boats or its equivalent in percentage by weight,

**THIRD** that each contracting Party fishing bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea take the necessary measures:

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- to prevent any increase in the fishing mortality rate for the years 1995 and beyond,
- to prevent any catch by vessels under their jurisdiction in 1995 in excess of the level of catch in 1993 or 1994 (whichever is higher),
- to reduce, starting in 1996, by 25 percent (or such lower amount which may be specified by the SCommittee RS of ICCAT) their catches from the catch level specified in the previous paragraph, such reduction to be accomplished by the end of 1998,
- to cooperate in the development, by 1998, of a long-term recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean,
- to prevent catch of age 0 fish (less than 1.8 kg).

That the above measures should enter into force on 1 June 1995.

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**RES. GFCM/21/1995/2**

*Without title*

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM), at its Twenty-first Session held in Alicante, Spain, from 22 to 26 May 1995, agreed to set a minimum length limit of 15 metres for the application of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (hereinafter referred to as the Agreement)

The Council,

Mindful that Article II.2 of the Agreement allows, but does not require a Party to exempt fishing vessels of less than 24 metres in length from the application of the Agreement, subject to two provisions set out in Article II.2.

Noting that Article II.3 of the Agreement provides for coastal States of fishing regions such as the Mediterranean where exclusive economic zones and other zones of extended jurisdiction have not been declared, to set a different length limit below which the Agreement shall not apply, and that the limit would only apply in respect of vessels flying the flag of a coastal State and operating exclusively in that fishing region.

Concerned that there is no provision for vessels of non-coastal States that operate in the Mediterranean to report on their activities to the GFCM,

Noting also that Article III of the Agreement requires the flag States to ensure that its vessels provide it with the necessary information on their operations, including fishing area, catch and landing data,

Establishes, for the purpose of Article II.3 of the Agreement, a minimum length limit of 15 metres for fishing vessels flying the flag of a coastal State of the Mediterranean and operating exclusively in the Mediterranean.

Requests all States without distinction, whose fishing vessels operate in international waters in the Mediterranean to provide information on these vessels, as set out in Article VI of the Agreement, to the Secretariat of the GFCM.

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**RES. GFCM/21/1995/3***Without title*

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean, meeting in Alicante, Spain, from 22 to 26 May 1995,

- acknowledging its responsibility for the conservation, rational management and sustainable utilization of living marine resources
- concerned that human activities can negatively affect the marine ecosystem and result in the degradation of marine living resources
- acknowledging the progress achieved in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan towards the protection of the marine environment
- stressing the importance of cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the region, especially with UNEP's Mediterranean Action Plan

INVITES the 9th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties meeting in Barcelona (5 - 8 June 1995)

- to step up efforts to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, inputs into the Mediterranean marine environment, of substances which are toxic, persistent and liable to bio-accumulate
- to reduce inputs of nitrogen and phosphorus, especially in enclosed and semi-enclosed marine areas where eutrophication has or may have detrimental environmental impacts such as fish kills and shellfish poisoning with serious economic losses for the fisheries and aquaculture sectors
- to promote all necessary measures to protect sensitive Mediterranean habitats, such as coastal lagoons, important to fisheries and extensive aquaculture.

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**RES. GFCM/21/1995/4**

*Without title*

The Council calls on its member countries to prepare a list of fishing boats in operation from national ports in the Mediterranean and provide this information to the GFCM Secretariat by October 1995 in the form specified in the report of the Twenty-first Session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean.

**RES. GFCM/14/1978/1**

*Without title*

The Fourteenth Session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean,

taking into account the need for competent and trained personnel at all levels in order to assure the continued development of the fisheries

noting that most countries in the Mediterranean area are concerned with this matter on a continuing basis

being aware of the fact that many countries have training requirements which exceed national capabilities

decides to establish a system to facilitate the exchange and use of training resources on a regional basis by publishing a Directory of Training Facilities and Needs for the Mediterranean Area.

The Directory will consist of three parts:

- a list of permanent institutions and facilities to be updated every six years
- a list of temporary training centres and courses to be updated every two years
- a list of training requirements to be updated every two years.

Each country will appoint a correspondent who will be responsible for following training developments at the national level and serve as the contact for GFCM.

The Secretariat will obtain data necessary to prepare the Directory by circulating a Guideline to the correspondents.

The Secretariat will be responsible for the publication and distribution of the Directory to all Member States and for facilitating training arrangements.

The Fourteenth Session of the General Fisheries Council of the Mediterranean,

further recognizing that the training activities undertaken by FAO have contributed much to the development of the fisheries

urges that such activities be continued with all possible vigour and support.

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**RES. GFCM/13/1976/1***Without title*

The Thirteenth session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean,

taking into account the importance of fish detection and methods of abundance evaluation, particularly through acoustic methods;

noting that most countries in the Mediterranean area are interested in this specialized field of research;

being aware of the fact that there are many open problems of a technological, biological and statistical nature connected with this kind of research;

decides to establish a Working Party on Acoustic Methods for Fish Detection and Abundance Estimation, open to all Members of the Council.

The terms of reference of this Working Party will be:

- a) to keep under review the state of development in the following fields: acoustic fish detection, available equipment, operational techniques and their application for fish abundance estimation studies;
- b) to improve the theoretical and operational studies particularly suitable for the area;
- c) to coordinate the studies and to compare the results of resource evaluation through direct and indirect methods;
- d) to promote research planning;
- e) to facilitate collaboration between countries for future work (training courses, seminars, cruises, etc.);
- f) to promote exchange of ideas and information with the existing Advisory Committee on Marine Resources Research (ACMRR) of FAO, ad hoc Group of Experts on the Facilitation of Acoustic Research in Fisheries.

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**RES. GFCM/12/1974/1***Without title*

The Twelfth Session of the GFCM,

Recognizing the need for the development of national fishery statistics systems capable of producing statistics required for the administration, development and management of national and international fisheries in the area at a minimum cost,

Recommends

- that special consideration be given to the appointment of a Regional Fishery Statistician for the GFCM area, working in close collaboration with the Fishery Statistics Unit and the Fishery Data Centre of FAO to advise and assist countries, as necessary, with the design of required surveys and their implementation, including the training of officers needed for the supervision and field operations of the surveys and for the production of technical reports
- that the Secretariat continue investigating the possibility of organizing training courses in the field of fishery statistics and biological data.

**RES. GFCM/12/1974/2***Without title*

The Twelfth Session of the GFCM,

Recognizing that uniformity in the use of vernacular species names at national and regional levels is essential for various fisheries activities

Strongly urges all Member Nations to:

- (i) examine and eventually adopt the FAO Species Names used on the “FAO Species Identification Sheets for Fishery Purposes: Mediterranean and Black Sea” as the Regional Standard Names for the GFCM area and to promote their use in all official regional documents
- (ii) give highest priority to the checking and, if necessary, the correction of the National Species Names used on the above-mentioned Identification Sheets, following the provided criteria\*; furthermore to officially adopt the final National Species Names and to promote their use in all pertinent official documents
- (iii) issue a national official document giving for each species of interest the correspondence between the scientific name, the officially adopted national name, and the local names still in use within the country

- \* (a) each name should apply to a single species  
(b) each species should have only one official national name

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- (c) the name should be selected, wherever possible, from among the “local names” most widely used within the country, and preference might be given to the name closest, or identical, to the FAO name
- (d) if a local name applies to more than one species (often to a genus or a family), a second word, characterizing the species, might be added (e.g., “hunched” snapper, “olive-striped” snapper, etc.)
- (e) if a local name for a species is not available, consideration should be given to the use of the FAO species name as the national one
- (f) in the case of countries using a non-Latin script, an official Latin transliteration of the national species name should be provided.

**RES. GFCM/12/1974/3***Without title*

The Twelfth Session of the GFCM,

Taking into account the recommendation formulated by the Meeting on Fisheries Management in the Western Mediterranean (Rome, 18-19 April 1973),

Considering that the problems discussed by the above meeting prevail in all the Mediterranean and contiguous waters,

Noting the declaration made by the Secretariat regarding the administrative and financial implications of the present Resolution,

Decides to set up, in accordance with Article III of the 1949 Agreement establishing the GFCM and with Article X of its Rules of Procedure, a committee to be known as the Committee on Resources Management, the statutes of which shall be as follows:

## COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Membership

The Committee will be open to all Member Nations of the GFCM

Terms of Reference

The functions of the Committee shall be to:

- (a) Study the various management measures required as well as their foreseeable effects
- (b) Recommend the most appropriate measures for the implementation of these management measures by Member Nations, taking into account, where required, the need to harmonize measures taken by individual Member Nations
- (c) Recommend the most effective methods of controlling the application of management measures at the national and regional level
- (d) Carry out any other task related to resources management that may be referred to it by the GFCM

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Reports

The Committee shall report to the GFCM.

**RES. GFCM/12/1974/4**

*Without title*

The Twelfth Session of the GFCM,

Taking into account the recommendations formulated by the Meeting on Fisheries Management in the western Mediterranean (Rome, 18-19 April 1973) and the study of “Effectiveness of existing fisheries management machinery” submitted by the Secretariat in document GFCM/XII/74/10,

Noting the wish expressed by the Consultation on the Protection of Living Resources and Fisheries from Pollution in the Mediterranean (Rome, 19-23 February 1974) regarding the desirability of drawing up, within the framework of a convention, rules for the adequate management of these resources,

Agrees that initially, and at least on a temporary basis, it will formulate conservation measures as recommendations that will be drafted in such a form that they can be directly applied by Member Nations in accordance with the following procedure: the Director-General of FAO will transmit recommendations to Member Nations with the request that they report to him, after the lapse of an agreed period of time, what measures they will have taken or intend to take to implement these recommendations; the Director-General will then be requested to report to the GFCM the replies of Member Nations,

Considers that it is necessary to undertake without delay a revision of the 1949 Agreement establishing the GFCM and, in the light of the experience acquired by other regulatory fishery bodies, to recommend such amendments to the Agreement as would make the GFCM more adapted to the new tasks it may be called upon to perform and more effective as regards, in particular, the adoption, implementation and enforcement, including on the high seas, of conservation measures,

Instructs its Committee on Resources Management to study this question and to report to the GFCM at its Thirteenth Session,

Urges Member Nations to ensure that their delegations to the relevant sessions of the Committee will be so composed as to allow a thorough examination of all the technical, administrative, legal and other aspects involved.

**RES. GFCM/12/1974/5**

*Without title*

The Twelfth Session of the GFCM,

Considering that the improvement of national capabilities in high and middle-level personnel is an essential element in the rational development of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries,

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Further considering that the required training embraces all fishery specialized activities and cover also management and administration,

Noting that many individual countries in the area are not equipped to treat simultaneously all aspects of fisheries training, and that training on a regional or sub-regional basis would be more rational and effective, thus avoiding duplication of facilities,

Recommends that the GFCM

- evaluate and study the possibility of creating a network of regional or sub-regional training centres, making the best use of the already existing facilities, supplemented by ad hoc courses on a national or regional basis, and of establishing a pool of fellowships for the training of high and middle-level fisheries personnel in various fields,
- encourage Member Nations to participate in, and contribute actively to, such regional training schemes and to promote refresher courses for their staff, particularly in the fields of economics, statistics and data processing,
- explore sources of finance and other forms of support through bilateral and multilateral donor institutions, including United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Environment Programme for the subsequent development of such intensive large-scale regional training projects.

**RES. GFCM/12/1974/6**

*Without title*

The Twelfth Session of the GFCM,

Recognizing

- the need to limit fishing effort in certain over-exploited areas,
- the advisability of improving and enforcing the application of existing management measures,
- the need to introduce minimum mesh regulations throughout the Mediterranean basin and, if need be, based on the state of exploitation of the stocks, special regulations for certain sub-areas,
- the need in this matter to harmonise the regulations and to define appropriate standardised methods for measurement of the mesh and the inspection of gear,

Further recognizing the advisability of adopting uniform regulations for fisheries in international waters,

Aware that practical difficulties entailed by the implementation of such measures could be more easily overcome by making full use of experience gained in this field in other areas of the world,

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Requests the Secretariat to prepare an annotated draft which would serve as a basis for the elaboration of legislations on mesh size in the Mediterranean, including definition of the methods for measuring mesh size, rigging devices to be used as well as enforcement procedures,

Requests the Committee on Resources Management to examine the draft prepared by the Secretariat and adopt it in the form of a recommendation which could be directly applied by Member Nations,

Invites the Director-General of FAO to transmit this recommendation to Member Nations with the request that they report to him, after the lapse of such period of time as he may determine, the measures they will have taken or plan to take to implement the recommendation,

Further requests the Director-General to report to the GFCM the replies received.

**RES. GFCM/12/1974/7**

*Without title*

The Twelfth Session of the GFCM,

Noting with appreciation the measures taken by the Director-General of FAO to follow up Resolution XI/72/1,

Welcoming the results already achieved by the Consultation on the Protection of Living Resources and Fisheries from Pollution in the Mediterranean at the session it held in Rome from 19 to 23 February 1974,

Calls upon all Member Nations that had not been represented at the first session of the Consultation, to be represented at the new session scheduled to be held in Rome from 27 May to 1 June 1974,

Urges the Consultation to complete at the earliest possible date the formulation of guidelines that could form the basis of a convention, or conventions, for the protection of living resources and fisheries from pollution in the Mediterranean,

Expresses the wish that all the competent specialized agencies of the United Nations as well as other competent international bodies, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme, should support the efforts of FAO for the protection of the marine environment in the Mediterranean as regards living resources and fisheries,

Recommends to Mediterranean coastal states, not only to become parties to the 1973 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, but also to accept as binding the optional annexes III, IV, and V of the Convention,

Urges these countries to unite their efforts to have the Mediterranean Sea declared as a Special Area under the said Convention, for the purposes of noxious liquid substances in bulk.

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**RES. GFCM/12/1974/8***Without title*

The Twelfth Session of the GFCM,

Taking into account the importance of fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean region,

Noting with concern the increasing impact of pollution on the living marine resources in the area,

Appreciating the close cooperation between GFCM, IOC and ICSEM in the development of the Cooperative Investigations in the Mediterranean and in the organization of a Mediterranean Regional Marine Pollution Workshop aimed at developing plans for a comprehensive Mediterranean monitoring programme,

Being aware, however, of the fact that there is a general lack of coordinated programmes, especially of those dealing with contaminants in marine organisms and with the effects of pollutants on living resources, and that there is a need to facilitate cooperation between Member Nations and the implementation of a comprehensive Mediterranean monitoring programme,

Recommends

- that a cooperative programme on effects of pollutants on marine organisms and communities be initiated
- that a pilot project be organized for regional monitoring of a few selected contaminants in organisms, with priority on the monitoring of mercury in commercial species, as a contribution to a comprehensive Mediterranean monitoring programme
- that the study of inputs of pollutants into the Mediterranean be continued in close collaboration with the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Committee and the Committee for Inland Fisheries for Africa
- that the Working Party on Marine Pollution in Relation to the Protection of Living Resources continue its activities with special emphasis on the above tasks
- that Member Nations and institutions concerned exchange rapidly data on contaminants in aquatic organisms, using the FAO Fishery Data Centre as a regional centre for the Mediterranean,

Requests the Secretariat to explore with the United Nations Environment Programme means of support for these regional activities of the GFCM and for national programmes of developing countries in the area to enable them to fully participate in these cooperative activities.

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**RES. GFCM/11/1972/1***Without title*

The Council,

Being aware of the seriousness of pollution in the Mediterranean as it results from the report “Survey of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean”;

Noting that the dispersion of pollutants from this sea is hampered by its semi-enclosed nature;

Further noting that the increasing amount of pollutants discharged into the sea, in addition to being detrimental to the life of marine flora and fauna may also severely affect public health;

Taking into consideration the fact that the countries of the region are anxious to protect the living resources of the Mediterranean as is evident from the statement of a number of them at the First Session of the Inter-Governmental Working Group on Marine Pollution in London, June 1971;

1. Recommends that the GFCM Working Party on Marine Pollution in Relation to the Protection of Living Resources continue and intensify its activity with the following terms of reference:
  - (b) To assess, through the cooperation of the institutes and laboratories in member countries, the amount of heavy metals and pesticides in the tissues of marine species with highest accumulating capacity – especially those that attain larger sizes and have longer life – and study the possible synergic toxicity of the pollutants;
  - (c) To propose, if necessary, measures to avoid that fishery products which have become harmful to consumers enter the marketing channels;
  - (d) To promote biological, ecological and biochemical studies directed to identifying the sources of pollution of any nature, devoting special attention to untreated domestic or industrial wastes, in order to protect the living resources from this pollution;
  - (e) To assist the Council in maintaining and expanding its cooperation with international and intergovernmental bodies concerned, particularly ICSEM and IOC, through the programmes of research and monitoring of marine pollution of the Cooperative Investigations of the Mediterranean;
  - (f) To collect, store and disseminate data relating to pollution in the Mediterranean and its effects on living resources.
2. Recognizes with appreciation the efforts made by the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) in cooperation with other international agencies to reduce oil pollution in the seas and, taking into account the conventions drawn up in this regard,

Urges its Member Governments to ratify these conventions and to strongly request IMCO to take all possible further measures for controlling more effectively pollution caused by shipping and handling at sea of oil and other pollutants;
3. Requests the Director-General of FAO to consult with Member Governments of GFCM with a view to convening a meeting of these governments for discussions aimed at preparing a Convention to control the discharge into the sea of pollutants that would affect its living resources, bearing in mind the economic effects of such control.

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**RES. GFCM/11/1972/2***Without title*

The Council,

Noting that assessments implemented by the GFCM Working Party on Resources Appraisal and Exploitation clearly show that, as a result of the continuous increase in fishing effort, several stocks in the western Mediterranean, and particularly those located off European coasts, are at present overfished,

Recommends that:

- i. a meeting of senior fishery officers of the countries of the western Mediterranean area be organized in order to define, on a regional basis, appropriate procedures and measures to ensure the protection of resources and to improve the profitability of the exploitation;
- ii. countries bordering the western Mediterranean and which do not already apply such measures prohibit trawl mesh size less than 40mm (stretched) as well as any special device hampering the full opening of meshes;
- iii. these measures be enforced in all countries fishing in the western Mediterranean;
- iv. the rate of exploitation be adjusted to the potential of resources exploited by individual countries, this implying a reduction of fishing effort in the case of resources where maximum catch has already been exceeded.

**RES. GFCM/10/1969/1***Without title*

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean, aware of the importance of complete prior knowledge of national programmes for the implementation of the Biological and Fisheries Programme of the Cooperative Investigations in the Mediterranean,

urges its Member Nations participating in the CIM to communicate these national programmes immediately to the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission for centralization

**RES. GFCM/10/1969/2***Without title*

The Council,

noting with satisfaction the favourable trend of its working relations with ICSEM,

wishing to broaden these relations in view of allowing the optimum utilization of the human, physical and financial resources of the Member Nations, favouring attendance at meeting through adoption of multidisciplinary work topics and arriving at the implementation of joint research projects,

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assigns to the Executive Committee and to the Secretariat the tasks of initiating consultations and negotiations with the Bureau and the Secretariat of ICSEM in order to study the forms of close cooperation between these two agencies, with a view to an enhanced effectiveness of their action through rationalization of the means at their disposal and their structures.

**RES. GFCM/10/1969/3**

*Without title*

The Council,

recognizing that the working parties of GFCM at present constituted the most efficient means of promoting the programme laid down for the development of the Mediterranean fisheries,

recognizing further that these working parties can satisfactorily complete their tasks only by meeting with sufficient regularity and by the presence of the same members at all meetings to ensure continuity of the action undertaken,

recommends

- that FAO assists, to the maximum extent of its financial and technical means, the inter-sessional meetings of the working parties of GFCM
- that the Member Nations of GFCM include the members of the working parties in their delegations to the sessions of the Council as experts.

**RES. GFCM/10/1969/4**

**DEMERSAL RESOURCES**

The Council,

considering that the situation regarding some stocks of demersal species of commercial importance, living on the shelf, and even on the slope, gives rise to anxiety,

considering especially that there are definite signs of overfishing in the case of certain species,

considering furthermore that this alarming situation has already led several Mediterranean countries to promote measures to reduce fishing effort,

recommends that rational measures in the legislative, administrative and technical fields be taken by Member Nations and transposed to a regional Mediterranean level in order to ensure the protection and reconstitution of threatened stocks.

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**RES. GFCM/10/1969/5****POLLUTION**

The Council,

taking into account that pollution of the environment is a fast growing problem also in the Mediterranean and that there is therefore an urgent need for the countries bordering this sea to be cognizant of the utmost information regarding the present state of pollution in this area and its future trends,

noting that discharged waste may not be rapidly diluted and dispersed by natural processes because of the enclosed nature of the Mediterranean Sea, and that for this reason the problem is particularly urgent,

considering that the International Conference on Oil Pollution of the Sea, held in Rome from 7 to 9 October 1968, asked the GFCM in its Resolution No. 4 to undertake, if possible, jointly with ICSEM, steps to provide for the scientific basis for action with regards to the pollution of the Mediterranean,

recommends that information on the state of the pollution along the coasts of the countries bordering the Mediterranean should be collected by means of a questionnaire as drafted by its ad hoc working party,

proposes that Member Nations of the Council nominate a scientist familiar with the pollution problems of his country to act as contact officer with the Secretariat and that the Council should urge the Member Nations to support their contact officer in completing the questionnaire,

further proposes that those countries not members of the GFCM be asked to cooperate with it in the field of marine pollution by also nominating a contact officer in order to make the information as complete as possible.

**RES. GFCM/10/1969/6****POLLUTION**

The Council,

taking into account that in the FAO Technical Conference on Marine Pollution and its Effects on Living Resources and Fishing, to be held in Rome from 9 to 18 December 1970, one section entitled "Marine Pollution in the World Today", will review pollution problems in selected areas,

considering that a review on the state of the pollution in the Mediterranean would be a suitable contribution to this section of the Conference,

noting that the information collected by the questionnaire which was drafted by the ad hoc working party could be used as a suitable basis for such a review,

decides to establish a small group of experts in the field of marine pollution aimed at writing the review. This group should consist of two experts, nominated by the Council, who are familiar with pollution effects on marine life;

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considering further that a close scientific cooperation with the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea (ICSEM) should be ensured in this field,

suggests that ICSEM be asked to co-sponsor this group of experts by also nominating two members.

**RES. GFCM/9/1967/1**

**CHANGES IN METHODS OF WORK OF THE GFCM**

The Council,

Recognizing the urgent need for effective international action for the development and the rational utilization of the fishery resources of the Mediterranean Sea;

Recognizing further that its diversified program of work and the broad terms of reference of its technical committees have in the past hampered the undertaking of cooperative research and development projects directed to that end;

Having noted the document GFCM/9/67/4E;

Decides to limit its future activities to a selected number of projects of immediate interest to the area, to be carried out by working parties and if possible with international aid, aiming at the development and proper management of the fishery resources of the area.

The working parties will consist of specialists from the Member Nations from which will be chosen a convenor, of a technical secretary or more from FAO and of the secretary of the Council;

Decides further to discontinue the activities of the technical committees.

**RES. GFCM/9/1967/2**

*Without title*

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean Working Party on Fishery Statistics and Biological Sampling be established to implement the program of work detailed in the abovementioned report, giving immediate attention to:

- (i) The definition of the limits and sub-areas of the GFCM Statistical Area and the preparation of working maps for statistical purposes.
- (ii) The preparation of comprehensive and abridged lists of scientific names and vernacular names for statistical purposes, in English, French, Spanish and other local languages, of the species of commercial interest in the GFCM Statistical Area.
- (iii) Consideration of various criteria of vessel and gear categories for the classification of catch and effort reporting and for fleet structure analysis.
- (iv) Elaboration of guidelines for adoption of standard reporting methods and forms.
- (v) The preparation of a review of species being sampled for biological and stock assessment purposes, and of the methodology and reporting systems in use.

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- (vi) The production by FAO, on an experimental basis and within the FAO Fisheries Circular series, of Statistical Bulletins and Biological Sampling Yearbooks for the Mediterranean area.

The working party will consist of a small number of active statisticians and fishery scientists from GFCM Member Nations, acting in their individual capacity and appointed by the Executive Committee after consultation with Member Nations and FAO.

The experts will be selected in such a way that geographical representation is balanced and subject matters are adequately covered.

The working party will be assisted by two Technical Secretaries provided by the units of FAO Department of Fisheries concerned and working in close collaboration; a Convenor, nominated from among the working party members will initiate action to implement the above mentioned program with the help of the group members and of the Technical Secretaries.

The working party may be supplemented by co-opted experts proposed by Member Nations desirous of participating in its activities.

It will commence work by correspondence and will meet if necessary and if funds are available between Council sessions, in a location to be selected after consultation between the Convenor, the Executive Committee and the GFCM Secretariat.

The expenses arising from the participation of experts selected by the Executive Committee to inter-sessional meetings will be covered by FAO; those arising from the co-opted experts will be met by their own Government.

Member Nations are requested to facilitate participation in any working party meeting convened in conjunction with a biennial session of the Council by covering both the expenses of their experts belonging to this working party and those of the co-opted ones.

Members of the working party will serve until the Tenth Session of the GFCM, at which time terms of reference and membership will be revised according to needs.

**RES. GFCM/9/1967/3**

*Without title*

The ad hoc Working Party on Freshwater, Brackish and Hypersaline Fisheries,

recognizing that the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) is the leading FAO body in Europe concerned with inland fisheries and fish culture, and

noting that nine Member Nations of the GFCM are not members of EIFAC but that their inland fisheries are influenced by climatic and fauna conditions which are different from those prevailing in Europe and therefore need special regional attention,

proposes that, in order to avoid duplication between the activities of EIFAC and those of the GFCM in the field of inland fisheries, the activities of the Council be limited to problems of brackish and hypersaline water fisheries of the Mediterranean region as a whole and the inland fisheries of the GFCM Member Nations which are not members of EIFAC,

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recommends that the GFCM Working Party on Freshwater, Brackish and Hypersaline Fisheries be established to implement a program of work toward the evaluation of the present status of brackish and hypersaline fisheries in order to:

- identify problems requiring further research
- promote national and international action to fully utilize brackish and hypersaline water resources.

The ad hoc working party

further proposes to strengthen the collaboration between the two bodies on problems of common interest by establishing the liaison between the GFCM and the EIFAC at their secretariat level,

requests EIFAC to invite the GFCM Member Nations, which are not members of the Commission, to be represented by observers at the EIFAC sessions, sub-commissions, working parties and ad hoc meetings and to make the documentation of the Commission available to them;

having further considered the decision reached by the GFCM Executive Committee at its 36<sup>th</sup> meeting (Rome, 9 – 11 January 1967)

expresses the wish that the Department of Fisheries of FAO, which provides secretarial services for EIFAC, would also provide the technical secretariat for the working party.

There appeared to be a general consensus amongst the members of the ad hoc working party regarding the importance of artificial fish breeding, especially for mullet (Mugil sp.), bream (sparus sp.), and sole (Solea sp.) and shell-fish in general. It therefore

recommends that these items be considered by the working party when it establishes its current program of work.

I was also understood that in order to facilitate the work of the Working Party on Freshwater, Brackish and Hypersaline Fisheries, GFCM, with the assistance of FAO, consider preparation of inventories of

- agencies, institutions and individuals working on brackish and hypersaline water problems in the Mediterranean region
- the research problems in which they are engaged
- the type and amount of assistance or collaboration which they desire from other colleagues
- the type and amount of assistance which they are willing to offer.

The working party will consist of a small number of active fishery experts specialized in brackish and hypersaline water resources, from GFCM Member Nations, acting in their individual capacity and appointed by the Executive Committee after consultation with Member Nations and FAO.

The experts will be selected in such a way that geographical representation is balanced and subject matters are adequately covered.

The working party will be assisted by a technical secretariat provided by the unit of FAO Department of Fisheries concerned; a Convenor, nominated from among the working party members, will initiate action to implement the above mentioned program with the help of the group members and of the technical secretariat.

The working party may be supplemented by co-opted experts proposed by Member Nations desirous of participating in its activities.

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It will commence work by correspondence and will meet if necessary and if funds are available between Council sessions, in a location to be selected after consultation between the Convenor, the Executive Committee and the GFCM Secretariat. In view of the fact that Israel is successfully conducting research on artificial breeding of fish in brackish waters, it was suggested by Dr O.H. Oren that one of its research stations be considered as a possible location for the first meeting of the working party.

The expenses arising from the participation of experts selected by the Executive Committee to inter-sessional meetings will be covered by FAO; those arising from the co-opted experts will be met by their own Government.

Member Nations are requested to facilitate participation in any working party meeting convened in conjunction with a biennial session of the Council by covering both the expenses of their experts belonging to this working party and those of the co-opted ones.

Members of the working party will serve until the Tenth Session of the GFCM, at which time terms of reference and membership will be revised according to needs.

**RES. GFCM/9/1967/4**

**ON COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN GFCM AND THE  
INTERNATIONAL BODIES DEALING WITH DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE SCIENCES  
AND FISHERIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

Considering that rational exploitation and conservation of the living resources in the Mediterranean Sea would benefit from an improved collaboration between those international bodies dealing with the development of marine sciences and fisheries in the area,

Recognizing that such collaboration would help to avoid overlapping of efforts and would lead to more efficient utilization of expertise and facilities existing in Member Nations,

Noting with great interest the proposals contained in the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's (IOC) recommendation IOC/V-D. Res. 4 on cooperative investigations in the Mediterranean,

Being of the opinion that this cooperative study represents a new and constructive step toward the close collaboration considered desirable,

Recognizing that present conditions favour a rationalization of working methods and a more efficient collaboration, especially as between the GFCM and the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea (ICSEM),

(1) Hereby proposes to reactivate and to work toward improved collaboration with ICSEM and

recommends that the Executive Committee and the secretariat approach the Commission and its secretariat to explore the possibility of the GFCM participating in the Symposium to be held during the two days immediately preceding the next session of the ICSEM plenary assembly in Monaco (October 1968).

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This Symposium on Plankton (indicator organisms) in relation to their environment, which will be organized by the Plankton Committee and undertaken jointly with the Committees on Physical Oceanography, Pelagic Fishes and Benthos, is of great interest to the GFCM. An enlargement of the program so as to include the study of fish eggs and larvae in relation to their environment, with particular reference being made to tunas, would be welcomed as adding further to the interest of GFCM. Such an enlarged program would contribute toward a better knowledge of the scientific problems of interest to both bodies and their application. Participation in this important symposium would constitute an immediate and promising, although limited, form of collaboration.

The Council considers that the present mandate to the Executive Committee and secretariat should, at a later stage, lead to exploration with the Commission of other ways and means of ensuring wider and more efficient collaboration.

(2) Decides to support the Cooperative Investigations in the Mediterranean proposed by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), which it recognizes as being of great scientific and practical value.

Accepts IOC's invitation to proceed with the nomination of experts to the International Group for Scientific Coordination. These experts, including those nominated by IOC and ICSEM, are to act in their private capacities and will be nominated by participating countries through each of the three bodies (IOC, ICSEM, GFCM). The Executive Committee will inform each Member Nation of the present decision, requesting it to notify the secretariat as soon as possible of the name of the expert it proposes to represent GFCM in the joint IOC/ICSEM/GFCM International Group for Scientific Coordination.

A balanced representation in this group of the various scientific disciplines envisaged by the Cooperative Investigations should be ensured and should equally reflect through an appropriate selection, problems of interest to GFCM. Member Nations are consequently invited to nominate experts actively engaged in research in fishery biology and fishery oceanography, particularly research on marine organisms and the relation with their environment (fishery ecologists).

The Executive Committee, in consultation with the secretariat, will at a later date nominate from the above-mentioned experts an Assistant International Coordinator responsible for fisheries aspects of the Cooperative Study.

Decides further to nominate the secretary of GFCM, as the representative of the secretariat in the Group for Technical Coordination, as envisaged by IOC Resolution (IOC/V-D.Res.4) and to request FAO to further nominate the Director of the Fishery Resources and Exploitation Division of its Department of Fisheries.

(3) Notes with satisfaction the activities of the Mediterranean Association of Marine Biology and Oceanology (MAMBO) in the training of experts in marine science and of its offer of cooperation with the GFCM and member countries.

The Council recognizes the value of the teaching courses organized by MAMBO and hopes that these activities receive the necessary national and international support.

(4) Notes with interest the work program of the Mediterranean Marine Sorting Center (MMSC) in Salammbô (Tunisia) and the facilities and services which it can offer to research workers and institutions engaged in marine science research in the Mediterranean Sea. It requests the secretariat to inform Member Nations of this offer of collaboration.

**RES. GFCM/9/1967/5**

*Without title*

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean Working Party on the Utilization and Marketing of Fish and Fishery Products is established to implement the program of work outlined in the above report, giving immediate attention to:

- (i) Studies concerning methods of handling and preserving fish on board small fishing vessels, between fishing and landing, to be carried out in the various Member Nations before the Tenth Session of the Council, in order to make available technical and economic data on the preservation of fish in ice and refrigerated sea water and also to permit comparative studies
- (ii) Investigations and the compilation of information, before the Tenth Session of the GFCM, on:
  - a. Facilities for and ways of distribution of fresh and frozen fish in the Mediterranean countries
  - b. Their costs of distribution in this area
  - c. Regulations and laws concerning their distribution in Member Nations.
- (iii) Studies on consumer habits and consumer reaction to new fish products.
- (iv) Studies on the techniques of smoking eel, carp and mullet used in various countries.
- (v) Preparing a list of institutes and laboratories in Member Nations which deal with technical and/or economic aspects of the utilization of fish.

The working party will consist of a small number of experts in technology of fish and fishery products and in marketing economy from GFCM Member Nations, acting in their individual capacity and appointed by the Executive Committee after consultation with Member Nations and FAO.

The experts will be selected in such a way that geographical representation is balanced and subject matters are adequately covered.

The working party will be assisted by two Technical Secretaries provided by the units of FAO Department of Fisheries concerned and working in close collaboration; a Convenor, nominated from among the working party members will initiate action to implement the above-mentioned program with the help of the group members and of the Technical Secretaries.

The working party may be supplemented by co-opted experts proposed by Member Nations desirous of participating in its activities.

It will commence work by correspondence and will meet, if necessary and if funds are available, between Council sessions, in a location to be selected after consultation between the Convenor, the Executive Committee and the GFCM secretariat.

The expenses arising from the participation of experts selected by the Executive Committee to inter-sessional meetings will be covered by FAO; those arising from the co-opted experts will be met by their own Government.

Member Nations are requested to facilitate participation in any working party meeting convened in conjunction with a biennial session of the Council by covering both the expenses of their experts belonging to this working party and those of the co-opted ones.

Members of the working party will serve until the Tenth Session of the GFCM, at which time terms of reference and membership will be revised according to needs.

**III. OTHER DECISIONS :  
MANDATES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

OTH. GFCM/29/2005/1

**TERMS OF REFERENCE  
OF THE COORDINATING MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEES (CMSC)  
AND OF THE COORDINATORS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEES**

**1. Membership and *Modus operandi* of the CMSC**

The CMSC will comprise the Chair and the two Vice-Chairpersons of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), the Executive Secretary and the Deputy Executive Secretary of GFCM, the Coordinators of the Sub-Committees (SCSA, SCESS, SCIS and SCMEE) and the Coordinator(s) of cross-sectoral Working Groups<sup>7</sup>.

In addition to the assistance of the GFCM Secretariat, the CMSC will be supported in its work by the relevant FAO technical officers, including the Coordinators/Directors of the FAO Regional projects. 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 SAC for the intersessional period and plan the distribution of activities among Sub-Committees;
- promote the organization of and the participation in interdisciplinary or cross-sectional working groups answering directly to 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 SAC;
- collate draft recommendations of subsidiary bodies and formulate, as appropriate, multidisciplinary advice on fisheries management for examination by 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 SAC or approved by consensus by the members of the CMSC.

**3. Mandate of the 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, in close liaison with the CMSC, the activities of the Sub-Committee in such a way that issues raised by GFCM and/or SAC are addressed;
- coordinate intersessional activities, notably the organization of Sub-Committee meetings and, as appropriate, in collaboration with the facilitator, those of the Working group(s), 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/regional organizations dealing with topics of common interest;
- represent the Sub-Committee at meetings of the CMSC, in particular for preparing work and advice for SAC.

<sup>7</sup> “Cross sectoral” or “Transversal” ad hoc Working Groups are those Working Groups reporting directly to SAC, such as the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Species.

OTH. GFCM/27/2002/1

**REFERENCE FRAMEWORK FOR THE MANDATE OF  
THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)  
FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIODS 2003 AND 2004**

SAC is requested to strengthen the critical role of Coordinators of subcommittees with the aim to improve the linkages among subcommittees and National focal points of GFCM Members.

**1. Management of fisheries**

SAC is requested:

- 1.1. To update the list of shared stocks identifying also the geographical sub-areas as well as the operational units involved. For this purpose SAC should make use both of the knowledge on stock units and of the spatial distribution of operational unit activities as well as of the mixed nature of some fisheries. Deepening both the knowledge and the list of shared stocks should not necessarily extend the list of priority species, so far agreed, for which scientific assessment and advice has to be provided.
- 1.2. To update, at sub-regional level and by geographical sub-areas, the inventory of operational units generating catches of shared stocks. To this end, SAC is also requested to monitor and fine tune, as necessary, the fleet segmentation, as adopted in principle (Appendix E of the report of the 5th Session of SAC). Whenever possible, description of Operational units should report the share, by weight and value, of priority species as well as of other important species, their fishing regime, trends in catches and landings, discard estimates.
- 1.3. To continue its ongoing works of reviewing and debating stock assessment methods with the aim both to widen the use of common agreed standards and methodologies and to continue to improve the scientific quality of submitted assessments.  
  
To compare, and comment, as relevant, the outcomes and recommendations arising both from stock assessment methods and from other fisheries assessment tools mainly based on economic and social matters. Evaluations coming from bio-economic models should also be used for comparison. To this end, SAC should implement some case studies where both approaches are applicable.
- 1.4. To initiate an in-depth reflexion on conservation reference points (safe biological limits, precautionary reference points) that could be routinely used in the Mediterranean to establish a precautionary approach. SAC is also requested to highlight gaps in the current scientific knowledge and research and monitoring needs to set up such a framework.
- 1.5. To update evaluation for priority demersal and small pelagic species, by using the most recent data sets collected both by direct and indirect methods. SAC is requested to give priority to assessment of stocks in those geographical sub-areas not yet concerned by the 2001 and 2002 SAC assessments.

However, SAC should feel free both to extend the list of priority species and to accept for consideration stock assessments of species not included in the current list of priority species.

SAC is requested to explore different outputs consequent to different management scenarios for fisheries where there is evidence of overfishing. In the light of the above outputs SAC is requested to evaluate the appropriateness of present management measures and should propose new or alternative conservation measures whenever necessary. In this regard, the GFCM invites SAC also to take into account both the knowledge of nursery and reproductive areas (geographic co-ordinates) and the outcomes of experiments aiming to

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improve the exploitation pattern. SAC advices should highlight different management options in terms of risk to be avoided, expected improvements and cost/benefit both in biological and socio-economic terms.

**List of priority species:**

*Merluccius merluccius, Micromesistius poutassou, Merlangius merlangus, Mullus barbatus, Mullus surmuletus, Pagellus erythrinus, Psetta maxima, Engraulis encrasicolus, Sardina pichardus, Sardinella aurita, Sprattus sprattus, Trachurus trachurus, Trachurus mediterraneus, Thunnus thynnus, Thunnus alalunga, Xiphias gladius, Coryphaena hippurus, Aristeomorpha foliacea, Aristeus antennatus, Parapenaeus longirostris, Nephrops norvegicus, Eledone cirrhos, Prionace glauca, Isurus oxyrinchus, Lamna nassus and Acipenser sturio.*

1.6. To participate actively in the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on tuna farming.

1.7. To participate actively in the Joint EIFAC/GFCM Working Group on management of sturgeon.

**2. Environmental protection**

(1) Continue updating information on incidental catches of protected species and on by catch of large migratory sharks.

(2) With a view to progressively implement an ecosystem approach to fisheries, update information on mapping essential fish habitats.

(3) Provide an overview of driftnet and surface gillnet fisheries in the Mediterranean, broken down by main basin and geographical sub-areas. Essential points to report on are: fishing effort (Number and size of vessels, size of gears, duration of fishing), technical characteristics (mesh sizes, rigging, marking, control of drift), measures for environmental protection (prevention of gear loss, acoustic alarms) and research programmes in course for this type of fisheries, in particular those aiming to investigate by-catch.

(4) Provide an overview of surface and bottom longline fisheries in the Mediterranean, broken down by main basin. Describe interaction with non-commercial fish, birds and turtles. Report on measures taken to make more efficient use of baits and to prevent bird and turtle mortality.

(5) Report on the geographical occurrence, seasonality, extent and effects of mucilaginous algae blooms.

(6) With a view to progressively implement ecosystem-approach to fisheries, describe a few simple but clear species assemblages where trophic and other biological links are well identified.

OTH. GFCM/26/2001/1

**UPDATE OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE  
FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD 2001-2002 FOR THE  
SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)**

**For its Fifth Session, the Scientific Advisory Committee is requested:**

1. To review existing stocks/fisheries assessment methods highlighting data needs, outputs expected, pros and cons, and their suitability to Mediterranean stocks and fisheries. On the results of the above analysis, SAC is requested to define a set of most appropriate assessment methods which should result in the establishment of a harmonized assessment methodology, agreed by scientists of Members, and which is a prerequisite for a rational decision-making process. To this effect Members should provide GFCM and its subsidiary bodies with all relevant information available.
2. To investigate the issue of stock units in the Mediterranean and Black Seas for the priority species, making use of direct and ancillary information.
3. To update, at regional level, at least the typology of the Operational Units generating catches of priority species. Members are invited to send to the Sub-Committee on Fishery Statistics and Information (SCSI) the appropriate agreed national information.
4. To continue updating the list of shared stocks highlighting the geographical sub-areas as well as the operational units involved.
5. To define and utilize a “standardized” format of reporting to GFCM on stock assessment in which, on a stock basis and by agreed geographic sub-areas, are put in evidence at least the following headings:
  - 5.1 Brief description of fisheries catching the stock: to specify the share by weight and in value of the priority species of the various size ranges in the landings of the corresponding Operational Units, their fishing regime, fishing effort, trends in catches and landings, discards, etc..
  - 5.2 Current status of stock and assessment indicators to define it.
  - 5.3 SAC advice should highlight different management options in terms of risk to be avoided, expected improvements and cost/benefit both in biological and socio-economic terms.

SAC, in providing its advice, should propose new or alternative conservation measures, taking into consideration what was already implemented and enforced, as well as by giving clear quantitative indications of the identified management options (*e.g.* location and dimension of closed areas; mesh sizes; likely extension of closed season etc.).

Part of the above information should be presented also in chart and/or table format.

Each sheet should also be provided with the list of bibliographic references utilized.

6. To review, update and summarize, in easily readable tables, biological and life history parameters of priority species.
7. To review, update and summarize, in easily readable tables, selectivity parameters by fishing gears for the priority species.

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8. To update evaluation for priority demersal and small pelagic species, by using the most recent data sets collected both by direct and indirect methods. SAC is requested to explore different outputs consequent to different management scenarios. In the light of the above outputs SAC is requested to evaluate the appropriateness of present management measures and should propose new or alternative conservation measures whenever necessary. In this regard, the Commission invites SAC also to take into account the knowledge of nursery and or reproductive areas.

List of priority species:

*Merluccius merluccius, Micromesistius poutassou, Merlangius merlangus, Mullus barbatus, Mullus surmuletus, Pagellus erythrinus, Boops boops, Psetta maxima, Engraulis encrasicolus, Sardina pichardus, Sardinella aurita, Sprattus sprattus, Trachurus trachurus, Trachurus mediterraneus, Thunnus thynnus, Thunnus alalunga, Xiphias gladius, Coryphaena hippurus, Aristeomorpha foliacea, Aristeus antennatus, Parapenaeus longirostris, Nephrops norvegicus, Eledone cirrhosa and Acipenser sturio.*

**In the field of relations between fishing activities and environment the following activities should be carried out:**

1. Investigate and update data on incidental catches of protected species in fishing activities
2. Investigate and update data on target and incidental catches of highly migratory shark species in fishing activities
3. Investigate, update data and estimates of discards by operational units, geographic sub-areas or management units and season.
4. Investigate and map essential fish habitats for littoral and offshore priority species

SAC is invited to identify fishing gears and practices (Operational Units), to estimate standardized catch and discard rates, mortality estimates, current population size of interested protected species or populations, to identify alternative fishing practices or selection devices to mitigate problems of incidental catches of protected species.

OTH. GFCM/23/1998/1

**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SCIENTIFIC  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)****First Session**

The Scientific Advisory Committee is requested to review the current situation and future direction of its work with respect to availability of data and methodologies, and to provide concrete advice to the Commission, as feasible, on the following questions:

**1. Definition of the appropriate management units for Mediterranean fisheries**

These management units should take into account and, where possible, conciliate the following aspects:

- the distribution of unit biological stocks for the main species;
- the existing statistical areas;
- the occurrence of homogeneous fleets;
- the occurrence of consolidated scientific and technical cooperation.

**2. Definition of the parameters to express fishing effort**

These parameters should be simple, workable and applicable for vessels longer than 15 m, on the basis of individual vessels. For smaller units, the parameters chosen should allow their monitoring on the basis of sampling procedures.

**3. Identification of the current situation and available information on stock assessment**

- Stocks or areas where catch, effort and biological data are collected on a routine basis;
- fisheries or fleets for which economic data are collected on a routine basis;
- inventory of research vessel surveys;
- inventory of well established groups of scientists meeting regularly for stock assessment or for economical analysis.

**4. Organization of future work: structure, data bases and functioning**

- Working groups, study groups, secretariat;
- data bases: creation and maintenance;
- organization of future meetings, allocation of tasks;
- links with environmental conventions.

## Second Session

The Scientific Advisory Committee is requested to provide advice on the following questions:

**1. Evaluation (jointly with ICCAT) of Mediterranean swordfish**

Evaluation of the state of the stock based on the best available information.

**2. General appraisal of the level of knowledge on the state of the different groups of stocks, according to the management units identified**

For each management unit identified, report on the level of knowledge and, where appropriate, advice on the state of the fishery.

**3. The problem of juveniles: pros and cons of minimum mesh sizes and minimum landing sizes as compared to closed areas/seasons**

Given the practical difficulties associated to the application of minimum landing sizes for certain species, compare the relative merits of the establishment of certain areas of high concentration of juveniles where the fishing activity would be seasonally or permanently banned.

**4. Identification of areas/seasons of high concentration of juveniles**

In the context of the above advice, identify areas and seasons of high concentration of juveniles of the most important commercial species.