



**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION  
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN**



**COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES  
PÊCHES POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE**

**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE  
MEDITERRANEAN**

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**ASSESSMENT OF THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE JOINT  
GFCM/ICCAT AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON LARGE  
PELAGIC SPECIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. At its 30th session, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) expressed its satisfaction for the excellent collaboration and cooperation with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT). GFCM welcomed ongoing efforts of synergy between the two Commissions, which further strengthened the knowledge on Mediterranean tuna fisheries, in particular in relation to its multidisciplinary aspects. The Commission also acknowledged the role of the Joint GFCM/ICCAT ad hoc Working Group on Large Pelagic Species since its establishment in 1989. In this context, the Commission invited the Secretariat to assess the main results of the Working Group, since the Commission considered that such assessment would facilitate the programming of the future activities of the subsidiary body of its scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)<sup>1</sup>.

2. This document recalls the origin of the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group. It reviews its main activities and results and suggests potential scope for future activities that would be mutually beneficial to both the GFCM and ICCAT.

**II. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUP**

3. The establishment of the working group dates back to the 19th session of GFCM, held in Livorno, Italy, 27 February–3 March 1989, during which the Commission welcomed the outcomes of the Second Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Eastern Mediterranean and appreciated in particular the importance given by this Consultation to large pelagic species and their rational management. The Commission (at that time, the Council) also acknowledged the offer made by the representative of ICCAT to further develop

<sup>1</sup> Paragraphs 72-73 of the Report of the 30<sup>th</sup> Session

cooperation with GFCM, including to make its database available to GFCM Members and provide experts to help set up statistical data collecting systems for tunas.

4. GFCM stressed the need for close collaboration with ICCAT, in order to develop a basis for the proper assessment of the relevant stocks, especially bluefin tuna and swordfish.<sup>2</sup> Consequently, the Commission endorsed a suggestion made at the 7th session of its Committee on Resource Management (the predecessor of the Scientific Advisory Committee), that a joint GFCM/ICCAT meeting be held, open to the Members of GFCM and ICCAT and aimed at evaluating the stocks of large pelagic species in the Mediterranean.

5. GFCM also requested its Members to implement relevant ICCAT Recommendations. In particular, the Commission recommended that Members take care before initiating new fisheries for bluefin tuna, that fishing effort should not be increased. GFCM further requested national administrators to promote the gathering of data on tuna and swordfish catches<sup>3</sup>.

6. Hence, a first GFCM/ICCAT Expert Consultation on Evaluation of Stocks of Large Pelagic species was held in Bari, Italy, in June 1990, and a second Consultation was organized in Iraklion, Greece, in September 1992.

7. At its 20th session in 1993, GFCM endorsed the recommendations of the second GFCM/ICCAT Expert Consultations. The Commission further established the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Ad Hoc Working Group on Large Pelagic Species. The Working Group held its third meeting in September 1994 (Fuengirola, Spain). The GFCM Secretariat was entrusted with administrative work while ICCAT provided the technical secretariat<sup>4</sup>. The Joint ad hoc Working group met thereafter every year up to 1998, as well as in 2000 and 2004. These meetings were organized under the broad mandate expelled at the 19th session of GFCM but without consolidated terms of reference nor any explicit acknowledgement of its *modus operandi*.

### **III. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORKING GROUP**

8. The mandate of the GFCM, as spelled in Article III of its Agreement, covers the conservation and management of all marine living resources in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and the connecting waters, including all large pelagic species in its area of competence as well as the development of marine and brackish water aquaculture. ICCAT mandate covers all tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent waters, including the Mediterranean.

9. Regarding the respective mandate of GFCM and ICCAT, both organizations are specifically responsible for the collection of data related to tuna species, including for undertaking relevant studies and research, stock assessments and allocation of fishing effort, with the view of adopting fisheries management measures. Each organization has a scientific advisory Committee entrusted to prepare the basis for management advice.

10. GFCM (through FAO) and ICCAT are signatories of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This MoU is, however, very broad in scope and would need to be reviewed in future. Each Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMOs) enjoys an Observer status with the other one. Moreover, The Director General of FAO is the depository of the treaties establishing these RFMOs and accordingly provides related legal advice to both Commissions.

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<sup>2</sup> Paragraph 50 of the Report of the 19<sup>th</sup> session.

<sup>3</sup> Paragraph 51 of the Report of the 19<sup>th</sup> session.

<sup>4</sup> Paragraph 61 of the Report of the 20<sup>th</sup> session.

11. In 1989, only four Mediterranean countries among the twenty GFCM's Members were Parties to the ICCAT Convention. In 2004, 5 GFCM Members out of 24 were not Parties to ICCAT. Syria joined ICCAT in 2005. As shown in Appendix A, Tuna catches by the GFCM's four Members that are not Members of ICCAT (Bulgaria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon and Serbia and Montenegro) is presently limited (2,350 t in 2004) as compared to the total catch of these species in the GFCM area (60,044 t). These catches consist almost of small tunas and other tuna-like species (2,341 t), but represent a significant portion (13 %) of the total catch of these species.

#### **The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of GFCM**

12. Since 1997, GFCM established its Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) which replaced its Committee on Fisheries Management. At its first meeting, in March 1999, the SAC agreed to be supported by four Sub-Committees, respectively on Stock Assessment (SCSA), Fishery Statistics and Information (SCSI), Economic and Social Science (CESS), and Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE). The Sub-Committees are in turn supported by *Ad Hoc* Working Groups. The mandate of each sub-Committee is recalled in Appendix B. It can be noted that the line of command between SAC and the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group was not specified. The Working Group initially reported to the SCSA and since 2004 directly to SAC.

#### **The Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) of ICCAT**

13. ICCAT was established its Standing Committee on research and Statistics (SCRS) in 1970's, to carry out data collection and research related to the biology, ecology and oceanography of tuna and tuna like species. The SCRS is composed of the Sub-Committee on Statistics, the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems, the species groups (Bluefin tuna, swordfish, tropical tunas, albacore, small tunas etc.) as well as specialized working groups. The Joint GFCM *Ad Hoc* Working Group reports directly to the SCRS.

14. The following are among the foundations which call for a strong cooperation between the two RFMOs :

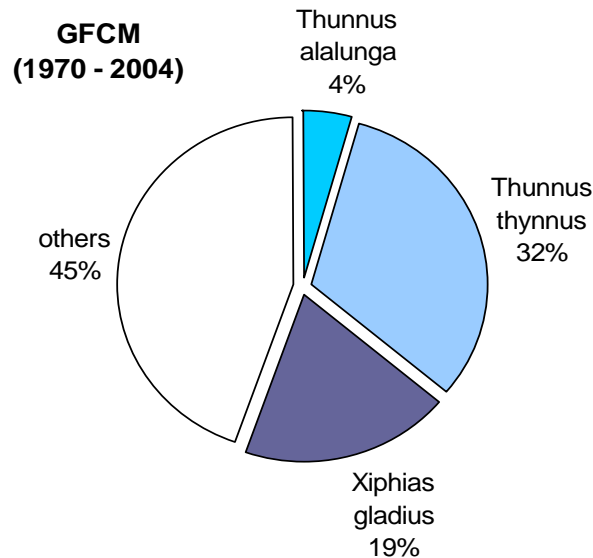
- the stocks of large pelagic fishes in the Mediterranean Sea are of common responsibilities to both organizations; their status and the preparation of scientific advice for fisheries management need to be assessed and analyzed in a consistent manner between the two organizations;
- assessments of concerned fish stocks have to be conducted for the whole areas of their geographical distribution, accounting for all the catches taken from the stocks in these areas with special reference to the Atlantic bluefin stock which is distributed in both the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic;
- recent international fisheries instruments (e.g., the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea; the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; the 1995 UN Fish Stock Agreement) request such cooperation among RFMOs, including to combat IUU fishing.

#### **IV. ASSESSMENT OF THE WORKING GROUP ACHIEVEMENTS**

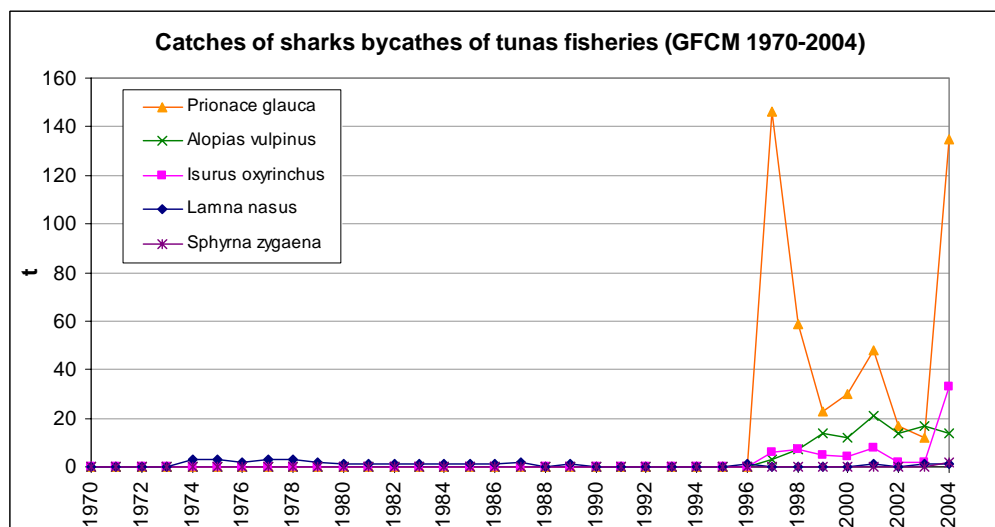
15. Since the early 1950's, GFCM has undertaken several activities related to large pelagic species, particularly research in connection with biology and ecology, tagging, socio-economic aspects, fishing technology and data collection on catches and fishing effort. GFCM and ICCAT launched their cooperation prior to 1990's, i.e. even before the creation of the Joint Working Group. This included exchange and harmonization of data, through FAO/FIDI which contributed significantly to the effort to make available the relevant data for the stock

assessment. Based on the FAO/GFCM datasets, it can be noted for example, that the total catch in the Mediterranean for the period 1970-2004 were composed of about 50 % of bluefin tuna and swordfish (figure 1) and that sharks mostly caught as by catch in tuna fisheries are: *Alopias vulpinus*, *Prionace glauca*, *Isurus oxyrinchus*, *Lamna nasus* and *Sphyrna zygaena*. The trends in catches of these species are given in figure 2.

**Figure 1.** Structure of tuna catches in the Mediterranean (1970-2004)



**Figure 2.** Catches of some sharks in tuna fisheries



16. Since its inception in 1990, the Joint Working Group has held seven meetings. The first two meetings were the GFCM/ICCAT Expert Consultations on Evaluation of Stocks of Large Pelagics.

17. The focus of activities of the Working Group has been to compile and analyze statistics on catches of tuna and tuna-like species in the Mediterranean Sea and to improve the knowledge base for stock assessments. It mainly served as a mechanism to facilitate exchange of data and other information on these species, to check and improve the consistency of available information and to avoid duplication of activities between the two RFMOs.

18. In parallel, the FAO Fishery Information, Data and Statistics Unit (FIDI) provided, on behalf of GFCM, significant input to the activities of the Joint Working Group, especially in regularly analyzing jointly with the ICCAT secretariat discrepancies between the FAO/GFCM and ICCAT data bases for tuna catches.

19. In 2002, GFCM decided that, in view of the expansion of bluefin tuna farming in the Mediterranean, practical guidelines were required to ensure the sustainability of this activity. It therefore invited ICCAT to establish a Joint Ad Hoc GFCM/ICCAT Working group on Sustainable Bluefin Tuna Farming/Fattening in the Mediterranean. This Working group was endowed with precise terms of reference, a delimited time span and pre-established modus operandi. It was multidisciplinary, in nature, open to private sector representatives and output oriented. The Working group held three sessions between 2003 and 2005 and formulated the requested guidelines. It was consequently disbanded.

20. At its Seventh session (2004), SAC stressed the need to further strengthen collaboration with the SCRS with special emphasis on the need to properly monitor small tuna species, in addition to the larger pelagic species, including collecting and analyzing socio-economic data and environmental information on these fisheries, at the sub-regional and regional levels. It was suggested to fill these gaps through the Joint ad hoc Working group, with support from the four SAC Sub-Committees, whilst avoiding overlapping with activities fully covered by the ICCAT. The SAC recognized that this would entail updating and formalizing the status of the Joint Working Group in order to make it an appropriate ad hoc transversal Working group endowed with a mandate broader than only gathering data for stock assessments, as it is the case at present.

21. Following the request from SAC, GFCM and ICCAT Secretariats prepared preliminary terms of reference for the Joint Working group for further formalization and possible adoption by the two parent bodies. At its 18th Session (New Orleans, USA, November 2004) ICCAT acknowledged the need to strengthen the cooperation with the GFCM, through the Joint Ad Hoc Working group on Large Pelagic Species but without specific reference to consolidated Terms of reference.

22. Since 1997, a regional program was established in the framework of the CopeMed project supporting the activities of SAC and the SCRS which contributed significantly to the progress made on the scientific knowledge of tuna and tuna like species. Through this program, important outcomes reinforced the work of SCRS/ICCAT in particular, by providing new abundance index for some specific fisheries such as the trap fishery, data on biology and ecology of tuna, tagging and fishing effort. The CopeMed project also coordinated a research project on Dolphin fish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) which allowed SAC to have relevant scientific element to draft a management plan for this fishery.

23. GFCM also endorsed recommendations on tuna and tuna like species with relevance for the Mediterranean as adopted by ICCAT. The main Recommendations are listed in Appendix C.

24. An excerpt of the main outcome of the meetings held by the Joint Working Group is as follows:

- **1990 - GFCM/ICCAT Expert Consultation on Evaluation of Stocks of Large Pelagic** (Bari, Italy, June)

Swordfish data for the Mediterranean Sea were collated for the first time and the catch-at-size data were created. In addition, Mediterranean bluefin data were critically reviewed and revised. Albacore data were also assembled, but this work was not continued until 2000.

- **1992 - Second GFCM/ICCAT Expert Consultation on Stocks of Large Pelagic** (Iraklion, Crete, Greece, September)

The catch-at-size data on Mediterranean swordfish, which collation was initiated at the previous Expert Consultation in 1990, was revised significantly with additional and new data. Basic catch data, for Mediterranean bluefin tuna and swordfish were also revised.

- **1994 - First Meeting** (Fuengirola, Spain, September)

Major improvements to bluefin data were made (e.g., revision of catch-at-size data and standardization of catch-per-unit of fishing effort (CPUE) data, for the first time, and an assessment for the eastern bluefin stock was conducted.

- **1995 - Second Meeting** (Bari, Italy, September)

For the first time, a relatively comprehensive stock assessment was carried out for Mediterranean swordfish.

- **1996 - Third Meeting** (Genoa, Italy, September)

Mediterranean bluefin data were reviewed and comprehensive stock assessment was conducted for the eastern bluefin stock immediately after the Third Meeting.

- **1997 - Special Meeting on Tag Recovery Network** (Messina, Italy, June)

The tagging data base was updated and a tag recovery network was established for the Mediterranean Sea.

- **1998 - Fourth Meeting** (Genoa, Italy, September)

Numerous major revisions were introduced to the historical series of Mediterranean bluefin and swordfish catch and landing data. Justifications for change were critically reviewed and catch-at-size and CPUE data were revised accordingly. The Meeting was followed by a comprehensive assessment of bluefin tuna stocks for the east Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. An update of the 1996 Mediterranean swordfish assessment was also made, but the Meeting concluded that available data were not sufficient to warrant another full assessment.

- **2000 – Fifth Meeting** (Sliema, Malta, September)

Data available on: (i) annual catches, (ii) catches-at-size and (iii) fishing effort were reviewed, with particular detail for bluefin, swordfish, albacore and small tuna. In addition, results of research activities for each group were analyzed. Attention was also devoted to tagging (including electronic tagging) and its coordination.

The meeting recommended to organize another Working Group session before the next assessments of bluefin in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean and to collate and prepare data for these assessments, including the standardization of time series of catch-per-unit of fishing effort (CPUE). For albacore and small tunas, it was concluded that it was not feasible to carry out stock assessments as “even approximate levels of catches of these species were unknown.”

- **2004 – Sixth Meeting** (Malaga, Spain, May)

Data on albacore were acknowledged to be still too limited to allow proper assessment. Several contributions were made available on improving knowledge of the small tuna species, bluefin tuna, swordfish and spearfish including on biological parameters of frigate tuna, Atlantic bonito and Atlantic black skipjack. A research project/proposal aiming at improving data collection and understanding of the biology of small tuna was drafted.

## V. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

25. The assessment of the cooperation between GFCM and ICCAT, in particular within the framework of their Joint working group on large pelagic species, carries with it the importance to further strengthened joint activities in the future.

26. Indeed, since its establishment in 1989, this Joint working group made significant progress in the collection, collation, processing and analysis of the biostatistics data essential to stock assessment of tuna and tuna like species in the Mediterranean and contributed to scientific knowledge for the management of their fisheries. It is also noted that through this cooperation, important research projects were undertaken in particular with regard to the identity of stocks (tagging), the standardization of the fishing effort and the biological knowledge of the fisheries, in particular of bluefin tuna, swordfish and small tunas.

27. However, due to the recent evolution of the tuna fisheries and their exploitation in the Mediterranean and taking into consideration the regular development of working procedure in each of the two organizations, these might be a need to reconsider and update the objectives of the Working Group and to re-examine its functioning to better satisfy common concerns. For example, each meeting of the Working Group should be based on precise terms of reference, spelling out the responsibilities and inputs of each organization possibly within a consolidated reference framework to be agreed between the GFCM and ICCAT. Appendix D reproduces the draft mandate suggested for the Joint Working Group, as endorsed in principle by GFCM in 2005, subject to ICCAT approval.<sup>5</sup>

28. The significant deterioration of the status of some tuna species, necessitating more accurate information on the status of stocks and comprehensive fisheries management advice and the lack of basic information to monitor other large pelagics fisheries, including recreational and sport fisheries, as well, in recent years, a deterioration of the quality of data on catches, biological aspects and on fishing effort for some important fisheries clearly advocates for further strengthening and developing scientific and technical activities through the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working group on Large Pelagic Species.

29. The Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group provides the only formal institutional framework for scientists and other technical experts to ensure ground collaboration between the two RFMOs. It take more advantage from competences and complementarities of the scientific bodies of the two organizations to address a broader range of issues, related notably to implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), as well as the Operational Unit concept to monitor fishing effort and fleet capacity and to apply socio-economic parameters for monitoring relevant tuna fisheries. Data collection and the betterment of the scientific knowledge should be maintained as a key basis in the work of the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group.

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<sup>5</sup> Paragraph 55 of the report of the 29<sup>th</sup> Session.

30. More specifically, it is suggested to :

- adopt the revised mandate of the Joint Working Group for the next phase, define specific terms of reference of each joint activity of this Working Group and specify the *modus operandi* on the Joint Working Group (e.g.: liaison among Secretariats; use of modern methods of communications, e-mail, conference calls and other forms of communications through the Internet), to ensure the timely implementation of intersessional activities;
- harmonize datasets on tuna and tuna like species in the Mediterranean through collecting and analyzing socio-economic and environmental information and consolidate tools and subdivisions used for data collection;
- strengthen the collection of fisheries data (nominal catches, catch length/age-frequencies, fishing effort and tag-recaptures) and biological research, extending the data collections to those on fishing vessels including their characteristics and nominal effort;
- extend areas of cooperation to broaden present activities, e.g., in relation to the application of ecosystem approach, starting from a better monitoring of by-catches of the fisheries targeting large pelagic fishes, or on the impact of trade flux;
- focus SAC research activities to enhance other priority species, to albacore and small tunas in addition to bluefin and swordfish;
- identify appropriate way to exchange experiences and knowledge on tuna and tuna like species in the Mediterranean.

## APPENDIX A

## Membership and Catches of the main tuna

Country	Membership				Catches						SMT		OTH		TOT		
	GFCM		ICCAT		BFT		ALB		SWO		1989	2004	1989	2004	1989	2004	
	1989	2004	1989	2004	1989	2004	1989	2004	1989	2004							
Albania		X								5		2				7	
Algeria	X	X		X	820	1208				590	564	1528	1158			2938	2930
Bulgaria	X	X											18				18
Croatia		X		X		827							32				859
Cyprus	X	X		(EC)	10	105		255	139	49	20	6				169	415
EC	X	X		X													
Egypt	X	X									358	706		986	358	1692	
France	X	X	X	(EC)	4434	6469	31	1		19		15		20	4465	6524	
Greece	X	X		(EC)	182	389	500	773	1120	1129	3934	1547	485	99	6221	3937	
Israel	X	X									2	124	189			124	191
Italy	X	X		(EC)	4317	4686	3529	3671	13009	6942	1878	917			22733	16216	
Japan		X	X	X	117	241				2	3					119	244
Lebanon	X	X												150	400	150	400
Libya	X	X		X	84											84	
Malta	X	X		(EC)	29	264		10	122	195	18	9	9			178	478
Monaco	X	X															
Morocco	X	X	X	X	295	819				97	3253	1212	411		2	1604	4485
Romania	X	X															
Slovenia		X		(EC)													
Serbia and Montenegro	X (as Yug.)	X				7						42					49
Spain	X	X	X	(EC)	1645	3216		138	1337	950	3190	1322		26	6172	5652	
Syria	X	X		X	0	263		38			121	114			121	415	
Tunisia	X	X		X	661	2639			159	791	2648	3310	1659		5127	6740	
Turkey	X	X		X	1707	1075		27	209	386	5008	6553			6924	8041	
<i>Total</i>					<i>14301</i>	<i>22908</i>	<i>4060</i>	<i>4913</i>	<i>16784</i>	<i>14288</i>	<i>20039</i>	<i>16351</i>	<i>2303</i>	<i>1533</i>	<i>57487</i>	<i>60044</i>	
<i>GFCM Members</i>					<i>14184</i>	<i>22208</i>	<i>4060</i>	<i>4913</i>	<i>16782</i>	<i>14288</i>	<i>20039</i>	<i>16351</i>	<i>2303</i>	<i>1533</i>	<i>57368</i>	<i>59293</i>	
<i>ICCAT Members</i>					<i>6491</i>	<i>22952</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>4913</i>	<i>1436</i>	<i>14281</i>	<i>4402</i>	<i>15394</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>12360</i>	<i>57687</i>	

*BFT: Atlantic bluefin; ALB: albacore; SWO: swordfish; SMA: small tunas; OTH: other species.*

**APPENDIX B****Mandate of the four Sub-Committees of  
the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)*****Sub-Committee for Stock Assessment (SCSA)***

- Organize Working Groups to carry out assessments of particular stocks;
- Review and analyze the assessments done by the Working Groups, including the joint GFCM/ICCAT working group on large pelagic species;
- Provide annotated summaries of the assessments to SAC;
- Review and analyze the assessment methods.

***Sub-Committee on Economic and Social Sciences***

- Undertake economic and social analysis to identify management options and to evaluate management measures;
- Identify and collect effort, social and economic data and analyze related indicators;
- Promote bio-economic and legal research on fisheries and develop analytical and methodological support;
- Strengthen and network social sciences expertise in the region;
- Formulate terms of reference of its ad hoc Working Groups as requested by the Scientific Advisory Committee;
- Establish organizational working arrangements for SCESS meetings and networks;
- Report to the Scientific Advisory Committee on the above.

***Sub-Committee on Fishery Statistics and Information***

- Update and maintain regional data bases concerning GFCM as a whole;
- Update and maintain any other data bases including geographical information systems (GIS) relevant to the Scientific Advisory Committee;
- Ensure with other national and international organizations and institutions concerned with fisheries statistics data and information as well as with FAO/FIGIS;
- Support the other sub-committees of the Scientific Advisory Committee in the field of statistical methodology, data bases conceptualization, design, harmonization and analysis.

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

- Establish links with existing regional bodies concerned with studies on the relationship/interaction between environment and marine ecosystems;
- Provide analysis of ecosystems trends and environmental conditions in relation to trends in fishery resources, biodiversity and genetic resources;
- Evaluate the direct impacts of human action on marine ecosystem including fisheries;
- Assess the relevance of international agreements on conservation and environment protection on Mediterranean fishery resources management.

## APPENDIX C

**List of the main recommendations adopted  
by ICCAT and endorsed by GFCM**

- **GFCM/2006/8 (A):** Recommendation [05-04] by ICCAT to Amend the Recommendation [04-06] on Bluefin Tuna Farming;
- **GFCM/2006/8 (B):** Recommendation by ICCAT to amend recommendation [REC. 04-10] concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT;
- **GFCM/2006/8 (C):** Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a programme for transhipment by large-scale longline fishing vessels;
- **GFCM/2005/3 (A):** Recommendation [03-04] by ICCAT relating to Mediterranean swordfish;
- **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;
- **GFCM/2005/3 (C):** Recommendation [04-06 ] by ICCAT on bluefin tuna farming;
- **GFCM/2005/3 (D):** Recommendation [04-07] by ICCAT on bluefin tuna size limit;
- **GFCM/2005/3 (E):** Recommendation [04-10] by ICCAT concerning the conservation of 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;
- **ICCAT Recommendation [02-08] :** concerning a multi-year conservation and management plan for bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean (endorsed by GFCM at its Twenty-seventh Session);
- **ICCAT Recommendation [02-09]:** to develop a plan aimed at reducing the catches of juvenile bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean (endorsed by GFCM at its Twenty-seventh Session);
- **ICCAT Recommendation [02-10] :** on bluefin tuna farming (endorsed by GFCM at its Twenty-seventh Session);
- **00-9 BFT:** Recommendation by ICCAT concerning bluefin tuna catch limits in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean;
- **00-14 Comply:** Recommendation by ICCAT regarding compliance with management measures which define quotas and/or catch limits;
- **00-17 Comply:** Recommendation by ICCAT concerning registration and exchange of information of fishing vessels fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area;
- **Recommendation by ICCAT (1999):** on the limitation of catches of bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean (UPDATE OF GFCM RESOLUTION 97/3);
- **Recommendation by ICCAT (1999):** concerning the changes of closed season for the purse seine fishery fishing for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea ;
- **Recommendation by ICCAT (1999):** on a supplemental management measure concerning age 0 bluefin tuna;
- **Resolution ICCAT :** 95/1 (rev.2000), 97/1, 97/3, 2000/1, 2000/2.

**APPENDIX D****Proposal of consolidated Terms of Reference for the Joint  
Ad Hoc GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Species****1. Mandate**

The mandate of the Joint *ad hoc* GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Species in the Mediterranean, as established in 1989, shall be amended so as to provide biological, social and economic and environmental information or independent advice on all aspects of related to the management of tuna and tuna like species in the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and connecting waters, respectively to the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and to the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

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

- Assess jointly scientific data provided by Members, by national experts or/and by any project or partner, concerning the Mediterranean tuna fisheries. The nature of data could be related to biological, socio-economic and environmental aspects as well as for the fishing effort;
- collect and analyze fleet statistics in the format and following the agreed criteria relative to the registers of vessels;
- identify cooperative research programs and monitor their implementation;
- undertake such other functions or responsibilities as may be conferred on it by the GFCM or ICCAT.

**2. *Modus operandi***

The Ad hoc Working group shall carry its duty in conformity with the relevant provision of the Rules of Procedure of GFCM and ICCAT. It shall, in particular:

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

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

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