

February 2008



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



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

Second Session of the Compliance Committee

Rome, Italy, 25-26 February 2008

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF GFCM DECISIONS BY THE MEMBERS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document summarizes the information provided through the annual national report on the implementation of GFCM decisions. It is recalled that the Compliance Committee (COC) was established in 2006 with the mandate to address issues such as reviewing compliance with conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and make such recommendations to the Commission as may be necessary to ensure their effectiveness. The identification of actions to be taken when recommendations are not implemented is also a part of the mandate of the Committee.

2. At its 31st Session, the Commission agreed that the Secretariat should provide a format for standardized reporting, and prepare a draft Resolution requiring Members to report prior to the next annual session. According to this decision, the Secretariat prepared a proposal for a standard format and the related draft Resolution (See document COC/2/2008/Inf.8).

II. SYNTHESIS OF INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT

3. The information regarding the management of the list of vessels authorised to operate in the GFCM Area, as received by the Secretariat is analysed in Document COC/2/2008/3. The status of reception and compilation of data is summarised as follows:

- Vessels over 15 metres authorized to operate in the GFCM area (*Recommendation GFCM/2005/2*).

4. The GFCM database related to the record of vessels over 15 metres authorised to operate in the GFCM area currently (as at 14/02/2008) includes data of 8540 vessels from sixteen countries (See summary table in Annex A). The quality of data received from countries varies and the reported authorized fishing period, for more than half of the vessels, has either expired or is not reported. An electronic data communication tool to enable a more efficient and standard reporting process as well as to perform automatic data validation routines was produced.

5. The Secretariat deems it important to highlight that, in order to ensure that the source of the transmission is secured, Contracting Parties should officially nominate the authority / authorities (possibly the name of the person/s) authorized to communicate data related to the authorized vessel list. In addition, it calls for instructions from the Commission in relation to publicizing the list through the GFCM website whilst considering data confidentiality issues contained in Recommendation GFCM/2006/7 and practices implemented by other Regional Fisheries Management Organisations.

- List of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities in the GFCM area (*Recommendation GFCM/31/2006/4*)

6. There were no reports received by the Secretariat during the intersessional period on vessels presumed to have carried out Illegal, Unreported or Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in the GFCM area.

- Establishment of a closed season for the dolphinfish fisheries based on fishing aggregation devices (FADs) (*Recommendation GFCM/2006/2*)

7. The Secretariat produced a standard Annual Reporting Form (available on the GFCM website) in connection with Article 5 of this Recommendation to assist Members involved in this fishery to submit an annual report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the management and monitoring measures specified in Articles 1, 2 and 3.

8. It should be noted that only four countries reported on the implementation of this Recommendation, albeit that two of these (Greece – 26/09/2007 and Cyprus – 15/10/2007) stated that no FAD fishery targeting dolphin fish was practiced in the respective countries. Libya reported (13/02/2008) that the traditional dolphinfish fishery operates within the permissible period as laid down in the Recommendation.

- Implementation of GFCM Task 1 Statistical Matrix (*Resolution GFCM/31/2007/1*)

9. No data has been received by the Secretariat to date. It is recalled that a specific tool to facilitate the compilation of this matrix was made available by the Secretariat. This tool was tested and updated during the Workshop organised by the Scientific Advisory Committee during the intersession.

III. SYNTHESIS OF THE REPORT RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT

10. So far (as at 18/02/2008), the Secretariat has received only 3 reports on the implementation of GFCM decisions namely by Algeria, Japan and Libya. The information was not provided on a standard way. It should be underlined that the importance for the Compliance Committee to receive in due time a standard report on the implementation of GFCM decisions by Members is a pre-requisite for COC to properly operate. The information received from the 3 mentioned Members is summarised in the table below.

11. Considering the limited information transmitted on the implementation of GFCM decisions which should be communicated by the members, it is not possible at this stage to draw conclusions regarding notably the compliance with conservation and management measures in the GFCM Area.

Reference of GFCM Measures	Scope	Implementing policy, legal or institutional framework
REC-GFCM/29/2005/2	Establishment of a GFCM record of vessels over 15 metres authorized to operate in the GFCM area	<p>Algeria: The list of authorised vessels has been transmitted to the GFCM Secretariat</p> <p>Japan: The list of authorised vessels has been transmitted to the GFCM Secretariat. This list includes all the Japanese large-scale tuna longline vessels. The number of longline vessels which actually operate in the GFCM Area is around 15 vessels recently (the total number of vessels reported is 416).</p> <p>Libya: The list of authorised vessels has been transmitted to the GFCM Secretariat.</p>
REC-GFCM/30/2006/2	Establishment of a closed season for the dolphin fish fisheries using fishing aggregation devices (FADs)	<p>Algeria: No fisheries targeting dolphin fish in Algeria</p> <p>Libya: Fishing season for the Dolphin fish (<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>), using either fish aggregation devices (FADs) and/or any other fish gear devices is traditionally starts in Libya on 31st of August and ends in December each year. Such fishing arrangement is in conformity with GFCM Recommendation GFCM/2006/2 as it coincides with the recommended prohibition period; i.e. from 1 January to 14 August of each year. Nevertheless, steps are being taken, in accordance with the relative current legislative measures, to legally ensure adoption of all the provisions included in this recommendation.</p>
REC-GFCM/30/2006/3	Establishment of fisheries restricted areas in order to protect the deep sea sensitive habitats	<p>Algeria: Some protected Areas were established in the past. They are identified in the national legislation.</p> <p>Libya: Libya is not concerned as the locations of the recommended fisheries restricted areas lie far away off the waters under its jurisdictions</p>
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	<p>Algeria: No vessel was identified.</p> <p>Libya: List being prepared as per the GFCM web site formats. It will be transmitted as soon as it has been finalized. In this context, perhaps it is worth reiterating that in the past a considerable number of vessels flying flags of different nationalities were caught fishing without authorizations in the waters under the Libyan national jurisdiction. Effective actions were taken against those vessels include prosecution, and imposition of actions of adequate severity.</p>
REC-GFCM/31/2007/1	Mesh size of trawlnets exploiting demersal resources	<p>Libya: The standing committee with a mandate to review the current law governing the exploitation of marine wealth (i.e. Law No. 14/1989) and its technical by-laws has drafted an amendment to the said by-law and incorporated this recommendation among its articles. However, all amendments including any deletions and/or additions have to be approved by the Secretariat of Agriculture, Husbandry and Marine Wealth prior to its implementation</p>
RES-GFCM/31/2007/1	Implementation of the GFCM task 1 statistical matrix	<p>Algeria: Noted some difficulties for the Statistics Service to compile this matrix and expressed wish to revise its methods of work to better deal with this matrix according to the available information.</p> <p>Libya: Some related indications were provided (N. of vessels by segment). Missing segments of the matrix - as appropriate- will be transmitted as soon as each segment and/or item is being re-prepared and classified in accordance with the GFCM matrix format</p>

IV. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE



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

Annex A

Data transmission on vessels authorized to operate in GFCM Area
(Recommendation GFCM/2005/2)
Status as at 19/02/2008

COUNTRY	DATE OF COMMUNICATION		NUMBER OF VESSELS	REMARKS
	MOST RECENT FULL LIST	AMENDMENTS		
Albania	16/11/2006	07/01/2008	131	
Algeria	27/01/2008		544	
Bulgaria	22/01/2008	28/01/2008 30/01/2008 12/02/2008	29	
Croatia	22/10/2007		378	
Cyprus	04/07/2007		18	
France	04/07/2007	03/12/2007	165	
Greece	04/07/2007	11/01/2008	637	
Italy	17/07/2007	08/10/2007 11/01/2008	2211	
Japan	12/02/2008		416	Only about 15 are currently operating in the Mediterranean (ref. national report)
Lebanon	27/08/2007		11	
Libya	16/01/2007		271	
Malta	04/07/2007	10/07/2007	57	
Morocco	07/01/2008		578	
Spain	17/07/2007	23/07/2007 08/10/2007 11/01/2008	1066	
Tunisia	20/09/2006		761	
Turkey	06/12/2007		1267	
Total			8540	

Data provided by Malta on the Dolphin fisheries using FADs

	Recommendation GFCM/2006/2 <i>Establishment of a closed season for the dolphin fish fisheries using Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs)</i>							
ANNUAL REPORTING FORM								
CORY-MLT2006								
		<table border="1"> <tr><td>Reporting Authority</td></tr> <tr><td>MCFS</td></tr> </table>	Reporting Authority	MCFS				
Reporting Authority								
MCFS								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country <input type="text" value="Malta"/> • Year <input type="text" value="2006"/> • Fishing period from <input type="text" value="15"/> August to <input type="text" value="31"/> December • Extension of fishing period into January of the following year? <input type="text" value="No"/> • GSAs (of fishing operation) <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 50%;"><input type="text" value="15 - Malta Island"/></td><td style="width: 50%;"><input type="text"/></td></tr> <tr><td><input type="text"/></td><td><input type="text"/></td></tr> <tr><td><input type="text"/></td><td><input type="text"/></td></tr> </table> • Total landings (tonnes) <input type="text" value="563.00"/> • Total transshipments (tonnes) <input type="text" value="0.00"/> • System of collection and treatment of catch and effort data? <input type="text" value="Yes"/> Specify: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">Fishmarket landings, catch assesment survey, census data/ questionnaire re number of FADs</div> 			<input type="text" value="15 - Malta Island"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text" value="15 - Malta Island"/>	<input type="text"/>							
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>							
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>							
OPTIONAL								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of vessels involved in the fishery <input type="text" value="108"/> • Total GT of vessels involved in the fishery <input type="text" value="1269.75"/> • Length range of vessels involved in the fishery (m) from <input type="text" value="5.9"/> to <input type="text" value="22.0"/> • Average length of vessels involved in the fishery (m) <input type="text" value="10.98"/> • Estimated total catch (tonnes) <input type="text" value="563.00"/> • Estimated total effort (number of FADs * number of fishing trips) <input type="text" value="1235124.00"/> <li style="text-align: right;">CPUE <input type="text" value="0.0005"/> • Average size of fish caught at the: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">a) beginning of season (mm) <input type="text" value="304"/></td> <td style="width: 50%;">b) end of the season (mm) <input type="text" value="464"/></td> </tr> </table> 			a) beginning of season (mm) <input type="text" value="304"/>	b) end of the season (mm) <input type="text" value="464"/>				
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Recommendation GFCM/2006/2
*Establishment of a closed season for the dolphin fish fisheries
 using Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs)*



ANNUAL REPORTING FORM

CORY-MLT2007

Reporting Authority

MCFS

- Country
- Year
- Fishing period from August to December
- Extension of fishing period into January of the following year?
- GSAs (of fishing operation)

<input type="text" value="15 - Malta Island"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
- Total landings (tonnes)
- Total transshipments (tonnes)
- System of collection and treatment of catch and effort data?
 Specify:

OPTIONAL

- Number of vessels involved in the fishery
- Total GT of vessels involved in the fishery
- Length range of vessels involved in the fishery (m) from to
- Average length of vessels involved in the fishery (m)
- Estimated total catch (tonnes)
- Estimated total effort (number of FADs * number of fishing trips)
- CPUE
- Average size of fish caught at the:

a) beginning of season (mm) <input type="text"/>	b) end of the season (mm) <input type="text"/>
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