



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



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GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

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**Management of the list of vessels authorized to operate
in the GFCM area**

I. Introduction

1. This document reports on the progress made by the Secretariat in establishing and maintaining the record of fishing vessels authorised to fish in the GFCM Convention Area, together with the state of affairs with respect to data received by Contracting Parties and their quality. Summary statistics are also presented and some considerations for the improved implementation of Recommendation GFCM/2005/2 are suggested.

II. Authorized Vessel List Database

2. During the intersessional period the Secretariat has developed and maintained a database on vessels over 15 metres authorised to operate in the GFCM area. It currently¹ includes data of a total of 8540 vessels from sixteen countries. The data imported are those which have passed the basic validation routines (codification standards, value ranges) incorporated in the data communication tool (available on the GFCM website) which has been developed to ensure standard and efficient reporting procedures. The quality of data received from reporting countries varies and table 1 shows the percentage coverage of data fields with validated data.

	FIELDS	NUMBER OF VESSELS	COVERAGE
1	Flag	8540	100.00%
2	Vessel name	8537	99.96%
3	Vessel Register Number	8162	95.57%
4	Previous name	28	0.33%
5	Previous flag	65	0.76%
6	Details of deletion	0	0.00%
7	IRCS	4622	54.12%
8	Vessel type	5233	61.28%
9	LOA	8532	99.91%

¹ As at 14th February 2008

	FIELDS	NUMBER OF VESSELS	COVERAGE
10	GRT	6658	77.96%
11	GT	5949	69.66%
12	Authorization: issuing date	4723	55.30%
13	Authorization: expiring date	4727	55.35%
14	Fishing gear	4741	55.52%
15	Owner name	6894	80.73%
16	Owner address	6332	74.15%
17	Operator name	4610	53.98%
18	Operator address	4610	53.98%

Table 1. Percentage coverage of data fields with validated data.

3. The current records show that Italy (2211), Turkey (1267) and Spain (1066) are the top three countries having the largest fleet above 15m in length, whilst Lebanon (11), Cyprus (18) and Bulgaria (29) have the smallest fleets in this length class. Figure 1 gives the number and percentage distribution of vessels by country. The majority (43.9%) of the fleet in the record form part of the 18 – 24 m length class, with only 28.1% of the fleet being over 24m in length overall (see figure 2).

Number of Vessels by GFCM countries

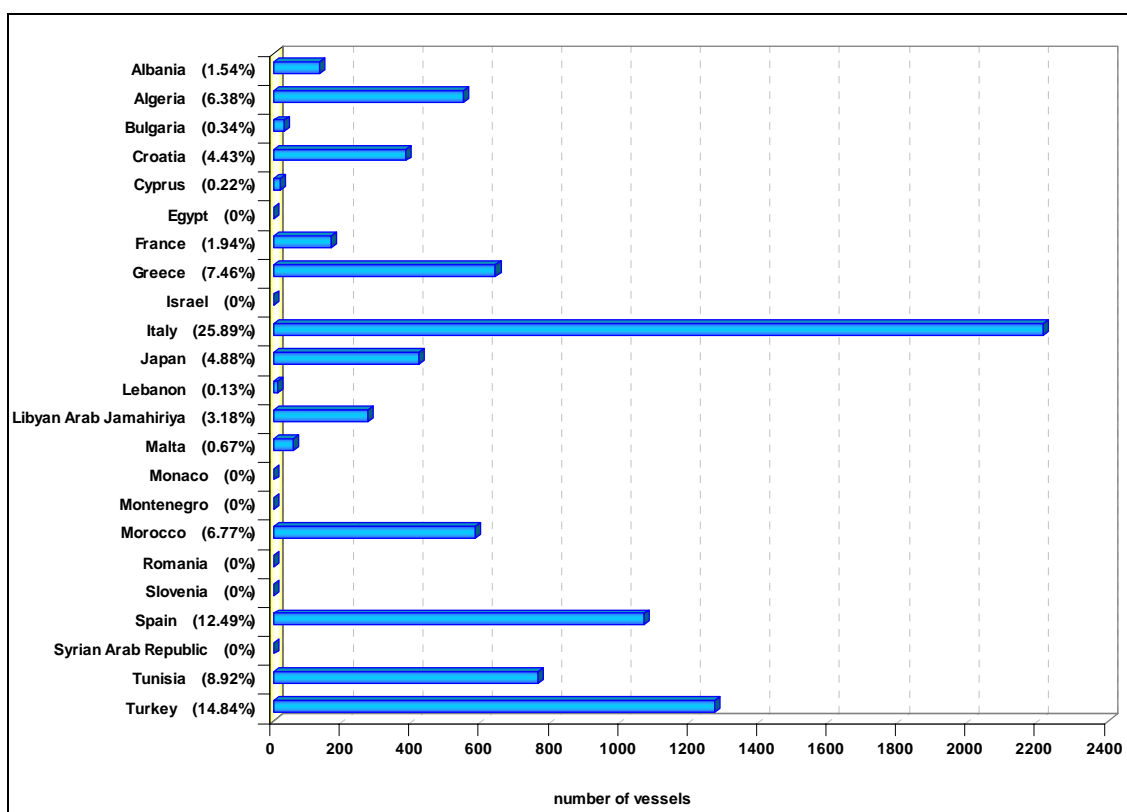


Figure 1. Number and percentage distribution of vessels in the Authorised Vessel List by country (total of 8540 vessels).

Fleet by Length Classes

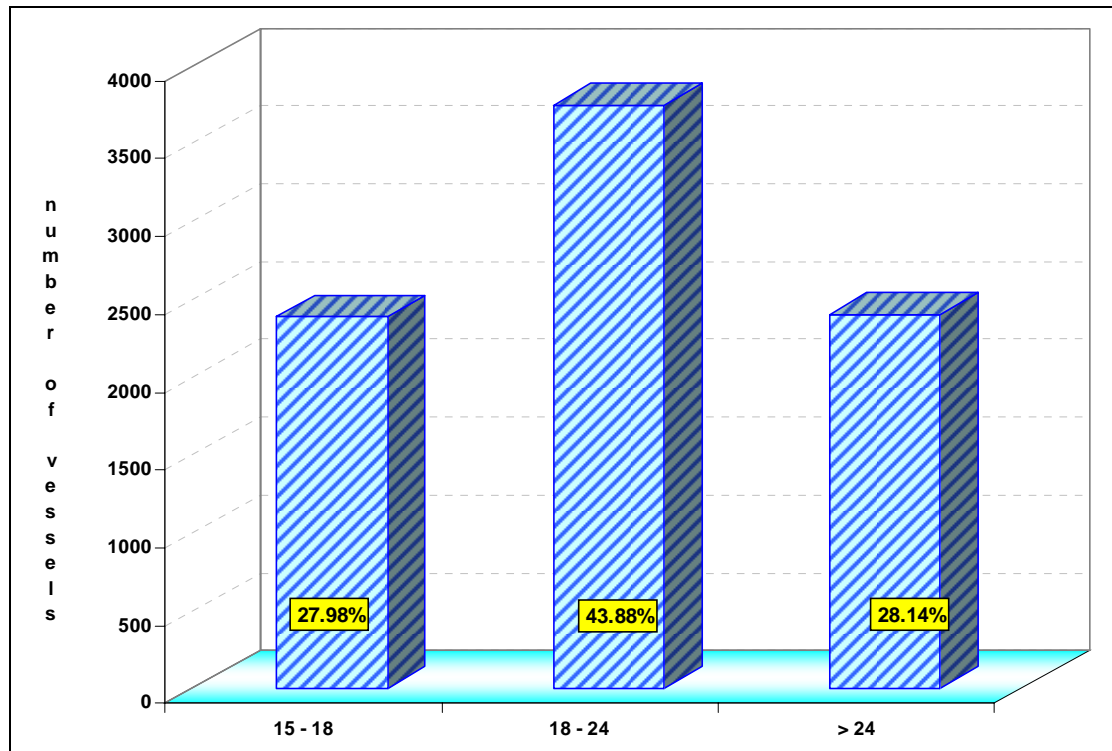


Figure 2. Length distribution of the vessels in the Authorized Vessel List (data of 8532 vessels – 99.9% of fleet).

4. The fleet is largely dominated by trawlers (65%) and purse seiners (16.5%) and the most common fishing gears deployed by these vessel types are bottom otter trawls and purse seines with purse lines respectively. Boat dredges, longlines and midwater otter trawls are also significantly represented in the list of registered main gears, together with passive and other traditional gears albeit in smaller quantities. Figure 3 and figure 4 give the distribution of the fleet by vessel type and the percentage distribution of registered main gears respectively.

Fleet by Vessel Type

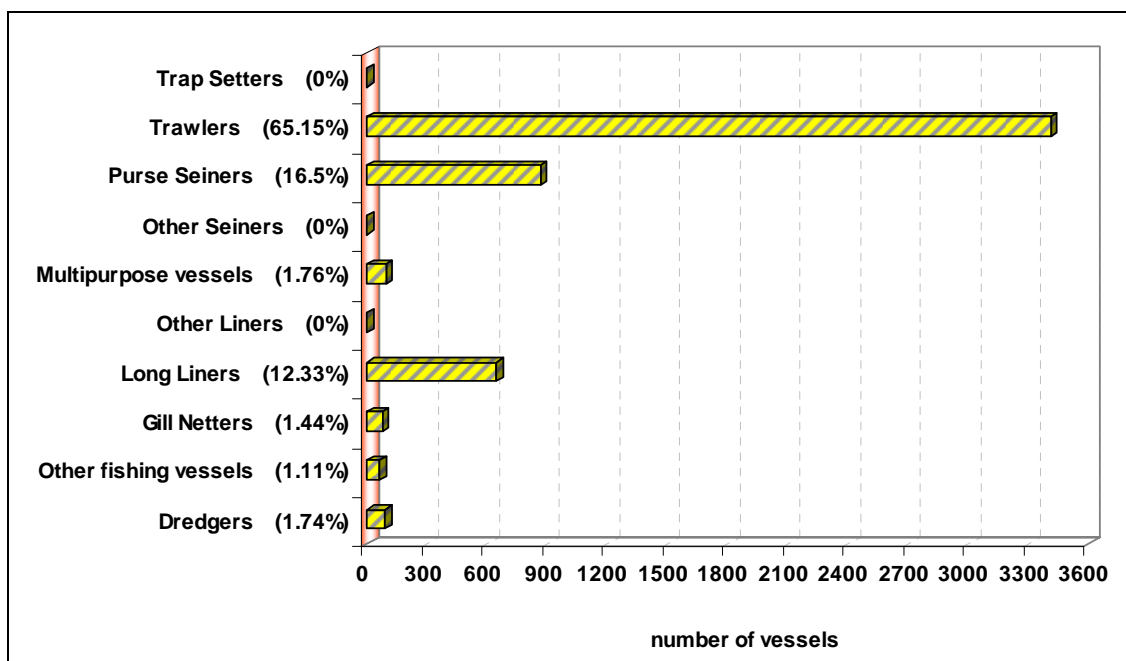


Figure 3. Distribution of vessels in the Authorized Vessel List by vessel type (data of 5233 vessels – 61.3% of fleet).

Fleet by Registered Main Fishing Gear

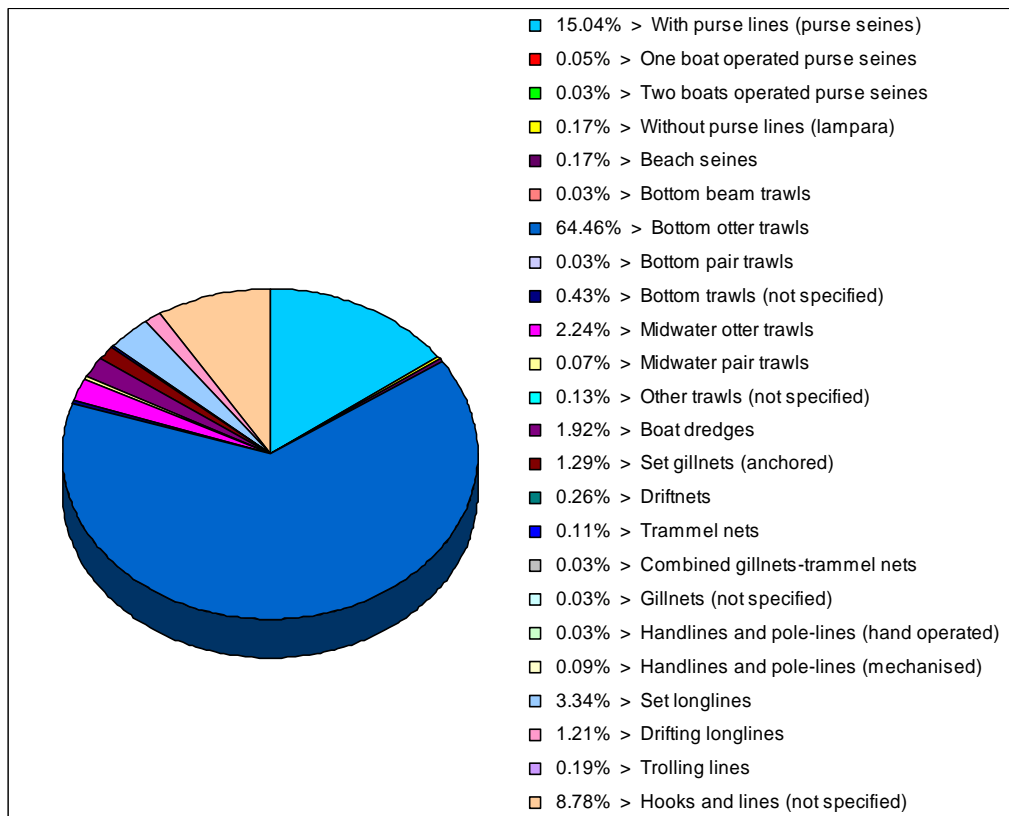


Figure 4. Percentage distribution of registered main gears (data of 4741 vessels – 55.5% of fleet).

5. It is important to note that the authorized fishing period is not always reported by countries and in some cases information on the extension of the authorized period has not been updated or communicated to the Secretariat. This results in having more than half of the vessels in the database for which the fishing authorisation period is either expired or is not reported. Figure 5 gives the number and percentage of vessels with a valid, expired or not specified authorised period.

Fleet by Authorized Period

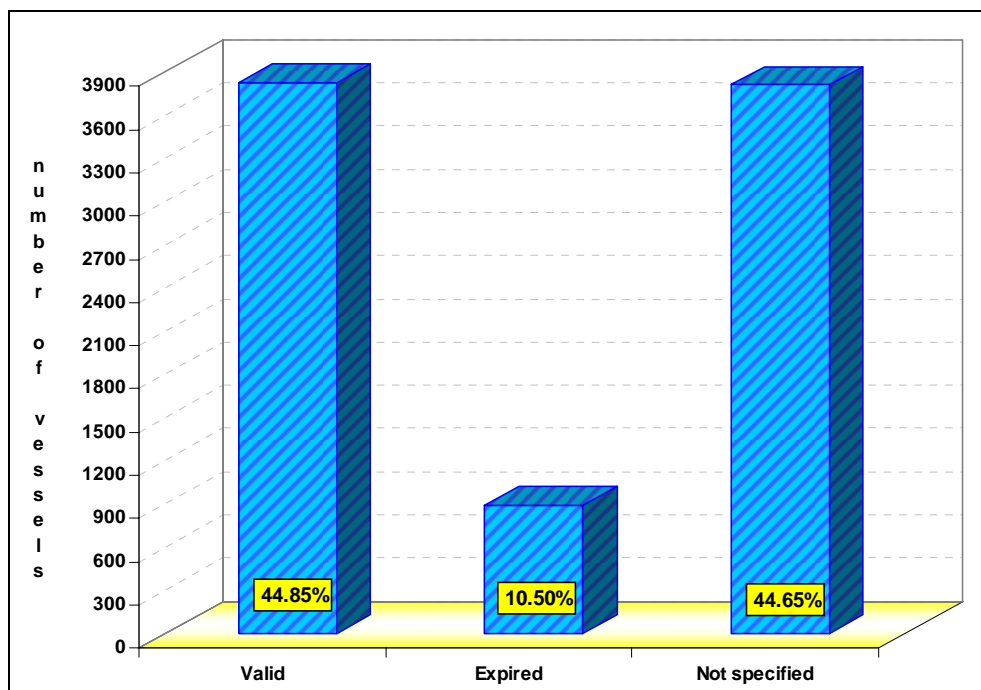


Figure 5. Record of status of authorized fishing period.

III. Suggested action by the Committee

6. In order to ensure that the source of the transmission is secure, the Committee is invited to consider that Contracting Parties officially nominate the authority/authorities (possibly the name of the person/s) authorized to communicate data related to the authorized vessel list. Furthermore, it may wish to encourage Contracting Parties to take the necessary steps to submit their Authorised Vessels List and any subsequent updates (additions, deletions and modifications) as appropriate and in a timely manner, in line with Article 3 of Recommendation GFCM/2005/2, using the available Electronic Data Communication Tool. It is also relevant to highlight Article 1 of the Recommendation which states that *"vessels larger than 15 meters in length overall not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship or land species covered by the Commission"*. Annex 1 lists the dates of the most recent data submissions by Contracting Parties.

7. Finally, the Committee may wish to provide guidance to the Secretariat 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. This is especially important in view of the implications which the Authorised Vessel List has on the implementation of Port State Measures (document COC/2/2008/Inf.9) as discussed during the recent workshop on this subject.

ANNEX 1

DATES OF MOST RECENT DATA SUBMISSIONS BY CONTRACTING PARTIES

COUNTRY	DATE OF COMMUNICATION	
	MOST RECENT FULL LIST	AMENDMENTS
Albania	16/11/2006	07/01/2008
Algeria	27/01/2008	
Bulgaria	22/01/2008	28/01/2008 30/01/2008 12/02/2008
Croatia	22/10/2007	
Cyprus	04/07/2007	
France	04/07/2007	03/12/2007
Greece	04/07/2007	11/01/2008
Italy	17/07/2007	08/10/2007 11/01/2008
Japan	12/02/2008	
Lebanon	27/08/2007	
Libya	16/01/2007	
Malta	04/07/2007	10/07/2007
Morocco	07/01/2008	
Spain	17/07/2007	23/07/2007 08/10/2007 11/01/2008
Tunisia	20/09/2006	
Turkey	06/12/2007	