



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



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GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

Second session of the Compliance Committee

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**Conclusions of the FAO/GFCM Workshop on Port State Measures to
Combat IUU Fishing
(Rome, Italy, 10-12 December 2007)**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Regional Workshop on Port State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing was held at FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy from 10 to 12 December 2007. The Workshop was attended by 20 participants from 13 GFCM Members.

2. The main objective of the Workshop was to consider GFCM Members coordinated efforts regarding the strengthening and the harmonization of port State measures in the near future and, as a result, build on the requirements of the General guidelines for a GFCM Control and Enforcement Scheme and implement the FAO Model Scheme. The Workshop took also into account the draft Agreement to Combat IUU Fishing that has been developed in the FAO Expert Consultation in Washington DC, USA, 4-8 September 2007, according to the decision of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 2007.

II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

3. The Workshop based its discussions on the responses to a questionnaire that was distributed by the GFCM Secretariat to Members in May 2007 (see document COC2/2008/Inf.7). In order to facilitate the review of GFCM Members' port State measures, the questionnaire was presented under headings that are consistent with those contained in the FAO Model Scheme and respondents were asked to indicate actions taken at the national level accordingly. In addition, existing laws and regulations enacted at national level by GFCM Members concerning port State measures were reported and compared to the provisions of the FAO Model Scheme. Though port State measures are generally considered by GFCM Members to be effective in controlling IUU fishing activities, the Workshop noted that national legislations of Members related to the FAO Model Scheme often need to be updated or amended and that harmonization of port State measures in the GFCM area should be ensured in the future.

4. Several issues, as identified in the various presentations made in the course of the Workshop, were highlighted as well as linkages between port State measures and selected compliance tools in the fight against IUU fishing. It was noted in particular that an effective regional register of vessels is a compliance tool that should be developed as a follow-up to the Recommendation GFCM/2006/4 establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing in the GFCM Area. Emphasis was also put on the need for a phased implementation of a vessel monitoring system (VMS) and attention was drawn to the draft GFCM Recommendation concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a vessel monitoring system in the GFCM area, as it is still under consideration by Members (see document GFCM:XXXII/2008/Inf.7).

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

5. Although the Workshop recognized that there is a great range of means and situations for implementation of port State measures, given the varying level of port State activities by GFCM Members and national provisions adopted in relation to port State controls, the need to design a draft regional scheme on port State measures for consideration by the Committee was identified. It was suggested that the draft regional scheme be based on the FAO Model Scheme and the Draft Agreement on port State measures referred to in paragraph 2, and that it also addresses the specificities of Mediterranean fisheries, including small fishing vessels.

6. A working draft for a GFCM Recommendation on a regional scheme on port State measures was prepared by the Secretariat, examined and amended by the Workshop. Underlying principles and elements identified in the course of discussions which were considered in the draft Recommendation, included:

- timing of prior notification requirement
- designated ports
- port access/use of port
- negative list of vessels
- vessels to be subject to port state inspection
- vessels engaged in small scale fisheries
- notification of denial of entry into port and other sanctions taken following inspections
- training of inspectors
- information systems on port State inspections
- transparency
- flag State role

7. Additional information was enclosed in five Annexes to the draft Recommendation under the following headings:

- Information to be provided in advance by vessels
- Port State Inspection Procedures for Vessels
- Training of Port State Inspectors
- Results of Port State Inspections
- Information System on port State Inspections

8. The Workshop recommended that the draft Recommendation (see document COC2/2008/Inf.9) be transmitted to the Committee for consideration at its Second Session and for possible forwarding to the Commission.

IV. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE

9. The Committee may wish to revise the draft proposal for a GFCM Recommendation on a Regional Scheme on Port State Measures to Combat IUU fishing in the GFCM area and provide further amendments, as deemed necessary.

10. The Committee is invited in particular to examine some of the pending issues in the draft Regional Scheme such as vessels to be subject to port State inspections and the treatment of vessels engaged in small-scale fisheries.