

January 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**

**DRAFT COMPENDIUM OF GFCM DECISIONS**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. This document was elaborated on the basis of the first draft Compendium reviewed by the first Session of the Compliance Committee held in January 2007. It was updated according to the indications provided in document GFCM:COC2/2008/4.

## **II. STRUCTURE OF THE COMPENDIUM**

2. The decisions presented in this Compendium were referenced as follows: **DECISION TYPE-GFCM/Session number/Session year/Order number**. For some decisions, a reference was made to the relevant paragraph of such corresponding GFCM reports.

3. The Compendium was structured according to the type and scope of the GFCM decisions:

### **I. Recommendations**

I.1. GFCM Recommendations on Conservation and Management Measures (CM)

I.2. GFCM Recommendations on Implementation and Compliance (IC)

I.3. ICCAT Recommendations of relevance for the Mediterranean

### **II. Resolutions**

### **III. Other decisions**

4. The acronyms used to identify the nature of the Commission's decisions are the following:

- **Rec.CM** : Recommendations on Conservation and Management;
- **Rec.IC** : Recommendations on Implementation and Compliance;
- **Rec.ICCAT** : ICCAT recommendations of relevance for the Mediterranean;
- **RES.** : Resolutions;
- **OTH.** : Other decisions.

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5. It is suggested that decisions likely to be considered as obsolete, superseded or not any more in force (i.e; not active) should not be retained in the Compendium. These decisions are listed in Appendix A for ease of reference. Other decisions marked with "\*" needs to be reviewed by the Committee to confirm that they are still in force.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision that was adopted as Resolution but with the legal scope of a Recommendation.

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<sup>2</sup> Decision that was adopted as Recommendation but it appears to have the legal scope of a Resolution.

<sup>3</sup> Rep stands for Report. See paragraph 96 of the Report of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session.

<sup>4</sup> Although this decision was adopted as a Recommendation, it is suggested that all decisions concerning terms of reference of Committees or subsidiary bodies of the Commission are classified under this category. See document COC/2/2008/4.

<sup>5</sup> See paragraph 76 of the Report of the 30<sup>th</sup> Session.

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<sup>6</sup> App.H stands for Appendix H. The General Guidelines are appended to the report of the 29<sup>th</sup> Session under the letter H.

<sup>7</sup> See paragraph 103 of the Report of the 29<sup>th</sup> Session.

<sup>8</sup> See paragraph 50 of the Report of the 19<sup>th</sup> Session.

**I. RECOMMENDATIONS**

***I.1 GFCM RECOMMENDATIONS ON CONSERVATION AND  
MANAGEMENT MEASURES (CM)***

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**REC.CM-GFCM/31/2007/1****MESH SIZE OF TRAWL NETS EXPLOITING DEMERSAL RESOURCES**

*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* Recommendation GFCM/29/2005/1 on the management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and deepwater species and, notably, Article 1 therein;

*REAFFIRMING* its commitment to further improve the selectivity of demersal trawl fisheries beyond that which is permitted by the 40 mm diamond mesh size with the view to ensure a better protection of juveniles of several species as well as to reduce discarding practices in a multispecies context;

*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;

*NOTING* that some local and seasonal trawl fisheries exploiting not-shared demersal stocks in coastal areas may need some more time to adjust to the diamond mesh size of 40 mm;

*RECOGNIZING* that from a socio-economic point of view it is necessary to avoid immediate disruption of those local and seasonal fisheries while ensuring their gradual phasing out;

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

1. By way of derogation from Article 1 of Recommendation GFCM/29/2005/1 establishing the immediate implementation of at least a 40 mm diamond mesh size for the whole codend of demersal trawlers, the Members of GFCM may continue authorizing, until 31 May 2010 only, the use of codend mesh size smaller than 40 mm to operate in certain local and seasonal demersal trawl fisheries exploiting not-shared demersal stocks.
2. The derogation referred to in Article 1 above shall apply only to fishing activities already formally authorized by the GFCM Members and shall not involve any future increase in fishing effort provided.
3. A list of authorized fishing vessels involved in the fisheries, referred to in paragraph 1, and their characteristics together with the indication of the exploited resources and mesh size characteristics shall be communicated to the Secretariat at least two months before the next 32nd Session of the GFCM.

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**REC.CM-GFCM/31/2007/2****PELAGOS SANCTUARY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MARINE MAMMALS**

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

*RECALLING* that establishing close or specially regulated fishing areas is recognized to be one of the measures for the reconstitutions of marine fish stocks;

*RECALLING* also that sustainable management of fish stocks is closely linked with and may benefit from, the conservation of other marine biodiversity components and in particular high trophic level species;

*NOTING* that an Intergovernmental “Agreement related to the creation in the Mediterranean of a Sanctuary for Marine Mammals” hereafter named the “Pelagos Agreement”, extends, *inter alia*, on waters beyond national sovereignties or jurisdictions of the coastal States (as in Annex 1);

*NOTING* also the wishes expressed by the Pelagos Agreement Contracting Parties to cooperate with the GFCM in matters related to fisheries issues;

*TAKING NOTE* of the measures, attached to this Intergovernmental Agreement, related to fisheries matters, in particular Article 7 (b) and (c) by which the Pelagos Contracting Parties:

1. Will comply with the international regulations and those of the European Community (EC), regarding the use and the keeping of fishing equipment known as “pelagic drift net”,
2. Will exchange their view, as deemed necessary, to promote in the appropriate fora and after scientific evaluation, the adoption of regulations relating to the use of new fishing equipment that could result in the indirect capture of marine mammals or that could endanger their sources of prey, while also considering the risk of loss or of deliberate disposal of fishing equipment at sea.

*NOTING* also that the Pelagos Sanctuary, as a Specially Protected Area, refers to the UNEP/CMS/ACCOBAMS Agreement and was recognized by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention’s “Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean” as Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) and as such the Contracting Parties to this Protocol agree (Article 8.3.b) “to comply with the measures applicable to the SPAMI and not to authorize nor undertake any activities that might be contrary to the objectives for which the SPAMIs were established”;

*CONSIDERING* that most of the GFCM Mediterranean Riparian States and the EU are Parties to one or both of the agreements mentioned above and that the Conservation Plan adopted by the Pelagos Contracting Parties refers to the competence of the GFCM, as far as fisheries measures are concerned;

*CONSIDERING* also the Recommendation GFCM/30/2006/5 related to the criteria for obtaining the status of cooperating non-contracting party in the GFCM area;

*NOTING* the interests of the Pelagos Sanctuary as an ecosystem approach experimental zone;

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



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1. The GFCM Secretariat is requested to cooperate with the Pelagos Secretariat on the exchange of data and each would report to its respective Governing Body.

### ANNEX 1

Excerpt of the “Agreement related to the creation in the Mediterranean of a Sanctuary for Marine Mammals”:

#### Article 3

The sanctuary is composed of maritime areas situated within the internal waters and territorial seas of the French Republic, the Italian Republic and the Principality of Monaco, as well as portions of adjacent high seas. The limits of the sanctuary are the following:

- to the west, a line extending from Point Escampobariou (western point of the Giens peninsula: 43° 01' 70" N, 06° 05' 90" E) to Cape Falcone, situated on the western coast of the island of Sardinia (40° 58' 00" N, 008° 12' 00" E),
- to the east, a line extending from Cape Ferro, situated on the north-eastern coast of Sardinia (41° 09' 18" N, 009° 31' 18" E) to Fosso Chiarone, situated on the western Italian coast (42° 21' 24" N, 011° 31' 00" E).

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

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

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

*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

39° 27.80' N, 18° 26.68' E

39° 11.16' N, 18° 04.28' E

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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.CM-GFCM/29/2005/1****MANAGEMENT OF CERTAIN FISHERIES EXPLOITING  
DEMERSAL AND DEEPWATER SPECIES**

*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**

1. 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**

2. 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.

3. 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.CM-GFCM/27/2002/1****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.CM-GFCM/26/2001/1****SUSTAINABILITY OF THE BLUEFIN TUNA RESOURCES INCLUDING  
DEVELOPMENTS IN THEIR PENNING/FARMING ACTIVITIES  
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

*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:

1. 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.

\* *REC.CM-GFCM/22/1997/1*

*LIMITATION OF THE USE OF DRIFNETS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN*

*(Original decision: Resolution 97/1<sup>9</sup>)*

*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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<sup>9</sup> Report of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of GFCM (Appendix G)

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**\* REC.CM-GFCM/18/1986/1**

***FISHING EFFORT CONTROL***

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.

**\* REC.CM-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.

**\* REC.CM-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.CM-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.CM-GFCM/13/1976/2*****TRAINING ON DISSEMINATION CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF METHODS  
FOR THE EVALUATION OF STOCKS****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.CM-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**

*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.

***1.2. GFCM RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE (IC)***

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**REC.IC-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**

*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.

8. On adoption of the list, the Commission shall request non-Contracting Parties, whose vessels appear on the IUU list:

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- 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;
- 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.

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

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

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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.



*REC.IC-GFCM/30/2006/6***DATA CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

*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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**REC.IC-GFCM/29/2005/2****CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GFCM RECORD  
OF VESSELS OVER 15 METRES AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE IN THE GFCM AREA**

*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

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.

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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.
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

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adverse effects might consist of excessive fishing pressure resulting from a shift of the IUU vessels from the Mediterranean to other seas or oceans.

***1.3. ICCAT RECOMMENDATIONS OF RELEVANCE  
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN***

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**REC.ICCAT-GFCM/31/2007/3(A)****ICCAT RECOMMENDATION [06-05] TO ESTABLISH A MULTI-ANNUAL RECOVERY PLAN FOR BULEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN**

*RECOGNIZING* that the Commission's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) has indicated in its 2006 stock assessment that the spawning stock biomass (SSB) for bluefin tuna continues to decline, while fishing mortality is increasing rapidly, especially for large fish,

*NOTING* that the SCRS has indicated a possible collapse of the stocks in the near future unless adequate management measures are implemented, in view of its estimation of the combined fishing capacity of all fleets and the current fishing mortality rates,

*CONSCIOUS* that in order to reverse these declines in spawning biomass and to initiate recovery, the SCRS recommends substantial reductions in fishing mortality and catch,

*CONSIDERING* that the SCRS has pointed out that management actions are also needed to mitigate the impacts of over-capacity, as well as to eliminate illegal fishing,

*NOTING* that the objective of the Convention is to maintain tuna populations at levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY),

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the stock recovery scenarios developed by SCRS based on the stock assessment carried out in 2006,

*DESIRING* to achieve a stock level consistent with the objectives of the Convention within 15 years,

*CONVINCED* that to achieve those objectives, it is necessary to implement a coherent Recovery Plan for that stock over a fifteen year period. The objective is to recover the stock through a combination of measures which will protect the spawning stock biomass and reduce the juvenile catches,

*NOTING* that the measures included in the Multi-Annual Recovery Plan should be considered as specific emergency measures to address the status of bluefin stock,

*NOTING* that a substantial reduction of the fishing mortality, both on juveniles and adult fish could be obtained in a first stage by a combination of closed fishing seasons and increased minimum size,

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

*RECOGNIZING* that the success of the Recovery Plan involves the implementation by ICCAT of an appropriate system of control which should include a set of effective control measures to ensure the respect of the management measures, in particular TAC and quotas, closed seasons and minimum size and the regulation of the caging operations,

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

*CONSIDERING* the responsibility of flag States, port States, farm States and market States to ensure compliance with the present Recommendation,

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*GIVEN* the need to assess and address overcapacity in fleets participating in many ICCAT fisheries and seeking eventually to develop effective ways to address this problem in a comprehensive manner, in particular in the eastern and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery, in the framework of the Capacity Working Group that will meet in 2007,

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

*RECOMMENDS THAT:*

### **Part I General provisions**

1. The Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs), whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean shall implement a 15 year Recovery Plan for bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean starting in 2007 and continuing through 2022, with the goal of achieving Bmsy, with greater than 50% probability. Each CPC shall adjust its fishing effort commensurate with available fishing opportunities fixed in accordance with this Plan.
2. In 2008 this Recovery Plan shall be reviewed and may be adjusted, notably, on the basis of subsequent SCRS advice.
3. For the purposes of this Plan:
  - a) "Fishing vessel" means any vessel used or intended for use for the purposes of the commercial exploitation of tuna resources, included fish processing vessels and vessels engaged in transshipment;
  - b) "Joint fishing operation" means any operations between two or more vessels flying the flag of different CPCs where catch is transferred from the fishing gear of one vessel to another;
  - c) "Transfer activities" means any transfer of bluefin tuna
    - from the fishing vessel to the end fattening bluefin tuna farm, including for the fish dead or escaped during the transport,
    - from a bluefin tuna farm or a tuna trap to a processing vessel, transport vessel or to land.
  - d) "Tuna trap" means fixed gear anchored to the bottom usually containing a guide net that leads fish into an enclosure.
  - e) "Caging" means that bluefin tuna is not taken on board and includes both fattening and farming,
  - f) "Fattening" means caging of bluefin tuna for a short period (usually 2-6 months) aiming mostly at increasing the fat content of the fish,
  - g) "Farming" means caging of bluefin tuna for a period longer than one year, aiming to increase the total biomass,
  - h) "Transshipment" means the unloading of all or any of the fish on board a fishing vessel to another fishing vessel at port,
  - i) "Processing vessel" means a vessel on board of which fisheries products are subject to one or more of the following operations, prior to their packaging: filleting or slicing, freezing and/or transformation,
  - j) "Sport fishery" means a non-commercial fishery whose members adhere to a national sport organisation or are issued with a national sport licence.
  - k) "Recreational fishery" means a non-commercial fishery whose members do not adhere to a national sport organisation or are not issued with a national sport licence.

### **Part II Management measures**

#### **TAC and quotas**



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4. The total allowable catches (TACs) are fixed:
  - 2007: 29,500 t,
  - 2008: 28,500 t,
  - 2009: 27,500 t,
  - 2010: 25,500 t.
5. The TACs for subsequent years shall be established taking into account the progress made in the rebuilding of the stock.
6. The SCRS shall monitor and review the progress of the Plan and submit an assessment to the Commission for the first time in 2008, and each two years thereafter.
7. The TAC for 2009 and 2010 may be adjusted following the SCRS advice. The relative shares shall remain unchanged for 2010 from those in the current Recommendation.
8. To establish a fair and equitable allocation of the quota in the bluefin tuna fishery in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, an allocation scheme for a four-year period, starting in 2007, shall be established at a meeting to be convened in early 2007.

#### **Associated conditions to TAC and Quotas**

9. Each CPC may allocate its bluefin tuna quota to its fishing vessels and traps authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna.
10. No carry-over of any under-harvests shall be made under this Plan. By derogation to paragraph 4 of the 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning a Multi-year Conservation and Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 02-08], no more than 50 % carry-over of any under-harvests arising from 2005 and/or 2006 may be made under this Plan. Paragraph 2 of the 1996 *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* [Rec. 96-14] shall not apply for the overages in 2005 and 2006.
11. Private trade arrangements and or transfer of quotas/catch limits between CPCs shall be done only under authorisation by the CPCs concerned and the Commission.
12. To comply with paragraph 1 of 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering* [Rec. 02-21], the percentage of a CPC's bluefin tuna quota/catch limit that may be used for chartering shall not exceed 60%, 40% and 20% of the total quota in 2007, 2008, 2009, respectively. No chartering operation for the bluefin tuna fishery is permitted in 2010.  
By derogation of paragraph 3 of the 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering* [Rec. 02-21], only bluefin tuna fishing vessels flying the flag of a CPC can be chartered.  
The number of bluefin tuna fishing vessels chartered and the duration of the charter shall be commensurate with the quota allocated to the charter nation.
13. Joint fishing operations for bluefin tuna shall only be authorised with the consent of flag States. Detailed information shall be provided to the flag State of the fishing vessel participating in the joint fishing operation related to the duration and the composition of the operators involved in the joint operation. This information shall be transmitted by the concerned flag State to the ICCAT Secretariat.

#### **Closed fishing seasons**

14. Bluefin tuna fishing shall be prohibited in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean by large-scale pelagic longline vessels over 24 m during the period from 1 June to 31 December, with the exception of the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N.
15. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be prohibited in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 1 July to 31 December.
16. Bluefin tuna fishing by baitboats shall be prohibited in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 15 November to 15 May.
17. Bluefin tuna fishing by pelagic trawlers shall be prohibited in the East Atlantic during the period from 15 November to 15 May.

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### **Use of aircraft**

18. CPCs shall take necessary measures to prohibit the use of airplanes or helicopters for searching for bluefin tuna in the Convention area.

### **Minimum size**

19. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus thynnus*) weighing less than 30 kg.

20. By derogation to paragraph 19 above and without prejudice to paragraph 21, a minimum size for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus thynnus*) of 8 kg shall apply to the following situations:

- a) Bluefin tuna caught by baitboats, trolling boats and pelagic trawlers in the eastern Atlantic shall be authorised in accordance with the procedures set out in Annex 1.
- b) Bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes.

### **By-catch**

21. A by-catch of maximum 8% of bluefin tuna shall be authorized to fishing vessels, fishing actively or not for bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg and no less than 10 kg. This percentage is calculated on the total of these incidental by-catches in number of fish per landing of the total bluefin tuna catches of these vessels, or their equivalent in percentage in weight. By-catch must be deducted from the quota of the flag State CPC. The discard of dead fish shall be prohibited and shall be deducted from the quota of the flag State CPC. The procedures referred to in Annex 1, paragraph 7 and 8, apply to the landing of by-catch.

### **Recreational fisheries**

22. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than one piece in each sea trip.

23. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational fishing is prohibited except for charitable purposes.

24. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data from recreational fishing and transmit them to the SCRS.

25. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of bluefin tuna caught alive, especially juveniles, in the framework of recreational fishing.

### **Sport fisheries**

26. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to regulate sport fishing, notably by fishing authorisations.

27. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in sport fishing competitions is prohibited except for charitable purposes.

28. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data from sport fishing and transmit them to the SCRS.

29. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of the bluefin tuna caught alive, especially juveniles, in the framework of sport fishing.

## **Part III Control measures**

### **ICCAT record of vessels authorized to fish for bluefin tuna**

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30. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all fishing vessels authorised to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. For the purposes of this recommendation fishing vessels not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer or land bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

31. Each CPC shall submit electronically, where possible, to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, by 1 June 2007, the list of its vessels authorized to fish for bluefin tuna referred to in paragraph 30.

32. Conditions and procedures referred in the 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels Over 24 Meters Authorised to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 02-22] apply *mutatis mutandis*.

#### **ICCAT record of tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna**

33. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. For the purposes of this recommendation, tuna traps not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to be used to fish for, retain, tranship or land bluefin tuna.

34. Each CPC shall submit electronically, where possible to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, by 1 June 2007, the list (including the name of the traps, register number) of its authorized tuna traps referred to in paragraph 33. Conditions and procedures referred in the 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels Over 24 Meters Authorised to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 02-22] apply *mutatis mutandis*.

#### **Transshipment**

35. Transshipment at sea operations of bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea shall be prohibited, except for fishing vessels operating in accordance with Recommendation 06-11.

Authorised vessels may only tranship bluefin tuna catches in designated ports. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which transshipping of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 June 2007. Each CPC shall transmit to the ICCAT Secretariat any subsequent changes in the list at least 15 days before their entry into force. On the basis of this information the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.

Prior to entry into any port, the receiving vessels (catching vessel or processing vessel) or their representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the Port State or authorities of the State where the farm is located, at least 48 h before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:

- a) estimated time of arrival,
- b) estimated quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board,
- c) information on the geographic area where the catches were taken;
- d) the name of the catching vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of authorised fishing vessels for bluefin tuna,
- e) the name of the receiving vessel, its number in the ICCAT record of authorised fishing vessels for bluefin tuna,
- f) the tonnage of bluefin tuna to be transhipped,
- g) the geographic area of the tuna catches

Any transshipment requires the prior authorisation from the flag State of the catching fishing vessel concerned.

The master of the catching vessel shall, at the time of the transshipment, inform its Flag State of the following:

- a) the quantities of bluefin tuna involved,
- b) the date and port of the transshipment,

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- c) the name, registration number and flag of the receiving vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of authorized fishing vessels for bluefin tuna,
- d) the geographical area of the tuna catches

The relevant authority of the port State or of the flag CPC shall inspect the receiving vessel on arrival and check the cargo and documentation related to the transshipment operation.

The relevant authority of the Port State or of the flag CPC shall send a record of the transshipment to the flag State authority of the catching vessel, within 48 hours after the transshipment has ended.

### **Recording requirements**

36. The masters of authorized fishing vessels catching bluefin tuna shall keep a bound or electronic logbook of their operations, indicating particularly the quantities of bluefin tuna caught and kept on board, whether the catches are weighted or estimated, the date and location of such catches and the type of gear used set out in Annex 2.

37. The master of the vessel engaged in a joint fishing operation shall record in its logbook:

- a) where the catch is taken on board or transferred into cages:
  - the date and the time,
  - the location (longitude/latitude),
  - amount of catches taken on board, or transferred into cages,
  - the name and international radio call sign of the fishing vessel by whose gear the catch has been taken,
- b) where the catch is not taken on board or is in a net before transfer activities or transferred into cages:
  - the date and the time,
  - the location (longitude/latitude),
  - that no catches have been taken on board or transferred into cages,
  - the name and international radio call sign of the catching fishing vessel by whose gear the catch has been taken.

38. Authorised vessels may only land bluefin tuna catches in designated ports. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which landing of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 June 2007. Each CPC shall transmit to the ICCAT Secretariat any subsequent changes in the list at least 15 days before their entry into force. On the basis of this information the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.

Prior to entry into any port, the fishing vessels or their representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the port, at least 4h before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:

- a) estimated time of arrival,
- b) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board,
- c) information on the zone where the catches were taken;

Each landing or caging shall be subject to an inspection by the relevant authorities of the port. The relevant authority shall send a record of the landing to the flag State authority of the vessel, within 48 hours after the landing has ended. After each trip and within 48 h of landing, the masters of authorised vessels fishing for bluefin tuna shall submit a landing declaration to the competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to its flag State. The master of the authorised vessel shall be responsible for the accuracy of the declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum, the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated.

39. The masters of authorised fishing vessels for bluefin tuna shall complete and transmit to their flag State the ICCAT transshipment declaration no later than 15 days after the date of transshipment in port in accordance with the format set out in Annex 3.

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### Communication of catches

40. Each CPC shall ensure that its authorised vessels engaged in fishing activities for bluefin tuna shall communicate by electronic, or other means, to its competent authorities, which shall transmit without delay, to the ICCAT Secretariat, the following report:

- a) Quantities of bluefin tuna, including nil catch returns. This report shall for the first time be transmitted at the latest at the end of the ten days after the entry into the Plan Area or after the beginning of the fishing trip. In the case of joint operations the master shall indicate to which vessel or vessels the catches are attributed, to be counted against the quota of the flag State.
- b) From 1 June of each year, the masters shall transmit the report referred to in point a) on a five-day basis.

### Reporting of catches

41. Each CPC shall report its provisional monthly catches of bluefin tuna. This report shall be sent to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catches were made.

42. The ICCAT Secretariat shall within 10 days following the monthly deadlines for receipt of the provisional catch statistics collect the information received and circulate it to CPCs together with aggregated catch statistics.

43. The Executive Secretary shall notify without delay all CPCs of the date on which the accumulative reported catch taken by vessels of the CPCs is estimated to equal 85% of the concerned CPC quota for this stock. The CPC shall take the necessary measures to close its bluefin tuna fisheries before its quota is exhausted and notify this closure without delay to the ICCAT Secretariat which will circulate this information to all CPCs.

### Cross check

44. CPCs shall verify, including by using VMS data, the submission of logbooks and relevant information recorded in the logbooks of their vessels, in the transfer/transshipment document and in the catch documents. The competent authorities shall carry out administrative cross checks on all landings, all transshipment or caging between the quantities by species recorded in the vessel logbook or quantities by species recorded in the transshipment declaration and the quantities recorded in the landing declaration or caging declaration, and any other relevant document, such as invoice and/or sales notes.

### Caging operations

45. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall submit within one week a caging report, validated by an observer, to the CPC whose flag vessels has fished the tuna and to the ICCAT Secretariat. This report shall contain the information referred to in the caging declaration as set out in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 06-07].

When the farming facilities authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area (hereafter referred to as FFB's) are located beyond waters under jurisdiction of CPCs, the provisions of the previous paragraph shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to CPCs where the natural or legal persons responsible for FFB's are located.

46. Before any transfer activity, the flag state of the catching vessel shall be informed by the competent authority of the farm State of the transfer into cage of quantities caught by fishing vessels flying its flag. If the flag State of the catching vessel considers on receipt of this information that:

- a) the fishing vessel declared to have caught the fish had not sufficient quota for bluefin tuna put into the cage,
- b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported and not taken into account for the calculation of any quota that may be applicable,
- c) the fishing vessel declared to have caught the fish is not authorised to fish for bluefin tuna,

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it shall inform the competent authority of the farm State to proceed to the seizure of the catches and the release of the fish into the sea.

47. The master of authorised fishing vessels for bluefin tuna shall complete and transmit to their flag State the ICCAT transfer declaration not later than 15 days after the date of transfer to tug vessels or to the cage, in accordance with the format set out in Annex 3.

The transfer declaration shall accompany the transferred fish during transport to the cage.

#### **Trap activities**

48. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure the record of the catches after the end of every fishing operation and the transmission of this data simultaneously by electronic means or other means within 48 hours after the end of every fishing operation to the competent authority, which shall transmit these data without delay to the ICCAT Secretariat.

#### **VMS**

49. CPCs shall implement a vessels monitoring system for its bluefin tuna fishing vessels over 24 m referred to in paragraph 30, in accordance with 2003 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area*. With effect from 1 January 2010 this measure shall be applied to bluefin tuna fishing vessels over 15 m. Not later than 31 January 2008, each CPC shall communicate without delay messages pursuant to this paragraph to the ICCAT Secretariat, in accordance with the data exchange formats and protocols adopted by the Commission in 2007.

#### **Observer programme**

50. Each CPC shall ensure observer coverage on its fishing vessels over 15 m in length of at least:

- 20% of its active purse seine vessels In the case of joint fishing operations, an observer shall be present during the fishing operation,
- 20% of its active pelagic trawlers,
- 20% of its active longline vessels,
- 20% of its active baitboats,
- 100% during the harvesting process for tuna traps.

The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

- monitor a vessel compliance with the present recommendation,
- record and report upon the fishing activity,
- observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook,
- sight and record vessels which may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation measures.

In addition, the observer shall carry out scientific work, such as collecting Task II data, when required by the Commission, based on the instructions from the SCRS.

51. Each CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall ensure an observer presence during all transfer of bluefin tuna to the cages and all harvest of fish from the cage. The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

- observe and monitor farming operation compliance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 06-07],
- validate the caging report referred to in paragraph 45,
- carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission based on the directions from the SCRS.

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### **Enforcement**

52. CPCs shall take enforcement measures with respect to a vessel, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that the fishing vessel flying its flag does not comply with the provisions of paragraphs 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 36, 37, 38 and 39 (closed seasons, minimum size and reporting requirements). The measures may include in particular depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law:

- fines,
- seizure of illegal fishing gear and catches,
- sequestration of the vessel,
- suspension or withdrawal of authorisation to fish,
- reduction or withdrawal of the fishing quota, if applicable.

53. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall take enforcement measures with respect to a farm, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that this farm does not comply with the provisions of paragraphs 45, 46 and 51 (caging operations and observers) and with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 06-07]. The measures may include in particular depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law:

- fines,
- suspension or withdrawal of the record of FFBS,
- prohibition to put into cages or market quantities of bluefin tuna.

### **Market measures**

54. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, exporting and importing CPCs shall take the necessary measures:

- to prohibit domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species that are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation required by this Recommendation.
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, placing in cages for farming, processing, exports, re-exports and the transshipment within their jurisdiction, of eastern and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species caught by fishing vessels whose flag State either does not have a quota, catch limit or allocation of fishing effort for that species, under the terms of ICCAT management and conservation measures, or when the flag State fishing possibilities are exhausted.
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, processing, exports from farms that do not comply with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 06-07].

### **Conversion factors**

55. The conversion factors adopted by SCRS shall apply to calculate the equivalent round weight of the processed bluefin tuna.

## **Part IV ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection**

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56. In the framework of the multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna, each CPC agrees, in accordance with Article 9, paragraph 3, of the ICCAT Convention, to apply the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection adopted during its fourth Regular Meeting, held in November 1975 in Madrid<sup>10</sup>.

57. The Scheme referred to in paragraph 56 shall apply until ICCAT adopts a monitoring, control and surveillance scheme which will include an ICCAT scheme for joint international inspection, based on the results of the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group, established by Resolution 00-20.

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<sup>10</sup> Note from the Secretariat: (See Appendix II to Annex 7 in *Report for Biennial Period, 1974-75, Part II (1975)*).



## ANNEX 1

**Specific conditions applying to baitboat, trolling boat and pelagic trawler fisheries in the eastern Atlantic**

1. CPCs shall limit the maximum number of its baitboat and trolling boats authorized to fish bluefin tuna to the number of the vessels participating in directed fishery for bluefin tuna in 2006.
2. CPCs shall limit the maximum number of its pelagic trawler vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna as by- catch.
3. By 1 June 2007, CPCs shall submit to ICCAT Secretariat, the number of fishing vessels established pursuant to paragraph 1 and 2 of this Annex.
4. CPCs shall issue specific authorisations to baitboat, trolling boat and pelagic trawler vessels fishing for bluefin tuna and shall transmit the list of such vessels to ICCAT Secretariat.
5. Each CPC shall allocate no more than 10% of its quota for bluefin tuna among these authorised vessels, with up to a maximum of 200 t of bluefin tuna weighing no less than 6,4 kg caught by baitboat vessels of an overall length of less than 17 m.
6. Each CPC may allocate no more than 2% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its coastal artisanal fishery for fresh fish.
7. Authorised vessels may only land bluefin tuna catches in designated ports. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which landing of bluefin tuna is authorised and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 June 2007. Each CPC shall transmit to the ICCAT Secretariat any subsequent changes in the list at least 15 days before their entry into force. On the basis of this information the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website for these fisheries.
8. Prior to entry into any designated port, authorised vessels or their representative, shall provide the competent port authorities at least 4 h before the estimated time of arrival with the following:
  - a) estimated time of arrival,
  - b) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board,
  - c) information on the zone where the catches were taken;

Each landing shall be subjected to an inspection in port.

9. CPCs shall implement a catch reporting regime that ensures that effective monitoring of the utilisation of each vessels quota.
10. Bluefin tuna catches may not be offered for retail sale to the final consumer, irrespective of the marketing method, unless appropriate marking or labelling indicates:
  - a) the species, fishing gear used,
  - b) the catch area and date.
11. Beginning 1 July 2007, CPCs whose baitboats are authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic shall institute tail tag requirements as follows:
  - a) Tail tags must be affixed on each bluefin tuna immediately upon offloading.
  - b) Each tail tag shall have a unique identification number and be included on bluefin tuna statistical documents and written on the outside of any package containing tuna.

**ANNEX 2****Minimum specification for logbooks:**

1. The logbook must be numbered by sheets.
2. The logbook must be filled in every day (midnight) or before port arrival.
3. The logbook must be completed in case of at sea inspections.
4. One copy of the sheets must remain attached to the logbook.
5. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-year operation.

**Minimum standard information for logbooks:**

1. Master name and address.
2. Dates and ports of departure, Dates and ports of arrival.
3. Vessel name, register number, ICCAT number and IMO number (if available). In case of joint fishing operations, vessel names, register numbers, ICCAT numbers and IMO numbers (if available) of all the vessels involved in the operation.
4. Fishing gear:
  - a) type FAO code,
  - b) dimension (length, mesh size, number of hooks...).
5. Operations at sea with one line (minimum) per day of trip, providing:
  - a) activity (fishing, steaming...),
  - b) Position: Exact daily positions (in degree and minutes), recorded for each fishing operation or at noon when no fishing has been conducted during this day,
  - c) Record of catches.
6. Species identification:
  - a) by FAO code,
  - b) round (RWT) weight in kg per day.
7. Master signature.
8. Observer signature (if applicable).
9. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board.
10. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation.

**Minimum information in case of landing, transshipment/transfer:**

1. Dates and port of landing /transshipment/transfer.
2. Products
  - a) presentation,
  - b) number of fish or boxes and quantity in kg.
3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent.

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ANNEX 3

**Document N.**

**ICCAT TRANSFER/TRANSHIPMENT DECLARATION**

**Tug/Carrier vessel**

Name of vessel and radio call sign:  
 Flag:  
 Flag State authorization No.  
 National Register No.  
 ICCAT Register No.  
 IMO No.

**Fishing Vessel**

Name of the vessel and radio call sign,  
 Flag:  
 Flag State authorisation No.  
 National register No.  
 ICCAT Register No.  
 External identification:  
 Fishing logbook sheet No.

|                  |     |       |      |      |           |                    |                            |                          |
|------------------|-----|-------|------|------|-----------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
|                  | Day | Month | Hour | Year | 2_ 0_ _ _ | F.V Master's name: | Tug/Carrier Master's name: | LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT |
| Departure        | _ _ | _ _   | _ _  | from | _ _ _     | Signature:         | Signature:                 |                          |
| Return           | _ _ | _ _   | _ _  | to   | _ _ _     |                    |                            |                          |
| Transfer/Transh. | _ _ | _ _   | _ _  |      | _ _ _     |                    |                            |                          |

For transhipment, indicate the weight in kilograms or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit: |\_|\_| kilograms.

| Port | Sea  |       | Species | Number of unit of fishes | Type of Product Live | Type of Product Whole | Type of Product Guttet | Type of Product Head off | Type of Product Filleted | Type of Product | further transfer / transhipments  |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---|
|      | Lat. | Long. |         |                          |                      |                       |                        |                          |                          |                 |   |
|      |      |       |         |                          |                      |                       |                        |                          |                          |                 | Date: _____ Place/Position: _____<br>Authorization CP No. _____<br>Transfer vessel Master signature: _____            |
|      |      |       |         |                          |                      |                       |                        |                          |                          |                 | Name of receiver vessel: _____<br>Flag _____<br>ICCAT Register No. _____<br>IMO N° _____<br>Master's signature _____  |
|      |      |       |         |                          |                      |                       |                        |                          |                          |                 | Date: _____ Place/Position: _____<br>Authorization CP No. _____<br>Transfer vessel Master's signature: _____          |
|      |      |       |         |                          |                      |                       |                        |                          |                          |                 | Name of receiver vessel: _____<br>Flag _____<br>ICCAT Register No. _____<br>IMO No. _____<br>Master's signature _____ |

In case of transfer of live fish indicate number of unit and live weight

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ICCAT Observer signature (if applicable):

Obligations in case of transfer /transhipment:

1. The original of the transfer/transhipment declaration must be provided to the recipient vessel tug/processing/transport)
2. The copy of the transfer/transhipment declaration must be kept by the correspondent catching fishing vessel
3. Further transfers or transshipping operations shall be authorised by the relevant CP which authorised the vessel to operate
4. The original of the transfer/ transhipment declaration has to be kept by the recipient vessel which holds the fish, up to the farm or the landing place
5. The transfer or transshipping operation shall be recorded in the log book of any vessel involved in the operation

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**REC.ICCAT-GFCM/31/2007/3(B)****ICCAT RECOMMENDATION [06-07] ON BLUEFIN TUNA FARMING**

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

*RECALLING* the conclusions of 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,

*CONSIDERING* the on-going work to establish a Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme,

**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.
  - b) to require the reporting of the total amount of the transfers of bluefin tuna including loss in quantity and number during the transportation to the cages by farm for fattening and farming, carried out by their flag vessels.
  - 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) to equip these tugs and towing vessels 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) assign an identifiable different number to each cage of its farming facility.

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- b) ensure that a caging declaration is submitted to the farming CPCs by the operator for further submission to the Commission 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 validation numbers and dates of the bluefin tuna statistical document(s), the quantities (in t) of fish transferred to the cages, the number of fish, loss during transportation, the date, the place, the location of the catch, the name of the vessel, fishing methods used, as well as its flag and license number;
- c) 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 (length or weight) 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>11</sup> at the farm and on the dead fish during transport, 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.
- d) 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);
- e) set up and maintain a registry of the farming facilities under their jurisdiction;
- f) 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 and of its supporting Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document, within one week after the completion of the transfer operation of bluefin tuna into cages.

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 these products be accompanied by the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document and, where appropriate, that these products be identified as "farmed" with cage number of 2 a) and ICCAT FFB Record Number on the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document.

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

- the total amount of the transfer of bluefin tuna by farm 1 b).
- 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 placed in cage and estimate of the growth and mortality by farm 2 d),
- the quantities of bluefin tuna caged during the previous year,
- the quantities by sourcing of origin 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.

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<sup>11</sup> For fish farmed more than one year, other additional sampling methods should be established.

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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 Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document 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 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:

- 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 the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document.
- iii) CPCs importing farmed bluefin tuna and the States that authorize the FFB shall cooperate to ensure that the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents are not forged or do not contain misinformation.

g) Each CPC shall take the necessary measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the imports and sale of bluefin tuna into and 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 2c and/or do not participate in the sampling programme referred to in paragraph 2c.

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 CPC 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, registry number
- previous flag (if any)
- previous name (if any)
- previous details of deletion for 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.

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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 website 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 bluefin 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 *Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Recommendation on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 05-04].



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## ICCAT DECLARATION ON CAGING

| Vessel name | Flag | Registration Number Identifiable cage number | Date of catch | Place of catch Longitude Latitude | Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document validation number | Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document date | Date of caging | Quantity placed in cage (t) | Number of fish placed in cage for fattening | Size composition | Fattening facility * |
|-------------|------|--|---------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|----------------|-----------------------------|---|------------------|----------------------|
|             |      |  |               |                                   |   |  |                |                             |   |                  |                      |
|             |      |  |               |                                   |   |  |                |                             |   |                  |                      |
|             |      |  |               |                                   |   |  |                |                             |   |                  |                      |
|             |      |  |               |                                   |   |  |                |                             |   |                  |                      |
|             |      |  |               |                                   |   |  |                |                             |   |                  |                      |
|             |      |  |               |                                   |   |  |                |                             |   |                  |                      |
|             |      |  |               |                                   |   |  |                |                             |   |                  |                      |
|             |      |  |               |                                   |   |  |                |                             |   |                  |                      |
|             |      |  |               |                                   |   |  |                |                             |   |                  |                      |
|             |      |  |               |                                   |   |  |                |                             |   |                  |                      |

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

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**REC.ICCAT-GFCM/31/2007/3(C)****ICCAT RECOMMENDATION [06-11] ESTABLISHING A PROGRAMME FOR  
TRANSHIPMENT**

*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 longline tuna to improve the scientific assessments of those stocks;

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

*RECOMMENDS THAT:*

**SECTION 1. GENERAL RULE**

1. Except under the special conditions outlined below in Section 2 for transshipment operations at sea, all transshipment operations of tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area must take place in port.<sup>12</sup>
2. The flag Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall take the necessary measures to ensure that large-scale tuna vessels (hereafter referred to as the "LSTVs") flying their flag comply with the obligations set out in Annex 3 when transshipping in port.

**SECTION 2. PROGRAMME TO MONITOR TRANSHIPMENT AT SEA**

3. The Commission shall 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. Pending this review, small-scale albacore longline vessels shall be exempt from the requirements of paragraph 4.
4. The flag 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 3, 4 and 5, and Annexes 1 and 2 below.

**SECTION 3. RECORD OF VESSELS AUTHORISED TO RECEIVE TRANSHIPMENT IN  
THE ICCAT AREA**


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<sup>12</sup> By derogation, this provision shall not apply until 31 December 2009 to four Russian vessels, the characteristics of which shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat. However, the extension to 2009 shall be subject to the results of the review process in 2008.

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5. 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.

6. 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
- 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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].

#### **SECTION 4. AT-SEA TRANSHIPMENT**

10. Transshipments by LSTLVs in waters under the jurisdiction of the CPCs are subject to prior authorization from the coastal State concerned. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure that LSTLVs flying their flag comply with the following:

##### **Flag State authorization**

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

##### **Notification obligations**

###### *Fishing vessel:*

12. To receive the prior authorization mentioned in paragraph 11 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,

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- 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 2.

*Receiving carrier vessel:*

13. 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.

14. 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.

*Regional Observer Program*

15. Each CPC shall ensure that all carrier vessels transshipping at sea have on board an ICCAT observer, not later than 31 March 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.

16. 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.

**SECTION 5. 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 transshipment 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.
- 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.

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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.

21. This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Programme for Transshipment by Large-scale Longline Fishing Vessels* [Rec. 05-06].

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ANNEX 1

ICCAT TRANSHIPMENT DECLARATION

**Carrier vessel**

Name of vessel and radio call sign  
 Flag  
 Flag State authorization number  
 National Register Number  
 ICCAT Register Number, if available

**Fishing vessel**

Name of the vessel and radio call sign  
 Flag  
 Flag State authorization number  
 National Register Number  
 ICCAT Register Number, if available  
 External identification

|               |     |       |      |      |           |               |                         |                  |
|---------------|-----|-------|------|------|-----------|---------------|-------------------------|------------------|
|               | 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      LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT.....

| Species | Port | Sea | Type of Product | Type of Product | Type of Product | Type of Product | Type of Product | Type of Product | Type of Product | Type of Product | Type of Product | Type of Product |
|---------|------|-----|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|         |      |     | Whole           | Gutted          | Head off        | Filleted        |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |
|         |      |     |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |
|         |      |     |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |
|         |      |     |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |

If transshipment effected at sea, ICCAT Observer signature:

## ANNEX 2

## 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.

6. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing operations of the LSTLVs and of the LSTLVs owners and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer;

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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 LSTVs**

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 LSTV must notify the following information to the Port State authorities, at least 48 hours in advance:

- the name of the LSTV and its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels,
- the name of the carrier vessel, and the product to be transshipped,
- the tonnage by product to be transshipped,
- the date and location of transshipment,
- the major fishing grounds of the tuna catches

2.2 The captain of a LSTV 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
- the major fishing grounds of the tuna catches.

The captain of the LSTV 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 not later than 15 days after the transshipment.

*Receiving vessel*

3. Not 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 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, 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 LSTV 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.

7. Each flag CPC of the LSTV shall include in its Annual Report each year to ICCAT the details on the transshipments by its vessels.

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

**II. RESOLUTIONS**

January 2008

**RES-GFCM/31/2007/1****IMPLEMENTATION OF GFCM TASK 1 STATISTICAL MATRIX**

*CONSIDERING* the GFCM strategy to manage the fisheries through effort control by Operational Units;

*NOTING* the importance of multidisciplinary data and information required to monitor and assess fisheries and fisheries resources and to ensure their sustainable exploitation;

*RECOGNIZING* the need to develop a GFCM database, on the basis of the information received from Members according to a standardized format;

*RECALLING* Recommendation GFCM/2006/1 on the management of fishing effort for particular fisheries and the identification of related Operational Units and the appropriate parameters to measure fishing effort;

*TAKING* into account the relevance to use technical tools set up by GFCM for specific data collection such as fleet segmentation (Annex 1), the table on nominal fishing effort measurement (Annex 2) as well as the achievement in the field of Operational Units;

*ADOPTS*:

1. The GFCM Task 1 statistical matrix (Annex 3);

*INVITES* the Members to:

2. Give priority to Task 1.1 and Task 1.2 of the statistical matrix referred to in paragraph 1, and to make an effort to submit the related data to the GFCM Secretariat, on an annual basis.
3. Gradually implement the components Task 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5 of the GFCM Task 1.

## ANNEX 1

## GFCM/SAC Fleet Segmentation

| Groups                       | < 6 metres | 6-12 metres | 12-24 metres | More than 24 metres |
|------------------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 1. Minor Gear without engine | A          | ←           |              |                     |
| 2. Minor Gear with engine    | B          | C           |              |                     |
| 3. Trawl                     | ⇒          | D           | E            | F                   |
| 4. Purse Seine               |            | G           | H            | ←                   |
| 5. Long line                 |            |             | I            |                     |
| 6. Pelagic Trawl             |            | ⇒           | J            | ←                   |
| 7. Tuna Seine                |            |             | K            | ←                   |
| 8. Dredge                    |            | ⇒           | L            |                     |
| 9. Polyvalent                |            |             | M            |                     |

Segments Description

A- Minor Gear without engine. All vessels less than 6 metres in length without an engine (wind or oar propulsion). Exceptionally, vessels without engine longer than 6 metres can be included.

B- Minor Gear with engine less than 6 m. length. All vessels under 6 metres length with engine, excluding trawl vessels.

C- Minor Gear with engine between 6 to 12 metres. All vessels between 6 to 12 metres length with engine, excluded specific gears as demersal trawl, purse seine, pelagic trawl and dredge.

D- Trawlers less than 12 m. length. All demersal trawlers less than 12 metres. Exceptionally, trawl vessels under 6 metres can be included.

E- Trawlers between 12 to 24 m. Demersal trawl between 12 to 24 metres.

F- Trawlers of more than 24 m. Demersal trawl with length of more than 24 metres

G- Purse Seines between 6 to 12 m.

H- Purse Seines between 12 to 24 m. Excluded Tuna Seine. Exceptionally, Purse Seines vessels of more than 24 metres, can be included

I- Long line of more than 12 m. Long line as exclusive gear more than 12 m. Exceptionally, vessels more than 24 metres, can be included.

J- Pelagic Trawlers. All Pelagic Trawl vessels, but normally this group is between 12 to 24 metres.

K- Tuna Seine. All Tuna Seine vessels.

L- Dredge. All Dredge vessels. Normally this group is between 12 to 24 metres, but exceptionally dredges under 12 metres can be included.

M- Polyvalent (and Other) longer than 12 m. All vessels longer than 12 metres, that use different gears along the year or use a gear not already listed in this classification.

## ANNEX 2

Table on fishing effort measurement

| <b>Gear</b>                              | <b>Number and dimension</b>  | <b>Capacity</b>                            | <b>Activity</b>    | <b>Nominal Effort</b>  |
|--|--|--|--------------------|--|
| Dredge (for molluscs)                    | Open mouth<br>Width of mouth   | GT   | Time fishing       | Dredged bottom surface   |
| Trawl (including dredges for flatfishes) | Type of trawl (pelagic, bottom)<br>GT and/or GRT<br>Engine power<br>Mesh size<br>Size of the net (width of mouth)<br>Speed | GT   | Time Fishing       | GT*days<br>GT*hours<br>KW*days   |
| Purse seine                              | Length and drop of the net<br>GT<br>Light power<br>Number of small boats   | GT<br>Length and drop of the net           | Search time<br>Set | GT * Fishing sets<br>Length of the net * fishing sets                                      |
| Nets                                     | Type of net (e.g.trammel net, gillnets, etc.)<br>Net length (used in regulations)<br>GT<br>Net surface<br>Mesh size        | Net length and drop                        | Time fishing       | Net length * days<br>Surface*days  |
| Long lines                               | Number of hooks<br>GT<br>Number of longline<br>Characteristics of hooks<br>Bait  | Number of hooks<br>Number of longline unit | Time fishing       | Number of hooks * hours<br>Number of hooks * days<br>Number of longline units * days/hours |
| Traps                                    | GT   | Number of traps                            | Time fishing       | Number of traps * days   |
| Purse seine/FADs                         | Number of FADs   |  | Number of trips    | Number of FADs *<br>Number of trips  |

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ANNEX 3

GFCM Task 1 – Operational Units



**GFCM Task 1:  
Operational Units**

GSA or other (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

| Fleet Segment               | No. of vessels |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| A Minor gear without engine | < 6            |
| B Minor gear with engine    | < 6            |
| C Minor gear with engine    | 6 - 12         |
| D Trawl                     | 6 - 12         |
| E Trawl                     | 12 - 24        |
| F Trawl                     | > 24           |
| G Purse Seine               | 6 - 12         |
| H Purse Seine               | 12 - 24        |
| I Long line                 | 12 - 24        |
| J Pelagic Trawl             | 12 - 24        |
| K Tuna Seine                | 12 - 24        |
| L Dredge                    | 12 - 24        |
| M Polyvalent                | 12 - 24        |

|  | 01               | 02         | 03     | 04      | 05        | 06           | 07                           | 08    | 09              | 10                     | 11                  | 20                 | 25                        | 98         | 99                              | National | Fishing Gear Classes |
|--|------------------|------------|--------|---------|-----------|--------------|------------------------------|-------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|----------|----------------------|
|  | Surrounding Nets | Seine Nets | Trawls | Dredges | Lift Nets | Falling Gear | Gillnets and Entangling Nets | Traps | Hooks and Lines | Grappling and Wounding | Harvesting Machines | Miscellaneous Gear | Recreational Fishing Gear | Other Gear | Gear Not Known or Not Specified | Regional |                      |
|  |                  |            |        |         |           |              |                              |       |                 |                        |                     |                    |                           |            |                                 |          |                      |

**Task 1.1**  
Fleet and area variables

- Vessel number
- Capacity

**Task 1.3**  
Economic components variables

- Gross Tonnage
- Horse Power
- Employment
- Salary Share %
- Landing weight
- Landing value
- Vessel value of total fleet
- Fishing days/year per vessel
- Fishing hours/day per vessel
- Cost of fishing/day per vessel
- Yearly fixed costs per vessel

**Task 1.2**  
Main resource and activity components variables per OU

- Operational Unit code
- Activity
- Fishing gear
- Target species
- Main associated species
- Fishing period
- Vessels No.
- Areas

**Task 1.4**  
Effort variables

- Catch / Landing
- Effort measure
- CPUE / LPUE
- Discard
- Bycatch

**Task 1.5**  
Provisional biological parameters

- Length range of captured species
- Length Average
- Sex
- Maturity
- Biological reference points

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January 2008

**RES-GFCM/31/2007/2**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF GEOGRAPHICAL SUB-AREAS IN THE GFCM AREA**

*RECOGNIZING* the need to compile data, monitor fisheries and assess fisheries resources in a geo-referenced manner;

*RECALLING* the efforts made by Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and its Sub-Committees to identify appropriate boundaries for sub-areas in the GFCM area (FAO area 37);

*CONSIDERING* the decision made by the Commission at its 26th Session (2001) to establish Geographical Sub-Areas (GSAs) in the GFCM area;

*CONSIDERING* the advice emanating from the ninth session of SAC;

*ESTABLISHES:*

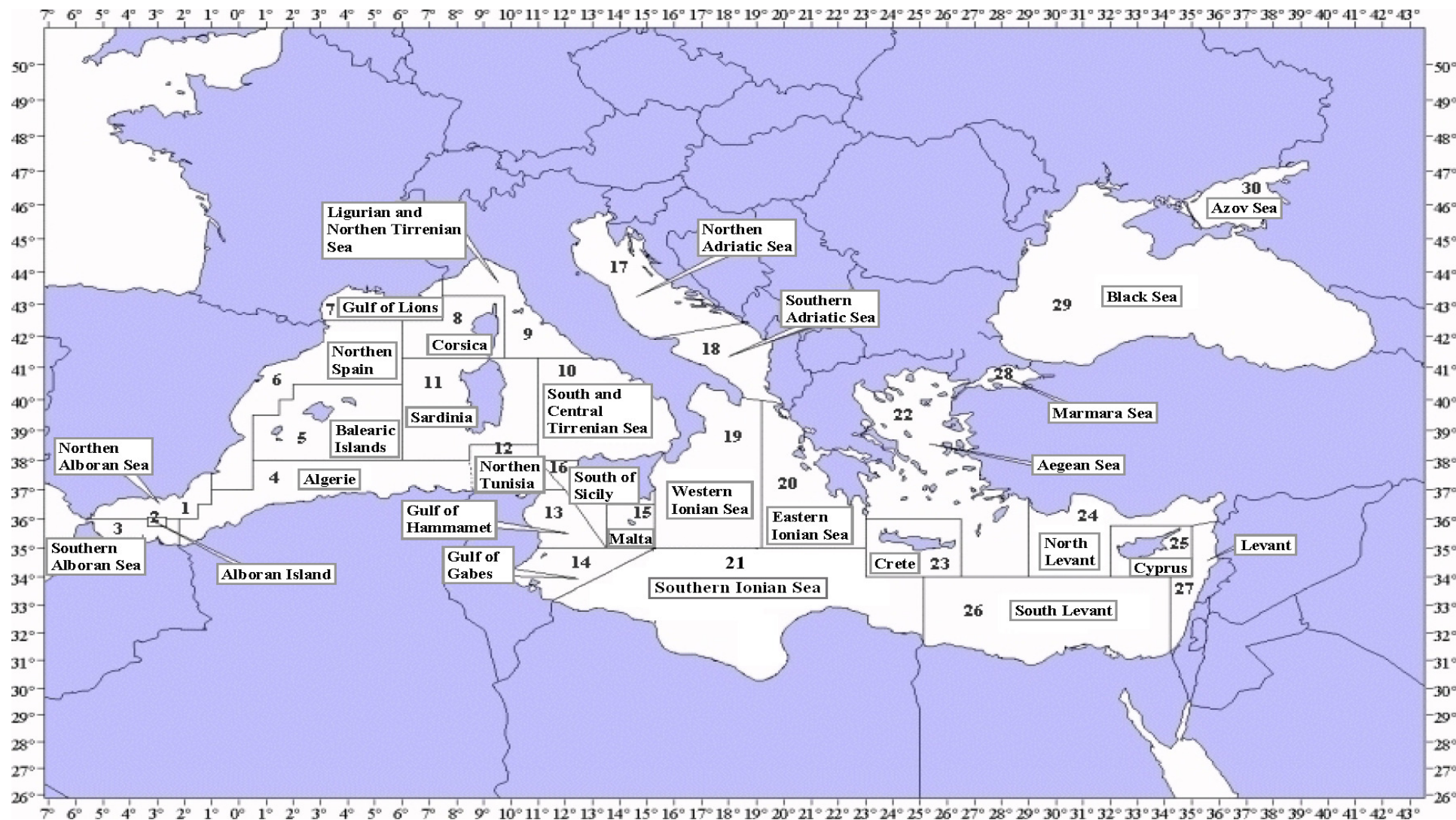
1. Geographical Sub-Areas in the GFCM area as shown in Annexes 1, 2 and 3.



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ANNEX 1

Map of GFCM Geographical Sub-Areas (GSAs)



## ANNEX 2

Table of GFCM Geographical Sub-Areas (GSAs)

| FAO SUBAREA | FAO STATISTICS DIVISIONS | GSAs (SAC 9 <sup>th</sup> Session)         | GSAs ( 2007)   |
|-------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| WESTERN     | 1.1 BALEARIC             | 1.1.a waters surrounding Balearic Islands  | 5 Balearic Island  |
|             |                          | 1.1.b waters off Spanish continental coast | 6 Northern Spain   |
|             |                          | 1.1.c waters off Algeria                   | 4 Algeria  |
|             |                          | 1.1.d Alboran sea                          | 1 Northern Alboran Sea<br>2 Alboran Island<br>3 Southern Alboran Sea |
|             | 1.2 GULF OF LIONS        | 1.2.e Gulf of Lions                        | 7 Gulf of Lions  |
|             |                          | 1.2.f waters off Cote d'Azur               | 7 Gulf of Lions  |
|             | 1.3 SARDINIA             | 1.3.g waters surrounding Corsica           | 8 Corsica Island   |
|             |                          | 1.3.h waters surrounding Sardinia          | 11 Sardinia  |
|             |                          | 1.3.i waters off north Sicily              | 10 South and Central Tirrenian Sea                                   |
|             |                          | 1.3.j waters off Italian continental shelf | 9 Ligurian and North Tirrenian Sea<br>10 South Tirrenian Sea         |
|             |                          | 1.3.k waters northern Tunisia              | 12 Northern Tunisia  |
| CENTRAL     | 2.1 ADRIATIC             | 2.1.a northern and central Adriatic        | 17 Northern Adriatic   |
|             |                          | 2.1.b south Adriatic                       | 18 Southern Adriatic Sea   |
|             | 2.2 IONIAN               | 2.2.c waters off southeast Italy           | 19 Western Ionian Sea  |
|             |                          | 2.2.d waters off western Greek             | 20 Eastern Ionian Sea  |
|             |                          | 2.2.e waters off Sicily and Malta          | 15 Malta Island<br>16 South of Sicily                                |
|             |                          | 2.2.f Gulf of Gabes and Hamamet            | 13 Gulf of Hammamet<br>14 Gulf of Gabes                              |
|             |                          | 2.2.g waters off Libya                     | 21 Southern Ionian Sea   |
| EASTERN     | 3.1 AEGEAN               | 3.1.a Aegean Sea                           | 22 Aegean Sea  |
|             |                          | 3.1.b waters surrounding Crete             | 23 Crete Island  |
|             | 3.2 LEVANT               | 3.2.c waters surrounding Cyprus            | 25 Cyprus Island   |
|             |                          | 3.2.d waters off southern Turkey coast     | 24 North Levant  |
|             |                          | 3.2.e southeast Levant                     | 27 Levant  |
|             |                          | 3.2.f waters off Egypt                     | 26 South Levant  |
| BLACK SEA   | 4.1 MARMARA              | 4.1 Marmara Sea                            | 28 Marmara Sea   |
|             | 4.2 BLACK SEA            | 4.2 Black Sea                              | 29 Black Sea   |
|             | 4.3 AZOV SEA             | 4.3 Azov Sea                               | 30 Azov Sea  |

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## ANNEX 3

## Geographical coordinates for GFCM Geographical Sub-Areas (GSAs)

| GSAs | LIMITS   | GSAs | LIMITS   | GSAs | LIMITS   | GSAs | LIMITS   |
|------|--|------|--|------|--|------|--|
| 1    | Coast Line<br>36° N 5° 36' W<br>36° N 3° 20' W<br>36° 05' N 3° 20' W<br>36° 05' N 2° 40' W<br>36° N 2° 40' W<br>36° N 1° 30' W<br>36° 30' N 1° 30' W<br>36° 30' N 1° W<br>37° 36' N 1° W | 4    | Coast Line<br>36° N 1° 13' W<br>36° N 1° 30' W<br>36° 30' N 1° 30' W<br>36° 30' N 1° W<br>37° N 1° W<br>37° N 0° 30' E<br>38° N 0° 30' E<br>38° N 8° 30' E<br>Algeria-Tunisia border<br>Morocco-Algeria border       | 7    | Coast line<br>42° 30' N 3° 09' E<br>42° 30' N 6° E<br>42° 30' N 7° 30' E<br>France-Italy border                          | 10   | Coast line (including North Sicily)<br>41° 18' N 13° E<br>41° 18' N 11° E<br>38° N 11° E<br>38° N 12° 30' E                                      |
| 2    | 36° 05' N 3° 20' W<br>36° 05' N 2° 40' W<br>35° 45' N 3° 20' W<br>35° 45' N 2° 40' W   | 5    | 38° N 0° 30' E<br>39° 30' N 0° 30' E<br>39° 30' N 1° 30' W<br>40° N 1° 30' E<br>40° N 2° E<br>40° 30' N 2° E<br>40° 30' N 6° E<br>38° N 6° E   | 8    | 42° 30' N 6° E<br>42° 30' N 7° 30' E<br>43° 15' N 7° 30' E<br>43° 15' N 9° 45' E<br>41° 18' N 9° 45' E<br>41° 18' N 6° E | 11   | 41° 18' N 6° E<br>41° 18' N 11° E<br>38° 30' N 11° E<br>38° 30' N 8° 30' E<br>38° N 8° 30' E<br>38° N 6° E                                       |
| 3    | Coast Line<br>36° N 5° 36' W<br>35° 49' N 5° 36' W<br>36° N 3° 20' W<br>35° 45' N 3° 20' W<br>35° 45' N 2° 40' W<br>36° N 2° 40' W<br>36° N 1° 30' W<br>Morocco-Algeria border           | 6    | Coast line<br>37° 36' N 1° W<br>37° N 1° W<br>37° N 0° 30' E<br>39° 30' N 0° 30' E<br>39° 30' N 1° 30' W<br>40° N 1° 30' E<br>40° N 2° E<br>40° 30' N 2° E<br>40° 30' N 6° E<br>42° 30' N 6° E<br>42° 30' N 3° 09' E | 9    | Coast line<br>France-Italy border<br>43° 15' N 7° 30' E<br>43° 15' N 9° 45' E<br>41° 18' N 9° 45' E<br>41° 18' N 13° E   | 12   | Coast line<br>Algeria-Tunisia border<br>38° N 8° 30' E<br>38° 30' N 8° 30' E<br>38° 30' N 11° E<br>38° N 11° E<br>37° N 12° E<br>37° N 11° 04' E |

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| GSAs | LIMITS  | GSAs | LIMITS  | GSAs | LIMITS  |
|------|---|------|---|------|---|
| 13   | Coast line<br>37° N 11° 04' E<br>37° N 12° E<br>35° N 13° 30' E<br>35° N 11° E  | 19   | Coast line (including East Sicily)<br>40° 04' N 18° 29' E<br>37° N 15° 18' E<br>35° N 15° 18' E<br>35° N 19° 10' E<br>39° 58' N 19° 10' E | 25   | 35° 47' N 32° E<br>34° N 32° E<br>34° N 35° E<br>35° 47' N 35° E  |
| 14   | Coast line<br>35° N 11° E<br>35° N 15° 18' E<br>Tunisia-Libya border  | 20   | Coast line<br>Albania-Greece border<br>39° 58' N 19° 10' E<br>35° N 19° 10' E<br>35° N 23° E<br>36° 30' N 23° E                           | 26   | Coast line<br>Libya-Egypt border<br>34° N 25° 09' E<br>34° N 34° 13' E<br>Egypt-Gaza Strip border                 |
| 15   | 36° 30' N 13° 30' E<br>35° N 13° 30' E<br>35° N 15° 18' E<br>36° 30' N 15° 18' E  | 21   | Coast line<br>Tunisia-Libya border<br>35° N 15° 18' E<br>35° N 23° E<br>34° N 23° E<br>34° N 25° 09' E<br>Libya-Egypt border              | 27   | Coast line<br>Egypt-Gaza Strip border<br>34° N 34° 13' E<br>34° N 35° E<br>35° 47' N 35° E<br>Turkey-Syria border |
| 16   | Coast line<br>38° N 12° 30' E<br>38° N 11° E<br>37° N 12° E<br>35° N 13° 30' E<br>36° 30' N 13° 30' E<br>36° 30' N 15° 18' E<br>37° N 15° 18' E | 22   | Coast line<br>36° 30' N 23° E<br>36° N 23° E<br>36° N 26° 30' E<br>34° N 26° 30' E<br>34° N 29° E<br>36° 43' N 29° E                      | 28   |   |
| 17   | Coast line<br>41° 55' N 15° 08' E<br>Croatia-Montenegro border  | 23   | 36° N 23° E<br>36° N 26° 30' E<br>34° N 26° 30' E<br>34° N 23° E  | 29   |   |
| 18   | Coast lines (both sides)<br>41° 55' N 15° 08' E<br>40° 04' N 18° 29' E<br>Croatia-Montenegro border<br>Albania-Greece border                    | 24   | Coast line<br>36° 43' N 29° E<br>34° N 29° E<br>34° N 32° E<br>35° 47' N 32° E<br>35° 47' N 35° E<br>Turkey-Syria border                  | 30   |   |

January 2008

**RES-GFCM/31/2007/3****40mm SQUARE MESH SIZE IN CODEND OF TRAWLNETS EXPLOITING DEMERSAL RESOURCES**

*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* Recommendation GFCM/29/2005/1 on the management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and deepwater species and, notably, Article 1 therein;

*REAFFIRMING* its commitment to further improve the selectivity of demersal trawl fisheries beyond that which is permitted by the 40 mm diamond mesh size with the view to ensure a better protection of juveniles of several species as well as to reduce discarding practices in a multispecies context;

*CONSIDERING* the advice on several demersal stocks given at the ninth session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC);

*RECOGNIZING* that from a socio-economic point of view, and unless otherwise requested by conservation needs, it is necessary to ensure gradual changes in the exploitation pattern of fisheries;

*TAKING* into account the need to assess the possible short and long-term socio-economic impact of the change in mesh size;

*ADOPTS* that:

1. Members of GFCM implement on a voluntary basis at least the 40 mm square mesh codend in bottom trawling.
2. Experimental selectivity trials with 40 mm square mesh codend trawl nets are undertaken particularly in those Geographical Sub-Areas (GSAs) where such information is not yet available and Members consider advisable to acquire it before any possible implementation.
3. SAC shall evaluate the results of such trials, including the short and long-term impact, at the latest by 2010 and shall advise accordingly.

January 2008

**\* RES-GFCM/22/1997/2****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.

*CALLS 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.

January 2008

**\* RES-GFCM/21/1995/1*****REPORTING ON ACTIVITIES OF FISHING VESSELS OPERATING IN THE  
MEDITERRANEAN***

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.

**\* RES. GFCM/21/1995/2*****IMPACT OF THE POLLUTION ON MARINE ECOSYSTEM AND LIVING RESOURCES***

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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January 2008

*\* RES-GFCM/15/1980/1*

***REGIONAL PROJECT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES  
IN 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.

January 2008

**\* RES. GFCM/14/1978/1*****ACTIONS TO PROMOTE TRAINING ACTIVITIES ON FISHERIES***

*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.

*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.

**III. OTHER DECISIONS**

January 2008

**OTH-GFCM/31/2007/1**

**GRANTING OF AN OBSERVER STATUS TO EUROFISH**

The Commission agreed to grant an observer statute to the Organization for the Development of Fisheries in Eastern and Central Europe (EUROFISH), represented at the Session by its Director, Mr Victor Hjort.

January 2008

*OTH-GFCM/30/2006/1***TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE GFCM COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

*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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**OTH-GFCM/30/2006/2**

**GRANTING OF AN OBSERVER STATUS TO “CONFEDERATION INTERNATIONALE  
DE PECHE SPORTIVE”**

The President of the “Confédération internationale de pêche sportive (CIPS)” thanked the Commission for the granting of an observer statute of his organization with the GFCM. He ensured that the Confédération would make every effort to contribute promoting responsible fisheries in the Mediterranean through developing cooperation and partnership with the Commission. Delegations welcomed the participation of the recreational fishing sector in GFCM activities through the Confédération.

**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>13</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.

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<sup>13</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/29/2005/2**

**GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR A GFCM CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT SCHEME:  
NEEDS AND PRINCIPLES**

The main aim will be to bring about a scheme of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) that ensures a high degree of compliance with relevant conservation measures and legal certainty and security for the vessel concerned. Furthermore, the intended Scheme must pay due regard to the characteristics and specificities of different GFCM geographical sub-areas (GSAs) and fisheries. An effective Control and Enforcement Scheme should embody a number of principles, namely:

- (i) Consistency with the provision of the Agreement establishing the GFCM and existing instruments of international law.
- (ii) Evaluation of the current GFCM measures and possibly complementing them with new measures.
- (iii) The Scheme would underline the general duty to cooperate and a commitment to transparency taking into account requirements for confidentiality.
- (iv) The Scheme would have two types of measures:
  - Measures applicable to all fisheries. Measures concerning vessels would apply only to vessels beyond a certain size.
  - Measure applicable on a case by case basis to certain fisheries, where and when such a measure would be cost-effective.
- (v) The Scheme should contribute to the improvement of data collection and statistics and timely transmission of statistics, for scientific as well as monitoring purposes.
- (vi) Provisions for ensuring compliance by both Contracting and non-Contracting Parties vessels, thereby seeking to minimize the level of IUU fishing in the GFCM area.
- (vii) The special requirements of Developing States should be fully recognized and active cooperation should be established to facilitate the implementation of the measures by them.

Under these circumstances, a possible GFCM Scheme could consist of the following basic components:

**1) Flag State duties**

The following monitoring measures should be taken by the flag States in regard to vessels entitled to fly their flags in the GFCM area:

- (i) Control of their vessels by:
  - a) adopting measures so that their vessels comply with and do not undermine GFCM conservation and management measures;
  - b) authorizing their vessels to fish in the GFCM Area by means of fishing authorizations, licenses, or permits;
  - c) ensuring they do not authorize vessels to fish in the GFCM Area unless they are able to effectively exercise their responsibilities in respect of such vessels, including monitoring and controlling their fishing activities;
  - d) ensuring that their vessels do not conduct unauthorized fishing within areas under the national jurisdiction of other States, through appropriate cooperation with coastal States concerned, and other relevant means available to the flag State;
  - e) requiring their vessels fishing on the high seas to carry the license, authorization or permit on board at all times and to produce it on demand for inspection by a duly authorized person.
- (ii) Establishment of a national record of fishing vessels entitled to fly their flags and authorized to fish in the GFCM Area, which should include vessels of other States authorized under charter agreements, and transmission of this information to GFCM.



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- (iii) Regulation of transshipment.
- (iv) Measures regarding the operation and control of chartering.
- (v) Requirements for recording and timely reporting of vessel position, catch of target and non target species, fishing effort and other relevant fisheries data including an estimate of discards, unless GFCM stipulates otherwise. These data should be verified for certain fisheries by observer programs, where these programs have been adopted by the Commission.
- (vi) Implementation of a vessel monitoring system (VMS).
- (vii) Investigation of, follow-up to, and report on actions taken in response to an alleged violation by a vessel.

## **2) Obligations of the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties**

The obligations of the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties should include:

- (i) Provision to GFCM, in the manner and at such regular intervals as may be required by GFCM, of compliance reports and information concerning its fishing activities, including fishing area and fishing vessels, in order to facilitate the compilation of reliable fishing statistics on GFCM regulated species (catch, effort, size samples, etc.), and the effective implementation of GFCM compliance program.
- (ii) Compliance with all GFCM conservation and management measures.

## **3) Compliance and enforcement**

The Contracting Parties, through the Commission, should establish an observation and inspection programme to ensure compliance with GFCM conservation and management measures. The programme may *inter alia* comprise the following elements:

- (i) High seas inspection.
- (ii) Procedures for an effective investigation of an alleged violation of GFCM conservation and management measures, and for reporting to the Commission on the actions taken, including procedures for exchanging information.
- (iii) Provisions for appropriate action to be taken when inspections reveal serious violations as well as the expedient and transparent follow-up of such actions in order to uphold the Flag State's responsibility within the intended programme.
- (iv) Port inspection.
- (v) Monitoring of landings and catches, including statistical follow-up for management purposes.
- (vi) Specific monitoring programmes adopted by GFCM, including boarding and inspection.
- (vii) Observer programs.

## **4) A programme to promote compliance by vessels of non-Contracting Parties**

Further to existing measures, GFCM should examine measures consistent with international law to deter activities of such vessels which undermine the effectiveness of GFCM conservation and management measures, such as:

- Implementation of all the relevant elements of the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.
- Prohibition of landings and transshipments of GFCM species by vessels of non-Contracting Parties, sighted in the GFCM Area, that do not comply with the relevant GFCM conservation and management measures.

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**OTH-GFCM/29/2005/4**

**GRANTING OF AN OBSERVER STATUS TO MEDISAMAK**

The President of MEDISAMAK thanked the Commission for the granting of an observer statute of his organization with GFCM. He ensured Members that the Association would make every effort to contribute promoting responsible fisheries in the Mediterranean through developing cooperation and partnership with the Commission. Delegations welcomed the participation of the fishing sector in GFCM activities through the Association

**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 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**

- a) Continue updating information on incidental catches of protected species and on by catch of large migratory sharks.
- b) With a view to progressively implement an ecosystem approach to fisheries, update information on mapping essential fish habitats.
- c) 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.
- d) 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.
- e) Report on the geographical occurrence, seasonality, extent and effects of mucilaginous algae blooms.
- f) 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.

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**OTH-GFCM/19/1989/1**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN GFCM AND ICCAT ON  
STOCKS OF LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

The Council stressed the need for close collaboration between the Council and ICCAT in order to develop a basis for the proper assessment of the relevant stocks (especially bluefin tuna and swordfish). It endorsed the Committee's suggestion that a joint GFCM-ICCAT meeting, open to Members of GFCM and ICCAT and aimed at evaluating the stocks of large pelagic species in the Mediterranean, be held in 1990.

## Appendix A

## List of GFCM Decisions not included in the Compendium (no more active).

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>RES-GFCM/25/2000/1</i>   | <i>Minimum size of bluefin tuna</i>   |
| <i>RES-GFCM/25/2000/2</i>   | <i>Minimum size of bluefin tuna</i>   |
| <i>RES-GFCM/25/2000/3</i>   | <i>Allocation scheme of bluefin tuna for 1999 and 2000</i>  |
| <i>RES-GFCM/25/2000/4</i>   | <i>Bluefin tuna purse seine fishing</i>   |
| REC.ICCAT-GFCM/30/2006/8(A) | ICCAT Recommendation [05-04] to amend the Recommendation [04-06] on bluefin tuna farming  |
| REC.ICCAT-GFCM/30/2006/8(B) | ICCAT Recommendation [05-05] to amend Recommendation [04-10] concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT  |
| REC.ICCAT-GFCM/30/2006/8(C) | ICCAT Recommendation [05-06] establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale longline fishing vessels   |
| REC.ICCAT-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             |
| REC.ICCAT-GFCM/27/2002/3    | ICCAT recommendation [02-09] to develop a plan aimed at reducing the catches of juvenile bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean                                |
| REC.ICCAT-GFCM/27/2002/4    | ICCAT recommendation [02-10] on bluefin tuna farming  |
| REC.ICCAT-GFCM/26/2001/1    | ICCAT recommendation [00-9] on bluefin tuna catch limits in the east Atlantic and Mediterranean   |
| REC.ICCAT-GFCM/26/2001/3    | ICCAT recommendation [00-17] on registration and exchange of information of fishing vessels fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area |
| GFCM/26/2001/1              | Update of the terms of reference for the intersessional period 2001-2002 for the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)                                      |
| <i>GFCM/13/1976/1</i>       | <i>Establishment of the Working Party on acoustic methods for fish detection and abundance estimation</i>   |