GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information

Report of the Ad Hoc Workshop on the GFCM Regional Fleet Register

Rome, Italy, 12 -14 May 2008

1. Opening of the workshop

1. The Coordinator of the Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information (SCSI) and Chairperson of the workshop, Mr Joël Vigneau, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants (list in Appendix I).

2. The Executive Secretary of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), Mr. Alain Bonzon, recalled the importance of the Regional Fleet Register (RFR), the GFCM Task-1 statistical matrix and the Authorised Vessel List (AVL) as regional managerial and statistical tools. The technical experts from the Contracting parties were requested to define the frame by which such tools would be compatible in the GFCM area.

3. Staff from the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, namely experts from FIES, FIIT and the FishCode STF project, also attended the meeting to provide support in the task of defining the criteria to develop the RFR to serve as a crucial tool for managing capacity at regional level.

4. The Chair thanked experts from several GFCM contracting parties (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Turkey, the European Commission, Italy, Malta, Croatia and Spain) for attending this important meeting.

5. Ms. Alicia Mosteiro was unanimously elected rapporteur of the meeting.

2. Background and objectives

2.1. International instruments

6. Mr Joël Vigneau and Mr Matthew Camilleri (Bio-statistician, GFCM Secretariat) presented relevant background information contained in International Agreements as summarised in the following paragraphs. The need to set up a Fleet Register by each country originates from the 1958 United Nations (UN) Convention of the High Seas (Article 5.1, "... the State must effectively exercise its jurisdiction and control in administrative, technical and social matters over ships flying its flag.") and the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (Article 94). Subsequently, the 1986 United Nations Convention on Registration of Ships expanded the role of flag States respecting the registration of ships. The 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement added specificity to the flag State's responsibilities set out in the 1982 Convention. This relates to fishing vessels on the high seas, and identifies clear responsibilities for flag States[1]. Appendix II contains relevant excerpts from the FAO Compliance Agreement.

7. Sharing vessels' information at international level follows naturally when the FAO Compliance Agreement encouraged the strengthening of international cooperation and increased transparency through the exchange of information on high seas fishing. The 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement elaborated on the flag State responsibilities from the 1982 UNCLOS, but only for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks primarily in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Significantly, this instrument progressed beyond the concept of not undermining conservation and management measures, to requiring flag vessels to comply with them[1].

8. More recently, the FAO International Plan of Action (IPOA) to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing was endorsed in 2001 by the Hundred and Twentieth Session of the FAO Council (FAO, 2001). The IPOA-IUU provides all States with comprehensive, effective and transparent measures by which to act, including through appropriate regional fisheries management organizations established in accordance with international law. The flag state responsibilities are grouped under the following three headings :

    - Fishing Vessel Registration
    - Record of Fishing Vessels
    - Authorisation to Fish

    Appendix II to this report contains excerpts from the IPOA-IUU in relation to the development and maintenance of records of fishing vessels.

9. Also relevant to the terms of reference of this workshop is the 1998 IPOA for the management of fishing capacity elaborated within the framework of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries which calls for equitable and transparent management

[1] Swan, J. 2002. Fishing Vessels operating under open registers and the exercise of flag State responsibilities. Information and options. FAO Fisheries Circular. No. 980. Rome, FAO. 2002. 65p.

of fishing capacity. Excerpts highlighted during the workshop are included in Appendix II.

2.2 Global initiatives

10. Mr Gertjan de Graaf (FishCode STF project) presented the FAO Strategy on Improving Information on Status and Trends in Capture Fisheries (STF) as a voluntary instrument that applies to all States and entities. Its overall objective is to provide a framework, strategy and plan for the improvement of knowledge and understanding of fishery status and trends as a basis for fisheries policy-making and management for the conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources within ecosystems. A major bottleneck is found in small-scale fisheries (SSF) in developing countries because SSF fleet is often huge and disperse, there is staff and budget limitation and data collection is not always a priority. The total catch (data collection) and the structure of the SSF fleet are needed to know the production. Structural information can be obtained through census or frame surveys but these are often expensive. Therefore, the solution would pass through a fleet register and licensing system obtained through sustainable collection.

11. Ms Michele Kuruc (FAO Senior Fishery Industry Officer) presented the development of a comprehensive global record of fishing vessels. The global record is being built through expert consultation and it will be a new tool to get information on the vessels, especially where such a tool does not exist yet, in order to address this lack of information. At the FAO COFI (Committee for Fisheries), in 2007 the difficulties of creating a global record were emphasized, knowing that nowadays many countries do not have a fleet register. The global record is (i) a tool that is needed urgently to get to IUU activities, (ii) an extensive tool as it targets all vessels able to fish in national waters and high seas, (iii) a long-term project and (iv) aspiring since the objective is high. The global record is not a fleet register. The information will come from existing registration documents made available by competent authorities.

2.3 Recent discussions and decisions on the establishment of a GFCM RFR

12. The participants were recalled recent discussions and decisions leading up to the present workshop as reported in the following paragraphs.

13. During the last meeting of the SCSI (Kavala, Greece 17−20 September 2007) the absence of a regional fleet register, as an essential tool in monitoring fishing capacity and in implementing responsible fisheries management, was noted. A preliminary list of data requirements for the regional fleet register was then presented in appendix V of the SCSI report. The tenth session of SAC meeting backed the SCSI strategy to set up a Mediterranean fleet register and discussed the proposal to convene a meeting related to the development of such a register. The SAC recommended that the fleet register meeting should be attended by officers from national administrations acquainted with the management of their own fleet registers.

14. The 32nd Session of the Commission endorsed the proposal to establish a GFCM fleet register and to convene an ad hoc meeting on this subject following the terms of reference proposed by the SAC :
    a) review the status of the fishing vessel register in GFCM countries and/or sub-regions;
    b) design and agree upon the parameters and format which should constitute the GFCM regional fleet register;

c) discuss and propose data exchange protocols for the transmission of fleet data to the GFCM Secretariat including for data updating procedures and the frequency of transmission;
d) discuss confidentiality issues within the framework of Recommendation GFCM/2006/7 and distinguish between public, restricted and confidential data;
e) discuss and propose simple capacity monitoring tools to be incorporated into the GFCM regional fleet register.

15. The Commission also acknowledged the offer made by EC to provide assistance to other Members on this subject.

2.4 The concept of a fleet register

16. Mr Matthew Camilleri explained that a national fleet register includes all the vessels flying the flag of the country, including those that from time to time do not have a valid license to fish and/or are inactive. Thus, the Authorised Vessels List (AVL) comprises vessels that are a subset of the fleet register. It is important to note that all vessels in the fleet register make up the total fleet capacity (sum of the Tonnage or Power of all vessels). It is also important to know the status of activity of the vessels, in order to quantify the dormant fleet capacity, i.e. the amount of capacity that can enter at any time into fishing activity. A schematic diagram describing these fundamental aspects is given in Appendix III.

17. Mr Camilleri added that the main objective of the RFR is to monitor and control fishing capacity and to provide statistics for management purposes, including on small-scale vessels. He concluded by stressing that, whilst there is a relationship between the AVL and the RFR, the former is mainly for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) and cannot be used in quantifying and monitoring fleet capacity, since it does not include the dormant fleet capacity (see Appendix III) and may relate only to certain vessel size classes (as is the current situation with the GFCM AVL).

18. Considering the importance of small scale fisheries in the GFCM region, the participants agreed that there is a need to include all vessels in a regional database in order to accurately quantify the total fleet capacity.

19. Ms Sachiko Tsuji (FAO Senior Fishery Statistician) highligted the benefits of a fleet register as a monitoring and control tool for the management of capacity, the management of the fishery (through authorisation) monitoring indicators (statistics for fleet capacity and activity) and it facilitating combating IUU fishing. There is therefore a need for a global network of record sharing and when setting up a desirable registration system, certain criteria are important to keep in mind such as the
    - easiness of use to keep long-term sustainability,
    - high level of coverage related to activity not to size of vessel,
    - timeliness of data,
    - existence of a mechanism for record validation,
    - harmonisation and linkage with existing tools and systems.

20. One of the most important concepts discussed, as a preamble of the setting up of the RFR, is the unique identifier for the life of the vessel, as FAO is trying to incorporate information from all registers into one global record.

21. Ms Michele Kuruc stressed the importance of a fleet register at both national and regional level. Besides monitoring of the capacity of the Mediterranean and Black Sea fleet the RFR :
    - Was needed urgently to detect the IUU activities;
    - Is an extensive tool to monitor vessels in national waters or high seas;
    - Helps in the traceability of vessels and products;
    - Helps in risk assessment: controls the health of the fisheries and the fleets;
    - Helps the industry/retailers: where does the fish come from? Is it a sustainable fishery?
    - Can be used for safety indicators (age of the fleets);
    - Can be used for pollution monitoring (aggregation of vessels in certain areas);
    - Secures ownership: clarifies the responsibility and obligations of individual boats;
    - May provide more elaborated statistics/indicators.
22. In addition, the RFR was not intended to be just an obligation but also an opportunity for the countries to know their capacity and that of others, and would eventually be useful to detect underexploited areas, low capacity fleets, etc. The benefits of a RFR will be received by national and international entities alike.

3. Review of the status of the fishing vessel register in GFCM countries and/or sub-regions

3.1. Croatia

23. The Croatian Fishing Fleet Register is established as an on-line application, which can be accessed from any location via Internet, presuming that username and password are correct. The main database is installed on the server in central office of the Directorate of Fisheries in Zagreb, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development. The data are entered by the employees of Directorate in 7 Field offices, located along the coast.

24. The fleet register is in line with the requirements of the Commission Regulation (EC) No 26/2004 of 30 December 2003 on the Community fishing fleet register, considering mandatory fields which should be filled in. All the vessels licensed for commercial fishing are entered into the register. This register is license-based meaning that the number of licenses for commercial fishing equals the number of vessels.

25. The process of data entry into the Fishing Fleet Register is still ongoing due to the fact that the revision of licences is still ongoing as well. It is envisaged to finalize data entry in 2008 or mid 2009.

3.2. Turkey

26. Turkey has 18342 vessels/boats registered in its fleet database. At present the boat/vessel must be registered with the Under-secretariat of Turkish Maritime Affairs prior to

application for fishing license. Fleet size has been frozen since 2002. Fishing vessels are registered by the provincial agricultural directorates.

27. Present registry is standalone application and uses Access databases Data files which are sent to the central authority via internet. A new system has been developed to meet criteria of Regulation 26/2004 of EC for Community fishing fleet register, International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear (FAO) and national requirements.

28. The new Fisheries Information System using an oracle date base designed to store data for catch, landing declarations, sales notes and also for fleet registry will be fully operational In 2009.

29. The new registry covers
    - Marine Fishing vessels.
    - Inland Fishing vessels.
    - Auxiliaries.
    - Aquaculture vessels.

    and possess information on
    - -Vessel identification
    - -Technical data.
    - -Owners identification.
    - -Administrative data.
    - -Vessel license

3.3. Egypt

30. The Egyptian authorities have registered all vessels over 15 m electronically. The data included in this register does not only come from files but they are also checked by officers in some cases. The register is updated up to 2007.

31. Every year vessels owners have a period up to 8th April to renew their licence. Officers have to check whether any change was noted on previous records.

32. The fishing zones are fixed and the country is trying to create a register for the Red Sea (started on 1st May 2008) and inland lakes too, since the experience showed that once the register is created it is easier to keep it.

33. The Egyptian fleet register includes ALL vessels but only those over 15 m have so far been sent to GFCM. Engine data, LOA, tonnage and other parameters are available in the registry. However, difficulties are encountered in reporting using English terminology.

3.4. Algérie

34. Conscient de la nécessité de disposer d'un système d'information concernant la flottille de pêche, le Ministère de la Pêche et des Ressources Halieutiques algériens déploie de grands efforts pour la mise en place d'une base de données qui doit répondre à la fois aux besoins de l'administration et ceux des scientifiques.

35. La collecte de l'information est assurée principalement par l'administration des Affaires Maritimes en collaboration avec l'administration des pêches au niveau régional appelée Direction de Pêche de Wilaya. L'ensemble des informations régionales sont transmises et centralisées au niveau du Ministère et constituent ainsi le Fichier National de la flottille de pêche. Une équipe chargée du suivi de tout mouvement de la flottille de pêche à travers le territoire national assure une mise à jour mensuelle qui se fait sur Excel malgré que le Ministère dispose d'une vraie base de données.

36. Il est à noter, que le suivi des petits navires présente beaucoup de difficultés du fait qu'ils exercent principalement au niveau des plages d'échouages et donc la mise à jour concernant leur devenir ou leur principale zone d'exercice s'avère souvent difficile contrairement aux grands navires de pêche.

37. De plus, seules les informations administratives et techniques relatives à chaque navire de pêche sont disponibles. Les données sur les captures par unité de pêche demeurent encore difficiles à collecter dans plusieurs Wilaya.

3.5. Other countries using MedStat

38. Mr Salvatore Coppola (former MedFisis Programme Coordinator) delivered a presentation on the MedStat System which has been progressively developed, through the support of COPEMED, ADRIAMED, TCP/INT/2904 and MedFisis, according to availability of resources, requests from countries (total of 13 countries), pilot studies, etc. All the elements of the MedStat package have been developed and are available, though to a different level of completeness, functionalities and use, to the countries[2]. From the experience gained during the implementation of MedStat, it is evident that when a country manages to have a system working and uses it to fulfill important obligations, the implemented system is regarded as a real achievement and is *de facto* a self-sustainable system. The MedStat state-of-the-art from the development / implementation point of view (information component) is as follows:

Fishing Vessel Register

Second generation[3] complete and fully operational in several countries. (One first-generation[4] version is still working in Malta (fully operational); this version -started as the pilot - is the most complete from the functionalities point of view; apart from the Fishing Vessel Register Management, it is also linked with the Fishing Licenses management and delivery, Report to EC according to EC protocols, etc.).

Catch and Effort Survey – LogBook approach

[2] The Status of the Implementation of MedStat Activities in the GFCM Area GFCM/SAC10/2007/Dma.6 (meeting document, GFCM-SAC 10th session)

[3] MedStat "second generation" is the development choice of the MedStat final product. The software is developed in Operating System MS Windows 2000/XP. Its development environments are: Visual Studio 2003.net (Framework 1.1 - Programming Language: C# 2003 and MS Visual Basic .NET) plus Add-ons to Visual Studio: DataDynamics Active Reports and Dundas Charts. Microsoft SQL Server - SQL programming language or Access 2002 as database engine.

[4] The attribute "first generation" relates to a software version developed entirely in the Operating System MS Windows 97/2000, in Visual Basic environment with MS Access 97/2000 engine. Specifically, all prototypes were developed in Visual Basic – Access 97/2000 as a stand-alone configuration.

First-generation version complete and operational. Its further development is discontinued, only maintenance is considered. Second generation[5] (Basic) is ready and, though never fully operated till now, could be implemented at anytime.

Catch and Effort Survey – Sampling approach
First-generation version complete and operational. Its further development is discontinued, only maintenance is considered. The second-generation version (Basic) though not ready in all its parts, could be implemented at due time if necessary.

Regional/National Codification System
First-generation version fully operational and constantly updated. The second-generation version is not envisaged until extra development resources (programmer) are made available or the system is reconfigured in a networking environment (Regional coverage under the GFCM management).

National Management and Monitoring System
Second-generation version only. Under development for the two pilot countries (Albania and Malta). The two applications are constantly kept updated and tested. Could be released only if a country has the infrastructure to manage it or its MedStat System is re-configured on a network environment. The development of this MedStat element is particularly important at regional level. In fact the National Management and Monitoring System is seen by the designer as the prototype for the Regional Management and Monitoring system, where all the functionalities now planned at national level will be replicated with regional coverage.

Operational Unit Data Management - Task 1 Data structure
Based on the instructions issued by the GFCM Statistical Unit within the Secretariat, an Add-On Tool has been developed to allow Census Data automatically classified and structured to be uploaded and incorporated into the Operational Unit DataBase. This application, now in prototype version, will be finalized when the whole manual process is accepted.

39. The MedFisis project, designated to start its third year in mid-2008, has the task of proceeding with the implementation of MedStat. In fact, the project was established with a view to creating a Mediterranean Fishery Statistics and Information System, which is based on the existing national fishery statistics systems, enhanced and standardised to meet both national and regional requirements. The GFCM will be the principal international stakeholder of the system in its role to monitor the sustainable development and management of fisheries in the Mediterranean. During its 8th session, the SCSI agreed that MedFisis should give priority to the fleet register, with all participating countries equipped with the second generation system.

3.6. The Community Fishing Fleet Register

40. The Community Fishing Fleet Register (CFR) is an essential tool for the implementation and monitoring of the Common Fisheries Policy. In accordance with Community legislation (in particular Commission Regulation 26/2004), the CFR is a database were all commercial fishing vessels flying the flag of a Member State, and registered in a

community territory, must be registered. Thus the CFR has to be up-to-date under the responsibility of the EU Member States and fully reflect to the current situation of their fleets. The European Commission does not delete, correct or amend any of these data. In order to comply with the above mentioned every three months Member States are sending a copy of their complete national fleet register databases to the European Commission (so called Snapshot).

41. The main objective of the Fleet Register is to enable any Community fishing vessel and her key characteristics to be identified, with the aim of:
    - Monitoring the implementation of capacity management measures.
    - Being a source of information for the officials of the Commission and Member States in charge of control and inspection.
    - Serving as an accurate source of statistical data on the European fishing fleet.
    - Serving as a reference database for vessels characteristics for other applications that manage information on fishing vessels.

42. The data contained in the Fleet Register can be classified in four different types:
    - Administrative identifications: name, port, external marking, IRCS, etc.
    - Technical characteristics: length, tonnage, power, fishing gear, etc.
    - Historical events: entry into and exit from the fleet, modifications of characteristics.
    - Personal data: agent and owner's name and address.

43. In preparation of the workshop, the European Commission has prepared a Working Document (Appendix IV), which largely served as a support to structure the discussions during the workshop.

4. Development of the GFCM Regional Fleet Register (RFR)

4.1. Fields, format, codifications and standards

44. The identification, during the workshop, of the GFCM Regional Fleet Register fields, format, codifications and standards was largely based on the existing technical specifications of the Authorised Vessels List (AVL) and the EU Fleet Register. The fields pertaining to the AVL were discussed with a view to extend their scope or give precisions to their meaning. Additional fields were deeply examined, making them the subject of the discussions for most of the meeting and their specifications are listed below.

45. In preamble of the discussion on the fields, the issue in relation to which fishing vessels should be included in the RFR was clarified. The scope of the FAO definition of a fishing vessel found in the FAO glossary was said to be too wide, since it includes fish carriers, mother ships, etc. It was decided that the GFCM RFR should be designed in order to accept the full extension to transhipment, carriers and other auxiliary vessels, but that initially the scope of the fishing vessel definition should be reduced to facilitate the start of the registering process.

46. Thus, the proposed definition is as follows:

    Fishing vessel: "*Any vessel, boat, ship, or other craft that is equipped and used for commercial fishing activity*".

47. The term "commercial fishing" was adapted from the FAO glossary which implies *"The harvesting of fish, either in whole or in part, for sale, barter or trade"*

48. Some of the fields were added from the AVL as optional fields acknowledging the difficulty in collecting this type of data but making countries aware of the importance of these parameters and that they are bound to become mandatory in the future.

49. The agreement reached in relation to the fields, format, codifications and standards for the GFCM RFR are as follows:

No	Fields	Optional / Mandatory	Public / Restricted	AVL Fields	Description	Code
1	**Country**	M	P	X	Flag under which the vessel is operating.	ISO country code (alpha-3-code).
2	**Registration authority**[6]	M	P		Authority having issued the registration	
3	**Vessel name (if any)**	M	P	X	Name of vessel.	
4	**Vessel register number**	M	P	X	Registration number assigned to the fishing vessel by the Authorities.	
5	**GFCM registration number**[7]	M	P		Code assigned by Members	ISO code + 9 characters
6	**IMO registration number**[8]	O	P		Code IMO given by Lloyds company	
7	**Previous vessel name (if any)**	O	P	X	Previous name of vessel (if any).	
8	**Previous flag (if any)**	O	P	X	Previous flag of vessel (if any).	ISO country code (alpha-3-code).
9	**Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)**	O	P	X	Details of deletion from other registries (if any).	
10	**International radio call sign (if any)**	O	P	X	International radio call sign (if any).	

[6] Registration authority: free text referring to the highest level national authority having issued the registration of the vessel. Important for control purposes. The EU CFR does not require this information, however this information may be obtained though a specific request by the European Commission.

[7] GFCM registration number: Unique vessel identifier for the life of the vessel, composed of the ISO code of the flag country + 9 characters. This GFCM registration number is provided by national authority; for EU MS, this unique identifier will be the same as the CFR registration number.

[8] IMO registration number: Optional; Normally available for >100 GT vessels registered by Lloyds company. This information is needed to cross reference with other databases.

No	Fields	Optional / Mandatory	Public / Restricted	AVL Fields	Description	Code
11	**Vessel type**[9]	M	P	X	Type of vessel according to the International Standard Classification of Fishery Vessels by Vessel Types. (The 'International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishery Vessels by Vessel Types' (ISSCFV), based on the type of gear used by the vessels, approved by the CWP in 1984).	Appendix VI, Table 1
12	**Operational status**[10]	O	P		Active / Inactive (1) Permanent status until receiving allowance to return into activity	
13	**Port of registration**[11]	M	P		Full name of the port	
14	**Year of entry into fishing activity**[12]	M	P		Year of entry into fishing activity	yyyy
15	**Events**[13]	M	P		Code identifying the type of event reported	Appendix VI, Table 2
16	**Event date**[14]	M	P		Event date	
	Day				Event date: day	dd
	Month				Event date: month	mm
	Year				Event date: year	yyyy

[9] Vessel type: In the ISSCFV standard abbreviation (Appendix VI, table 1) there are possibilities to enter codes like "Fishing vessel not specified" when precise information is unknown. Moreover, in this classification, there is the possibility to declare "Fish carriers", "Mother ships", etc… which opens the door to the registration of these kind of vessels if required at a later stage.

[10] Operational status : Permanent status (active/inactive) until receiving further notice. This does not include stoppage e.g. repairs, vacation. Optional field until further discussed by sub-committee.

[11] Port of registration : Full name of the port/city. Some countries do not register small vessels in a harbour, but in the ministry. In any case, there is always a city of registration and this is the information to be registered here.

[12] Year of entry into fishing activity. In most of the cases, this information would be the same as the year of construction/registration. A difference could occur when the type of activity of the vessel was different.

[13] Events : Codification adapted from the one in force in the European Community (EC) No 26/2004

[14] Event date: Mandatory. Need to know when the event happened since some vessels have a licence for the whole year.

No	Fields	Optional / Mandatory	Public / Restricted	AVL Fields	Description	Code
17	**Authorisation to fish**[15]	M	P		Any authorisation to fish, e.g. licence, permit or any other official denomination	Y/N
18	**Period authorized for fishing and/or transhipping**[16]	O	P	X	Time period authorized for fishing and/or trans-shipping.	
	Starting date	O		X	Starting date	
	Day				Starting date: day	dd
	Month				Starting date: month	mm
	Year				Starting date: year	yyyy
	Ending date	O		X	Ending date	
	Day				Ending date: day	dd
	Month				Ending date: month	mm
	Year				Ending date: year	yyyy
19	**Main fishing statistical area**[17]	O			GSA where the vessel is authorised to fish and operates the majority of the year.	GSA number or "All"
20	**Secondary fishing statistical area**	O			GSA where the vessel is authorised to fish and operates occasionally	GSA number
21	**Tertiary fishing statistical area**	O			GSA where the vessel is authorised to fish and operates occasionally	GSA number

[15] Authorisation to fish: Y/N. whatever means is used to give an authorisation to fish, licence, permit, others. The information required here is the right for the vessel to be at sea fishing.

[16] Period authorised for fishing and/or transhipping:

- Vessels > 15m : starting and ending dates submitted under the AVL provisions.
- Vessels <= 15 m : automatic registration of starting date = 1st January of the year of submission and ending date = 31st December of the year of submission, unless specifically notified.
- The 6 fields are optional and subject to submission under the AVL provisions, i.e. beside the FR *stricto sensu*.

[17] Fishing statistical area: Optional. Main, secondary and tertiary. The GSA(s) where the vessel operates. Can be all the GSAs, subject to the relevant legal provisions, national or international.

No	Fields	Optional / Mandatory	Public / Restricted	AVL Fields	Description	Code
22	**Fishing Gear used**	M	P	X	Main gear according to the fishing license of the vessel or the owner/operator, using the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear (The International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear (ISSCFG) was adopted during the 10th Session of the CWP (Madrid, 22-29 July 1980).	ISSCFG standard abbreviation.
23	**Secondary Fishing Gear**	M	P		Secondary gear according to the fishing license of the vessel or the owner/operator, using the same International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear as "Fishing gear used"	ISSCFG standard abbreviation Or « None »
24	**Length Overall (LOA)**	M		X	Length Over All (LOA, in metres). The principle longitudinal dimension of the hull of the vessel.	
25	**Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT)[18]**	O		X	Gross Registered Tonnage according to the Oslo Convention (1947) (in use until 1995). (GRT represented the total measured cubic content of the permanently enclosed spaces of a vessel, with some allowances or deductions for exempt spaces such as living quarters [1 gross register ton = 100 cubic feet = 2.83 cubic metres]).	
26	**Gross Tonnage (GT)[19]**	M		X	Gross Tonnage according to the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, London, 1969 (in use since 1996) for vessels >= 15 m. For vessels < 15m. see footnote 19	
27	**Construction year[20]**	M	P			yyyy

[18] GRT: old method (before 1996) sometimes still used in certain countries and for older vessels. Optional until GT is measured and available for all vessels.

[19] GT: Gross Tonnage according to the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, London, 1969 (in use since 1996) for vessels >= 15 m.

For vessels < 15 m. following formula may be applied as an approximation:
tonnage = V x (0.2 + 0.02 $\log_{10}$ V)
where v = a_1 x L_{oa} x B x T
and a_1 = (0.5194 + 0.0145 x L_{oa}) or 0.60 (whichever is higher)

[20] Construction year: Important for calculating the age of the fleet.

No	Fields	Optional / Mandatory	Public / Restricted	AVL Fields	Description	Code
28	**Hull material**[21]	M	P		Code	Appendix VI, Table 3
29	**Powered**	M	P		Power of the main engine > 0	Y/N
30	**Power of the main engine(s)**[22]	M	P		Total maximum continuous rated output power in Kw of all the vessel's main propulsion machinery which appears on the vessel's certificate or registry or other official document (STCW-F convention)	Kw
31	**Power of auxiliary engine(s) (if any)**[23]	M	P		Includes all installed engine power not included under the heading "Power of the main engine(s)"	Kw
32	**Owner**[24]				Owner	
	Name	M	R	X	Name of owner(s).	
	Address	M	R	X	Address of owner(s).	
33	**Operator (if different from owner)**				Operator	
	Name	M	R	X	Name of operator(s).	
	Address	M	R	X	Address of operator (s).	
34	**Min number of the crew**[25]	O	R		Minimum number for conducting fishing operation	
35	**Max number of the crew**	O	R		Number of the crew for conducting specific fishing operation if superior to "Min number of the crew"	
36	**VMS**	M	P			Y/N

[21] Hull material: Codification identical to the one in force in the European Community (EC) No 26/2004

[22] Power of the main engine(s): Power of any source of energy used for the propulsion of the vessel (STCW-F convention) excluding sail and manpowered. Members are responsible for the conversion from Hp to Kw depending on the definitions used for Hp (e.g. 1 Kw = 0.736*Hp in European countries)

[23] Power of the auxiliary engine(s): Power all other source of energy not included above whatever use is made of that energy. For the Mediterranean, the fleet capacity shall be calculated on the basis of the power of the main engine.

[24] Owner and operator: not available to general public for vessels > 15m. The level of restriction for the vessels <=15 m to be further discussed in the sub-committee. The public availability of this information for the vessels > 15 m is causing concerns in the case of protection of individuals with regards to the processing of personal data for the EU Member States.

[25] Crew: optional. Minimum number for conducting fishing operation. Maximum is meant to quantify the number of crew needed by some specific fishing operations

No	Fields	Optional / Mandatory	Public / Restricted	AVL Fields	Description	Code
37	**Navigation equipment**[26]	O	P		Codification table	Appendix VI Table 4
38	**Communication equipment**	O	P		Codification table	Appendix VI Table 5
39	**Fish finder**	O	P		Codification table	Appendix VI Table 6
40	**Deck machinery to operate fishing gear**	O	P		Codification table	Appendix VI Table 7
41	**Fish hold capacity**	O	P			m^3
42	**Refrigeration equipment**	O	P			Y/N
43	**Fish processing equipment**	O	P			Y/N
44	**Lights for fishing**	O	P		In case of use of a fishing operation requiring light	Y/N
45	**Safety equipment**	O	P			Y/N

[26] Vessel's equipment: all optional, to acknowledge the difficulty of collecting this type of data but highlighting the importance of these parameters and are bound to become mandatory in the future. Coding tables should be used when exist (see appendix VI).

4.2. The Authorised Vessels List and data transmission

50. In view of the fact that the data fields in the AVL are all included in the RFR, the Secretariat tabled a proposal (Appendix V) to facilitate the data submission process, whereby vessels qualifying for the AVL would be automatically identified from the RFR, thus requiring a single data submission procedure. However, the participants noted that the data are provided under different provisions and that the national source (authority) may be different for each. In this respect, it was suggested that two data transmission processes would take place, one for the RFR and another for the AVL. Nevertheless, data integrity routines between the two databases would need to be established along with strict interlinked validation rules.

51. For vessels <= 15m which do not form part of the GFCM AVL, the vessels would be considered implicitly authorised to fish from the 1st of January to the 31st of December of the year of registration, i.e. from the moment the submission of the data have been accepted by GFCM secretariat, unless otherwise specified by the reporting country.

52. The participants agreed that the unique identifier used in the RFR should be added to the AVL.

4.3. Validation rules

53. In order to properly establish validation rules, a test environment will be provided to participants prior to the SCSI meeting scheduled for October 2008.

54. Periodicity and means of validation will be developed in common agreement with all Members. One specific agenda item should be added to the SCSI meeting on this issue.

4.4. Data exchange protocols

55. The inception date for the GFCM Fleet register was proposed as 1st January 2009.

56. The history starts with the first census and the data should cover all “events” and describing history of fishing vessels since the census.

57. The uploading frequency is as follows:
    - The full dataset at least once a year at the beginning of the year;
    - The Contracting parties may update the GFCM RFR anytime of the year at their own discretion. The possibility to send only the modifications for the vessels concerned or another full dataset will be made available.

58. The exchange of data with the EU CFR will be elaborated in liaison between the EU Commission and the GFCM Secretariat.

4.5. Publication of information

59. The availability of the GFCM RFR on the public domain is to be discussed during the SCSI meeting in October 2008. One of the concerns is about the level of restriction for publication of information on vessels' owners and operators (see section 4.1, under owner and operator header).

60. A field has been updated in the table (section 4.1) to distinguish between public, restricted and confidential data.

4.6. Data reporting tool

61. The electronic data reporting tool for the GFCM RFR will initially be based on that developed for the AVL. When GFCM secretariat presented the AVL tool, a demand was expressed for translating the guidelines of the GFCM fleet Register tool in Arabic language, in order to facilitate its use in decentralised administrations, e.g. port authorities.

62. It was agreed that the GFCM Secretariat will circulate a beta version including guidelines of the GFCM RFR tool (complete register and modification versions) before the SCSI meeting. Tests at national level would need to be carried out prior to this meeting when further discussions will take place to finalise the RFR structure.

4.7. Maintenance of the database

63. During the SCSI meeting, the Secretariat will deliver a presentation on the maintenance and the management of the RFR.

64. The group welcomed the offer made by the EU Commission to cooperate closely with the GFCM Secretariat in the development of the RFR.

65. The updating of the data in the RFR lies within the responsibility of the contracting parties and should reflect the current situation of their fleets. The GFCM Secretariat will not delete, correct or amend any of these data.

4.8. Monitoring tools

66. This item has not been discussed during the meeting, but it is expected that outputs like simple capacity monitoring (total GT, KW by country and by region) and comparisons between actual and previous fleet reports would be developed. Furthermore elaborated graphs may be added after discussion by the SCSI.

5. Conclusions and recommendations

67. Main conclusions regarding the GFCM RFR

- The GFCM RFR contains information of "*Any vessel, boat, ship, or other craft that is equipped and used for commercial fishing activity*".
- The inception date of the GFCM RFR was proposed as 1st January 2009.
- The historical records start with the first census.
- The uploading frequency should consider a full dataset at least once a year at the beginning of the year, and updates at the discretion of the Contracting parties.
- The updating of the GFCM RFR lies within the responsibility of the Contracting parties and should fully reflect to the current situation of their fleets.
- The fields, format, codifications and standards for the GFCM RFR are as defined in paragraph 44 and the associated table and notes.

68. Modification to the Authorised Vessels List

- Unique identifier used in the FL to be added to AVL

69. Actions to be undertaken by the GFCM Secretariat

- A demand was expressed for translating the guidelines of the GFCM RFR and AVL data reporting tools into Arabic language, in order to facilitate its use in decentralised administrations, e.g. port authorities.
- The GFCM Secretariat will circulate a beta version including validation rules and guidelines of the GFCM RFR tool (complete register and modification versions) before the SCSI meeting. Tests at national level would need to be carried out prior to this meeting when further discussions will take place to finalise the RFR structure.
- The Secretariat will deliver a presentation on all technicalities regarding the maintenance and the management of the database for discussion during the SCSI meeting in October 2008.
- The exchange of data with the EU CFR will be elaborated in liaison between the EU Commission and the GFCM Secretariat

70. Issues to be discussed during the SCSI meeting in October 2008

- One specific agenda item should be added to the SCSI meeting, regarding the periodicity and means of validation to be developed in common agreement with all Members.
- Availability of the information on the public domain.
- Monitoring tools (elaborated graphs).

6. Adoption of the report

71. The conclusions and recommendations (section 5) together with the table and its contents, contained in paragraph 50, in relation to the fields, format, codifications and standards for the GFCM RFR were adopted by the participants at the end of the meeting. The report was adopted in its entirety by email on 20 June 2008.

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APPENDIX I

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APPENDIX II

EXCERPTS FROM THE 1993 FAO COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT

Article IV

Each Party shall, for the purposes of this Agreement, maintain a record of fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag and authorized to be used for fishing on the high seas, and shall take such measures as necessary to ensure that all such fishing vessels are entered in that record.

Article VI

1. Each Party shall make readily available to FAO the following additional information with respect to each fishing vessel entered in the record required to be maintained under Article IV: [...]

2. Each Party shall, to the extent practicable, make available to FAO the following additional information with respect to each fishing vessel entered in the record required to be maintained under Article IV: [...]

11. The Parties shall exchange information relating to the implementation of this Agreement, including through FAO and other appropriate global, regional and subregional fisheries organizations.

EXCERPTS FROM THE FAO INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON IUU

42. Each flag State should maintain a record of fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag. Each flag State's record of fishing vessels should include, for vessels authorized to fish on the high seas, all the information set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article VI of the1993 FAO Compliance Agreement, and may also include, *inter alia: [...]*

80. States, acting through relevant regional fisheries management organizations, should take action to strengthen and develop innovative ways, in conformity with international law, to prevent. deter, and eliminate IUU fishing. Consideration should be given to including the following measures: [...]

80.5 development and maintenance of records of vessels fishing in the area of competence of a relevant regional fisheries management organization, including both those authorized to fish and those engaged in or supporting IUU fishing.

EXCERPTS FROM THE FAO INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON THE MANAGEMENT OF FISHING CAPACITY

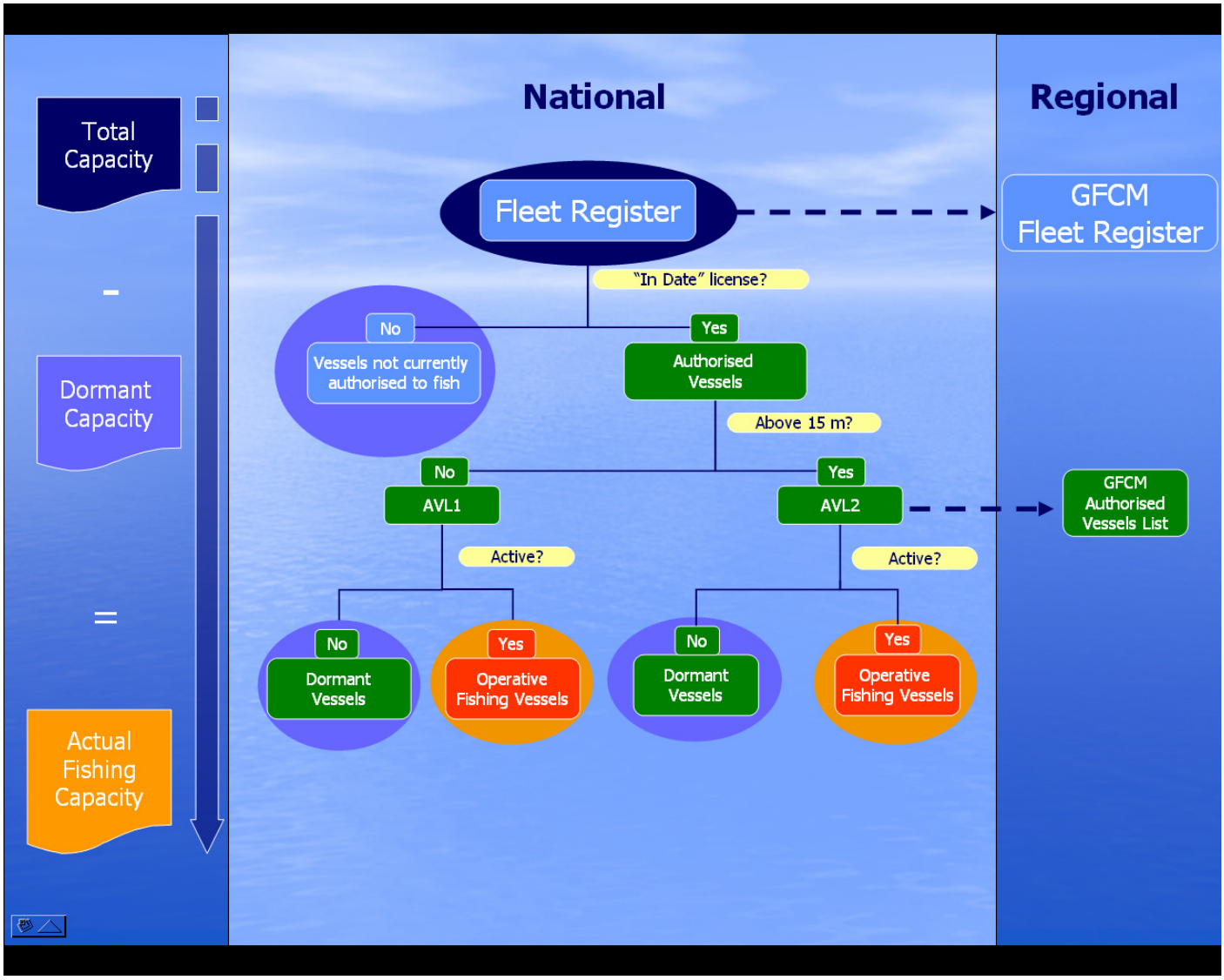
11. States should support coordinated efforts and research at national, regional and global levels to better understand the fundamental aspects of issues related to the measurement and monitoring of fishing capacity.

17. States should develop and maintain appropriate and compatible national records of fishing vessels, further specifying conditions for access to information.

27. States should cooperate, where appropriate, through regional fisheries organizations or arrangements and other forms of co-operation, with a view to ensuring the effective management of fishing capacity.

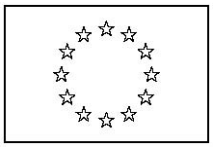
APPENDIX III

THE FLEET REGISTER AND FLEET CAPACITY



APPENDIX IV

PRELIMINARY COMMENTS FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA
Fisheries conservation and control Mediterranean and Black Sea and horizontal management of fisheries data

Brussels, 28 April 2008

DG MARE/D.2/TT D (2008)

Subject: Preliminary comments for upcoming ad hoc workshop on regional GFCM fleet register, Rome, 12-14 May 2008

Currently there are nine European Union Member States which have fleets operating in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. Since these countries and the European Community are GFCM members, the Commission supports the development of a GFCM fishing fleet register for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The fishing fleets of the above mentioned countries are included in the Community Fleet Register (CFR), which has been set-up more than twenty years ago and has been constantly developed to cover fisheries management needs. It is a comprehensive and highly reliable data source not only for managing and monitoring the capacity of the Community fishing fleet and for EU Member States fisheries administrations, but also for the general public. The European Commission is ready to share its know-how and technical expertise on the setting-up and maintenance of the fleet register. The concept and data format used in the CFR could be used, possibly with some adaptations to GFCM Fleet Register needs. Thus the use of this tool which has proved to be very successful could be extended to all the Mediterranean Sea coastal countries.

However, this task is not an easy one and will require considerable efforts and political will from all involved Parties. The European Commission would like to address among other topics the following issues, which must be considered to create a comprehensive, reliable and functional GFCM Fleet Register.

Basic features and scope:

- Well defined data transmission procedures;
- Minimum set of coherent fleet data Validation Rules
- Census date for vessel reporting;
- Unique vessels identifier (like CFR number);
- Availability of GFCM FR on the public domain;
- Data will cover all "events" containing full history of fishing vessels as from Census date? Or only recent data only?
- Data uploading frequency and data updating procedures;

– Mandatory and optional data fields;
– Which vessels will be covered? Minimum limit (length over all or GT)?
– Personal data protection issues[27].

IT issues:

– Data submission format? (e.g. XML , NAF)
– Data submission means – on-line upload?
– System's security matters and data protection;
– Link with record of vessels activity status;
– Test environment should be established to allow all involved Parties to test their data in advance;
– Exchange of data with CFR and vice-versa;
– Fleet Register backup and archiving of data;
– Data analysing tools, such as comparisons between actual and previous fleet reports.

Finally, we would like to outline the following:

– The parameter used in the European Community for recording a vessels' tonnage is gross tonnage (GT) according to the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, signed in London on 23 June 1969 (London Convention).

– The "Vessel type" is not recorded in the CFR, but rather the fishing gears used by the vessel; this means that the above mentioned EU Member States would transfer only the gear type but not the vessel type data to the GFCM FR.

– There should be a limited period (e.g. three years) agreed during which GFCM Member Parties may correct their data in the FR. After that period only recent data entries and updates shall be allowed.

We look forward to discuss the above mentioned issues in the GFCM SCSI workshop in Rome. We will give a brief presentation regarding our experience with the CFR and will answer related questions

Toms TORIMS, Assistant Policy Officer

[27] The policy on "protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions" is based on Regulation (EC) N° 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000

APPENDIX V

THE FLEET REGISTER AND THE FLEET CAPACITY

GFCM Vessel Register

Reporting country: _____ **Year:** ____

FISHING VESSEL IDENTIFICATION CHARACTERISTICS

- Flag
- Registration number
- Registration authority
- GFCM registration number
- IRCS
- Vessel name
- Vessel Type
- Operational Status
- Base port

FISHING AUTHORISATION

- Year of entry into fishery
- Type of fishing authorisation
- Time period authorized for fishing and/or transhipping
  - *From* *To*
- Fishing gear
  - Main
  - Secondary
- Fishing Area (Geographical Sub-Area)
  1.
  2.
  3.

STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Length overall (m) Decked
- GT GRT
- Contruction: Year Place
- Hull material

ENGINE

- Powered
- Power of main engine (KW)
- Power of auxialliary engines (KW)

OWNERSHIP AND CREW

- Name of owner / company
- Operated by
- Address of owner / company
  - Address
  - Postal code
  - Town
  - Contry
- Number of the crew (min / max)

ELECTRONIC AND OTHER EQUIPMENT

- VMS
- Navigation equipment
- Communication equipment
- Fish finder
- Deck machinery to operate fishing gear
- Fish hold capacity (m³)
- Refrigeration equipment
- Fish processing equipment
- Lights for fishing
- Safety equipment

NOTE

Green Fields common to Authorised Vessels List database

Data determining whether vessel forms part of GFCM Authorised Vessels List

Red Activity Status

APPENDIX VI

FIELD CODES

Table 1. Classification of Fishery Vessels by Vessel Types

"International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishery Vessels by Vessel Types" (ISSCFV), based on the type of gear used by the vessels, approved by the CWP in 1984 (ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/cwp/handbook/annex/annexLII.pdf)

ISSCFV	Vessel type	Standard abbreviation
0100	Trawlers	TO
0200	Purse Seiners	SP
0300	Dredgers	DO
0400	Lift Netters	NO
0500	Gill Netters	GO
0600	Trap Setters	WO
0700	Long Liners	LL
0710	Other Liners	LOX
0900	Multipurpose vessels	MO
4900	Fishing Vessels not specified	RO
1100	Motherships	HO
1200	Fish Carriers	FO
1400	Protection and Survey Vessels	BO
1500	Fishery Research Vessels	ZO
1600	Fishery training Vessels	CO
9900	Non-Fishing Vessels	VOX

Table 2 – Code for type of events

Type of event		Standard abbreviation
Entry to fleet	Census	CEN
	New construction	CST
	Change of activity	CHA
	Intra-Mediterranean import, transfer	IMP
Within fleet	Modification	MOD
Exit from fleet	Break-up, shipwreck	DES
	Change of activity	RET
	Intra-Mediterranean export, transfer	EXP

Table 3 – Code for hull material

Hull material	Code
Wood	1
Metal	2
Fibreglass/plastic	3
Other	4
Unknown	5

Table 4 – Code for navigation equipment

Navigation Equipment	Code
No navigation equipment	1
Loran C	2
Loran A	3
Omega	4
Decca	5
GPS (Satellite navigation)	6
Radar	7
Direction finder	8
Automatic pilot	9
Meteorological map receiver	10
Gyrocompass	11
Other	98
Unknown	99

Table 5 – Code for communication equipment

Communication Equipment	Code
Radio VHF	1
Radio telephone	2
Cellular phone	3
Fax	4
Satellite radio	5
Telegraph	6
Other	8
Unknown	9

Table 6 – Code for fish finder equipment

Fish Finder Equipment	Code
Echo sounder	1
Sonar	2
Net sond	3
Other	8
Unknown	9

Table 7 – Code for Deck machinery to operate fishing gear

Deck Machinery	Code
Line winch	1
Net winch	2
Trammel winch	3
Power block	4
Other	8
Unknown	9