

General background of port activity in the GFCM Area



Operational data related to national port State controls

- The number of major fishing ports used by vessels greater than 15 meters varies in GFCM Members.
- Many calls were made to these ports in 2005 and 2006 by fishing vessels; few calls were made to these ports in 2005 and 2006 by foreign fishing vessels.
- Government agencies are in charge of in-port inspections.
- These agencies carried out a remarkable number of inspections in 2005 and 2006; a small portion of these inspections resulted in evidence of IUU fishing, deterrent actions, legal actions and non legal actions.

Operational data related to national port State controls

- Data collected during port inspections are mainly used for enforcement purposes.
- Priorities for carrying out port inspections are still to be identified by the majority of GFCM Members.
- Several GFCM Members declared lack of effective human resources required for the implementation of port State measures at national level.

National legislation on port State measures

- Some GFCM Members identified national legal instruments setting out port State measures. There are several national provisions related to port State measures such as inspection procedures and follow-up actions; there are few national legal instruments specifically envisaged to lay down all the port State measures set out in the FAO Model Scheme.
- The majority of GFCM Members believe that their national legislations in relation to the FAO Model Scheme needs to be updated and implemented in order to strengthen port State controls.

National legislation on port State measures

- NPOA-IUU containing port State measures are neither under development nor being implemented by the majority of GFCM Members at present.
- Some GFCM Members consider the support of the GFCM and of the FAO as needed in view of preparing new laws and regulations related to port State measures.

Effectiveness of port State measures

- GFCM Members consider port State measures to be effective in controlling IUU fishing activities.
- GFCM Members are aware that a binding international instrument on port State measures based on the FAO Model Scheme and the IPOA-IUU will be developed by 2009 as agreed by COFI 2007.
- GFCM Members consider the potential elaboration of a regional scheme on port State measures by the GFCM, building on the FAO Model Scheme and the IPOA-IUU, to be a useful tool to combat IUU fishing; port State measures to be given priority should be identified by GFCM Members.

Effectiveness of port State measures

- According to GFCM Members, some of the major constraints to the implementation of port State measures are the lack of harmonized measures in the GFCM area, qualified human resources, training of inspectors and a regional database.
- Ways to overcome these constraints in the mind of GFCM Members are harmonizing measures through intensive meetings and/or multilateral coordination among Members, training of inspectors to be regularly organized by CoC/GFCM in collaboration with GFCM Members, setting up mechanisms of control and exchange of information and establishing of a regional network for port inspections.

Summary of port State activity in the GFCM area

- Capacity dissimilarities (technology, funding, personnel, equipment and legislation) in the GFCM area.
- Fishing operations in the GFCM area still tend to be managed within the remit of waters under national jurisdiction.
- Existing inspection procedures, including follow-up actions, in the GFCM area are not harmonized.
- Identification of uniform priorities in carrying out inspections in the GFCM area would be needed.

Summary of port State activity in the GFCM area

- Inadequate human resources are a common feature of the GFCM area.
- Lack of legislation is an obstacle to the implementation of the FAO Model Scheme and the IPOA-IUU in the GFCM area.
- There appears to be a need to strengthen the effectiveness of port State measures in the GFCM area at present.

General background of port activity in the GFCM Area

