



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE  
MEDITERRANEAN

COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES POUR  
LA MÉDITERRANÉE



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## **MANDATES OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

### **1. SAC Mandates<sup>1</sup>**

- (a) There shall be established a Scientific Advisory Committee which shall provide scientific, social and economic information, data, or advice relating to the work of the Commission.
- (b) The Committee shall be open to all members of the Commission. Each Member of the Commission may designate a member of the Committee, and a member may be accompanied by experts.
- (c) The Committee may establish working groups to analyze data and to advise the Committee on the state of shared and straddling resources.
- (d) The Committee shall provide independent advice on the technical and scientific bases for decisions concerning fisheries conservation and management, including biological, social and economic aspects, and in particular, it shall:

- (1) Assess information provided by members and relevant fisheries organizations or programmes on catches, fishing effort, and other data relevant to the conservation and management of fisheries;
- (2) formulate advice to the Commission on the conservation and management of fisheries;
- (3) identify cooperative research programmes and coordinate their implementation;
- (4) Undertake such other functions or responsibilities as may be conferred on it by the Commission.

(e) Members have an obligation to provide information on catches and other data relevant to the functions of the Committee in such a way as to enable the Committee to fulfil its responsibilities under this paragraph.

3. The Commission may establish such other committees and working parties as it considers desirable.

4. The establishment of committees and working parties under this Rule shall be subject to the provisions of Article VII, paragraph 3 of the Agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> Excerpts from Rule X of Rules of procedures

5. The procedures of such committees and working parties shall be governed “mutatis mutandis” by the Rules of Procedure of the Commission.

## **2. Mandates for the Subsidiary Bodies**

### **2.1. Terms of Reference for the Sub-Committees of SAC<sup>2</sup>**

#### **a. General for all Sub-Committees**

- Elaborate on the precise terms of reference for the scientific activities to be realized on the basis of the Scientific Advisory Committee's mandate, with special attention on the shared stocks;
- Organize the inter-session preparatory work, including working groups when necessary;
- Analyse the results of these works and elaborate a summary for the Scientific Advisory Committee;
- Report to the Scientific Advisory Committee on a range of options for management and research, on the basis of work carried out during the intersession;
- Call the attention of the Scientific Advisory Committee on encountered or foreseeable problems and recommend solutions;
- Coordinate, where appropriate, and subject to the Scientific Advisory Committee's approval, with other scientific bodies working in similar fields;
- Analyse the methodology and propose improvements if appropriate.

#### **b. Specifics for each Sub-Committee**

##### ***Sub-Committee for Stock Assessment (SCSA)***

- Organize the scientific activities to carry out assessments of particular stocks and in particular of shared stocks;
- Review and analyse the assessments done during the intersession, including the joint GFCM/ICCAT working group on large pelagic species;
- Provide annotated summaries of the assessments to SAC;
- Review and analyze the assessment methods and propose the most appropriate ones.

##### ***Sub-Committee on Fishery Statistics and Information***

- Provide support to the other sub-committees of the Scientific Advisory Committee in the field of statistical methodology, data bases conceptualisation, design, harmonization and analysis.

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<sup>2</sup> From Report of 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of SAC (7-10 June 1999, Rome, Italy), Appendix F

- Review the updating and maintenance of regional databases concerning GFCM as a whole;
- Review the updating and maintenance of other data bases including geographical information systems (GIS) relevant to the Scientific Advisory Committee;
- Ensure the compatibility and exchange with other national and international organizations and institutions concerned with fisheries statistics data and information as well as with FAO/FIGIS;
- Identify the type and level of details and desegregation required for the work of the other Sub-Committees. The identification of sources of errors involved in the data collection and processing should also be identities.

#### ***Sub-Committee on Economic and Social Sciences***

- Review and analyze socio-economic studies available in view of identifying options and evaluating measures related to fishing management;
- Promote bio-economic research and identify the appropriate methods for the harmonization and implementation of the fishery management measures;
- Strengthen and network social sciences expertise in the region;
- Analyze data of economical and social nature and evaluate related indicators.

#### ***Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems***

- Establish links with existing regional bodies concerned with studies on the relationship/interaction between environment and marine ecosystems;
- Provide analysis of ecosystems trends and environmental conditions in relation to trends in fishery resources, biodiversity and genetic resources;
- Evaluate the impacts of human action on the marine ecosystem, including fisheries and propose measures that aim to limit the negative effect of these actions;
- Assess the relevance of international agreements on conservation and environment protection on Mediterranean fishery resources management.
- Propose to the SAC research programmes related to the impacts of fisheries on the marine environment and marine ecosystems.

### **2.2. Terms of reference of the Coordinating Meeting of the Sub-Committees (CMSC) and of the Coordinators of the Sub-Committees<sup>3</sup>**

#### **• 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>[4]</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> From Appendix E of the Report of the twenty-ninth session of GFCM, (Rome, 21-25 February 2005)

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.

- **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.

- **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.

### **2.3. Terms of Reference for the Permanent Working Group on Stock Assessment Methodology (PWGAM)<sup>4</sup>**

The mandate of this Permanent working group is to develop the point of the Terms of Reference of the SCSA: “Review and analyze the assessment methods and propose the most appropriate ones”. According to this SC proposes the following ToRs:

- Use of different methods (e.g. biomass dynamic models) to produce assessments using the data obtained in the trawl surveys carried out in the Mediterranean,
- Compare the VPA, echo surveys and DEPM applied to the small pelagics and analyses their reliability and usefulness to assess these resources.
- Explore the reliability and applicability of ecological and bioeconomic models, in particular those that have already been applied in Mediterranean fisheries.
- Study the possibility of fixing the stock assessment parameters for the main species in the same area.

The subcommittee recommends inviting external experts (i.e. ICES specialists) to the Permanent working group sessions.

### **2.4. Revised Terms of reference for the Joint ad hoc GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Species in the Mediterranean<sup>5</sup>**

#### **1. Mandate**

The mandate of the Joint *ad hoc* GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Species in the Mediterranean, as established in 1993, shall be amended so as it provides biological, social and economic and environmental information or independent advice on all aspects of related to the management of Tuna and tuna like species in the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and connecting waters, respectively to the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and to the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

It shall in particular and with inputs from other subsidiary bodies of SAC and SCRS, as appropriate:

- assess information provided by Members, relevant fisheries organizations, programmes and projects on catch and efforts data as well as related biological, socio-economic and environmental information relevant to the conservation and management of tuna fisheries, including stock assessments on large pelagic species and analysis of ecosystem trends and environmental conditions;
- collect and analyse fleet statistics in the format and following the agreed criteria relative to the Registers of Vessels;
- analyse the results of intersessional works and formulate preliminary advice and management options to SAC and/or SCRS on the conservation and management of tuna fisheries;
- identify cooperative research programmes and monitor their implementation;

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<sup>4</sup> Excerpt from 7<sup>th</sup> SCSA report (Rome, 26-30 September, 2005)

<sup>5</sup> Reference in paragraph 55 of the Report of the 29<sup>th</sup> session of GFCM . Terms of Reference *attached in document GFCM/XXIX/2005/8 (Annex 2)*

- undertake such other functions or responsibilities as may be conferred on it by the GFCM or ICCAT;

## **2. Modus operandi**

The Ad hoc Working group shall carry its duty in conformity with the relevant provision of the Rules of Procedures of GFCM and ICCAT. It shall, in particular:

- be convened by the Secretariats of the two parents organization (one convener be appointed by the GFCM Secretariat and one be appointed by the ICCAT Secretariat);
- elect its Chairperson, among the participants, at each meeting;
- Prepare draft terms of reference to be endorsed by SAC and/or SCRS, for each of its next meeting. The co-Conveners will refine the terms of reference and develop and agenda following GFCM and/or ICCAT mechanisms for internal consultation.
- meet when requested by the parent bodies;

Both Secretariats should ensure announcement of the meetings to their Members. The Reports of the Joint ad hoc Working group shall be published independently by both organizations.

Members have an obligation to provide information on catch and efforts and related operational units and other related data relevant to the function of this Joint *ad hoc* Working Group in such a way as to enable the Working group to fulfil its responsibilities.