



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



**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN**

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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SAC PRELIMINARY WORKPLAN FOR 2008

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document summarizes the actions that could be considered by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) when elaborating its preliminary 2008 workplan, taking into account guidance provided by the GFCM and the suggestions made by each of SAC Sub-committee (document GFCM:SAC10/2007/3). The operational support from the FAO sub-regional projects to the preliminary workplan would need to be defined as well. Hence, this document should be appraised as the basis for the elaboration of the SAC preliminary work programme for 2008 for approval by the Commission.
2. The context for the SAC workplan referred to a preset Reference Framework for the work of the Committee which evolved through a number of steps, as follows.
3. In 2001, the SAC workplan has been guided by the Reference Framework for a biannual (2002 – 2003) operational mandate of the Committee for which the Commission put emphasis on priority activities in the field of resource management, and the impact of fishing on the environment.

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4. At its 28th session (October 2003), the Commission provided further guidance, including by requesting SAC to place more emphasis, *inter alia*, on a holistic approach to fisheries management, taking into account the multispecies nature and shared characteristics of most Mediterranean and Black Seas fisheries. At its 29th session (February 2005), the Commission further stressed that a larger number of stocks, especially shared stocks, and of Geographical Sub-Areas (GSAs) should be covered¹ and alluded to the need to ensure the scientific and technical monitoring, as appropriate, of GFCM's Recommendations. GFCM also stressed that the activities proposed should be consistent with the capacities of the autonomous budget or should be complemented through identifying additional resources².

5. In recent years, the Commission also endorsed proposals related to the betterment of the *modus operandi* of SAC's subsidiary bodies for achieving more efficient implementation of the Committee's intersessional workplans. At the 8th session of SAC³, the Secretariat suggested that the formulation of a mid-term rolling Reference Framework would help integrate the various ongoing activities and ensure that outputs fully contribute to GFCM medium term objectives. A consolidate framework would help, for example, facilitating the implementation of important concepts such as the operational units, the multidisciplinary regulation of fishing effort and the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF). The instruments that underline the functionality of these concepts (e.g. indicators and reference points, parameters for monitoring fleet capacity and fishing effort, etc.) would be more visible.

6. Notwithstanding the need for consolidating SAC Reference framework and without prejudging of the results of the 10th session of the Committee, a summary provisional list of activities and meetings is outlined below.

II. ELEMENTS FOR THE 2008 WORKPLAN

7. Since its last two sessions (January 2006 and January 2007), the Commission concurred as to the relevance of all the proposed SAC intersessional activities and meetings, but spelled out an order of priorities, in particular for the Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA) and the Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE). These priorities which might need follow-up action are reproduced below for ease of reference. They are complemented, as relevant, with proposals made in the respective report of the Sub-Committees (documents GFCM:SAC10/20010/Inf.5, Inf.6, Inf.7, Inf.8). When available, draft terms of reference for proposed Working group, Workshop or study are appended to this document.

Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA)

GFCM priority for 2006 and 2007:

- testing the biological and socio-economic indicators and reference points, for priority species, in the framework of the operational units concept;
- pursuing the mapping of the distribution of juveniles for priority species;
- monitoring stocks assessed in 2004 and 2005, with priority to species covered by the Recommendation GFCM/2006/1 and assessing the state of other shared stocks, multispecies fisheries and fisheries targeting priority species;

¹ Report of the 29th session, paragraph 63-64.

² Report of the 29th session, paragraph 93.

³ Paragraph 6, document GFCM: SAC8/2005/5

- producing a reference document on the impact of selected fishing gear on the environment in order to promote the implementation of corrective selectivity measures, and promoting the establishment of a network of Mediterranean technologists, and establishing a databank on gear selectivity, using the agreed format;
- standardizing the different approach for echo surveys in the Mediterranean;
- promoting studies on the identification of environmental parameters and their integration into stock assessment modeling within the framework of the ecosystem approach to fishery management (EAF); and ensuring that EAF related documents are presented in joint SCMEE/SCSA sessions during the parallel meeting of the Sub-committees;
- devising steps for replacing diamond mesh in bottom trawl cod end with 40 mm square mesh with the view to increasing landing size and long term yield of target species, bearing in mind that this may entail limited short term decrease of commercial yields.

SCSA proposed main activities for 2008:

Stock assessment

- Monitor joint stock assessment of hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) in each GSAs using both commercial catches and trawl survey data, including sensitivity analysis, the selection of relevant reference points and indicators and new findings on growth parameters for hake, following tagging studies and otoliths new interpretation;
- consolidate the use of the new updated forms which contemplate information on the units of fishing effort exerted by fleet segment and OUs, including data, methods used, results, diagnosis and the corresponding management advice.

Trawl and echo- surveys

- Ensure collection of catch at age data through acoustic surveys to improve related assessments;
- launch joint work to process the information (and data resulting from trawl surveys, especially MEDITS trawl surveys, echo surveys, eggs-larvae), realized in several countries in the region;
- use of data from surveys at sea within the SAC framework, especially for stock assessment performed by the SCSA Working Group on demersal species;
- organise the 2nd meeting of the PWGAM to be focused on the basic methods and protocols to undertake assessments with direct methods ;
- organize, in collaboration with CIHEAM, Training courses on methodologies for stock assessment: tuning VPA and production models (including composite models).

Improving fishing gear selectivity

- Elaborate protocol for the standardization of selectivity studies, including for technological, biological, ecosystem and economic aspects and devise steps for implementing the 40 mm square mesh cod-end;
- develop studies on technical aspects to be considered in selectivity studies such as: i) effect on discards; ii) survival of escapees (estimation of unaccounted mortality); iii) effect of the type of netting material and mounting and iv) effects on the ecosystem.

Priority species and shared stocks

- Pursue the effort launched in 2007 to define criteria for updating the priority species and shared stocks lists, considering the contributions notably made by regional projects.

Glossary and guidelines

- Update the SAC glossary taking into account the needs to make available relevant definitions for the topics addressed by the Committee ;
- prepare guidelines (together with SCSi and SCESS) to be published in the «GFCM Studies and Reviews series » on the methodologies to analyse and use disaggregated data.

Selected regional studies

- Set up strategy for performing the GFCM components in the framework of GEF project especially to support the implementation of the EAF in the Mediterranean;
- identify specific actions to consolidate the progress made for promoting scientific work in the Black Sea, notably to enhance capacities for fisheries management;
- establish a close collaboration with the new European project "SARDONE" aimed to improve assessment and management of small pelagic species in the Mediterranean Sea.

Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE)

GFCM priority for 2006 and 2007:

- Undertake interdisciplinary pilot studies for identifying and applying the principles of the ecosystem approach on the management of shared stocks at the sub-regional level, and testing, in doing so, the ecological indicators for the spatio-temporal monitoring of fishing effort;
- pursue coordination with projects on the monitoring and control of the impact of fishing on protected or endangered species, including with a view to enhancing such coordination;
- continue to investigate and formulate a structured programme of research on species living at depths greater than 1 000 metres also considering the three sensitive habitats covered by Recommendation GFCM/2006/3.
- devise a standard procedure to assess the eligibility of new proposals for deep sea fishing reserves or restricted bottom trawl areas.

SCMEE proposed main activities for 2008:

Protected/threatened species:

- Organize the transversal Working Group on by catch/incidental catches (in collaboration with ACCOBAMS) according to the Terms of Reference provided in Appendix 1.1;
- Pursue collecting data, in collaboration with ACCOBAMS, on interactions between fisheries and cetaceans, using a questionnaire, including for marine birds, sea turtles and elasmobranchs and consolidate research and development on the use of pingers;
- Ensure follow up of the small-scale projects are being implemented or proposed to be implemented in the framework of ByCBAMS activities in selected Mediterranean countries.

EAF:

- Pursue promoting the implementation of the EAF and undertake case studies where possible and appropriate, in coordination with the GEF project.

Sensitive habitats:

- Perform analysis of physical impact on sensitive sea bed and habitat with a particular attention for continental slope bottom and sub-marine meadows and devise elements for the identification of sensitive habitats of interest for priority species by GSA;
- elaborate an evaluation report of the efficiency of fishing reserves in the Mediterranean as a tool for the management of fisheries and the conservation of biodiversity;
- finalise definitions of relevant concepts such as “deep Sea” and “Marine Protected Areas concepts”, taking into account the FAO guidelines and other available information and contribute to update the SAC glossary;
- collaborate with RAC/SPA in the creation of a regional database for Mediterranean cartilaginous fishes. Analyze the possibilities of MEDLEM and SIRENO databases to be used as reference.

Gear selectivity

- Establish a Permanent Working Group on selectivity based on the TECHNOMED Network. Preliminary Terms of Reference are provided as Appendix 1.2 to this document.

Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information (SCSI)GFCM priority for 2006 and 2007:

- continue the identification and extension of studies on Operational Units to all GSAs, with a priority to the GSAs covered by the Recommendation GFCM/2006/1 and those having shared stocks and priority species;
- format and store in the GFCM databank information needed by the Commission, including those available from the FAO regional projects, FAO/FIDI and other programmes;
- finalize, with the support of the MedFisis project, the framework of fleet data for the operational units and ensuring the compilation and storage of available relevant national data and their input into the GFCM databank;
- compile a list of national databases on fisheries;
- pursue practical testing of the Operational Unit concept through further identification of OUs in the Mediterranean area and promote related data collection and analysis per OU;
- calibrate/allocate fishing effort units with support from the FAO Sub-regional projects;
- harmonize the GSAs boundaries with the FAO-FIDI statistical sub-divisions.

SCSI proposed main activities for 2008:

- Produce guidelines on reporting catch data for target species, associated species and by-catch for inclusion in the Task 1 data entry tool;
- proceed with the compilation of Task 1 data according to the Resolution GFCM/2007/31/1, noting that in future and when sufficient data are received the fleet segmentation could be reviewed;
- organize a Workshop on the GFCM Regional Fleet Register, in early 2008 (see Terms of Reference in Appendix 1.3);

- launch practical testing of the new “GSA compatible” STATLANT37 A” form;
- undertake actions to develop MEDSTAT programme within countries, giving priority to the fleet register;
- standardize the measurement of fishing effort, by fishing operation and set up approach related to the calibration of fishing effort of different gears, taking into account the further compilation through GFCM Task 1;
- organize a transversal Workshop to refine the fleet segmentation (Appendix 1.4).

Sub-Committee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS)

GFCM priority for 2006 and 2007:

- development of the use of socio-economic indicators in fisheries management through the implementation of the OUs approach;
- study of the legislative and socio-economic aspects of recreational fisheries;
- analysis of the impact of national and regional market forces (including supply and demand, prices, quality control) on the fishing industry and on the management of the fisheries concerned; with special reference to sardines in GSA 03; striped mullet in GSA 05, hake in GSA 06 and small-pelagic in GSA 17;
- definition of a minimum list of sociological indicators to be integrated in the data collection system for the OUs (GFCM Task 1);
- drafting a workbook on the use of socio-economic indicators in fisheries management;
- update the FAO Fisheries Circular No. 978 “The Fish Trade of North African Mediterranean Countries”, by expanding the scope of the study to include all Mediterranean countries, as well as the FAO Fisheries Circular No. 927, entitled “Economic Status of Mediterranean Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture”;

SCESS proposed main activities for 2008:

- Contribute to the preparation of disaggregated data methodological guidelines to analyse among others, the effects of market forces on changes in effort and finalise a list of indicators and their definitions to be included in task 1.3 and further collected;
- develop a frame to assess the socio-economic impacts of implementing the 40mm square mesh size in trawl fisheries; and implement selectivity impact analyses in selected countries;
- establish an ad hoc transversal Working group on Recreational Fisheries (Appendix 1.5);
- preparation of guidelines on recreational anglers and the collection a selected set of data on recreational fisheries;
- study the role of incentive structures and mechanisms in national fisheries;
- organize a workshop to establish a standard method of using market data to understand changes in fishing effort for use in fisheries management (Appendix 1.6);
- implement the Traffic Light method for integrated indicators trends analyses, including the use of reference points and indicators to assist in the monitoring and evaluation of fisheries management;
- establish a transversal Permanent Working Group on EAF and organize its first meeting (Appendix 1.7).

Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Species

8. With reference to the request made by the Commission at its 31st session, it is suggested to:
- Ensure follow-up to the recommendations of the 7th session of the Joint Working Group concerning small tunas, especially the compilation of statistics and the preparation of scientific work;
 - organize the 8th session of the Working group accordingly.

Meetings

9. In view of SAC previous wish to limit the number of meetings of its subsidiary bodies, the Committee may wish to critically review the following proposals made by the Sub-Committees:

Meeting	Place/Date
Eleventh session of the SAC	To be defined/to be defined
Session of the SCSA	Antalya, Turkey/to be defined
Working Group on Demersal Species, including joint assessments	Izmir, Turkey/To be defined
Working Group on Small Pelagic Species, including joint assessments	Izmir, Turkey/To be defined
2nd Permanent Working Group on Stock Assessment Methodologies, on basic methods and protocols to undertake assessments with direct methods (back to back with MEDITS meeting)	To be defined/to be defined
Training courses on methodologies for stock assessment: - tuning VPA and production models (including composite models), in collaboration with CIHEAM	To be defined/to be defined
Session of the SCESS	Antalya, Turkey/to be defined
SCESS/SCSA transversal Working group on Recreational Fisheries	To be defined/to be defined
SCESS Workshop to establish a methodology to use market data in fisheries management	To be defined/to be defined
SCMEE/SCSA/SCESS transversal Working Group on EAF	Rome/June 2008
Session of the SCSI	Antalya, Turkey/to be defined
Workshop on the GFCM Regional Fleet Register	To be defined/early 2008
SCSI/SCESS Workshop to refine the fleet segmentation	2009?

Meeting	Place/Date
Session of the SCMEE	Antalya, Turkey/to be defined
SCMEE/SCSA transversal Working Group on by catch/incidental catches (in collaboration with ACCOBAMS)	To be defined/to be defined
Working Group on selectivity	To be defined/to be defined
8th session of the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on large pelagic species	Malaga, Spain/May 2008
CMSC	Antalya, Turkey/to be defined

IV. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE

10. The Committee is invited to assess the activities proposed for its subsidiary bodies in 2008, taking into account the outputs and progress achieved in 2007. The Committee may wish to identify necessary inputs to support activities as well as to specify, when relevant, expected timeframe and output.

11. The SAC is also invited to refine the priorities outlined in this document, taking into consideration any suggestions made by the Coordination Meeting of the Sub-Committees (CMSC) (document GFCM:SAC10/2007/Inf.9) and related budget implications. In doing so, the Committee may wish to decide on the venue and dates of meetings and seek to convince members to host some of them.

Appendix 1**Draft Terms of Reference for Working Groups and Workshops****1. SCMEE/SCSA transversal Working Group on
by catch/incidental catches (in collaboration with ACCOBAMS)**

The organization of this meeting was agreed by the Commission during its thirty first session. SCMEE suggested the following Terms of Reference :

- reduction of by-catch and fishing mortality for threatened species (chondrychtians, turtles, seabirds, marine mammals),
- evaluation and improvement of survival after escapement,
- technology for avoiding by-catch of juveniles (e.g. acoustic detection, etc.),
- implementation of mitigating measure (smart gear incentive program, etc.),
- physical impact on sensitive sea bed and habitat with a particular attention for continental slope bottom and sub-marine meadows.

**2. Permanent SCMEE/SCSA/SCSS transversal
Working Group on Selectivity**

It was suggested and endorsed by GFCM (30th Session) that the TECHNOMED network could be established as a Transversal Working Group of SAC, with the following objectives:

- assist SAC in its recommendations on fisheries management dealing with fishing technology aspects;
- favour the cooperation between Mediterranean scientists involved in fishing technology and selectivity studies;
- assure a permanent watch on fishing technology issues in the Mediterranean and Black Seas.

The Working Group will primarily rely on networking by exchange of field experiences and information (standing email forum) and will be in charge of the meeting organization on a fishing technology, especially selectivity issue at the request of the SAC. Its reports and different works will be published on the GFCM website.

**3. SCSA *Ad hoc* meeting for
the development of the GFCM Regional Fleet Register**

Noting slow progress in establishing the GFCM fishing vessel register which is a fundamental, *inter alia* for monitoring fishery capacity, an *ad hoc* meeting with the following terms of references is proposed:

- review the status of the fishing vessel register in GFCM countries and/or sub-regions;
- design and agree upon the parameters and format which should constitute the GFCM regional fleet register;

- discuss and propose data exchange protocols for the transmission of fleet data to the GFCM Secretariat;
- discuss and propose data updating procedures and the frequency of transmission;
- discuss confidentiality issues within the framework of Recommendation GFCM/2006/7 and distinguish between public, restricted and confidential data;
- discuss and propose simple capacity monitoring tools to be incorporated into the GFCM regional fleet register;
- discuss the relationship between the GFCM fleet register and the GFCM Authorized Vessel List database;
- draw up an implementation and development plan including software development.

4. SCESS/SCIS transversal Workshop on the Review of the GFCM Fleet Segmentation

Any adaptive management framework requires a periodic review of the methods, procedures, and tools is a necessary step to ensuring the management system's sustainability. With recent experiences in collecting data for reporting to the GFCM Task 1, issues have been identified; signalling the need to review the basic assumptions behind the GFCM fleet segmentation. A SCESS/SCIS workshop is proposed to allow for proper reflection of the following issues on the basis of specific examples and background data:

- reconsidering the fleet segmentations for clarity and internal consistency (e.g. consistent allocation criteria to be applied across the length classes) to avoid straddling of vessels across fleet segments;
- revising the name of "minor gear" categories;
- reconsidering vessels groupings (e.g. splitting large categories into several smaller segments) to minimize a loss of information through the forced merging of vessels with different exploitation patterns and, hence, a mismatch between the economic and biological characteristics attributed to the particular fleet segment;
- understanding areas of compatibility and subsequent divergence between the GFCM fleet segmentation and the European Commission fleet segmentation (e.g. vessel length categories and dominant versus exclusive gear categories).

To assist in the discussion, a review of similar systems of fleet segmentations around the world will be presented and specific examples and data from the GFCM will be analyzed.

5. SCESS/SCSA transversal Working Group on Recreational Fisheries

In addition to its economic and social dimensions, recreational fisheries (RF) have bio-ecological dimensions of potential importance, due to their impacts on the environment and marine food webs. Therefore, as is the case with all extractive fisheries, RF management is an integrated issue, requiring the attention not only of SCESS but also of the other SAC Sub-Committees. Interdisciplinary interaction, research and evaluation are needed to estimate the impacts of RF on the marine environment, commercial fisheries, recreational fishing communities, economies etc. In this respect, a transversal or an interdisciplinary working group is needed for continuing the discussion between experts that had began in the frame of the SCESS and to exchange experiences.

The mandate of the Working group will be to:

- define, as is the case for the socio-economic dimensions, a framework for the collection and analysis of biological, ecological, environmental, economic and social data for RF management;
- define the minimal list of bio-ecological, environmental, economic and social data or indicators for future incorporation in the Task 1;
- to develop a common interdisciplinary methodology for monitoring RF;
- to develop common legislation and effective enforcement for RF,
- to develop a code of practice/conduct or guidelines for RF in the GFCM;
- to develop methodologies to study the RF economic and social (direct and indirect) impacts on national and sub-regional level;
- to develop methodologies to study the interactions between RF and commercial fisheries (fish stock competition, fishing area conflicts, environment, regulations, market, and socio-economic status, etc.) with a link to Task 1 to understand interactions with existing fleet segmentations (i.e. operational units); and
- To continuously improve the framework as presented in Annex 11.

The terms of reference for the first meeting of the Working Group will be to:

- review and complete the definition of RF as proposed by SCESS, 2007.
- review the existing legal, management and environmental frameworks are to be considered;
- define an integrated framework for the collection and analysis of biological, ecological, environmental, and socio-economic data for use in RF management;
- identify and develop priority case studies at the country level to assist in the finalization of the above; and
- define the terms of references for the second meeting of the RF Working Group.

As inputs into the first meeting, the following documents will be considered:

- The upcoming GFCM Study and Review 814 and country experiences with RF (including legislation and enforcement) that had been presented in the July, 2007 workshop on the use of socioeconomic indicators in fisheries management held in Tajoura, Lybia;
- the report of the workshop on the use of socio-economic indicators in fisheries management held in Tajoura, Lybia (July, 2007); and
- the report of the 8th Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS) held in Kavala, Greece, 17–20 September 2007, which includes the framework for a base-line understanding of the socio-economic dimensions of RF in

⁴ Gaudin, C. & De Young, C. Recreational fisheries in the Mediterranean Countries: A review of existing legal frameworks. Studies and Reviews. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. No.81. Rome, FAO. 2007.

the Mediterranean and Black Sea as well as the minimal list of social and economic indicators for RF.

6. SCESS Workshop on the Methodology to use market data to understand the changes in effort in a fishery management framework

In order to provide a proper and efficient fishery management framework, regardless of its territorial scope (national, regional, etc.), understanding of the impacts of the market factors (such as price, demand, competition etc.) on the fishing efforts and, consequently, changes in the ecological, economic and social indicators, becomes crucial.

At the SCESS meeting several examples were mentioned, such as study of the relationship between price change and fishing effort (e.g. in Morocco) which provided valuable insights relevant for future decisions. Apparently, there is a significant interest in other countries to do such and similar studies, either of national or regional scope (e.g. the impacts on the 40mm net regulation).

Thus, a SCESS Workshop is proposed to allow for the exchange of experiences among the countries as well as to discuss:

- potential studies at the country level, based on the methods used so far;
- potential studies in the methodologies yet to be introduced in the analyses of the market impacts;
- development of common decision support tools for the fisheries management in the Mediterranean.

As an aid to the discussion, a background paper will be prepared reviewing the methodologies used in analysing market data to understand the changes in effort.

The final outcome of the Workshop would be a report presenting a methodological framework and some examples of its application.

7. Transversal Working group on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF)

Background

In 2003, the FAO published its Technical Guidelines on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in accordance with the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem. Recognizing the wide range of interpretations of the approach, the FAO proposed the following definition, but takes a pragmatic approach in that the EAF remains mainly bounded by the ability of fisheries managers to implement it.

“an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) strives to balance diverse societal objectives, by taking account of the knowledge and uncertainties of biotic, abiotic and human components of ecosystems and their interactions and applying an integrated approach to fisheries within ecologically meaningful boundaries”

For understanding the applicability for a holistic, integrated, adaptive, and participatory approach to the implementation of the EAF, the establishment of a transversal EAF Working group is recommended. This Working group will have the following mandate:

- define what the application of the EAF entails (and does not entail) for the GFCM, across biological/ecological, economic, social and governance dimensions;
- define a framework for the application of the EAF within the GFCM, taking into consideration sub-regional ecosystems and fisheries;
- identify integrated pilot projects in which to apply the EAF framework;
- identify multi-disciplinary priority information to assist in the application of the EAF (i.e. differentiating between information for management and basic research information); and
- collect experiences/case studies in the application of the EAF throughout the GFCM.

First Meeting of the transversal EAF Working Group

The meeting of the EAF Working Group will be convened to address the first two aspects of its mandate: agreement on the definition of the EAF application within the GFCM area, and the development of an EAF implementation framework. The group will need to establish the appropriate boundaries that take into account both jurisdictional and natural considerations that will be used to implement the framework at a more local/sub-regional levels.

As an input into a proposed 3-day meeting, experiences from other large-scale EAF projects, within the GFCM and elsewhere, will be presented as an aid to developing an implementation framework.

The outcome of the meeting will be a detailed logical framework that will describe the objectives, means, outcomes, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to promote a systematic approach to implementation as well as the sharing of lessons learned.

The Working Group will also identify potential partners to assist in the transition through the EAF toward sustainable fisheries and define action points as follow-up activities from previous SAC/EAF workshops.

The first meeting of the Working Group is proposed to be held at the GFCM headquarters in Rome in June, 2008.