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GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN



COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES
POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE

GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ninth Session

Rome, 24-27 October 2006

**REPORT OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON
MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND ECOSYSTEMS (SCMEE)*
ROME, ITALY, 11–14 SEPTEMBER 2006**

*Available only in English

Opening of the meeting

1. The eighth meeting of the SCMEE (Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems) of the GFCM was held in Rome, Italy from 11 to 14 September, 2004. It was attended by 32 participants from 8 countries and 7 organisations. The list of participants is provided in Annex B to this report.
2. The Executive Secretary of GFCM (Mr A. Bonzon) welcomed the participants and reviewed the main topics on the Agenda of the Meeting. The Coordinator of the Subcommittee (Mr M.N. Bradaï) chaired the meeting and proposed the following session moderators and rapporteurs:
 - M-C. Van Klaveren (Moderator of the workshop on interaction between cetaceans and fishing activities)
 - F. Simard (Moderator session 1, Agenda items 5 and 6)
 - J. A. Camiñas (Moderator session 2, Agenda items 7, 8 and 9)
 - P. Robert (Moderator session 3, Agenda item 10)
 - L. Tunesi (Moderator session 4, Agenda items 11, 12 and 13)
 - C. Fortuna (Rapporteur)

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- C. Rais (Rapporteur)

Adoption of the Agenda

3. The meeting reviewed the draft Agenda and adopted it with minor changes (Annex A to this report).

Report of the Coordinator

4. The Coordinator of the Sub-Committee (M.N. Bradai) informed the participants on the main activities undertaken during the intersession. He recalled the following SCMEE priorities, defined by the last plenary session of GFCM:

First priority:

- undertaking 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 spatiotemporal monitoring of fishing effort;
- pursuing 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.

Second priority:

- continuing 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 indicated in the Recommendation GFCM/2006/3;
 - addressing together with ACCOBAMS the issue of the interactions between cetacean species in fishery activities, including in the Pelagos sanctuary, through possibly convening a joint workshop on the subject.
5. The SCMEE coordinator emphasised that the Commission recommended to strengthen the cooperation at regional level with partner international organizations, particularly with respect to the identification of sensitive areas and the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries. In this context, he indicated that a coordination meeting with the relevant international organisation was held in Tunis, Tunisia (11-12 July 2006). The coordination meeting investigated ways to strengthen the cooperation and favoured harmonisation of the participating organisations workplan. The agenda of this SCMEE session (including the agenda of the joint workshop ACCOBAMS-GFCM) was elaborated during the coordination meeting. The report of the coordination meeting appear as Annex E to this report.

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

6. Under this Agenda item the following presentations were given on:

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- A case study on waters around the Maltese Islands (GSA 15) with the aim of providing a comprehensive overview of the spatial distribution of the different life stages of demersal fisheries resources in relation to the type and distribution of fishing activities as well as oceanographic factors characteristic to the area.
 - A case study on the use of GIS to integrate environmental and biological data on the Gulf of Gabès (Tunisia) with the view of selecting marine areas of conservation interest to be proposed as MPAs.
7. While commending the work done within the framework of the two case studies, the participants noted that at global level there is a slow progress in defining methodologies for EAF. The SCMEE therefore recommended to further develop the case studies in particular through integrating socio-economic aspects and aspects related to the ecosystem functioning.
8. Considering that EAF is of common interest to all the Sub-Committees of GFCM's SAC, the SCMEE proposed that in the future, this topic be addressed during transversal sessions. The SCMEE will however pursue its coordination role concerning the SAC's works on EAF.
9. The SCMEE recommended organising in 2007 a workshop on EAF to review the results of pilot studies with the view of giving further consideration to methodologies and identifying EAF indicators in the Mediterranean.

Workshop on interaction between Cetaceans and fishing activities

This Workshop was held on 11 September 2006. The conclusions are provided in Annex D.

Follow-up and Control of the impact of fishing on protected species or species threatened with extinction

10. Under this agenda item the following three presentations were made:
- The Spanish swordfish fishery: Fishermen, Scientists and NGOs: from antagonism to cooperation. (J A. Camiñas and R. Sagarminaga). The presentation stressed the impact of swordfish fishery on marine turtle population and concluded that the cooperation involving the Spanish surface long-line fisheries sector-administrations-scientist-NGOs is a feasible tool in line with the EAF approach.
 - Interaction on marine turtles with bottom trawlers and longline fisheries in the gulf of Gabès, Tunisia (I. Jribi, K. Echwikhi & M.N. Bradai). The study showed that the bycatch of marine turtles is relatively high, in particular for juveniles and sub-adults. However the induced turtle mortality is low for bottom trawling and surface longlining. It proposed the use of circular hooks and adapted baits to mitigate the turtle by-catch.
 - The bycatch of sharks in the gulf of Gabès (B. Saïdi & M.N. Bradai). The study highlighted the importance of the Gulf of Gabès as a nursery area for several shark species. It suggested that modifying gill net mesh size is likely to reduce by-catch in shark juveniles. It recommended to identify the most important zones of the area where shark populations should be monitored and their fishing regulated.

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The abstracts of the presentations are provided in Annex C.

11. The participants stressed the need of strengthening the programmes for data collection about the by-catch of endangered species. In this context the SCMEE welcomed the joint initiative by ACCOBAMS and GFCM/SAC to collect data about the extent of cetacean by-catch using a data form and recommended to follow a similar approach to collect data concerning the by-catch of other endangered species. To this end the SCMEE will establish a working group to elaborate the data forms, collect data and report to the next SCMEE meeting.

Follow-up of research and development of structured programme related to the species living in deep sea areas (depths beyond 1000 meters)

12. The representative from WWF presented the proposal of her organisation to create two new deep-sea protection zones respectively in the Alboran seamounts and in the Cap de Creus canyon. The SCMEE, while recognising the significant role that such protection zones could play in preserving deep-sea biodiversity, concluded that further detailed information was needed to evaluate the opportuneness and the feasibility of establishing the two proposed deep-sea protection zones. It recommended that WWF, in collaboration with IUCN and other interested organisation, prepare detailed report showing the natural features of the areas and providing information about their legal status. It was suggested to use as a basis the SPAMI format and adapt it as appropriate. The outcome of this work will be submitted to the next meeting of the SCMEE.
13. The SCMEE recommended to the GFCM Secretariat to initiate preparing compilation inventory/synthesis of published studies on fisheries and biodiversity of deep sea areas, in order to initiate the process for designing a management plan (beyond 1000 meters), as suggested by the Sub-Committee.

Interactions between Cetacean and fishing activities

14. The SCMEE reviewed the conclusions of the joint GFCM-ACCOBAMS workshop on interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities, provided in Annex D to this report.
15. It expressed concern about the abuse of pingers in some area and recommended to SAC that robust scientific experiments should be promoted in order to assess the impact of different types of pingers on cetacean and fish species before supporting their use in specific fisheries.
16. The Sub-Committee further recommended that the GFCM Secretariat pursue collaboration with the ACCOBAMS Secretariat concerning the exploratory survey on the cetacean-interactions by means of producing a revised version of GFCM-ACCOBAMS questionnaire entitled "Summary of interactions between cetacean and fisheries within the ACCOBAMS area".
17. The Sub-Committee also underlined the need for a strong cooperation between specialists of fisheries and cetaceans and proposed to the SAC to stimulate this cooperation by regularly holding meetings on cetacean-fisheries interactions (for example, every three years) with the participation of relevant international fishery management bodies, Mediterranean fishermen and conservation organisations.
18. The SCMEE recommended to give high priority to cetacean and other protected species bycatch estimates and mitigation activities in the GEF project "on development and improvement of MPAs

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and mitigate the impact of fishery on biodiversity” being developed inter-alia by FAO/GFCM and RAC/SPA .

Review of the proposal made by the Delegation of Monaco concerning the Sanctuary PELAGOS

19. F. Serena informed the meeting about the initiative being undertaken by the authorities of the Tuscany Region, Italy, to establish a marine mammal observatory aimed at regularly monitoring the cetacean populations and their related threats in the area of the PELAGOS Sanctuary.
20. The Executive Secretary of the PELAGOS Sanctuary presented the objectives of the Sanctuary and the main elements of its management plan. He emphasised that the Sanctuary is an agreement between three countries: France, Monaco and Italy, and includes national waters as well as international waters. He also presented the draft proposal made by the Monaco delegation on behalf of the Parties to the Sanctuary during the last GFCM session (Istanbul, January 2006).
21. The SCMEE concluded that further detailed information is needed to evaluate the implications of the draft proposal and invited the Executive Secretary of PELAGOS to submit a detailed report to the next meeting of the SCMEE.

Harmonization of the activities of the SCMEE with the programs related to the marine ecosystems carried out in the region by the international partner organizations in particular in the field of identification of sensitive habitat and implementation of EAF.

22. Under this agenda item, the representatives from IUCN, RAC/SPA and ACCOBAMS presented information on their respective activities that are of relevance to the protection of Mediterranean fishery resources.
23. Following the presentations given by the representative of IUCN, the SCMEE recommended to SAC to discuss a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to improve the exchange of knowledge and expertise between GFCM and IUCN on all relevant scientific aspects of fishery, aquaculture, fishery reserves and fish species red-listing. The MoU would also guide the SCMEE on how to further organize such collaboration (specific topics, timetable, common projects).
24. The SCMEE recommended to SAC to discuss a MoU between GFCM and RAC/SPA as well, on the scientific basis for fishery regulations with the aim of removing or mitigating impacts on protected/threatened species. Particularly, the Sub-Committee recommended to include in the MoU the analysis of the following two issues at the next SCMEE meeting: 1) the proposal of banning trawling activities in shallow and coastal waters (< 40 m or within 3 miles); and 2) the installation of new fish farms beyond the lower limits of the sea grass meadows and corals.
25. Considering the importance of reserves in the management of fisheries, the SCMEE recommended to organize in 2007 a workshop to take stock of existing types of MPAs and evaluate their representativity and the efficiency of their management systems. It further highly recommended that

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the workshop be organized jointly by the GFCM Secretariat, RAC/SPA, ACCOBAMS, IUCN and WWF.

New restricted fishing zones in international water

- Following the discussion on the WWF proposal for new fishery reserves, the SCMEE concluded that a standard procedure should be set for the evaluation of new proposals for deep sea fishing reserves. It was decided that IUCN and WWF (in consultation with a experts mailing group) will define Terms of Reference for such procedure and submit their proposal to the next SCMEE meeting. It was suggested to use the SPAMI format for proposals as baseline material.

Summary recommendations and conclusions of the SCMEE (including the GFCM-ACCOBAMS workshop)

The SCMEE made the following recommendations and conclusions:

- The Sub-Committee recommended to use research projects, carried out for example in Malta, in Spain and in Gulf of Gabès, as case studies for analyzing potentials and limitations of the ecosystem approach to fishery during a transversal meeting of the SAC, in order to set a common framework and methodology.
- Recognising the promising approach to tackle all issues related to cetaceans-fisheries interactions, launched jointly by ACCOBAMS and GFCM/SAC, the SCMEE recommended that the SAC take all necessary steps for extending this initiative to protected/threatened species, contacting as appropriate relevant Organisations before the next SCMEE meetings. The SCMEE also recommended to the SAC the establishment of a transversal GFCM/SAC Working Group on the bycatch issue.
- The SCMEE concluded that it will be necessary to compile inventory/synthesis of published studies on fisheries and biodiversity of deep sea areas, in order to initiate the process for the proposal of a management plan (beyond 1000 meters)
- The SCMEE, concerned about the abuse of pingers in some area, recommended to the SAC that robust scientific experiments should be promoted in order to assess the impact of different types of pingers on cetacean and fish species before supporting their use in specific fisheries.
- The SCMEE recommended to the SAC that GFCM and ACCOBAMS Secretariats should continue the exploratory survey on the cetacean-interactions by means of a revised version of GFCM-ACCOBAMS questionnaire entitled "Summary of interactions between cetacean and fisheries within the ACCOBAMS area".
- Following the endorsement by the GFCM-ACCOBAMS Workshop of the ongoing efforts for the implementation of two approved ACCOBAMS research programmes (ByCBAMS and ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative), which represent a necessary fundament for future scientific work on interactions between fishing activities and cetaceans, the Sub-Committee stressed the need for integrating the evaluation of the extent of the interactions between cetacean and fisheries (ByCBAMS project) to the knowledge of the cetacean population status (ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative) and recommended to the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee to present such information to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.
- The Sub-Committee underlined the need for a strong cooperation between specialists of fisheries and cetaceans and proposed to the SAC to stimulate this cooperation by regularly holding meetings on cetacean-fisheries interactions (for example, every three years) with the participation

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of relevant international fishery management bodies, Mediterranean fishermen and conservation organisations.

- In relation to the GEF project on development and improvement of MPAs and mitigate the impact of fishery on biodiversity (including Cetaceans), proposed within the framework of the SAP-BIO, the Sub-Committee recommended to give high priority to cetacean and other protected species bycatch rate estimates and mitigation activities in this project and to ensure that all protocols for data collection on this issue are concerted with the relevant regional scientific committees.
- Following the presentations given by the representative of IUCN, the SCMEE recommended to SAC to discuss a Memorandum of Understanding to improve the exchange of knowledge and expertise between GFCM and IUCN on all relevant scientific aspects of fishery, aquaculture, fishery reserves and fish species red-listing and instruct the SCMEE on how to organize such collaboration (specific topics, timetable, common projects).
- The SCMEE also recommended to SAC to discuss a Memorandum of Understanding between GFCM and RAC/SPA on the scientific basis for fishery regulations with the aim of removing or mitigating impacts on protected/threatened species. Particularly, the sub-committee recommended to include in the MoU the analysis of the following two issues at the next SCMEE meeting: 1) the proposal of banning trawling activities in shallow and coastal waters (< 40 m or within 3 miles); and 2) the installation of new fish farms beyond the lower limits of the sea grass meadows and corals.
- Considering the importance of fishery reserves in the management of fishing resources, the SCMEE recommended to organize in 2007 a workshop to take stock of existing types of MPAs and evaluate their representativity and the efficiency of their management systems. It is highly recommended that the workshop be organized jointly by the GFCM Secretariat, RAC/SPA, ACCOBAMS, IUCN and WWF.
- A standard procedure should be set for the evaluation on new proposals for deep sea fishing reserves. It was decided that IUCN and WWF (in consultation with a experts mailing group) are in charge of defining Terms of Reference for such procedure and submit their proposal to the next SCMEE meeting. It was suggested to use the SPAMI format for proposals as baseline material

Other matters

- The SCMEE, recognizing the increasing importance that GFCM is playing in striving to maintain the marine ecosystem, stressed the need for the nomination of an FAO backstopping officer for the SCMEE.

Adoption of the report

26. The report was adopted by the Sub-Committee on 14 September 2006.

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ANNEX A

Agenda

1. Opening and arrangement of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Report of the coordinator
4. Workshop on interactions between Cetacean and fishing activities (Annex 1)
5. Interdisciplinary pilot studies to define and to apply the principles of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management and test the ecological indicators related to the follow-up of fishing effort in terms of space and time.
6. Follow-up and control of the impact of fishing on protected species or species threatened with extinction.
7. Follow-up of research and development of a structured program related to the species living in deep Sea (depths beyond 1000 meters).
8. Interactions between Cetacean and fishing activities including in the Sanctuary PELAGOS. Actions to be taken jointly by ACCOBAMS, GFCM and other concerned organizations.
9. Review of the proposal made by the Delegation of Monaco concerning the Sanctuary PELAGOS.
10. Harmonization of the activities of the SCMEE with the programs related to the marine ecosystems carried out in the area by the international organizations partners in particular in the field of identification of sensitive habitat and implementation of EAF.
11. New restricted fishing zones in international water.
12. Conclusion and recommendations including the 2007 work program, addressed by SCMEE:
 - To the SCMEE
 - To the SAC
13. Other matters
14. Preparation of the final report
15. Adoption of the report.

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Annex to the agenda

Workshop on interaction between fishing activities and Cetacean (11/09/06 Rome) Provisional Agenda

Objective: to analyze the work already done, data available, work planned for the immediate future and how to reduce interactions as a response to the second bullet of the Second Priority for the SCMEE “addressing *together with ACCOBAMS the issue of the interactions between cetaceans species in fishery activities, including in the PELAGO Sanctuary, through possibly convening a joint workshop on the subject.*”

1. State of the art
 - a. On going and already done Projects
 - b. Data available (fulfilled templates)
 - c. Papers Published

2. New planned activities
 - a. Projects (BYCBAMS, GEF, others)
 - Project on mitigating of impacts of interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities (C. Raïs)
 - b. Coordination of projects
 - c. Obtaining new information

3. Impact reduction and proposal of measures
 - Testing of DDD02F, AQ636 and stereotyped deterrent signals on bow riding dolphins (Jeppe Dalgaard Balle)
 - Preliminary results of study on effects of wide acoustic band pingers on damaging and caught efficiency of bottom set nets in relation to interaction with *Tursiops truncatus* in the Egadi Archipelago, Italy (Giuseppa Buscaino)

4. Conclusions and recommendations

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ANNEX B**List of participants**

Malika BELHASSEN (Ms)
28, Rue 2 mars 1934
Tunisia
Tel. : +216 71 730420
Fax : +216 71 732 622
E-mail : belhassen.malika@instm.rnrt.tn

Franco BIAGI
European Commission
Directorate-General for Fisheries
and Maritime Affairs
Directorate for Conservation Policy
Office: JII 79/2-74
B-1049 Bruxelles, Belgium
Tel.: (+32 2) 299 4104
Fax: (+32 2) 299 4802
E-mail: franco.biagi@ec.europa.eu

Mohamed Nejmeddine BRADAI
Maître de recherche / Biodiversité des
vertébrés marins
Directeur du laboratoire Biodiversité et
Biotechnologie Marines
INSTM, Centre de Sfax
B.P. 1035 Sfax 3018, Tunisie
Tel. : +216 74 497 117 / +216 21962703
Fax : +216 74 497 989
E-mail : mednejmeddine.bradai@instm.rnrt.tn

Jose M. BROTONS
Direcció General de Pesca, Govern Balear
c/Foners 10 07006 Palma
Balearic Islands - Spain
Tel : +34 971 17 61 04
Fax : +34 971 17 61 34
E-mail : jmbrotons@dgpesca.caib.es

Giuseppa BUSCAINO (Ms)
(IAMC – CNR)
Via L. Vaccara, 61 - Italy
Tel.: +39 0923 948966
Fax: +39 0923 906634
E-MAIL: giusy.buscaino@irma.pa.cnr.it

Juan Antonio CAMIÑAS

Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO)
Centro Oceanográfico de Málaga
Puerto Pesquero s/n., España
Tel: +34952478148
Fax: +34952463808
E-mail: jacaminas@ma.ieo.es

Ana CAÑADAS (Ms)
ALNITAK
Nalón 16. 28240 Hoyo de Manzanares
Madrid - Spain
Tel : +34 676481284
E-mail : alnitak.ana@cetaceos.com

Annabelle CUTTELOD
Med List Coordinator
IUCN Center for Mediterranean
Cooperation
P.T.A. Calle Marie Curie 35
Campanillas 25590
Málaga, Spain
Tel. : +34 952 028430
Fax : +34 952 028145
E-mail: annabelle.cuttelod@iucn.org

Angela CUTTITTA (Ms)
IAMC-CNR
Via L. Vaccara, 61
Mazara del Vallo (TP), Italy
Tel. : +39 0923948966
Fax : +39 0923906634
E-mail : angela@irma.pa.cnr.it

Jeppe Dalgaard Balle
Danish Institute for Fisheries Research
Charlottenlund Castle - 2920 Denmark
Tel.: +4531107903
E-mail : JDB@DIFRES.DK ;
JDALG03@TUDENT.SDU.DK

Antonio DI NATALE
Director

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Aquastudio
Via Trapani 6
98121 Messina – Italy
Tel.: +39 090 346408
Fax: +39 090 364560
E-mail: aquauno@tin.it;
adunatale@acquariodigenova.it

Mark DIMECH
Malta Centre for Fisheries Sciences
Fort San Lucian, Marsaxlokk, Malta
Tel.: +356 21650933
Fax : +356 21659380
E-mail : mark.dimech@fao.org

Esther ESTEBAN RODRIGO (Ms)
Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y
Alimentación
C/ José Ortega y Gasset, 57
Madrid 28006, Spain
Tel.: +33 913476161
Fax: +33 913476046
E-mail: esteban@mapya.es

Caterina Maria FORTUNA
ACCOBAMS Consultant
Blue World Institute of Marine Research
and Conservation (Croatia)
Via Augusto Conti 33,
00135 Roma - Italy
Tel : + 39 338 1767572
E-mail : caterina.fortuna@blue-world.org;
fortuna.cm@tiscali.it

Lesley GIDDING (Ms)
Australian Department of the Environment
and Heritage
GPO Box 787
Canberra, ACT 2601 Australia
Tel.: +61 2 6274 1030
Fax: +61 2 6274 1542
E-mail: Lesley.gidding@deh.gov.au

Otello GIOVANARDI
ICRAM – Chioggia

Loc. Brontolo
30015 Chioggia – Italy
Tel.: +39 041 5543933
Fax: +39 041 5547897
E-mail: o.giovanardi@icram.org

Giancarlo LAURIANO
ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee
ICRAM
Via di Casalotti 300
Rome, Italy
Tel.: +39 06 61570409
Fax: +39 06 61561906
E-mail: g.lauriano@icram.org

Pilar MARCOS (Ms)
MPA Officer
WWF / ADENA
Gran Via de San Francisco, 8, esc D.
28005 Madrid, Spain
Tel.: +34 650843627
E-mail: pmarcos@wwf.es

Giulia MO (Ms)
ICRAM
III Department Researcher
Via di Casalotti 300
Rome 00166
Tel.: +39 06 61570444
Fax: +39 06 61561906
E-mail: giulia.mo@icram.org

Daniela Silvia PACE (Ms)
University of Naples Federico II and
Oceanomare Association and Dephis MDC
Via Gino Marinuzzi 74
00124 Rome, Italy
Tel.: +39 349 2864805
Fax: +39 06 56337692
E-mail: dpace@telethon.it

Christine PERGENT-MARTINI (Ms)
RAC/SPA
Bd. Leader Yasser Arafat
BP 337 – Tunis – Tunisia
Tel. : +216 71 206 485 / 649
Fax : +216 71 206490
E-mail : christine.pergent@rac-spa.org
Corrado PICCINETTI
Laboratorio Biologia Marina e

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Pesca di Fano
Università degli Studi di Bologna
Viale Adriatico, 1/N
61032 FANO (PU) - Italy
Tel. +39 0721 802689-802736
Fax: +39 0721 801654
E-mail: corrado.piccinetti@unibo.it

Chedly RAIS
Consultant - ACCOBAMS Secretariat
Jardins de l'UNESCO
Terrasses de Fontvieille
MC-98000 - Monaco
Tel : + 216 98 444629
Fax : + 377 93154208
E-mail : chedly.rais@accobams.net

Philippe ROBERT
Sanctuaire PELAGOS
Parc national de Port-Cros, Castel Ste Claire
83418 HYERES Cedex France
Tel : + 33 4 94 12 82 30
Fax : + 33 4 94 12 82 31
E-mail: philippe.robort@espaces-naturels.fr

Fabrizio SERENA
ARPAT – Via Marradi 114
57100 Livorno – Italy
Tel.: +39 0586263496
E-mail: f.serena@arpat.toscana.it

François SIMARD
Marine Programme Coordinator
IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
Parque Tecnológico de Andalucía
Calle Marie Curie 35, Campanillas
29590 Málaga, Spain
Tel.: +34 952 028430
Fax: +34 952 028145
E-mail: francois.simard@iucn.org

Leonardo TUNESI
ICRAM / Head of the 3rd Department “Habitats
and Biodiversity Protection”
Via Casalotti, 300 – Roma, Italy
Tel.: +39 06 61570465
Fax: + 39 06 61561906
E-mail: l.tunesi@icram.org

Marie-Christine VAN KLAVEREN (Ms)
ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary

Jardins de l'UNESCO
Terrasses de Fontvieille
MC-98000 - Monaco
Tel: + 377 93152078 / 93158010
Fax: + 377 93154208
E-mail : mcvanklaveren@accobams.net

GFCM Secretariat

Alain BONZON
GFCM Executive Secretary
Tel.: +39 06 57056441
Fax: +39 06 57056500
E-mail: alain.bonzon@fao.org

Abdellah SROUR
GFCM Deputy Executive Secretary
Tel.: +39 0657055730
Fax: +39 0657056500
E-mail: abdellah.sroure@fao.org

Tarub BAHRI (Ms)
Via Luigi Vaccara 61
91026 Mazara del Vallo (TP)
Italy
Tel.: +39 0923 909800
Fax: +39 0923 672068
E-mail: tarub.bahri@fao.org

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ANNEX C

List of presentations to the meeting**-The Spanish swordfish fishery: Fishermen, Scientists and NGOs: from the antagonism to the cooperation. (J. A. Camiñas & R.. Sagarminaga)****- Abstract:**

The Spanish traditional Mediterranean surface drifting longline fishery is reducing its efficiency for Swordfish. The fishing area is also an important marine turtles and cetaceans distribution area. The turtles are an important by-catch of the Swordfish fishery. There are social, administrative and scientific concerns on the low size of the target swordfish and by-catch (sharks and turtles).

A particular concern is the problem of bycatch of loggerhead turtles in surface longlines (primarily targeting swordfish) in the region. Under the framework of an EU LIFE Project (LIFE02NAT/E/8610, 2002-2006, leader by SEC) in the Alborán sea and contiguous Atlantic and Mediterranean waters (Gulf of Cadiz & Gulf of Vera) the project involve several regional and national administrations related with fisheries and conservation, Universities and research institutes, NGOs and the fishermen to reduce the surface longline incidence in the pelagic ecosystem and mainly on the marine mammals and turtles.

We conclude that the cooperation involving the Spanish surface long-line fisheries sector-administrations-scientist-NGOs is a feasible tool for the fisheries management within an ecosystem approach.

-Comparison of the effectiveness of different acoustic signals as a means of deterring short-beaked common dolphins, *Delphinus delphis*, away from a sound source (Jeppe Dalgaard Balle)**- Abstract:**

Between mid-June and mid-August 2005, DIFRES in cooperation with Alnitak conducted a series of experiments to compare the effectiveness of different acoustic signals as a means of deterring short-beaked common dolphins, *Delphinus delphis*, away from a sound source. During June-August 2006, DIFRES in cooperation with Alnitak and Bord Iascaigh Mhara also conducted a series of experiments to compare the effects of two deterrent devices, the interactive Aquatec AQ636 and the STM DDD02F, on short-beaked common dolphins, *Delphinus delphis*.

The experiments was conducted under the EU funded NECESSITY project. The experiments were conducted in Spanish waters of the Mediterranean Sea (Alboran Sea) on board the research vessel RS Toftevaag. The document attached with this registration form provides a summary of these studies as well as the short powerpoint presentation.

-Use of pingers in inshore waters (Jose M. Brotons):**- Abstract:**

The DGP, by means of the law nº 22751 of BOIB (Official Bulletin of the Government of Balearic Islands) Nº 194 (29-12-2005), has forbidden the use and possession of pingers in inshore waters. This prohibition will continue till new studies of the DGP confirm the effectiveness of pingers in the management of interactions between dolphins and fishermen.

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Report of the projects IFOP ES.R.BAL.5.1.21 and IFOP ES.R.BAL.5.1.22 conducted between June and December 2005, the DGP tested the efficacy of three brands of commercially available pingers using both inactive (placebo condition) and active (treatment condition) pingers and nets with no pingers (control condition). Each vessel was equipped for the study with 15 identical bottom-set gill nets, 60m long, 1.25m high and with 50mm mesh. Nets were equipped with either one of three brands of pinger (SavewaveTM, AquamarkTM and NetmarkTM) or with no pingers. Pinger activation was carried out such that those reporting on the fishing were unaware of the condition. Catch data were recorded for each operation on board the vessel. Fifty-nine participating vessels reported on 1149 fishing operations. Of these, 743 had active pingers, 262 had inactive pingers and 144 had no pingers. Depredation was evidenced either by direct observation of dolphins taking from nets or by the presence of characteristically damaged fish in the hauled net. The frequency of depredation on nets with no pingers was 0.08 (95% CI 0.04-0.13). Significant overall reduction in rates of dolphin/net interactions in active pinger condition was detected *-but not equal among brands-* but no significant changes in net damage rates and CPUE were observed

-The by-catch of sharks in the gulf of Gabès (B. Bechir Saidi and Mohamed Nejmeddine Bradaï)

- Abstract:

Among the Mediterranean sharks, 24 species are recorded in the gulf of Gabès, the most important Tunisian fishing area which contained 65 % of the national trawlers and 58 % of national coastal boats using all kind of nets and hooks.

In the area sharks are captured mainly by the bottom trawl, gillnets and longlines. Shark landings represent about 70 % of the gulf of Gabès elasmobranch productions. Mainly 3 sharks (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*, *Mustelus mustelus* and *M. punctulatus*) are landed throughout the year and have an economic value. They are captured as a targeted species during spring-summer and as by-catch around the year. Most demersal species are landed along the year as by-catch of trawl fisheries. Pelagic species (*Isurus oxyrinchus*, *Carcharodon carcharias*) were frequently captured by longlines and purse seine.

Investigations along the gulf of Gabès, showed that fishing gear have a impact on juvenile, submature and mature specimens.

-Preliminary results of study on effects of wide acoustic band pingers on damaging and caught efficiency of bottom set nets in relation to interaction with *Tursiops truncatus* in the Egadi Archipelago, Italy (Giuseppa Buscaino)

- Abstract:

The preliminary results of an experiment conducted to verify the effectiveness of wide band pinger to reduction negative interaction between bottlenose dolphin and fishery activities are presented. The experiments were carry out between April and May 2006 in the egadi Island (west Sicily). Two identical monofilament bottom set net (900 m length), one equipped with four pingers (pinger net) and the other one without (control net), it was employed. For each catch, data concerning dolphin sightings, fished (species, length, weigh) and damages (number, position and dimensions) attributesto dolphin by fishermen were collected. Moreover, at the end of catches the total damages on nets were recorded. A totalof 29 catches were carry out with a mean time of fishing of 2.5 hours. Dolphins in the fishing area were sighted 10 times over 29 (34%) confirming the interaction with fishing activities. Differences between control net and pinger net on damaging and caught efficiency was observed.

-Studies on impact of interactions between fisheries and cetaceans in Balearic Islands and in the Alboran Sea (Ana Cañadas)

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- Abstract:

Diverse research programmes have been carried out in recent years to assess the impact of interactions between fisheries and cetaceans, as the “Proyecto Mediterraneo” programme for the identification of areas of special interest for the conservation of cetaceans, studies conducted in the Balearic Islands and in the Alborán Sea focusing on the degree of competition between the bottlenose dolphin and coastal fisheries (LIFE02NAT/E/8610). Establishing the degree of interactions in Atlantic waters has also been a priority in recent years, and Spain has participated in programmes as SCANS II or the preparatory phase of CODA.

A matter of growing concern is the reaction of fishermen with regards to interactions with cetaceans, and especially the use of acoustic devices of different types. The use of these acoustic deterrent or acoustic harassment devices (add, ahd) is rapidly spreading. In response, and based on results of studies carried out in the balearic islands and in the Alboran sea, in this latter case in cooperation with the European Commission necessity project, a proposal is presented for a legislative action to regulate the acquisition and use of adds and ahd. The concern for the uncontrolled use of these devices has recently resulted in the establishment of a law by the regional government of the Balearic islands, and is very much in line with the recent resolutions and guidelines of the Bonn Convention agreement for the conservation of cetaceans in the Black sea and Mediterranean sea (accobams).

Activities of the IUCN-Med (François Simard, Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, Global Marine Programme, The World Conservation Union IUCN)

- Abstract:

1- short presentation of IUCN

IUCN has been created in 1948. It gathers 1,076 member organizations, including 82 countries and 120 public agencies. It counts 1,000 staff all over the world. Its 6 commissions are composed of more than 10 000 expert members. The six IUCN commissions are [Species Survival Commission \(SSC\)](#), [World Commission on Protected Areas \(WCPA\)](#), [Commission on Environmental Law \(CEL\)](#), [Commission on Education and Communication \(CEC\)](#), [Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy \(CEESP\)](#), and [Commission on Ecosystem Management \(CEM\)](#).

It counts also more than 5000 experts in partner organization.

IUCN has the status of Official Observer of the UN General Assembly.

IUCN mission is “to mobilize people and organizations through our networks world-wide to produce and use conservation knowledge for the benefit of people and nature”.

IUCN works as a bridge between levels (global, national, local), between members and partners (NGOs, States, International bodies, private sector), and sectors (sciences, administration, producers...). The main strength of IUCN is its convening power.

2- The Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation

The idea of a Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation was born at the IUCN General Assembly in Buenos Aires in 1994. During the 2nd World Conservation Congress in Amman (Jordan), the members finalised the programme and on 5 December 2000 the IUCN Mediterranean office was inaugurated.

The Consejería de Medio Ambiente, the Ministry for Environment and IUCN signed an agreement to support the functioning of the office and programme.

The Goal of IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation is:

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To influence, encourage and assist Mediterranean societies in achieving both the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, and sustainable development.

The centre's priorities are on desertification and water resources issues, protected areas, endangered species, and marine issues.

The marine issues include:

- 1- Support regional dialogue for shared management of Alboran Sea
- 2- Governance of the western Mediterranean basin
- 3- Risks to biodiversity from maritime traffic
- 4- Sustainable development of aquaculture
- 5- Criteria for inclusion of species in the Annexes of the Barcelona Convention (MAP)
- 6- Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Interest (SPAMI) evaluation
- 7- Mediterranean Red List assessment of marine threatened species
- 8- Marine Protected Areas Ecological Network
- 9- Support to Marine Protected Areas in North Africa and East Mediterranean
- 10- Deep sea ecosystems
- 11- Pelagic ecosystems
- 12- Ecosystem approach and sustainable fisheries

The items 7 to 12 are relevant to the SCMEE programme of work.

-Marine fishes red listing (see presentation by Annabelle Cuttelod)

-Marine protected areas.

The marine protected areas have been studied from a very broad point of view. The fisheries reserves and other fisheries management tools deserve to be assessed from the conservation standpoint. In the western basin of the Mediterranean Sea, there are almost as many permanent fisheries reserves (designated under fisheries laws) than marine protected areas (designated under environment laws).

The MPA representative network project is done in collaboration with IUCN-WCPA. The objective is to fulfil the commitment of millennium assessment goals regarding MPAs.

The deep sea protected areas work has been developed through the SCMEE to reach the decision of GFCM, in 2005, to ban trawling fisheries further than 1000m depth.

The work on pelagic habitats and conservation is at its beginning. The purpose is to define what the Mediterranean pelagic habitats are and to propose some ways towards their conservation.

-Sustainable fisheries: Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach for the Mediterranean

The ecosystem approach is still a concept which deserves to be discussed. From the conservation point of view, it is an integrated and holistic approach for resources management. IUCN-Med is proposing to look at some precise examples at different time and space scales. Local fishery is one (ref the workshop on sustainable fisheries organized by IUCN-European Sustainable Use Specialist Group in Battleby in May 2006). Others might be at the level of the Mediterranean High sea, one body of water such as the Alboran sea, or a local bay. In this last case the ecosystem approach will have to link with the Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

3- Conclusion

It exists clearly a synergy to develop between the work conducted by the GFCM in the framework of its Sub-Committee on Marine Ecosystem and Environment (SCMEE) and the one conducted by the Marine Programme of the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation.

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WWF Proposal for a Representative Network of Protected Deep-Sea Sensitive Habitats in the Mediterranean

- Abstract:

Protecting deep-sea biodiversity and ecological processes in the Mediterranean from destructive fishing practices is an essential aspect of the application of the EAF (Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries). The submission by WWF to SCMEE in 2005 of standardized fact sheets filled by prominent scientific teams was at the origin of the establishment by GFCM in January 2006 of 3 Deep Sea Restricted Areas at Capo Santa Maria di Leuca, the Nile delta area and the Eratosthenes seamount, respectively.

WWF is now completing the conservation proposal of 2005 with 2 new sites, 1) the Alboran seamounts and 2) the Cap de Creus Canyon, due to their uniqueness as deep-sea habitats and the availability of enough scientific information. The proposal is supported by 2 further standardized scientific fact sheets filled by relevant experts that have been formally submitted to the SCMEE.

Consequently, WWF proposes the SCMEE recommending the SAC raising a proposal to the GFCM to exclude bottom trawling (and other towed gears) from the two new sites proposed. In the case of the white coral reef in the Cap de Creus Canyon the experts warn on the threat of bottom long-lines as well; thus, banning all kind of demersal fisheries there appear to be the most appropriate conservation measure.

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ANNEX D**Conclusions of the Workshop on interactions
between Cetacean and fishing activities**Conclusion 1:

Given the report on reasons that have originated the issuing of a recent local law prohibiting the use and possession of pingers in the Balearic inshore waters, until more research is carried out by the Balearic Islands General Directorate of Fishery (Law n. 22751 of the 29th of December 2005, Official Bulletin of the Government of the Balearic Islands n. 194) and the additional available information, presented during the workshop by Dalgaard Balle and Buscaino, on two studies testing new types of pingers on different species of cetaceans under different conditions, **the Workshop concluded that robust scientific experiments should be promoted in order to assess the impact of pingers on cetacean and fish species before supporting their wide use.**

Conclusion 2:

The Workshop concluded that clear and unequivocal definitions of the terms “pingers”, “acoustic devices”, “deterrent devices”, “harassment devices”, etc., have to be made as soon as possible, with the aid of experts in the field of hearing physiology.

Examples:

From Northridge et al. 2004:

“Pingers are relatively low-intensity (**generally <150dB re 1µP at 1m**) battery-powered sound generators that operate in the mid to high sound frequencies (between about 10kHz to around 100 kHz). Pingers are usually designed to prevent small cetaceans from becoming entangled in gill nets, however a new generation of such devices has been designed to mitigate the depredation. At the other extreme, AHDs are designed to work by causing pain, discomfort or irritation to potential predators, and have been developed primarily with the aim of discouraging seals from approaching caged fish. Pingers are usually small (hand-sized) devices that run for weeks, months or years on small batteries. AHDs, in contrast, have relatively high sound source levels (**typically >185dB re 1µP at 1m**) and operate primarily in the low to mid frequency range (c. 5-30kHz). They are typically bulky pieces of equipment powered from mains electricity or large lead-acid vehicle batteries. As they have primarily been designed with seals in mind, AHDs produce sound within pinniped hearing sensitivities, which are typically lower than those of small odontocetes. Not all acoustic devices necessarily fall into one category or another and the difference between the two types of device, especially in terms of their acoustic output, is qualitative.”

From ANNEX II of the EU Regulation 812/2004:

Technical specifications and conditions of use of acoustic deterrent devices. Any acoustic deterrent devices used in application of Article 2(1) shall meet one of the following sets of signal and implementation characteristics:

	<u>SIGNAL CHARACTERISTICS</u>	
Signal synthesis	Digital	Analogue
Tonal/wide band	Wide band / tonal	Tonal
Source levels (max-- min) re 1 µPa@1m	145 dB	130-150 dB
Fundamental frequency	(a) 20 - 160 KHz wide band sweeps (b) 10 kHz tonal	10 kHz
High-frequency harmonics	Yes	Yes
Pulse duration (nominal)	300 ms	300 ms
Interpulse interval	(a) 4 - 30 seconds randomised (b) 4 seconds	4 seconds

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IMPLEMENTATION CHARACTERISTICS

Maximum spacing between two acoustic deterrent devices along nets

200 m, with one acoustic device fixed at each end of the net (or combination of nets attached together)

100 m, with one acoustic device fixed at each end of the net (or combination of nets attached together)

Conclusion 3:

The workshop concluded that GFCM and ACCOBAMS Secretariats should continue the **exploratory** survey on the cetacean-interactions by means of a revised version of GFCM-ACCOBAMS questionnaire titled “Summary of interactions between cetacean and fisheries within the ACCOBAMS area”.

Conclusion 4:

The workshop underlined the need for a strong cooperation between specialists of fisheries (GFCM) and cetaceans (ACCOBAMS) and proposed to stimulate this cooperation by holding joint session on cetacean-fisheries interactions during their Scientific Committee meetings.

Conclusion 5:

In order to carry out *ad hoc* projects on bycatch and depredation, where these problems have been assessed and urgently need mitigation measures, the workshop highlighted the strong need of setting a scientific cooperation between GFCM, ACCOBAMS, and all interested and relevant fishermen organisations, such as MEDISAMAK.

Conclusion 6:

In relation to the GEF project on development and improvement of MPAs and mitigate the impact of fishery on biodiversity (including Cetaceans), proposed within the framework of the SAP-BIO, the Workshop observed that it is fundamental to include cetacean bycatch rate estimates and mitigation activities in their programme and to ensure that all protocols for data collection on this issue are concerted *with the GFCM, ACCOBAMS and PELAGOS* Sanctuary Scientific Committees.

Conclusion 7 of the workshop:

The workshop commended the ongoing efforts in implementing two approved ACCOBAMS research programmes (ByCBAMS and ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative) and highlighted that these two projects represent a necessary fundament for future scientific work on interactions between fishing activities and cetaceans, in collaboration with the GFCM.

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ANNEX E

DRAFT REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND ECOSYSTEMS (SCMEE)

SALAMMBÔ, TUNISIA, 11-12 JULY 2006

1. Opening of the session

The preparatory meeting for the Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE (SAC-GFCM)) held an unscheduled and informal session in the INSTM headquarters in Salammbô, Tunisia, from 11 to 12 July 2006. The session was attended by 18 participants (annex 1).

The coordinator of the SCMEE, Mr Mohamed Nejmeddine Bradai, welcomed the participants, and thanked the INSTM and GFCM for the facilities to hold this meeting. The Chairman of the SAC, Mr Corrado Piccinetti, presented the meeting, and briefly introduced the SAC and the main issues regarding the SCMEE.

The Chairman of the GFCM, Mr Mohamed Hadj Ali Salem, welcomed the participants to Tunisia and opened the session.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Mr Bradai introduced the priorities for the SCMEE established by the GFCM at its 30th session. The agenda was introduced and adopted (annex 2)

3. Designation of rapporteurs

Ms Roberta Mazzucco and Mr Jordi Lleonart were designated rapporteurs.

4. Matters relative to interaction fishing-cetaceans. State of the knowledge and actions to initiate (with ACCOBAMS)

The “Project for assessing and mitigating the adverse impacts on interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities in the ACCOBAMS area”, with acronym BYCBAMS, was presented by Ms Marie Christine van Klaveren and Mr Chedly Rais (annex 3).

ACCOBAMS wish to collaborate with GFCM (among other partners) to carry out this project, proposes to discuss the methodology in the next SCMEE meeting and that the SC would act as an expert group in support of the project.

The participants were informed that other organisms have shown interest in participating in such a project and are willing to fund some actions. On this purpose, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat informed that Italy expressed its interest in participating in some elements to be developed at national and international level and that two projects on interactions are receiving financial support from the Agreement (Tunisia and Romania).

The ACCOBAMS Secretariat also presented the “Survey project” on the abundance and distribution of cetaceans within the area, of high priority for the Agreement, and the planned meeting on organizational aspects of this survey to be held early 2007.

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The participants agreed on the importance to conduct both BYCBAMS and the “Survey project”.

RAC/SPA is also ready to collaborate on the issues regarding the dynamics of cetacean populations, with this objective. The project has also been presented to the CS of the IWC. Genetic studies are also planned.

The participants underlined the importance of involving Romania, considering the interest of the GFCM to be present in the Black Sea.

The incidence of fishing activities on cetaceans and of cetaceans on fishing gears have been debated, i.e. in Corsica the artisanal fisheries seems to be heavily impacted by *Tursiops*, while in the Alboran sea, according to a WWF rapport, the driftnets cause a great mortality on dolphins. It has been discussed how to change the fishermen perception of the cetaceans to a positive, friendly, animal. Also impacts of activities other than fishing are important and should be taken into account (transport, tourism).

The standardisation of the data collection has been considered of paramount importance. ACCOBAMS will prepare a template to collect information on the interactions. These forms will be widely distributed to focal points, organisations and the SCMEE mailing list.

It was been proposed to hold a workshop during the first part of SCMEE meeting in September. The provisional agenda of this workshop has been prepared and approved by the participants and is presented in the annex 4.

5. The PELAGOS Sanctuary: Situation and actions to take

The PELAGOS Sanctuary was presented by Mr Philippe Robert (annex 5). This Sanctuary is an agreement between three countries: France, Monaco and Italy, and includes national waters as well as international waters with an extension of 87500 km². So far only actions at national level have been undertaken, but the international office has been operative as of 1 July 2006.

One of the major topics of the discussion was the use of the “thonaille”, a type of driftnet still used in France. The participants noted that GFCM cannot accept any regulatory measure of a forbidden gear.

The PELAGOS Secretariat was also asked to provide information about the fishing regulations to be implemented in the Sanctuary. These regulations must be more restrictive than the general GFCM regulations in order to classify the Sanctuary as a “fishing restricted area”. The Secretariat also expressed that the social and economic context of countries must be included in the political choice for all human activities.

Monaco presented a request to analyze the proposition of the Sanctuary to be recognized by the GFCM. This issue is included in the agenda for the next SCMEE meeting. The PELAGOS Secretariat will also present a more detailed proposal.

6. SCMEE work program and contribution of involved organisations

The organisations present at the meeting introduced the planned and ongoing activities in relation to the SCMEE objectives. These include IUCN (annex 6), WWF (annex 7) and RAC/SPA (annex 8).

The participants remarked the need for a better coordination of the activities in order to promote synergies and avoid duplications. In particular the following points were underlined:

- (i) Need of a greater involvement of GFCM with the Black Sea organisations and countries.
- (ii) Need for better information on project HERMES, focused on the study of deep sea, particularly on the Western Mediterranean canyons.
- (iii) Need to further develop collaboration with CIESM, in particular for EAF issues.

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The agenda of the next SCMEE meeting (Rome, 11-14 September 2006) was discussed and approved (annex 9).

7. Other matters

It was noted that there is only one backstopping officer for two Sub-Committees, thus creating difficulties when both Sub-Committees meet at the same time.

8. Adoption of the conclusions

The following conclusions were adopted:

1. The agenda for the Workshop on fisheries – cetaceans interactions to be held during the first part of the SCMEE meeting, 11 September 2006 in Rome
2. The PELAGOS Sanctuary will present a detailed proposal in the framework of the collaboration GFCM/PELAGOS, to implement the Management Plan of the Sanctuary
3. Formal approach of the GFCM to CIESM. Establish contacts between the Chairman of the SAC and the Coordinator of the SCMEE with the officer responsible of the CIESM committees related to SCMEE interests.
4. ACCOBAMS will prepare a template for data collection on bycatch to be filled by experts and organisations.
5. Agreement on the SCMEE agenda.
6. The following points were also agreed upon:
 - a. To follow the approach to the Black Sea.
 - b. To develop a project for deep sea.
 - c. To develop actions for exotic species.

9. Closure

The Chairman of the SAC, Mr Piccinetti, closed the meeting, thanking the participants and the organisation.

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Annexe 1: Liste des participants à la réunion préparatoire (Tunis, 11-12 juillet 2006)

Mohamed Hadj Ali Salem
SIPAM / Président CGPM
Hadjali.salem@fao.org

Corrado Piccinetti
Président du SAC
cpiccinetti@mobilia.it ;
Tel. : +39 0721 802689

Jordi Lleonart
FAO
Jordi.lleonart@fao.org

Ridha Mrabet
D.G. INSTM / Point Focal du SAC
Ridha.mrabet@instm.rnrt.tn

Mohamed Nejmeddine Bradai
INSTM/ Coordonnateur du SCMEE
Mednejmeddine.bradai@instm.rnrt.tn

Fabio MASSA
Coordinateur Adriamed-Medsumed
Fabio.massa@fao.org

Abderrahmen Gannoun
Directeur CAR/ASP
Gannoun.abderrahmen@rac-spa.org

Christine Pergent
Directrice Scientifique du CAR/ASP
Christine.pergent@rac-spa.org

Lobna Ben Nakhla
Chargée de Programmes CAR/ASP
Lobna.bennakhla@rac-spa.org

Souha El Asmi
Chargée de Programmes CAR/ASP
Souha.asmi@rac-spa.org

Daniel Cebrian
Chargé de Programmes CAR/ASP
Daniel.cebrian@rac-spa.org

Atef Ouerghi
Chargé de Programmes CAR/ASP
Atef.ouerghi@rac-spa.org

Marie Christine Van Klaveren

Secrétaire Exécutive ACCOBAMS
mcvanklaveren@accobams.net

Chedly Rais
Consultant ACCOBAMS
Chadly.rais@accobams.net

Roberta Mazzucco
Secrétariat ACCOBAMS
rmazzucco@accobams.net

Caterina Fortuna
Consultant ACCOBAMS
Fortuna.cm@tiscali.it

M. Philippe Robert
Secrétaire Exécutif du Sanctuaire PELAGOS
Philippe.robert@espaces-naturels.fr

Sergi Tudela
WWF Méditerranée
Studela@atw-wwf.org

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Annexe 2: Ordre du jour de la réunion préparatoire au SCMEE (Tunis, 11-12 juillet 2006)

1. Ouverture et organisation de la réunion.
2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour.
3. Désignation de rapporteur(s)
4. Questions relatives aux interactions pêche Cétacés: Etat des connaissances et actions à engager (conjointement avec ACCOBAMS)
5. Sanctuaire PELAGOS : Situation et actions à entreprendre
6. Programme de travail du SCMEE et contribution des organisations concernées
7. Autres questions
8. Adoption des conclusions
9. Clôture.

October 2006**Annex to the Preparatory Meeting of the SCMEE (Tunis, 11–12 July 2006)*****Annex 3: Project for assessing and mitigating the adverse impacts of interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities in the ACCOBAMS Area***

Presentation by the Secretariat of ACCOBAMS of the ByCAMS Project

Rationale and project components

The interaction between fishing activities and cetaceans is a phenomenon that is well known and found in several parts of the world. In the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, numerous cases of cetacean mortality due to interaction with fishing have been reported; cetacean by-catch is one of the main problems of this interaction.

The first component of the project will be to assess the extent of the by-catch problem, by type of fishing, by concerned cetacean species, and by region. It will consist of data collection by observers on board of fishing boats and of a series of national workshops. Data collection will be done according to a standard procedure, which will be developed as part of the project. Right at the start of the project, a regional meeting will be held and observers trained with a view to data collection on conditions of interaction. The data collection procedure must be designed to also allow a better understanding of the by-catch phenomenon: age brackets that are most concerned, etc.

The second component of the project will be made of fishermen awareness campaigns, aiming both at drawing their attention to the need to mitigate the impact of fishing on cetaceans and at informing them about the practices and procedures to be followed to avoid by-catch and the behaviour to adopt if cetaceans are accidentally caught in their fishing gear. Awareness modules will be produced by the project and made available to countries participating in the project with a view to carrying out awareness actions. These will be in the form of awareness days in fishing ports, videos, commercials, posters and leaflets. Awareness material will be produced in several languages to reach the maximum number of fishermen.

The third component of the project will be devoted to pilot actions on the use of pingers and other ways of avoiding by-catch. In many countries there is a growing demand for the use of pingers. This element of the project aims at assessing the feasibility of the use of pingers and judging how far fishermen could adapt to using them. It is important to know whether the use of pingers involves considerable extra work for fishermen. It is, moreover, important to assess the environmental impact of pingers.

Objectives

The project's general objective is to assess and mitigate the adverse impacts of interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities in the project area. To this end the following specific objectives will be sought:

Specific objective 1: to collect historical data about the cetacean by-catch in the project area.

Specific objective 2: to establish an official scheme for independent observers on fishing boats, including data collection procedure.

Specific objective 3: to collect data about the present cetacean by-catch in the project area.

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Specific objective 4: to assess the actual efficiency of pingers (and other ways of mitigating by-catch) and the associated environmental impacts of their use at large scale.

Specific objective 5: to raise fisherman awareness on the need to mitigate the impact of fishing on cetacean populations.

Specific objective 6: to enhance fisherman capability in handling cetaceans incidentally caught in their fishing gears.

Specific objective 7: to investigate the efficiency of AHDs (Acoustic Harassment Devices) in reducing nets depredation and interaction with purse seine fishing.

Geographical coverage

The project will be implemented in the area covered by the ACCOBAMS Agreement by the national authorities of each country participating in the project. A project coordinating unit will be placed with the ACCOBAMS Agreement Secretariat.

The following countries will be invited to define their needs and interest in the project: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Israel, Italy, Libya, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Monaco, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia & Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine. Taking into account the expressed needs and interest, a punctual selection of the participating countries will be done for each action, with particular attention to ACCOBAMS Members.

Partners:

The Secretariat of ACCOBAMS collaborated with RAC/SPA, the GFCM Secretariat and ICRAM to develop the project document. It is also planning to contact other possible partners (FAO Adriamed/Medsumed/EastMed/Copemed, IFREMER, Medisamak, WWF).

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Annex to the Preparatory Meeting of the SCMEE (Tunis, 11–12 July 2006)

**Annex 4: Workshop on fisheries – cetaceans interactions
11 September 2006, Rome**

Objective: to analyze the work already done, data available, work planned for the immediate future and how to reduce interactions as a response to the second bullet of the Second Priority for the SCMEE “addressing together with ACCOBAMS the issue of the interactions between cetaceans species in fishery activities, including in the PELAGO Sanctuary, through possibly convening a joint workshop on the subject.”

Provisional Agenda:

4. State of the art
 - a. On going and already done Projects
 - b. Data available (fulfilled templates)
 - c. Papers published

5. New planned activities
 - a. Projects (BYCBAMS, GEF, others)
 - b. Coordination of projects
 - c. Obtaining new information

6. Impact reduction and proposal of measures

7. Conclusions and recommendations

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Annexe à la réunion préparatoire au SCMEE (Tunis, 11-12 juillet 2006)

Annexe 5: Activities of the PELAGOS Sanctuary

A la suite de propositions élaborées par la communauté scientifique et associative, les trois Etats, l'Italie, Monaco et la France, ont signé en 1999 un Accord pour la protection des mammifères marins en Méditerranée, entré en vigueur en 2002. Pour ce vaste périmètre de 87 500 km², étendu en mer Ligure jusqu'au nord de la Sardaigne, un plan de gestion est validé en 2004 par les trois parties contractantes.

Le sanctuaire PELAGOS est inscrit sur la liste des Aires Spécialement Protégées d'Importance Méditerranéenne (ASPIM), ce qui lui confère une reconnaissance des autres pays non signataires à l'Accord et lui impose la mise en œuvre du plan de gestion.

En 2006, un secrétariat exécutif est nommé et rendu opérationnel pour harmoniser les programmes de recherche et ainsi que pour formuler des propositions pour la mise en œuvre de mesures de l'approche écosystémique.

Le thème de la pêche professionnelle est considéré comme majeur et le sanctuaire PELAGOS souhaite la collaboration de la CGPM sur deux axes particuliers :

- Enrichissement des connaissances à travers les données existantes ou celles à développer par un programme de recherche sur les thèmes suivants :
 - o Impacts des différents types de pêche sur les populations de cétacés
 - o Réglementations internationales dans le domaine de la pêche
 - o Gestion des eaux profondes (- 1000 m et + 1000 m)

- Propositions de mesures pour l'annulation ou la réduction des impacts de la pêche avec d'éventuelles mesures d'accompagnement socio-économiques.

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Annex to the Preparatory Meeting of the SCMEE

Annex 6: IUCN-Med programme of work

1. Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.

According to the conclusions of the working group meeting in September 2005 in Tunis, IUCN is willing to develop a programme of work for the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to fisheries in the Mediterranean region.

This programme of work would include:

- Methodology
- Selection of implementation fisheries / ecosystems
- Conducting of case studies
- Setting of guidelines for further implementation of EAF (IUCN-Med François Simard, IUCN-SSC Despina Symons)

2. Representative network of Marine Protected Areas

In the framework of the action plan of the IUCN World Commission of Protected Areas / Mediterranean working group, we are developing a multi-year project on setting a representative network of protected areas in the Mediterranean.

This programme of work includes:

- Identification of gaps in the actual system
- Identification of missing habitats (e.g. deep sea habitats, pelagic habitats)
- Drafting of proposals for designation of new protected areas (IUCN-Med François Simard, Ameer Abdulla, IUCN-WCPA Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara, Chedly Rais)

3. Evaluation of the Red List of Marine Fishes for the Mediterranean

IUCN Med and IUCN SSC have been conducting the red list assessment for Sharks and Cetaceans recently. This year, we will begin the assessment of marine fishes and marine invertebrates. The first phase of this programme is to set the list of organisms which are documented enough to be assessed. (IUCN Med Annabelle Cutellod, IUCN-SSC Kent Carpenter).

4. Others

Other IUCN programmes of work are related with GFCM work, but not directly with the SCMEE:

Sustainable aquaculture:

Preparation of guidelines on interactions between aquaculture and environment

Definition of indicators for aquaculture sustainable development (IUCN-Med / IUCN Global Marine Programme François Simard)

High sea Governance:

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Organization of an informal process for the exchange of views regarding the governance of the Western basin of the Mediterranean Sea.(IUCN-Med François Simard, IUCN-Commission on Environmental Law).

Risks from maritime traffic to biodiversity:

Identification of issues, discussion on available tools at the regional level, proposals of national action plans (IUCN-Med Ameer Abdulla, Rami Salman, François Simard).

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Annex 7: WWF programme of work of relevance to the SCMEE of SAC/GFCM (as of July 2006)

1. Development of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in the Mediterranean

WWF has been deeply involved in the development of the EAF concept at both global and Mediterranean level, contributing to the original inception of this concept in the expert meeting held by FAO in Iceland that originated the FAO Guidelines on EAF. WWF also published in 2001 an earlier proposal of Guidelines for Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management.

WWF is currently working with partners around the Mediterranean region, including EAF experts from academic institutions and fisheries stakeholders to produce an EAF toolkit tailor-made for the Mediterranean. This work will include successful case studies related to different EAF components. Also, scientific research is being made by WWF on the development of ecosystem-based indicators for fisheries management that are being applied to Mediterranean fisheries.

2. Establishment of a network of deep-sea protected areas in the Mediterranean High Seas covering particularly sensitive habitats.

Following the pioneering creation by GFCM of 3 “Deep Sea Fisheries Restricted Areas” in 2006, WWF is currently working with scientists from the Mediterranean on new proposals addressing the protection of particularly valuable deep-sea sites.

3. Protection of particularly sensitive bottom habitats.

WWF is working with scientists and national administrations from the region to set the basis for the protection of maërl and coralligenous habitats from harmful fishing practices.

4. Marine Protected Areas

WWF is involved in initiatives to improve the management and efficacy of MPAs in the region (MedPan project) as well as to increase the area covered by MPAs in the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem (GEF Med LME initiative project).

5. By-catch

WWF is strongly involved in pilot projects in Spain aiming at the reduction of turtle by-catch in longlines (trials using different hook modifications). It is also working for the implementation of GFCM, ICCAT and UN legislation banning driftnets.

Others

Jointly with the Italian authorities and fisheries associations, WWF is currently developing an initiative to reduce the incidence of illegal trawling practices on sensitive coastal habitats.

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Annex 8: RAC/SPA Programme of work

1. Action plans adopted within MAP for threatened species and species management

According to the protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol) and in accordance with the recommendations of the last meeting of the Contracting Parties (Portoroz, 8-11 November 2005) collaboration must be strengthened with relevant bodies and in particular with FAO/GFCM in order to address effectively the problem of the interactions between fisheries and endangered species like monk seal, cetaceans, sea turtles, birds, cartilaginous fishes, marine vegetation and/or aliens species.

In the framework of these action plans, several activities are in progress:

- Involvement in the project BYCAMS, headed by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, aiming at the assessment and mitigation of the adverse impacts of interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities in the project area (Contact: Lobna Ben Nakhla).
- Support study on dolphin – fisheries interactions on the Amvrakikos Gulf carried out by Tethys Research Institute (Contact: Lobna Ben Nakhla).
- Identification of marine areas of conservation interest for cetaceans in the Mediterranean region, with the ACCOBAMS Secretariat. This activity is based on bibliography from National reports, FSD and studies available. Some countries were called upon to create marine protected areas for cetaceans (Contact: Lobna Ben Nakhla).
- Elaboration of a training and information/awareness module and tools, addressed to fishermen, to reduce the mortality of marine turtles incidentally caught in fishing gear. The module includes a manual for fishermen and a manual for teachers. The manual for fishermen, available in various languages, was disseminated in a few harbours (Contact: Atef Ouerghi).
- Elaboration of guidelines to design legislation and regulations relative to the conservation and management of marine turtle populations and their habitats (Contact: Atef Ouerghi).
- Finalisation of a Draft Guide for Risk Analysis and Impact Assessment as regards the introduction of non-indigenous species. In addition RAC/SPA is elaborating a Draft Guidelines for controlling the vectors of introduction into the Mediterranean of non-indigenous species and invasive marine species. One of the three chapters of these draft guidelines deals with aquaculture (i.e.: cultured marine organisms for human consumption and ornamental purposes), so even if it is not directly connected with the SCMEE, it concerns GFCM. Both tools are expected to be presented to the next meeting of Contracting Parties for endorsement (Contact: Souha El Asmi).

2. Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO ; Contact : Daniel Cebrian)

Within the framework of the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine ecosystem, which includes the launching of actions to address SAP BIO priorities on fisheries and protected areas, RAC/SPA and FAO-GFCM are working together to develop activities as part of a GEF full-sized project regarding the following topics:

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- a. Addressing the problem of vulnerable fish and invertebrates by-catch, including elasmobranches considered within the IPOA sharks and the RAC/SPA action plan for those taxa.
- b. Idem regarding lung-breathing vertebrates covered by RAC/SPA action plans (Turtles, marine birds, monk seal, cetaceans), previewing specific collaboration with ACCOBAMS for the cetaceans (see above).
- c. Collaborating to promote the creation of new ASPIM in international waters, starting by the three Mediterranean areas restricted to trawling between 800 and 1000 m depth.

3. Others

RAC/SPA is elaborating a Programme of Work for the Protection of the Coralligenous, other Calcareous Bio-Concrections and Corals. This programme of work should be presented at the next meeting of Focal Points for SPAs.

Further axes of cooperation with the SCMEE for the near future may be:

- A GFCM contribution to applying the Ecosystem Approach within MAP activities, where the Adriatic and the Alboran Seas are initially being considered by MAP as testing sub-regional areas.
- GFCM collaboration to the process of favouring contacts among concerned neighbouring countries, regarding the further protection of the Alboran Sea habitats – as aroused during the recent study and information day on SPAMIs organised by RAC/SPA (Alicante, Spain, 11 May 2006).
- The contribution by GFCM to the quantification of the by-catch problem regarding sensitive species in the Mediterranean, by facilitating inputs from the FAO Fisheries Statistics, to help the identification of hot spots regarding Mediterranean fleets and areas.

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Annexe à la réunion préparatoire au SCMEE

Annexe 9: Agenda provisoire

1. Ouverture et organisation de la réunion
2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour
3. Rapport du coordinateur
4. Atelier sur les interactions cétacés-pêche dont programme ci-joint
5. Etudes pilotes interdisciplinaires en vue de définir et d'appliquer les principes de l'approche écosystémique à la gestion des stocks partagés à l'échelle sous-régionale, et tests parallèles des indicateurs écologiques relatifs au suivi spatio-temporel de l'effort de pêche
6. Suivi et contrôle de l'incidence de la pêche sur les espèces protégées ou menacées d'extinction
7. Suivi des recherches et élaboration d'un programme structuré relatif aux espèces vivant à des profondeurs supérieures à 1 000 mètres
8. Les interactions entre cétacés et activités de pêche, y compris dans le sanctuaire PELAGOS. Actions à mener conjointement par ACCOBAMS, la CGPM et les autres organisations régionales concernées
9. Examen des propositions faites par la délégation de Monaco concernant le sanctuaire PELAGOS
10. Harmonisation des activités du SCMEE avec les programmes relatifs aux écosystèmes marins menés dans la région par les organisations internationales partenaires, en particulier dans les domaines concernant l'identification des zones sensibles et la mise en œuvre de l'approche écosystémique (sujets de coopération à proposer par les organisations)
11. Nouvelles zones de restriction de pêche dans les eaux internationales
12. Autres questions
13. Clôture de la réunion