



**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES
PÊCHES POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE**



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**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN**

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ninth Session

Rome, 24-27 October 2006

**REPORT OF THE COORDINATING MEETING
OF THE SUB-COMMITTEES*
Rome, Italy, 24 October 2006**

*Available only in English

Opening of the Meeting

1. The SAC Coordinating Meeting of the Sub-Committees (CMSC) was held in Rome, 24 October 2006 a.m., prior to the SAC meeting. The Chairperson of SAC, Prof. Corrado Piccinetti, opened the meeting and thanked the participants for their attendance and referred to the informal meeting of the CMSC held in Rome, 14 September 2006. The list of participants is attached as Annex A. A provisional agenda was made available prior to the meeting (Annex B).

2. The Chairperson of SAC recalled the main objectives of the CMSC, namely to provide SAC with integrated and harmonized management advice and proposals related to the intersession workplans of and based on conclusions made by the Sub-Committees.

Outcomes of the CMSC

3. The Chairperson alluded to the successful outcome of the Sub-Committees. He particularly emphasized the good attendance of experts in particular to SCSA and SCMEET meetings and noted, however, the absence of experts, from countries representing some GFCM GSAs.

4. The CMSC reviewed the main conclusions and recommendations of each Sub-Committee as well as issues which might be pending from last sessions to be taken into

account when finalizing the 2007 SAC workplans. According to the prerogatives as outlined in its Terms of Reference (provided in Annex C), CMSC also reviewed the proposed 2007 activities and made proposals to ensure that individual results from the Sub-Committee(s) concerned be, as possible, harmonized and integrated. CMSC made the following comments and proposals:

Consolidation of management advices emanating from the Sub-Committees

5. CMSC identified specific gaps in some management related scientific advice that could be overcome if more scientific and technical information is provided and deeper analysis performed. It was pointed out that research needed to address primarily issues related to the management of fisheries rather than focusing on fundamental scientific knowledge. By presenting the example below, CMSC invited the Sub-Committees to make every effort to provide advice, indicating all relevant parameters to facilitate the work of the SAC. Hereafter are examples of scientific advice made by the Sub-Committees requiring to be more consolidated:

- For demersal stock, the advice was mostly "not to increase fishing effort". CMSC proposed to SAC to include in the 2007 or 2008 workplan, actions aimed to fine tune the advice so as to arrive as soon as possible at a proper management recommendation (e.g: to identify the fishing effort and reference year as requested by REC GFCM/2006/1);
- For Hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) in GSA 6 (Northern Spain), a temporal closure was recommended by SCSA during the maximum spawning period for the longline and gillnet, and during recruitment period for trawlers. CMSC suggested to SAC to request information to identify the reference period for which this measure could be applied and to provide to the Commission complete management advice. Otherwise, SAC should identify specific actions to make available the needed data and studies for next SCSA meeting.

Draft Recommendation on 40 mm square mesh in bottom trawling

- The SAC noted the importance of the conclusion made by the SCSA, related to the use of square mesh in bottom trawling, recalling the outcome of the GFCM workshop on selectivity held in Sète (France) in 2005. SAC suggested the adoption of a GFCM Resolution for implementing gradually the 40 mm square mesh, first taking into foremost account the need to assess the possible socio-economic impact that the square mesh might have, especially for coastal fishery activities in different Mediterranean Sub-Areas.
- According to the SCSA suggestion to exclude highly migratory species from the SAC priority list for which the words "to assess" were added, CMSC suggested to continue using the current existing priority species list which include highly migratory species. It further suggested that definition of the criteria to update this list should be addressed in the 2007 workplan, as the SCSA did not have enough time to finalize these criteria this year.

6. CMSC identified the following priority pending issues from the last previous SAC foreseen activities and suggested to include them in the 2007 workplan :

- Identification of a strategy to implement Recommendation GFCM/2006/1. The Workshops on implementation of GFCM Task 1 and on disaggregated data, to be held in 2007, could be appropriate to address this issue.
- Inventory and analysis of the available data bases and fishery statistics, in connection with the development of the GFCM Website.

Consolidation of the 2007 workplan frame

7. CMSC made a preliminary analysis of the proposed activities in order to try to identify integrated and transversal activities for 2007 and to provide, when possible, more details regarding the holding of proposed activities as follows:

8. CMSC pointed out the importance to have more efficient intersessional activities (annual session, working groups, workshops) which constitute the adequate opportunity for SAC to achieve its objectives, related in particular to fishery management. It expressed the relevance to have a clear formulation of the expected outcomes from each activity, including, when possible its budgetary implications. Hereafter are elements that the Sub-Committees may take into consideration for presenting activity proposals:

- Terms of reference (ToRs).
- Expected Outputs.
- Profile of the participants.
- Approximate duration/time frame.
- Venue (if possible).
- Partner Organizations.
- Specific needs: data, computers, consultants, software, etc.

9. CMSC then addressed the programming of meetings. It suggested contemplating a general chronogram which may take into account the need:

- to optimize the time between meetings;
- to hold the Working Groups on demersal and small pelagics species separately from the SCSA. These WGs should dedicate themselves to undertake common stock assessment using the best available data and provide advice on areas exceeding the national context;
- to dedicate more time to the CMSC meetings which should be organized independently of the Sub-Committees and SAC meetings.

10. Hereafter is a general annual program proposal for consideration by SAC:

Meeting	proposed period
Working Groups and Workshops	January – June
Sub-Committees meetings including transversal session	end June – beginning July
CMSC	July – September
SAC	October

11. On the basis of the proposed 2007 activities as well as of the conclusions made by the Sub-Committees, CMSC tried to ensure coherence, consistency and integration among relevant conclusions as a response to the Commission's request to optimize meetings. CMSC also translated some general conclusions from the Sub-Committees into action to be undertaken in the next session. In this sense, CMSC made the following remarks:

- The proposed Workshop on GFCM Task 1 should be a transversal activity, taking also into account conclusions from SCESS related to social indicators and other conclusions

from SCSI regarding the GFCM GSAs. Thus, the ToRs of this Workshop, in addition to the GFCM Task 1 implementation, could include:

- Identifications of Operational Units.
 - Parameters and calibration/allocation of fishing effort.
 - Definition of a minimum list of social indicators.
 - Harmonization of GSAs nomenclature.
 - Harmonization of GSAs boundaries with FIDI sub-divisions.
- Following a conclusion from SCSA, CMSC suggested to SAC to establish a working group on the use of the trawl surveys data in the Mediterranean. It is proposed that this Working group meet during the 2007 intersession.
 - Since the Workshops on GFCM Task 1 and on disaggregated data will involve, in a complementary approach, data to finalize concepts such as OUs, fishing effort and social indicators, it is suggested to hold the two meetings back to back.
 - Since it is suggested to promote the use of new stock assessment methods as well as training in this field, CMSC invited SCSA to consider holding a second meeting of the PWGAM in 2007 or 2008.
 - CMSC suggested to include the proposed workshop on by-catch into the SCMEE session.
 - CMSC proposed to hold a SCMEE/SCSA/SCSS/SCSI transversal workshop on EAF to define a reference frame for the implementation of this approach, including the identification of EAF indicators and the definition of the main ecosystems in GFCM area.

Expected inputs from FAO regional projects to proposed 2007 activities

12. The FAO regional project coordinators expressed their views in accordance with the overall objective of the project and of the final agreement of the Coordination Committee regarding the preliminary SAC workplan and their expected inputs to the 2007 activities. In general, the support of these projects could focus on the following:

For MedFisis, CopeMed and EastMed:

- Enhance the attendance to the meetings of the SAC and its subsidiary bodies.
- MedFisis will assist in establishing and updating GFCM databases as well as performing an exhaustive inventory of regional databases.
- MedFisis will contribute to the practical testing of the Operational Unit concept through further identification of OUs in the Mediterranean area and will promote related data collection and analysis per OU.
- CopeMed II & EastMed could provide support in organizing training course and specialized Workshops on selected fields.
- CopeMed II & EastMed could support the collection and the use of available information to produce reliable maps of nursery areas for selected species and investigate the effect of an area closure on the recruitment of the concerned species.
- CopeMed II & EastMed could support the compilation of an inventory/synthesis of published studies on fisheries and biodiversity of deep sea areas, in order to initiate the process toward the formulation of a management plan (beyond 1000 meters).

For AdriaMed and MedsudMed

- Could continue identification of nursery areas for fisheries resources in the MedSudMed and AdriaMed areas Production of reliable maps of nursery areas.
- Standardization of the Echosurvey in GSA 17 and GSAs 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 21.
- Implementation of the Echosurvey in the eastern part of GSA 18 (AdriaMed).
- AdriaMed could continue to support the execution of egg production surveys (DEPM) in GSA 18.
- Implementation of indicators and reference points for AdriaMed and MedSudMed areas.
- On the basis of the work carried out so far by the projects, could update the list of priority species for the MedSudMed (GSA: 12; 13; 16; 15; 14; 21) and AdriaMed areas (GSA 17 and 18). Demersal and small pelagic fisheries resources.
- AdriaMed could continue to support the trawl survey activities in the eastern part of GSAs 17 and 18.
- AdriaMed and MedSudMed will assist the SCSA in identifying partner institutions to initiate a training course on new methodologies for stock assessment based on trawl survey data.
- Could update the national databases on fisheries produced by AdriaMed.
- Could update the list of AdriaMed Operational Units on the basis of the form established by the SCSA (September 2006).
- Establish cooperation with SCSA in formatting and storing relevant information available on the AdriaMed and MedSudMed data banks.
- Completion and finalisation of the interdisciplinary MedSudMed Pilot Study (GSA 15) for identifying and applying the principles of the EAF.
- Could continue identification of the sensitive areas for fisheries resources in the MedSudMed.
- Continue the work of AdriaMed on indicators (GSA 18 and GSA 17);
- Expand and update the information of the legislative aspects of recreational fisheries existing in the legislative regional AdriaMed data bank.
- Introduce the use of socio-economic indicators in the MedSudMed Pilot Study in GSA 15.

Issues related with the functioning of the Sub-Committees

13. CMSC discussed issues related to the functioning of the Sub-Committees for a more efficient preparation of the intersessional meetings, circulation of related information and dissemination of documents. It also discussed which would be the most appropriate way to improve the outcome of the Sub-Committees. In this regard, the GFCM Website in development would be a major tool for the Secretariat, the Coordinators and for all potential users.

Review of the GFCM publications

14. CMSC was informed on the progress made. Three publications were issued during 2006: 1) The Operational Units Concept in the Mediterranean; 2) Selected Papers on the Use of Reference Points and 3) Copemed document on Artisanal Fisheries in the Mediterranean. In addition, a CD-Rom including the abstracts of all GFCM publications since 1952 was prepared and made available to SAC.

For 2007, CMSC proposed to:

- translate into French two publications: 1) The Operational Units Concept in the Mediterranean; 2) The Mediterranean Fisheries Regulations;

- publish the proceedings of the Workshop on Fishing Selectivity held in Sète, France, in 2005;
- examine the possibility to publish available documents on socio-economic aspects and MedFisis works.

Any other matters

15. CMSC suggested to SAC to invite the GFCM Secretariat to explore the possibility to strengthen collaboration with the CIESM and to consider relevant actions (contact, exchange of visit, participation to meetings).

Annex A**List of Participants**

Corrado Piccinetti, SAC Chairman

Nicos Hadjistephanou, SAC first Vice Chairman

Costantina Karlou-Riga, SAC second Vice Chairman and SCSA Coordinator

Mohamed Malouli Idrissi, SCESS Coordinator

Matthew Camilleri, SCSA Coordinator

Alain Bonzon, GFCM Executive Secretary

Abdellah Srour, GFCM Deputy Executive Secretary

Cassandra De Young, GFCM Secretariat (SCESS)

Jordi Leonart, GFCM Secretariat (SCSA)

Piero Mannini, FAO-Medfisis coordinator

Fabio Massa, FAO-AdriaMed Coordinator

Annex B**Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Review of the main conclusions and recommendations of the Sub-Committees.
3. Need for a consolidated framework for 2007 activities, including a strategy for implementing Recommendation GFCM/2006/1.
4. Expected inputs from FAO regional projects to proposed 2007 activities.
5. Issues related with the SAC functioning
6. Review of the GFCM publications
7. Any other matters
8. Closure of the meeting

ANNEX C

Terms of Reference of the Coordinating Meeting of the Sub-Committees (CMSC) and of the Coordinators of the Sub-Committees

1. Membership and *Modus operandi* of the CMSC

The CMSC will comprise the Chair and the two Vice-Chairpersons of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), the Executive Secretary and the Deputy Executive Secretary of GFCM, the Coordinators of the Sub-Committees (SCSA, SCESS, SCIS and SCMEE) and the Coordinator(s) of cross-sectoral Working groups¹.

In addition to the assistance of the GFCM Secretariat, the CMSC will be supported in its work by the relevant FAO technical officers, including the Coordinators/Directors of the FAO Regional projects.

Pursuant to Rule X (6) of the Rules of Procedure, the procedures of the CMSC shall be governed *mutatis mutandis* by the Rule of Procedures of the Commission.

2. CMSC Mandate

- Propose and/or update elements of the Reference Framework for the mandate of SAC for the intercessional period and plan the distribution of activities among Sub-Committees;
- promote the organization of and the participation in interdisciplinary or cross-sectional working groups answering directly to SAC;
- examine the reports of the interdisciplinary or cross-sectional working groups and Sub-Committees and prepare proposals for an integrated Programme of Work of SAC;
- collate draft recommendations of subsidiary bodies and formulate, as appropriate, multidisciplinary advice on fisheries management for examination by SAC;
- function as editing committee for the selection of scientific and technical documents to be published in the GFCM *Studies and Reviews* series;
- conduct any other task specifically requested by the Commission or SAC or approved by consensus by the members of the CMSC.

3. Mandate of the Coordinators of the Sub-Committees

- Maintain an updated list of the National Focal Points and experts participating in related networks, providing full contact details, and ensure the distribution of related information;
- encourage the participation of experts in Sub-Committee activities and their scientific and technical contributions;
- organize, in close liaison with the CMSC, the activities of the Sub-Committee in such a way that issues raised by GFCM and/or SAC are addressed;

¹ “Cross sectoral” or “Transversal” *ad hoc* Working groups are those Working Groups reporting directly to SAC, such as the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Groups on Large Pelagic Species.

- coordinate intersessional activities, notably the organization of Sub-Committee meetings and, as appropriate, in collaboration with the facilitator, those of the Working group(s), including preparation of the annotated provisional agenda and/or terms of reference;
- supervise the drafting of meeting reports, including the presentation of attached appendixes/reference documents;
- liaise with scientific and technical bodies of other international/regional organizations dealing with topics of common interest;
- represent the Sub-Committee at meetings of the CMSC , in particular for preparing work and advice for SAC.