



**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN**

**COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES POUR
LA MÉDITERRANÉE**



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**Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)
Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA)**

Working Group on stock assessment of demersal species

Ancona, Italy, 19-23 October, 2009

Context and Objectives

One of the objectives of the Sub-committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA) of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of GFCM, is to progress in the enhancement of joint practical stock assessment. “Joint” refers to the participation of scientists from different Geographical Sub-Areas (GSAs) providing their data and sharing them with their colleagues, using a standard methodology and analyzing together the results and options for fisheries management.

The process based on undertaking joint practical session to assess in particular the stocks of hake and associated species was launched in 2008, during the SCSA Working Group on Demersal species (Turkey, September 2008). The assessments were carried out using both commercial catches and trawl survey data.

During its Thirty third session, the Commission endorsed the proposal of its Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) aimed to reconsider the functioning of the Working Groups on stock assessment of demersal and small pelagic species. Under this new vision, the Working group on demersal will carry out its work into four thematic sub-groups on crustaceans, hake, mullets and other demersal species respectively, dealing exclusively with practical stock assessments using standard methodologies. The outcome of the assessments already undertaken by national experts including with the support of FAO Regional projects and/or other international initiatives would be presented directly to the Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA) meeting for review.

The Commission also stressed the need that data required for joint assessments be submitted to the Secretariat two months before the Working group meetings. These practical stock assessments will be supervised by a moderator according to the Terms of reference adopted by the Commission (Appendix J of the SAC report)

Tentative planning of work

1. Review of available data and information
2. Presentation of the methodologies to be used
3. Performance of joint assessments including:
 - Finalization of “stock Assessment forms”
 - Review and analysis of the results of different assessments
 - Formulation of conclusions and management advice
4. Discussion and adoption of the management advice to be submitted to the SCSA

Information for Participants

1. Date and Venue

Monday, 19 October to Friday, 23 October 2009. (Registration starts at 08:45 am on 19 October). Meeting hours will be approximately from 09:00 to 17:30.

The meeting will be held at: CNR-ISMAR. Sezione Pesca Maritima. Largo Fiera della Pesca. Ancona, Italy.

2. Contact Information

Local host contact details:

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3. Language

Scientific documents can be written in English or French. It is expected that the main working language for the meeting will be English, as no simultaneous translation can be provided.

4. Call for Data

Participants are encouraged to submit to the GFCM Secretariat (GFCM-Secretariat@fao.org) relevant information and data needed for the joint stock assessment, according to the indications provided by the moderator (see notes attached to this message). The deadline set up for data transmission is **20 August 2009**.

5. Registration.

Participants are invited to register in advance by using the attached registration form.

6. Hotel Information

Information on hotels near to the meeting venue is attached to this message.

The documentation and information for the meeting is available in the GFCM web site (www.gfcm.org)