



**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE  
MEDITERRANEAN**

**COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES POUR  
LA MÉDITERRANÉE**



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## **OTHER DECISIONS : MANDATES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

OTH. GFCM/29/2005/1: Terms of reference of the Coordinating Meeting of the Sub-Committees (CMSC) and of the coordinators of the sub-committees.

OTH. GFCM/27/2002/1: Reference framework for the mandate of the Scientific Advisory Committee (sac) for the intersessional periods 2003 and 2004.

OTH. GFCM /26/2001/1: Update of the terms of reference for the intersessional period 2001-2002 for the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC).

OTH. GFCM /23/1998/1: Terms of reference of the scientific Advisory Committee (SAC).

**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 Groups<sup>1</sup>.

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

**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;
- 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.

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

**REFERENCE FRAMEWORK FOR THE MANDATE OF  
THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)  
FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIODS 2003 AND 2004**

SAC is requested to strengthen the critical role of Coordinators of subcommittees with the aim to improve the linkages among subcommittees and National focal points of GFCM Members.

**1. Management of fisheries**

SAC is requested:

- 1.1. To update the list of shared stocks identifying also the geographical sub-areas as well as the operational units involved. For this purpose SAC should make use both of the knowledge on stock units and of the spatial distribution of operational unit activities as well as of the mixed nature of some fisheries. Deepening both the knowledge and the list of shared stocks should not necessarily extend the list of priority species, so far agreed, for which scientific assessment and advice has to be provided.
- 1.2. To update, at sub-regional level and by geographical sub-areas, the inventory of operational units generating catches of shared stocks. To this end, SAC is also requested to monitor and fine tune, as necessary, the fleet segmentation, as adopted in principle (Appendix E of the report of the 5th Session of SAC). Whenever possible, description of Operational units should report the share, by weight and value, of priority species as well as of other important species, their fishing regime, trends in catches and landings, discard estimates.
- 1.3. To continue its ongoing works of reviewing and debating stock assessment methods with the aim both to widen the use of common agreed standards and methodologies and to continue to improve the scientific quality of submitted assessments.  
  
To compare, and comment, as relevant, the outcomes and recommendations arising both from stock assessment methods and from other fisheries assessment tools mainly based on economic and social matters. Evaluations coming from bio-economic models should also be used for comparison. To this end, SAC should implement some case studies where both approaches are applicable.
- 1.4. To initiate an in-depth reflexion on conservation reference points (safe biological limits, precautionary reference points) that could be routinely used in the Mediterranean to establish a precautionary approach. SAC is also requested to highlight gaps in the current scientific knowledge and research and monitoring needs to set up such a framework.
- 1.5. To update evaluation for priority demersal and small pelagic species, by using the most recent data sets collected both by direct and indirect methods. SAC is requested to give priority to assessment of stocks in those geographical sub-areas not yet concerned by the 2001 and 2002 SAC assessments.

However, SAC should feel free both to extend the list of priority species and to accept for consideration stock assessments of species not included in the current list of priority species.

SAC is requested to explore different outputs consequent to different management scenarios for fisheries where there is evidence of overfishing. In the light of the above outputs SAC is requested to evaluate the appropriateness of present management measures and should propose new or alternative conservation measures whenever necessary. In this regard, the GFCM invites SAC also to take into account both the knowledge of nursery and reproductive areas (geographic co-ordinates) and the outcomes of experiments aiming to improve the exploitation pattern. SAC advices should highlight different management

options in terms of risk to be avoided, expected improvements and cost/benefit both in biological and socio-economic terms.

**List of priority species:**

*Merluccius merluccius, Micromesistius poutassou, Merlangius merlangus, Mullus barbatus, Mullus surmuletus, Pagellus erythrinus, Psetta maxima, Engraulis encrasicolus, Sardina pichardus, Sardinella aurita, Sprattus sprattus, Trachurus trachurus, Trachurus mediterraneus, Thunnus thynnus, Thunnus alalunga, Xiphias gladius, Coryphaena hippurus, Aristeomorpha foliacea, Aristeus antennatus, Parapenaeus longirostris, Nephrops norvegicus, Eledone cirrhos, Prionace glauca, Isurus oxyrinchus, Lamna nasus and Acipenser sturio.*

- 1.6. To participate actively in the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on tuna farming.
- 1.7. To participate actively in the Joint EIFAC/GFCM Working Group on management of sturgeon.

**2. Environmental protection**

- (1) Continue updating information on incidental catches of protected species and on by catch of large migratory sharks.
- (2) With a view to progressively implement an ecosystem approach to fisheries, update information on mapping essential fish habitats.
- (3) Provide an overview of driftnet and surface gillnet fisheries in the Mediterranean, broken down by main basin and geographical sub-areas. Essential points to report on are: fishing effort (Number and size of vessels, size of gears, duration of fishing), technical characteristics (mesh sizes, rigging, marking, control of drift), measures for environmental protection (prevention of gear loss, acoustic alarms) and research programmes in course for this type of fisheries, in particular those aiming to investigate by-catch.
- (4) Provide an overview of surface and bottom longline fisheries in the Mediterranean, broken down by main basin. Describe interaction with non-commercial fish, birds and turtles. Report on measures taken to make more efficient use of baits and to prevent bird and turtle mortality.
- (5) Report on the geographical occurrence, seasonality, extent and effects of mucilaginous algae blooms.
- (6) With a view to progressively implement ecosystem-approach to fisheries, describe a few simple but clear species assemblages where trophic and other biological links are well identified.

**UPDATE OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE  
FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD 2001-2002 FOR THE  
SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)**

**For its Fifth Session, the Scientific Advisory Committee is requested:**

1. To review existing stocks/fisheries assessment methods highlighting data needs, outputs expected, pros and cons, and their suitability to Mediterranean stocks and fisheries. On the results of the above analysis, SAC is requested to define a set of most appropriate assessment methods which should result in the establishment of a harmonized assessment methodology, agreed by scientists of Members, and which is a prerequisite for a rational decision-making process. To this effect Members should provide GFCM and its subsidiary bodies with all relevant information available.
2. To investigate the issue of stock units in the Mediterranean and Black Seas for the priority species, making use of direct and ancillary information.
3. To update, at regional level, at least the typology of the Operational Units generating catches of priority species. Members are invited to send to the Sub-Committee on Fishery Statistics and Information (SCSI) the appropriate agreed national information.
4. To continue updating the list of shared stocks highlighting the geographical sub-areas as well as the operational units involved.
5. To define and utilize a “standardized” format of reporting to GFCM on stock assessment in which, on a stock basis and by agreed geographic sub-areas, are put in evidence at least the following headings:
  - 5.1 Brief description of fisheries catching the stock: to specify the share by weight and in value of the priority species of the various size ranges in the landings of the corresponding Operational Units, their fishing regime, fishing effort, trends in catches and landings, discards, etc..
  - 5.2 Current status of stock and assessment indicators to define it.
  - 5.3 SAC advice should highlight different management options in terms of risk to be avoided, expected improvements and cost/benefit both in biological and socio-economic terms.

SAC, in providing its advice, should propose new or alternative conservation measures, taking into consideration what was already implemented and enforced, as well as by giving clear quantitative indications of the identified management options (e.g. location and dimension of closed areas; mesh sizes; likely extension of closed season etc.).

Part of the above information should be presented also in chart and/or table format.

Each sheet should also be provided with the list of bibliographic references utilized.

6. To review, update and summarize, in easily readable tables, biological and life history parameters of priority species.
7. To review, update and summarize, in easily readable tables, selectivity parameters by fishing gears for the priority species.

8. To update evaluation for priority demersal and small pelagic species, by using the most recent data sets collected both by direct and indirect methods. SAC is requested to explore different outputs consequent to different management scenarios. In the light of the above outputs SAC is requested to evaluate the appropriateness of present management measures and should propose new or alternative conservation measures whenever necessary. In this regard, the Commission invites SAC also to take into account the knowledge of nursery and or reproductive areas.

List of priority species:

*Merluccius merluccius, Micromesistius poutassou, Merlangius merlangus, Mullus barbatus, Mullus surmuletus, Pagellus erythrinus, Boops boops, Psetta maxima, Engraulis encrasicolus, Sardina pichardus, Sardinella aurita, Sprattus sprattus, Trachurus trachurus, Trachurus mediterraneus, Thunnus thynnus, Thunnus alalunga, Xiphias gladius, Coryphaena hippurus, Aristeomorpha foliacea, Aristeus antennatus, Parapenaeus longirostris, Nephrops norvegicus, Eledone cirrhosa and Acipenser sturio.*

**In the field of relations between fishing activities and environment the following activities should be carried out:**

1. Investigate and update data on incidental catches of protected species in fishing activities
2. Investigate and update data on target and incidental catches of highly migratory shark species in fishing activities
3. Investigate, update data and estimates of discards by operational units, geographic sub-areas or management units and season.
4. Investigate and map essential fish habitats for littoral and offshore priority species

SAC is invited to identify fishing gears and practices (Operational Units), to estimate standardized catch and discard rates, mortality estimates, current population size of interested protected species or populations, to identify alternative fishing practices or selection devices to mitigate problems of incidental catches of protected species.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SCIENTIFIC  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)**

**First Session**

The Scientific Advisory Committee is requested to review the current situation and future direction of its work with respect to availability of data and methodologies, and to provide concrete advice to the Commission, as feasible, on the following questions:

**1. Definition of the appropriate management units for Mediterranean fisheries**

These management units should take into account and, where possible, conciliate the following aspects:

- the distribution of unit biological stocks for the main species;
- the existing statistical areas;
- the occurrence of homogeneous fleets;
- the occurrence of consolidated scientific and technical cooperation.

**2. Definition of the parameters to express fishing effort**

These parameters should be simple, workable and applicable for vessels longer than 15 m, on the basis of individual vessels. For smaller units, the parameters chosen should allow their monitoring on the basis of sampling procedures.

**3. Identification of the current situation and available information on stock assessment**

- Stocks or areas where catch, effort and biological data are collected on a routine basis;
- fisheries or fleets for which economic data are collected on a routine basis;
- inventory of research vessel surveys;
- inventory of well established groups of scientists meeting regularly for stock assessment or for economical analysis.

**4. Organization of future work: structure, data bases and functioning**

- Working groups, study groups, secretariat;
- data bases: creation and maintenance;
- organization of future meetings, allocation of tasks;
- links with environmental conventions.

## **Second Session**

The Scientific Advisory Committee is requested to provide advice on the following questions:

**1. Evaluation (jointly with ICCAT) of Mediterranean swordfish**

Evaluation of the state of the stock based on the best available information.

**2. General appraisal of the level of knowledge on the state of the different groups of stocks, according to the management units identified**

For each management unit identified, report on the level of knowledge and, where appropriate, advice on the state of the fishery.

**3. The problem of juveniles: pros and cons of minimum mesh sizes and minimum landing sizes as compared to closed areas/seasons**

Given the practical difficulties associated to the application of minimum landing sizes for certain species, compare the relative merits of the establishment of certain areas of high concentration of juveniles where the fishing activity would be seasonally or permanently banned.

**4. Identification of areas/seasons of high concentration of juveniles**

In the context of the above advice, identify areas and seasons of high concentration of juveniles of the most important commercial species.