



**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN**

**COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES POUR
LA MÉDITERRANÉE**



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RES. GFCM/25/2000/1 (REV. 95/1)

Without title

IN VIEW OF the 1998 stock assessment on bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean by the ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), indicating that an annual catch level equal or higher than 33,000 MT would not be sustainable,

RECOGNIZING the need to reconcile the necessary conservation of the stock with the needs of coastal fishing communities which are dependent mainly on fishing for this stock,

RECALLING that Croatia was undergoing a state of war during the early 1990s.

The Commission recommended:

- 1) That a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 32,000 MT for 1999 and of 29,500 MT for 2000 be established.
- 2) That in order to establish an allocation of fishing possibilities, the catches of years 1993 and 1994 (whichever is higher), as laid down by ICCAT/SCRS before 1998, be used as reference, except in the case of Croatia, for which a specific quota is set for 1999.
- 3) That according to paragraph 2 above, the following allocation scheme be established.

	1999	2000
China (People's Republic)	82 MT	76 MT
Croatia	950 MT	876 MT
European Community (EC)	20,165 MT	18,590 MT
Japan	3,199 MT	2,949 MT
Korea	672 MT	619 MT
Libya	1,300 MT	1,199 MT
Morocco	820 MT	756 MT
Tunisia	2,326 MT	2,144 MT

- 4) Quantities to be deducted from the 1999 catch quota under the terms of paragraph 2 of the "Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries", shall be calculated for all Contracting Parties, with respect to the catch data referred to in paragraph 2 above, as revised by SCRS in 1998.
- 5) These provisions replace the 1995 "A Recommendation by ICCAT on Supplemental Management Measures for Eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna".
- 6) For those non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities with catches of bluefin tuna in the east Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea from 1993 onwards, the catch limit for 1999 and 2000 will be calculated according to paragraph 2.

1999	2000
2,486	2,291

RES. GFCM/25/2000/2

Without title

The Commission:

CONSIDERING the Recommendations adopted by ICCAT in 1974 and 1994 concerning bluefin tuna minimum size;

IN ORDER to facilitate commercial transactions without jeopardizing the quality of information on catches and trade of bluefin tuna;

The Commission recommended:

FIRST: the prohibition of retaining on board, landing and sale of fish less than 3.2 kg by fishing vessels of Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties.

SECOND: that adequate measures be taken by ICCAT in November 1997 to guarantee greater transparency and more reliability of statistics, with the aim of identifying the origin of catches. This Recommendation is supplemental to the minimum size regulations currently in effect on bluefin tuna.

RES. GFCM/25/2000/3

Without title

CONSIDERING the Recommendations adopted by ICCAT in 1974, 1994, and 1996 concerning bluefin tuna minimum size;

IN ORDER TO ensure adequate enforcement and monitoring of the prohibition on harvest of age zero bluefin tuna;

The Commission recommended that:

In addition to the prohibition on retaining on board, landing and sale of fish less than 3.2 kg by fishing vessels of Contracting Parties and non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities, each Contracting Party and non-contracting party, entity or fishing entity shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the landing, possession, or sale in markets in nations bordering the Convention area of Atlantic bluefin tuna of fish less than 3.2 kg.

This Recommendation is supplementary to the minimum size regulations currently in effect for bluefin tuna.

RES. GFCM/22/1997/1

Without title

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean, meeting in Rome, Italy, from 13 to 16 October 1997,

CONSIDERING that on 22 December 1989, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted by consensus Resolution 44/225 on large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas;

CONSIDERING that uncontrolled expansion and growth of driftnetting may entail serious disadvantages in terms of increased fishing effort and increased by-catches of species other than the target species, and that it was therefore desirable to regulate fishing with driftnets;

Accordingly ADOPTS, under Article V of the GFCM Agreement, the following recommendation:

1. No vessel flying the flag of a Contracting Party of GFCM may keep on board, or use for fishing, one or more driftnets whose individual or total length is more than 2.5 kilometres;
2. Throughout the fishing referred to in paragraph 1, the net must, if it is longer than one kilometre, remain attached to the vessel. However, within the 12 mile coastal band, a vessel may detach itself from the net, provided it keeps it under constant observation.

RES. GFCM/22/1997/2

Without title

Resolution on activities of non-Contracting Parties

RECALLING the recommendations adopted by GFCM which are binding upon its members,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the need to promote a wide application of GFCM management and conservation measures in the Mediterranean as the only possible way to ensure its effectiveness,

RECALLING Articles 7.1.4, 7.1.5, and 7.7.5 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, concerning the activities of non-members of regional fisheries organizations,

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean, acting under Article III, paragraph a) of the GFCM Agreement,

CALLS UPON States which are not members of GFCM, but whose vessels engage in fishing activities in the region, to become members of GFCM or otherwise cooperate in the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Council.

CALL UPON members of GFCM to report to the Council on any fishing activities by vessels flying the flag of non-members which undermine the effectiveness of GFCM recommendations, as well as on the activities of flagless vessels.

RES. GFCM/22/1997/3

Without title

RECALLING the obligations set out in Resolution 95/1 to the effect of limiting the activity of large long-liners, establishing a minimum landing size and reducing the catch of bluefin tuna by the end of 1998,

CONSIDERING the necessity to take measures regarding the gears used at times when their impact is most notable on juveniles and spawners,

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean, acting under Article V of the GFCM Agreement,

RECOMMENDS:

FIRST: The prohibition of the bluefin tuna purse seine fishery during the period 1 to 31 August; and

SECOND: The prohibition of the use of airplanes and helicopters in support of such fishing operations in the month of June.

RES. GFCM/21/1995/1

Without title

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean, meeting in Alicante, Spain, from 22 to 26 May 1995,

Considering that:

- There is general international concern and evidence as to the depleted state of the stock of bluefin tuna, (Thunnus thynnus) whose migration range includes the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea,
- The principal spawning ground for this stock is the Mediterranean Sea during the months of June and July, at which time it is vulnerable to capture,
- The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) regularly evaluates the state of this bluefin tuna stock based on data supplied by its contracting States and from GFCM, and based on these evaluations, proclaimed at its thirteenth Regular Meeting (Madrid, November 1993), a closed season for fishing with pelagic longlines in the Mediterranean that entered into force on 31 May 1994,
- The majority of coastal States of the Mediterranean are not members of ICCAT but are members of GFCM, and share a common concern with the state of bluefin tuna stocks.

Adopted the following recommendations:

FIRST: that during the period from 1 June to 31 July there will be no fishery using large pelagic longline vessels greater than 24 m in length for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean,

that the members of GFCM whose nationals have been fishing for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean using large pelagic fishing vessels greater than 24 m in length take steps to implement this recommendation before 1 June 1995 in accordance with the regulatory procedures of each country,

that, in accordance with the decisions of ICCAT adopted in 1989 and subsequent years concerning fishing activities by non-Contracting Parties, the Council requests the Secretariat to transmit this recommendation to non-Contracting Parties whose pelagic longline fishing vessels are currently fishing for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean.

SECOND: that the members of GFCM take the necessary measures to prohibit any taking and landing of bluefin tuna (Thunnus thynnus) weighing less than 6.4 kg,

that notwithstanding the above regulation, the Contracting Parties may grant tolerances to boats which have incidentally captured bluefin weighing less than 6.4 kg, with the condition that this incidental catch should not exceed 15 percent of the number of fish per landing of the total bluefin catch of said boats or its equivalent in percentage by weight,

THIRD that each contracting Party fishing bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea take the necessary measures:

- to prevent any increase in the fishing mortality rate for the years 1995 and beyond,
- to prevent any catch by vessels under their jurisdiction in 1995 in excess of the level of catch in 1993 or 1994 (whichever is higher),
- to reduce, starting in 1996, by 25 percent (or such lower amount which may be specified by the SCommittee RS of ICCAT) their catches from the catch level specified in the previous paragraph, such reduction to be accomplished by the end of 1998,
- to cooperate in the development, by 1998, of a long-term recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean,
- to prevent catch of age 0 fish (less than 1.8 kg).

That the above measures should enter into force on 1 June 1995.

RES. GFCM/21/1995/2

Without title

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM), at its Twenty-first Session held in Alicante, Spain, from 22 to 26 May 1995, agreed to set a minimum length limit of 15 metres for the application of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (hereinafter referred to as the Agreement)

The Council,

Mindful that Article II.2 of the Agreement allows, but does not require a Party to exempt fishing vessels of less than 24 metres in length from the application of the Agreement, subject to two provisions set out in Article II.2.

Noting that Article II.3 of the Agreement provides for coastal States of fishing regions such as the Mediterranean where exclusive economic zones and other zones of extended jurisdiction have not been declared, to set a different length limit below which the Agreement shall not apply, and that the limit would only apply in respect of vessels flying the flag of a coastal State and operating exclusively in that fishing region.

Concerned that there is no provision for vessels of non-coastal States that operate in the Mediterranean to report on their activities to the GFCM,

Noting also that Article III of the Agreement requires the flag States to ensure that its vessels provide it with the necessary information on their operations, including fishing area, catch and landing data,

Establishes, for the purpose of Article II.3 of the Agreement, a minimum length limit of 15 metres for fishing vessels flying the flag of a coastal State of the Mediterranean and operating exclusively in the Mediterranean.

Requests all States without distinction, whose fishing vessels operate in international waters in the Mediterranean to provide information on these vessels, as set out in Article VI of the Agreement, to the Secretariat of the GFCM.

RES. GFCM/21/1995/3

Without title

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean, meeting in Alicante, Spain, from 22 to 26 May 1995,

- acknowledging its responsibility for the conservation, rational management and sustainable utilization of living marine resources
- concerned that human activities can negatively affect the marine ecosystem and result in the degradation of marine living resources
- acknowledging the progress achieved in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan towards the protection of the marine environment
- stressing the importance of cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the region, especially with UNEP's Mediterranean Action Plan

INVITES the 9th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties meeting in Barcelona (5 - 8 June 1995)

- to step up efforts to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, inputs into the Mediterranean marine environment, of substances which are toxic, persistent and liable to bio-accumulate
- to reduce inputs of nitrogen and phosphorus, especially in enclosed and semi-enclosed marine areas where eutrophication has or may have detrimental environmental impacts such as fish kills and shellfish poisoning with serious economic losses for the fisheries and aquaculture sectors
- to promote all necessary measures to protect sensitive Mediterranean habitats, such as coastal lagoons, important to fisheries and extensive aquaculture.

RES. GFCM/21/1995/4

Without title

The Council calls on its member countries to prepare a list of fishing boats in operation from national ports in the Mediterranean and provide this information to the GFCM Secretariat by October 1995 in the form specified in the report of the Twenty-first Session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean.

RES. GFCM/14/1978/1

Without title

The Fourteenth Session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean,

taking into account the need for competent and trained personnel at all levels in order to assure the continued development of the fisheries

noting that most countries in the Mediterranean area are concerned with this matter on a continuing basis

being aware of the fact that many countries have training requirements which exceed national capabilities

decides to establish a system to facilitate the exchange and use of training resources on a regional basis by publishing a Directory of Training Facilities and Needs for the Mediterranean Area.

The Directory will consist of three parts:

- a list of permanent institutions and facilities to be updated every six years
- a list of temporary training centres and courses to be updated every two years
- a list of training requirements to be updated every two years.

Each country will appoint a correspondent who will be responsible for following training developments at the national level and serve as the contact for GFCM.

The Secretariat will obtain data necessary to prepare the Directory by circulating a Guideline to the correspondents.

The Secretariat will be responsible for the publication and distribution of the Directory to all Member States and for facilitating training arrangements.

The Fourteenth Session of the General Fisheries Council of the Mediterranean,

further recognizing that the training activities undertaken by FAO have contributed much to the development of the fisheries

urges that such activities be continued with all possible vigour and support.

RES. GFCM/13/1976/1

Without title

The Thirteenth session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean,

taking into account the importance of fish detection and methods of abundance evaluation, particularly through acoustic methods;

noting that most countries in the Mediterranean area are interested in this specialized field of research;

being aware of the fact that there are many open problems of a technological, biological and statistical nature connected with this kind of research;

decides to establish a Working Party on Acoustic Methods for Fish Detection and Abundance Estimation, open to all Members of the Council.

The terms of reference of this Working Party will be:

- a) to keep under review the state of development in the following fields: acoustic fish detection, available equipment, operational techniques and their application for fish abundance estimation studies;
- b) to improve the theoretical and operational studies particularly suitable for the area;
- c) to coordinate the studies and to compare the results of resource evaluation through direct and indirect methods;
- d) to promote research planning;
- e) to facilitate collaboration between countries for future work (training courses, seminars, cruises, etc.);
- f) to promote exchange of ideas and information with the existing Advisory Committee on Marine Resources Research (ACMRR) of FAO, ad hoc Group of Experts on the Facilitation of Acoustic Research in Fisheries.

RES. GFCM/12/1974/1

Without title

The Twelfth Session of the GFCM,

Recognizing the need for the development of national fishery statistics systems capable of producing statistics required for the administration, development and management of national and international fisheries in the area at a minimum cost,

Recommends

- that special consideration be given to the appointment of a Regional Fishery Statistician for the GFCM area, working in close collaboration with the Fishery Statistics Unit and the Fishery Data Centre of FAO to advise and assist countries, as necessary, with the design of required surveys and their implementation, including the training of officers needed for the supervision and field operations of the surveys and for the production of technical reports
- that the Secretariat continue investigating the possibility of organizing training courses in the field of fishery statistics and biological data.

RES. GFCM/12/1974/2

Without title

The Twelfth Session of the GFCM,

Recognizing that uniformity in the use of vernacular species names at national and regional levels is essential for various fisheries activities

Strongly urges all Member Nations to:

- (i) examine and eventually adopt the FAO Species Names used on the “FAO Species Identification Sheets for Fishery Purposes: Mediterranean and Black Sea” as the Regional Standard Names for the GFCM area and to promote their use in all official regional documents
- (ii) give highest priority to the checking and, if necessary, the correction of the National Species Names used on the above-mentioned Identification Sheets, following the provided criteria*; furthermore to officially adopt the final National Species Names and to promote their use in all pertinent official documents
- (iii) issue a national official document giving for each species of interest the correspondence between the scientific name, the officially adopted national name, and the local names still in use within the country

* (a) each name should apply to a single species

(b) each species should have only one official national name

(c) the name should be selected, wherever possible, from among the “local names” most widely used within the country, and preference might be given to the name closest, or identical, to the FAO name

- (d) if a local name applies to more than one species (often to a genus or a family), a second word, characterizing the species, might be added (e.g., “hunched” snapper, “olive-striped” snapper, etc.)
- (e) if a local name for a species is not available, consideration should be given to the use of the FAO species name as the national one
- (f) in the case of countries using a non-Latin script, an official Latin transliteration of the national species name should be provided.

RES. GFCM/12/1974/3

Without title

The Twelfth Session of the GFCM,

Taking into account the recommendation formulated by the Meeting on Fisheries Management in the Western Mediterranean (Rome, 18-19 April 1973),

Considering that the problems discussed by the above meeting prevail in all the Mediterranean and contiguous waters,

Noting the declaration made by the Secretariat regarding the administrative and financial implications of the present Resolution,

Decides to set up, in accordance with Article III of the 1949 Agreement establishing the GFCM and with Article X of its Rules of Procedure, a committee to be known as the Committee on Resources Management, the statutes of which shall be as follows:

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Membership

The Committee will be open to all Member Nations of the GFCM

Terms of Reference

The functions of the Committee shall be to:

- (a) Study the various management measures required as well as their foreseeable effects
- (b) Recommend the most appropriate measures for the implementation of these management measures by Member Nations, taking into account, where required, the need to harmonize measures taken by individual Member Nations
- (c) Recommend the most effective methods of controlling the application of management measures at the national and regional level
- (d) Carry out any other task related to resources management that may be referred to it by the GFCM

Reports

The Committee shall report to the GFCM.

RES. GFCM/12/1974/4

Without title

The Twelfth Session of the GFCM,

Taking into account the recommendations formulated by the Meeting on Fisheries Management in the western Mediterranean (Rome, 18-19 April 1973) and the study of “Effectiveness of existing fisheries management machinery” submitted by the Secretariat in document GFCM/XII/74/10,

Noting the wish expressed by the Consultation on the Protection of Living Resources and Fisheries from Pollution in the Mediterranean (Rome, 19-23 February 1974) regarding the desirability of drawing up, within the framework of a convention, rules for the adequate management of these resources,

Agrees that initially, and at least on a temporary basis, it will formulate conservation measures as recommendations that will be drafted in such a form that they can be directly applied by Member Nations in accordance with the following procedure: the Director-General of FAO will transmit recommendations to Member Nations with the request that they report to him, after the lapse of an agreed period of time, what measures they will have taken or intend to take to implement these recommendations; the Director-General will then be requested to report to the GFCM the replies of Member Nations,

Considers that it is necessary to undertake without delay a revision of the 1949 Agreement establishing the GFCM and, in the light of the experience acquired by other regulatory fishery bodies, to recommend such amendments to the Agreement as would make the GFCM more adapted to the new tasks it may be called upon to perform and more effective as regards, in particular, the adoption, implementation and enforcement, including on the high seas, of conservation measures,

Instructs its Committee on Resources Management to study this question and to report to the GFCM at its Thirteenth Session,

Urges Member Nations to ensure that their delegations to the relevant sessions of the Committee will be so composed as to allow a thorough examination of all the technical, administrative, legal and other aspects involved.

RES. GFCM/12/1974/5

Without title

The Twelfth Session of the GFCM,

Considering that the improvement of national capabilities in high and middle-level personnel is an essential element in the rational development of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries,

Further considering that the required training embraces all fishery specialized activities and cover also management and administration,

Noting that many individual countries in the area are not equipped to treat simultaneously all aspects of fisheries training, and that training on a regional or sub-regional basis would be more rational and effective, thus avoiding duplication of facilities,

Recommends that the GFCM

- evaluate and study the possibility of creating a network of regional or sub-regional training centres, making the best use of the already existing facilities, supplemented by ad hoc courses on a national or regional basis, and of establishing a pool of fellowships for the training of high and middle-level fisheries personnel in various fields,
- encourage Member Nations to participate in, and contribute actively to, such regional training schemes and to promote refresher courses for their staff, particularly in the fields of economics, statistics and data processing,
- explore sources of finance and other forms of support through bilateral and multilateral donor institutions, including United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Environment Programme for the subsequent development of such intensive large-scale regional training projects.

RES. GFCM/12/1974/6

Without title

The Twelfth Session of the GFCM,

Recognizing

- the need to limit fishing effort in certain over-exploited areas,
- the advisability of improving and enforcing the application of existing management measures,
- the need to introduce minimum mesh regulations throughout the Mediterranean basin and, if need be, based on the state of exploitation of the stocks, special regulations for certain sub-areas,
- the need in this matter to harmonise the regulations and to define appropriate standardised methods for measurement of the mesh and the inspection of gear,

Further recognizing the advisability of adopting uniform regulations for fisheries in international waters,

Aware that practical difficulties entailed by the implementation of such measures could be more easily overcome by making full use of experience gained in this field in other areas of the world,

Requests the Secretariat to prepare an annotated draft which would serve as a basis for the elaboration of legislations on mesh size in the Mediterranean, including definition of the methods for measuring mesh size, rigging devices to be used as well as enforcement procedures,

Requests the Committee on Resources Management to examine the draft prepared by the Secretariat and adopt it in the form of a recommendation which could be directly applied by Member Nations,

Invites the Director-General of FAO to transmit this recommendation to Member Nations with the request that they report to him, after the lapse of such period of time as he may determine, the measures they will have taken or plan to take to implement the recommendation,

Further requests the Director-General to report to the GFCM the replies received.

RES. GFCM/12/1974/7

Without title

The Twelfth Session of the GFCM,

Noting with appreciation the measures taken by the Director-General of FAO to follow up Resolution XI/72/1,

Welcoming the results already achieved by the Consultation on the Protection of Living Resources and Fisheries from Pollution in the Mediterranean at the session it held in Rome from 19 to 23 February 1974,

Calls upon all Member Nations that had not been represented at the first session of the Consultation, to be represented at the new session scheduled to be held in Rome from 27 May to 1 June 1974,

Urges the Consultation to complete at the earliest possible date the formulation of guidelines that could form the basis of a convention, or conventions, for the protection of living resources and fisheries from pollution in the Mediterranean,

Expresses the wish that all the competent specialized agencies of the United Nations as well as other competent international bodies, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme, should support the efforts of FAO for the protection of the marine environment in the Mediterranean as regards living resources and fisheries,

Recommends to Mediterranean coastal states, not only to become parties to the 1973 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, but also to accept as binding the optional annexes III, IV, and V of the Convention,

Urges these countries to unite their efforts to have the Mediterranean Sea declared as a Special Area under the said Convention, for the purposes of noxious liquid substances in bulk.

RES. GFCM/12/1974/8

Without title

The Twelfth Session of the GFCM,

Taking into account the importance of fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean region,

Noting with concern the increasing impact of pollution on the living marine resources in the area,

Appreciating the close cooperation between GFCM, IOC and ICSEM in the development of the Cooperative Investigations in the Mediterranean and in the organization of a Mediterranean Regional Marine Pollution Workshop aimed at developing plans for a comprehensive Mediterranean monitoring programme,

Being aware, however, of the fact that there is a general lack of coordinated programmes, especially of those dealing with contaminants in marine organisms and with the effects of pollutants on living resources, and that there is a need to facilitate cooperation between Member Nations and the implementation of a comprehensive Mediterranean monitoring programme,

Recommends

- that a cooperative programme on effects of pollutants on marine organisms and communities be initiated
- that a pilot project be organized for regional monitoring of a few selected contaminants in organisms, with priority on the monitoring of mercury in commercial species, as a contribution to a comprehensive Mediterranean monitoring programme
- that the study of inputs of pollutants into the Mediterranean be continued in close collaboration with the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Committee and the Committee for Inland Fisheries for Africa
- that the Working Party on Marine Pollution in Relation to the Protection of Living Resources continue its activities with special emphasis on the above tasks
- that Member Nations and institutions concerned exchange rapidly data on contaminants in aquatic organisms, using the FAO Fishery Data Centre as a regional centre for the Mediterranean,

Requests the Secretariat to explore with the United Nations Environment Programme means of support for these regional activities of the GFCM and for national programmes of developing countries in the area to enable them to fully participate in these cooperative activities.

Without title

The Council,

Being aware of the seriousness of pollution in the Mediterranean as it results from the report “Survey of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean”;

Noting that the dispersion of pollutants from this sea is hampered by its semi-enclosed nature;

Further noting that the increasing amount of pollutants discharged into the sea, in addition to being detrimental to the life of marine flora and fauna may also severely affect public health;

Taking into consideration the fact that the countries of the region are anxious to protect the living resources of the Mediterranean as is evident from the statement of a number of them at the First Session of the Inter-Governmental Working Group on Marine Pollution in London, June 1971;

1. Recommends that the GFCM Working Party on Marine Pollution in Relation to the Protection of Living Resources continue and intensify its activity with the following terms of reference:
 - (a) To assess, through the cooperation of the institutes and laboratories in member countries, the amount of heavy metals and pesticides in the tissues of marine species with highest accumulating capacity – especially those that attain larger sizes and have longer life – and study the possible synergic toxicity of the pollutants;
 - (b) To propose, if necessary, measures to avoid that fishery products which have become harmful to consumers enter the marketing channels;
 - (c) To promote biological, ecological and biochemical studies directed to identifying the sources of pollution of any nature, devoting special attention to untreated domestic or industrial wastes, in order to protect the living resources from this pollution;
 - (d) To assist the Council in maintaining and expanding its cooperation with international and intergovernmental bodies concerned, particularly ICSEM and IOC, through the programmes of research and monitoring of marine pollution of the Cooperative Investigations of the Mediterranean;
 - (e) To collect, store and disseminate data relating to pollution in the Mediterranean and its effects on living resources.
2. Recognizes with appreciation the efforts made by the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) in cooperation with other international agencies to reduce oil pollution in the seas and, taking into account the conventions drawn up in this regard,

Urges its Member Governments to ratify these conventions and to strongly request IMCO to take all possible further measures for controlling more effectively pollution caused by shipping and handling at sea of oil and other pollutants;
3. Requests the Director-General of FAO to consult with Member Governments of GFCM with a view to convening a meeting of these governments for discussions aimed at preparing a Convention to control the discharge into the sea of pollutants that would affect its living resources, bearing in mind the economic effects of such control.

RES. GFCM/11/1972/2

Without title

The Council,

Noting that assessments implemented by the GFCM Working Party on Resources Appraisal and Exploitation clearly show that, as a result of the continuous increase in fishing effort, several stocks in the western Mediterranean, and particularly those located off European coasts, are at present overfished,

Recommends that:

- i. a meeting of senior fishery officers of the countries of the western Mediterranean area be organized in order to define, on a regional basis, appropriate procedures and measures to ensure the protection of resources and to improve the profitability of the exploitation;
- ii. countries bordering the western Mediterranean and which do not already apply such measures prohibit trawl mesh size less than 40mm (stretched) as well as any special device hampering the full opening of meshes;
- iii. these measures be enforced in all countries fishing in the western Mediterranean;
- iv. the rate of exploitation be adjusted to the potential of resources exploited by individual countries, this implying a reduction of fishing effort in the case of resources where maximum catch has already been exceeded.

RES. GFCM/10/1969/1

Without title

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean, aware of the importance of complete prior knowledge of national programmes for the implementation of the Biological and Fisheries Programme of the Cooperative Investigations in the Mediterranean,

urges its Member Nations participating in the CIM to communicate these national programmes immediately to the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission for centralization

RES. GFCM/10/1969/2

Without title

The Council,

noting with satisfaction the favourable trend of its working relations with ICSEM,

wishing to broaden these relations in view of allowing the optimum utilization of the human, physical and financial resources of the Member Nations, favouring attendance at meeting through adoption of multidisciplinary work topics and arriving at the implementation of joint research projects,

assigns to the Executive Committee and to the Secretariat the tasks of initiating consultations and negotiations with the Bureau and the Secretariat of ICSEM in order to study the forms of close cooperation between these two agencies, with a view to an enhanced effectiveness of their action through rationalization of the means at their disposal and their structures.

RES. GFCM/10/1969/3

Without title

The Council,

recognizing that the working parties of GFCM at present constituted the most efficient means of promoting the programme laid down for the development of the Mediterranean fisheries,

recognizing further that these working parties can satisfactorily complete their tasks only by meeting with sufficient regularity and by the presence of the same members at all meetings to ensure continuity of the action undertaken,

recommends

- that FAO assists, to the maximum extent of its financial and technical means, the inter-sessional meetings of the working parties of GFCM
- that the Member Nations of GFCM include the members of the working parties in their delegations to the sessions of the Council as experts.

RES. GFCM/10/1969/4

DEMERSAL RESOURCES

The Council,

considering that the situation regarding some stocks of demersal species of commercial importance, living on the shelf, and even on the slope, gives rise to anxiety,

considering especially that there are definite signs of overfishing in the case of certain species,

considering furthermore that this alarming situation has already led several Mediterranean countries to promote measures to reduce fishing effort,

recommends that rational measures in the legislative, administrative and technical fields be taken by Member Nations and transposed to a regional Mediterranean level in order to ensure the protection and reconstitution of threatened stocks.

RES. GFCM/10/1969/5

POLLUTION

The Council,

taking into account that pollution of the environment is a fast growing problem also in the Mediterranean and that there is therefore an urgent need for the countries bordering this sea to be cognizant of the utmost information regarding the present state of pollution in this area and its future trends,

noting that discharged waste may not be rapidly diluted and dispersed by natural processes because of the enclosed nature of the Mediterranean Sea, and that for this reason the problem is particularly urgent,

considering that the International Conference on Oil Pollution of the Sea, held in Rome from 7 to 9 October 1968, asked the GFCM in its Resolution No. 4 to undertake, if possible, jointly with ICSEM, steps to provide for the scientific basis for action with regards to the pollution of the Mediterranean,

recommends that information on the state of the pollution along the coasts of the countries bordering the Mediterranean should be collected by means of a questionnaire as drafted by its ad hoc working party,

proposes that Member Nations of the Council nominate a scientist familiar with the pollution problems of his country to act as contact officer with the Secretariat and that the Council should urge the Member Nations to support their contact officer in completing the questionnaire,

further proposes that those countries not members of the GFCM be asked to cooperate with it in the field of marine pollution by also nominating a contact officer in order to make the information as complete as possible.

RES. GFCM/10/1969/6

POLLUTION

The Council,

taking into account that in the FAO Technical Conference on Marine Pollution and its Effects on Living Resources and Fishing, to be held in Rome from 9 to 18 December 1970, one section entitled "Marine Pollution in the World Today", will review pollution problems in selected areas,

considering that a review on the state of the pollution in the Mediterranean would be a suitable contribution to this section of the Conference,

noting that the information collected by the questionnaire which was drafted by the ad hoc working party could be used as a suitable basis for such a review,

decides to establish a small group of experts in the field of marine pollution aimed at writing the review. This group should consist of two experts, nominated by the Council, who are familiar with pollution effects on marine life;

considering further that a close scientific cooperation with the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea (ICSEM) should be ensured in this field,

suggests that ICSEM be asked to co-sponsor this group of experts by also nominating two members.

RES. GFCM/9/1967/1

CHANGES IN METHODS OF WORK OF THE GFCM

The Council,

Recognizing the urgent need for effective international action for the development and the rational utilization of the fishery resources of the Mediterranean Sea;

Recognizing further that its diversified program of work and the broad terms of reference of its technical committees have in the past hampered the undertaking of cooperative research and development projects directed to that end;

Having noted the document GFCM/9/67/4E;

Decides to limit its future activities to a selected number of projects of immediate interest to the area, to be carried out by working parties and if possible with international aid, aiming at the development and proper management of the fishery resources of the area.

The working parties will consist of specialists from the Member Nations from which will be chosen a convenor, of a technical secretary or more from FAO and of the secretary of the Council;

Decides further to discontinue the activities of the technical committees.

RES. GFCM/9/1967/2

Without title

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean Working Party on Fishery Statistics and Biological Sampling be established to implement the program of work detailed in the abovementioned report, giving immediate attention to:

- (i) The definition of the limits and sub-areas of the GFCM Statistical Area and the preparation of working maps for statistical purposes.
- (ii) The preparation of comprehensive and abridged lists of scientific names and vernacular names for statistical purposes, in English, French, Spanish and other local languages, of the species of commercial interest in the GFCM Statistical Area.
- (iii) Consideration of various criteria of vessel and gear categories for the classification of catch and effort reporting and for fleet structure analysis.
- (iv) Elaboration of guidelines for adoption of standard reporting methods and forms.
- (v) The preparation of a review of species being sampled for biological and stock assessment purposes, and of the methodology and reporting systems in use.
- (vi) The production by FAO, on an experimental basis and within the FAO Fisheries Circular series, of Statistical Bulletins and Biological Sampling Yearbooks for the Mediterranean area.

The working party will consist of a small number of active statisticians and fishery scientists from GFCM Member Nations, acting in their individual capacity and appointed by the Executive Committee after consultation with Member Nations and FAO.

The experts will be selected in such a way that geographical representation is balanced and subject matters are adequately covered.

The working party will be assisted by two Technical Secretaries provided by the units of FAO Department of Fisheries concerned and working in close collaboration; a Convenor, nominated from among the working party members will initiate action to implement the above mentioned program with the help of the group members and of the Technical Secretaries.

The working party may be supplemented by co-opted experts proposed by Member Nations desirous of participating in its activities.

It will commence work by correspondence and will meet if necessary and if funds are available between Council sessions, in a location to be selected after consultation between the Convenor, the Executive Committee and the GFCM Secretariat.

The expenses arising from the participation of experts selected by the Executive Committee to inter-sessional meetings will be covered by FAO; those arising from the co-opted experts will be met by their own Government.

Member Nations are requested to facilitate participation in any working party meeting convened in conjunction with a biennial session of the Council by covering both the expenses of their experts belonging to this working party and those of the co-opted ones.

Members of the working party will serve until the Tenth Session of the GFCM, at which time terms of reference and membership will be revised according to needs.

RES. GFCM/9/1967/3

Without title

The ad hoc Working Party on Freshwater, Brackish and Hypersaline Fisheries,

recognizing that the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) is the leading FAO body in Europe concerned with inland fisheries and fish culture, and

noting that nine Member Nations of the GFCM are not members of EIFAC but that their inland fisheries are influenced by climatic and fauna conditions which are different from those prevailing in Europe and therefore need special regional attention,

proposes that, in order to avoid duplication between the activities of EIFAC and those of the GFCM in the field of inland fisheries, the activities of the Council be limited to problems of brackish and hypersaline water fisheries of the Mediterranean region as a whole and the inland fisheries of the GFCM Member Nations which are not members of EIFAC,

recommends that the GFCM Working Party on Freshwater, Brackish and Hypersaline Fisheries be established to implement a program of work toward the evaluation of the present status of brackish and hypersaline fisheries in order to:

- identify problems requiring further research
- promote national and international action to fully utilize brackish and hypersaline water resources.

The ad hoc working party

further proposes to strengthen the collaboration between the two bodies on problems of common interest by establishing the liaison between the GFCM and the EIFAC at their secretariat level,

requests EIFAC to invite the GFCM Member Nations, which are not members of the Commission, to be represented by observers at the EIFAC sessions, sub-commissions, working parties and ad hoc meetings and to make the documentation of the Commission available to them;

having further considered the decision reached by the GFCM Executive Committee at its 36th meeting (Rome, 9 – 11 January 1967)

expresses the wish that the Department of Fisheries of FAO, which provides secretarial services for EIFAC, would also provide the technical secretariat for the working party.

There appeared to be a general consensus amongst the members of the ad hoc working party regarding the importance of artificial fish breeding, especially for mullet (Mugil sp.), bream (sparus sp.), and sole (Solea sp.) and shell-fish in general. It therefore

recommends that these items be considered by the working party when it establishes its current program of work.

I was also understood that in order to facilitate the work of the Working Party on Freshwater, Brackish and Hypersaline Fisheries, GFCM, with the assistance of FAO, consider preparation of inventories of

- agencies, institutions and individuals working on brackish and hypersaline water problems in the Mediterranean region

- the research problems in which they are engaged
- the type and amount of assistance or collaboration which they desire from other colleagues
- the type and amount of assistance which they are willing to offer.

The working party will consist of a small number of active fishery experts specialized in brackish and hypersaline water resources, from GFCM Member Nations, acting in their individual capacity and appointed by the Executive Committee after consultation with Member Nations and FAO.

The experts will be selected in such a way that geographical representation is balanced and subject matters are adequately covered.

The working party will be assisted by a technical secretariat provided by the unit of FAO Department of Fisheries concerned; a Convenor, nominated from among the working party members, will initiate action to implement the above mentioned program with the help of the group members and of the technical secretariat.

The working party may be supplemented by co-opted experts proposed by Member Nations desirous of participating in its activities.

It will commence work by correspondence and will meet if necessary and if funds are available between Council sessions, in a location to be selected after consultation between the Convenor, the Executive Committee and the GFCM Secretariat. In view of the fact that Israel is successfully conducting research on artificial breeding of fish in brackish waters, it was suggested by Dr O.H. Oren that one of its research stations be considered as a possible location for the first meeting of the working party.

The expenses arising from the participation of experts selected by the Executive Committee to inter-sessional meetings will be covered by FAO; those arising from the co-opted experts will be met by their own Government.

Member Nations are requested to facilitate participation in any working party meeting convened in conjunction with a biennial session of the Council by covering both the expenses of their experts belonging to this working party and those of the co-opted ones.

Members of the working party will serve until the Tenth Session of the GFCM, at which time terms of reference and membership will be revised according to needs.

RES. GFCM/9/1967/4

ON COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN GFCM AND THE INTERNATIONAL BODIES DEALING WITH DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE SCIENCES AND FISHERIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

Considering that rational exploitation and conservation of the living resources in the Mediterranean Sea would benefit from an improved collaboration between those international bodies dealing with the development of marine sciences and fisheries in the area,

Recognizing that such collaboration would help to avoid overlapping of efforts and would lead to more efficient utilization of expertise and facilities existing in Member Nations,

Noting with great interest the proposals contained in the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's (IOC) recommendation IOC/V-D. Res. 4 on cooperative investigations in the Mediterranean,

Being of the opinion that this cooperative study represents a new and constructive step toward the close collaboration considered desirable,

Recognizing that present conditions favour a rationalization of working methods and a more efficient collaboration, especially as between the GFCM and the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea (ICSEM),

(1) Hereby proposes to reactivate and to work toward improved collaboration with ICSEM and

recommends that the Executive Committee and the secretariat approach the Commission and its secretariat to explore the possibility of the GFCM participating in the Symposium to be held during the two days immediately preceding the next session of the ICSEM plenary assembly in Monaco (October 1968).

This Symposium on Plankton (indicator organisms) in relation to their environment, which will be organized by the Plankton Committee and undertaken jointly with the Committees on Physical Oceanography, Pelagic Fishes and Benthos, is of great interest to the GFCM. An enlargement of the program so as to include the study of fish eggs and larvae in relation to their environment, with particular reference being made to tunas, would be welcomed as adding further to the interest of GFCM. Such an enlarged program would contribute toward a better knowledge of the scientific problems of interest to both bodies and their application. Participation in this important symposium would constitute an immediate and promising, although limited, form of collaboration.

The Council considers that the present mandate to the Executive Committee and secretariat should, at a later stage, lead to exploration with the Commission of other ways and means of ensuring wider and more efficient collaboration.

(2) Decides to support the Cooperative Investigations in the Mediterranean proposed by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), which it recognizes as being of great scientific and practical value.

Accepts IOC's invitation to proceed with the nomination of experts to the International Group for Scientific Coordination. These experts, including those nominated by IOC and ICSEM, are to act in their private capacities and will be nominated by participating countries through each of the three bodies (IOC, ICSEM, GFCM). The Executive Committee will inform each Member Nation of the present decision, requesting it to notify the secretariat as soon as possible of the name of the expert it proposes to represent GFCM in the joint IOC/ICSEM/GFCM International Group for Scientific Coordination.

A balanced representation in this group of the various scientific disciplines envisaged by the Cooperative Investigations should be ensured and should equally reflect through an appropriate selection, problems of interest to GFCM. Member Nations are consequently invited to nominate experts actively engaged in research in fishery biology and fishery oceanography, particularly research on marine organisms and the relation with their environment (fishery ecologists).

The Executive Committee, in consultation with the secretariat, will at a later date nominate from the above-mentioned experts an Assistant International Coordinator responsible for fisheries aspects of the Cooperative Study.

Decides further to nominate the secretary of GFCM, as the representative of the secretariat in the Group for Technical Coordination, as envisaged by IOC Resolution (IOC/V-D.Res.4) and to request

FAO to further nominate the Director of the Fishery Resources and Exploitation Division of its Department of Fisheries.

(3) Notes with satisfaction the activities of the Mediterranean Association of Marine Biology and Oceanology (MAMBO) in the training of experts in marine science and of its offer of cooperation with the GFCM and member countries.

The Council recognizes the value of the teaching courses organized by MAMBO and hopes that these activities receive the necessary national and international support.

(4) Notes with interest the work program of the Mediterranean Marine Sorting Center (MMSM) in Salammbô (Tunisia) and the facilities and services which it can offer to research workers and institutions engaged in marine science research in the Mediterranean Sea. It requests the secretariat to inform Member Nations of this offer of collaboration.

RES. GFCM/9/1967/5

Without title

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean Working Party on the Utilization and Marketing of Fish and Fishery Products is established to implement the program of work outlined in the above report, giving immediate attention to:

- (i) Studies concerning methods of handling and preserving fish on board small fishing vessels, between fishing and landing, to be carried out in the various Member Nations before the Tenth Session of the Council, in order to make available technical and economic data on the preservation of fish in ice and refrigerated sea water and also to permit comparative studies
- (ii) Investigations and the compilation of information, before the Tenth Session of the GFCM, on:
 - a. Facilities for and ways of distribution of fresh and frozen fish in the Mediterranean countries
 - b. Their costs of distribution in this area
 - c. Regulations and laws concerning their distribution in Member Nations.
- (iii) Studies on consumer habits and consumer reaction to new fish products.
- (iv) Studies on the techniques of smoking eel, carp and mullet used in various countries.
- (v) Preparing a list of institutes and laboratories in Member Nations which deal with technical and/or economic aspects of the utilization of fish.

The working party will consist of a small number of experts in technology of fish and fishery products and in marketing economy from GFCM Member Nations, acting in their individual capacity and appointed by the Executive Committee after consultation with Member Nations and FAO.

The experts will be selected in such a way that geographical representation is balanced and subject matters are adequately covered.

The working party will be assisted by two Technical Secretaries provided by the units of FAO Department of Fisheries concerned and working in close collaboration; a Convenor, nominated from among the working party members will initiate action to implement the above-mentioned program with the help of the group members and of the Technical Secretaries.

The working party may be supplemented by co-opted experts proposed by Member Nations desirous of participating in its activities.

It will commence work by correspondence and will meet, if necessary and if funds are available, between Council sessions, in a location to be selected after consultation between the Convenor, the Executive Committee and the GFCM secretariat.

The expenses arising from the participation of experts selected by the Executive Committee to inter-sessional meetings will be covered by FAO; those arising from the co-opted experts will be met by their own Government.

Member Nations are requested to facilitate participation in any working party meeting convened in conjunction with a biennial session of the Council by covering both the expenses of their experts belonging to this working party and those of the co-opted ones.

Members of the working party will serve until the Tenth Session of the GFCM, at which time terms of reference and membership will be revised according to needs.