

DRAFT PROSPECTUS

EXPERTS MEETING FOR THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GFCM-CAQ NETWORK ON ENVIRONMENT AND AQUACULTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN (EAM)

The Environment and Aquaculture in the Mediterranean Network (EAM) was created in 1992 following the Mediterranean Regional Aquaculture Project (MEDRAP). In spite of this the EAM effectively ceased to operate as a network in 1996. The following document highlights some of the aspects and actions needed for the re-establishment of the Network under the aegis of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and more specifically the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ).

The present activity of the CAQ provides an opportunity for the re-establishment of the EAM. Furthermore this has been a recommendation as a matter of priority at the Extraordinary session of the Commission held in St Julians, Malta, from 19 to 23 July 2004.

Therefore an Experts Meeting to establish the scientific and operational basis for a renewed EAM Network has been proposed. This meeting will take place from in FAO, Rome, from 7 to 9 December 2005.

Meeting objectives:

- (a) To bring together the best possible expertise on environmental and networking operational issues in the Mediterranean;
- b) To agree on the TORs including best operational structure and objectives for such network; and
- c) To set-up initial common priorities and objectives regarding environmental issues in the Mediterranean.

Background and rationale

In 1993, the GFCM took charge of the coordination of the four¹ aquaculture related networks originating from the UNDP/FAO Mediterranean Regional Aquaculture Project, MEDRAP (1990-1995), among these was EAM (Environmental Aspects of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean).

The constitution of EAM took place in June 1993 (MEDRAP II 1993a)² when it was proposed that MAP-PAP/RAC should undertake the coordination of EAM activities as a network. The only meeting of the EAM Coordinating Committee was held in April 1995.

¹ Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM); Socio-Economic and Legal Aspects of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SELAM); and Technology and Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (TECAM).

² Mediterranean Regional Aquaculture project II, Field Document 93/23.

The agreed objectives for EAM at that time were:

- i) Contribute to optimization of aquaculture production through ecological characterization of coastal zones, set-up of site identification methodology and management guidelines;
- ii) contribute to protection of environment and aquaculture through monitoring, establishment of standards and frame for legislation; and
- iii) provide information on the environmental performance of aquaculture to position it better within integrated coastal area management.

To fulfil these objectives EAM, reported several activities such as workshops and technical meetings on i) impacts of intensive farming outfalls, ii) environmental aspects of shellfish culture, iii) integrated management of mollusc culture, iv) lagoon management, selection and v) protection of sites suitable for aquaculture.

Later in 1996 due to the absence of sufficient budgetary allocations and possibly a weak organization of the Network itself, the environmental aspects of Mediterranean aquaculture were somewhat included in the activities promoted by the TECAM and SELAM networks.

The growing complexity of aquaculture activities in the Mediterranean in addition to the numerous other initiatives dealing with environmental effects and the existence of CAQ offer the right scenario and opportunity for the re-establishment of the Network.

Meeting documents

Two documents are being prepared for the Expert Meeting:

- a) A background paper on the EAM and its re-establishment; this document will be sent before the meeting
- b) A review and synthesis of published information on environmental issues in the Mediterranean basin. This document will be presented and discussed in the Meeting as a basis to prioritize activities, organize functions and adapt them to the structure of the Network, etc.

Experts and participants are expected to:

- a) Participate actively in the discussion to achieve objectives
- b) Present a very short summary (**5 minutes**) of the current activities him/her or the Institution represented is carrying out on aquaculture environmental issues in the Mediterranean.
- c) Bring all relevant information in printed and electronic form

Expected meeting outputs

- a) An agreed proposed structure and operational framework for the EAM Network.
- b) List of potential priority issues and time frame for accomplishment
- c) Proposed time frame for the short term and mid term work of the network