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GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION
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POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

Sixth Session

Tirana, Albania, 17-19 December 2008

**REVIEW OF THE MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
THIRTY-FIRST AND THIRTY-SECOND SESSION OF GFCM
CONCERNING AQUACULTURE**

Introduction

1. Two sessions of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) have been convened since the fifth session of the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ), held in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 5-7 June 2006. This paper summarizes the main decisions and guidance provided by the Commission in relation to the CAQ 2007-2008 intersessional period, as provided respectively in documents GFCM: CAQ/VI/2008/Inf. 3 and GFCM: CAQ/VI/2008/Inf. 5.

GFCM – Thirty-first session

2. At its Thirty-first session (9–12 January 2007), the Commission reviewed the report of the Fifth session of CAQ and endorsed the suggestions of the Committee, with special attention to its restructuring process.

3. The Commission agreed in particular on the proposal to establish three *ad hoc* Working groups dealing respectively with issues related to aquaculture: marketing, sustainability, and siting and carrying capacity. It also established another new subsidiary body, entitled the Coordination Meeting of the Working Groups (CMWG) to steer the work of the three Working groups and of SIPAM, as per the CMWG mandate¹. The Commission also agreed on the short and medium term work plan for the

¹ Report of the 31st Session of GFCM. Appendix G.

three Working groups to be supported by specific project proposals discussed during the First meeting of the CMWG (6-7 November 2006) and for SIPAM. It noted that this work plan expressed a new momentum for promoting sustainable aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black sea.

4. Concerning the project proposals, GFCM acknowledged with gratitude the offer made by the Government of Spain to financially support the project entitled “Support to the GFCM Working Group on Marketing of Aquaculture Products through the Development of a Strategy for Marketing and Promotion of Mediterranean Aquaculture”, the Government of France and the European Community (EC) for their willingness to support the Working group on Aquaculture Sustainability with the project entitled “Indicators for Sustainable Development of Aquaculture and Guidelines for their use in the Mediterranean (*INDAM*)”, and the availability of the EC to consider providing a financial contribution to the activities of the Working group on Siting and Carrying Capacity through the project entitled “Developing siting and carrying capacity guidelines within aquaculture appropriate areas (*ShocMed*)”. These projects ought to be run through trust funds attached to the GFCM Autonomous budget and managed by the GFCM Executive Secretary, who will provide financial statement for the expenditure made, as well as for expenses made through the trust fund provided by the Tunisian Government in support of the SIPAM Regional Centre in Tunisia.

5. The Commission noted the work carried out by SIPAM during the period in which its activities were reorganised and acknowledged that the SIPAM would be in a better position to provide the services expected by the *ad hoc* Working groups now that the coordination of its activities has been taken over by the GFCM Secretariat, with the support from the Regional Centre in Tunisia. The Commission stressed the need for all Member States to nominate National Coordinators and recommended that the responsibilities of the SIPAM National Coordinator be formally endorsed with a national institution.

6. Concomitantly, the Commission agreed to amend Rule X of its Rules of Procedures with the view to adjusting and reinforcing the mandate of CAQ², thus better matching that one of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). This entailed a formal recognition of the CMWG, the *ad hoc* Working Groups and SIPAM as subsidiary bodies of the Committee and therefore accountable to the Commission. It should be noted that Rule X (1), a) states that CAQ “*shall provide independent advice on the technical; socio-economic, legal and environmental bases for common standards, norms and guidelines and management measures for consideration by the Commission*” and, that Rule X (1) e) states that “*Members have the obligation to provide information on production and other data relevant to the functions of the Committee in such a way to enable the Committee to fulfil its responsibilities*”.

7. GFCM acknowledged the election of the new bureau of CAQ, composed Mr Spyros Klaudatos, as Chairperson, and by Mr François René and Mr Hairy Deniz, as Vice-Chairpersons, and it favoured the defreezing of the post of Aquaculture Officer within the GFCM Secretariat.

8. The Commission approved the proposal jointly presented by the Chairs of SAC and CAQ on the necessity to coordinate the work of the two Committees, as appropriate, with particular attention being paid to the aspects related to the interaction between capture fisheries and aquaculture. It was further suggested that a first step in this direction could be the convening from time to time of joint meetings of the CMWG and CMSC (SAC Coordination Meeting of the Sub-Committees).

GFCM Thirty–Second session

9. At its Thirty–Second session (25–29 February 2008), the Chair of CAQ informed the Commission on the activities carried out by the subsidiary bodies of the Committee and the Secretariat to follow-

² Report of the 32nd Session of GFCM. Appendix D.

up on the CAQ work plan approved during the Thirty-First session of GFCM. The Commission acknowledged the development of the new SIPAM Information System and the approval by the Spanish Government of the project in support of the Working Group on Marketing. It noted that the two other project proposals, namely IndaM and ShocMed, were still being finalised by the Secretariat in conjunction with the European Community.

10. The Commission favoured the strengthening of cooperation with the World Conservation Union (IUCN), in particular with regard to the activities of the Working group on Siting and Carrying Capacity, and noted with satisfaction the involvement of the FEAP, especially in conjunction with the Working group on marketing.

11. During the session, three Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were agreed upon, respectively with IUCN, CIHEAM/IAMZ and UNEP RAC/SPA to further implement the decision taken at the Thirty-First session on the use of such instruments for strengthening the implementation of joint programmes or activities with selected partners. The MoUs aim at promoting synergies and coordination among on going Mediterranean programmes, reduce redundancies of concerned organisations' activities and support the Commission's objectives, including as laid down in the CAQ mandate.

12. The delays incurred for starting the IndaM and the ShocMed projects were noted, although expressing the wish that it would be possible to implement related activities by lending some funds from the autonomous budget. The Commission therefore confirmed the 2008 programme of work for CAQ, including the organisation of planned meetings.

13. The Commission acknowledged with satisfaction the recruitment of an Aquaculture Officer and of a Programmer/System Assistant in the GFCM Secretariat.