

EastMed TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS

07



**REPORT OF THE 2ND MEETING OF THE EASTMED
CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE
ANTALYA, TURKEY 5 – 6 APRIL 2011**





**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS**



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CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE**

ANTALYA, TURKEY

5 – 6 APRIL 2011



**ITALIAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD
AND FORESTRY POLICIES**



**Hellenic Ministry of
Foreign Affairs**

**Hellenic Ministry of Rural
Development and Food**



GCP/INT/041/EC – GRE – ITA

Athens (Greece), 5-6 April 2011

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Preface

The Project “Scientific and Institutional Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Eastern Mediterranean- EastMed is executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and funded by Greece, Italy and EC.

The Eastern Mediterranean countries have for long lacked a cooperation framework as created for other areas of the Mediterranean, namely the FAO sub-regional projects AdriaMed, MedSudMed, CopeMed II and ArtFiMed. This made it more difficult for some countries in the region to participate fully in international and regional initiatives for cooperation on fishery research and management. Following the very encouraging experience of technical and institutional assistance provided to countries by the other FAO sub-regional Projects,

EastMed

was born to support the development of regional cooperation and the further development of multidisciplinary expertise necessary to formulate appropriate management measures under the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) to ensure rational, responsible and participative fisheries management

The project’s **longer-term objective** is to contribute to the sustainable management of marine fisheries in the Eastern Mediterranean, and thereby to contribute to supporting national economies and protecting the livelihoods of those involved in the fisheries sector.

The project’s **immediate objective** is to support and improve the capacity of national fishery departments in the sub-region to increase their scientific and technical information base for fisheries management and to develop coordinated and participative fisheries management plans in the Eastern Mediterranean sub-region.

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Publications

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Occasionally, relevant documents may be translated into national languages as EastMed Translations (GCP/INT/041/EC – GRE – ITA/ET-00)

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ABSTRACT

The second co-ordination meeting of the EastMed project was held in Antalya, Turkey, from 5 to 6 April 2011 under the kind invitation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) of Turkey. The meeting was attended by delegations from Cyprus, Egypt, Gaza strip & West Bank, Greece, Italy, Lebanon and Turkey, as well as staff from FAO, including the GFCM, and the Mediterranean sub-Regional projects. After the opening of the meeting and election of the chairperson, the activities during the 1st year of the project were presented followed by the proposals of activities for the 2nd year from each country. The participants expressed their satisfaction with the project and thanked both the project's staff and the donors for their contribution. The agreed work plan for the 2nd year includes training and support in data collection, data analyses, activities aiming in strengthening stakeholders' awareness and activities promoting regional participation and cooperation. The first tasks of the project will be the appraisals of Fisheries Departments of Egypt, Gaza Strip and West Bank and Lebanon together with the continued support in training activities on data collection in Egypt and Lebanon. These activities will be followed by training courses for fisheries inspectors from Egypt, Gaza Strip and West Bank, and Lebanon, training on assessment methods and on EAF. A permanent Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment in the Eastern Mediterranean will also be set-up. The project will continue to support the participation of experts from the project area at the meetings of the FAO-GFCM, other relevant regional/international organizations and the CPWGs. The EastMed project, in close coordination and cooperation with the other Mediterranean sub-regional projects, will continue to find synergies among the various activities in the region.

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**REPORT OF THE 2ND MEETING OF THE EASTMED
CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE
ANTALYA, TURKEY
5 - 6 APRIL 2011**

Opening of the meeting and election of the Chairman

1. The second Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the FAO EastMed sub-regional Project “Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Eastern Mediterranean” was held in Antalya, Turkey, from 5 to 6 April 2011 under the invitation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) of Turkey.
2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Donors, delegations from the countries participating in the project (Cyprus, Egypt, Gaza Strip & West Bank, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, and Turkey), a representative of the FAO Marine and Inland Service of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources Use and Conservation Division (FAO-FIRF), who participated also as Coordinator of the FAO MedFisis and MedSea LME projects, the acting Executive Secretary of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and staff of the other FAO Regional Projects CopeMed II, ArtFiMed, AdriaMed and MedSudMed. The list of participants is given in Annex I.
3. The Project Coordinator, Ms Constantina Karlou-Riga, took the floor and welcomed all the delegations. She mentioned that one year had passed from the Inception Meeting in Athens (April 2010) during which most of the activities agreed at that meeting had been implemented. She then highlighted that the representatives of the countries were approached in order to follow the activities implemented during the 1st year and to discuss on the activities to be done during the second year. She thanked the Turkish authorities for hosting the meeting and particularly the efforts made by the Director of the Mediterranean Fisheries Research Production and Training Institute, Mr Yilmaz Emre, for organizing the facilities for the meeting, including the lodging of the participants and full meeting facilities.

4. On behalf of the Mediterranean Fisheries Research Production and Training Institute from Turkey in Antalya, the Director of the institute and focal point to the EastMed project Mr. Yilmaz Emre, welcomed all the Committee Meeting participants. He drew the attention of the participants to the remarkably good relations that have been achieved between the participating countries within the context of the EastMed project. He stated that he was delighted and honoured to host this meeting in Turkey. He wished a constructive and fruitful meeting and wished that the participants have an enjoyable stay in Antalya in spite of all the work to be done. He then gave the floor to the Head of the Turkish Fisheries Department, Mr. Vahdettin Kurum.

5. After the proposal by Mr Yilmaz Emre, the Head of the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Turkey, Mr. Vahdettin Kurum, was unanimously elected as Chairperson for the second EastMed Coordination Committee Meeting. Mr Vahdettin Kurum greeted the meeting representatives and expressed his honour for having the Committee members gathered in Turkey in occasion of the second EastMed Coordination Committee Meeting. He mentioned that as a member of FAO, Turkey continuously supports regional and sub regional actions to strengthen cooperation for building capacity, sharing of information and expertise, particularly with respect to responsible fisheries management and sustainable aquaculture. He stated that Turkish fisheries authorities know and believe that sustainable fisheries of shared stocks must be based on international cooperation under the umbrella of RFMOs. He also mentioned that Turkey appreciates and supports FAO regional projects and that so far, several projects have been implemented, among these MedFisis and EastMed are the most relevant ones regarding Turkey's fisheries management. He took the opportunity to express his thanks to donors of the project, which are the Governments of Greece and Italy, and the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission. He gave his sincere thanks to Ms. Konstantina Karlou-Riga and her team for their fruitful efforts and excellent work. Under her coordination, he said, the project will reach its targets successfully. He was pleased to note that they were satisfied with the contribution of the project towards Turkish fisheries management through the activities organized. Turkey has the intention to make similar cooperation in the Black Sea area with riparian countries. The process is slow but he believes that in the near future a FAO

project will start. In the Eastern Mediterranean written documents on fisheries management date back at least 200 years. However, modern fisheries management developed in other areas of the world and thanks to the project the countries in the area have the possibility to introduce modern management system in this area as well. In his opinion the meeting will help achieving this aim. Mr. Kurum wished a constructive and fruitful meeting and hoped that the participants have an enjoyable stay in Antalya.

6. The Chairperson introduced the Agenda and invited the participants to comment and to propose changes. The Agenda was adopted without any changes.

Report on the Project's Progress

7. The Project's Fisheries Technical Officer, Mr. Mark Dimech, made a presentation of the major activities carried out by the EastMed project from April 2010 to March 2011, which was based on the "Report on the intersessional activities of the Project" (Annex III) and on other documents and reports included in the folder of the Meeting documents. The Committee members appreciated the amount of work done by the Project and emphasized that it represents the follow up to the planning, which had been approved during the 1st Coordination Committee meeting (Athens, 19-20 April 2010).
8. The Greek delegation noted that the project gave the opportunity to meet colleagues from other countries, as well as to get information about the lessepsian species. They suggested the participation of more scientists, administrators and research institutes in the project activities, so that cooperation could be enhanced even further.

GFCM activities for the next intersessional period

9. The FAO-GFCM Acting Executive Secretary presented the activities for the provisional 2011 programme of work of the GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee

(SAC, Annex IV). He thanked all regional projects for their support to SAC. He also referred to the need to receive more feedback from national institutions. The EastMed project coordinator pointed out that in the interest of both GFCM and sub-regional projects an effort should be made not to have EastMed's meetings overlapping with those of GFCM. Mr Srour informed the participants that the schedule of the GFCM activities will be finalised at the plenary session and co-ordination will be sought in order to avoid the organisation of meetings on the same dates.

Proposals on national activities within the framework of the project

Egypt

10. The Egyptian representative thanked the project for the support given during the last intersessional period. He highlighted all the activities in which there was co-operation between EastMed and Egypt from April 2010 until the present day. In particular, the Egyptian representative thanked the project for the supply of equipment to the GAFRD office in Cairo with complete computer sets (Computer, UPS, and printer) in July 2010. This provided the means to input the data collected from the landing sites into an Excel database. He also thanked the support given to equipping three fisheries laboratories with refrigerators, balances and dissection kits, in Kafr El-Shiekh, Damietta and Port Said.
11. He then thanked the project for the support they have received in attending international meetings like the sub-regional workshop on collection and organization of data (Batroun, Lebanon, 14-17 September 2010) which aimed to strengthen national capacity on fisheries data collection, the GFCM workshop on data collection methods according to GFCM Task 1 requirements (Rome, Italy, 29 September -1 October 2010), which aimed to help the member countries to submit the data in line with GFCM recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3, the transversal workshop on monitoring recreational fisheries in the GFCM area (Palma de Majorca, Spain, 20-22 October 2010), which aimed to analyse the available information on the situation of recreational fisheries in the member countries, the sub-regional technical meeting on the Lessepsian migration and its impact on eastern Mediterranean fishery (Nicosia, Cyprus, 7-9 December 2010), which led to the establishment of a network of experts

to better evaluate and understand the impact on fisheries, the training course on single-species length based stock assessment methods (Kavala, Greece, 21-25 February 2011), which helped to put theory into practice through case studies and hand-on exercises on the computer, and the workshop on fisheries management strategies and approaches (Athens, Greece, 15-17 March 2011), which aimed to understand the strengths and weaknesses of each management system in the participating countries.

12. The Egyptian representative particularly highlighted the importance of the project in implementing the pilot fisheries-dependent data collection survey in Egypt, part one, Port Said, 9-14; 21-26 November 2010, which aimed both at improving the data collection activities of the Mediterranean fisheries in Egypt and also to strengthen the capacity of the staff of GAFRD in data collection.
13. The Egyptian representative also showed interest in attending the workshop on fisheries and appraisal of the common dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) Mediterranean fishery that had been initially scheduled to be held in Salambo, Tunisia, 25-26 January 2011. The meeting was being co-ordinated by the FAO CopeMed II and MedSudMed. The objectives of the meeting are to reduce the gaps in information and improve research activities on the stock.
14. The Egyptian representative then proposed the following activities to be supported by the EastMed project:
 - Technical support to prepare an inspection team to deal with the problem of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fisheries in Mediterranean
 - Technical support to improve the statistical system
 - Technical support to improve species identification and biology
 - Technical support to improve the data collection in Mediterranean.
 - Technical support to undertake socioeconomic surveys covering the fishermen community
 - Technical support concerning alternative gears to replace fishing gears which affect negatively the Mediterranean ecosystems

- Pilot fisheries-dependent data collection survey in Egypt, part two which includes the western Mediterranean side

15. At the end of his presentation the Egyptian representative referred to the following:

- There are a lot of recreational fisheries in the Mediterranean but its catch is not recorded or registered.
- A list of scientists is being prepared for strengthening the capacity of the administration in implementing regionally consistent fisheries management plans
- He finally thanked MedFisis for the support provided in establishing a software for the Fleet Vessel Register

16. The EastMed project Coordinator requested clarifications regarding Egypt's request for technical support for inspections purposes. The Egyptian delegation pointed out the need for training to conduct fisheries inspections. The FAO-GFCM Acting Executive Secretary informed the committee that GFCM could facilitate the process of interchange of experiences with other countries and was committed to collaborate with the EastMed project in this regard.

17. The committee was informed that the problems in species identification and data collection would be included in the work plan of 2011. Concerning the request of Egypt for the advice on a system for a gear replacement, the FAO-GFCM Acting Executive Secretary noted that there are GFCM publications and proposals on alternative gears in use. He invited Egypt to attend the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE) as well as to communicate with the members of this sub-committee. He would also provide the Egyptian delegation with contact details of the TechnoMed group, which works on alternative gears in the Mediterranean.

18. Following the Egyptian representative's request to attend the MedSudMed meeting on dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*), it was noted that Egypt does not have enough data to understand what is going on with respect to this fishery in its country. The

representative mentioned that fishing for dolphinfish is forbidden in Egypt and would like to have more information on this fishery from other countries.

19. Regarding fish identification, the FAO-GFCM acting Executive Secretary informed the Committee that the Commission has contracted a specialist, in order to provide automatic identification of fish by creating a database that identifies species. The presentation of the system will take place in Morocco in June 2011. This promising tool will be looked into further detail when it will be finalized. The participants also agreed that inspectors should have enough knowledge to allow them to identify easily at least the 15-20 most commercial species. The FIRF officer informed the meeting that the fish identification guide for the Eastern Mediterranean is in the process of being published by FAO headquarters.

Greece

20. The Greek delegation presented a proposal for training on participatory fisheries management strategies, and in particular on co-management at a national level. A participatory approach in fisheries management promoted by FAO, the European Union and Regional Organisations moves towards co-management, through target-oriented management and the development of a culture of compliance. In order to achieve this, producers organisations are encouraged to take on responsibility for the documentation and management of quotas and/or fishing effort, seeking for the best technical solutions in order to reach the set targets. Therefore, training and guidance is needed for the fishermen to be involved in co-management schemes, and in particular in fields of the development of a culture of compliance, scientific documentation, consultation and decision-making, implementation of co-management schemes, monitoring, control and enforcement within a co-management framework, evaluation and corrective measures. In this respect, the Greek delegation proposed the organisation of a relevant two-day workshop in Athens, with the participation of invited experts and representatives of both the administration and producers organisations from EastMed countries, with a scope to have a preliminary training on the subject along with an exchange of relevant views and experiences.

21. The Greek delegation emphasized the need for promoting co-management including the need to identify and establish some case studies where co-management could be possible. The delegation believes that at this stage it is not practical to introduce co-management on a country level, unless there is a specific case where fishermen, administration and scientists already collaborate on a local level in the country.
22. Discussions were held on the interpretation of co-management and the participants agreed to adopt the definition present in the GFCM glossary which states:

"A process of management in which government shares power with resource users, with each given specific rights and responsibilities relating to information and decision-making"

Italy

23. Considering the very high costs of any experimental fishery survey and the lack of such activity in non-EU countries of the EastMed area, the most important source of information on fish resource must be from the commercial fisheries. Therefore, data collection must be considered one of the main tasks of this project, not as a final objective but in view to obtain basic information for biological, economic and social aspects for the management of the fisheries sector. In particular to produce valid stock assessments, which is a basic need for management purposes, it must be stressed that the organization of this task should be planned in a very accurate way to obtain best results. The sampling design to collect not only biomasses of fish species but, for example, the length structure of fish population, needs an appropriate stratification such as information per geographic area, fishing gear, season, etc. Only in this way we could be able to obtain a realistic representation of the structure of fish populations of the main species present in the different areas, stressing again that a correct length frequency distribution is a fundamental base for stock assessment. At the same time in this way, we could obtain also basic geographic information on fragile habitats and sites for important phases of the biological cycle of the main species, such as reproduction and recruitment, and therefore contribute to their protection.

24. Italy thus presented the following proposals:

- i) To create a sub-regional working group on fisheries data analysis and stock assessment to enhance the capacity of the Eastern Mediterranean countries to work on data and deliver advice for fishery management in the region. One of the tasks of the working group should be to promote the standardization of biological data collection for the most important commercial species.
- ii) Considering that one of the bases of any fisheries management system is the collection of data on the main fisheries, one of the main purposes of the project should be related to the strengthening of national fisheries data collection systems, with an appropriate sampling design. Within this regard it should be advisable to promote:
 - the development of national bottom trawl and pelagic surveys, including evaluating the possibility to expand the already existing EU Mediterranean surveys (e.g. MEDITS) to some other countries on a local and experimental basis
 - the revision and improvement of national fisheries data collection in non-EU countries, including the collection of biological data for the main stocks, following GFCM Task I and EU DCF. The latter might be used as reference for the collection of biological data also considering that this is the system adopted by EU countries in the region (Italy, Greece, and Cyprus) and for which Turkey will also follow.

25. The EastMed project Technical Officer welcomed Italy's proposals and pointed out that sampling design for data collection in the Eastern Mediterranean region would be the next logical step towards harmonizing data collection. The project coordinator made the comment that surveys need additional funding and that countries lack a regular data collection system for fisheries monitoring and assessment.

Lebanon

26. Lebanon presented an extensive list of requests with specific details and actions required to be funded by the project. The project and the participants appreciated the

requests from Lebanon in order to improve their national capacity in managing fisheries. The requests submitted by Lebanon include the:

- Improve the Fishing Licensing System and the Vessel Register (+Vessel Census):
- Monitoring, Control and Enforcement
- VMS Pilot study
- Fish & Fishing Gear Identification
- Catch Assessment Pilot study
- Training on GFCM Task I data reporting
- Data gathering on fish biological parameters in order to undertake stock assessments
- Solution to the problem of Puffer fish (*Lagocephalus* spp.)
- Fishermen education and training
- Population studies on indigenous and alien species including sea urchins

27. The Medfisis Co-ordinator informed the Lebanese representatives that the fleet vessel registry software produced by Medfisis would be ready soon. He also mentioned that when stock assessment is performed, surveys at sea are not a prerequisite. He particularly referred to the costs required to maintain a research vessel, which many research institutes would like to avoid. A stock assessment can be performed with data from catches and/or landings following a well-designed sampling system. The Italian focal point added that instead of owning a research vessel, a commercial one could be chartered. With respect to the need to have knowledge on the spatio-temporal distribution of juveniles, he also mentioned that knowledge on the recruits can be gathered from biological data derived from a well designed sampling program from the catches.

28. The Project Coordinator made the following comments on the Lebanese proposals:

- The proposal on the vessels register and vessel census linked with the licensing system will be included in the work plan
- Regarding the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS), she pointed out that any training requested could be included under the work plan.

However, first a compilation of the national fisheries legislation is required. Finally she mentioned that this activity should follow the vessel census, including the proposed activity on VMS, which furthermore is not considered to be so urgent.

- Regarding the description of fishing gears she mentioned that it can be included in the CAS training, while for the fish identification, plastic cards are expected to be prepared for the most commercially important species. The species figures will be accompanied with scientific names, common names in English and local common name in Arabic.
- Regarding the catch assessment pilot study, this activity will be included in the workplan, where *Paracentrotus lividus*, which is a commercial species can be also included in the data collection for catch and effort.
- Concerning the training on Task I, she mentioned that the development of a software to support the compilation of the Task I requirements from the existing databases can be supported by the project
- For the use of puffer fish (*Lagocephalus sceleratus*) she informed that it has been included in the workplan
- Finally regarding the training on biological parameters and fish ageing, this is a recurrent demand and possibilities exist for training in collaboration with the other FAO sub-regional projects

Palestine

29. Palestine presented their fisheries sector, which is basically restricted to a small fishing area in the waters off the Gaza Strip. Presently, the annual catch is estimated to be around 3,000 tons and approximately 3,000 persons work in the sector as active fishermen, with 500 people employed in associated industries (repair, marketing, mechanical workshops, boat building, etc.). Whilst the fisheries sector in Gaza is relatively small compared to those of neighbouring countries, with respect to its economy, which lacks significant natural resources, has high unemployment and a shortage of job opportunities, the fishery sector provides significant employment, income and is an important source of high protein food. The Palestinian delegation

requested the EastMed project to support during its second year of activities the collection of fisheries statistics by training the staff working in the department of fisheries. The delegation requested the provision of computers to build up a fisheries database. They also requested the project's support to undertake data collection for two years in order to undertake fisheries stock assessments. They finally requested the project's support to establish a fisheries research centre in one of the universities in Gaza Strip as well as to train a person in the fisheries department on fisheries monitoring and research.

Turkey

30. The Turkish delegation presented the following proposals to the EastMed project:

- To devote one session of the coming meetings on the utilization of subsidies as a tool for fisheries management
- To convene a training workshop for fisheries managers and scientists on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management, in order to help the set-up of management plans and policy. It could also be useful to show technical applications of EAF in the countries of the project area for comparative purposes. A possible report which would describe fisheries applications by regions (type of gears and fishing, closed seasons, closed areas, various restrictions and license practices etc.) would be also welcome.
- To host any of the training activities of EastMed in the premises of Mediterranean Fisheries Research Institutes.
- To perform using the MEDITS protocol, a preliminary demersal trawl fishery survey in the Eastern Mediterranean with the participation of several EastMed member countries to assess the state of various demersal stocks and to evaluate current status of lessepsian immigrants in different eastern Mediterranean countries. The delegation also mentioned that a fully funded research vessel would be available for 2-3 weeks in 2012.

31. The EastMed project Coordinator welcomed and also congratulated the excellent offer of the research vessel, which among others would provide incentives of cooperation among the scientists in the project area. The Committee suggested that such a survey

requires proper preparation. The Greek delegation thus suggested to involve scientists from the countries which already conduct the MEDITS survey such as Cyprus, Greece and Italy so as to make use of the existed experience. The participants agreed that the details of the pilot survey should be discussed by a group of scientists nominated by the focal points of each country.

32. With respect to the proposal to convene a meeting on subsidies the Co-coordinator informed the participants that there is a possibility that a FAO Associate Professional Officer (APO) could join the staff and will be responsible for the socio-economic aspect of the region.

Development of the Project`s Programme for the next period

33. Based on the discussions and proposals submitted by the countries before the meeting the tentative work plan for the next intersessional period was introduced by the EastMed Project Coordinator. It was underlined that the proposed work plan for the future period aims to consolidate the achievements of the past year and provide technical assistance at national and sub-regional level during the coming year.
34. The presentation focused on priority issues and activities, taking into account the objectives and results achieved (mainly in 2010 and early 2011), the recommendations received during the Inception Coordination Committee meeting and the scientific cooperation established within the framework of the project and FAO-GFCM. In principle, all the activities proposed were considered of high relevance; moreover, each delegation took the floor to illustrate where the project was meeting their specific needs as well as where it was addressing a general need for the region.
35. With respect to *Lagocephalus sceleratus* the Greek representative expressed the belief that it is dangerous to market the fish on a massive scale and that in Japan the consumption of the specific fish is only a niche market. He also mentioned that it is not possible to export the fish to Japan as Japanese chef`s treat only fresh fish and not frozen. The Committee was informed that in Cyprus, Greece and Turkey the marketing of *Lagocephalus* spp. is illegal.

36. The representative of the FAO CopeMed II project informed the Committee that *Lagocephalus* is also consumed in Mauritania without major reported problems. The FIRF officer drew the attention of the participants to the fact that researchers could get funding for studying *Lagocephalus*. The EastMed Technical Officer asked the Committee's opinion about recruiting a *Lagocephalus sceleratus* expert from outside the Mediterranean to gather information on the species and the market possibilities. The FAO-GFCM Acting Executive Secretary informed that the FAO-GFCM has hired a specialist to gather information on lessepsian species whose report will be issued in approximately 2 weeks. The EastMed Coordinator expressed her concern on whether the report will contain details on epidemiological data such as toxic levels for example. The FAO-GFCM Acting Executive Secretary replied that his concerns were to optimize the resources available and that GFCM and the project should collaborate on this issue.
37. In particular regarding the utilization of the *L. sceleratus* caches, the Co-ordination Committee agreed to recruit an expert on that species in order to gather as much information as possible and provide possible solutions
38. The idea to organize a sub-regional forum on fisheries for stakeholders was raised. This forum should offer a platform for fisheries stakeholders in the sub-region (administrators, scientists, fishermen, and other stakeholders) to exchange views with respect to the implementation of EAF in the region. The Coordination Meeting agreed that these issues should be considered at a further stage of the project.
39. After the wide discussion and comments on the content of tentative workplan, the Committee agreed on the programme of activities proposed for the coming period. Some specific elements were pointed out with reference to some of the activities, related outputs and proposals received from the countries..
40. At the invitation of Italy, and pending further confirmation, the Committee decided that the venue of the next Co-ordination Committee meeting will be in Rome

Work plan for the 2nd Year of the Project (April 2011 – March 2012)

1. Institutional Strengthening

The Project will continue to assess the Fisheries Departments needs. In particular:

1.1 Institutional appraisal in Egypt, Lebanon and Gaza Strip-West Bank

An institutional appraisal and analysis of the management framework of the Fisheries Departments has been planned to take place for Egypt, Lebanon and Gaza Strip & West Bank. This analysis is needed in order to develop a structure that should be able to produce and deliver the evaluation of the stocks and fisheries as well as to provide integrated, participative and multi-disciplinary fisheries management options.

1.2 Support the maintenance of the fleet register

On the basis of the work and results of the MedFisis project, the EastMed project will assess and develop further actions, if and as necessary, in supporting the capability of countries to maintain a functional fleet vessel register in the medium to long term.

1.3 Procurement of equipment

The project will procure IT equipment to Palestine so that landings and effort data, which are being collected, can be transferred to databases.

The project will procure IT equipment to Lebanon in order to implement the proposed combined system of the fleet vessel register and fish licensing. However, this equipment will be procured after the appraisal of the needs and the preparation of a well-defined operational and methodological framework.

The project will procure basic equipment for Monitoring and Control (e.g. gauges for measuring mesh sizes, fish measuring boards, field fish identification plates) for Lebanon. This equipment will be provided after the training course on control and enforcement and

depending on the review of fisheries regulations, which will be provided by the countries taking into consideration the results of the FAO-GFCM LAMED project.

2. Staff Training and Development

The Project will continue to support on-the-job training, national and sub-regional workshops and opportunities for the staff of the Fishery Departments to participate in regional management meetings. In particular:

2.1 CAS in Lebanon including biological data – Training course

In the North of Lebanon, catch, effort and some biological data are collected by the University of Balamand. According to the protocol which is expected to be signed between the University of Balamand and the Ministry of Agriculture, the project will support the training of staff of the Ministry which could be undertaken by the University. The project will also support training on biological data collection. During the training course, time will be also allocated for the draw up a list on the the most important commercial species and fishing gears used.

2.2 Exchange training programme for collection of survey data at sea

This will be an on-board training programme. The participating countries will identify training opportunities in their regular research activities, and through the project will offer these possibilities to the other countries and institutions. The proposed training programme will be tentatively offered from the second semester of 2011 onwards.

2.3 Training course on stock assessment methods

A general need for training on stock assessment has been indicated in several cases by the countries participating in the project. The project will consider preparing training sessions and will seek training opportunities organized by other FAO Mediterranean regional Projects and/or other Mediterranean initiatives.

2.4 Training course on EAF

According to the recommendations and outputs of the workshop on management (Athens, 15-17 March 2011), the project will promote and support the organization of a training workshop on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) including co-management. The course will train managers and scientists on EAF principles in the management process. Synergies with other FAO Mediterranean Regional Projects, especially with the MedSea LME project, will also be sought.

2.5 Training course on fisheries inspection and fish quality control

In Collaboration with FAO-GFCM, the project will organise a short course for fisheries inspectors from Egypt, Gaza Strip and West Bank, and Lebanon. The Ministries of the respective countries have the role of safeguarding the sustainability of the fisheries resources and secure the safety of fisheries products. The enforcement of fisheries regulation in those countries relies on the authorised fish inspectors and therefore the need for further training has been identified. The course will be intended to upgrade the knowledge and skills of the fish inspectors in the countries and strengthen their capacity to train new inspectors. The main objective of the course will be:

- i. To strengthen the capacity of fisheries inspectors engaged in official inspections
- ii. To develop the capacity of the countries to provide future training courses for officials responsible for fisheries inspections
- iii. To improve knowledge and skills of Fisheries inspectors in the countries in the following areas:
 - fisheries regulations
 - utilisation of equipment for fisheries control
 - regulations concerning fish control, fish safety and fish traceability
 - ethics and enforcement procedures in fisheries inspection
 - awareness on emerging microbiological and chemical risks
 - sampling techniques and valuation of results

The Terms of Reference of the course/s will be drawn after the consultation of relevant experts

3. Data Collection and Analyses

3.1 Second mission of the fisheries-dependent data collection pilot survey in Egypt

The second mission of the fisheries-dependent data collection pilot survey in Egypt is expected to take place in two phases. The first phase will take place in May-June 2011 (Annex V) in order for the FAO EastMed team to follow the on-going data collection scheme including its results, to make amendments if required and to examine the difficulties in its implementation. During the same mission, a training course on data collection will be carried out in the west part of Egypt. The second and final phase will take place in June 2012, where the outputs of the pilot survey will be reviewed. The Project's staff will be required to make regular visits during the 1st and the 2nd phase of the mission for making any amendments and clarifications as may be required. The final report will encompass all operational and infrastructure aspects of a comprehensive fisheries statistical programme encompassing vessels, catch & effort and biological sampling. Training, equipment, mobilization of staff and contractual arrangements with other agencies and institutions should also be considered and quantified to the largest extent possible.

3.2 Data collection protocol in Arabic

A technical document incorporating guidelines, data collection forms and operational modalities for the pilot implementation will be prepared in Arabic. This will ensure better implementation of the data collection not only during the pilot survey but also in the future.

3.3 Computerised licensing system and vessel census in Lebanon

In Lebanon, there is no computerized licensing system. Therefore a system is needed which should be linked with a functional fleet vessel register. In this respect, two phases in establishing a functional computerized licensing system with the initial undertaking of a vessel census in Lebanon are proposed. The first will be an appraisal of the needs and the preparation of a well-defined operational and methodological framework. The second will be the implementation of the recommendations from the appraisal, which might be included in a Letter of Agreement with the national Authorities.

3.4 CAS in Lebanon – pilot sampling

Following the training of staff on catch & effort and biological data collection, the project will support the expansion of the data collection to the south of Lebanon on a pilot basis.

3.5 Permanent Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment

A permanent Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment in the Eastern Mediterranean will be set-up within the framework of the EastMed Project. The terms of reference (Annex VI) of the first meeting include the identification of shared stocks, the most important stocks which are in need of scientific advice, an inventory of existing data required to undertake a stock assessment, identification of gaps in the data and the most adequate stock assessment models to be used in the Eastern Mediterranean region. The meeting of the Working group will tentatively take place during the 2nd Semester of 2011 (Annex V).

4. Increased Participation and Cooperation

4.1 Strengthening the cooperation with the other FAO Regional Projects

The existing cooperation with other FAO sub-regional projects AdriaMed, MedSudMed, CopeMed II and ArtFiMed will be further strengthened. Within this context, synergies are foreseen with the projects, also taking into consideration the outcomes from the internal coordination meeting among the projects (Rome, January 2011). Several other coordination meetings among the Mediterranean sub-regional projects have already been planned for 2011 in order to consolidate and coordinate common activities. Training activities will be coordinated among all the projects, in order to avoid duplication or overlapping of activities. The participation of other project`s experts in training courses organized by EastMed and vice versa will be foreseen. The preparation of common informative material (leaflets, CDs, etc.) that can improve the visibility of the projects in the Mediterranean and in the international context is anticipated. Moreover, the EastMed project will participate in the coordination committees of the other sub-regional projects where additional synergies will be identified.

4.2 Country Participatory Working Groups (CPWG)

The Project will provide the necessary support to facilitate the meetings of the country participatory working groups (CPWGs). The establishment of the CPWGs, which was agreed during the 1st Coordination Committee meeting (Athens, Greece, 19-20 April 2010), gives the chance for stakeholders to participate in the process of elaborating management systems, including the development and application of management plans. Turkey would also like to invite an EastMed staff and/or experts of the project area to attend a meeting of the Turkish CPWG (In Turkey this is equivalent to the Fisheries Advisory Committee).

The project will support a forum between stakeholders at sub-regional level in collaboration with FAO-GFCM. However, this forum should be conducted after the implementation of the CPWG in each country. This forum should offer a platform for stakeholders in the Sub-region, including administrators, scientists and fishers as a first step, to exchange views with regards to the implementation of EAF in the region. In future meetings, other stakeholders such as NGOs and environmental groups could be included.

4.3 Support government staff to attend and fully participating in FAO-GFCM meetings

The project will continue to strengthen the international and regional cooperation at Mediterranean level through supporting the participation of experts from the EastMed countries in FAO-GFCM events (FAO-GFCM Session, SAC, Sub-Committees, and Working Groups) and thus strengthen the countries in order to participate more fully in the FAO-GFCM activities. However, this participation should take place according to the availability of the funds and it is preferable to be accompanied by scientific contributions to the FAO-GFCM meetings

4.4 Fish identification guide

The electronic version of the FAO Field Identification Guide to the Living Marine Resources of the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean has been prepared. It still needs to be printed. However, this guide, which represents a work of high quality is more suitable for the Scientific Community and not for the work on the field. Thus, the project will support the preparation of plastic cards with the most common commercial species in the Eastern Mediterranean region. The cards will present fish figures in colour accompanied by the scientific name and the common name in English and Arabic

4.5 Knowledge on *Lagocephalus sceleratus*

The Project will support an expert to gather knowledge from other regions on eventual uses of *Lagocephalus sceleratus* catches and on risks for public health. After the technical meeting on the Lessepsian migration and its impact on Eastern Mediterranean Fishery (Nicosia, Cyprus, 7-9 December 2010), a network of experts was established with a mandate of creating a common pool of information on basic knowledge, research-marketing issues and potential solutions to mitigate the harmful effects of lessepsian species. The network will be requested to quantify the effects of lessepsian migration on Eastern Mediterranean fisheries and propose management schemes, which will be further supported in their implementation by the project.

4.6 EastMed portal (www.faoeastmed.org)

The contents, and consequently the EastMed portal, will continue to be updated and further developed in order to make it always easily accessible in areas of interest to website users.

ANNEXES

Annex I List of participants

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Annex II Agenda

FAO EastMed 2nd Co-ordination Committee meeting

Agenda

5–6 April 2011

Antalya, Turkey

Tuesday 5 April

1. Opening of the meeting and election of the Chairman

- Welcome by the Turkish authorities
- Introduction of the participating countries (Cyprus, Egypt, Gaza Strip and West Bank, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Turkey), the International Organisations (FAO, GFCM) and others.
- Designation of the chairperson and adoption of the agenda

2. Report on the Project's progress

- Presentation of the EastMed Project 1st year activities

3. GFCM activities for the next intercessional period

- Presentation of the GFCM scientific and technical activities of relevance to the project

4. Proposals on national activities in the framework of the project

- Presentation of countries' proposals to be carried out at national and sub-regional level

5. Development of the Project's Programme for the next period

- Presentation of the work plan for the next period

6. Any other matters

7. Date and venue of the next Coordination Committee meeting

Wednesday 6th March

8. Adoption of the report

Annex III Report on the Intercessional Activities of the Project

Meeting of the 2nd Co-ordination Committee of the EastMed Project

Antalya, Turkey 5 - 6 April 2011

Report on the Intercessional Activities of the Project

(April 2010 – March 2011)

FAO EastMed Working Document

Introduction

This document summarizes the main activities carried out by the Project EastMed from April 2010 – March 2011, including workshops, training, research activities and the technical assistance provided to the countries; as well as the cooperation established with the GFCM, the SAC and Sub-Committees and other relevant institutions. The work programme and recommendations of the Inception Meeting of the EastMed Coordination Committee (Athens, Greece, 19-20 April 2010) were implemented.

The activities carried out during the inter-committee period comply with the methodological framework of the Project and its mandate for this phase. This report details the main outputs of the Project activities and the results achieved with direct reference to the following Project Components:

- 1) Institutional strengthening.
- 2) Staff training and development.
- 3) Data collection, storing and analysis for fishery appraisal (including stock assessment) and development of management plans.
- 4) Increased cooperation between the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean sub-region as well as with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO-GFCM)

Project Component 1 - Institutional Strengthening

To undertake institutional analysis and needs assessments of Fisheries Departments and provide recommendations for change and support

Visits to member Countries

Visits were performed to countries for needs of assessments of Fisheries Departments and also to promote the project (Egypt: January and November 2010, Lebanon: March and June 2010, Turkey: March 2010, Cyprus: December 2010). Procurement of IT equipments was done to Fisheries Departments of Lebanon and Egypt. Three regional offices of GAFRD along the Mediterranean Coast were also supplied with Laboratory equipment.

Project Component 2 - Staff Training and Development

National and sub-regional workshops and on-the-job training will be organized.

Ad-hoc on the field training course on otolith/spines sectioning and age reading

An ad-hoc on the field-training course on otolith/spines sectioning and age reading was carried out in the Fisheries Laboratory of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food in Piraeus, Greece from the 19-23 July 2010. Age reading was described to experts from Cyprus and performed on otoliths of picarel (*Spicara smaris*) and red mullet (*Mullus barbatus*). During the training course sectioning was performed on hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) otoliths and the use of Image Analysis System for annuli reading was also shown. Methods for the estimation of growth parameters were also described.

1st mission of the pilot survey on fisheries dependent data collection

The 1st mission on the fisheries dependent data collection pilot survey was conducted in Egypt from 7-26 November 2010. The aim was to set-up a sampling programme with the implementation of a pilot survey for catch & effort assessment and for biological sampling in three landing ports including Port Said, Damietta and Kafr-El-Sheikh. During the mission training on basic fisheries statistics and fisheries biology was given to the staff responsible for data collection at the General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD). Technical notes were prepared describing the steps to be undertaken for the implementation of a pilot survey in the three selected ports. With respect to the biological sampling, training was provided on the identification of target species, sample collection, sample processing and the collection and storage of biological material.

Training Course on Single-species Length based Stock Assessment Methods

A five-day training course on length-based stock assessment methods was organized by the FAO-EastMed Project at the Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) in Kavala, Greece from 21-25 February 2011. The course was designed for fisheries biologists working in research institutes or other institutions involved in fisheries research and management in the Eastern Mediterranean. Twenty-three participants from seven countries (Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Gaza Strip and West Bank, Greece, Lebanon, and Turkey) participated in the course, and all attended lectures and exercise sessions, generally completing the

assignments. The training included theoretical presentations and practical sessions on the application of different methods focused on the analysis of length composition data. The participants were supplied with lecture notes, software and data.

Project Component 3 - Data Collection and Analyses

Project will assist countries to improve/develop fishing vessel survey, national catch, effort and socio-economic surveys, and ecosystems characterisation.

Sub-regional Workshop on the Collection and Organization of Data

A Sub-regional Workshop on Collection and Organization of Data was carried out in Batroun, Lebanon from the 14-17 September 2010, where representatives from Cyprus, Gaza Strip and West Bank, Greece, Egypt, Italy, Lebanon and Turkey, as well as from FAO Headquarters were present. The Workshop objectives were to review the various systems used in the countries of the region, identify common issues and main differences, define coherence with FAO-GFCM Task 1 requirements and finally design a programme for working with the countries focusing to improve the capacity for data collection. The participants highlighted the importance of the artisanal fishery in the region, which deserved a specific attention for monitoring. The expertise on data collection of the University of Balamand, North Lebanon was pointed out and could be potentially used in the whole country as well as in other countries.

Project Component 4 - Increased Participation and Cooperation

The Project will promote sub-regional cooperation and collaboration for fishery research, monitoring and management and will support Government staff to attend and fully participating in GFCM (and other) regional meetings

In order to strengthen international and regional cooperation the Project interacts closely with the other FAO Mediterranean sub-Regional Projects, AdriaMed, MedSudMed, CopeMed II, ArtFiMed and MedFisis throughout the year with the last co-ordination meeting being held on 14 January and 10 February 2011. These meetings are held in order to consolidate and envisage common activities. In this respect the Project also participated in the Coordination Committees of AdriaMed, MedsudMed, CopeMed II & ArtFiMed, where synergies were identified. A common exhibition during the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) session (Italy, 31 January - 4 February 2011) was organized for all the FAO Mediterranean Regional Projects displaying informative material and posters of the Projects activities.

Cooperation was further sustained with the FAO-GFCM Secretariat and the FAO-GFCM Subsidiary Bodies. EastMed continued to support the activities of the FAO-GFCM by providing scientific contributions for discussion and by funding the participation of 55 experts from the Eastern Mediterranean countries to FAO-GFCM and other international activities in the following 13 meetings:

- FAO-GFCM - SAC - Transversal Workshop on Red Coral A, Alghero, Italy 16-17 September 2010
- FAO-GFCM - SAC - Working Group on Stock Assessment on Demersal Species, Turkey, Istanbul 18-23 October 2010

- FAO-GFCM - SAC-SCMEE - Workshop on Algal and Jellyfish Blooms Istanbul, Turkey, 6-8 October 2010
- FAO-GFCM -SAC-Workshop on data collection methods, Rome, Italy, 29 September - 01 October 2010
- EastMed Sub-regional Workshop on collection and organization of data, Batroun, Lebanon, 14-17 September 2010
- FAO-GFCM-SAC-Workshop on monitoring recreational fisheries in the FAO-GFCM area Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 20-22 October 2010
- EastMed pilot fisheries-dependent data collection survey Port Said, Egypt 8-27 November 2010
- AdriaMed training course on Virtual Population Analysis (VPA), Italy 22-26 November 2010
- FAO-GFCM-Sub-Committees, Sliema, Malta 29 November -2 December 2010
- Sub-regional Technical meeting on the Lessepsian migration and its impact on eastern Mediterranean fishery Nicosia, Cyprus 7-10 December 2010
- FAO-GFCM – 13th session of the Scientific Advisory Committee, Marseille, France 31 January – 4 February 2011
- EastMed Training course on length-based stock assessment methods, Kavala Greece 21-25 February 2011
- EastMed Workshop on Fisheries Management Strategies and Approaches, Athens, Greece, 15-17 March 2011.

Sub-regional Technical Meeting on the lessepsian migration and its impact on Eastern Mediterranean fisheries

A Sub-regional Technical Meeting on the Lessepsian migration and its impact on Eastern Mediterranean fisheries was carried out in Nicosia (Cyprus) from 7-9 December 2010, where representatives from Cyprus, Gaza Strip and West Bank, Greece, Egypt, Italy, Lebanon and Turkey, as well as from FAO Headquarters were present. The status, trends and monitoring of lessepsian migration in the Mediterranean was presented together with the environmental conditions which favoured the expansion of lessepsian species. The impact of lessepsians on fisheries was highly discussed, including the harmful damage of *Lagocephalus sceleratus* to fisher's static nets and longlines. A network of experts on lessepsian species was finally established, with a mandate of creating a common pool of information on basic knowledge, research, marketing and potential solutions to avoid the harmful effects of lessepsian species.

Workshop on Fisheries Management Strategies and Approaches

A Workshop on Fisheries Management Strategies and Approaches was carried out in Athens, Greece, from 15-17 March 2011. The Workshop was attended by twenty eight participants from Cyprus, Egypt, Gaza Strip & West Bank, Greece, Italy, Lebanon and Turkey as well as representatives of FAO and the EU. All of the countries presented their current management strategies including their strengths and weaknesses. All of the participants discussed how management strategies could be improved in the Eastern Mediterranean and highlighted the importance of the EastMed Project in the region. The countries also pointed out how the Project could assist in improving their current management systems, including the support in capacity building, training, data collection, data analysis and networking.

EastMed web portal (www.faoeastmed.org)

The project web site was constructed, linked to the other websites of the sub-regional projects and GFCM. It is continuously updated with new information, while on the home page a new section on upcoming events was constructed which made the website more accessible. An effort was made, in cooperation with MedSudMed, EastMed and CopeMed II (including ArtFiMed), to harmonize the information provided in the Project web sites.

Annex IV Provisional 2011 Programme of work of the FAO-GFCM SAC



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE



Second EastMed Coordination Meeting Antalya, Turkey, 5-6 April 2011

By A. Srour, Acting Executive Secretary, GFCM

PROVISIONAL 2011 PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Set out below are the proposed lists of activities for the intersessional period 2011 as identified by the four SAC Sub-Committees and reviewed and completed by the SAC at its 13th Session:

Stock Assessment

- Carry out assessments on selected Mediterranean and Black Sea elasmobranch stocks;
- Organize a joint Workshop with the SCMEE and SCESS on Spatial Based Fishery Management. The draft Terms of Reference are presented in Annex A;
- Prepare a proposal for the expansion of Task 1.5 (biological data of catches), possibly leading to the establishment of a Task 2 data collection framework. A specific workshop together with the SCSA could be envisaged as a further step, if deemed necessary;
- Organize the meetings of the Working Groups on stock assessment of demersal and small pelagic species simultaneously;
- Continue with the elaboration of the GFCM Regional Database on biological parameters to facilitate agreement on values to be used for each stock assessment in the eastern, central and western Mediterranean;
- Improve the Stock Assessment Forms to facilitate the inclusion of raw data;

- Develop Reference Points with the view to evaluate the status of the stocks and fisheries including the effects on exploited stocks of FRAs;
- Collate and analyze main information useful for the European Eel Management Plans and set up a network of Mediterranean experts in collaboration with the working group on eel management of EIFAC/ICES;

Marine Environment and Ecosystems

- Continue with the implementation of the medium term programme on elasmobranchs;
- Prepare and disseminate educational material (posters, leaflets, brochures, etc.) for informing the public in the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries about harmful species and jellyfish.
- Prepare a new version of the TECHNOMED selectivity protocol as a standard document, including the collection of socio-economic data. The methodology of the statistical analysis should be improved and completed;
- Carry out, jointly with the SCSA, assessments on selected Mediterranean and Black Sea elasmobranchs stocks;
- Organize a training course on age reading of selected Mediterranean and Black Sea elasmobranchs under the framework of the Permanent Working Group on Assessment Methodology (PWGAM);
- Organize a second workshop on red coral;
- Organize a transversal workshop on Artificial Reefs in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, possibly back to back with the SCME meeting;
- Organize a meeting of the Working Group on by-catch;
- Undertake a regional medium-term research programme on red coral;
- Improve the knowledge on the topographic description of seamount areas, as well as the structure and functioning of canyons and deep-sea habitats.
- Continue conducting pilot studies on the effects of implementing the new codend meshes.
- Implement the reporting of data on by-catch of elasmobranchs within the framework of Task1.

Statistics and Information

- Update the Task 1 data entry/software and data submission exchange protocols (XML and CSV) to reflect the amendments proposed by the SCSA and endorsed by SAC;
- Update and publish the statistical bulletin (reference years 2008 and 2009);
- Continue the development of the Task 1 Regional Information System. Members are expected to submit the full Task 1 datasets for 2008 by January 2011, and the full Task 1 datasets for 2009 by May 2011;
- Finalize the development of the Regional Fleet Register information system and manage the data submitted accordingly;
- Work on a template considering the information requested by the GFCM Recommendations related to vessels lists, with a view to create a single data submission framework for vessels.

Economic and Social Sciences

- Undertake a review of the fisheries laws and regulations in force at national level in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and organize an expert meeting in the framework of the LaMed Project;
- Conduct regional studies to provide an overview of recreational fishing activities (gears, techniques, target species, etc.);
- Develop a harmonized monitoring framework protocol for recreational fisheries, design a data collection scheme for recreational fisheries indicators and conduct a regional study on the possible implementation of licensing schemes for this sector;
- Elaborate a Code of Practice / Technical Guidelines on recreational fisheries in the GFCM area;
- Perform studies regarding the socio-economic impact resulting from the implementation of the 40 mm diamond mesh in trawl fisheries;
- Populate the GFCM webpage dedicated to TECHNOMED with any information dealing with the economic impacts of selectivity studies;
- Organize a specific workshop, back-to-back with the forthcoming SCESS meeting on the processing and analysis of Task 1.3 data;
- Proceed with analysis of socio-economic data collected through the Task 1 framework;
- Undertake studies related to ecolabelling socio-economic impacts.

Other transversal issues

- Consolidate the production of a Regional Plan of Action on the management and monitoring of fleet capacity on the basis of the Draft Outline GFCM RPOA-Capacity, produced by the second workshop on fishing capacity, and Recommendation GFCM/34/2010/2. This could be effected through the organisation of another workshop, the engagement of a consultant or any other arrangement which the Commission may decide upon;
- Convene a workshop on technical aspects related to the implementation of VMS and the use of related data;
- In line with article 4 of GFCM Recommendation GFCM/2006/2, undertake an analysis of the impact of the establishment of a closed season for the FAD dolphin fish fisheries on the stocks of this species and to recommend any change that may be deemed necessary to improve its effectiveness, in order to evaluate possible modifications to the closure and/or to propose additional management measures;
- Establish an ad-hoc Working Group on the Black Sea open to all scientists of the region including from partner Organizations and organiseorganize the first meeting of the Working Group in early 2012.

Meetings of the SAC and its subsidiary bodies

1. The Scientific Advisory Committee proposed that the following meetings be convened during the intersessional period:

| Meeting | Place/Date |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 14 th Session of the SAC (5 days) | Varna, Bulgaria / February 2012 |
| Session of the SCSA (4 days) | Rome / Nov.- Dec. 2011 |
| Working Group on stock assessment of Demersal Species (6 days) | Greece/TBD |
| Working Group on stock assessment of Small Pelagic Species (6 days) | Greece/TBD |
| Transversal Workshop (SCSA/SCMEE/SCESS) on Spatial Based Fishery Management (3 days) | TBD/TBD |
| Stock assessment of selected species of elasmobranchs (5 days) | Brussels/TBD |
| Session of the SCESS (4 days) | Rome / Nov.- Dec. 2011 |
| Workshop on the processing and analysis of Task 1.3 data (back-to-back with the SCESS Session) | Rome / Nov.- Dec. 2011 |
| Expert meeting on Fisheries legislation within the framework of the LaMed Project | Beirut, Lebanon/ Sept. 2011 |
| Session of the SCSI (4 days) | Rome / Nov.- Dec. 2011 |
| Session of the SCMEE (4 days) | Rome / Nov.- Dec. 2011 |
| Meeting of the Working Group on by-catch (3 days) | Turkey/TBD |
| Training course on age reading and growth parameters of the main elasmobranch species (5 days) | Turkey/TBD |
| Workshop (SCMEE) on Artificial Reefs, possibly back to back with the SCMEE session | Rome / Nov.- Dec. 2011 |
| Second Transversal Workshop on Red Coral (3 days) | TBD/TBD |
| 12 th Session of the CMSC (1 day) | Rome / Nov.- Dec. 2011 |
| Workshop on VMS (3 days) | TBD/TBD |
| First meeting of the ad-hoc Working Group on the Black Sea (3 days) | Romania/early 2012 |

Draft terms of reference and mandate for working groups, workshops and other activities

I. Transversal workshop on spatial based fishery management

- a) Review main experiences of Spatial based Approach to Fishery Management (SAFM) in the world.
- b) Examine SAFM in the more wide context of the Integrated Management of the Coastal Zone
- c) Explore methods and propose case studies to assess the impact of Fishery Restricted Area (FRA) on commercial stocks, marine ecosystems and fisheries
- d) Evaluate the role of FRA, Territorial Use Right of Fisheries (TURF) and other SAFM tools in design fisheries management plans.
- e) Analyse the current and future approach to monitoring, surveillance and control in SAFM.

II. Working Group on by-catch

- a) Review and collate available data on by-catch in GFCM area
- b) Evaluate the quality of by-catch data by year, GSA's, fishery and stock
- c) Consider by-catch indicators and necessary supporting data on by-catch rates by stock and fishery for trends interpretation
- d) Consider ways to start or expand by-catch monitoring schemes in GFCM area

III. Transversal workshop on Artificial Reefs in the Mediterranean and Black Sea

- a) Gather information on ARs, e.g. structures and activities, for the inclusion in a common database to be incorporated in the general information provided by the GFCM.
- b) Evidences of increased productivity and/or gathering of biomass in ARs of the Mediterranean and Black Sea.
- c) Monitoring strategies and statistical approaches to study ARs in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.
- d) Legal aspects linked to the ARs management in each member state of the GFCM.

IV. Second workshop on red coral

- a) Review of the distribution (past and actual) and present status of deep red coral banks across the Mediterranean region.
- b) Inventory on the existing and new data of deep red coral banks on biology, ecology, oceanography, genetics and fisheries.
- c) Evaluation of measures and strategies for planning local and regional management and conservation plans.

V. Mandate of the new Working group on the Black Sea

1. In close coordination with the GFCM Secretariat, the Working Group will deal with specific issues related to scientific research and management of fisheries in the Black Sea. In particular, the Working Group will undertake the following tasks:
 - a) Improve the knowledge on fisheries resources and their management in the Black Sea through surveys and the organisation of expert meetings;
 - b) Identify priority research needs in the fields of fisheries science, fishing technology, socio-economics and management within the framework of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries;
 - c) Improve and develop studies related to the stock assessment of the main fish stocks in the Region and identify appropriate ways to strengthen the capacity building of national scientists in Black Sea countries;
 - d) Evaluate the current status of data collection and fisheries statistics, including scientific data for stock assessment, in the Region.
 - e) Discuss and identify options to foster cooperation among fishery scientists and stakeholders from Black Sea coastal states.
 - f) Discuss the possible interaction of GFCM activities with other initiatives of Black Sea scientific bodies, national entities and international projects.
 - g) Undertake preliminary discussions on strategy options for fisheries management in the region, within the framework of the GFCM, including the integration of ecosystem considerations, bio-economic indicators and reference points.
2. The Working Group, which will be open to all scientists, including from the partner organisations, will convene its first meeting to discuss the manner by which its objectives and activities will be implemented. At this meeting, the Working Group will nominate its Coordinator. The rules concerning the election and nomination of the Coordinators of the GFCM technical subsidiary bodies will be applied *Mutatis mutandi* to the nomination of the Coordinator of the Working Group.

Annex V Work-schedule for the second year of the FAO EastMed Project

| | | MONTH | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|--------------------|--|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Component 1 | <u>Institutional Strengthening</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 | Institutional appraisal in Egypt, Lebanon and Gaza Strip-West Bank | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► |
| 1.2 | Support the maintenance of the fleet register | | | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► |
| 1.3 | Procurement of equipment | | | | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► |
| Component 2 | <u>Staff Training and Development</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 | CAS in Lebanon including biological data – Training course | | | | | | | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► |
| 2.2 | Exchange training programme for collection of survey data at sea | | | | | | | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► |
| 2.3 | Training course on stock assessment methods | | | | | | | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► |
| 2.4 | Training course on EAF | | | | | | | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► |
| 2.5 | Training course on fisheries inspection and fish quality control | | | | | | | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► |
| Component 3 | <u>Data Collection and Analyses</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.1 | 2 nd mission of the fisheries-dependent data collection pilot survey in Egypt | | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► |
| 3.2 | Data collection protocol in Arabic | | | | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► |
| 3.3 | Computerised licensing system and vessel census in Lebanon | | | | | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► |
| 3.4 | CAS in Lebanon – pilot sampling | | | | | | | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► |
| 3.5 | Permanent Working Group on stock assessment | | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► |
| Component 4 | <u>Increased Participation and Cooperation</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4.1 | Strengthening the cooperation with the other FAO Regional Projects | | | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► |
| 4.2 | Country Participating Working Group (CPWG) | | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► |
| 4.3 | Support government staff to attend and fully participating in GFCM meetings | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► |
| 4.4 | Fish identification guide | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4.5 | Knowledge on <i>Lagocephalus sceleratus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4.6 | EastMed portal (www.faoeastmed.org) | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► | ► |

Annex VI TOR for FAO EastMed Permanent WG on Fish Stock Assessment

Terms of Reference for the 1st Meeting of the Permanent sub-regional Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment of the EastMed Project

- i) to identify the candidate shared stocks in the Eastern Mediterranean
- ii) to identify the most important stocks in the eastern Mediterranean which are in need of scientific advice from stock assessments and to prioritise these stocks at sub-regional and national level according to the FAO-GFCM requirements
- iii) to determine the existing data in the Eastern Mediterranean which is suitable for stock assessment purposes
- iv) to identify the gaps in the data required for stock assessment in each country and provide advice on how these gaps can be reduced for example by data collection, collaboration with local universities and research institutes, collaboration with neighbouring countries and data sharing
- v) to agree on standardised methodologies for the collection of data for stock assessment purposes in line with FAO-GFCM requirements
- vi) to determine the best methodologies to estimate growth parameters and suggest a way forward for data collection
- vii) to determine the most adequate stock assessment models to estimate biological indicators, reference points and future projections. The selected assessment methods should allow the estimation of indicators for measuring the current status of demersal and pelagic stocks, the sustainability of exploitation and to measure progress towards higher fishing productivity (MSY or other proxy). The models and indicators should be in line with FAO-GFCM requirements.

Beneficiary countries

Countries with waters included in the GFCM
Geographical Sub-Areas (GSAs) 19-20 and 22-28

Donors

Greece

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Rural Development and Food

Italy

- Ministry of Agriculture Food and Forestry Policies

European Community

- Directorate General of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG-MARE)



Hellenic Ministry of
Foreign Affairs

Hellenic Ministry of Rural
Development and Food



ITALIAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD
AND FORESTRY POLICIES



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