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GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION
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POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE



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GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

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**ISSUES RELATED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
AUTONOMOUS BUDGET**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Twenty-second Session (October 1997), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) amended its constitutive Agreement, including the establishment of an autonomous budget made of contributions from its Members. The autonomous budget entered into force on 29 April 2004 with respect to each of the Members who have deposited their instruments of acceptance thereof¹. At its Extraordinary session in July 2004, the Commission adopted Financial Regulations and agreed upon the range of the autonomous budget for the 2005 financial year and forecasted accordingly expenditures for the main chapters of this budget².

2. This document, along with notes in Appendix provides an update on the status of acceptance of the amendments relative to the autonomous budget and of the payment of the contributions by Members in 2005. The document also describes the statements of the expenditures made or committed (Financial Report). Finally, it summarizes some of the activities undertaken in relation to the administration of the Secretariat (Administrative Report).

II. STATUS OF MEMBERS CONTRIBUTION TO THE AUTONOMOUS BUDGET IN 2005

Status of acceptance relative to the autonomous budget

3. At the time of preparation of this document, nineteen Members had deposited their instruments of acceptance including Algeria and Lebanon in 2005 (Appendix 1). Members who have not done so yet are: Bulgaria, Egypt, Israel, Morocco and Syria.

¹ Article X (2) of the GFCM Agreement stipulates that the rights and obligations of any Member that has not accepted an amendment involving additional obligations shall continue to be governed by provisions of this Agreement as they stood prior to the adoption of the amendment.

² Pursuant to GFCM Financial Regulation II, the financial period is of one calendar year.

4. It can be recalled that the Commission at its 28th Session (2003) was informed that Egypt, Morocco and Syria intended to finalize their ratification processes³. At its Extraordinary session, the Commission took note that Morocco had ratified⁴. In late 2005 the Secretariat was unofficially informed that Egypt and Syria were well advanced in their internal ratification process and that Israel was contemplating the possibility of ratifying.

Status of the contributions to the autonomous budget in 2005

5. In July 2004, the Commission adopted a global budget for 2005 amounting to US \$ 881 440, out of which the share of the autonomous budget was set up at US\$ 764 940⁵, the remaining 13% being the FAO Regular Programme contribution to the global budget. The Commission further agreed that expenditures should give priority to securing core activities and strengthening the Secretariat⁶.

6. The Secretariat sent, through diplomatic channels, the "Call for fund letter" in November 2004⁷ to those Members having at that time deposited their instruments of acceptance, as well as, late March, to Algeria and Lebanon, upon receipt of their instruments. A Circular letter for reminding financial obligations was sent early July to all Members that have participated to the vote for the selection of the Executive Secretary⁸ in February 2005. The Secretariat regularly followed-up on Members whose contribution was still pending until 21 December.

7. In the course of 2005, the remittance of the contributions by Members has been uneven. At the end of the first quarter of 2005 only 14% of the budget was recovered, which grew to 25% at the end of the second quarter and to 75% in late December (US\$ 573 975.55). Only 14 out of 23 Members⁹ who were expected to contribute have done so. None of the Members that have not yet deposited their instruments of acceptance but that have participated in February to the vote for the selection of the Executive Secretary, remitted their contribution. A detailed status of the contributions as at 21 December 2005 is provided in Appendix 3. There is a balance in favour of Tunisia (US\$ 1 115.5). Some Members have paid their contribution almost in full although it seems that bank transfers were made without taking the transfer charges into account. As a result, Albania, France, Greece, Malta, Slovenia and Spain owe between US\$ 5 to 13 against the 2005 fiscal year.

8. This has created an uncomfortable accounting situation and hampered smooth and steady commitments of funds, which could only be partly compensated by the support from the FAO Fisheries Department. Halfway through the year it became progressively possible to engage substantial expenditures from the autonomous budget, including staff salaries and to initiate the procedure accordingly for the selection of the Deputy Executive Secretary.

³ Paragraph 49 of the Report of the 28th Session

⁴ Paragraph 16 of the Report of the Extraordinary Session.

⁵ Annex G of the Report of the Extraordinary Session, reproduced in Appendix 4, for ease of reference. Noteworthy: the total autonomous budget forecast could be considered hypothetical, as it was based on the assumption that all Members will have deposited their instruments of acceptance relative to the autonomous budget by 1 January 2005.

⁶ Paragraph 28 of the Report.

⁷ Pursuant to the Financial Regulation: contributions shall be due and payable in full within 30 days of the receipt of the communication of the Secretary in respect of annual contributions to the autonomous budget, or as of the first day of the calendar year to which they relate, whichever is later. Noteworthy: the total autonomous budget could be considered as hypothetical, being based on the assumption that all Members will have deposited their instruments of acceptance in 2005.

⁸ At its Twenty-ninth session (February 2005), the Commission decided that as an exceptional measure limited to the issue of the selection of its Executive Secretary only, and which would not, in any case, set a precedent for any future decisions, all Members could vote "on the agreement that all Members which had not yet deposited their instruments of acceptance of the amendments involving new obligations would do so prior to the end of the year and that they would be contributing to the budget for 2005, as all costs related to the post of Executive Secretary are borne by the autonomous budget. As a result of this decision, all GFCM member States, with the exception of Israel and Lebanon, participated to the voting.

⁹ 23 Members that have deposited their instruments and/or participated in the selection of the Secretary.

Payment and use of Arrears

9. The balance of accumulated pending contributions¹⁰ as of 21 December 2005, amounted to US\$ 159 382.45. This raises the issue of payment and use of arrears. In this respect, it can be recalled that: i) Regulation IV (3) provides that “*any unliquidated prior obligation shall be cancelled or, where an obligation remains a valid charge, transferred against current appropriations*”; ii) pending receipt of annual contributions, the Secretary is authorized to finance budgeted expenditures from the uncommitted balance of the autonomous budget (Regulations V (1) refers); iii) Regulation V (3) further states that “*as of the 1 January of the following calendar year, the unpaid balance of such contributions shall be considered to be one year in arrears*”.

10. Considering that the 2005 autonomous budget was the first of this kind, it could be presumed that some Members may still need to fine-tune their internal procedure in 2006 toward ensuring a timely delivery of their contribution. Thus, the issue of late or unpaid contributions needs to be addressed, if at all for budgeting purposes. The Commission may wish, for example, to consider the utilization of the accumulated pending contributions to build up a Working Capital Fund (WCF), thereby constituting a security buffer for the future.

11. It might also be necessary in the future to ensure that the request of payment reaches the competent authority of each Member, as well as to obtain confirmation that contributions paid are allocated to the correct account in FAO. It is therefore suggested that the Heads of Delegations provide the Secretariat with copy of the payment instructions to allow the correct allocation to the GFCM Trust Fund.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

Budgetary expenses in 2005

12. The expenses made from the FAO share of the global budget of the Commission which were forecasted¹¹ at US\$ 116 500 are not discussed in this report. These expenses, however, resulted to be about twice the above forecasts, ranging between US\$ 230-250 000 or equivalent to 40-44% of the actual autonomous budget. This stems essentially from the covering by the FAO Regular Programme of most of the costs of the Secretariat up to July 2005, including the salary (at P5 level) of the Secretary, a 3-month equivalent of an FAO Architect, twelve months of a part-time Secretary/typist, in addition to higher technical backstopping than was foreseen.

13. Table 1 below provides an overview of the statement of the autonomous budget, up to the end of January 2006. The original forecast established at the Extraordinary Session in 2004 has been adjusted to exclude the (only) Member that had no formal obligation in respect of the autonomous budget. Summary of budget chapters as based on the FAO/Oracle trust funds standard budget line allocations, applied to the actual budget (i.e, the real income from contributions received from Members), these total expenditure are split between expenses settled for 2005 and commitments made up to the 31 January 2006¹². The difference between the total real income and total expenses resulted in a total positive balance amounting to US\$ 243,743 or 42.5% of the actual income.

¹⁰ Excluding Israel who was not formally committed.

¹¹ Annex G of the Report of the Extraordinary Session, Malta, 2004.

¹² 13 months (1 January 2005 to 31 January 2006)

AUTONOMOUS BUDGET	Original Forecast	Adjusted Forecast		Actual Budget	Expenses in 2005	Commitments to Jan.2006	Expenses + Commitments	Balance	Expenses/Budget (%)
Income	764,940	733,360							
Member contributions	-	-		573,975					
Other (FAO contribution excluded)	0	0		0					
Total Income	764,940	733,360		573,975					
			Allocation Factor						
Professional Salaries	275,000	263,647	36.0%	206,347	132,452	30,000	162,452	43,895	78.7%
General Service Salaries	82,000	78,615	10.7%	61,529	967	4,500	5,467	56,062	8.9%
Consultants	-	-	0.0%	-	2,668	3,300	5,968	-5,968	∞
Contracts	30,000	28,761	3.9%	22,511	8,786	750	9,536	12,975	42.4%
Travel	36,000	34,514	4.7%	27,013	37,386	22,607	59,993	-32,980	222.1%
Training (SIPAM Officer)	30,000	28,761	3.9%	22,511	-	2,000	2,000	20,511	8.9%
General Operating Expenses (incl. meetings)	254,000	243,514	33.2%	190,590	35	40	75	190,515	0.0%
General Overhead Expenses	10,000	9,587	1.3%	7,504	2,323	1,000	3,323	4,181	44.3%
Equipment	-	-	0.0%	-	2,407	3,000	5,407	-5,407	∞
Chargeback (incl. publications, interpretation)	15,000	14,381	2.0%	11,255	30,601	31,190	61,791	-50,536	∞
TOTAL	732,000	701,780	95.7%	549,258	217,625	98,387	316,012	233,247	57.5%
Other	-	-	0.0%	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%
FAO Services charges	32,940	31,580	4.5%	24,717	9,793	4,427	14,221	10,496	57.5%
GRAND TOTAL			4.5%	573,975	227,418	102,814	330,232	243,743	57.5%

14. In relation to the liquidation of budgetary expenses over the period, the following could be noted: almost 88% of budgeted staff salary expenses was engaged (excluding the 5 months of Professional and the 6-month equivalent for General Service staff provided by FAO); the Secretariat relied on some consultancies for resource persons/experts to prepare background or synthesis documents, as well as to temporary assistance (editorial services) in relation to key meetings (e.g. on Operational units). As a result, this budget line appears negative. Provisions for travel proved insufficient, as was the budget forecasted for publications. Forecasted expenses relative to the SIPAM revitalization projects (US\$ 67,000) were left nearly unused due to delays in staff recruitment and related implementation. The costs relative to the forecasted expenses for the SIPAM Officer were attributed to the Training line with initial expenses engaged in January only. Expenses for equipment were not budgeted under the assumption that this would be covered by the "host country". However the contract for the SIPAM server site was renewed and two portable computers were acquired. Further details and comments, including explanation on line transfers and secondments, are provided by chapters and sub-chapters in Appendix 3.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

GFCM binding Recommendations adopted in 2005

15. On 5 May 2005, the Secretariat officially transmitted to Members and to intergovernmental partner organizations, the texts of the Recommendations adopted at the 29th Session of the Commission. The texts were also published in the Report of the Session, made available on the GFCM website.

16. Upon completion of the six-month period following the transmission of the Recommendations adopted by the Commission, during which time no official objection was presented to this effect and, in accordance with Article V of the GFCM Agreement, the aforementioned Recommendations entered into force on 5 September 2005. The following day, Members were notified of the entry into force of these Recommendations.

17. With specific reference to GFCM Recommendation 2005/2, the Secretariat through the MedFisis project established the framework for the vessel register data base and defined the modalities for data entry and processing. In December 2005, only Spain had sent the corresponding data to the GFCM Secretariat.

Recruitment of Secretariat staff

18. By a letter dated 6 May 2005, the Chair of GFCM proposed to the Director General of FAO that the Executive Secretary be officially appointed with effect on 1 July 2005. Members were notified on 7 July.

19. In conformity with the adopted procedure¹³, the vacancy announcement for the post of Deputy Executive Secretary/Fisheries Management Adviser was issued on 19 May 2005 and Members were notified accordingly. The Selection panel, comprising the Chairs of GFCM and SAC, the First Vice-chair of CAQ, the Executive Secretary and three Senior FAO Officers, was convened on the 5th of August, at the FAO Headquarters, in order to review applications. Mr Abdellah Srour (Morocco) was selected as Deputy Executive Secretary of GFCM. The post was established on 27 May. Pursuant to paragraph 59 of the Report of the 29th Session, the appointment of Mr Srour took official effect on 15 October.

20. Due to financial and premises limitations, the recruitment of a (temporary) secretary/typist was delayed until December. The FAO Fisheries Department compensated partly this situation by making available to the GFCM Secretariat the services of a secretary on a part-time basis. The selection procedure for recruiting a permanent staff is being launched.

21. In view of the special circumstances related to the accounting, especially limited expenditures, it was thought to be premature to hire an Administrative/Financial Clerk. It is suggested to fill this position in 2006.

22. As decided by the Commission in July 2004¹⁴, the post of Bio-statistician within the Secretariat remained frozen and the FAO MedFisis project did its best to partly cover related functions (see document GFCM/XXX/30/Inf. 15). However, in view of the decisions made by the Commission in February 2005 in

¹³ Paragraphs 56-59 of the Report refers.

¹⁴ Paragraph 29 of the Report refers

relation to the GFCM Vessel Register and the priority acknowledged by SAC at its 8th Session concerning the establishment of the GFCM databases and information system¹⁵, there will be an urgent need to recruit in 2006 a Systems Analyst within the GFCM Secretariat (see Terms of Reference in document GFCM/XXX/2006/7).

23. Concerning activities related to aquaculture, as called for by the Commission¹⁶, funds were dedicated in priority to the strengthening of SIPAM and the re-establishment of EAM, and the Secretariat relied partly on consultancies to make up for the frozen post of Aquaculture Expert. Following the 8th SIPAM Annual Meeting in June 2005 at which the implementation programme for the revitalization of SIPAM (document GFCM/XXX/2006/Inf.13 refers) was endorsed, the Secretariat issued in July 2005 a consultancy vacancy announcement on the Internet. The ensuing selection process was hampered by the difficulty to identify adequate candidates for the Information/Communication Expert post, which made it necessary to extend the deadline for application beyond the foreseen date. A number of candidates were short-listed and interviewed, following which it was decided to establish a consultancy team composed of an information expert/web developer supported by contributions from an experienced aquaculture specialist (provided by Italy) recruited under the umbrella of the FAO Visiting Scientists Programme and complemented by the SIPAM FAO System designer. This team, responsible for the implementation of the revitalization project, is operating under the technical supervision of the MedFisis project.

GFCM intersessional meetings and meetings at which the Secretariat was represented

24. The Secretariat actively contributed during the intersession to the preparation and running of sixteen (16) meetings of the GFCM Committees and their subsidiary bodies, of the meeting of the Panel for the selection of the Deputy Executive Secretary, of the Thirtieth session of the Commission as well as meetings related to the GFCM Headquarters. One meeting of SAC and two meetings of CAQ subsidiary bodies have been postponed to early 2006. The Secretariat also participated to twenty (20) meetings with, or of, Partner organizations and entities, including meetings of the FAO Regional projects. The list of these meetings is provided in Appendix 4.

Publications

25. During the intersessional period, the Secretariat published eight (8) technical and administrative documents. It also prepared in draft for editing and publishing in January 2006, five (5) additional documents, to which seven (7) Reports from the four SAC Sub-Committees, maintained as grey literature, should be added. The list of the twenty publications, whether produced or in preparation, is provided in Appendix 5.

Issues related to the running of subsidiary bodies of the Commission

Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ)

26. Members were duly notified of the taking over by Ms Mariam Moussa (Egypt) of the chair of the Committee, following the resignation of CAQ's Chair announced at the 29th Session of GFCM. Following the recommendations of the Meeting of Experts on the External Evaluation of CAQ (March 2004), as further endorsed by CAQ¹⁷ and GFCM, related actions were taken as follows:

Concerning SIPAM:

- the SIPAM Coordination Committee was disbanded with its duties taken by the SIPAM Regional Center, in close coordination with the Secretariat;
- by letter dated 17 August 2005, and further remainders, GFCM Members participating to SIPAM were invited to provide and/or confirm the name of their respective SIPAM National Coordinators (NCs), taking due account of the mandate approved by the Commission accordingly which foresees the provision of steady institutional and financial backstopping from Members to permit the NCs to carry out their duties. As of December, 11 SIPAM Members out of 16 have responded positively;
- the SIPAM database operated by the Regional Center was administratively transferred within the central GFCM Data base and Information System, that is under the responsibilities of the GFCM Secretariat.

¹⁵ See GFCM/XXX/30/Inf.5. , paragraphs 84 and 89

¹⁶ Paragraphs 29 and 36 of the Report of the Extraordinary Session and paragraph .88 of the Report of the 29th Session.

¹⁷ Paragraphs 55-57 of the Report of the 4th Session (Document GFCM/XXX/30/Inf.6).

Consequently, the management of the Trust Fund (TEMP/INT/858/MUL - Assistance to Sipam) financed by the Government of Tunisia in support of the Regional Center was passed over from the FAO Fisheries Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries Service (FIRI) to the Executive Secretary.

Concerning EAM:

- as requested by CAQ and endorsed by GFCM, the Secretariat prepared draft Terms of Reference (ToRs) for EAM on the basis of the results of the Meeting of Experts for the re-establishment of EAM (document GFCM/XXX/2006/2 and Inf.17). It is suggested that EAM be re-established as a formal subsidiary body, e.g. a Working Party or a Permanent Working Group, of CAQ and resume activities in 2006.

Concerning TECAM and SELAM:

- the Secretariat examined with CIHEAM/IAMZ in August through an exchange of letters and in December at the EAM meeting, how future collaboration could be adequately structured¹⁸. There was consensus that these two entities did not need to work anymore under the present Network scheme and related Institutional Coordinator (CIHEAM/IAMZ) and, the TECAM and SELAM Coordination Committee meetings should be disbanded. TECAM and SELAM could be merged and formally re-established as a combined subsidiary body of CAQ, such as a Working Party or Permanent Working Group on Aquaculture Industry and Marketing (see document GFCM/XXX/2006/4).
- co-committantly, CIHEAM-IAMZ should be recognized as a primary Training Partner of the GFCM for short specialized courses, seminars and two ongoing Master Programmes, both with regard to Aquaculture (support to CAQ) and Fisheries (support to SAC). A proper Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the GFCM and CIHEAM would clarify terms and conditions, including financial implications, of such a renewed partnership. Notwithstanding the above, CIHEAM expressed its availability to pursue its active involvement in the work of the subsidiaries of CAQ, including EAM.

Joint GFCM/ICCAT ad hoc Working Group on Large Pelagic Species

27. As requested by the Commission¹⁹, the Secretariat, on behalf the GFCM Chairperson, circulated early November the draft Terms of Reference for the strengthening of the mandate of the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Species. It further presented the proposal at the Plenary Session of ICCAT in late November, together with a suggestion from SAC²⁰ on the convening in 2006 of a meeting of the Joint Working Group dedicated to swordfish. Both proposals were felt to be premature.

Headquarters of the Commission

28. Follow-up was ensured for the conclusion of the Exchange of Letter between FAO and the Government of Italy for extending to the new GFCM Headquarters the provisions of the FAO Headquarters Agreement, concluded in Washington on 31 October 1950, including the supplemental Agreement drew up on 16 October 1992, as amended.

29. The FAO Infrastructure and Facilities Management Service and the competent national counterparts jointly consolidated the project for the works needed for the setting up of the new seat of the Commission. Following the identification of minimum requirements for accommodating the needs of the Commission, estimates were established for restructuring and repair costs, feature of office premises and related equipments and for the yearly running costs, including utilities and maintenance. The draft project was appraised through a number of coordinating meetings held mid-2005 with the various national administrations involved with the remodelling work of the new headquarters with the result that the Italian authorities approved the renovation project for Palazzo Blumensthal late September 2005.

30. The new Headquarters, located in Via Vittoria Colonna, 1, occupy about 690 m² and have the possibility of being adapted for the needs of the different subsidiary bodies of the Commission. Taking into account its

¹⁸ As per paragraph 87 of the Report of the 29th session (Document GFCM/XXX/30/Inf.4).

¹⁹ Paragraph 55 of the Report of the 29th session.

²⁰ Paragraph 21 of the Report of the 8th session (Document GFCM/XXX/2006/Inf.5).

current physical state, the new headquarters will not be occupied immediately. It is estimated that at least 6 months, from the start of the repairs, will elapse before the Secretariat can move to its new premises.

Others

Visibility of GFCM outputs

31. The Secretariat also pursued efforts to enhance the visibility of the work of the Commission. A new set-up for the GFCM website is being designed with support from FAO/FIDI, and press releases have been delivered on major Mediterranean Fisheries issues.

Black Sea fisheries

32. At its 28th Session, the Commission noted²¹ the effort made by the Secretariat to strengthen cooperation with Black Sea riparian States, through the GEF-UNEP Black Sea Ecosystem Recovery Project (BSERP). As requested by the Commission²², a meeting, jointly organized by the Permanent Working Group on Stock Assessment Methodologies of SAC and the BSERP has been prepared and will be convened in early 2006, with the participation of scientists from all the Black Sea riparian countries. In addition, during the 26th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in March 2005, informal contacts were renewed with representatives from the Russian Federation in view of a possible adhesion to the GFCM. Similarly, taking advantage of the implementation of an FAO project on Fisheries and Aquaculture Planning in Georgia, contacts were also established with this country. In May 2005, in a letter addressed to FAO, the Director of Fisheries of Georgia expressed interest to join the GFCM and requested information on conditions and advantages of membership. The workload in the second half of 2005 did not permit the Secretariat to undertake an advocacy trip in the northern Black Sea countries, as initially planned²³.

Draft Compendium on GFCM Recommendations and decisions

33. With regard to the request made by the Commission²⁴ that the Secretariat prepare and maintain a compendium of GFCM recommendations with a view to better monitor the implementation of GFCM decisions and measures, a preliminary draft is made available as document GFCM/XXX/2006/11. In view of similar on going works in other Regional fisheries management organization, the Secretariat is of the opinion that the consolidation of this draft and the establishment of the related database would require further guidance by the Commission.

34. Several other tasks that are coordinated directly by the Executive Secretary or his Deputy are not referred here. These include for example: coordination of communications with Delegates, strengthening cooperation with partner organizations, coordination of editing, translation and distribution of documents, updating the Web pages and contribution to the coordination of the FAO Regional projects supporting the work of the Commission, or contributing to the formulation of projects such as the GEF Large Marine Ecosystem project for the Mediterranean.

V. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

35. The Commission is invited to review the present status of acceptance of the amendments relative to the autonomous budget in relation to the balance between forecasted and received contributions for the 2005 autonomous budget, including the use of arrears.

36. The Commission may wish to discuss the content of the financial and the administrative reports of the Secretariat and provide general guidance on issues related to the *modus operandi* of the Secretariat in 2006.

²¹ Paragraph 20 of the Report of the 28th Session

²² Paragraph 90 of the Report of the 29th Session.

²³ See Annex 3 of document GFCM/ES/2004/3.

²⁴ Paragraph 70 of the Report of the 29th Session.

APPENDIX 1: Status of acceptance of the GFCM Agreement, as amended

Members	Acceptance
Albania	10 October 2003
Algeria	26 April 2005
Croatia	28 November 2003
Cyprus	3 August 2000
European Community	27 July 2000
France	30 October 2002
Greece	29 August 2002
Italy	23 August 2000
Japan	30 July 2004
Lebanon	4 March 2005
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	23 December 2003
Malta	23 December 1999
Monaco	12 June 2001
Romania	1 October 2003
Serbia and Montenegro	8 January 2003
Slovenia	29 April 2004
Spain	15 February 2002
Tunisia	30 June 2003
Turkey	5 June 2000

APPENDIX 2 Status of contributions on 21 December 2005

Members	Contribution Due	Contribution Received	Outstanding Contribution
ALBANIA	4,166.00	4,153.00	13.00
ALGERIA	25,310.00	25,310.00	0.00
BULGARIA ⁽²⁾	7,496.00	0.00	7,496.00
CYPRUS	29,180.00	29,180.00	0.00
CROATIA	11,023.00	11,023.00	0.00
EGYPT ⁽²⁾	35,328.00	0.00	35,328.00
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY	260,682.00	260,682.00	0.00
FRANCE	29,180.00	29,180.00	0.00
GREECE	29,180.00	29,168.00	12.00
ISRAEL ⁽¹⁾	31,580.00	0.00	31,580.00
ITALY	29,180.00	29,180.00	0.00
JAPAN	55,266.00	55,266.00	0.00
LEBANON	6,714.00	0.00	6,714.00
LIBYA	14,639.00	0.00	14,639.00
MALTA	3,187.00	3,179.05	7.95
MONACO	5,788.00	5,788.00	0.00
MOROCCO ⁽²⁾	13,073.00	0.00	13,073.00
ROMANIA	6,106.00	0.00	6,106.00
SERBIA and MONTENEGRO	5,922.00	0.00	5,922.00
SLOVENIA	29,180.00	29,175.00	5.00
SPAIN	29,180.00	29,170.00	10.00
SYRIA ⁽²⁾	6,557.00	0.00	6,557.00
TUNISIA	32,406.00	33,521.50	-1,115.50
TURKEY	64,615.00	0.00	64,615.00
Totals	764,938.00	573,975.55	190,962.45

Remark:

- (1) Hypothetical figure, as the Member did not vote for the selection of the Executive Secretary.
- (2) Voted for the selection of the Executive Secretary; not yet deposited their instruments of acceptance.

Note :

As of end of December 2005:

- fourteen (14) Members have deposited their instruments of acceptance and remitted their contributions.
- five (5) Members have deposited their instruments of acceptance but have not paid their contribution.
- four (4) Members have not deposited their instruments of acceptance, have participated to the vote for the selection of the Executive Secretary and have not paid their contributions.
- one (1) Member has not deposited its instrument of acceptance. Nor participated to the vote nor contributed.

By the end of December, 75% percent of the autonomous budget (or 78% excluding the Member that has not voted; and 92% considering only Members that have deposited their instruments of acceptance) was recovered.

APPENDIX 3: Explanatory note on budget expenditures by chapters

Comments by chapters below are based on the FAO/Oracle Trust Funds standard budget line allocations, taking into consideration to possible extend the budget lines used to forecast the autonomous budget as adopted at the 2004 Extraordinary Session. It should be noted that reallocation and secondment of funds among Oracle budget lines resulted in some chapters being over-allocated (e.g.: General Operating Expenses represented 33% of total allocation from the 2004 forecast) or being under-allocated (e.g.: the chapter 8, relative to Charge back, supported an important share of costs related to interpretation, publications and seed support to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of SAC and CAQ, resulting in a negative line. The “2004” budget line formerly which amounted to 27% of total forecast (2004) was split in the oracle system respectively under travel, contracts, general operating expanses and chargeback according to the component of the meeting concerned (e.g. travel or honorarium of interpreters, publication of statutory reports (GFCM and SAC), shipment of documents, etc.). Total Expenses in Table 1 comprise settled payments up to 21 December 2005 and commitments made up to the end of January 2006.

Chapter 1: Secretariat

Sub-chapters mainly cover salaries and remuneration of Secretariat staff, including a number of overhead costs and allowances (e.g.: basic medical plan; pension plan; child allowance, etc.) which were not fully considered in the 2004 autonomous budget forecast. US \$ 164 452 were charged for two staff in the Professional and Higher Categories (an Executive Secretary from July 2005 and a Deputy Executive Secretary from October 2005 (including salaries committed for January 2006), as well as a staff in the General Service category (an administrative clerk) covering January 2006). The forecasted salaries of two General Service staff in 2005 were uncommitted, as the status of the autonomous budget hardly allowed it until the last quarter of the year and related services (with the exception of travel and *per diem*) were made available through FAO.

Salaries of the SIPAM consultant and visiting scientist on a part-time basis in January were charged under the line Training and not accounted for in this chapter.

Chapters 2 and 3: Consultants and contracts

These two chapters cover: support to experts in relation to the meeting on the re-establishment of EAM and the 8th SIPAM Annual Meeting as well as wages for a visiting scientist to prepare related background document and database; contracts for the preparation of guidelines on the use of the operational unit concept.

Chapter 4: Travel

This relates to the list of meetings provided in Appendix 6 and comprises air tickets and *per diem* during duty travel for non-staff (e.g: experts, consultants, interpreters; Members of GFCM bureau) and secretariat staff for their participation, as relevant, to meetings of SAC and CAQ subsidiaries, SAC and GFCM sessions, the Steering Committee meetings of FAO Regional projects and meetings of GFCM partner organizations (e.g.: UNEP/RAC; ICCAT).

Chapter 5: Training

Only the costs related to the SIPAM revitalization team were charged under this chapter. Secretariat staff training (languages) was allocated to Chargeback. Forecasted allowance in support of TECAM/SELAM course was unused but covered by FAO.

Chapter 5: General operating expenses

This chapter and sub-chapters cover running costs (electricity, cleaning of premises, heating, etc.), operation and maintenance of equipment, security services and miscellaneous. Only expenditures (US \$75) related to Secretariat mobile phones were charged. Running costs were covered by FAO. The miscellaneous sub-chapter was initially arranged to accommodate all meeting, publication and running costs as per the 2004 forecasts, but were thereafter reallocated to their parent budget lines in accordance to the Oracle system set-up.

Chapter 6: General overhead expenses

Expenditures covered contingencies, especially the shipment of meeting documents by DHL for the 8th Session of SAC and the 30th Session of GFCM.

Chapter 7: Equipment

This comprises expendable and non-expendable procurement sub-chapters. Expenditure included the renewal (US\$ 2317) of the private contract (with Winapply, S.r.l) to host the SIPAM system and the transfer of the GFCM website account to the FAO Server. Commitments for the purchase of two portable computers and software have been added to the line.

Chapter 8: Charge back

Costs related to interpretation (excluding travel and *per diem*) for the 8th Session of SAC and the 30th Session of GFCM, as well as expenditures for translation and internal printing of sessions documents were charged to this line. It also comprises book acquisition, support of technicians at meetings of subsidiary bodies (e.g.: electrician), official translation (e.g.: Call for fund letter; letter of invitation to statutory meetings) and the overtime of General service staffs.

In addition, expenditures and commitments related to the editing and printing and/or publication of reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Committees (e.g: Reports of the Joint GFCM/ICCAT ad hoc Working Group on Sustainable Bluefin Tuna Farming; Workshop on IUU fishing; Workshops on gear selectivity, and Workshop on Reference Points (committed)) as well as all monographies published (or in the pipeline) under the GFCM Studies and Reviews series, as detailed in Appendix 6 of this document, have been charged to this line. The compulsory reallocation through the Oracle system of part of the 2004 forecasted expenses related to seed financial support to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the GFCM Committees (including commitments made for the preparation of CAQ meeting on sustainable indicators for aquaculture; the SAC Permanent Working Group on Stock Assessment Methodologies (PWGSAM)), as well as to “scientific publications” to which unbudgeted expenses (e.g.: official translations) should be added, induced a negative balance of US \$ 50 536 for this chapter.

Chapter 9: FAO support costs.

The FAO support costs represent 4.5% of total expenditures, *as per* GFCM Financial Regulation III (5).

There was no extra-budgetary expense made or income received in 2005. The projected balance (received contributions minus expenditures and commitments made), as of 20 December, resulted positive (US\$ 243,743).

Finally, it should be noted that the above budgetary statements corresponded to an interim accounting phase and that in the future forecasted allocations should be made closer to the Oracle management system schemes, so as to ensure a better visibility of settled expenses.

APPENDIX 4: Summary GFCM budget forecast (Extraordinary session, 2004)

ITEMS	FAO Contribution	Autonomous Budget US\$
A) SECRETARIAT		
Secretary (D1)		145 000
Deputy secretary/Fishery manag.adv. (P5)		130 000
Secretary / typist (G5-G4)		42 000
Financial/Administrative clerk (G4)		40 000
Consultants/experts		0
Equipment (<i>offered by the hosting Country</i>)		0
Running costs		15 000
Travel		36 000
Statistician (Frozen)		0
SUBTOTAL	0	408 000
B) FAO TECHNICAL BACKSTOPPING		
SUBTOTAL	94 250	
C) MEETINGS		
C1) Statutory Meetings (SAC and GFCM)		
SUBTOTAL		116 000
C2) Meeting of subsidiaries for capture fisheries		
Subcommittees + 3 WGs		20 000
WG fishing effort		5 000
WG on operational unit		5 000
WG on IUU		5 000
WG Selectivity		5 000
SUBTOTAL	0	40 000
C3) Meetings of subsidiaries for Aquaculture		
SIPAM annual meeting		8 000
Expert meeting EAM		15 000
SELAM/SIPAM (<i>workshop on item to be better redefined</i>)		10 000
Expert meeting 'Management of marine hatcheries'		10 000
SUBTOTAL	0	43 000
D) SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS		
SUBTOTAL	0	28 000
E) OTHER ACTIVITIES		
SIPAM		67 000
SIPAM Officer		30 000
GFCM Website Maintenance	19 750	0
GFCM Logo and Booklet	2 500	0
SUBTOTAL	22 250	97 000
TOTAL	116 500	732 000
FAO SERVICING COSTS 4,5%		32 940
GRAND TOTAL	116 500	764 940

APPENDIX 6. Meetings

GFCM Intersessional Meetings

In accordance with Commission decisions on this subject, 16 meetings were held during the intersession as follows:

- SAC/SCSA Workshop on Gear Selectivity. 9-11 February 2005, Sète, France
- CAQ/TECAM advanced course on “Design and management of bivalve mollusc hatcheries”. Zaragoza, Spain, 14-19 February 2005
- 3rd Joint GFCM/ICCAT ad hoc Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Farming in the Mediterranean, Rome, Italy, 16–18 March 2005
- CAQ/TECAM course on "Use of Geographic Information Systems in Fisheries and Aquaculture"; Zaragoza, Spain, 13-24 June 2005.
- CAQ/ SIPAM Annual Meeting , Split, Croatia, 21-23 June 2005
- SAC/SCSI transversal Workshop on Measurement of Fishing Effort, and SCSI transversal Working Group on Operational Units. Tangiers, Morocco, 4-6 July 2005.
- SAC/SCMEE transversal Workshop on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, 7-9 September, Salammbô, Tunisia
- SAC/SCSI transversal Workshop on GFCM Statistical Framework and Databases, including IUU white list, 26 September, Rome, Italy
- SAC/SCSA, Annual meeting, including WGs on demersal and small-pelagic species, 26-30 September, Rome, Italy
- SAC/SCESS, Annual Meeting, 27-30 September, Rome , Italy.
- SAC/SCSI, Annual Meeting, 27-30 September, Rome , Italy.
- SAC/SCMEE, Annual Meeting, 27-30 September, Rome , Italy.
- Informal SAC/Coordination Meeting of the Sub-Committees (CMSC), 30 September, Rome, Italy
- SAC/Coordination Meeting of the Sub-Committees (CMSC), 24 October, Tirana, Albania
- SAC: Eighth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee, 25-28 October, Tirana, Albania
- CAQ/Expert meeting for the re-establishment of EAM, Rome, Italy, 7-9 December 2005;
- GFCM Meeting of the Selection Panel for the Deputy Executive Secretary, Rome, Italy

Meetings at which GFCM was represented²⁵

The meetings, at which GFCM was represented through its Secretariat, are the following.

- FAO/GFCM/CIHEAM, Advance course on the “Design and Management of Bivalve Mollusc Hatcheries”, Zaragoza, Spain, 14-19 February 2005 (*);
- 26th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), Rome, Italy, March 7- 11 2005;
- 4th Meeting of Regional Fisheries Bodies, Rome, Italy, March 14-15, 2005;
- SAC/SCSI- EC informal meeting on statistics and data bases. FAO, Rome, May 10 2005;
- MEDISAMAK, Seminar on Small-scale Fishing, Ancona, Italy, 13 May 2005;
- 13th Meeting of the FAO CopeMed Project Coordination Committee, Tunis, Tunisia, 24-25 May 2005;

²⁵ (*) by an FAO backstopping Officer

- 7th Meeting of National Focal Points of UNEP-RAC/SPAs (Special Protected Areas), Sevilla, Spain, 31 May-3 June, 2005 (*).
- ICCAT/SCRS Sub-committee on Statistics, Madrid, Spain, 26-27 September 2005 (*);
- Meeting on “Aquaculture, Fishing and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Sea”, Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Izmir, Turkey, 3-4 October 2005(*);
- Meeting of the ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), Madrid, Spain, October, 3- 7, 2005;
- CRES-UILA. Training Seminar on Responsible Fisheries in the Tyrrhenian Sea, Pozzuoli, Italy, 8 October 2005;
- 7th Meeting of the FAO AdriaMed Project Coordination Committee. Ljubljana, Slovenia, 10-12 October 2005;
- UNEP. Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, Portoroz, Slovenia, 8-11 November 2005;
- Conference on Marine Biodiversity, Fisheries Management and Marine Protected Areas, European Parliament, Brussels, 10 November, 2005. (*);
- Slow Food- International Conference on “The Sea: one resource, many responsibilities. Practices and policies, Genova, Italy, 11-13 November 2005 (*);
- FAO Regional Workshop on factors of unsustainability and overexploitation- West Africa and South/East Mediterranean, Dakar, Senegal, 28 November- 1 December 2005 (*);
- FAO/FIRMS Technical Working Group Meeting, FAO, Rome, 5-8 December 2005;
- GEF/UNEP Inception meeting on the PDF B Project “Strategic Partnership for Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem”, Athens, Greece, 8 - 9 December 2005. (*);
- UNEP/MAP Workshop on non-indigenous species in the Mediterranean, (Rome, Italy, 6-7 December 2005). - Arab conference on the “Role of statistics, information and databases in the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in the arab countries”. Arab Union of Fish Producers. Cairo, Egypt, 13-14 December2005;
- ACCOBAMS/GFCM Secretariat, informal coordinating meeting, FAO, Rome, 22 December 2005.

Appendix 6: List of publications produced and in the pipeline**1. Publications issued in 2005**

- Report of the 7th Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), Rome, 19-22 October 2004. *FAO Fisheries Report*. No 763 (Bi), Rome, 2005
- Report of the Twenty-ninth Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), Rome, Italy, 21-25 February 2005. *GFCM Report* No 29, Rome, 2005.
- Report of the GFCM Workshop on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in the Mediterranean, Rome, 23 and 26 June 2004. *FAO Fisheries Report*. No 767, Rome, 2005.
- Report of the Third Meeting of the GFCM/ICCAT *ad hoc* Working Group on Sustainable Tuna Farming in the Mediterranean, Rome, Italy, 16-18 March 2005. *FAO Fisheries Report*. No 779, Rome.
- Report of the 8th Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), Tirana, Albania, 25-28 October 2005. *FAO Fisheries Report*. No 789 (Bi), Rome. (Advance copy)
- Fisheries Laws and Regulations in the Mediterranean: A Comparative Study. *GFCM Studies and Reviews* No 75. Rome, 2005.
- Implementation of the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing: Relationship to, and Potential effects on, Fisheries Management in the Mediterranean. *GFCM Studies and Reviews* No 76, Rome, 2005.
- Interaction between Aquaculture and Capture Fisheries: A methodological Perspective. *GFCM Studies and Reviews* No 78, Rome, 2005.

2. Documents prepared in draft (in the pipeline) to be published early 2006

- Report of the Workshop on standardization of Selectivity Methods applied to Trawling. Sète, France, 9-11 February 2005.
- SCIS Report of the Working Group on Operational Units, including the Workshop on Fishing Effort Measurement, Tangiers, Morocco, 4-6 July 2005.
- Report of the Workshop on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries. Salammbô, Tunisia, 7-9 September 2005.
- Report of the Seventh Session of the Sub-Committee for Stock Assessment (SCSA). Rome, Italy, 26-30 September 2005.
- Report of the Sixth Session of the Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE). Rome, Italy, 27-30 September 2005.
- Report of the Sixth Session of the Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information (SCSI). Rome, Italy, 26-30 September 2005.
- Report of the Sixth Session of the Sub-Committee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS). Rome, Italy, 27-30 September 2005.
- Inventory of Artisanal Fishery Communities in the Western-Central Mediterranean. Draft *GFCM Studies and Reviews* No 77.
- MedStat - An Adaptive Approach for the Improvement of Fishery Statistical Systems in Mediterranean Countries under FAO Projects. Draft *GFCM Studies and Reviews* No 79.
- Biological Reference Points for Mediterranean Fisheries. Draft *GFCM Studies and Reviews* No 80.
- An Index list of GFCM Publications.1952-2005. Draft *GFCM Studies and Reviews* No 81.
- Guideline for the use of the Operational Unit Concept. Draft *GFCM Studies and Reviews* No 82.