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GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION
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GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

Sixth Session

Tirana, Albania, 17-19 December 2008

**PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2009 – 2010 AND
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

INTRODUCTION

1. The 2009-2010 programme of work for the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) intends to pursue the implementation of the medium-term initiatives identified in November 2006 during the first Coordinating Meeting of the Working groups (CMWG), as subsequently endorsed by the Commission. It is based on the results so far achieved during the 2007-2008 intersessional period (see document GFCM/CAQ/VI/2008/3). Details on suggested activities are provided for the year 2009 only, although indications on some priorities are also identified for 2010. It is indeed assumed that the CMWG will meet before the end of the 2009, fiscal year, to provide guidance on the details of the 2010 activities for the subsidiary bodies of CAQ and their supporting projects

2. The preliminary 2009 workplan concentrates on the Working Group on Marketing on Aquaculture (WGMA); the Working Group on Siting and Carrying Capacity (WGSC); the Working Group on Sustainability on Aquaculture (WGSA) and rely on the activities of specific programme and projects that support these Working Groups, namely the project on the “*Development of a strategy for marketing and promotion of Mediterranean aquaculture products*” which supports the WGMA, the project “*Indicators for sustainable Development of Aquaculture and guidelines for their use in the Mediterranean (InDAM)*” which supports the WGSA and the programme “*Developing siting and carrying capacity guidelines for the*

Mediterranean aquaculture within aquaculture appropriate area (ShocMed)” which supports the WGSC. The activities of the System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM) are also identified. Additional activities which may arise, for 2009 or 2010, from discussions around new issues (see document GFCM:CAQ/VI/2008/3) during the sixth session of the Committee would need to be added in the activities of the concerned working group, or developed as a stand alone undertaking or project. (e.g.: certification and traceability).

WORKING GROUP ON AQUACULTURE MARKETING (WGMA)

3. In 2009, the WGMA will continue to put emphasis in implementing the activities laid down in the Project on Marketing of Aquaculture Products with the view to identifying a development strategy. The WGMA would need to identify before July 2009 the details of the activities and timeframe for the second phase of the project.

As such, the 2009 activities of the WGMA will include:

- Preparation of a regional synthesis and qualitative assessment of the Mediterranean Markets based on the results of the on-going national reviews of finfish marine aquaculture products.
- Identification of a mid term strategy for the development of marketing of aquaculture products.
- Design and incorporation in the SIPAM Information System, of a Regional Marketing data base on finfish marine aquaculture products.
- Publication of the review entitled “Market Study on Mediterranean Meagre (*Argyrosomus regius*)” and identification and preparation of another special study on a commodity other than seabass and seabream.
- Preparation of the formulation of the second phase of 2010 workplan and project, on the basis of the above draft mid-term strategy, including detailed indications on how to address the issue of image of aquaculture products.

WORKING GROUP ON SITING AND CARRYING CAPACITY (WGSC)

4. The WGSC will concentrate on implementing the ShocMed programme as further updated at its October 2008 meeting (see GFCM/CAQ/VI/2008/Inf.10) with emphasis on producing criteria for enhancing the integration of finfish marine aquaculture in the coastal area.

In particular, the 2009 activities of the WGSC will include:

- Address the main issues related to marine ecosystem such as sensitive habitats, uses of the coastal zone, environmental peculiarities, including through reviewing relevant sources of information and scientific evidence for thresholds related to major environmental changes determined by finfish aquaculture and, identify environmental attributes affected by and affecting aquaculture, such as a function of depth, distance from shore, current regime, etc.
- Review existing procedures for site selection and evaluate the effectiveness of regulatory schemes and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIE) procedures and analyse major gaps in the regulatory framework, reporting and communication for monitoring programmes of finfish aquaculture activities.
- Organize a Workshop on National legislations related to Siting and Carrying Capacity, monitoring programmes and EIA regulatory framework for finfish aquaculture.
- Design and implement a data entry-tool to store available (or published) environmental data, as well as data referred to the environment monitoring of the marine fish farms surroundings. The data base will be incorporate into the SIPAM information system.
- Organize a Workshop on experiences concerning the allocation of zones within an ecosystem perspective¹.
- Organize a multi-stakeholder Workshop on Siting and Carrying Capacity to finalize priorities and to prepare the detailed programme of ShocMed for 2010.

Furthermore the following activities have been identified by the WGSC to be carried out in 2010 through ShocMed.

- Environmental Quality Standards (EQS), Review and define a list of environmental variables essential for monitoring of marine finfish aquaculture (O₂, phyto, turbidity, nutrient concentration, sediment organic matter, macrofauna, redox potential, sediment). Environmental Quality Standards will be defined in order to have a common standard including methodology. This work could be based on the expert approach (Delphi) at

¹ The meeting is subject to funds availability otherwise it is to be postponed to 2010.

Mediterranean level with the possibility of implementing some case studies (to be considered depending on budget availability).

- Environmental Impact Assessment. Discussion and definition of the minimum and common requirements and good practice at Mediterranean level.
- Monitoring of Marine Aquaculture. Definition of agreed protocols and procedures for the implementation of monitoring activities for marine finfish aquaculture in consideration of the list of parameters and EQS identified.

WORKING GROUP ON AQUACULTURE SUSTAINABILITY (WGSA)

5. The WGSC will concentrate on implementing the activities of the first year of InDAM on the basis of its November 2008 Workshop (see document GFCM/CAQ/VI/2008/Inf.11), with emphasis on testing reliable indicators and relative reference points, and standards for use by the different stakeholders (farmers, user of the coastal zone, decision-makers, NGOs, etc.).

In particular, the 2009 activities of the WGSA will include:

- Finalize the preliminary list of multidisciplinary indicators and reference points in relation to agreed methodology.
- Organize an interdisciplinary Workshop on the identification, for each selected indicator: of its level of contribution to aquaculture sustainability; its implementation feasibility; the methodology applied for its measurement.
- Develop and implement one or more Pilot study (ies) to test and refine, as appropriate, the methodological framework and sets of indicators.
- Establish synergies and cooperation with other projects or Mediterranean initiatives, regional and national Research and Development programs, related to sustainable development of Mediterranean marine aquaculture.
- Prepare draft guidelines for the use of indicators and reference points, including feasibility, practicability, expertise requirement, cost effectiveness, etc.
- Organize a multi-stakeholder Workshop to finalize priorities and to prepare a detailed programme for InDAM in 2010, with focus on the follow-up to the Pilot study (ies).

INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR THE PROMOTION OF AQUACULTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN - SIPAM ²

6. The 2009 SIPAM activities will follow-up on the priorities indicated by the 32nd session of GFCM and on guidance provided by each Working groups in the field of information and statistics. This will include the following.

- Improvement of the Production Statistics and Production Centre data bases, including on data entry system and data reporting.
- Development of new sections, respectively on Marketing, Siting and Carrying Capacity and on Sustainable Indicators and integration of these sections in the SIPAM data bases system, together with dynamic bibliographic information for each section.
- Production of dynamic national and regional reports and management and maintenance of the System, including the consolidation of the SIPAM portal.
- Finalisation of the hand over process from the SIPAM Regional Centre in Tunisia to the GFCM Secretariat.
- Publication and distribution of the “Operational users guide” to support the management of the Warehouse with the specification of the new data format and new features.
- Organisation of a Workshop on the harmonisation standards for Mediterranean Aquaculture data collection, including aspects related to the format and terminologies.

MEETINGS

7. The list of proposed meetings is summarised in Appendix I.

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

8. The activities indicated above will continue to be carried out through strengthened cooperation and coordination with CAQ partners, especially IUCN, CIHEAM and FEAP, as well as with other relevant programmes, networks and institutions involved in Mediterranean aquaculture.

9. It is assumed that in accordance with the relevant provisions of the GFCM Agreement, Members will ensure technical and scientific contributions from relevant national experts and institutions, to the work of the Working groups. Stronger inputs from the FAO Regional Projects, such as on the issue of interaction between fisheries and aquaculture,

² At the time of the preparation of this document the 10th SIPAM annual meeting was not held, therefore some additional activities could be included and other planned activities reoriented.

would represent an additional asset and support for implementing CAQ workplan at sub-regional level.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

10. The preliminary 2009 workplan is expected to be mostly funded by donors and complemented with some resource from the GFCM autonomous budget. It expresses a conservative estimate of minimum requirements for each of the CAQ subsidiary bodies. It is based on confirmed level of contributions by concerned donors and would benefit from increased funding through additional contributions and/or donors. Elements indicating tentative costs of activities, including donors' contribution are provided in Appendix II.

11. Aside the 7th session of CAQ and the 10th session of SIPAM which can be forecasted, it is suggested that an intersessional Coordination Meeting of the Working Groups will provide the details of the 2010 activities for the subsidiary bodies of CAQ, on the basis of an in depth review of their 2009 achievements, to be presented at the 34th session of GFCM. This course of action would be in line with the schedule of the projects supporting the Working groups which are funded on a yearly basis.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS BY THE COMMITTEE

12. The Committee is invited to discuss the proposed programme of work and the funding requirements for the intersessional period 2009 – 2010 with regards to the subsidiary bodies and related activities in support to the Committee on Aquaculture.

Appendix I

2009/2010 MEETINGS

Title	Period	Place
SIPAM–Harmonisation standars for Mediterranean Aquaculture Data Collection	March 2009	TBD
WGSC–Regional Meeting on National legislation on Siting , Monitoring programmes and EIA regulatory framework for finfish marine aquaculture	May 2009	TBD
WGMA–Meeting “Development of a Strategy for Marketing and Promotion of Mediterranean Aquaculture”	July 2009	TBD
WGSC–Multistakeholder Workshop on Siting and Carrying Capacity (SHOCMED)	October 2009	TBD
WGSA–Workshop on guidelines and application on sustainable indicators in aquaculture (INDAM)	November 2009	TBD
CMWG–Coordination Meeting of the Working Groups	December 2009	Rome
WGSC–Workshop on Mediterranean integrated zone allocation for marine aquaculture	2009/2010	TBD
SIPAM–11th Annual Meeting	2009/2010	TBD
Seventh Session of CAQ	2010	TBD

Appendix II

Preliminary forecasted costs for CAQ 2009 Workplan

Items	US\$ ³	Donors
WG MARKETING ON AQUACULTURE (WGMA)		
<i>Consultants</i>	64,000.00	
<i>Travel</i>	30,000.00	
<i>Expendable Procurement</i>	7,000.00	
<i>Indirect costs</i>	7,000.00	
Total WGMA⁴ Marketing project	108,000.00	108,000.00
WG SITING AND CARRYNG CAPACITY (WGSC)		
<i>Consultants</i>	33,265.58	
<i>Travel</i>	33,529.11	
<i>Expendable Procurement</i>	6,468.31	
<i>Indirect costs</i>	7,645.54	
Total WGSC³ SHOCMED	80,908.53	51,974.13
WG SUSTAINABILITY ON AQUACULTURE (WGSA)		
<i>Consultants / Contracts</i>	33,635.19	
<i>Travel</i>	39,456.66	
<i>Expendable Procurement</i>	7,761.97	
<i>Indirect costs</i>	7,300.13	
Total WGSA³ INDAM	88,153.95	84,760.67
SIPAM⁵		
Data maintenance and data management⁴	22,000.00	
Workshop on Harmonisation standards for Aquaculture Data Collection	14,000.00	
Software updating and server maintenance⁴	10,000.00	
WGSC–Workshop on Mediterranean integrated zone allocation for marine aquaculture	24,000.00	
Coordinating Meeting of the Working groups	10,000.00	

³ Costs of the different GFCM staff assigned to the Projects and FAO technical backstopping officers are not indicated. Change rate Euro: US Dollars 1: 0.774

⁴ Costs considered within the Market, ShocMed and InDAM Projects (both GFCM / Donors).

⁵ Costs for which contribution is requested from the GFCM autonomous budget and is considered on annual basis