

Criteria for obtaining the status of cooperating non-contracting party in GFCM area

NOTING the imperative international responsibility concerning the conservation of the living marine resources in the Mediterranean Sea for the needs of present and future generations;

NOTING that the sustainability can be ensured only if all the Parties which fish for marine resources cooperate with the Commission, which is the competent international body for the conservation and management of these marine resources within its area of competence;

ADOPTS, in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 1 (h) of Article III and Article V of the GFCM Agreement that:

1. Each year, on the basis of information supplied to GFCM by Members, the Secretary shall contact all non-Contracting Parties known to be fishing in the GFCM Area for species under GFCM competence to urge them to become a Contracting Party to GFCM in accordance with the provisions of the GFCM Agreement, or attain the status of a Co-operating non-Contracting Party. In doing so, the Secretary shall provide a copy of all relevant Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by the Commission;
2. Any non-Contracting Party requesting the status of a co-operating non-Contracting Party shall apply to the Secretary. Requests must be received by the Executive Secretary no later than ninety (90) days in advance of an Annual Session of the Commission, to be considered at that meeting;
3. Non-Contracting Parties requesting the status of Co-operating non-Contracting Party shall provide the following information in order to have this status considered by the Commission:
 - a) where available, data on its historical fisheries in the GFCM Area, including nominal catches, number/type of vessels, name of fishing vessels, fishing effort and fishing areas;
 - b) all the data that Contracting Parties have to submit to GFCM based on the recommendations and resolutions adopted by GFCM;
 - c) details on current fishing presence in the GFCM Area, number of vessels and vessel characteristics; and
 - d) information on any research programmes it may have conducted in the GFCM Area and the information and the results of this research.
4. An applicant for Co-operating non-Contracting Party shall also:
 - a) confirm its commitment to respect the Commission's conservation and management measures and;
 - b) inform GFCM of the measures it takes to ensure compliance by its vessels of GFCM conservation and management measures.
5. The Compliance Committee shall be responsible for reviewing requests for co-operating status and for recommending to the Commission whether or not an applicant should receive co-operating status. In this review, the Compliance Committee shall also consider information regarding the applicant available from other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) as well as data submission

of the applicant. Caution shall be used so as not to introduce into the GFCM Area the excessive fishing capacity of other regions or IUU fishing activities by granting cooperating status to the applicant;

6. Co-operating non-Contracting Parties status shall be annually reviewed and renewed unless revoked by the Commission due to non-compliance with GFCM conservation and management measures.