



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



<b>GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN</b>
<b>Fifth session of the Compliance Committee (CoC)</b>
<b>Thirty-fifth Session of the Commission</b>
<b>Rome, Italy, 9-14 May 2011</b>
<b>REPORT OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE Athens, Greece, 12-17 April 2010</b>

#### **OPENING OF THE SESSION**

1. The fourth session of the Compliance Committee of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) was held in Athens, Greece on 12 and 13 April 2010.
2. The Session was attended by delegations of fifteen Members and observers from OCEANA and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
3. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the Compliance Committee (CoC), Mr Boudjelida Khatir (Algeria), who welcomed the participants.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION**

4. The Chairman invited the delegations to consider the draft agenda before the Committee. It was adopted without changes as given in Appendix A.
5. The documents at the disposal of the Committee are listed in Appendix C.

## STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF GFCM DECISIONS BY MEMBERS

6. Mr Abdellah Srour, Acting Executive Secretary, introduced this item on the basis of document COC:IV/2010/2, "Status of Implementation of GFCM Decisions by the Members", and presented the information reported by Members to the Secretariat through the standard reporting form. He highlighted the fact that very few Members had submitted their National Report well in advance of the meeting and this situation did not allow for the Secretariat to conduct a thorough analysis of their content.

7. The Committee noted that more time is needed to review the implementation of decisions by Members and pondered on the possibility of convening the Committee's session at a different period to that of the Commission and for a longer duration.

8. The European Union tabled a proposal concerning the identification of non-compliance, aiming to improve the monitoring of compliance by Members and to enhance the working procedures of the CoC. The Committee agreed in principal with the proposal whilst noting the suggestion made by some delegations that criteria for the identification of non-compliance of Members need to be better defined. In this context, it decided to call upon an ad hoc working group composed of some participants to review and fine tune the proposal before being submitted to the Commission for its consideration.

9. Some delegations stressed on the fact that technical and financial resources may not always be available at national level in order to fully comply with certain decisions. In this respect, they called upon FAO regional projects for additional support in technical capacity building.

10. Furthermore, the Committee agreed that, from now on, requests for the submission of national reports on compliance as well as required data submission should be channelled through the official diplomatic channels.

11. In relation to Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/1 concerning the fisheries restricted area in the Gulf of Lions, WWF representative expressed concern that with the current management measure applied to the FRA, compliance is difficult to assess, as validation tools are lacking to establish a credible list of vessels that fished in the area of the FRA in 2008, especially for vessels below 15m that are not equipped with VMS.

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**STATUS OF DATA AND INFORMATION SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS AND MANAGEMENT OF GFCM DATABASES BY THE SECRETARIAT**

12. Mr Matthew Camilleri (GFCM Secretariat), delivered a presentation on the status of submission of data and information, as well as the progress made in the development and management of related databases by the Secretariat, on the basis of document COC:IV/2010/2 and considering submissions delivered during the last few weeks prior to the meeting. He referred individually to the twelve different frameworks within which Members are obliged to submit data and information, highlighting the status of compliance by Members together with the quality of data submitted.

13. Mr Camilleri also briefly introduced the Task 1 Regional Database and Information System, currently under development by the Secretariat, which imports data files compliant with the established standards and business rules, and includes various data processing functions and outputs useful for both scientists and managers alike.

14. The Committee noted significant progress made by some Members in submitting data particularly those connected to Task 1 and aquaculture production, with ten and thirteen Members submitting data respectively. With regards to aquaculture data, the Committee observed, however, that some countries involved in the production of large quantities of aquaculture products had not submitted any data yet.

15. On other fronts, the Committee stressed that more effort and commitment was required in submitting and updating data and called upon delegations to ensure that data submission standards and protocols are adhered to when affecting such submissions. Furthermore, the Committee agreed that the GFCM Unique Identifier must be included in all lists of vessels submitted to the Secretariat in order to ensure the sound management of the concerned databases including the historical tracking of vessels.

16. Some delegations reiterated the need for support from FAO regional projects in the field of data collection and database development, in order to place themselves in a favourable condition to submit the required information.

17. The Committee congratulated the Secretariat for the progress made in the development of regional databases and for the extensive amount of work conducted in the fields of data management and statistics.

## **FOLLOW UP TO THE COMPENDIUM OF GFCM DECISIONS**

18. Mr Srouf reported that the Compendium of GFCM Decisions had been translated into French and Arabic, the latter being carried out thanks to the translation services of the European Union (EU). Furthermore, he announced that the Secretariat had produced the interactive electronic version of the Compendium, which was available on a CD-ROM as well as the GFCM website.

19. Mr Federico De Rossi, GFCM Consultant on data management, presented the key interactive features of the electronic version of the Compendium. He demonstrated the “simple search” and “advanced search” functions, through which search parameters and criteria could be defined in a multitude of ways. He also highlighted features such as the availability of summary sheets for each decision, deadline details, links to related decisions, record marking, printing and file export, as well as access to the complete text of the various decisions.

20. The Committee noted that this was a culmination of considerable effort by the GFCM Secretariat and referred to the general usefulness of the information, including its value for Members in their endeavours to implement GFCM decisions.

## **ELECTION OF THE BUREAU**

21. Mr Srouf informed the Committee that first term of the CoC bureau had come to an end and that if the Committee desired it could be re-elected for a second term.

22. The Committee agreed to re-elect Mr Boudjelida Khatir (Algeria), to serve as Chairperson, Mr Alexander Joksimovic (Montenegro) as First Vice-Chairperson. The post of the Second Vice-Chairperson is vacant, the Committee agreed to fill this position during the forthcoming Commission meeting.

## **DATE AND VENUE OF THE FIFTH SESSION**

23. It was agreed that the date and venue of the Fifth Session of the Compliance Committee would be decided by the Commission at its Thirty-fourth Session.

## **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

24. This report was adopted on 13 April 2010.

**Agenda**

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the session
3. Status of implementation of GFCM decisions by Members (list attached)
4. Status of data and information submissions by Members and management of GFCM databases by the Secretariat
5. Follow up on the Compendium of GFCM decisions
6. Any others matters
7. Election of the bureau
8. Date and venue of the fifth session
9. Adoption of the report and closure of the session

## Annex 2

**List of the main GFCM decisions for the period 2005-2009**

- Recommendation GFCM/2005/2 concerning the establishment of GFCM record of vessels over 15 meters authorized to operate in the GFCM area;
- Recommendation GFCM/2006/2 concerning the establishment of a closed season for the Dolphin fish fisheries using fish aggregation devices (FADs);
- Recommendation GFCM/2006/3 on the establishment of fisheries restricted areas in order to protect the deep sea sensitive habitats;
- Recommendation GFCM/2007/1 on the mesh size of trawlnets exploiting demersal resources;
- Recommendation GFCM/2008/1 on a regional scheme on port state measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the GFCM area.
- Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/1 on the establishment of a Fisheries Restricted Area in the Gulf of Lions;
- Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/2 on a minimum mesh size in the codend of demersal trawl nets;
- Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3 on the implementation of the GFCM Task 1 statistical matrix;
- Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/4 on reporting of aquaculture data and information;
- Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/5 on the establishment of the GFCM Regional Fleet Register;
- Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/6 concerning the establishment of a GFCM record of vessels over 15 metres authorized to operate in the GFCM Area;
- Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/7 concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a vessel monitoring system in the GFCM Area;
- Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/8 on the establishment of a list of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing in the GFCM Area, amending Recommendation GFCM/2006/4;

## Annex 3

**List of documents**

COC:IV/2010/1	Provisional agenda and timetable
COC:IV/2010/2	Status of implementation of GFCM decisions by Members (in English only)
COC:IV/2010/3	Status of data and information submissions by Members and management of GFCM databases by the Secretariat
COC:IV/2010/4	Status of the Compendium of GFCM decisions
COC:IV/2010/Inf.1	List of documents
COC:IV/2010/Inf.2	Terms of reference of the Compliance Committee
COC:IV/2010/Inf.3	Draft Compendium of GFCM decisions
COC:IV/2010/Inf.4	Report of the third session of the Compliance Committee
COC:IV/2010/Dma.1	Interactive e-compendium of GFCM decisions (CD Rom) (in English only)