

November 2008



**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR
THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES
POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE**



**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN**

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Eleventh Session

Marrakech, Morocco, 1-5 December 2008

**REPORT OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE
ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (SCESS)*
Antalya, Turkey, 13–16 October 2008**

*** Available only in English**

OPENING AND ARRANGEMENT OF THE MEETING

1. The ninth session of Sub-Committee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS) was held in Antalya, Turkey, from 13 to 16 October 2008. It was attended by 15 experts from 9 members of GFCM, namely Albania, Algeria, EC, Italy, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Spain and Turkey as well as representatives from the “Confédération Internationale de la Pêche Sportive (CIPS)”. The list of participants is given in Appendix 2.

2. During the opening session of the four Sub-Committees, Mr Vahdettin Kurum, head of fisheries department, welcomed the participants and thanked them for attending this meeting. Mr Srour, Deputy Executive Secretary of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), also welcomed the participants and thanked the Turkish Authorities for their kindness in hosting and arranging the meeting. Mr Srour also expressed the appreciation of GFCM for the valuable support of Turkey to the SAC activities.

3. The meeting was chaired by Mr Ramon Franquesa, SCESS coordinator. The meeting appointed Mr Vahdet Unal and Mr Jordi Guillen as rapporteurs.

4. The agenda of the meeting was adopted including adding an item on the monitoring of fleet capacity (See Appendix 1).

SCSI/SCESS TRANSVERSAL WORKSHOP TO REFINE THE FLEET SEGMENTATION

5. The objectives of this workshop as defined during the Workshop on the Compilation of GFCM Task 1 (Morocco, 2007) on the fleet segmentation and endorsed by the Tenth session of SAC were recalled to the participants. They are aimed to:

- Reconsider fleet segments for clarity and internal consistency. The same allocation criteria should be applied to all length classes;
- Avoid large number of vessels being allocated to neighbouring cells;
- Revise the naming of “minor gear” categories;
- Reconsider groupings of vessels in the vessel matrix. Groupings of wide ranges of vessels in a single stratum (e.g. All pelagic trawlers from 6 to >24 m now end up in the fleet segment “12-24 m”) may lead to mergers of fleet segments with completely different exploitation patterns, and thus, to a mismatch between the economic and the biological characteristics of a fleet segment.

6. The SCESS participated in the transversal session with SCSI and provided its comments as relevant. As decided by CMSC (March, 2008), these comments are presented in the SCSI report which ensured the lead for this activity.

TRANSVERSAL WORKING GROUP ON RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

7. The Working Group was held on 13 October during the meetings of the Sub-Committees. It was aimed to:

- review the existing legal, management and environmental frameworks;
- define an integrated framework for the collection and analysis of biological, ecological, environmental, and socio-economic data for use in recreational fisheries management;
- Identify and develop priority case studies at the country level to assist in the finalization of the above.

8. The SCESS Coordinator referred as GFCM Studies and Reviews No 81 dealing with the legislation on Recreational Fisheries in the Mediterranean. He stressed the fact that information needed to manage Recreational Fisheries is very limited. He also mentioned that the definitions still need to be completed on the basis of the existing adopted by SAC last year as well as the definition used by the EC. It was underlined for example, that the concept of “underwater diving” is lacking in current SAC definition.

9. It was stressed that Recreational Fishery should comprise three sub-categories:

- Amateur fishing – unorganized hobby fishing not associated with specific events or competitions;
- Sport fishing – organized fishing involving free competition between fishers aiming to catch either the largest fish of certain species, the largest number of specimens or the largest total weight depending on the rules of each particular competition;
- Tourism fishing – fishing conducted by commercial fishers (“pesca-turismo”) or by recreational fishing professional (“charter”) to be considered as a third party who organizes fishing expeditions.

10. The participants further referred to the different management systems applied for recreational fisheries. SCESS took note that the existence of an EC document dealing with the management systems in the Mediterranean. The representative of AdriaMed informed that the parties involved in the project have started to collect information on Recreational Fisheries and a document will be soon available. It was stressed that management systems also exist in Morocco and Algeria.

11. The difference between “pêche à pied” and shore-based was questioned and SCESS suggested that “shore fisheries” also include “pêche à pied”. Aiming to find a way to manage efficiently this kind of fishery, SCESS stressed the necessity of having a simplistic stratification system. For this reason, SCESS proposed that Recreational Fishery could also be classified according to the methodology rather than their scope. Such classification can include:

- pêche à pied
- shore based
- boat based and
- underwater fishing.

12. The Sub-Committee was also informed about various regimes being in force in the Mediterranean. For instance, separate regulation for each type of recreational fishing (amateur, sport and tourist fishing) exists in Spain. The fish caught during sport fishing have to be returned back to the sea as the objective is not to keep the fishes. In Croatia the fishery is divided notably in commercial fishery and non-commercial fishery. The non-commercial fishery includes sport fishing, where those involved have to be also members in a sports’ club. In Libya, there are commercial and non-commercial categories of fishing. The second category uses the same gears as in the commercial category although smaller ones. The decreasing number of species in some areas due to fishing diving was also stressed.

13. Since the catch from recreational fishery does not enter the market, the problem regarding the data collection was discussed. In any case, SCESS suggested that the data which should be collected be the following:

- Catch
 - Weight (kg)
 - Size
 - Species
 - Period of time
 - Area
- Licenses
- Vessels
- Expenditures made by the recreational fishers

14. Some priorities were defined as initial steps for the collection of data on recreational fishery:

- Institutions:
 - Mobilize national administration and research centres to pay attention to recreational fisheries;
 - Suggest to regional projects to support pilot studies on data collection for recreational fisheries;
 - Collaboration with recreational fisheries associations.
- Activities:
 - Improve a standard methodology to estimate indicators of recreational fisheries;
 - Estimate the effectiveness of control;
 - Compare and analyze regulations;
 - Provide data on licences, vessels, etc.

REVIEW OF SUB-COMMITTEE INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING FOR THE OUTCOME IN THE TRANSVERSAL MEETINGS

SCMEE/SCSA/SCSS Transversal Working Group on Selectivity (France, 2-4 July 2008)

15. Having noticed the need of data requirements to perform economic analysis, SCSS underlined that prior to performing economic analysis, results of technological and biological analyses need to be available. The example of the estimation of the losses and medium term gains on catch, which needs biological information, was underlined as an input use of an economic analysis.

16. SCSS noted that the cost of changing the size of the net gear for a more selective one is not relevant, considering that the time period to replace the gear is longer than the life time of the cod-end. In this respect, it reiterated the need for developing applied analysis on selectivity and for providing the necessary data according to GFCM Task 1 as it will facilitate the estimation of the indicators suggested by the transversal Working Group on Selectivity (July 2008).

LEGISLATIVE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF RECREATIONAL FISHERIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

17. The Sub-Committee reviewed the progress made on recreational fishery studies at national level.

18. The AdriaMed Project informed that it has begun to collect and compile information related to the recreational fisheries existing at sub-regional level. Preliminary information was briefly illustrated.

19. Mr Yassine Zahri presented the regulations and statistics which describe briefly the recreational marine fishery (RMF) in the Moroccan Mediterranean coast. Two types of RMF exist in this area, submarine fisheries and “pêche à pied” (fishing-rod). The main differences are in terms of destination of the product and the type of authorization to practice the activity. The number of submarine fishery authorization delivered in the last years is stable with a possibility of increase if there is a possibility to establish others point of control inshore. The majority of authorization was delivered to foreigners (Spanish 39% and French 29%). The number of permit delivered for the “pêche à pied” showed a difference between areas, with more than 79%

delivered in the western area of the Mediterranean coast of Morocco with a tendency to increasing. More than 93% of the permits are delivered to Moroccan fishers. The study recommended that the RMF effort and catches by species and size of unities be monitored, and the socio-economic importance of the activity be assessed.

20. Mr Vahdet Ünal stressed in his presentation that although recreational marine fishery (RMF) in Turkey was well regulated and an Amateur Fishing Circular covers almost all kinds of details to regulate this activity, there are important gaps to manage RMF due to lack of data and relevant studies. The presentation attempted to understand the dimension of RMF in the Turkish waters. Two types of data were used to explain the state of RMF: first, existing information given in published sources (e.g. reports, web-sites, fishing circular, etc.) to clarify the legislation, regulation and implementation of RMF and, second, survey data which were obtained by interview from the field. A case study was conducted in Çanakkale which is located between the Aegean Sea and the Sea of Marmara. Having evaluated legislative frame, regulations and practical management of RMF in Çanakkale, important results derived from this case study.

21. Marcel Ordan, from the CIPS, provided an oral presentation on a new study developed by the French Government which will be published late October 2008. This study estimated the total amount of French Recreational fishers at about 2.5 millions; with harvest estimated at 14 500 tonnes per year. This might represent nearly 2.5% of the national fishing activity. The SCESS acknowledged the importance of this study and suggested to make it available for the experts possibly through the GFCM website.

22. The SCESS recommended that information about RF activity be improved. This should be classified under three types (boat based, shore based and underwater), as suggested at the Transversal Working Group on Recreational Fisheries. The need to provide the basic indicators already identified such as catch (kg, size, species, period, area), licences, vessels, and expenditures produced in the sector was stressed.

23. The SCESS recommended to initiate new studies on recreational fisheries and suggested to share studies or material produced on recreational fisheries via the GFCM website.

PROGRESS ON STUDIES RELATED TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF IMPLEMENTING THE 40 MM SQUARE MESH SIZE IN TRAWL FISHERIES

24. Mr Malouli Idrissi presented the outline of project proposal concerning the socio-economic and biological impact of the implementation of the 40 mm square mesh, in Morocco. Assuming that technical and financial support will be secured, it is expected that this program be performed before 2010.

25. The SCESS stressed the lack of such studies in the Mediterranean which do not allow providing any advice on the analysis of selectivity. The impacts of selectivity measures on the stocks have not been assessed either. Economic analysis on the subject can only be conducted after the studies on population dynamics and selectivity are performed.

ROLE OF INCENTIVE STRUCTURES AND MECHANISMS IN NATIONAL FISHERIES

26. The Sub-Committee recognized the importance to perform the incentives structures and mechanisms in national fisheries, following the methodology developed notably by OECD/UNEP. This option requires a special effort in terms of expertise work. The SCESS therefore recommended the direct involvement in the next SCESS session of experts from OECD

or UNEP. The SCESS also underlined the need to post additional relevant documents regarding this topic, on the GFCM website.

PROMOTE THE USE OF SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

27. The following presentations were made:

The economic and technical study of exploitation of the red lobster (*Palinurus elephas*) in the fishing port of Bizerte (North of Tunisia) (by S. Ben Salem)

Abstract: this study was aimed to: i) identify the economic performances and the strategy adopted by the fishermen to respond to the possible reduction in the landings of this species and; ii) analyze the circuit of conditioning and marketing of the red lobster (*Palinurus elephas*). In this study, the indices of profitability used are an index of economic profitability (Net Profit /Sales turnover) which indicates the economic level of viability of the boats, and the index of financial profitability (Net Profit /Investment) which indicates the level of production of the capital invested. A fleet of 51 units of vessels (GFCM segmentation: polyvalent boats 12-24 metres) registered in 2006 in the fishing port of Bizerte (Northern of Tunisia) targeting red lobster was concerned by this study. Four groups were classified, according to the technical characteristics of the fleet: (LOA, GT and HP), the fishing gears used (Trammel net 140mm mesh size, Trammel net 60mm mesh size and long lines) as well as to the annual production of red lobster. The 2 first groups which constitute 25.5% of the boats registered, recorded relatively better indices of economic and financial profitability, for an average production of 705 kg per unit and per annum. The 3rd and 4th groups (74.5 % of the units registered), have recorded negative profitability. The average production of red lobster for this category reaches 164 kg per unit and per annum. This clearly showed that the economic situation of the lobster fleet of the fishing port of Bizerte is not in economic equilibrium. The study of marketing distribution of the red lobster showed that 94% of the landings are exported towards the European markets. France constitutes the first destination of the lobsters (55%) followed by Italy (40%).

Small Scale fisheries in the western Moroccan Mediterranean Sea was (by M. Malouli)

Abstract: During the last few years, the artisanal fishery in the Mediterranean coast of Morocco (Western part), showed an important improvement, due to effort developed by the Moroccan Government to decrease the difficulties encountered by this sector. Many projects and programs were being developed. This activity is characterized by an important social weight, resources with high commercial value, due the proximity to the European markets and by an important diversity. The constraints of the activity which is considered as a traditional sector are linked to the absence of infrastructure and the lack of fishermen organization. The fleet is composed by 1400 boats distributed in 34 sites and ports. 12 gears are used targeting a large number of species. The direct employment is about 4 700 and 1 500 indirect employment. This population is generally analphabetic and without any maritime formation. The livelihood of the community of fishermen is also ensured by other activities, specially agriculture and trade. In some cases, fishing is an accessory activity. The invested capital is about 9 million Euros. This investment knew an important evolution in the last years. The sales are estimated to 6 million Euros. It knew an increase during the 4 last years. The Gross profit is positive, around 6 million Euros. In the perspectives, two main perspectives can be developed to help the fishermen to increase their incomes, the relation with the tourist activities and the promotion of sea products.

Segmentation of the Algerian fishing fleet (by M. Hachemane and M. Ghezali)

Abstract: The cross section data used in the analysis was collected during the end of 2002 until the beginning of 2003, where more than 607 vessels were investigated through out fourteen representative fishing harbours along the Algerian coast. This work aimed, by theoretical economic background and multivariate analysis, to identify the mean attributes characterizing the segmentation of the Algerian fishing fleet. The actual segmentation based on the fleet length has been analysed and examined where a heterogeneous typology is proposed.

Pilot study on biological and socioeconomic monitoring system in Montenegro (by Dario Pinello)

Abstract: The presentation provides an overview on the pilot study on biological and socioeconomic monitoring system in Montenegro carried out by the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor and the Ministry of Agriculture of Montenegro, with the support of the AdriaMed Project. The pilot study was designed with the primary objective of describing and monitoring Montenegrin fisheries sector, including biological, environmental, economic and social information, applying the Operational Units (OUs) concept. The pilot study has been developed in coherence with the indication given by the GFCM and taking into consideration EU regulations as well as on the basis of the existing monitoring practice and collected data in the country. The monitoring system applied and established to collect economic data on fisheries was briefly illustrated. Appraisal was made on the study and the importance of having such studies at Mediterranean level was remarked. The meeting was recalled on the preliminary contribution prepared by the Adriatic experts in the framework of the AdriaMed Project on the applicability and the performance of some biological and economic indicators for the Adriatic Sea demersal fisheries, the case of the Operational Units in the Western GSA 18. The published document will be made available for the Sub-Committee.

28. The SCESS reiterated the importance to publish the study on socio-economic indicators made by the COPEMED project¹.

CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVING AND UPDATING THE GFCM GLOSSARY

29. The SCESS recalled the importance to have GFCM glossary updated and improved. While waiting for the glossary to be revised, the GFCM website and email communication could be used to introduce new proposals or to improve existing definitions.

MONITORING FLEET CAPACITY

30. During the meeting, the SCESS was invited by the GFCM Secretariat to advice on a document presenting a draft Programme for the Assessment, Management and Monitoring of Fishing Capacity in the GFCM area.

31. SCESS reviewed this document and acknowledged the importance of the topic in the context of the actual situation of the Mediterranean fisheries. However, it considered that the methodological problems and information gathering need to be addressed.

32. The SCESS therefore recommended the organization of a transversal workshop on Assessment, Management and Monitoring of Fishing Capacity in the GFCM Area.

¹ Franquesa, Ramón (Ed.), Amor El Abed, Ahmed Aboukhader, Scander Ben Salem, Djamila Ferhane, Jordi Guillén, José Antonio Alarcón, Malouli Idrissi Mohammed, Mouloud Hachemane, Mohammed Zergani. COPEMED 2005. The estimation of socio-economic indicators in the Mediterranean Fisheries.

Acknowledging the complexity of the issues, the SCESS considered that this work should also embrace the SCSi and SCSA. The objective is to provide scientific and practical guidelines to the GFCM to appraise the impacts, requirements and effects of the different options in fishing capacity management. The draft terms of reference for this workshop are presented in Appendix 3.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

33. The Sub-committee made the following main conclusions and recommendations:

- Ensure more active and steady participation of social scientists from all Member States in SCESS activities and meetings;
- Develop applied analysis on gear selectivity using GFCM Task 1 data;
- Improve the information about recreational fishery using the following classification: boat based; shore based; and underwater; and collect and analysis the identified the basic indicators such as catch (kg, size, species, period, area), licences, vessels, and expenditures produced in the sector;
- Initiate new studies on recreational fishery including with the view to undertake comparative analysis of the outcomes of the different national studies with emphasis on the socioeconomic perspective of the activity;
- The SCESS stressed the lack of studies on the socio-economic impacts of implementing the 40mm square mesh size in trawl fisheries in the Mediterranean which does not allow social scientists to provide advice, for the time being, on the analysis of selectivity. Economic analysis on the subject can only be conducted after studies on population dynamics and selectivity have been carried out;
- The SCESS recognized the importance to develop analysis on the economic incentives structures and mechanisms in national fisheries in the different member states. This should be performed according to the methodology developed by OECD/UNEP, consequently the SCESS recommended the direct involvement in the next Session, of experts from OECD or UNEP. The SCESS also underline the importance to post additional relevant documents on the GFCM website;
- The SCESS reiterated the importance of publishing the study on socio-economic indicators made by the COPEMED project;
- The SCESS considered that the request made by GFCM to address fleet capacity should be a priority. The SCESS recommended the organization of a SCESS/SCSA/SCSi Transversal Workshop on Assessment, Management and Monitoring of Fishing Capacity in the GFCM Area.

PRELIMINARY SCESS WORK PLAN FOR 2009

34. The SCESS suggested the following:

1. Organize a SCESS/SCSA/SCSi Transversal Workshop on Assessment, Management and Monitoring of Fishing Capacity to be held tentatively in the first semester of 2009;
2. Promote the use of socio-economic indicators through the collection of data for the GFCM Task 1 (Task 1.3). The SCSi was invited to develop during the intersessional period, a mechanism for circulation of these data for the Mediterranean economists to allow their analysis;

3. Cooperate on the impact studies of 40 mm square mesh, to provide economic analysis and support to apply bio-economic models;
4. Promote national studies on recreational fisheries and asked for the support of the regional project to coordinate cooperation among the Mediterranean experts to share the methodologies and experiences;
5. Promote the use of the GFCM website to share studies on: capacity, selectivity, recreational fisheries.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

35. The SCESS recognized that various topics should be addressed during next intersession as part of its working programme requiring a special effort of coordination and commitment from the experts. For this reason, it invited Mr Jordi Guillen to assist Mr Ramon Franquesa in his task of coordinator of the Sub-committee. Mr Jordi accepted this responsibility.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

36. It was recommended that the 2009 SCESS meeting be held in Rome during the second week of October.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

37. The report of the meeting was adopted by e-mail on 26th October 2008.

Appendix 1**Agenda**

1. Opening and arrangement of the meeting
2. Transversal Workshop to refine the fleet segmentation
3. Transversal Working Group on Recreational Fisheries
4. Review of Sub-Committee intersessional activities including the outcome of the transversal meetings
5. Legislative and socioeconomic status of recreational fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea
6. Progress on studies related to the socioeconomic impacts of implementing the 40mm square mesh size in trawl fisheries
7. Role of incentive structures and mechanisms in national fisheries
8. Promote the use of socioeconomic indicators in fisheries management
9. Contribution to improving and updating the GFCM glossary
10. Monitoring fleet capacity
11. Conclusions and recommendations
12. Preliminary SCESS work plan for 2009
13. Any other matters
14. Date and venue of the next meeting
15. Adoption of the report

Appendix 2

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Appendix 3**Terms of References for a SCESS/SCSA/SCSI transversal Workshop
on the Assessment, Management and Monitoring of Fleet Capacity**

The Workshop should be aimed at provide, on the basis of the existing knowledge available, the conceptual definitions, the state of the art from different experience on the assessment, the monitoring and management of fishing capacity. The final objective is to provide scientific and practical guidelines to the GFCM to appraise the impacts, requirements and effects of the different options in fishing capacity management.

The Workshop should address in particular the following items:

1. Objectives of the Fishing Capacity Management

Clarify the objectives of managing fleet capacity in order to define the methods, instruments and measures that assure the sustainability of the fishing activities

2. Methods and definitions

Review the scientific information and the existing knowledge available (e.g. FAO, IPOA, NPOA, RPOA, STECF, national regulations, case studies) to define a proper mechanisms of management of fishing capacity. Analyze the appropriateness of transferability mechanisms (between the gears and areas to allow the adaptability of the fishing capacity) and census definition

3. Identification of data needs

Evaluate if the data available at GFCM (GFCM TASK 1, GFCM Fishing Fleet Register, etc) are suitable for the assessment of fishing capacity (biological data on fish stocks, economic data by fleet segment, investments, GT, employment, data on production such as quantity and prices on landing per species, costs and effort).

4. Monitoring

Review the policy framework and regulations on fishing capacity in force at Mediterranean level in order to provide advice on methods of control (costs, affectivity, etc.). Analyze the potential systems for the fishing capacity control in the GFCM (registers, bluebox, satellite, market) that assure the transparency of agreements on fishing capacity.

The preparation of the Workshop will take at least three months. It is suggested as adequate timing the first semester of 2009 in order to assure timely preparation of the guidelines prior to the Thirty-fourth GFCM session.