

ANNEX TO THE BIG GAME ITALIA DOCUMENT



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



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GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

Report of the Transversal Workshop on the monitoring of recreational fisheries in the GFCM area

(Palma de Majorca, Spain, 20-22 October 2010)

EXTRACT

“GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMANDATIONS

a. Recommendations

The Transversal workshop on monitoring recreational fisheries in the GFCM area agreed on the following recommendations and actions:

To adopt the following definitions:

“Recreational Fishing: Fishing activities exploiting marine living aquatic resources from which it is prohibited to sell or trade the catches obtained”.

For GFCM fisheries management purposes it comprises two segments: leisure and sport:

Leisure fishing is defined as fishing practiced for pleasure.

Sport fishing is defined as fishing contest practiced within an established institutional framework which sets rules, collects data on catches and informs on the outcomes of the event.

In addition, it was agreed that the following definitions of charter fishing and underwater fishing are added to the GFCM Glossary:

Charter fishing: Recreational fishing practiced from a rented boat, with a captain or fishing guide on board, for leisure or sport purposes.

Underwater fishing: Fishing activity practiced as a sport or for leisure by snorkeling techniques, without the help of mechanical devices (e.g. scooter).

Develop and promote a more structured approach towards recreational fisheries management by responsible institutions within GFCM members, taking into account the importance of the activity to local and regional economies and the positive contributions recreational fisheries organizations can make to the management of the resources.

The development of a harmonized monitoring framework protocol is required.

Enough funding must be earmarked to allow for the implementation of the protocol. A gradual deployment may be necessary.

Recreational fisheries management must be backed by reliable monitoring and scientific conclusions, independently verified, and include all fishing modalities. The science needed to determine the best methods, data treatments, biological and environmental data gathering, models implementation, risk analyses, among others, must be taken into account by managers.

Specific, timely, monitoring schemes should be conducted on the species affected by MRF as identified by GFCM member institutions. A combined scheme of monitoring the CPUEs of both the commercial and recreational fishing sectors is required for this purpose.

To enable understanding of the number and distribution of participation in recreational fisheries, the introduction of a fishing licence system is necessary. Note this should not be seen as a tax or levy, but be used only for monitoring and enhancement of the sector.

CIPS favoured the establishment of a licensing system but stressed that the income benefits the development of the sector and its monitoring.

Develop “Technical guidelines on recreational fisheries” in support of the responsible development, promotion and management of recreational fisheries in the GFCM area. This can adopt or adapt the EIFAC Code of Conduct on Responsible Recreational Fisheries.

Considering the importance of recreational fisheries and the need to manage it in a sustainable manner, the political administrative and institutional support (i.e. operational resources and finance) should be strengthened to resolve conflicting ecological/environmental and socioeconomic objectives arising from user interactions and to involve all stakeholders in the management process.

The development of a common management framework following measures was recommended:

- Establish an effective and appropriate licence system to enable understanding of the number and distribution of participation in recreational fisheries. This should not be seen as a tax or levy, but be used only for monitoring and enhancement of the sector.
- Gear limitations (adoption of passive gears prohibition)
- Access restrictions when and where necessary (e.g. closed areas and close season- MPAs..)
- Adequate sanction systems
- Catch limits (bag limits by species)
- Species limitations (prohibition of some species)
- Monitoring system
- Effort control
- Elaborate regulatory frameworks and Codes of Practice for Recreational Fisheries for national level implementation; codes which should be practical and useful tools for the associations and fishers and available in the GFCM official languages
- Research and development
- Cross-sectoral interactions (e.g. tourism)
- Education, awareness and promotion of recreational fishing

- Adopt the precautionary approach and assess the potential impact of new technologies on the fisheries and the environment.
- Indirect impacts of recreational fishing.”