

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SUB-COMMITTEES
OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

1. General for all Sub-Committees

- Elaborate on the precise terms of reference for the scientific activities to be realized on the basis of the Scientific Advisory Committee's mandate, with special attention on the shared stocks;
- Organize the inter-session preparatory work, including working groups when necessary;
- Analyse the results of these works and elaborate a summary for the Scientific Advisory Committee;
- Report to the Scientific Advisory Committee on a range of options for management and research, on the basis of work carried out during the intersession;
- Call the attention of the Scientific Advisory Committee on encountered or foreseeable problems and recommend solutions;
- Coordinate, where appropriate, and subject to the Scientific Advisory Committee's approval, with other scientific bodies working in similar fields;
- Analyse the methodology and propose improvements if appropriate.

2. Specifics for each Sub-Committee

Sub-Committee for Stock Assessment (SCSA)

- Organize the scientific activities to carry out assessments of particular stocks and in particular of shared stocks;
- Review and analyse the assessments done during the intersession, including the joint GFCM/ICCAT working group on large pelagic species;
- Provide annotated summaries of the assessments to SAC;
- Review and analyze the assessment methods and propose the most appropriate ones.

Sub-Committee on Fishery Statistics and Information

- Provide support to the other sub-committees of the Scientific Advisory Committee in the field of statistical methodology, data bases conceptualisation, design, harmonization and analysis.
- Review the updating and maintainance of regional databases concerning GFCM as a whole;
- Review the updating and maintainance of other data bases including geographical information systems (GIS) relevant to the Scientific Advisory Committee;
- Ensure the compatibility and exchange with other national and international organizations and institutions concerned with fisheries statistics data and information as well as with FAO/FIGIS;
- Identify the type and level of details and desegregation required for the work of the other Sub-Committees. The identification of sources of errors involved in the data collection and processing should also be identified.

Sub-Committee on Economic and Social Sciences

- Review and analyze socio-economic studies available in view of identifying options and evaluating measures related to fishing management;
- Promote bio-economic research and identify the appropriate methods for the harmonization and implementation of the fishery management measures;
- Strengthen and network social sciences expertise in the region;
- Analyze data of economical and social nature and evaluate related indicators.

Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems

- Establish links with existing regional bodies concerned with studies on the relationship/interaction between environment and marine ecosystems;
- Provide analysis of ecosystems trends and environmental conditions in relation to trends in fishery resources, biodiversity and genetic resources;
- Evaluate the impacts of human action on the marine ecosystem, including fisheries and propose measures that aim to limit the negative effect of these actions;
- Assess the relevance of international agreements on conservation and environment protection on Mediterranean fishery resources management.
- Propose to the SAC research programmes related to the impacts of fisheries on the marine environment and marine ecosystems.

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. Report of the second session of the Scientific Advisory Committee. Rome, Italy, 7-10 June 1999. *FAO Fisheries Report/FAO Rapport sur les pêches*. No.602. Rome, FAO. 1999. 64p.

