



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



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE (CAQ)

**REPORT OF THE 11TH SESSION ON INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR
THE PROMOTION OF AQUACULTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
(SIPAM)***

Tirana, Albania, 15-16 December 2008

*** Only in English**

**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN
COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE
TENTH SESSION OF THE INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR THE PROMOTION OF AQUACULTURE IN
THE MEDITERRANEAN (SIPAM)
TIRANA, ALBANIA, 15-16 DECEMBER 2008.**

REPORT

OPENING OF THE MEETING

Tenth Session of the Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) was held in Tirana, Albania from 15 to 16 December 2008. The Meeting was attended by the National Coordinators from Albania, Cyprus, Egypt, Italy and Turkey, the Coordinator of the CAQ Working Group on Marketing on Aquaculture (WGMA), the Regional Coordinator of SIPAM and Chairperson of GFCM, and the Officers from GFCM Secretariat and from FIMA. The list of participants is attached as Appendix B.

1. Ms Mimosa Cobani, responsible of the Fishery Inspectors in the Fishery Directorate of the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration of Albania, and National Coordinator of SIPAM, welcomed the participants and opened the Meeting. She recalled the relevance of the aquaculture sector in Albania in particular for the local coastal communities and the national need for reliable production data on aquaculture. Mr Fabio Massa, GFCM Aquaculture Officer and Technical Secretary of CAQ addressed the meeting and thanked the Republic of Albania for the kind hospitality and for the support given in the organisation of the meeting.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENT OF THE MEETING

2. The Agenda was presented by the Secretariat and adopted with minor changes. It is attached as Appendix A of this report. Ms Mimosa and Mr Massa co-chaired the meeting.

REPORT OF THE SIPAM PROGRAMME OF WORK AS ADOPTED DURING THE 31ST GFCM SESSION

3. This point of the Agenda was introduced by Mr Fabio Massa who recalled the SIPAM operational framework, the main components and achievement of SIPAM since its Ninth Session (Larnaca, Cyprus, 15-17 November 2006) as well as its workplan adopted during the 31st GFCM session. He informed the participants that the migration of data banks from the old stand alone SIPAM developed in MS Access to the new web-based system developed in Structure Query Language (SQL), had been carried out in 2008. In addition, he reported on the handing over process of the IT component of SIPAM to the GFCM Secretariat undertaken between April and July 2008. He presented the draft report related to the handing over process and informed the meeting that technical documents namely the User Guide, SIPAM Specifications and the Technical Manual had also been prepared. The User Manual will be posted on the web when updated and the National Coordinators will be duly informed. The

recent updates to the SIPAM data entry functions and production data reporting were also presented and tested by the participants.

4. Participants acknowledged with satisfaction the progress made in improving the SIPAM data entry and data reporting functions, however some additional small changes were suggested to the Secretariat for enhanced practicality (i.e. production centre and suppliers; entry/remove data; data export; from/to data certification; modify reports/records). The need for having a prompt technical response when problems are encountered in using the SIPAM system was stressed by some the participants.

5. The new system was also tested online by some participants with the online support by remote assistance from the GFCM Systems Analyst in Rome, with some technical problems being resolved during the meeting. The remaining problems will be resolved in due course.

6. It was requested that for some countries, the SIPAM system should facilitate the data entry of aquaculture production statistics and production centre data and other components of national interest by authorising a wider range of national aquaculture staff to provide information.

7. Participants agreed that the activities of the SIPAM data collection should be more concentrated on Production Statistics and Production Centre data bases (db), and that Hatcheries should be considered within Production Centre db rather than in the Supplier db.

8. Some participants confirmed a strong national interest for having freshwater production data included within the SIPAM framework.

9. Discussions followed on the Terms of Reference for the National Coordinator of SIPAM. Participants agreed that such ToR should be reformulated on the basis of the new SIPAM commitment and more focused on data collection and dissemination on aquaculture. The new proposed ToR are available in the Appendix C.

10. The National Coordinators will continue to work in cooperation also with the SIPAM Regional Centre in Tunis until June 2009, up to which time the handing over from the Centre to the GFCM Secretariat will take place.

MEDITERRANEAN AQUACULTURE STATISTICS

11. National Coordinators of Albania, Cyprus, Egypt, Italy, and Turkey informed the meeting on the data collection and reporting systems in their countries.

12. Ms Cozzolino (Italy) presented the main aspects of the new European Commission regulation EC 762 of 9th July 2008 on the submission of statistics on aquaculture by Member States. She presented also the Italian statistical strategy to comply with this regulation

13. Information was also given on the results of the questionnaires sent by the Secretariat on 30th October 2008 to the National Coordinators concerning the “Qualitative information of National Aquaculture Data Collection (ADC) Systems Sources and Accessibility. Albania, Algeria, Cyprus, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia, Tunisia and Turkey completed the questionnaires. In all the countries laws/regulations for ADC exist and different authorities are in charge for data collection and data reporting. The source of information varies from country to country and is based on the contribution from: fish farmers; census; field surveys; fishery inspectorate; sample and random stratified sampling. The data are collected on yearly basis and the level of

REGIONAL AQUACULTURE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

20. Mr Valerio Crespi (Fishery Resources Officer) delivered a presentation on the newly established regional aquaculture information systems developed through the support and technical assistance of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. These are the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central-Eastern Europe (NACEE); the Regional Aquaculture Information System (RAIS) for the RECOFI region; and the Aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF) Web site for the Sub-Sahara region.

21. The systems have been designed to respond to the growing national and regional needs to facilitate aquaculture data and information collection and dissemination. The adoption of the NASO report, together with the involvement of the SIPAM National Coordinator in its updating, during the 8th SIPAM meeting was recalled. The data and information provided by the Member countries will be further elaborated by FAO to produce value added products including the National Aquaculture Sector Overview (NASO) and regional/global aquaculture reviews.

22. The meeting participants were also informed on the recent development of a global GIS-based database to undertake an inventory of farming systems distribution and characteristics at the national level. The outputs of this activity will be made available in the NASO reports using the Google map technology. Cyprus, Egypt and Turkey agreed to technically support this initiative.

SIPAM PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2009

23. The workplan for SIPAM activities was discussed and the following general activities were endorsed and reported hereunder:

- Improvement of the Production Statistics and Production Centre data bases, including on data entry system and data reporting.
- Development of new sections, respectively on Marketing, Siting and Carrying Capacity and on Sustainable Indicators and integration of these sections in the SIPAM data bases system, together with dynamic bibliographic information for each section.
- Production of dynamic national and regional reports and management and maintenance of the System, including the consolidation of the SIPAM portal.
- Finalizations of the hand over process from the SIPAM Regional Centre in Tunisia to the GFCM Secretariat.
- Publication and distribution of the “Operational users guide” to support the management of the Warehouse with the specification of the new data format and new features.

detail is referred to: species; environment; volume techniques and origin. Detailed economic data are collected only in few countries.

14. The participants stressed the need for improving information on the status of the aquaculture sector in Mediterranean and Black Sea Countries. They underlined that the reliability of data on aquaculture production is essential when assessing and analysing aquaculture production and capacity. The necessity for having timely information on the status of the sector was stated on many occasions, and it was also recalled that the Commission was invited to ensure that the SIPAM National Coordinators were provided with an institutional mandate and adequate means at national level to enable them to carry out their activities. Furthermore, the participants highlighted that during 31st Session the Commission endorsed the recommendation from the CAQ that the responsibilities of the SIPAM National Coordinator be formally endowed with a national institution.

15. The participants noted with concern that despite the fact that Members have an obligation to provide information on aquaculture production statistics (RuleX of the GFCM Agreement), the availability of data remains insufficient.

INTEGRATION OF THE SIPAM PORTAL WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CAQ WORKING GROUPS

16. Mr Ferit Rad coordinator of the Working Group on Marketing on Aquaculture presented a draft structure of a marketing database and the main marketing parameters to be included in the SIPAM portal in support to the activities of the project MedAqMarket (Development of a Strategy for Marketing and Promotion of Mediterranean Aquaculture). The Aquaculture Marketing Data Base should be structured in four sections: “Fish Market Portal”; “National Market Data”; “Demographic Data” and Others. The feasibility of these web-databases as well as the primary structure should be made available by the Secretariat in a short time and will circulate among the National Coordinators for having additional, inputs suggestion and consideration.

17. Participants were also informed that within the Working Group on Siting and Carrying Capacity (WGSC) during the meeting held in Crete, experts discussed on the necessity to have a common data base to store and made available the environmental aquaculture related issues (main parameters). These databases will be prepared within the activities of ShocMed (Developing Siting and Carrying Capacity for Mediterranean Aquaculture). The project is operative on end of October 2008.

18. With reference to the Working Group on Sustainability on Aquaculture (WGSA), at the moment there are not specific indications for data integration into SIPAM System, however all the relevant information that will be collected within the project INDAM (Indicators for Sustainable Development of Aquaculture and guidelines for their use in the Mediterranean) will be gathered. The project is operative on end of November 2008.

19. The participants highlighted the role of the SIPAM in supporting the activities of the CAQ Working Groups and stressed the necessity that any effort should be done for having a better cooperation and exchange of information between the WGs and SIPAM and viceversa.

- Organization of a Workshop on the harmonization standards for Mediterranean Aquaculture data collection, including aspects related to the format and terminologies.

CONCLUSIONS

24. In view of the above, the meeting proposed the following for the consideration of CAQ:

- Countries should report annually to the Secretariat the statistics on aquaculture;
- Countries should use a simple format (see Appendix D) in which the following minimum information on production are included: Species (and group of species); environment (freshwater; saltwater) volume (tonnes or units) and value, including information on production and origin (from hatchery or from wild) and eventually destination (capture based; restocking; etc).

25. Aspects on standardisation issues (level of aggregation; terminology; and other parameters) should be discussed and agreed upon in an ad hoc workshop in 2009. Furthermore, the Secretariat is requested to review the Production Centres data entry module and to present an updated version to this workshop.

26. Participants agreed on new TOR for SIPAM National Coordinators as given in the Appendix E.

27. Participants expressed their concern about the poor attendance of countries in the tenth SIPAM session.

28. It was suggested that data for 2005, 2006 and 2007 should be uploaded into SIPAM as soon as possible in order to guarantee the continuity of the data series and to test the proper functioning of the system.

CLOSURE AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

29. Before closing the meeting, Turkey announced its offer to host the next SIPAM session during the last quarter of 2009.

30. The report was adopted on 16th December 2008.

Agenda

Opening of the meeting

Adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements

Report of the SIPAM programme of work as adopted during the 31st GFCM session

Mediterranean Aquaculture Production Statistics

Regional Aquaculture Information Systems

Integration of the SIPAM portal with the activities of the CAQ Working Groups

SIPAM Programme of Work for 2009

Any other matters

Conclusions

Adoption of the report

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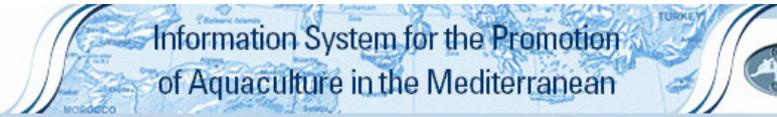
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APPENDIX C

List of Documents

GFCM:SIPAM/X/2008/1	Provisional Agenda
GFCM:SIPAM/X/2008/2	Short notes on the intersessional activities (2006-2008)
GFCM:SIPAM/X/2008/Inf.1	Provisional List of Documents
GFCM:SIPAM/X/2008/Inf.2	Provisional List of Participants
GFCM:SIPAM/X/2008/Inf.3	SIPAM Handover Report
GFCM:SIPAM/X/2008/Inf.4	Questionnaire- Qualitative Information on National Aquaculture Data Collection (ADC)
GFCM:SIPAM/X/2008/Inf.5	Report of the Ninth Meeting of SIPAM (Larnaca, Cyprus, 15-17 November 2006)
GFCM:SIPAM/X/2008/Inf. 6	Terms of Reference of National Coordinators

Credit 

Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean

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STATISTICS MANAGEMENT

Fill the properties in the form below and click Insert

** mandatory fields*

All data should be entered in English.

1	Country*	<input type="text" value="-- Select --"/>			
2	Year*	<input type="text" value="2007"/>			
3	Environment *	<input type="text" value="Marine water"/>			
4	Cultured species *	<input type="text" value="Seabream (gilthead)"/>			
System of culture - Type of culture* Type of product* Quantity (Total)* Unit					
5	<input type="text" value="intensive"/>	<input type="text" value="cage"/>	<input type="text" value="Ongrowing"/>	<input type="text" value="100000"/>	<input type="text" value="tonnes"/>
6	Status of data *	<input type="text" value="Estimates by National Coordinator"/>			
7	Source of data *	<input type="text" value="xxxxxxxxxxx"/>			
8	Note	<input type="text" value="yyyyyyyyyy"/>			
9	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified by National Coordinator				

TERMS OF REFERENCE

NEW PROPOSAL

Recognizing each government's commitment to SIPAM within the *aegis* of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the SIPAM National Coordinator will be responsible for:

- Elaborating a national strategy, including programme of work and budget, to ensure the collection and timely submission of national aquaculture data and information as defined and adopted by the Commission.
- Ensuring proper cooperation and coordination with relevant activities of other CAQ Subsidiary Bodies.
- Representing SIPAM at national level and relevant GFCM meetings.
- Maintaining contact with the GFCM Secretariat.