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

Report of the tenth session of the

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

Izmir, Turkey, 27–29 March 2017

Rapport de la dixième session du

COMITÉ SCIENTIFIQUE CONSULTATIF DE L'AQUACULTURE

Izmir, Turquie, 27-29 mars 2017



General Fisheries Commission
for the Mediterranean
Commission générale des pêches
pour la Méditerranée

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COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the final report approved by the participants in the tenth session of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Aquaculture of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean held in Izmir, Turkey, from 27 to 29 March 2017.

PRÉPARATION DE CE DOCUMENT

Le présent document est le rapport final adopté par les participants de la dixième session du Comité scientifique consultatif de l'aquaculture de la Commission générale des pêches pour la Méditerranée tenue à Izmir, Turquie, du 27 au 29 mars 2017.

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ABSTRACT

The Scientific Advisory Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) held its tenth session in Izmir, Turkey, from 27 to 29 March 2017. The session was attended by delegates and representatives from 13 contracting parties and 2 cooperating non-contracting parties, 2 observers from intergovernmental organizations and representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the GFCM Secretariat. The agenda also included the fifteenth session of the Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM), which was organized concomitantly. During the session, the Committee reviewed the work carried out during the 2015–2017 intersession. In particular, the CAQ discussed aspects related to i) its reorganization; ii) the finalization of guidelines on a harmonized environmental monitoring programme (EMP) for marine finfish cage farming; iii) preparatory work on guidelines to streamline aquaculture licensing and leasing processes; iv) finfish and shellfish aquaculture industry and market, including a collection of success stories; and v) the status of aquaculture multi-stakeholder platforms in the region. Moreover, the Committee examined the contents of the draft version of a strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea, developed by a dedicated Task Force, and agreed to keep working towards its finalization so that it could be submitted to the next session of the Commission, given the key role to be played by this strategy in efficiently addressing current and emerging challenges facing the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The Committee then formulated advice in order to steer future work on aquaculture market and industry, aquaculture licensing and leasing processes, aquaculture and environment and aquaculture multi-stakeholder platforms and within the framework of the SIPAM. Finally, the Committee agreed upon its work plan for 2017–2018 and elected its new Bureau.

RÉSUMÉ

Le Comité scientifique consultatif de l'aquaculture (CAQ) de la Commission générale des pêches pour la Méditerranée (CGPM) a tenu sa dixième session à Izmir, Turquie, du 27 au 29 mars 2017. Ont participé à la session des délégués et représentants de 13 parties contractantes et 2 parties non contractantes coopérantes, 2 observateurs d'organisations intergouvernementales ainsi que des représentants de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO) et du Secrétariat de la CGPM. L'ordre du jour comprenait également la quinzième session du Système d'information pour la promotion de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée (SIPAM), tenue conjointement. La session a été l'occasion pour le Comité de passer en revue les travaux menés pendant la période intersessions 2015-2017. En particulier, le CAQ a examiné les aspects relatifs à i) sa réorganisation ; ii) la finalisation de lignes directrices pour un programme de suivi environnemental (PSE) harmonisé de la pisciculture marine en cage ; iii) des travaux préparatoires à l'élaboration de lignes directrices pour la simplification des processus d'octroi de permis et de baux aquacoles ; iv) l'industrie et le marché de la pisciculture et de la conchyliculture, y compris un recueil d'exemples de réussite; et v) la situation des plateformes aquacoles multi-acteurs dans la région. Le Comité s'est par ailleurs penché sur le contenu d'un projet de stratégie en faveur du développement durable de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée et en mer Noire, élaboré par une équipe spéciale, et est convenu de poursuivre ses travaux en vue de la finalisation de cette stratégie afin que celle-ci soit présentée à la prochaine session de la Commission, compte tenu du rôle clé qu'elle devrait jouer pour relever les défis actuels et futurs auxquels se trouve confronté le développement durable de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée et en mer Noire. Le Comité a ensuite formulé des avis dans le but d'orienter les travaux à venir concernant le secteur et le marché aquacoles, les processus d'octroi de permis et de baux aquacoles, l'aquaculture et l'environnement et les plateformes aquacoles multi-acteurs ainsi que les travaux menés dans le cadre du SIPAM. Enfin, le Comité est convenu de son programme de travail pour 2017-2018 et a élu son nouveau Bureau.

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OPENING AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

1. The tenth session of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) was held in Izmir, Turkey, from 27 to 29 March 2017. The session was attended by delegates and representatives from 13 contracting parties, 2 cooperating non-contracting parties, 2 observers from intergovernmental organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the GFCM Secretariat. The list of participants is provided in Appendix 2 to this report.
2. The session was called to order by Mr François René, CAQ Chairperson, who welcomed delegations and thanked the hosting country for its outstanding hospitality. In highlighting the growing trend of the sector in the region, he stressed that the CAQ was the appropriate setting to address shared concerns and find common solutions.
3. The Chairperson then gave the floor to Mr Turgay Turkyilmaz, Deputy General Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey, who welcomed participants in Izmir on behalf of his government and ministry. He underlined the active role played by Turkey within the GFCM and more particularly the CAQ as well as the importance accorded to sustainable aquaculture development, from an economic, social and environmental perspective. He finally wished participants a fruitful meeting and thanked the GFCM Secretariat for organizing the meeting.
4. Mr Stefano Cataudella, GFCM Chairperson, addressed the delegations and expressed gratitude to the hosting country for its warm welcome. After mentioning the major achievements of the Committee, he recalled the specific mandate and nature of the recently established GFCM Task Force on a strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture (Aquaculture Task Force) to address current priorities and emerging challenges for the sector. He concluded stressing that such discussion forum between different actors, based on a participatory approach, was crucial to address the complex issues of the sector and achieve shared goals.
5. The full text of opening addresses, in their original language, is provided in Appendix 4 to this report.
6. Mr Abdellah Srour, GFCM Executive Secretary, thanked the hosting country for the excellent organization of the meeting. He introduced delegations and observers and informed those present about the arrangements of the meeting. He then reported on the credentials received.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. Mr Fabio Massa, GFCM Senior Aquaculture Officer presented the agenda which was adopted with minor changes as attached in Appendix 1 to this report.

INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

8. Mr Massa gave an overview of the main intersessional activities, as outlined in document GFCM:CAQ10/2017/2, and presented a summary of decisions relevant to the work of the CAQ, adopted by the Commission at its thirty-ninth and fortieth sessions (May 2015 and May 2016, respectively). He recalled that the activities of the CAQ subsidiary bodies had been reorganized according to updated terms of reference and based on the existing regional body of knowledge. The new subsidiary bodies consisted of the Working Group on Quality and Market of Aquaculture Products (WGQMA), the Working Group on Governance and Regulatory Aspects (WGGRA), the Working Group on Environment and Aquatic Animal Health (WGEAA), the Working Group on Innovations and Knowledge Management (WGIKM), the Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM) and the GFCM Aquaculture Multi-stakeholder Platform (AMShP).

9. Of particular note were the following achievements: i) finalization of guidelines on a harmonized environmental monitoring programme (EMP) for marine finfish cage farming; ii) survey on EMP feasibility and adaptation at the national level; iii) calibration exercise to assess EMP variables to monitor the quality of the water column and of sediments within the allowable zone of effect (AZE); iv) preparatory work on guidelines to streamline aquaculture licensing and leasing processes; v) study on the status of aquaculture market and industry for finfish and shellfish in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea; vi) a collection of success stories on finfish and shellfish farming; vii) assessment of the status of aquaculture multi-stakeholder platforms in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea; viii) elaboration of a draft version of the strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture and ix) cooperation and technical assistance. A total of 14 meetings were held in support of these activities.

10. The Committee commended the work carried out acknowledging the efforts made to address the challenges faced by different countries and concurred that the co-construction approach adopted so far had proved efficient. The time had now come to move forward in providing concrete indications for future steps.

11. The delegate of Italy expressed satisfaction for the new initiatives launched, in particular within the GFCM Aquaculture Task Force, reiterating the support of his country to such participatory activities.

12. Delegations praised the efforts made towards the finalization of the guidelines on the EMP prepared by the CAQ and the results of the survey on EMP feasibility in the region (GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.14 and GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.15).

13. Several delegations, including Algeria, Morocco and Spain, recognized that environmental protection was a major concern and stressed the importance of tackling all environmental aspects related to aquaculture at sea, in particular by carrying out environmental impact assessments (EIAs).

14. The delegate of Turkey highlighted that addressing the potential impacts of aquaculture (either land-based or at sea) on the environment was a priority and that environmental monitoring should represent an important component of aquaculture management and adapt to the characteristics of each environment.

15. The Committee recognized that implementing an EMP once an allocated zone for aquaculture (AZA) is established was essential to ensure the sustainable integration of aquaculture into the environment, in particular within the context of marine spatial planning.

Aquaculture licensing and leasing processes

16. Mr Davide Fezzardi, GFCM Secretariat, presented a proposal outlining the structure, contents and rationale for the preparation of guidelines to streamline aquaculture licensing and leasing processes, on the basis of document GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.18.

17. In reiterating the crucial need to simplify the licensing process, several delegations underlined that their national legislations were often characterized by a fragmented administrative framework involving a high number of administration bodies.

18. The Committee acknowledged that the guidelines would represent a useful tool to raise awareness on the importance of licensing and leasing processes for aquaculture development and welcomed the idea of also including them in a toolkit on AZAs.

Aquaculture market and industry

19. Mr Ferit Rad, Coordinator of the WGQMA, illustrated, on the basis of document GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.9, the outcomes of a study on aquaculture market and industry in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea carried out in cooperation with the International Organisation for the Development of Fisheries in Eastern and Central Europe (Eurofish) and the Centre for marketing, information and advisory services for fishery products in the Arab region (Infosamak). In his presentation, he stressed the need to foster private sector investments and improve the image of aquaculture in order to boost production.

20. The Committee praised the impressive work done and welcomed the suggestion to organize a workshop in order to discuss a methodology for market data reporting.

21. Several delegations insisted on the need to valorize the distinctive character of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture products in order to boost their competitiveness on global markets.

22. In this connection, the delegate of Spain suggested that initiatives on such aspects could also be based on the Mediterranean diet, which enjoys visibility as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity recognized by the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO).

23. The delegate of Tunisia reiterated the importance of certified organic production as an additional market opportunity for the aquaculture sector.

24. In this respect, the representative of Eurofish recalled that, since the biggest market potential for organic products was in central Europe, there was a need to address the diversification of markets and look at consumption patterns in each area.

25. The Committee stressed the need to further investigate on processing, in particular through the implementation of guidelines on processing criteria, as well as on retailing, market access conditions and domestic consumption as decisive elements for the trade of aquaculture products.

Aquaculture multi-stakeholder platforms

26. The GFCM Secretariat delivered a presentation on the status of aquaculture multi-stakeholder platforms in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, on the basis of document GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.12, illustrating the outcomes of a survey aimed at assessing the state of the art of existing platforms.

27. The Committee stressed that multi-stakeholder platforms represented useful instruments to gather knowledge and involve different types of actors, encompassing a variety of aspects. In this respect, the possibility to involve larger retailer companies trading aquaculture products was mentioned.

28. The delegate of Morocco referred to the positive experience of the National Agency for Aquaculture Development (ANDA) in aquaculture planning and site selection, which saw the participation of a wide range of stakeholders.

29. In this connection, the delegate of Spain suggested that the possibility to invite producers associations to attend CAQ sessions be considered as this could contribute to enhancing the involvement of stakeholders.

30. The Committee welcomed the results of the survey and recognized that such consultation mechanisms were important for decision-making, although they were at different stages of maturity and their functioning and stakeholders involvement varied according to industry needs and challenges in each country.

Cooperation and technical assistance

31. Mr Houssam Hamza, second Vice-Chairperson of the CAQ, presented the case of Tunisia as an example of successful cooperation with the GFCM. He illustrated in particular the technical assistance provided for the establishment of an AZA in the Bay of Monastir, with the participation of the local Tunisian aquaculture multi-stakeholder platform. He suggested that it could be useful to replicate in other areas this successful experience.

32. Several delegations took the floor to acknowledge the positive outcomes of cooperation within the GFCM, praising the benefits of the different cooperation frameworks in place. In particular, the signature of letters of agreement (LoAs) between the GFCM and contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties (CPCs) concerning technical assistance on fisheries and aquaculture within the context of the GFCM Framework Programme had proved efficient to clearly define responsibilities, objectives and areas for cooperation.

33. In this respect, the delegate of Albania underlined the encouraging cooperation which had enabled different stakeholders to come together, expressing hopes that the recently signed LoA would offer further opportunities in the future.

34. The delegate of Lebanon remarked that since marine aquaculture was not developed in his country, technical assistance would be useful to identify appropriate areas for fish farms at sea. This could be explored within the “Concerted action for Lebanon” initiative.

35. The delegate of Morocco requested the Committee to consider the provision of technical assistance to this country, in particular as regards the training of aquaculture engineers.

36. Reference was also made to the positive cooperation with partner organizations, such as Eurofish and Infosamak, in producing common technical documentation on aquaculture industry, products and market.

37. The representative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) also referred to the fruitful cooperation with the GFCM dealing in particular on interactions between marine protected areas (MPAs) and aquaculture as this could be further investigated within the wider context of marine spatial planning and the ecosystem approach.

38. In referring to the long-standing tradition of mussel farming in the region, the delegate of Croatia highlighted the need for increased regional cooperation on methods to address the issue of gilthead seabream feeding on farmed mussels.

39. The delegate of Montenegro praised the fruitful cooperation with the GFCM and the FAO regional project AdriaMed (“Scientific Cooperation to support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea”) on the establishment of AZAs in the context of marine spatial planning and expressed wishes for continuing these activities and strengthening participation in regional initiatives.

40. The delegate of Italy suggested that the CAQ knowledge base could benefit from the outcomes of projects in the region, such as MedAID (“Mediterranean Aquaculture Integrated Development”) and PerformFISH (“Consumer-driven production: integrating innovative approaches for competitive and sustainable performance across the Mediterranean aquaculture value chain”) implemented under the Horizon 2020 initiative.

41. The Committee concurred that cooperation should follow through this tailor-made approach to technical assistance, including within the framework of the draft version of the aquaculture strategy.

CAQ Glossary

42. The GFCM Secretariat briefly presented a list of 33 terms of interest for the CAQ glossary, as outlined in document GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.13, and recalled the continuous work made within the Committee to update this glossary.

43. Several delegations took the floor to praise this work which was of particular importance for sharing knowledge on aquaculture development. In this respect, hopes were expressed that the glossary be translated in other languages as it could prove particularly useful for the countries.

44. Finally, the Committee took note of the proposed terms and agreed to carry on with the regular updating of the glossary.

PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT VERSION OF THE STRATEGY FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA AQUACULTURE

45. Mr Massa, Mr Pablo Ávila, first Vice-Chairperson of the CAQ, Mr Hamza and Mr Rad presented the draft version of the strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture, including its three targets and related activities, as outlined in document GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.6. It was recalled in particular that the strategy stemmed from a process initiated by the Commission at its thirty-ninth session (Italy, May 2015) with the creation of the Aquaculture Task Force, and that it was based on a participatory and transparent approach which took into account national needs and expectations as well as existing strategies.

46. The Committee applauded the efforts deployed by the GFCM Aquaculture Task Force and the GFCM Secretariat in developing the draft version of the strategy (reproduced in Appendix 5). The three targets identified represented indeed an efficient response to priorities in the region. It was also acknowledged that its ambitious goals required a strong coordination and that, if also complemented by specific indicators, it had the potential to become a strong asset for Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture.

47. The delegate of Ukraine took the floor to praise the extensive work done, expressing the wish that the strategy would help countries address their needs and unlock their potential for aquaculture development. Despite the constraints currently hampering the sector, it held considerable potential and was of strategic importance for Ukraine.

48. The delegate of the European Union (EU) welcomed the process which had led to the development of a regional strategy, as it represented a good basis to address the sustainable development of the sector. He recalled that sustainable production was a precondition for the long-term development and growth of the sector. In this respect, he informed the Committee that the EU was eager to share its experience and tools with both EU and non-EU Members in the region in order to advance in a concerted way to build the future of aquaculture.

49. The GFCM Chairperson recalled the institutional objectives of the work done by the Aquaculture Task Force in preparing the strategy. The Committee agreed that, consistent with the approach followed since the meeting that launched the Task Force (Italy, May 2016), emphasis should be placed on the regulatory component of the strategy, which represented the overarching framework where other components could be addressed. In this regard, it was suggested that the strategy would mainly revolve around target 1 “build an efficient regulatory and administrative framework to secure sustainable aquaculture growth” as a core target.

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR THE PROMOTION OF AQUACULTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN (SIPAM)

50. The CAQ Chairperson opened this agenda item and gave the floor to the Executive Secretary who commemorated Mr Mohamed Hadj Ali, twice GFCM Chairperson and long-standing coordinator of the SIPAM network, who recently passed away. An important member of the GFCM family, Mr Hadj Ali would be remembered for his tireless commitment and dedication to serve the Commission.

51. Mr Federico De Rossi, GFCM Secretariat, outlined the activities carried out during the intersession within the framework of SIPAM, as described in document GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.7. These encompassed: i) a regional survey on national aquaculture data collection; ii) the release of the new SIPAM National Focal Points (NFPs) portal, which also provides data consultation facilities in line with Resolution GFCM/35/2011/2 on data confidentiality policy and procedures; iii) a compliance assessment of aquaculture production statistics submitted by CPCs to the GFCM and of aquaculture production centres, in accordance with Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/6 on reporting of aquaculture data and information, amending Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/4; and iv) issues related to the collection and submission of aquaculture market data.

52. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the considerable work carried out, in particular within the framework of the modernization of SIPAM. This had been made possible thanks to the contribution of the NFPs who participated in the “Survey on national aquaculture data collection to improve the Information System for the Promotion of aquaculture in the Mediterranean”. Moreover, the use of cloud-based technologies – now fully integrated in the GFCM Extranet – had been pivotal.

53. Having regard to the public availability of aquaculture production statistics in accordance with Resolution GFCM/35/2011/2, several delegations underlined that it would be worthwhile to give CPCs the opportunity to apply corrections to possible data misreporting and/or inconsistencies in the SIPAM NFPs portal, in coordination with the GFCM Secretariat. In this respect, delegates agreed on the date of 30 September 2017 as a deadline for performing such revisions.

54. The delegate of Tunisia warmly welcomed the achievements made and stressed that SIPAM data should be used in the context of the aquaculture strategy; in this respect, additional information on market-related aspects would be necessary. To this end, he underlined that it would be beneficial to make market data available on the SIPAM NFPs portal by creating links with other existing regional databases.

55. In relation to the collection of aquaculture data at the national level, the delegate of Algeria referred to the difficulties faced by her administration in gathering information on inland water bodies, fingerlings and hatcheries from small-scale farmers, in particular those who are geographically isolated, such as those living nearby dams. In this regard, the GFCM Secretariat underlined that estimations based on a sampling approach could be a solution to overcome these constraints.

56. The delegate of Italy emphasized that discrepancies existed in aquaculture data requirements between Eurostat and the GFCM, especially as regards the type of environment, and that an alignment of both systems would be advisable in order to reduce the heavy workload entailed for EU Member countries. In this respect, the GFCM Secretariat recalled that the GFCM and Eurostat had recently met in order to properly tackle this issue; however, their different mandate prevented a full alignment of requirements.

57. A discussion took place on specific issues in relation to data submissions by CPCs to GFCM, namely the deadline for the submission of national information, on the one hand, and market data variables, on the other. The Committee agreed with the proposal of the delegate of Malta to postpone the data submission deadline from 30 June (as currently set by Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/6) to

30 November in order to give sufficient time to CPCs for data processing, an activity that was usually carried out internally during the second half of the year.

58. With reference to market data, Mr Rad suggested to remove all the variables related to feed, fishmeal and fish oil defined in Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/6, since this information was not of use to the industry, generally interested in forecasts rather than in past data. Moreover, he suggested to slightly amend the data requirements on trade and consumption in order to better serve the goals of the aquaculture strategy.

59. In the ensuing discussion, delegates stressed the need to start transmitting market data to GFCM in accordance with the revised list of parameters (provided in Appendix 7). The Committee agreed to submit such proposal to the consideration of the Commission at its forty-first session (Montenegro, October 2017).

60. The delegate of Albania highlighted the importance of gathering data on imports and exports of fingerlings. For this reason, she suggested to consider collecting this information in a near future as it would represent an important indicator for production and market purposes.

61. Finally, Mr Valerio Crespi, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture department (FIAA), informed the Committee about the National Aquaculture Sector Overview (NASO) collection and google-based NASO map collection developed by his department. In particular, he underlined that, following the decision of the Committee at its ninth session (Morocco, February 2015), the biennial update of NASO reports for most of CPCs had been successfully completed thanks the active contribution of the NFPs and to the fruitful collaboration with the GFCM Secretariat. The Committee agreed to continue cooperation with FIAA in the biennial update of NASO.

PROGRESS IN THE REORGANIZATION OF THE CAQ

62. The GFCM Secretariat outlined the progress made in the reorganization of the CAQ, recalling the decision taken by the Commission at its thirty-ninth session to review the reference framework of its subsidiary bodies. After a two-year feasibility study and several consultations held, the CAQ had been reshaped and included four thematic working groups which reflected the main priorities of aquaculture and the strategic areas of the AMShP. Although the new structure was more suitable to facilitate cooperation and stakeholders involvement, there was a need to enhance information flows and data sharing and to promote the visibility of activities. In addition, the efficiency of the working groups and the functionality of the AMShP had to be further refined. In this respect, the GFCM Secretariat invited delegations to provide inputs and suggest improvements.

63. The Committee welcomed the efforts deployed and the progress achieved in its reorganization, expressing hopes that the process would be carried forward so that it would contribute to addressing the current and emerging challenges for the sector in the region.

64. In light of the short- and medium-term objectives set by the aquaculture strategy and considering the wide range of activities foreseen, the delegate of Tunisia noted that convening the CAQ sessions on an annual basis would be more appropriate to monitor all the progress and achievements.

65. In addition, the delegate of Algeria, supported by other delegations, suggested to extend by one day the duration of the sessions so that sufficient time could be allowed to discussions and consultations and in order to formulate more efficiently scientific advice to the Commission.

66. The Committee finally agreed that it would take note of the considerations made and report to the Commission at its forty-first session.

FORMULATION OF ADVICE AND PRIORITIES IN THE FIELD OF AQUACULTURE MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH

67. On the basis of the activities carried out during the intersession outlined in document GFCM:CAQ10/2017/2 and of the discussions held during the session, the Committee formulated the following advice:

Aquaculture market and industry

- Promote aquaculture and aquaculture products, targeting both young and elder generations, to improve the visibility, public image and social acceptability of aquaculture
- Further promote the visibility and support the competitiveness of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture products through ad hoc promotion initiatives
- Address organic production in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea as an additional opportunity for aquaculture production
- Develop standard methodologies and guidelines for market studies to be used at the national level, taking into consideration biasing factors (e.g. tourism activities)
- Assess additional market issues (e.g. rate of self-consumption and apparent consumption) and analyse existing guidelines on processing criteria, retailing, market access conditions and domestic consumption

Aquaculture licensing and leasing processes

- Raise awareness on the need to improve and facilitate aquaculture licensing and leasing processes

Aquaculture and environment

- Encourage countries to effectively implement the guidelines on a harmonized EMP for marine finfish cage farms in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and to report on the progress made
- Incorporate aquaculture, climate change and ocean acidification issues in the system of indicators to monitor the sustainable development of aquaculture
- Address and explore potential positive interactions between aquaculture and MPAs within the wider concept of marine spatial planning

Aquaculture multi-stakeholder platforms

- Foster national and local aquaculture multi-stakeholder platforms within a clear legal framework, taking into account the need to integrate aquaculture activities along the coast in order to ensure a harmonious development of the sector
- Tailor cooperative actions in support of aquaculture development in the region, bearing in mind the differences in the nature and scope of aquaculture multi-stakeholder platforms in the region

SIPAM

- With reference to Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/6, consider postponing the deadline for the submission of aquaculture data to 30 November of each calendar year

- With reference to Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/6, consider updating the list of parameters for market data (Appendix 7)
- Coordinate efforts among NFPs to ensure the accuracy of aquaculture production statistics submitted through the SIPAM NFPs portal and to be made available for online consultation (in accordance with Resolution GFCM/35/2011/2 on data confidentiality policy and procedures)

CAQ WORK PLAN FOR 2017–2018

68. The GFCM Secretariat introduced the work plan for the next intersessional period based on document GFCM:CAQ10/2017/2.

69. The Committee endorsed its 2017–2018 work plan as follows:

Aquaculture Task Force

- Finalize the strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture in view of its submission to the forty-first session of the GFCM
- Prepare a short version of the aquaculture strategy for its wider dissemination

Working Group on Governance and Regulatory Aspects (WGGRA)

- Prepare technical guidelines on aquaculture licensing and leasing processes, including a compilation of successful practices on licensing processes in the region
- Finalize and disseminate an AZA toolkit, including a guide for the establishment of AZAs, and prepare summary versions in different languages, as appropriate, as well as other information material on AZAs (e.g. leaflets and slides)
- Continue the compilation and analysis of success stories on improving the image of aquaculture products in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, taking into account institutional and regulatory aspects
- Implement a regional survey to assess social acceptability towards aquaculture development
- Provide capacity-building and training to support Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian countries in implementing AZAs and improving coastal planning for aquaculture

Working Group on Environment and Aquatic Animal Health (WGEAA)

- Prepare a guidance document on risk analysis methods in aquaculture and data recording

Working Group on Quality and Market of Aquaculture Products (WGQMA)

- Prepare and disseminate a guidance document and technical protocols for food safety and quality of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture products

GFCM Aquaculture Multi-Stakeholder Platform (AMShP)

- Support and cooperate for the establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms at the national level

Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM)

- Continue to assess and ensure the consistency of data submitted by CPCs in accordance with Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/6
- Follow progress in aquaculture data collection (production centres and production statistics)
- Further enhance online data consultation facilities in the new SIPAM NFPs portal
- Apply corrections to possible data misreporting and/or inconsistencies in the SIPAM NFPs portal before making aquaculture production statistics publicly available in accordance with Resolution GFCM/35/2011/2
- Integrate the current Excel reporting form for aquaculture production centres in the new SIPAM NFPs portal
- Finalize the user guide for the SIPAM NFPs portal

Cooperation and technical assistance

- Prepare information material on interactions between aquaculture and MPAs tailored to the Mediterranean and Black Sea region, in cooperation with IUCN
- Participate with FIAA in the workshop on aquaculture case studies and on the development of a decision-support toolbox organized within the AquaSpace project (“Making Space for Aquaculture”) (Spain, 9–11 May 2017)
- Carry on the collaboration with the CERES project (“Climate change and European aquatic RESources”) on issues related to climate vulnerability assessments in aquaculture, possibly participating in a workshop on climate change (to be held tentatively in 2018)
- Collaborate with the Globefish system of the FAO Products, Trade and Marketing Branch (FIAM) on issues connected to social acceptability within the framework of the MedAID project led by the International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM)
- Collaborate with Tunisia for the establishment of a regional training centre on aquaculture
- Launch a consultation within the CAQ network to address the issue of gilthead seabream feeding on farmed shellfish, including mussels

Other priorities

- Carry out a regional survey to assess the implementation of some provisions of Article 9 of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
- Elaborate a scheme for a compiled report gathering national factsheets with selected information on aquaculture in CPCs, to be regularly submitted to the CAQ

Meetings and trainings scheduled for 2017–2019

| CAQ/WGBS meetings | Place/date |
|---|--|
| WGBS – Meeting for the establishment of a demonstrative centre to promote sustainable aquaculture in the Black Sea | Constanta, Romania 26–28 September 2017 |
| Meeting for the operationalization of the strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture | TBD 4 th quarter 2017– 1 st quarter 2018 |
| WGGRA – Regional workshop on aquaculture governance and regulatory issues | TBD 2018 |
| WGQMA – Expert consultation on a methodology for market studies on aquaculture | TBD 2018 |
| WGEAA – Workshop on data recording and risk analysis methods (e.g. on safety indicators, alien species, pathogens) | TBD 2018 |
| WGEAA – Workshop on environmental carrying capacity and shellfish productivity | TBD 2018 |
| Eleventh session of the CAQ, including a special session of SIPAM | Spain 2019 |
| Meetings in cooperation with partner organizations | |
| WGGRA – FAO-GFCM Kick-off meeting of the project Mediterranean Aquaculture Integrated Development (MedAID, CIHEAM) | Zaragoza, Spain 3–5 May 2017 |
| WGGRA – Workshop on social acceptability improvement for aquaculture development (MedAID, CIHEAM) | Montpellier, France 2018 |

70. The Committee took note of the kind offer by some delegations to host meetings, subject to confirmation by the competent authorities in their countries.

71. The above mentioned activities and meetings, with the exception of the CAQ statutory session, would be carried out upon availability of extrabudgetary funds within the GFCM Framework Programme. These would be organized in collaboration with relevant partner organizations which have entered into a memorandum of understanding with the GFCM, and in cooperation with the FAO regional projects. The terms of reference for selected meetings are reproduced in Appendix 6.

ANY OTHER MATTER

72. The Committee repeatedly thanked the Government of Turkey for the excellent organization and working conditions offered during the session. The outstanding support and warm hospitality extended to all delegates and participants were particularly appreciated.

73. Gratitude was expressed to the GFCM Secretariat for the excellent work and tireless efforts made to ensure a smooth preparation and conduct of the session.

ELECTION OF THE CAQ BUREAU

74. The Committee paid tribute to the members of the outgoing CAQ Bureau, Mr François René (France), Mr Pablo Ávila (Spain) and Mr Houssam Hamza (Tunisia), respectively Chairperson, first Vice-Chairperson and second vice-Chairperson, for their outstanding work and dedication during their mandate and for the effective stewardship during the reorganization of the CAQ.

75. The Executive Secretary informed that the mandate of the CAQ Bureau had expired and referred to Rules VII and VIII of the GFCM rules of procedure, which also apply *mutatis mutandis* to the election and functions of the GFCM subsidiary bodies, whereby members of the Bureau could serve one mandate, renewable twice. In making reference to the four-year duration of the mandate of the CAQ Bureau, he recalled the decision taken at the previous CAQ session to postpone the election of the Bureau to the tenth session.

76. Upon the proposal of the delegates of Spain, Tunisia and Turkey, the Committee unanimously agreed to elect Mr Ramón De La Figuera Morales (Spain) as Chairperson, Mr Houssam Hamza (Tunisia), as first Vice-Chairperson, and Mr Özerdem Maltaş (Turkey) as second Vice-Chairperson.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

77. The Committee took note of the kind offer by the delegate of Spain to host the eleventh session of the CAQ, in 2019, subject to official confirmation by competent authorities. The exact date and venue would be determined at a later stage.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

78. The report, including its appendixes, was adopted on 29 March 2017.

OUVERTURE ET ORGANISATION DE LA SESSION

1. Le Comité scientifique consultatif de l'aquaculture (CAQ) de la Commission générale des pêches pour la Méditerranée (CGPM) a tenu sa dixième session à Izmir (Turquie), du 27 au 29 mars 2017. Ont participé à la session des délégués et représentants de 13 parties contractantes et de deux parties non contractantes coopérantes, ainsi que deux observateurs d'organisations intergouvernementales et des représentants de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO) et du Secrétariat de la CGPM. La liste des participants figure à l'annexe 2 au présent rapport.

2. M. François René, Président du CAQ, a ouvert la session. Il a souhaité la bienvenue aux délégations et a remercié le pays hôte de sa remarquable hospitalité. Faisant valoir la croissance constante du secteur dans la région, il a souligné que le CAQ offrait le cadre approprié pour trouver des solutions communes face à des enjeux partagés.

3. Le Président du Comité a ensuite laissé la parole à M. Turgay Turkyilmaz, Directeur général adjoint du Département des pêches et de l'aquaculture du Ministère turc de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture et de l'élevage. M. Turkyilmaz a souhaité la bienvenue aux participants à Izmir au nom de son gouvernement et de son ministère. Il a insisté sur le rôle actif que jouait la Turquie au sein de la CGPM, et en particulier du CAQ, ainsi que sur l'importance que revêt le développement durable de l'aquaculture, d'un point de vue économique, social et environnemental. Enfin, M. Turkyilmaz a souhaité aux participants des travaux fructueux et a remercié le Secrétariat de la CGPM d'avoir organisé la réunion.

4. M. Stefano Cataudella, Président de la CGPM, s'est adressé aux délégations et a remercié le pays hôte de son accueil chaleureux. Après avoir fait état des principales réalisations du Comité, il a rappelé quels étaient le mandat spécifique et la nature de l'Équipe spéciale chargée d'élaborer une stratégie en faveur du développement durable de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée et en mer Noire (Équipe spéciale sur l'aquaculture), récemment créée par la CGPM pour faire face aux priorités actuelles et aux défis nouveaux du secteur. Il a conclu son intervention en soulignant qu'un tel espace de dialogue entre les différents acteurs, fondé sur une approche participative, était crucial pour s'attaquer aux problèmes complexes du secteur et réaliser les objectifs communs.

5. Les allocutions d'ouverture sont reproduites intégralement, dans la langue d'origine, à l'annexe 4 au présent rapport.

6. M. Abdellah Srour, Secrétaire exécutif de la CGPM, a remercié le pays hôte de l'excellente organisation de la réunion. Il a présenté les délégations et les observateurs et a fourni aux personnes présentes des informations concernant l'organisation de la session. Il a ensuite fait rapport sur les pouvoirs reçus.

ADOPTION DE L'ORDRE DU JOUR

7. M. Fabio Massa, Fonctionnaire principal chargé de l'aquaculture (CGPM), a présenté l'ordre du jour, lequel a été adopté avec de légères modifications et figure ainsi modifié à l'annexe 1 au présent rapport.

ACTIVITÉS INTERSESSIONS

8. M. Massa a fait le point sur les principales activités intersessions décrites dans le document GFCM:CAQ10/2017/2 et a brièvement présenté les décisions intéressant les travaux du CAQ qui ont été adoptées par la Commission à ses trente-neuvième et quarantième sessions (mai 2015 et mai 2016, respectivement). Il a rappelé qu'à la suite de la décision prise par la Commission à sa trente-neuvième session, les activités des organes subsidiaires du CAQ avaient été réorganisées pour tenir compte du

mandat actualisé et de la base de connaissances régionale existante. Les nouveaux organes subsidiaires étaient désormais les suivants: le Groupe de travail sur la qualité et le marché des produits aquacoles (WGQMA), le Groupe de travail sur la gouvernance et les aspects réglementaires (WGGRA), le Groupe de travail sur l'environnement et la santé des animaux aquatiques (WGEAA), le Groupe de travail sur l'innovation et la gestion des connaissances (WGIKM), le Système d'information pour la promotion de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée (SIPAM) et la Plateforme aquacole multi-acteurs de la CGPM (AMShP).

9. On citera, en particulier, les réalisations suivantes: i) la mise au point de la version finale des lignes directrices pour un programme de suivi environnemental (PSE) harmonisé de la pisciculture marine en cage; ii) une enquête sur la faisabilité du PSE et son adaptation au niveau national; iii) un exercice d'étalonnage des variables du PSE permettant le suivi de la qualité de la colonne d'eau et des sédiments dans la zone d'effets admissibles; iv) les travaux préparatoires en vue de l'élaboration de lignes directrices visant à simplifier les processus relatifs à la délivrance de permis et à l'octroi de concessions dans le secteur de l'aquaculture; v) une étude sur la situation du secteur et du marché de la pisciculture et conchyliculture en Méditerranée et en mer Noire; vi) un recueil d'exemples de réussite en matière d'élevage de poissons et de conchyliculture; vii) une évaluation de la situation des plateformes aquacoles multi-acteurs en Méditerranée et en mer Noire; viii) l'élaboration d'une version préliminaire de la stratégie en faveur du développement durable de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée et en mer Noire; ix) la coopération et l'assistance technique. Au total, 14 réunions ont été organisées à l'appui de ces activités.

10. Le Comité a salué le travail effectué et a notamment reconnu les efforts consentis pour faire face aux défis auxquels sont confrontés les différents pays. Il s'est accordé à dire que l'approche de co-construction adoptée jusque-là s'était avérée efficace. Il était temps de passer à la formulation d'indications concrètes sur la voie à suivre à l'avenir.

11. Le délégué de l'Italie a fait part de sa satisfaction concernant les nouvelles initiatives qui avaient été lancées, en particulier au sein de l'Équipe spéciale sur l'aquaculture, et a réaffirmé que son pays appuierait ce type d'activités participatives.

12. Les délégations se sont félicitées des efforts consentis pour achever les lignes directrices relatives au PSE élaboré par le CAQ ainsi que des résultats de l'enquête sur la faisabilité du programme dans la région (GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.14 et GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.15).

13. Plusieurs délégations, en particulier l'Algérie, l'Espagne et le Maroc, ont reconnu que la protection environnementale constituait une préoccupation majeure et ont souligné qu'il fallait s'intéresser aux aspects environnementaux liés à l'aquaculture en mer, notamment en réalisant des études d'impact environnemental.

14. Le délégué de la Turquie a fait valoir que la prise en compte des incidences potentielles de l'aquaculture (qu'elle soit pratiquée en mer ou sur terre) sur l'environnement faisait partie des priorités et que le suivi environnemental devait constituer une composante importante de la gestion de l'aquaculture et être adapté aux caractéristiques de chaque type d'environnement.

15. Le Comité a reconnu qu'il était essentiel de mettre en place un PSE une fois qu'une zone affectée à l'aquaculture (AZA) est établie, afin de garantir une intégration durable de l'aquaculture dans l'environnement, notamment dans le contexte de la planification spatiale marine.

Processus d'octroi de permis et de baux aquacoles

16. M. Davide Fezzardi, du Secrétariat de la CGPM, a présenté une proposition relative à l'élaboration de lignes directrices pour la simplification des processus d'octroi de permis et de baux aquacoles, notamment leur structure, leur contenu et leurs principes de base, en s'appuyant sur le document GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.18.

17. Rappelant qu'il était essentiel de simplifier les processus d'octroi de permis et de baux, plusieurs délégations ont souligné que leurs législations nationales se caractérisaient souvent par un cadre administratif fragmenté dans lequel intervenaient de nombreuses administrations.

18. Le Comité a reconnu que les lignes directrices constitueraient un outil utile s'agissant d'éveiller l'intérêt sur l'importance des processus d'octroi de permis et de baux aquacoles pour le développement de l'aquaculture et a accueilli favorablement l'idée de les faire également figurer dans un «kit d'outils» sur les AZA.

Marché et secteur de l'aquaculture

19. M. Ferit Rad, coordonnateur du WGQMA, a illustré, en s'appuyant sur le document GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.9, les conclusions d'une étude sur le marché et le secteur de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée et en mer Noire, réalisée en collaboration avec l'Organisation internationale pour le développement des pêches en Europe orientale et centrale (Eurofish) et le Centre d'information et de conseil sur la commercialisation des produits de la pêche dans les pays arabes (Infosamak). Dans sa présentation, il a souligné qu'il était nécessaire d'encourager les investissements du secteur privé et d'améliorer l'image de l'aquaculture afin de stimuler la production.

20. Le Comité a salué le travail remarquable qui avait été accompli et a accueilli favorablement la suggestion relative à l'organisation d'un atelier sur l'examen d'une méthodologie pour la communication de données sur le marché.

21. Plusieurs délégations ont insisté sur la nécessité de valoriser le caractère distinctif des produits issus de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée et en mer Noire afin de les rendre plus compétitifs sur les marchés mondiaux.

22. À cet égard, le délégué de l'Espagne a suggéré que les initiatives portant sur ces aspects pourraient également s'appuyer sur la diète méditerranéenne, qui bénéficie d'une bonne visibilité en tant que patrimoine culturel immatériel de l'humanité reconnu par l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture (UNESCO).

23. Le délégué de la Tunisie a réitéré l'importance de la production biologique certifiée en tant que débouché commercial supplémentaire du secteur aquacole.

24. Sur ce point, la représentante d'Eurofish a rappelé qu'étant donné que le plus important marché potentiel des produits biologiques était l'Europe centrale, il convenait de se pencher sur la diversification des marchés et de s'intéresser aux profils de consommation de chaque zone.

25. Le Comité a souligné la nécessité de continuer à examiner la transformation des produits, notamment avec l'application de principes directeurs abordant les critères de transformation, ainsi que la vente au détail, les conditions de l'accès au marché et la consommation intérieure, comme des facteurs déterminants du commerce des produits aquacoles.

Plateformes aquacoles multi-acteurs

26. Sur la base du document GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.12, le Secrétariat de la CGPM a fait une présentation sur la situation des plateformes aquacoles multi-acteurs en Méditerranée et en mer Noire, et a notamment illustré les conclusions d'une étude visant à évaluer les derniers progrès accomplis en relation avec les plateformes existant dans cette zone.

27. Le Comité a souligné que les plateformes multi-acteurs constituaient des instruments utiles s'agissant de rassembler des connaissances et de faire participer différents types d'acteurs pour traiter des aspects très variés. À cet égard, la possibilité d'y associer de grandes entreprises de vente au détail de produits aquacoles a été évoquée.

28. La déléguée du Maroc a évoqué l'expérience concluante de l'Agence Nationale pour le Développement de l'Aquaculture (ANDA) en matière de planification de l'aquaculture et de sélection des sites, à laquelle ont participé un grand nombre de parties prenantes.

29. À ce sujet, le délégué de l'Espagne a suggéré d'envisager d'inviter des associations de producteurs à assister aux sessions du CAQ car cela pourrait contribuer à renforcer la participation des parties prenantes.

30. Le Comité s'est félicité des résultats de l'étude et a reconnu que ces mécanismes de consultation étaient importants pour la prise de décision et que, même s'ils en étaient à différents stades de maturité, leur fonctionnement et la participation des parties prenantes variaient selon les besoins du secteur et les enjeux existant dans chaque pays.

Coopération et assistance technique

31. M. Houssam Hamza, second vice-président du CAQ, a présenté le cas de la Tunisie comme un exemple de coopération réussie avec la CGPM. Il a illustré en particulier l'assistance technique fournie pour l'établissement d'une AZA dans la baie de Monastir, avec la participation de la plateforme aquacole multi-acteurs locale tunisienne. Il a fait valoir qu'il pourrait être utile de reproduire dans d'autres zones cette expérience couronnée de succès.

32. Plusieurs délégations ont pris la parole pour reconnaître les résultats positifs de la coopération établie au sein de la CGPM, et se sont félicitées des avantages apportés par les différents cadres de coopération mis en place. En particulier, la signature de lettres d'accord entre la CGPM et les parties contractantes et parties non contractantes coopérantes (PCC) concernant l'assistance technique en matière de pêche et d'aquaculture dans le contexte du Programme-cadre de la CGPM avait contribué efficacement à la détermination précise des responsabilités, des objectifs et des domaines de coopération.

33. Dans le même ordre d'idées, la déléguée de l'Albanie a fait état de la coopération stimulante qui avait permis à différentes parties prenantes d'unir leurs efforts et a dit espérer que la lettre d'accord récemment signée ouvrirait de nouvelles perspectives à l'avenir.

34. Le délégué du Liban a fait observer que l'aquaculture marine n'étant pas développée dans son pays, l'apport d'une assistance technique serait utile pour la détermination de zones convenant à l'aménagement d'exploitations aquacoles en mer. Ce point pourrait être examiné dans le contexte de l'initiative «Action concertée pour le Liban».

35. Le délégué du Maroc a demandé au Comité d'envisager la prestation d'assistance technique à son pays, en particulier pour ce qui est de la formation des ingénieurs aquacoles.

36. La coopération fructueuse mise en place avec des organisations partenaires telles qu'Eurofish et Infosamak dans la préparation de documentation technique commune sur le secteur, le marché et les produits de l'aquaculture a aussi été évoquée.

37. Le représentant de l'Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature (UICN) a aussi mentionné la coopération productive établie avec la CGPM, notamment sur les interactions entre les aires marines protégées (AMP) et l'aquaculture, car ce point pourrait faire l'objet d'une étude plus approfondie dans le contexte général de la planification spatiale marine et de l'approche écosystémique.

38. Évoquant la mytiliculture traditionnellement pratiquée de longue date dans la région, la déléguée de la Croatie a souligné qu'il était nécessaire de renforcer la coopération régionale sur les méthodes permettant de s'attaquer au problème que posent les dorades royales qui viennent se nourrir des moules d'élevage.

39. La déléguée du Monténégro s'est félicitée de la coopération fructueuse avec la CGPM et avec le projet régional de la FAO AdriaMed («Coopération scientifique à l'appui de la pêche responsable dans l'Adriatique») concernant la mise en place d'AZA dans le cadre de la planification spatiale marine, et a formulé le souhait de poursuivre ces activités et de renforcer la participation du Monténégro à des initiatives régionales.

40. Le délégué de l'Italie a proposé que la base de connaissances du CAQ tire parti des résultats de projets dans la région, notamment le projet MedAID («Mediterranean Aquaculture Integrated Development») et le projet PerformFISH («Consumer-driven production: integrating innovative approaches for competitive and sustainable performance across the Mediterranean aquaculture value chain») mis en œuvre dans le cadre de l'initiative Horizon 2020.

41. Le Comité est convenu que la coopération devrait suivre cette approche personnalisée de l'assistance technique, y compris dans le cadre de la version préliminaire de la stratégie sur l'aquaculture.

Glossaire du CAQ

42. Le Secrétariat de la CGPM a brièvement présenté une liste de 33 termes qui mériteraient de figurer dans le glossaire du CAQ, reproduite dans le document GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.13, et a rappelé le travail continu qui était mené dans le cadre du Comité pour mettre à jour ce glossaire.

43. Plusieurs délégations ont pris la parole pour se féliciter de ce travail, particulièrement important lorsqu'il s'agit de mettre en commun les connaissances sur le développement de l'aquaculture. On espérait à cet égard que le glossaire serait traduit dans d'autres langues car il pourrait être particulièrement utile aux pays.

44. Enfin, le Comité a pris note des termes proposés et est convenu que le glossaire devait continuer d'être régulièrement mis à jour.

PRÉSENTATION DE LA VERSION PRÉLIMINAIRE DE LA STRATÉGIE EN FAVEUR DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE DE L'AQUACULTURE EN MÉDITERRANÉE ET EN MER NOIRE

45. M. Massa, M. Pablo Ávila, premier vice-président du CAQ, M. Hamza et M. Rad ont présenté la version préliminaire de la stratégie en faveur du développement durable de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée et en mer Noire, notamment ses trois cibles et les activités connexes, exposée dans le document GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.6. Il a été rappelé en particulier que la stratégie était le fruit d'un processus lancé par la Commission à sa trente-neuvième session (Italie, mai 2015) avec la création de l'Équipe spéciale sur l'aquaculture et qu'elle reposait sur une approche participative et transparente tenant compte des besoins et des attentes des pays ainsi que des stratégies existantes.

46. Le Comité s'est félicité du travail accompli par l'Équipe spéciale sur l'aquaculture et le Secrétariat de la CGPM pour élaborer la version préliminaire de la stratégie (qui figure à l'annexe 5). Les trois cibles identifiées représentaient bel et bien une réponse efficace aux priorités de la région. Il a aussi été reconnu que les objectifs ambitieux de la stratégie exigeaient la mise en place d'une coordination solide et que, sous réserve d'être également complétée avec des indicateurs spécifiques, elle avait le potentiel de devenir un atout puissant au service de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée et dans la mer Noire.

47. Le délégué de l'Ukraine a pris la parole pour rendre hommage au travail d'envergure effectué, déclarant espérer que la stratégie aiderait les pays à répondre à leurs besoins et à libérer leur potentiel en matière de développement de l'aquaculture. Malgré les contraintes pesant actuellement sur le secteur, celui-ci présentait un potentiel considérable et revêtait une importance stratégique pour l'Ukraine.

48. Le délégué de l'Union européenne (UE) s'est félicité de la conduite du processus qui avait abouti à l'élaboration d'une stratégie régionale, laquelle fournissait une assise solide au développement durable du secteur. Il a rappelé que la production durable faisait partie des conditions préalables au développement et à la croissance du secteur sur le long terme. À cet égard, il a informé le Comité que l'UE était désireuse de partager son expérience et ses outils avec les membres et les non-membres de l'UE dans la région afin de progresser d'une manière concertée sur la voie du développement de l'aquaculture.

49. Le président de la CGPM a rappelé les objectifs institutionnels des travaux réalisés par l'Équipe spéciale sur l'aquaculture dans le cadre de l'élaboration de la stratégie. Le Comité est convenu que, en accord avec l'approche suivie depuis la réunion au cours de laquelle l'Équipe spéciale avait été créée (Italie, mai 2016), l'accent devait être placé sur le volet de la stratégie relatif à la réglementation, qui représentait le cadre global dans lequel les autres composantes pouvaient être traitées. À cet égard, il a été proposé que la stratégie soit centrée essentiellement sur la cible 1 concernant la mise en place d'un cadre réglementaire et administratif efficace pour assurer la croissance durable de l'aquaculture, en tant que cible essentielle.

SÉANCE SPÉCIALE CONSACRÉE AU SYSTÈME D'INFORMATION POUR LA PROMOTION DE L'AQUACULTURE EN MÉDITERRANÉE (SIPAM)

50. Le Président du CAQ a présenté ce point de l'ordre du jour avant de céder la parole au Secrétaire exécutif, qui a rendu hommage à M. Mohamed Hadj Ali. Ce dernier, qui a accompli deux mandats de Président de la CGPM et a longtemps coordonné le réseau du SIPAM, est décédé récemment. On retiendra de M. Hadj Ali, qui était un membre important de la famille de la CGPM, son engagement soutenu et son dévouement inlassable au service de la Commission.

51. M. Federico De Rossi, du Secrétariat de la CGPM, a décrit dans les grandes lignes les activités menées dans le cadre du SIPAM pendant la période intersessions, telles qu'elles figurent dans le document portant la cote GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.7. Parmi ces activités figuraient notamment les suivantes: i) une enquête régionale sur la collecte de données nationales relatives à l'aquaculture; ii) la mise en place du nouveau portail des points de contact nationaux du SIPAM, qui comporte également des fonctions de consultation des données en accord avec la résolution CGPM/35/2011/2 sur les règles et procédures de confidentialité des données; iii) une évaluation de la conformité des statistiques concernant la production aquacole qui sont transmises à la CGPM par les PCC et des centres de production aquacole, conformément à la recommandation CGPM/35/2011/6 relative à la communication de données et d'informations sur l'aquaculture, amendant la recommandation CGPM/33/2009/4 et iv) l'examen des questions liées à la collecte et à la transmission de données sur les marchés aquacoles.

52. Le Comité s'est félicité du travail considérable qui avait été accompli, en particulier au titre de la modernisation du SIPAM. Ces activités n'auraient pu être menées à bien sans la contribution des points de contact nationaux qui ont participé à l'enquête sur la collecte de données relatives à l'aquaculture à l'échelle nationale, dont l'objectif était d'améliorer les systèmes d'information pour la promotion de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée. En outre, l'utilisation de technologies «cloud» – désormais pleinement intégrées à l'Extranet de la CGPM – a joué un rôle crucial.

53. S'agissant de l'accès public aux statistiques relatives à la production aquacole, conformément à la résolution CGPM/35/2011/2, plusieurs délégations ont souligné qu'il serait utile de donner aux PCC la possibilité d'apporter des corrections en cas d'inexactitude et/ou d'incohérence des données figurant sur le portail des points de contact nationaux du SIPAM, en coordination avec le Secrétariat de la CGPM. À cet égard, les délégués sont convenus de fixer la date limite pour effectuer ces révisions au 30 septembre 2017.

54. Le délégué de la Tunisie s'est vivement félicité des avancées réalisées et a souligné que les données du SIPAM devraient être utilisées dans le contexte de la stratégie sur l'aquaculture, en précisant

que des informations supplémentaires sur les aspects relatifs aux marchés seraient nécessaires. À cet effet, il a insisté sur le fait qu'il serait intéressant de rendre les données concernant les marchés accessibles depuis le portail des points de contact du SIPAM en créant des liens vers d'autres bases de données régionales.

55. S'agissant de la collecte de données aquacoles au niveau national, la déléguée de l'Algérie a fait part des difficultés auxquelles était confrontée l'administration de son pays en matière de collecte d'informations sur les masses d'eaux continentales, les fingerlings et les éclosiers auprès des artisans-pêcheurs, en particulier ceux qui sont isolés géographiquement et vivent par exemple à proximité des retenues créées par des barrages. À cet égard, le Secrétariat de la CGPM a souligné que des estimations fondées sur une démarche d'échantillonnage pourraient permettre de surmonter ces difficultés.

56. Le délégué de l'Italie a souligné qu'Eurostat et la CGPM n'avaient pas les mêmes exigences en matière de données aquacoles, en particulier pour ce qui était du type d'environnement, et qu'il serait souhaitable d'harmoniser les deux systèmes afin de réduire la lourde charge de travail pesant sur les pays membres de l'UE. Dans ce contexte, le Secrétariat de la CGPM a rappelé que la Commission et Eurostat s'étaient réunis récemment en vue de traiter ce problème efficacement. Toutefois, leurs mandats étant différents, il n'avait pas été possible d'aligner totalement les exigences.

57. Un débat a porté sur des questions spécifiquement liées à la transmission de données à la CGPM par les PCC, à savoir la date limite de communication des informations nationales, d'une part, et les variables relatives aux données sur les marchés, d'autre part. Le Comité s'est montré d'accord avec la proposition du délégué de Malte de repousser au 30 novembre cette date limite, initialement fixée au 30 juin (conformément à la recommandation CGPM/35/2011/6), afin que les PCC disposent de suffisamment de temps pour traiter les données – activité généralement réalisée en interne au cours du deuxième semestre.

58. S'agissant des données sur les marchés, M. Rad a suggéré de supprimer toutes les variables relatives à l'alimentation animale, à la farine de poisson et à l'huile de poisson qui sont définies dans la recommandation CGPM/35/2011/6, dans la mesure où ces informations ne sont pas utiles à l'industrie aquacole, davantage intéressée par les prévisions que par les données passées. De plus, il a proposé de modifier légèrement les données requises portant sur le commerce et la consommation de manière à ce qu'elles contribuent davantage à la réalisation des objectifs de la stratégie sur l'aquaculture.

59. Lors des débats qui ont suivi, les délégués ont souligné qu'il était nécessaire de commencer à transmettre à la CGPM des données sur les marchés qui soient conformes à la liste de paramètres révisée (disponible à l'annexe 7). Le Comité est convenu de soumettre cette proposition à la Commission pour examen à sa quarante et unième session (Monténégro, octobre 2017).

60. La déléguée de l'Albanie a indiqué qu'il était important de recueillir des données sur les importations et les exportations de fingerlings. C'est pourquoi elle a suggéré d'envisager de recueillir ces informations dans un avenir proche car elles constitueraient un bon indicateur du point de vue de la production et des marchés.

61. Enfin, M. Valerio Crespi, de la Sous-division de l'aquaculture du Département des pêches et de l'aquaculture de la FAO (FIAA), a donné des informations sur la Vue générale du secteur aquacole national (NASO) et sur la collection de cartes associée basée sur Google, toutes deux élaborées par FIAA. Plus particulièrement, il a souligné qu'à la suite de la décision prise par le Comité à sa neuvième session (Maroc, février 2015), la mise à jour biennale des rapports NASO pour la plupart des PCC avait été menée à bien, grâce à la contribution active des points de contact nationaux et à la collaboration fructueuse avec le Secrétariat de la CGPM. Le Comité est convenu de poursuivre la coopération avec FIAA aux fins de la mise à jour biennale des rapports NASO.

ÉTAT D'AVANCEMENT DE LA RÉORGANISATION DU CAQ

62. Le Secrétariat de la CGPM a souligné les progrès accomplis concernant la réorganisation du CAQ, rappelant que la Commission avait décidé à sa trente-neuvième session de revoir le cadre de référence de ses organes subsidiaires. Après une étude de faisabilité menée sur deux ans et plusieurs consultations, le CAQ avait été remodelé et avait accueilli quatre groupes de travail thématiques reflétant les principales priorités en matière d'aquaculture ainsi que les domaines stratégiques de la Plateforme aquacole multi-acteurs de la CGPM. La nouvelle structure était plus adaptée et facilitait la coopération et la participation des parties prenantes, mais il était nécessaire d'améliorer la circulation de l'information et la mise en commun des données, et de renforcer la visibilité des activités. En outre, il fallait continuer d'augmenter l'efficacité des groupes de travail et d'ajuster les fonctionnalités de la Plateforme aquacole multi-acteurs. À cet égard, le Secrétariat de la CGPM a invité les délégations à apporter leur contribution et à suggérer des améliorations.

63. Le Comité a noté avec satisfaction les efforts consentis et les progrès accomplis dans le cadre de sa réorganisation, et a dit espérer que le processus se poursuive afin qu'il puisse contribuer à relever les défis actuels du secteur dans la région, ainsi que ceux qui se profilent.

64. Compte tenu des objectifs à court et moyen termes définis dans la stratégie sur l'aquaculture et de la grande diversité des activités prévues, le délégué de la Tunisie a noté qu'il serait préférable de tenir une session du CAQ chaque année, afin de pouvoir suivre l'ensemble des progrès accomplis et des résultats obtenus.

65. En outre, la déléguée de l'Algérie, soutenue par d'autres délégations, a suggéré d'augmenter d'une journée la durée des sessions afin de laisser suffisamment de temps pour mener les discussions et les consultations et de formuler de manière plus efficace des avis scientifiques pour la Commission.

66. Le Comité est finalement convenu de prendre note des remarques qui avaient été formulées et de faire rapport à la Commission sur ces questions à sa quarante et unième session.

FORMULATION D'AVIS ET PRIORITÉS EN MATIÈRE DE GESTION ET DE RECHERCHE AQUACOLE

67. Compte tenu des activités menées pendant la période intersessions, présentées dans le document portant la cote GFCM:CAQ10/2017/2, et à la lumière des débats qui ont eu lieu au cours de la session, le Comité a formulé les avis suivants:

Marché et secteur de l'aquaculture

- Promouvoir l'aquaculture et les produits issus de celle-ci, en ciblant aussi bien les jeunes générations que leurs aînés, afin d'améliorer la visibilité, l'image publique et l'acceptabilité sociale du secteur
- Accroître davantage la visibilité des produits issus de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée et en mer Noire et soutenir leur compétitivité par des initiatives de promotion ciblées
- Considérer la production biologique comme une possibilité de production aquacole supplémentaire en Méditerranée et en mer Noire
- Mettre au point des méthodologies et des principes directeurs normalisés à utiliser au niveau national pour la réalisation d'études de marché tenant compte des facteurs de distorsion (activités touristiques, par exemple)
- Évaluer d'autres questions relatives au marché (taux d'autoconsommation et consommation apparente, par exemple) et analyser les principes directeurs existants relatifs aux critères de

transformation, au commerce de détail, aux conditions d'accès au marché et à la consommation intérieure

Processus relatifs à la délivrance de permis et à l'octroi de concessions

- Éveiller l'intérêt sur la nécessité d'améliorer et de simplifier les processus relatifs à la délivrance de permis et à l'octroi de concessions dans le secteur de l'aquaculture

Aquaculture et environnement

- Encourager les pays à assurer la mise en œuvre effective des lignes directrices pour un PSE harmonisé de la pisciculture marine en cage en Méditerranée et en mer Noire, et à faire rapport sur les progrès réalisés à cet égard
- Prendre en compte les effets des changements climatiques et de l'acidification des océans dans le système d'indicateurs pour le suivi du développement durable de l'aquaculture
- Étudier les interactions positives potentielles de l'aquaculture et des AMP dans le cadre de l'aménagement de l'espace marin au sens large

Plateformes aquacoles multi-acteurs

- Favoriser l'établissement de plateformes aquacoles multi-acteurs aux niveaux national et local, dans un cadre juridique clairement défini, en tenant compte de la nécessité d'intégrer les activités aquacoles côtières afin d'assurer un développement harmonieux du secteur
- Adapter les actions de coopération en faveur du développement de l'aquaculture dans la région, en tenant compte des différences qui existent dans la nature et la portée des plateformes aquacoles multi-acteurs de la région

SIPAM

- S'agissant de la recommandation CGPM/35/2011/6, envisager de reporter la date limite de communication de données sur l'aquaculture au 30 novembre de chaque année civile
- S'agissant de la recommandation CGPM/35/2011/6, envisager de mettre à jour la liste des paramètres relatifs aux données du marché (annexe 7)
- Coordonner les efforts entre les points de contact nationaux afin d'assurer la précision des statistiques de la production aquacole transmises par l'intermédiaire du portail du SIPAM et de les rendre disponibles pour consultation en ligne (conformément à la résolution CGPM/35/2011/2 sur les règles et procédures de confidentialité des données)

PROGRAMME DE TRAVAIL DU COMITÉ SCIENTIFIQUE CONSULTATIF DE L'AQUACULTURE POUR 2017-2018

68. Le Secrétariat de la CGPM a présenté son programme de travail pour la prochaine période intersessions en s'appuyant sur le document GFCM:CAQ10/2017/2.

69. Le Comité a approuvé son plan de travail 2017-2018, comme suit:

Équipe spéciale sur l'aquaculture

- Achever la stratégie en faveur du développement durable de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée et en mer Noire aux fins de sa présentation à la quarante et unième session de la CGPM
- Mettre au point une version abrégée de la stratégie sur l'aquaculture en vue de sa diffusion à plus grande échelle

Groupe de travail sur la gouvernance et les aspects réglementaires (WGGRA)

- Élaborer des lignes directrices techniques sur les processus relatifs à la délivrance de permis et à l'octroi de concessions dans le secteur de l'aquaculture, et compiler notamment des exemples de réussite en matière de processus d'octroi de licences dans la région
- Achever et diffuser une boîte à outils sur les AZA, comprenant notamment un guide pour leur mise en place, et élaborer des versions résumées dans différentes langues, le cas échéant, ainsi que d'autres matériels d'information sur ces zones (par exemple des dépliants et des diapositives)
- Poursuivre la compilation et l'analyse d'exemples de réussite concernant l'amélioration de l'image des produits de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée et en mer Noire, en tenant compte des aspects institutionnels et réglementaires
- Réaliser une enquête au niveau régional afin de mesurer l'acceptabilité sociale du développement de l'aquaculture
- Mettre en œuvre des programmes de renforcement des capacités et de formation afin d'aider les pays riverains de la Méditerranée et de la mer Noire à mettre en place des AZA et à améliorer la planification du développement de l'aquaculture dans les zones côtières

Groupe de travail sur l'environnement et la santé des animaux aquatiques (WGEAA)

- Mettre au point un guide sur les méthodes d'analyse des risques dans l'aquaculture et l'enregistrement des données

Groupe de travail sur la qualité et le marché des produits aquacoles (WGQMA)

- Mettre au point et diffuser un guide et des protocoles techniques en ce qui concerne la sécurité sanitaire et la qualité alimentaires des produits issus de l'aquaculture pratiquée en Méditerranée et en mer Noire

Plateforme aquacole multi-acteurs de la CGPM (AMShP)

- Fournir un soutien et établir des relations de coopération en vue de la création de plateformes aquacoles multi-acteurs à l'échelon national

Système d'information pour la promotion de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée (SIPAM)

- Poursuivre l'évaluation et assurer la cohérence des données communiquées par les PCC conformément à la recommandation CGPM/35/2011/6
- Suivre les progrès de la collecte de données sur l'aquaculture (centres de production et statistiques sur la production)

- Continuer à améliorer les moyens de consultation des données en ligne dans le nouveau portail des points de contact nationaux du SIPAM
- Corriger d'éventuelles déclarations erronées et/ou incohérentes de données dans le portail des points de contact nationaux du SIPAM avant de rendre publiques les statistiques sur la production de l'aquaculture, conformément à la résolution CGPM/35/2011/2
- Intégrer le formulaire Excel actuel de communication des données destiné aux centres de production aquacole dans le nouveau portail des points de contact nationaux du SIPAM
- Mettre au point la version définitive du manuel d'utilisation du portail des points de contact nationaux du SIPAM

Coopération et assistance technique

- Élaborer des documents d'information sur les interactions entre l'aquaculture et les AMP adaptés à la région de la Méditerranée et la mer Noire, en coopération avec l'UICN
- Participer avec FIAA à l'atelier sur des études de cas concernant l'aquaculture et sur la mise au point d'une boîte à outils pour l'aide à la prise de décision dans le cadre du projet AquaSpace («Making Space for Aquaculture») (Espagne, 9-11 mai 2017)
- Continuer de collaborer avec le projet CERES («Climate change and European aquatic RESources») sur des questions liées à l'évaluation de la vulnérabilité de l'aquaculture face au climat et participer éventuellement à un atelier sur les changements climatiques (qui devrait se tenir, sous réserve, en 2018)
- Collaborer avec le système Globefish de la Sous-division de la FAO chargée des questions relatives aux produits, aux échanges et à la commercialisation (FIAM) sur des questions liées à l'acceptabilité sociale dans le cadre du projet MedAID dirigé par le Centre international de hautes études agronomiques méditerranéennes (CIHEAM);
- Collaborer avec la Tunisie en vue de la création d'un centre régional de formation à l'aquaculture
- Lancer une consultation au sein du réseau du CAQ sur le problème que posent les dorades royales qui viennent se nourrir des produits de la conchyliculture, notamment les moules

Autres priorités

- Réaliser une enquête régionale pour évaluer l'application de certaines dispositions de l'article 9 du Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable de la FAO
- Élaborer un plan pour la compilation d'un rapport regroupant des fiches nationales contenant certaines informations sur l'aquaculture dans les PCC, rapport qui sera régulièrement présenté au CAQ

Réunions et formations prévues pour 2017-2019

| Réunions du CAQ/WGBS | Lieu/date |
|---|--|
| WGBS – Réunion en vue de la création d’un centre de démonstration destiné à promouvoir l’aquaculture durable en mer Noire | Constanta (Roumanie) 26-28 septembre 2017 |
| Réunion pour la mise en œuvre opérationnelle de la stratégie en faveur du développement durable de l’aquaculture en Méditerranée et en mer Noire | (à déterminer) Quatrième trimestre 2017 – Premier trimestre 2018 |
| WGGRA – Atelier régional sur la gouvernance de l’aquaculture et les questions réglementaires | (à déterminer) 2018 |
| WGQMA – Consultation d’experts sur une méthodologie permettant de réaliser des études de marché sur l’aquaculture | (à déterminer) 2018 |
| WGEAA – Atelier sur l’enregistrement des données et les méthodes d’analyse des risques (par exemple, les indicateurs de sécurité, les espèces allogènes ou les agents pathogènes) | (à déterminer) 2018 |
| WGEAA – Atelier sur la capacité de charge environnementale et la productivité de la conchyliculture | (à déterminer) 2018 |
| Onzième session du CAQ, y compris une session extraordinaire du SIPAM | Espagne 2019 |
| Réunions en coopération avec des organisations partenaires | |
| WGGRA – CGPM/FAO Réunion de lancement du projet Mediterranean Aquaculture Integrated Development (MedAID, CIHEAM) | Saragosse (Espagne) 3-5 mai 2017 |
| WGGRA – Atelier sur l’amélioration de l’acceptabilité sociale du développement de l’aquaculture (MedAID, CIHEAM) | Montpellier, France 2018 |

70. Le Comité a pris acte des aimables invitations de certaines délégations se proposant d’accueillir des réunions, sous réserve de la confirmation des autorités compétentes de leurs pays respectifs.

71. Les activités et réunions susmentionnées, à l’exception de la session statutaire du CAQ, seraient organisées sous réserve de la disponibilité des fonds extrabudgétaires au sein du Programme-cadre de la CGPM. Elles seraient organisées en collaboration avec les organisations partenaires concernées ayant conclu un mémorandum d’accord avec la CGPM et en coopération avec les projets régionaux de la FAO. Les mandats de certaines réunions sont reproduits à l’annexe 6.

QUESTIONS DIVERSES

72. À plusieurs reprises, le Comité a remercié le Gouvernement de la Turquie pour la remarquable organisation de la session et les conditions excellentes dans lesquelles elle s'était déroulée. Tous les délégués et autres participants ont particulièrement apprécié le soutien exceptionnel et l'accueil chaleureux dont ils ont bénéficié.

73. Les participants ont remercié le Secrétariat de la CGPM pour son excellent travail et pour les efforts déployés sans relâche en vue de la préparation et du bon déroulement de la session.

ÉLECTION DU BUREAU DU CAQ

74. Le Comité a rendu hommage aux membres sortants du Bureau du CAQ, M. François René (France), M. Pablo Ávila (Espagne) et M. Houssam Hamza (Tunisie), respectivement Président, premier Vice-Président et second Vice-Président, pour leur travail et leur dévouement remarquables au cours de leur mandat et pour leur gestion efficace lors de la réorganisation du CAQ.

75. Le Secrétaire exécutif de la GCPCM a indiqué que le mandat du Bureau du CAQ était arrivé à échéance et il a renvoyé aux articles VII et VIII du Règlement intérieur de la Commission qui s'appliquaient aussi, *mutatis mutandis*, à l'élection et aux fonctions des organes subsidiaires de la CGPM et selon lesquels les membres du Bureau pouvaient être élus pour un mandat renouvelable deux fois. S'agissant du mandat du Bureau du CAQ, dont la durée était de quatre ans, il a rappelé qu'à la précédente session du CAQ il avait été décidé de reporter l'élection du Bureau à la dixième session.

76. Sur proposition des délégués de l'Espagne, de la Tunisie et de la Turquie, le Comité a décidé à l'unanimité d'élire M. Ramón De La Figuera Morales (Espagne) aux fonctions de président. M. Houssam Hamza (Tunisie) et M. Özerdem Maltas (Turquie) ont été élus premier et second vice-présidents, respectivement.

DATE ET LIEU DE LA PROCHAINE SESSION

77. Le Comité a pris bonne note de l'aimable invitation de la délégation de l'Espagne, qui se proposait d'accueillir la onzième session du CAQ, en 2019, sous réserve de la confirmation officielle des autorités compétentes. La date et le lieu seraient précisés ultérieurement.

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

78. Le rapport, y compris ses annexes, a été adopté le 29 mars 2017.

Agenda

- 1. Opening and arrangements for the session**
- 2. Adoption of the agenda**
- 3. Intersessional activities**
- 4. Presentation of the draft strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture**
- 5. Special session of the Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM)**
- 6. Progress in the reorganization of the CAQ**
- 7. Formulation of advice and priorities in the field of aquaculture management and research**
- 8. CAQ work plan for 2017–2018**
- 9. Any other matter**
- 10. Election of the CAQ Bureau**
- 11. Date and place of the next session**
- 12. Adoption of the report**

Ordre du jour

- 1. Ouverture et organisation de la session**
- 2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour**
- 3. Activités intersessions**
- 4. Présentation du projet de stratégie en faveur du développement durable de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée et en mer Noire**
- 5. Élection du Bureau du CAQ**
- 6. Séance spéciale consacrée au Système d'information pour la promotion de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée (SIPAM)**
- 7. État d'avancement de la réorganisation du CAQ**
- 8. Formulation d'avis et priorités en matière de gestion et de recherche aquacoles**
- 9. Programme de travail pour 2017-2018**
- 10. Questions diverses**
- 11. Date et lieu de la prochaine session**
- 12. Adoption du rapport**

List of participants / Liste des participants**GFCM CONTRACTING PARTIES / PARTIES CONTRACTANTES DE LA CGPM****ALBANIA / ALBANIE**

Mimoza COBANI
Specialist
Ministry of Agriculture, Rural
Development & Water Administration
Blv. "Deshmoret e Kombit", Nr.2
Tirana
E-mail: cobanimimi@yahoo.com

ALGERIA / ALGÉRIE

Dalila BOUGRID
Chercheur en aquaculture
Centre National de la recherche pour le
développement de la pêche et de
l'aquaculture (CNRDPA)
Direction générale de la pêche et de
l'aquaculture
Ministère de l'agriculture, de
développement rural et de la pêche
11, Boulevard Colonel Amirouche Bouismail
Tipaza
E-mail: bougrid.d@gmail.com

Fadila SERIDI
Sous Directrice
Direction du développement de
l'aquaculture
Direction générale de la pêche et de
l'aquaculture
Ministère de l'agriculture, du
développement rural et de la pêche
Route des Quatre Canons,
Alger
E-mail: f_seridi@yahoo.fr

BULGARIA / BULGARIE**CROATIA / CROATIE**

Vlasta FRANICEVIC
Head of Service
Aquaculture Directorate of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture
Ivana Mazuranica 30
23000 Zadar
E-mail: vlasta.franicevic@mps.hr

Ana LUKIN
Senior Advisor for Aquaculture
Directorate of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture
Ivana Mažuranića 30
23000 Zadar
E-mail: ana.lukin@mps.hr

CYPRUS / CHYPRE**EGYPT / ÉGYPTE****EUROPEAN UNION / UNION
EUROPÉENNE**

Rafal KABACINSKI
Policy Officer
Desk Officer European Commission
Directorate General for Fisheries
and Maritime Affairs
Rue Joseph II 99, 1040
Brussels
E-mail: rafal.kabacinski@ec.europa.eu

FRANCE

GREECE / GRÈCE

Konstantinos KOUTSIS
 Focal Point of Greece for the
 SIPAM and the GFCM Aquaculture
 Task Force.
 Hellenic Ministry of Rural
 Development and Food
 150 Syggrou Avenue, GR17671
 Athens
 E-mail: kkoutsis@minagric.gr

ISRAEL / ISRAËL**ITALY / ITALIE**

Alessandro IANNITTI
 Head of Unit - PEMAC I
 Directorate General of Maritime Fishery
 and Aquaculture
 Ministry of Agriculture, Food and
 Forestry Policies
 via XX Settembre 20
 Rome
 E-mail: a.iannitti@politicheagricole.it

Giovanna MARINO
 Chair of Aquaculture Unit
 National Environmental
 Protection Agency (ISPRA)
 via Brancati 48-60
 Roma
 E-mail: giovanna.marino@isprambiente.it

JAPAN / JAPON**LEBANON / LIBAN**

Dahej EL MOKDAD
 Head of Forestry Division
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Borj El Brajneh
 Beirut
 E-mail: dmokdad@agriculture.gov.lb

LIBYA / LIBYE**MALTA / MALTE**

Tristan CAMILLERI
 Director
 Aquaculture Directorate
 Secretariat for Agriculture, Fisheries
 and Animal Rights
 Ministry for Sustainable Development,
 the Environment and Climate Change
 Fort San Lucjan, Triq Il-Qajjenza
 Marsaxlokk
 E-mail: tristan-charles.camilleri@gov.mt

MONACO**MONTENEGRO / MONTÉNÉGRÓ**

Milena KRASIC
 Adviser for fisheries and aquaculture
 Ministry of Agriculture and
 Rural Development
 Rimski trg no. 46
 81000 Podgorica
 E-mail: milena.krasic@mpr.gov.me

Milica MANDIC
 Institute of Marine Biology
 Dobrota bb
 Kotor
 E-mail: mamilica@ac.me

MOROCCO / MAROC

Abdellah MOUSTATIR
 Chef de la Division des structures
 de la pêche
 Ministère de l'agriculture et des pêches
 Maritimes
 Bp 476 Agdal
 Rabat
 E-mail: a.moustatir@mpm.gov.ma

Hicham EL OUAZZANI
 Chef du service d'Appui Technique
 Agence nationale pour le
 développement de l'aquaculture (ANDA)
 Avenue Annakhil, Les Patios
 4ème étage, Hay Riad
 Rabat
 E-mail: h.elouazzani@anda.gov.ma

Asmaa JAHID
 Chef de Service des plans d'aménagement
 Agence nationale pour le
 développement de l'aquaculture (ANDA)
 Avenue Annakhil, Les Patios
 4ème étage, Hay Riad
 Rabat
 E-mail: a.jahid@anda.gov.ma

SLOVENIA / SLOVÉNIE

ROMANIA / ROUMANIE

SPAIN / ESPAGNE

Ramón DE LA FIGUERA MORALES
 Subdirector General de Acuerdos y ORPS
 Secretaría General de Pesca
 C/Velazquez 144
 Madrid
 E-mail: rdelafiguera@magrama.es

Pablo ÁVILA
 Agriculture and Fisheries
 Development Agency (AGAPA)
 C/ Severo Ochoa 38
 Parque Tecnológico de Andalucía
 29590 Málaga.
 E-mail: pablo.avila@juntadeandalucia.es

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE

TUNISIA / TUNISIE

Houssam HAMZA
 Chef de Service
 Direction générale des pêches et de
 l'aquaculture
 30 Rue Alain Savary
 1002 Tunis
 Tel.: (+216) 71 786833
 E-mail: houssam.hamza@gmail.com

Foued MESTIRI
 Directeur Général
 Centre technique d'aquaculture de Tunisie
 5 Rue du sahel Montfleury
 1002 Tunis
 E-mail: fmestiri@ctaquaculture.tn

Ridha MRABET
 Directeur Général
 Direction générale des pêches et de
 l'aquaculture
 30 Rue Alain Savary
 1002 Tunis
 E-mail: ridha.mrabet@iresa.agrinet.tn

TURKEY / TURQUIE

Turgay TURKYILMAZ
 Deputy General Director
 General Directorate of Fisheries
 and Aquaculture (DGFA)
 Ministry of Food, Agriculture
 and Livestock
 Eskisehir Yolu 9. Km. Lodumlu
 Ankara
 E-mail: turgay.turkyilmaz@tarim.gov

Özdem MALTAŞ
 Head of Department
 General Directorate of Fisheries
 and Aquaculture (DGFA)
 Ministry of Food, Agriculture
 and Livestock
 Eskisehir Yolu 9. Km. Lodumlu
 Ankara
 E-mail: ozerdem.maltas@tarim.gov.tr

Esra Fatma DENIZCI CAKMAK
 Senior Fisheries Officer
 General Directorate of Fisheries
 and Aquaculture (DGFA)
 Ministry of Food, Agriculture
 and Livestock
 Eskisehir Yolu 9. Km. Lodumlu
 Ankara
 E-mail: esrafatma.denizci@tarim.gov.tr

Yesim ASLANOGLU
 Aquaculture Expert
 General Directorate of Fisheries
 and Aquaculture (DGFA)
 Ministry of Food, Agriculture
 and Livestock
 Eskisehir Yolu 9. Km. Lodumlu
 Ankara
 E-mail: yesim.aslanoglu@tarim.gov.tr

Ali AYAR
 Head of Department
 General Directorate of Agricultural
 Research and Policies (GDARP)
 Arařtırma ve Teknoloji Geliřtirme Kampüsü
 Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bulvarı 3. Km
 No :38, P.K.51
 Ankara
 E-mail: ali.ayar@tarim.gov.tr

Ilhan AYDIN
 Director
 Central Fisheries Research Institute Trabzon
 Vali Adil Yazar Cad. NO:14
 Trabzon
 E-mail: ilhan61@gmail.com

Erdiñç VESKE
 Coordinator of Fisheries and
 Aquaculture Research
 General Directorate of Agricultural
 Research and Policies (GDARP)
 Arařtırma ve Teknoloji Geliřtirme Kampüsü
 Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bulvarı 3. Km
 No :38, P.K.51
 Ankara
 E-mail: erdinc.veske@tarim.gov.tr

K. Gökhan KURTAR
 European Union Expert
 Ministry of Food Agriculture and
 Livestock
 GTHB Yerleřkesi Lodumlu
 Ankara
 E-mail: gokhan.kurtar@tarim.gov.tr

Levent OZKAN
 Department Manager
 Provincial Office of Food, Agriculture
 and Livestock (PoFAL)
 Ministry of Food, Agriculture
 and Livestock
 Kazım Dirik Mah. Sanayi Cad. N.34
 Izmir
 E-mail: levent.ozkan@tarim.gov.tr

Gönül Saniye ÖZOK
 Engineer
 Aquaculture Engineer
 Provincial Office of Food, Agriculture
 and Livestock (PoFAL)
 Ministry of Food, Agriculture
 and Livestock
 Kazım Dirik Mah. Sanayi Cad. N.34
 Izmir
 E-mail: gonulsaniye.ozok@tarim.gov.tr

Gamze AVCIOĞLU
 Engineer
 Provincial Office of Food, Agriculture
 and Livestock (PoFAL)
 Ministry of Food, Agriculture
 and Livestock
 Kazım Dirik Mah. Sanayi Cad. N.34
 Izmir
 E-mail: gamze.avcioglu@tarim.gov.tr

Umut TURUPLU
 Aquaculture Engineer
 Provincial Office of Food, Agriculture
 and Livestock (PoFAL)
 Ministry of Food, Agriculture
 and Livestock
 Kazım Dirik Mah. Sanayi Cad. N.34
 Izmir
 E-mail: umut.turuplu@tarim.gov.tr

Ilknur ZORLU
 Aquaculture Engineer
 Provincial Office of Food, Agriculture
 and Livestock (PoFAL)
 Ministry of Food, Agriculture
 and Livestock
 Kazım Dirik Mah. Sanayi Cad. N.34
 Izmir
 E-mail: ilknur.zorlu@tarim.gov.tr

**COOPERATING NON CONTRACTING PARTIES / PARTIES NON CONTRACTANTES
COOPÉRANTES**

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-
HERZÉGOVINE**

GEORGIA / GÉORGIE

Irine LOMASHVILI
Chief Specialist of the Department of
Biodiversity and Forestry Policy
Ministry of Environment and Natural
Resources Protection of Georgia
6 Gulua street
Tbilisi
E-mail: irinaloma@yahoo.com

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION / FÉDÉRATION
DE RUSSIE**

UKRAINE

Kostiantyn DEMIANENKO
Deputy Director
Institute of Fisheries and Marine
Ecology (IFME)
Acting under the State Agency of Fisheries of
Ukraine
Consulska str., 8
71118 Berdyansk
E-mail: s_erinaco@ukr.net

Tetiana YAKOVLIEVA
Deputy Head of Department of Fisheries
Organisation, Aquaculture and Scientific
Support
Head of Division of Aquaculture and
Reproduction of Water Bioresources
State Agency of Fisheries of Ukraine
Sichovykh Striltsiv str., 45-A
04053 Kyiv
E-mail: bluefield@bigmir.net

**OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS/ OBSERVATEURS
D'ORGANISATIONS INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES**

EUROFISH

Ekaterina TRIBILUSTOVA
Market Specialist
Eurofish International Organization
H.C. Andersens Blvd 44-46
1553 Copenhagen
Denmark
E-mail: katia@eurofish.dk

IUCN

François SIMARD
Directeur Adjoint du Programme
Global Marin et Polaire
Union Internationale pour la
Conservation de la Nature (UICN)
Rue Mauverney 28
1196 Gland
Switzerland
E-mail: francois.simard@iucn.org

**GFCM BUREAU / BUREAU DE LA
CGPM**

Stefano CATAUDELLA
 GFCM Chairperson / Président de la CGPM
 Università di Tor Vergata
 Via Orazio Raimondo, 8
 00173 Rome
 Italy
 Tel: +39 0672595954
 Fax: +39 062026189
 E-mail: cataudel@uniroma2.it

CAQ BUREAU / BUREAU DU CAQ

François RENÉ
 CAQ Chairperson / Président du CAQ
 Station expérimentale de l'Ifremer
 Chemin de Maguelone
 34110 Palavas les Flots
 France
 E-mail: francoisrene34@gmail.com

Pablo ÁVILA
 CAQ 1st Vice Chairperson /
 Premier vice-président du CAQ
 Spain
 E-mail: pablo.avila@juntadeandalucia.es

Houssam HAMZA
 CAQ 2nd Vice Chairperson /
 Second vice-président du CAQ
 Tunisia
 E-mail: houssam.hamza@gmail.com

**COORDINATOR OF THE
WORKING GROUP ON QUALITY AND
MARKET OF AQUACULTURE
PRODUCTS / COORDINATEUR DU
GROUPE DE TRAVAIL SUR LA
QUALITÉ ET LE MARCHÉ DES
PRODUITS AQUACOLES**

Ferit RAD
 Coordinator of the Working Group on
 Quality and Market of Aquaculture Products
 Professor
 University of Mersin
 Su Ürünleri Fakültesi. Yenişehir/Mersin
 Turkey
 E-mail: frad@mersin.edu.tr

INVITED EXPERTS / EXPERTS INVITÉS

Ali AIT ALI
 Expert
 GFCM
 6, 11 Rue Driss Ben Abdeslam- Maarif
 Casablanca
 Morocco
 E-mail: a.aitali@yahoo.fr

John THEODOROU
 Assistant Professor
 TEI of W.Greece
 Dept. of Fisheries & Aquaculture Technology
 Nea Ktitia,
 Mesolongi,
 30200 Greece
 E-mail: jtheo@teimes.gr

**FAO FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
DEPARTMENT / DÉPARTEMENT DES
PÊCHES ET DE L'AQUACULTURE DE
LA FAO**

Valerio CRESPI
 Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the
 United Nations (FAO)
 Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 1
 00153 Rome
 Italy
 E-mail: valerio.crespi@fao.org

GFCM SECRETARIAT/SECRETARIAT DE LA CGPM
Palazzo Blumenstihl
Via Vittoria Colonna, 1
00193 Rome, Italy

Abdellah SROUR
Executive Secretary
General Fisheries Commission for the
Mediterranean
Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations
Tel.: (+39) 06 57055730
Fax: (+39) 06 57055827
E-mail: abdellah.srou@fao.org

Fabio MASSA
Senior Aquaculture Officer
General Fisheries Commission for the
Mediterranean
Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations
Tel.: (+39) 06 57053481
E-mail: Fabio.massa@fao.org

Federico DE ROSSI
Data Compliance Officer
General Fisheries Commission for the
Mediterranean
Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations
Tel.: (+39) 06 57053481
E-mail: federico.derossi@fao.org

Dominique BOURDENET
Scientific Editor/Translator
General Fisheries Commission for the
Mediterranean
Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations
Tel.: (+39) 06 57056557
E-mail: dominique.bourdenet@fao.org

Davide FEZZARDI
Aquaculture Consultant
General Fisheries Commission for the
Mediterranean
Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations
Tel.: (+39) 06 57055459
E-mail: davide.fezzardi@fao.org

Coline CARMIGNAC
Editing Consultant for Aquaculture
General Fisheries Commission for the
Mediterranean
Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations
E-mail: coline.carmignac@fao.org

Olimpia SERMONTI
Liaison Consultant
General Fisheries Commission for the
Mediterranean
Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations
Tel.: (+39) 06 57050301
E-mail: olimpia.sermonti@fao.org

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| GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.1 | Provisional list of documents |
| GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.2 | Provisional list of participants |
| GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.3 | Report of the ninth session of the Committee on Aquaculture (Marrakech, Morocco, 24–26 February 2015) |
| GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.4 | Report of the thirty-ninth session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (Milan, Italy, 25–29 May 2015) |
| GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.5 | Report of the fortieth session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (St Julian's, Malta, 30 June–3 July 2016) |
| GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.6 | Draft version of the strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture (available in English only) |
| GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.7 | Report on the achievements of the Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM) for 2015–2016 (available in English only) |
| GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.8 | Report of the expert meeting on sustainable shellfish aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (Cattolica, Italy, 23–25 November 2015) (available in English only) |
| GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.9 | Report of the meeting on finfish and shellfish aquaculture industry and market in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (Rome, Italy, 7 November 2016) (available in English only) |
| GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.10 | Report of the first meeting of the GFCM Task Force on a Strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture (Naples, Italy, 4–6 May 2016) (available in English only) |
| GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.11 | Report of the second meeting of the GFCM Task Force on a Strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture (Rome, Italy, 8–9 November 2016) (available in English only) |
| GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.12 | Report on the status of aquaculture multi-stakeholder platforms in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (available in English only) |
| GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.13 | Terms of interest for the CAQ Glossary (available in English only) |
| GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.14 | Report on the outcomes of a regional survey on guidelines on a harmonized environmental monitoring programme (EMP) for marine finfish cage farming (available in English only) |
| GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.15 | Report on the definition of threshold variable values for environmental quality standards in the monitoring of finfish aquaculture cages (available in English only) |
| GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.16 | Report of the wrap-up workshop for the InDAM project (Cattolica, Italy, 26 November 2015). Consolidated practices and lessons learned on sustainable aquaculture indicators (available in English only) |

- GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.17 Report of the wrap-up workshop for the SHoCMed project (Cattolica, Italy, 27 November 2015). Consolidated practices and lessons learned on allocated zones for aquaculture and site selection (available in English only)
- GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.18 Proposal outlining the structure, contents and rationale for the preparation of guidelines on aquaculture licensing and leasing processes (available in English only)
- GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Dma.1 Proceedings of the Regional Conference on “Blue Growth in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea: developing sustainable aquaculture for food security” (Bari, Italy, 9–11 December 2014) (available in English only)

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| GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.6 | Version préliminaire de la Stratégie en faveur du développement durable de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée et en mer Noire (en anglais seulement) |
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| GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.13 | Termes présentant un intérêt pour le glossaire du CAQ (en anglais seulement) |
| GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.14 | Rapport sur les résultats de l'enquête régionale concernant les lignes directrices pour un programme de suivi environnemental harmonisé de la pisciculture marine en cage (en anglais seulement) |

- GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.15 Rapport sur la définition des valeurs de variables seuil pour les normes de qualité environnementale relatives au suivi de la pisciculture en cage (en anglais seulement)
- GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.16 Rapport de l'atelier de restitution du projet InDAM (Cattolica, Italie, 26 novembre 2015). Pratiques consolidées et enseignements tirés sur les indicateurs de durabilité de l'aquaculture (en anglais seulement)
- GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.17 Rapport de l'atelier de restitution du projet SHoCMed (Cattolica, Italie, 27 novembre 2015). Pratiques consolidées et enseignements tirés sur les zones affectées à l'aquaculture et la sélection des sites
- GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.18 Proposition détaillant la structure, le contenu et les principes de base concernant la préparation de lignes directrices sur les processus d'octroi des permis et des baux aquacoles (en anglais seulement)
- GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Dma.1 Actes de la Conférence régionale "La croissance bleue en Méditerranée et en mer Noire: développer une aquaculture durable à l'appui de la sécurité alimentaire" (Bari, Italie, 9-11 décembre 2014) (en anglais seulement)

**Opening speeches / Allocutions d'ouverture
(in original language / dans la langue d'origine)**

Turgay Turkyilmaz
Deputy General Director
Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DGFA)
Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock
Turkey

Distinguished delegates,
Executive Secretary,
Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to İzmir, one of the most beautiful cities in Turkey, with all its unique natural and historical glory.

Distinguished participants, at the outset, I would like salute you in the name of my country, my ministry and myself and I would like to express my pleasure at seeing you all here in Turkey and being here with you in an organisation like this one. Again, welcome to our country.

Distinguished Delegates,

Aquaculture sector has been making significant contributions in terms of creating employment, providing foreign currency inflow, supplying raw materials for other industry, reducing fishing pressure on natural fish stocks.

We are living in globalizing world. People's efforts to reach what is best and ideal, and their desire to increase the level of welfare and to live in a better world affect the change.

Such international organizations, where solutions are built for the current problems, responsibilities shared and where multi-stakeholder and correct policies are created, are seen to be beneficial in the short term, while the fundamental and lasting benefits are better observed in the long term.

Many international organizations established under FAO umbrella have been taking important roles in different parts of the world and have been carrying out successful work.

As the case with many international institutions, our ministry is represented before FAO in many commissions, committees, working groups and similar platforms. The most important Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) linked to FAO, to which our country is a member in fields of fishery and aquaculture, is General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

In general, Turkey's annual fisheries production reaches about 600-700 thousand tons, 250 thousand tons from aquaculture production. Using "environmental friendly" production techniques in Turkey and ensuring the environmental, economic and social sustainability of the sector are priorities for our ministry.

Therefore, aquaculture is among the priorities of our ministry policies and the basis of our policy is sustainability. Economic, social and environmental sustainability of the aquaculture sector is extremely important in terms of food security in the future.

As I conclude my speech,

I hope that this committee on aquaculture will continue as always fulfilling key tasks such as contributing to ensuring food security, sustainable structuring of the aquaculture in the region, efficient use and conservation of natural resources.

I hope the meeting will be productive, and thank you for your participation and the contributions you will be making, and I hope you have a pleasant time in İzmir.

Furthermore, I would like to thank again everyone who contributed to the arrangement and organization of this meeting.

Stefano Cataudella
Chairperson of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Distinguished representatives of the hosting country
Distinguished delegates and members of the CAQ Bureau,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you all here in Izmir for the tenth session of the GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee on Aquaculture. Let me first convey my sincere gratitude to the Government of Turkey, and in particular the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, for their warm hospitality in hosting this meeting and for ensuring a perfect and smooth organization.

Let me briefly recall that the first mission of this Committee, which holds its institutional meetings once every two years (the last session took place in February 2015 in Marrakech, Morocco) is to provide scientific advice to the GFCM in order to ensure that aquaculture is developed in a sustainable way in its area of application. I am particularly attached to the work, history and mandate of this Committee since I had the honour to be its first Chairperson, nominated in 1996.

Looking at the agenda of this tenth session, I can see that much progress has been made since the last session. Several activities have been implemented by the CAQ working groups, including technical assistance to riparian countries to support aquaculture development. Each of these activities was undertaken in a spirit of cooperation and transparency and each progress achieved and knowledge gathered should be capitalized, disseminated and shared in the region. In his regard, I am particularly pleased the proceedings of the Regional Conference “Blue Growth in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea: developing sustainable aquaculture for food security” that took place in Bari in December 2014 were eventually released, as they contain important knowledge, concept and ideas to progress towards our common goals of ensuring a responsible and sustainable development of the aquaculture sector in the whole region. As I have reiterated on many occasions, this conference represented an important milestone to drive progress in the region. Furthermore, this last intersession period was also dedicated to the reorganization of CAQ which is still ongoing within the modernization process of the GFCM.

I have no hesitations to state that aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea is a thriving sector, and although it is not new in the region, it remains a challenge for many riparian countries and for their development expectations. Without doubt, now more than ever aquaculture should be able to respond to the pressing needs in terms of food security, in a way that is consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

Let me also briefly recall that one of the main achievements in these last two years of work during the CAQ intersession is the elaboration of a draft strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture. Since the thirty-ninth session of the GFCM, in May 2015, when a dedicated Task Force was established to develop a strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture, a very important consultative and participatory process has taken place. Thanks to the invaluable work carried out by the Aquaculture Task Force, regional commonalities have been identified, national experiences could be shared and each country had the possibility to learn from each other. The draft strategy which emerged as an outcome of this process should be presented to the next session of the GFCM in October this year for its endorsement before being translated into concrete actions. In light of the blue growth concept, this aquaculture strategy represents an important instrument for the riparian countries to improve cooperation in the region, ensure a coordinated and responsible aquaculture development, and meet the targets set by their aquaculture national plans.

Aquaculture has a growing importance and role to play in the Mediterranean region and it should be properly addressed in international fora, also in light of the close interconnections of this sector with fisheries. In this respect, I would like to mention the upcoming Ministerial Conference on Mediterranean fisheries that I will attend in a few days in Malta.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm that this CAQ session provides an important opportunity for all of you to voice new issues and challenges and to prompt direct and concise suggestions so that they could be properly addressed by the GFCM. I am looking forward to interesting presentations and enriching discussions which will be translated into scientific advice for our Commission. Finally, I would like to stress that this Committee will be called elect during this session its new chairperson and vice-chairpersons, and I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the excellent and valuable work done by the outgoing CAQ Bureau during its mandate.

As we have to go through various agenda item, I will not keep you any longer and I wish you a successful session.

**Draft version of the strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea
aquaculture
(in English only / en anglais seulement)**

Executive summary

Aquaculture is a flourishing industry which plays a key role in Mediterranean and Black Sea countries, under a blue growth perspective. According to current trends in aquaculture production and to some national aquaculture strategies, the production of farmed seafood is expected to substantially increase in the region over the next decades. This needs careful planning for the long-term social, economic and environmental sustainability of the sector. At the international level, crucial steps have been made to promote sustainable development and cooperation, in light of emerging global challenges. In particular, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and more specifically SDG 14, underscore the importance of a “sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism”. At the FAO level, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) supports responsible aquaculture practices while the attainment of a productive and sustainable aquaculture is enshrined in FAO Strategic Objective 2 (SO2). In the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, the need to promote blue growth and develop sustainable aquaculture to ensure food security has been reiterated on several occasions. Acknowledging this growing trend and in line with its mandate to ensure the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) has established, in 2015, a dedicated Task Force in charge of preparing a strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture (Aquaculture Task Force). The regional medium-term (2017–2020) aquaculture strategy has been developed as part of an extensive consultation process and building upon the key elements provided by the Aquaculture Task Force. It is aimed at helping countries accomplish their national production plans and thus enabling the sector to efficiently reach its potential by 2030. This strategy envisages a future for Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture where a level playing field is achieved and the promotion of the sector is ensured so that it is more competitive, sustainable, productive, profitable and equitable. It is structured around three main targets addressing key transboundary vulnerabilities and cross-cutting issues, based on the pillars of sustainable development. These targets will be instrumental in achieving the overall objective of the aquaculture strategy, through a number of outputs and activities.

Target 1: Build an efficient regulatory and administrative framework to secure sustainable aquaculture growth

Output 1.1: Improved aquaculture regulatory frameworks and streamlined public sector management

Output 1.2: Integrated aquaculture in coastal zones

Target 2: Enhance interactions between aquaculture and the environment while ensuring animal health and welfare

Output 2.1: Mitigated impacts on the environment and improved environmental protection

Output 2.2: Responsible aquatic animal health and welfare management

Output 2.3: Enhanced research and knowledge sharing on aquaculture

Target 3: Facilitate market-oriented aquaculture and enhance public perception

Output 3.1: A market-driven aquaculture sector development

Output 3.2: Improved safety and quality of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture products

Output 3.3: Enhanced aquaculture and aquaculture products marketing and communication

Résumé

En Méditerranée et en mer Noire, l'aquaculture est une industrie florissante qui joue un rôle déterminant dans l'optique de la croissance bleue. Compte tenu de l'évolution actuelle de la production aquacole et de certaines stratégies aquacoles nationales, la production régionale des produits de la mer issus de l'aquaculture devrait augmenter sensiblement au cours des décennies à venir. Cette situation requiert une planification rigoureuse en vue d'assurer la durabilité sociale, économique et environnementale à long terme du secteur. Au niveau international, des étapes décisives ont été franchies en vue de promouvoir le développement durable et la coopération, au regard des nouveaux enjeux mondiaux. Les objectifs de développement durable des Nations Unies, et en particulier l'objectif 14, soulignent l'importance d'une «exploitation durable des ressources marines, notamment grâce à une gestion durable des pêches, de l'aquaculture et du tourisme». À l'échelon de la FAO, le Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable préconise des pratiques aquacoles responsables; en outre, la mise en place d'une aquaculture durable et productive est inscrite dans l'Objectif stratégique 2 de la FAO. En Méditerranée et en mer Noire, la nécessité de promouvoir la croissance bleue et de développer une aquaculture durable à l'appui de la sécurité alimentaire a été réaffirmée à diverses occasions. Prenant acte de cette évolution croissante, et conformément à son mandat, qui vise à garantir le développement durable de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée et en mer Noire, la Commission générale des pêches pour la Méditerranée (CGPM) a mis en place en 2015 une Équipe spéciale chargée d'élaborer une stratégie en faveur du développement durable de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée et en mer Noire (l'Équipe spéciale sur l'aquaculture). La stratégie aquacole régionale à moyen terme (2017-2020) a été élaborée dans le cadre d'un vaste processus de consultation, en prenant appui sur les principaux éléments fournis par l'Équipe spéciale sur l'aquaculture. Elle vise à soutenir les pays dans la réalisation de leurs plans de production nationaux et à permettre ainsi au secteur de pleinement développer son potentiel d'ici 2030. Selon cette stratégie, l'avenir de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée et en mer Noire passe par un rééquilibrage des forces en jeu, ainsi que par des activités promotionnelles qui contribueront à rendre le secteur plus compétitif, plus durable, plus productif, plus rentable et plus équitable. Elle s'articule autour de trois grands objectifs (cibles) qui tiennent compte des principales vulnérabilités transfrontières et des problèmes transversaux et se fondent sur les piliers du développement durable. Grâce à un certain nombre d'activités et de résultats, la réalisation de ces objectifs devrait contribuer de façon déterminante à atteindre l'objectif global visé par la stratégie sur l'aquaculture.

Cible 1: Mettre en place un cadre administratif et réglementaire efficace pour assurer une croissance durable de l'aquaculture

Résultat 1.1: les cadres réglementaires en matière d'aquaculture sont améliorés et la gestion du secteur public est rationalisée

Résultat 1.2: l'aquaculture est intégrée aux zones côtières

Cible 2: Améliorer les interactions entre l'aquaculture et l'environnement tout en garantissant de bonnes conditions sanitaires et de vie pour les animaux

Résultat 2.1: les impacts sur l'environnement sont atténués et la protection de l'environnement est améliorée

Résultat 2.2: les conditions de santé et de vie des animaux aquatiques sont gérées de manière responsable

Résultat 2.3: le partage des connaissances et la recherche en matière d'aquaculture sont améliorés

Cible 3: Promouvoir une aquaculture axée sur le marché et améliorer l'image du secteur auprès du grand public

Résultat 3.1: le développement du secteur aquacole est régi par les règles du marché

Résultat 3.2: la sécurité et la qualité des produits issus de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée et en mer Noire sont accrues

Résultat 3.3: le marketing et la communication concernant le secteur et les produits aquacoles sont améliorés

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. This document summarizes the results of the consultative process that started after the thirty-ninth session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), when it was decided to establish a task force to develop a strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture, building, among others, on the outcomes of the Regional Conference “Blue Growth in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea: developing sustainable aquaculture for food security” (Italy, December 2014).
2. The consultative process of the strategy has involved national focal points and experts, who have met on various occasions. The two meetings of the Aquaculture Task Force held so far have constituted its main milestones. The first meeting of the Task Force (Italy, May 2016) reviewed the recent progress made and the priorities for the aquaculture sector in the region, and convened on preliminary key elements for the strategy, working areas, practical actions, management tools and a roadmap. (GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.10). The outcomes of the first meeting were presented and endorsed at the fortieth session of the Commission.
3. The second meeting of the Aquaculture Task Force (Italy, November 2016) reviewed background information on the Aquaculture Task Force consultative process and the existing national and supranational aquaculture strategies and development plans in the region. It also discussed the structure and contents of the draft strategy, with a particular emphasis on priority actions and technical assistance needs. The meeting agreed to further fine-tune the draft strategy, in particular with regard to its structure, timeframe, cooperation and technical assistance components (GFCM:CAQ10/2017/Inf.11).
4. This document reflects the points raised during the meetings of the Aquaculture Task Force as well as the feedback received afterward. It is structured in three parts: i) a general introduction providing background information, the vision, mission, nature, scope and guiding principles of the strategy, ii) the three targets addressing key transboundary vulnerabilities and cross-cutting issues based on the pillars of sustainable development, with associated activities and outputs, and iii) a part addressing the operationalization of the strategy.
5. This document is brought to the attention of the CAQ and will then be presented at the forty-first session of the GFCM (Montenegro, October 2017). Upon the advice provided by the Commission, a meeting is expected to be held (tentatively during the fourth quarter of 2017–first quarter of 2018) to define the operationalization of the strategy, with particular regard to the timing and actor(s) responsible for each activity.

1. INTRODUCTION

The need for a regional strategy

In Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian countries, aquaculture is an active and growing sector which plays a major role in achieving food security, employment and economic development while reducing the dependence on the often overexploited wild stocks. In a blue growth perspective, aquaculture constitutes a strategic sector for future development. In 2014, the production of Mediterranean and Black Sea bordering countries reached 2 381 954 tonnes¹, with an economic value estimated at around USD 6.8 billion. According to some national aquaculture strategies, the production is expected to reach over 4 600 000 tonnes in 2020–2030 in Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian countries.

However, this rapid growth poses challenges for the overall sustainability of the sector in the long term and raises concerns under several perspectives. A sustainable aquaculture means ensuring not only that the industry is economically and environmentally sustainable but also that aquaculture farms operate in a socially and culturally responsible manner. The current challenges in terms of governance, spatial planning, economic and market issues, ecological and environmental concerns as well as the globalization of the market of aquaculture production have highlighted the importance of a regional

¹ Including production from all environments (marine, brackish and freshwater) and from the Atlantic.

strategy for the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian countries.

Aquaculture holds great potential for many coastal countries and communities in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region. If managed and governed properly, it can provide multiple benefits in terms of nutritious food and positive socio-economic outcomes. Since Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture consists of various culture systems at varying stages of development, a holistic approach is needed to ensure that aquaculture is developed in a way that reconciles all the principles of sustainable development, taking into account the complexity and specificities of aquaculture across the region.

In this context, the implementation of a regional aquaculture strategy should help countries in reaching this objective. By facilitating cooperative processes and fostering synergies, the strategy aims at enabling the sector in delivering its full potential by 2030.

Vision and mission

This integrated regional aquaculture strategy is based on extensive consultations held within a co-construction process and aimed at securing equal terms of competition, a minimum common criteria to address aquaculture-related cross-cutting and transboundary issues, good aquaculture–environment interactions and aquaculture activities integrated with coastal areas and communities in Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian countries. The strategy envisages a future for Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture where the industry will be globally competitive, sustainable, productive, profitable, and equitable.

At the same time, the aquaculture strategy should help Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian countries in formulating harmonized aquaculture activities and action plans with special attention to current regional, subregional, national and local aquaculture priorities and emerging challenges at the different levels while taking into account existing national and supranational strategies and existing legal requirements.

International and institutional background

The international community recently recognized that further progress needs to be achieved in order to secure an efficient cooperation towards sustainable development in light of emerging global challenges. On 1 January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic United Nations Summit — officially came into force and will mobilize efforts over the next fifteen years towards a more prosperous and sustainable world. The conservation and sustainable use of marine environment has an important role to play in this respect and is especially reflected in SDG 14 which is to “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”. Its Target 7, in particular, aims “by 2030, [to] increase the economic benefits to Small Island Developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism”. This target acknowledges the significant role to be played by good governance in aquaculture in the context of comprehensive UN efforts to improve life conditions, stressing the necessity to “balance priorities between growth and conservation, and between industrial and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture, ensuring equitable benefits for communities.” Other SDGs such as SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG 12 (Responsible production and consumption), SDG 13 (Climate action), SDG 15 (Life on land) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals), are also of importance for aquaculture. Back in in 2012, “The Future We Want” outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) had already renewed international commitment for sustainable development and cooperation. In parallel with these efforts, the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) concluded with the historic adoption, in December 2015, of the Paris Agreement. For the first time, all nations jointly committed to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects, thereby outlining a new course in the global climate effort.

In support of these efforts, the FAO has launched the Blue Growth Initiative with the aim of addressing food security and poverty alleviation by producing quality capture and aquaculture fish through processes which are integrated, sustainable, and socio-economically sensitive. The FAO has enshrined its quest for securing a productive and sustainable aquaculture to achieve food security in its Strategic Objective 2 (SO2) which is to “make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable”. The FAO programme of work in fisheries and aquaculture under the FAO strategic framework, elaborated by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI)², highlights that “some of the Blue Growth Initiative activities contributing to SO2 involve cross-sectoral technical work, including [...] reducing the impact of agriculture intensification on aquatic eco-systems, improving aquatic animal health, and promoting coastal zone management”. Furthermore, the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) also tackles the promotion of responsible aquaculture. In particular, Article 9.1.1 indicates that “States should establish, maintain and develop an appropriate legal and administrative framework which facilitates the development of responsible aquaculture”, while Article 9.2 clearly addresses the protection of transboundary aquatic ecosystems by supporting responsible aquaculture practices and Article 11 puts forward the right of consumers to safe and quality products encouraging states to set minimum standards in this regard and promoting certification.

In the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, other international legal instruments have been adopted and are contributing to these efforts, such as for instance the 1995 Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean.

At the GFCM level, the need to pursue the sustainability of the aquaculture sector is enshrined in the Agreement for the establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM Agreement), thereby affirming that responsible aquaculture reduces stress on living marine resources and plays an important role in the promotion and better use of aquatic living resources, including food security. Designing a regional strategy is fully in line with Article 5 e) of the GFCM Agreement, which states that the GFCM shall “foster, as appropriate, a subregional approach to fisheries management and aquaculture development in order to better address the specificities of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea”.

The aquaculture strategy directly stems from the thirty-ninth session of the GFCM, when it was decided to establish a Task Force on a Strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture (Aquaculture Task Force). The work of the Aquaculture Task Force should, among other things, build upon the outcomes of the Regional Conference “Blue Growth in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea: developing sustainable aquaculture for food security” (Bari, Italy, December 2014), which underlined that a good governance implies that aquaculture management should be participative, effective, accountable and coherent and be based on sound and effective regulatory frameworks. The aquaculture strategy contains the key elements that emerged after the first meeting of the Aquaculture Task Force (Naples, Italy, May 2016); it is also based on the strategic areas of the GFCM Aquaculture Multi-Stakeholder Platform (AMShP) and has been enriched with the outcomes of other aquaculture projects carried out so far³ under the GFCM Framework Programme.

2. NATURE AND SCOPE

The aquaculture strategy is linked to SDG 14 and to SO2. It is multiannual (2017–2020) and provides guidance to unlock the potential of the sector in the region by ensuring that it meets the growing need for aquaculture products and contributes to food security and poverty reduction, with particular attention to coastal communities. Responsibility and sustainability constitute the cornerstone of the aquaculture strategy, which is also in line with the principles and approaches enshrined in modern international legal instruments governing fisheries and aquaculture.

² FAO. 2016. FAO’S programme of work in fisheries and aquaculture under the FAO Strategic Framework. Thirty-second Session of the Committee on Fisheries, Rome, Italy, 11-15 July 2016. Document COFI/2016/9.

³ MedAquaMarket, InDAM, SHoCMed, LaMed, etc.

The strategy does not apply to fisheries since the challenges associated to this sector are specifically addressed in a dedicated mid-term strategy towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries.

The aquaculture strategy is structured around three targets addressing a range of transboundary key vulnerabilities and cross-cutting issues, based on the pillars of sustainable development. For each target, proposed outputs and activities will be instrumental towards its efficient achievement. Target 1 “Build an efficient regulatory and administrative framework to secure sustainable aquaculture growth” is considered as the structuring target of the strategy, as governance is the overarching concept framing all the components of the strategy.

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The implementation of the strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture will be guided by the following principles, which are enshrined in the GFCM Agreement and in place at the FAO level:

Sustainability: the FAO vision for sustainable food and agriculture is that of a world where food is nutritious and accessible for everyone, and natural resources are managed in a way that maintains ecosystem functions to support current as well as future human needs. According to this vision, rural communities have the opportunity to actively participate in, and benefit from, economic development, have decent employment conditions, work in a fair price environment, live in security, and have control over their livelihoods and equitable access to resources. This is particularly reflected in SO2 and in the GFCM Agreement, which states that “aquaculture, including culture-based fisheries, should be considered as a means to promote the diversification of income and diet and, in so doing, ensure that living marine resources are used responsibly, that genetic diversity is conserved and adverse impacts on the environment and local communities are minimized”;

Best available knowledge: the implementation of the strategy should duly take into account the best available knowledge, including on the aquaculture trends, ecosystems and marine environment, as well as relevant information emanating from a variety of sources. Efforts to collect all information available shall be ensured, and standards for assuring the quality of information should be applied wherever and whenever practicable and appropriate within the GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) and its subsidiary bodies, in particular the Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM);

Objectivity and transparency: the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on the status and trends of aquaculture, ecosystems and marine environment should contribute to the aquaculture strategy while respecting confidentiality requirements. Transparency in decision-making processes and related activities should be promoted. Uncertainty associated with information on status and trends should be expressed, without detracting from the application of the precautionary approach in accordance with the 1995 Agreement and the CCRF when data and information are incomplete;

Timeliness: the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on the status and trends of aquaculture, ecosystems and marine environment should be provided as timely as possible;

Participation, cooperation and efficiency: the implementation of the aquaculture strategy should be based on the participatory and consultative process stemming from the Aquaculture Task Force and account for all relevant participants in the preparation, analysis and presentation of information. Relevant participants may include, *inter alia*, representatives of Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian States, as well as international, non-governmental and civil society organizations. Cooperation among relevant stakeholders, existing structures and mechanisms should be promoted in order to create synergies and avoid duplications of existing knowledge and initiatives;

Adaptability and level playing field: the activities foreseen in the aquaculture strategy should be adaptive enough to permit adjustments, as necessary, and take into account the different stages of regional industry maturity in the area and the different legal contexts of all Mediterranean and Black

Sea riparian countries. In this respect, the capacity of developing states in the region should be duly taken into account in implementing the strategy. In addition, a level playing field should be sought to guarantee parity, impartiality and equal opportunities to all parties involved.

TARGET 1: BUILD AN EFFICIENT REGULATORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK TO SECURE SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE GROWTH

As acknowledged by the international community on several occasions, a good governance in aquaculture would enable to increase the social acceptability of the sector and confidence of all stakeholders, and to unlock aquaculture socio-economic potential, thereby enabling the various actors to benefit from new development opportunities.

It is widely recognized that in the Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian countries, the main challenges to aquaculture development are: the lack of streamlined administrative management, the lack of dedicated regulatory frameworks accounting specifically for coordinated spatial planning and enabling the selection of suitable areas for aquaculture (e.g. implementation of allocated zones for aquaculture [AZA]), the overlapping of numerous legislations and authorities, the lack of strategy for aquaculture long-term planning, and the lack of participatory and transparent decision-making processes. These bottlenecks result in excessive bureaucracy, lacking coordination among authorities – which entails lengthy and cumbersome aquaculture licensing processes – conflicts over competing uses, misallocation of resources, stagnation of the industry and irreversible environmental damage in transboundary aquatic ecosystems.

In light of this, improvements need to be achieved in order to build an efficient regulatory and administrative framework to secure the sustainability of aquaculture growth. Hence, in the context of its Target 1, the aquaculture strategy aims at ensuring that aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea is: a) regulated by a sound and functioning system and by the implementation of specific regulations governing the sector, in line with the principles of the CCRF and with the support of strategic plans; b) based on the existence of functioning and transparent participatory mechanisms in the decision-making process; and c) developed in a consistent way based on maritime coastal planning principles and integrated with the activities of other coastal users. In order to make advances towards good aquaculture governance in the region, the aquaculture strategy aims at supporting Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian countries in achieving enabling conditions, such as: dedicated and improved regulatory frameworks, streamlined administrative and public sector management, and participatory, transparent and accountable policy-making processes (Output 1.1); improved and sustainable integration of aquaculture in coastal and marine zones and enhanced compatibility of the sector with other existing and future human activities (Output 1.2).

Output 1.1: Improved aquaculture regulatory frameworks and streamlined public sector management

Recent data⁴ suggest that the main challenges for good aquaculture governance in the Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian countries are related to the lack of comprehensive regulatory frameworks, clear leadership structures and space allocated to aquaculture.

Legal frameworks often do not include a comprehensive vision of aquaculture activities nor do they consider the specificities connected with the location of aquaculture activities (land, offshore, inshore), the type of production (intensive, extensive) or the type of enterprises (small, medium or large scale). This is also reflected in the difficulty experienced by managers in the administration in applying aquaculture regulations themselves. According to recent surveys in the Mediterranean and Black Sea

⁴ Chapela, R. 2016. Review of current approaches to spatial planning for aquaculture in marine and freshwater environments in Europe, non-EU Mediterranean and Black Sea countries. Report prepared for the EU funded project AquaSpace – Ecosystem Approach to making Space for Sustainable Aquaculture (<http://www.aquaspace-h2020.eu/>).

region, 62 percent of the countries apply a national development plan dedicated to aquaculture, while only 25 percent have specific regulations on aquaculture. In countries where no specific regulations on aquaculture exist, aquaculture is regulated by laws on fisheries or agriculture that are not designed to meet the specific needs of the sector⁵.

According to the Strategic Guidelines for the sustainable development of EU aquaculture (2013), the licensing time for aquaculture farms exceeds 17 months in the majority of EU countries, while in some countries licenses for aquaculture activities at sea have a limited duration (less than 10 years). Furthermore, the time needed to build facilities and begin the production is often quite long (2.5–3.5 years) before the first sale. Finally, only a limited number of countries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea have functioning participatory fora such as multi-stakeholder platforms or equivalent mechanisms (mirror platforms, aquaculture committees, etc.) enabling dialogue and having a participatory role in decision making processes.

This output will require the execution of a number of activities as listed below:

Activities required for Output 1.1

Activities to support the improvement of regulatory frameworks and enhance administrative efficiency

- a) The preparation of **regional guidelines for sound regulatory systems**, including main guiding principles, good practices and key elements for the sustainable growth of the aquaculture sector (e.g. specific law and measures on social rights and fair working conditions). This action is expected to provide Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian countries with minimal basic requirements on governance-related issues, such as licensing, spatial planning, and competitiveness and level playing field.
- b) The compilation of **regional and global successful practices on licensing processes simplification** in order to carry out a benchmarking of models and options for good governance. This action will offer the necessary support and practical solutions to help Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian countries improve their administrative procedures.
- c) The organization of **training and national capacity building programmes** for operators and decision-makers, at the local and regional levels. This action will enhance the role of aquaculture within national and regional development plans (e.g. human health, local and national economy) and raise awareness on good governance systems and procedures in aquaculture. Workshops may be also organized to improve interinstitutional cooperation.
- d) The **following of the progress of aquaculture development in** the Mediterranean and the Black Sea area. This action is aimed at following the implementation for sustainable aquaculture development according to the sustainability indicators so far identified by the CAQ and within the InDAM project⁶.
- e) The establishment of **a regional network (or/and forum/workshop) on aquaculture governance** among Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian countries and partner organizations in order to address, following a coordinated approach, regulatory issues and to share experience and knowledge. This action is expected to provide an enabling environment for cooperation among key decision-makers on aquaculture-related issues with a view to further strengthening efforts towards a regional harmonization of the sector's regulations.

⁵ Chapela, R. 2016. Review of current approaches to spatial planning for aquaculture in marine and freshwater environments in Europe, non-EU Mediterranean and Black Sea countries. Report prepared for the EU funded project AquaSpace – Ecosystem Approach to making Space for Sustainable Aquaculture (<http://www.aquaspace-h2020.eu/>).

⁶ Project on “Indicators for Sustainable Development of Aquaculture and Guidelines for their use in the Mediterranean”.

Activities to enhance accountability of policy-making and implementation processes

- a) The preparation of **guidelines to enhance the involvement of aquaculture farmers' organizations (AFOs) in aquaculture management**. These guidelines will include provisions aimed at strengthening stakeholder participation mechanisms in decision-making processes so to ensure proactive inputs and enhanced accountability of the actors involved.
- b) The provision of **support to the establishment of national and regional participatory tools** such as multi-stakeholder platforms (e.g. AMShP). These participatory tools are expected to foster a strong regional network involving national aquaculture experts, partners and research organizations, to stimulate dialogue, and facilitate knowledge sharing at different geographic levels in order to provide regional solutions to the main gaps and priorities identified at the national level.

Output 1.2: Integrated aquaculture in coastal zones

The spatial development of marine aquaculture should be considered within the broader context of marine spatial planning in order to minimize the negative impacts on the coastal areas, avoid competition with other users and conserve ecosystem services provided by the environment. In the Mediterranean and Black Sea region, the lack of sound spatial planning seriously hinders aquaculture development. At the local level, the major source of conflicts stems from the struggle over marine space and competing coastal utilizations and users; as a result, the available space for new mariculture development in coastal zone is becoming seriously limited. Conflicts usually reported by Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian countries refer to interactions with tourism, local communities, environmental conservation, small-scale fisheries and oil and gas industry⁷.

In the wake of the international acknowledgment of the need for marine spatial planning, the FAO Committee on Fisheries⁸ emphasised its crucial importance with a view to ensuring the allocation of space for aquaculture and integrating aquaculture activities within other coastal uses in a concerted manner. At the GFCM level, the Resolution GFCM/36/2012/1 on Guidelines on Allocated Zones for Aquaculture, adopted in 2012, highlights that aquaculture development along the coastal areas goes beyond the zoning concept and that marine spatial planning, environmental impact assessment and monitoring programmes are essential for the implementation of a regional strategy addressing AZA. The resolution considers that the implementation of AZA is a priority for the responsible development and management of aquaculture activities in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. It also includes social and economic provisions aimed at reducing negative aquaculture externalities while allowing a harmonious development of various types of activities in the same area. Moreover, it stresses that the implementation of AZA should usually be accompanied by a management plan in which aquaculture itself is developed.

In the region, countries are considering to frame aquaculture activities within the context of marine spatial planning, especially in relation to spatial and temporal allocation of maritime space to different activities with a view to preserve the ecological services provided by the ocean ecosystems. For example, at the EU level, the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive⁹ sets overarching principles and common requirements by which to organise human activities in EU maritime space to achieve environmental, economic and social objectives. It requires the implementation of maritime spatial planning (MSP) in all EU waters and the establishment by Member States of cross-sectoral maritime spatial plans by 2021. All activities foreseen in the strategy will be in line with existing international, regional, supranational and national spatial planning processes.

⁷ Chapela, 2016.

⁸ FAO Committee on Fisheries. 2014. *Report of the seventh session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture. St Petersburg, Russian Federation, 7–11 October 2013*. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report. No. 1064. Rome, FAO. 53 pp.

⁹ Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning.

From a recent survey carried out in 21 Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian countries, it emerged that 14 countries had implemented site selection for aquaculture development. However, various barriers (conflict for space, environmental concerns, aquaculture priorities not accounted for, etc.) were still limiting the application of AZA. Moreover, it is worth underlining that site selection *per se* does not imply the establishment of AZA nor the planning and creation of zones that are specifically dedicated to aquaculture. The respondents to the survey also indicated that only 8 countries had established AZA or aquaculture management areas. Therefore, there is a need to promote the implementation of these tools in order to enhance the integration of aquaculture in coastal zones¹⁰.

This output will require the execution of a number of activities as listed below:

Activities required for Output 1.2

- a) The **implementation of technical cooperation projects and mechanisms to support the effective implementation of AZA** in the region. This action will include capacity building and training to support Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian countries in achieving an effective implementation of AZA and to facilitate proactive planning (based on to the GFCM resolution on AZA). Upon request, this action could be tailored to specific requirements, as appropriate. This action will also need to be integrated in the broader EU MSP process at the national level and the sea basin levels.
- b) The **preparation and dissemination of an AZA toolkit** (“AZA: benefits, identification, implementation and management”). The AZA toolkit will be based on existing technical achievements and knowledge outputs and will be tailored to the region’s specificities. This action will include, among other things, the use of graphics and the publication of a guide, summary sheets, short leaflets and a training handbook for public managers; it will aim at maximizing existing scientific knowledge on AZA in the region.

TARGET 2: ENHANCE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN AQUACULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT WHILE ENSURING ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

The need to enhance interactions between aquaculture and the environment has been highlighted in several international and regional fora. The 2012 Rio+20 Conference has acknowledged that healthy sea ecosystems are more productive and are essential for sustainable sea-based economies. In light of this, the 2016 FAO COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture suggested that the FAO Blue Growth Initiative should not only focus on strategies aimed at reducing the negative impacts of aquaculture, but also contribute to maximizing positive effects of aquaculture on the environment, such as those of shellfish farming¹¹. At the regional level, the GFCM itself has recognized the need to strike a balance between minimizing effects on the environment and supporting a growing aquaculture production in the coastal zones of the region.

The Mediterranean and the Black Sea share a unique aquatic ecosystem and are characterized by complex aquaculture-environment interactions. Indeed, aquaculture impacts on the environment at the local scale could influence negatively the ecological services provided by the environment and have an effect at wider scales. In this regard, the lack of regional cooperation in addressing transboundary issues and the poor harmonization of norms and standards contribute to the increasing difficulty to monitor such interactions. Other factors contribute to hampering these efforts: the lack of applied and harmonized EMP dedicated to aquaculture, the lack of capacity in and application of risk analysis, the lack of guidelines on control and prevention (diseases, alien species, escapees, climate change and ocean acidification stressors), the lack of applied standards for prevention and control of contaminant procedures along the value chain, and the lack of harmonized regulatory and monitoring frameworks.

¹⁰ Chapela, 2016.

¹¹ FAO. 2016. Decisions and recommendations of the eighth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, Brasilia, Brazil, 5–9 October 2015. Thirty-second Session of the Committee on Fisheries, Rome, Italy, 11-15 July 2016. Document COFI/2016/4.

In light of this, efforts need to be carried out to enhance interactions between aquaculture and the environment, while ensuring animal health and welfare. Hence, in the context of Target 2, the aquaculture strategy aims at ensuring that aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea is: a) fully integrated into an environment where the ecological services provided are preserved; b) able to secure adequate health and welfare to farmed aquatic animal; and c) supported by a thriving cooperative research and technological development (RTD) based on industry needs, the results of which are efficiently transferred to farmers. In order to progress towards enhanced interactions between aquaculture and the environment while ensuring animal health and welfare, the aquaculture strategy aims at supporting Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian countries in achieving mitigated impacts on and improved protection of the environment. This should be attained through actions promoting: traditional and smart aquaculture activities (Output 2.1); a more efficient management of production activities and improved aquatic animal health and welfare (Output 2.2); enhanced research and knowledge sharing in support of sustainable aquaculture development (Output 2.3).

Output 2.1: mitigated impacts on the environment and improved environmental protection

Aquaculture relies on clean and healthy marine waters; therefore, the implementation of an environmental impact assessment (EIA) prior the establishment of aquaculture operations is critical to address environmental impacts before they occur, while monitoring the environment surrounding farming facilities at sea is essential to evaluate the effects and impacts on the environment and on aquaculture itself. In line with the GFCM resolution on AZA, an allowable zone of effect of aquaculture activities should be defined in the close vicinity of each farm and accompanied by an environmental monitoring programme (EMP). Based on this need, the GFCM developed the Guidelines on EMP for marine finfish cage farming. Recent findings of the SHoCMed project¹² have highlighted that in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, 8 out of 12 respondent countries – representing 80 percent of the riparian countries which carry out cage culture at sea – do not have a permanent environmental monitoring system. These findings also showed that when an environmental monitoring system exists, there is a lack of cooperation with farmers in monitoring activities. In many cases, environmental monitoring data exist but are not accessible due to a lack of cooperation among the different institutions and farms.

Furthermore, another recent study carried out at the European level¹³ reported that escapee accidents are also relatively frequent – in six countries where 242 incidents have been reported, three of which were bordering the Mediterranean, approximately 8.9 million fish escaped. This situation entails risks of pathologies spreads and biosecurity threats and it is mainly due to scarce preventive measures undertaken at the farm level. Strict procedures should be in place to regulate the introduction of alien species and other locally absent species. At the EU level, the Council Regulation on alien species in aquaculture¹⁴ establishes a framework governing aquaculture practices in relation to alien and locally absent species to assess and minimise the possible impact of those species and of associated non-target species on aquatic habitats. The Strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture will also take into account this European legal context. At the farm level, the implementation of well-designed better management practices (BMPs) can support producers in reducing or mitigating the impacts on the environment, increasing efficiency and productivity, improving food safety and quality of farm products, and increasing the social benefits from aquaculture farming while improving its social acceptability and sustainability.

¹² Result from the survey on the “Implementation feasibility at the national level of the guidelines on a harmonized environmental monitoring programme (EMP) for marine finfish cage farming in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea” (SHoCMed project).

¹³ Jackson, D., Drumm, A., McEvoy, S., Jensen, Ø., Mendiola, D., Gabiña, G., Borg, J.A., Papageorgiou, N., Karakassis, I., Black, K.D. (2015) A pan-European valuation of the extent, causes and cost of escape events from sea cage fish farming. *Aquaculture*. (436):21–26.

¹⁴ Council Regulation (EC) No 708/2007 of 11 June 2007 concerning use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture.

This output will require the execution of a number of activities as listed below:

Activities required for Output 2.1

- a) The preparation of **guidelines on risk analysis methods and data recording**. These guidelines should highlight the importance of monitoring and collecting data on specific aspects of aquaculture activities. Environmental issues that are usually not subject to monitoring and recording could also be taken into consideration (e.g. on: alien and locally absent species, escapees, pathogens, drugs and feeds, etc.).
- b) The provision of **training and technical assistance on the implementation of environmental monitoring programme (EMP)**. This action is aimed to foster national capacity building on the implementation of EMP within AZA and to increase awareness on the practical use of management and monitoring tools.
- c) **The production and dissemination of a toolkit for the harmonization on minimum common criteria** on allowable zones of effects (AZE) and environmental quality standards (EQS). This activity will update the minimum standards and requirements for environmental monitoring produced by CAQ. The update will also take into consideration climate change and related phenomena which could represent threats to aquaculture.
- d) The implementation of **plans oriented to “climate smart aquaculture activities”**. This action aims at supporting aquaculture activities that have a positive effect on global warming and is intended to contribute to the preservation of ecological services provided by the environment and to maximize the positive effects of aquaculture on the environment. It could leverage on initiatives implemented at the local, national and regional level – such as extensive aquaculture in lagoon areas, marine protected areas and mussel culture – which take into consideration carbon footprint and sustainable models for bioremediation with a view to securing carbon sequestration and preserving the environment.
- e) The **preparation of guidelines on and the promotion of aquaculture better management practices (BMPs)**. This action aims at increasing farmers’ awareness and responsibility on conservation of environmental integrity. The BMPs will focus on meeting the minimum standards related to the farming aspects of the main reared species including stocking density, feed management, water quality and monitoring, harvest calendar, drugs management, disease and implementation of surveillance plans.

Output 2.2: responsible aquatic animal health and welfare management

Recent concern were expressed on antibiotic and antimicrobial resistance as these issues are occurring worldwide and call for the responsible use of successful treatments and for the prevention of diseases. The urgent need to address aquatic animal health and welfare management is contemplated in SO2 where improving aquatic animal health has been set as a priority area for 2016–2017 and beyond. Various international legal instruments such as the Codex Alimentarius of the FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO), also specifically address health issues based on the principle that animals and crops must be healthy throughout the entire food chain. In addition, the Aquatic Animal Health Code of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) provides important highlights, in particular on infections.

The regional goal will be to harmonize actions aiming at tackling the challenges related to aquatic animal health and welfare should be regional in scope and take into account existing specificities of aquaculture in the region. Managing the health and welfare of farmed fish, including disease prevention and a responsible use of veterinary medicines, biological products and chemicals, depends on the overall management of the farm. A good farm management should ensure in fact fish health while maintaining food safety and food quality and minimizing the potential impacts on human health and the environment.

This output will require the execution of a number of activities as listed below:

Activities required for Output 2.2

- a) The provision of **capacity building for aquaculture farmers** in the field of risk analysis (including risk assessment, management and communication), adaptive management, diagnosis, biosecurity measures and sanitary and food security (responsible use of registered, recorded and traceable medicaments and vaccines). This activity would improve the capacities of farmers to deal with disease prevention and with potential risks and hazards posed by farming operations.
- b) The development of **systems and protocols for the early diagnosis of pathogens** with the support of certified laboratories sufficiently equipped and competent in the sector. This activity would strengthen the capacity to contain the spread of diseases.

Output 2.3: Enhanced research and knowledge sharing on aquaculture¹⁵

The FAO COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture has recently acknowledged the important role of aquaculture education and research as well as its potential contribution to the development of sustainable aquaculture¹⁶. RTD plays a key role since it brings innovation, fosters rapid technological advances and is a crucial aspect of competitiveness for farmers and the industry as a whole.

In the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, research is rather well developed, as highlighted by the AquaMed project, carried out in 12 Mediterranean riparian countries. The findings of this project report that, in 2013, there were 115 research institutes and 1 155 researchers involved in aquaculture research and that 547 aquaculture research projects had been implemented from 2005 to 2010. To be effective, the selection of research topics should be based on actual needs of the sector and the outputs be transferred to the industry. Similarly, dialogue between the industry (in particular small-scale farms having limited funding resources) and the research community needs to be improved. Efficient networks should be established and research cooperation facilitated to strengthen dialogue between stakeholders, enhance synergies and achieve a better coordination on research activities so as to avoid duplication or fragmentation.

The Mediterranean and the Black Sea is considered as an area that is vulnerable to climate change, which entails likely changes in temperature, eutrophication, harmful algae blooms, water stress, sea level rise, acidification and diseases. These threats could have an impact on the aquaculture sector, especially for shellfish farming, therefore calling for specific science-based information to evaluate the degree of vulnerability to climate change and associated phenomena, taking into account the location, production segment, farming system and cultured species, with a view to identifying suitable adaptation and mitigation measures.

As the principal objective of aquaculture is to produce food for human consumption, nutritional aspects are considered essential for the promotion and evolution of the sector. Therefore the cooperation with researchers and experts on human nutrition to promote the benefits of the aquaculture products in the Mediterranean and Black Sea should be reinforced.

This output will require the execution of a number of activities as listed below:

Activities required for Output 2.3

- a) The **preparation of a research work plan to strengthen aquaculture industry-driven RTD**. This plan should foster the establishment of aquaculture pilot demonstrative centres in the region, showcasing different production methods for the attention of potential investors, as well

¹⁵ Ongoing discussion on the importance/structure to be given to the research component of the strategy.

¹⁶ FAO Committee on Fisheries. 2014. *Report of the seventh session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture. St Petersburg, Russian Federation, 7–11 October 2013*. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report. No. 1064. Rome, FAO. 53 pp.

as cooperative research and knowledge sharing on cross-cutting and transboundary issues. It should also include a programme to transfer the results of applied research supporting the use of RTD patents and research performance assessment. Within this context, the selection of research priorities should be based on end-user needs and follow a strategic research and innovation agenda (e.g. epidemiology of aquatic animal pathologies, vaccines, feed technologies, restocking good practices, efficient water resources use and maintenance of water quality, integrated multitrophic aquaculture, recirculating aquaculture, etc.).

- b) The provision of **technical assistance and cooperation to implement innovative farming technology** (e.g. recirculation systems, integrated systems of aquaculture production and processing). This action would ensure that applied research results are regularly transferred to farmers.
- c) The organization of a **Workshop on challenges posed by climate change and ocean acidification to Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture**. This action is aimed to take stock of new challenges brought about by climate change and ocean acidification to aquaculture, taking into account the current body of knowledge and ongoing projects. It should also look at available best practices to integrate climate change adaptation, mitigation and innovative options into aquaculture activities which could be adjusted to the Mediterranean and Black Sea region.
- d) The implementation of a **regional research to assess aquaculture vulnerability to climate change and risk mapping** as well as associated phenomena, including ocean acidification, in order to identify context-specific adaptation and mitigation measures and implement a regional monitoring system.
- e) The setting up of a **database of aquaculture experts** made available to public administrations and aquaculture farmers.

TARGET 3: FACILITATE MARKET-ORIENTED AQUACULTURE AND ENHANCE PUBLIC PERCEPTION

A market-oriented production strategy is key to secure a sound, attractive and fair market for aquaculture products and contribute to building a positive image of aquaculture activities and products in the region. This would help enhance the competitiveness of the industry and fully capitalize on the increasing demand for high quality and value-added seafood products.

However, in the Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian countries, aquaculture remains a highly fragmented sector with uneven negotiation power along the value chain as the retail sector seems to benefit from a disproportionate share of the value created. Producers still lack the ability to proactively respond to emerging market issues and to government regulatory initiatives due to a lack of coordinated marketing strategies and promotional initiatives as well as low levels of collective actions and cooperation in production. In addition, there is a general lack of market data collection and dissemination for production planning, marketing plans and supply-demand forecasts. The Mediterranean and Black Sea industries in riparian countries also suffer from competition within domestic and global markets. Finally, insufficient awareness exists in the industry and its related sectors on corporate social responsibility (CSR)¹⁷.

In light of this situation, actions need to be undertaken to improve food safety and quality, marketing strategies for aquaculture products, and enhance public perception of aquaculture. Hence, in the context of its Target 3, the regional aquaculture strategy aims at ensuring that aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea is: a) a flourishing industry based on a level playing field and producing safe and healthy food products sold to informed consumers; b) a market-oriented sector based on well-structured market data as well as efficient dissemination tools; and c) a sector integrated into modern supply chains and supported by efficient AFOs through advocacy, technical and economic services. In order to

¹⁷ Regional Aquaculture Conference (Bari, Italy, 2014); regional FAO/Eurofish/GFCM workshop on Predicting the market for seabass and seabream (November 2014, Turkey); GFCM CAQ Working Group on Marketing of Aquaculture Products Technical meeting on marketing (Tangiers, Morocco, 2009) and MedAquaMarket project "Development of a strategy for marketing and promotion of Mediterranean aquaculture", 2010.

provide the aquaculture sector with a strong foothold in national and global markets and to enhance its public perception, the regional aquaculture strategy aims at supporting Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian countries in achieving: a market-driven aquaculture sector (Output 3.1), improved safety and quality of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture products (Output 3.2), and enhanced marketing and communication capacity to promote aquaculture and aquaculture products (Output 3.3).

Output 3.1: A market-driven aquaculture sector development

The Mediterranean and Black Sea region is characterized by a predominance of small-scale producers. According to a survey carried out by the GFCM in 2007¹⁸, there were approximately 575 fish farms producing European seabass and gilthead seabream in the Mediterranean, 82 percent of which produced less than 500 tonnes per year. In 2015, it was estimated that about 1 000 shellfish farms (mussels and oyster) existed in the region and generally produced less than 50 tonnes per year per farm¹⁹. This situation is that of a family-based and labour-intensive aquaculture farming, with a majority of small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs), mostly family owned. The characteristics and trends of the industry differ between finfish (generally large-scale, moving towards a capital-intensive and vertically-integrated structure, and generally producing more than 1 000 tonnes per year – and up to 5 000 tonnes in some cases) and shellfish enterprises (generally small or medium-scale, often family-run and labour-intensive, with small volumes of product concentrations obliging farmers to market their products through middlemen, resulting in low profit margins).

The fragmentation of primary production has traditionally contributed to the decreasing bargaining power of farmers in the supply chain. As a response, small-scale producers have established AFOs which can play a key role in facilitating the integration of SMEs into modern supply chains. Capitalizing on the industry and market opportunities could easily translate into efficiency gains and this would in turn multiply positive socio-economic returns in the region.

This output will require the execution of a number of activities as listed below:

Activities required for Output 3.1

Activities to respond to market requirements shifting from a production-oriented to a market-oriented approach

- a) The **enhancement of national and regional aquaculture data collection and statistical systems**. This action would leverage on the current information system for the promotion of aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM) in place at the GFCM, and would also address the socio-economics implications of aquaculture. It is expected to be carried out in cooperation with relevant AFOs, national aquaculture multi-stakeholder platforms and GFCM partner organizations such as Eurofish and Infosamak. Cooperation will be considered also with national and supranational institutions involved in aquaculture and market data collection (e.g. EUMOFA). This action also foresees a regular assessment of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture production, trade and general market-data.
- b) The organization of **training and capacity building for aquaculture farmers on market requirements and innovation in shellfish and finfish aquaculture** in order to increase their competitiveness, especially in the case of small- and medium-scale enterprises (e.g. financial management, production planning, credit access, aquaculture insurance, aquaculture market and trends monitoring, appropriate logistics and packaging practices, food safety and quality, certification and traceability, species diversification and product differentiation, added value

¹⁸ Barazi-Yeroulanos, L. 2010. *Synthesis of Mediterranean marine finfish aquaculture – a marketing and promotion strategy*. Studies and Reviews. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. No. 88 Rome, FAO. 198p.

¹⁹ Report of the expert meeting on sustainable shellfish aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (Cattolica, Italy, 23–25 November 2015).

(<https://gfc.m.sharepoint.com/CAQ/Report/2015/InDAM/1/Cattolica%20shellfish-FinalReport.pdf>)

and processed products, integration of aquaculture with other business activities such as tourism, restaurant industry, non-food aquaculture activities, blue biotechnologies, etc.).

Activities to enhance the role of aquaculture farmers' organizations and multi-stakeholder platforms in marketing and promotion

- a) The organization of **cooperative pilot actions at the national level with aquaculture farmers and AFOs** in order to implement concerted activities (e.g. collection and dissemination of market data and other information, provision of technical assistance, technology transfer and training, promotion sales, etc.). The results of this action and the information from the CAQ preliminary survey on AFOs²⁰ are expected to be widely disseminated with a view to enhancing the visibility of AFOs.
- b) The facilitation of **the establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms at the national level**, expected to foster dialogue and cooperation.

Output 3.2: Safety and quality of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture products

Consumers are now devoting more attention to seafood safety, quality, freshness and traceability. While compliance with, among others, standards on food safety and hygiene and an adequate monitoring would ensure that the risk of food-borne health hazards is minimized, increasingly, certification and traceability could serve as mechanisms for food quality assurance and help aquaculture production be consumer-responsive and meet the growing demand for sustainable and high quality aquaculture commodities.

The Codex Alimentarius has developed harmonized international food standards to protect consumer health and Codex documents often serve as a basis for country-specific laws and regulations drafted by national food control agencies.

Arguably, certification in aquaculture could be considered as a market-based tool for reducing negative impacts while increasing social acceptability and consumer confidence in aquaculture and aquaculture products. The 2011 FAO Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification²¹ provide minimum substantive criteria for developing aquaculture certification standards (animal health and welfare; food safety; environmental integrity; and socio-economic aspects). One of the principles underpinning the guidelines is that a certification scheme “should include adequate procedures for maintaining chain of custody and traceability of certified aquaculture products and processes”, thereby highlighting the fact that certification and traceability are strictly intertwined.

In aquaculture, traceability should take into account all stages of the production process: source of feed, use of vaccines and medicines, production environment, source of eggs and seed, transportation of goods and products, treatment and labelling of final products ready for sale.

Several private aquaculture certification schemes also exist; however, the fifteenth session of the FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (Agadir, Morocco, 2016) noted that they could become potential trade barriers and called upon FAO to pursue efforts within Codex and continue cooperating within the framework of the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement to ensure that a distinction is made between mandatory and voluntary standards.

This output will require the execution of a number of activities as listed below:

Activities required for Output 3.2

- a) The preparation and dissemination of **guidelines and technical protocols for seafood safety** of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture products. This action will take into account

²⁰ Preliminary survey completed by CAQ in May 2013 to understand the current status, structure and function of these organizations.

²¹ FAO. 2011. *Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification*. Rome, FAO. 122 pp.

existing international reference standards to ensure compliance with responsible aquaculture practices and food safety.

- b) The provision of **technical assistance to countries on compliance with international standards**. This action also aims at improving national legal frameworks dealing with aquaculture food products safety and hygiene in line with the Codex and compliant with WTO principles
- c) The provision of **technical assistance to countries** on food quality, aquaculture certification and traceability], in line with the Codex and FAO Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification.

Output 3.3: Enhanced aquaculture and aquaculture products marketing and communication

Marketing initiatives are strictly connected to the public perception of aquaculture and aquaculture products, which, as demonstrated by a recent research program, depends on many factors including personal experience, preconceived ideas and demographic and regional contexts²². Over the last decade, important efforts have been made in the region to educate consumers and enact new legislation that contributed to improve public opinion on aquaculture products²³. Building a positive image of aquaculture is key to the social acceptability of the sector, which is, in turn, closely linked to social responsibility.

Marketing strategies should be supported at the national and at the regional levels to promote Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture and aquaculture products, both in the region and worldwide. Coordinated marketing efforts would increase consumer knowledge and improve the image of farmed products, thus fostering increased consumer demand. To achieve corporate social responsibility (CSR), aquaculture production should comply with existing standards and reflect a high level of social accountability; at the same time socially responsible practices should be effectively communicated to consumers.

This output will require the execution of a number of activities as listed below:

Activities required for Output 3.3

Activities to develop a marketing and communication strategy to promote Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture and aquaculture products

- a) The development of **regional communication and marketing initiatives**. This action would possibly envisage collaboration within business-to-business segments (producers, traders, retailers, organizations and media) through joint marketing or cooperative initiatives between industry and the largest retailers. Promotional campaigns targeting the general public, and especially younger generations, can also be foreseen, together the production of promotional material leveraging on the attractive attributes of the region and highlighting the nutritional and healthy aspects of aquaculture products, as well as the aquaculture positive externalities. Such campaigns would need to be preceded by a market analysis to ensure that the campaign's messages and target groups are correctly identified.
- b) The provision of **technical assistance on developing and implementing national communication and marketing plans**. This action would contribute to boost domestic consumption of aquaculture products in Mediterranean and Black Sea countries. It will include joint promotion campaigns, training of relevant stakeholders and their participation in national and regional initiatives.

²² Bacher, K. 2015. Perceptions and misconceptions of aquaculture: A global overview. *GLOBEFISH Research Programme*, Vol. 120, Rome, FAO. 35 pp.

²³ Barazi-Yeroulanos, L. 2010. *Synthesis of Mediterranean marine finfish aquaculture – a marketing and promotion strategy*. Studies and Reviews. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. No. 88 Rome, FAO. 198p.

Activities to promote aquaculture corporate social responsibility

- c) The organization of **training and national capacity building on aquaculture corporate social responsibility** and social risk management for farmers and decision-makers. This action will contribute to ensuring health and welfare schemes and a safe working environment in line with the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and related guidance.

4. IMPLEMENTATION AND WAY FORWARD

The implementation of the strategy is intended to be part of a process that is consistent with national and supranational aquaculture strategies in Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian countries. The work plan of the CAQ will be aligned with the targets and expected outputs of the aquaculture strategy.

Bilateral initiatives will be also considered and technical assistance provided where there is a need to build national capacities so that existing commitments can be fulfilled equally. Furthermore, the implementation of the strategy will be carried out through knowledge and result sharing with institutions as well as national and supranational projects.

The GFCM, through its relevant subsidiary bodies, should regularly assess the implementation of the strategy by regularly monitoring the achievement of the targets, activities and outputs, including through the use of specific indicators, and by reviewing, revising and updating the expected outputs, as appropriate, and providing guidance to reach more effectively the objectives. The implementation of the strategy will also benefit from the support of the CAQ working groups and the AMShP.

The terms used for the purpose of this strategy are defined in the GFCM CAQ glossary and the FAO Aquaculture Glossary (available online).

Draft terms of reference for selected meetings and workshops

Workshop on environmental carrying capacity and shellfish productivity

- Introduction to environmental carrying capacity in coastal areas
- Methodology definition to assess environmental carrying capacity for shellfish productivity
- Use of risk assessment and risk management in shellfish culture

Regional workshop on aquaculture governance and regulatory issues

- Introduction of aquaculture regulations in Mediterranean and Black Sea countries
- Discussion of guidance principles in aquaculture governance and regulatory aspects
- Case study presentation on selected issues
- Identification of key elements to strengthen cooperation and share experiences in the region

Meeting to establish a demonstrative centre to promote sustainable aquaculture (DCPSA) in the Black Sea

- Discussion on the scope, nature, principles and functioning of the DCPSA
- Development of a programme and activities related to marine aquaculture
- Identification of opportunities for cooperation with countries in the Black Sea

Workshop on risk analysis methods and data recording

- Discussion on the scope, nature, principles and functioning of risk analysis in aquaculture
- Provision of basic data for risk analysis
- Discussion on the relevance of monitoring data which are not usually recorded (e.g. on alien species, escapees, pathogens, drugs, feeds)
- Discussion, finalization and validation of risk analysis methods to be applied in aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

Expert consultation on a methodology for market studies on aquaculture

- Discussion on type of data needed (source, availability of data, collection tools, analysis)
- Methodologies and data analyse for market studies
- Definition of a standard and methodological approach for market study at the regional level
- Identification of the way forward for the integration of market data on the SIPAM database

Projet de mandat de certaines réunions et ateliers

Atelier sur la capacité de charge environnementale et la productivité de la conchyliculture

- Présentation de la capacité de charge environnementale dans les zones côtières
- Définition de la méthodologie utilisée pour évaluer la capacité de charge environnementale pour la productivité des mollusques
- Utilisation de l'évaluation des risques et de la gestion des risques dans la conchyliculture

Atelier régional sur la gouvernance et les questions réglementaires relatives à l'aquaculture

- Présentation de la réglementation applicable à l'aquaculture dans les pays riverains de la Méditerranée et de la mer Noire
- Discussion sur les principes directeurs applicables à la gouvernance de l'aquaculture et les aspects réglementaires
- Présentation d'études de cas portant sur certains aspects
- Recensement des éléments de base nécessaires pour renforcer la coopération et échanger des données d'expérience dans la région

Réunion visant à créer un centre de démonstration pour promouvoir l'aquaculture durable en mer Noire

- Discussion sur la portée, la nature, les principes et le fonctionnement du centre de démonstration
- Élaboration d'un programme et d'activités liés à l'aquaculture marine
- Recensement des possibilités de coopération avec les pays de la mer Noire

Atelier sur les méthodes d'analyse des risques et l'enregistrement des données

- Discussion sur la portée, la nature, les principes et le fonctionnement de l'analyse des risques en aquaculture
- Fourniture de données de base pour l'analyse des risques
- Discussion sur l'utilité des données de suivi qui ne sont généralement pas enregistrées (concernant, par exemple, les espèces exotiques, les fugitifs, les agents pathogènes, les médicaments ou les aliments pour animaux)
- Examen, mise au point définitive et validation des méthodes d'analyse des risques à appliquer aux activités aquacoles en Méditerranée et en mer Noire

Consultation d'experts sur la méthodologie des études de marché en aquaculture

- Discussion sur le type de données requises (source, disponibilité, instruments de collecte, analyse)
- Méthodologies et analyse des données existantes pour les études de marché
- Définition d'une approche méthodologique standard pour les études de marché au niveau régional
- Identification de la marche à suivre en vue de l'intégration des données sur le marché dans la base de données SIPAM

Revised list of parameters for market data in Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/6 on reporting of aquaculture data and information

Market:

- Trade and consumption
 - Import and export of aquatic products of animal origin (weight and value)
 - Import and export of species that are also produced with aquaculture (weight and value)
 - Top five import origins and export destinations for farmed species

**Liste révisée des paramètres relatifs aux données sur le marché dans la
Recommandation CGPM/35/2011/6 relative à la communication de données et d'informations
sur l'aquaculture**

Marché:

- Commerce et consommation:
 - Importation et exportation des produits aquatiques d'origine animale (poids et valeur)
 - Importation et exportation des espèces qui sont aussi produites en aquaculture (poids et valeur)
 - Cinq premières origines d'importation et destinations d'exportation pour les espèces élevées

The Scientific Advisory Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) held its tenth session in Izmir, Turkey, from 27 to 29 March 2017. The session was attended by delegates and representatives from 13 contracting parties and 2 cooperating non-contracting parties, 2 observers from intergovernmental organizations and representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the GFCM Secretariat. The agenda also included the fifteenth session of the Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM), which was organized concomitantly. During the session, the Committee reviewed the work carried out during the 2015–2017 intersession. In particular, the CAQ discussed aspects related to i) its reorganization; ii) the finalization of guidelines on a harmonized environmental monitoring programme (EMP) for marine finfish cage farming; iii) preparatory work on guidelines to streamline aquaculture licensing and leasing processes; iv) finfish and shellfish aquaculture industry and market, including a collection of success stories; and v) the status of aquaculture multi-stakeholder platforms in the region. Moreover, the Committee examined the contents of the draft version of a strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea, developed by a dedicated Task Force, and agreed to keep working towards its finalization so that it could be submitted to the next session of the Commission, given the key role to be played by this strategy in efficiently addressing current and emerging challenges facing the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The Committee then formulated advice in order to steer future work on aquaculture market and industry, aquaculture licensing and leasing processes, aquaculture and environment and aquaculture multi-stakeholder platforms and within the framework of the SIPAM. Finally, the Committee agreed upon its work plan for 2017–2018 and elected its new Bureau.

Le Comité scientifique consultatif de l'aquaculture (CAQ) de la Commission générale des pêches pour la Méditerranée (CGPM) a tenu sa dixième session à Izmir, Turquie, du 27 au 29 mars 2017. Ont participé à la session des délégués et représentants de 13 parties contractantes et 2 parties non contractantes coopérantes, 2 observateurs d'organisations intergouvernementales ainsi que des représentants de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO) et du Secrétariat de la CGPM. L'ordre du jour comprenait également la quinzième session du Système d'information pour la promotion de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée (SIPAM), tenue conjointement. La session a été l'occasion pour le Comité de passer en revue les travaux menés pendant la période intersessions 2015-2017. En particulier, le CAQ a examiné les aspects relatifs à i) sa réorganisation ; ii) la finalisation de lignes directrices pour un programme de suivi environnemental (PSE) harmonisé de la pisciculture marine en cage ; iii) des travaux préparatoires à l'élaboration de lignes directrices pour la simplification des processus d'octroi de permis et de baux aquacoles ; iv) l'industrie et le marché de la pisciculture et de la conchyliculture, y compris un recueil d'exemples de réussite; et v) la situation des plateformes aquacoles multi-acteurs dans la région. Le Comité s'est par ailleurs penché sur le contenu d'un projet de stratégie en faveur du développement durable de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée et en mer Noire, élaboré par une équipe spéciale, et est convenu de poursuivre ses travaux en vue de la finalisation de cette stratégie afin que celle-ci soit présentée à la prochaine session de la Commission, compte tenu du rôle clé qu'elle devrait jouer pour relever les défis actuels et futurs auxquels se trouve confronté le développement durable de l'aquaculture en Méditerranée et en mer Noire. Le Comité a ensuite formulé des avis dans le but d'orienter les travaux à venir concernant le secteur et le marché aquacoles, les processus d'octroi de permis et de baux aquacoles, l'aquaculture et l'environnement et les plateformes aquacoles multi-acteurs ainsi que les travaux menés dans le cadre du SIPAM. Enfin, le Comité est convenu de son programme de travail pour 2017-2018 et a élu son nouveau Bureau.

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