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COUNCIL

2011/C 345 E/01 Position (EU) No 13/2011 of the Council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on certain provisions for fishing in the GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) Agreement area and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 concerning management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean Sea

Adopted by the Council on 20 October 2011 1

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III

(Preparatory acts)

COUNCIL

POSITION (EU) No 13/2011 OF THE COUNCIL AT FIRST READING

with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on certain provisions for fishing in the GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) Agreement area and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 concerning management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean Sea

Adopted by the Council on 20 October 2011

(2011/C 345 E/01)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 43(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee [1],

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure [2],

Whereas:

(1) The European Community acceded to the Agreement for the establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean ('GFCM Agreement') pursuant to Council Decision 98/416/EC of 16 June 1998 on the accession of the European Community to the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean [3] ('GFCM').

(2) The GFCM Agreement provides an appropriate framework for multilateral cooperation to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilisation of living marine resources in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea at levels which are considered sustainable and at low risk of collapse.

(3) The European Union, as well as Bulgaria, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Malta, Romania and Slovenia are contracting parties to the GFCM Agreement.

(4) Recommendations adopted by the GFCM are binding on its contracting parties. As the Union is a contracting party to the GFCM Agreement, these recommendations are binding on the Union and should therefore be implemented in Union law unless their content is already covered thereby.

(5) At its Annual Sessions in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 the GFCM adopted a number of recommendations and resolutions for certain fisheries in the GFCM Agreement area which have been temporarily implemented in Union law by the annual Regulations on fishing opportunities or, in the case of GFCM recommendations 2005/1 and 2005/2, by Article 4(3) and Article 24 of Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 [4].

(6) For reasons of clarity, simplification and legal certainty, and since the permanent character of recommendations requires also a permanent legal instrument for their implementation in Union law, it is appropriate to implement these recommendations via a single legislative act, where future recommendations can be added by way of amendments to that act.

(7) GFCM recommendations apply to the entire GFCM Agreement area, that is the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and connecting waters, as defined in the preamble to the GFCM Agreement, and therefore, for reasons of clarity and legal certainty, should be implemented in a single separate Regulation rather than through amendments to Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 which covers only the Mediterranean Sea.

[1] OJ C 354, 28.12.2010, p. 71.
[2] Position of the European Parliament of 8 March 2011 (not yet published in the Official Journal) and Position of the Council at first reading of 20 October 2011.
[3] OJ L 190, 4.7.1998, p. 34.
[4] OJ L 409, 30.12.2006, p. 11, as replaced by corrigendum (OJ L 36, 8.2.2007, p. 6).

(8) Certain provisions contained in Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 should apply not only to the Mediterranean Sea but to the entire GFCM Agreement area. Those provisions should therefore be deleted from Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 and included in this Regulation. In addition, certain provisions regarding minimum mesh size that are laid down in that Regulation should be further clarified.

(9) The 'fisheries restricted areas' established by GFCM recommendations for spatial management measures are equivalent to the 'fishing protected areas' as used in Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006.

(10) At its Annual Session of 23-27 March 2009 the GFCM adopted, on the basis of scientific advice by the Scientific Advisory Committee ('SAC'), contained in the report of its eleventh session (FAO report n° 890), a recommendation on the establishment of a fisheries restricted area in the Gulf of Lions. It is appropriate to implement this measure by means of a fishing effort management system.

(11) In Mediterranean mixed fisheries, the selectivity of some fishing gears cannot be permitted to go beyond a certain level. In addition to the overall control and limitation of fishing effort, it is fundamental to limit fishing effort in areas where adults of important stocks aggregate, in order to ensure a risk of reproduction impairment that is low enough to allow for their sustainable exploitation. It is therefore advisable, in respect of the area examined by the SAC, first to limit the fishing effort to previous levels and then not to allow any increase of that level.

(12) The advice upon which management measures are based should itself be based on the scientific use of relevant data on fleet capacity and activity, on the biological status of exploited resources and on the social and economic situation of fisheries. Those data need to be collected and submitted in time to allow the subsidiary bodies of the GFCM to prepare their advice.

(13) At its Annual Session in 2008, the GFCM adopted a recommendation on a regional scheme of port state measures to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the GFCM Area. While Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing [1] covers generally the content of that recommendation and has been applied since 1 January 2010, there are nevertheless some parts thereof such as the frequency, the coverage and the procedure for port inspections which need to be referred to in this Regulation in order to adapt them to the particularities of the GFCM Agreement area.

(14) Implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission in order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of the provisions of this Regulation in respect of the format and transmission of: the report on the fishing activities carried out in fisheries restricted areas; applications for carrying over lost days due to bad weather in the closed season for dolphinfish fisheries and the report on such carrying over; the report in the context of collecting data on dolphinfish fisheries; information in respect of the use of minimum mesh size for nets used for trawling activities exploiting demersal stocks in the Black Sea; and data on statistical matrices, as well as in respect of cooperation and exchange of information with the Executive Secretary of the GFCM. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers [2].

(15) In order to ensure that the Union continues to fulfil its obligations under the GFCM Agreement, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission in respect of the implementation in Union law of amendments, which have become binding on the Union, to existing GFCM measures which have already been implemented in Union law, as regards the provision to the Executive Secretary of the GFCM of information on minimum mesh size in the Black Sea; the transmission to the Executive Secretary of the GFCM of the list of authorised vessels for the purpose of the GFCM Register; port state measures; cooperation, information and reporting; the table, map and geographic coordinates of the GFCM Geographical Sub-Areas; port state inspection procedures for vessels; and GFCM statistical matrices. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level. The Commission, when preparing and drawing up delegated acts, should ensure a simultaneous, timely and appropriate transmission of relevant documents to the European Parliament and the Council,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

TITLE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Subject matter

This Regulation lays down the rules for the application by the Union of the conservation, management, exploitation, monitoring, marketing and enforcement measures for fishery and aquaculture products established by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean ('GFCM').

[1] OJ L 286, 29.10.2008, p. 1.

[2] OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13.

Article 2

Scope

1. This Regulation applies to all commercial fishing and aquaculture activities conducted by EU fishing vessels and nationals of Member States in the GFCM Agreement area.

It shall apply without prejudice to Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006.

2. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, this Regulation shall not apply to fishing operations conducted solely for the purpose of scientific investigations which are carried out with the permission and under the authority of the Member State whose flag the vessel is flying and of which the Commission and the Member States in whose waters the research is carried out have been informed in advance. Member States conducting fishing operations for the purpose of scientific investigations shall inform the Commission, the Member States in whose waters the research is carried out and the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries of all catches from such fishing operations.

Article 3

Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation the following definitions shall, in addition to the definitions laid down in Article 3 of Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 of 20 December 2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the Common Fisheries Policy [1] and Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006, apply:

(a) 'GFCM Agreement area' means the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and connecting waters, as described in the GFCM Agreement;

(b) 'fishing effort' means the product resulting from multiplying the capacity of a fishing vessel, expressed either in kW or in GT (gross tonnage), by the activity expressed in number of days at sea;

(c) 'day at sea' means any calendar day on which a vessel is absent from port, irrespective of the amount of time in the course of that day that that vessel is present in an area;

(d) 'EU Fleet Register number' means the Community Fleet Register number defined in Annex I to Commission Regulation (EC) No 26/2004 of 30 December 2003 on the Community fishing fleet register [2].

[1] OJ L 358, 31.12.2002, p. 59.
[2] OJ L 5, 9.1.2004, p. 25.

TITLE II

TECHNICAL MEASURES

CHAPTER I

Fisheries Restricted Areas

Section I

Fisheries restricted area in the gulf of lions

Article 4

Establishment of a fisheries restricted area

A fisheries restricted area is established in the eastern Gulf of Lions, bounded by lines joining the following geographic coordinates:

— 42° 40′ N, 4° 20′ E
— 42° 40′ N, 5° 00′ E
— 43° 00′ N, 4° 20′ E
— 43° 00′ N, 5° 00′ E.

Article 5

Fishing effort

For demersal stocks, the fishing effort of vessels using towed nets, bottom- and mid-water longlines and bottom-set nets in the fisheries restricted area as referred to in Article 4 shall not exceed the level of fishing effort applied in 2008 by each Member State in that area.

Article 6

Fishing track record

Member States shall, not later than … (*), submit to the Commission in electronic format a list of vessels flying their flag that had a track record of fishing during the year 2008 in the area referred to in Article 4 and in GFCM Geographical Sub-Area 7 as defined in Annex I. That list shall contain the name of the vessel, its EU Fleet Register number, the period for which the vessel was authorised to fish in the area referred to in Article 4 and the number of days spent by each vessel in the year 2008 in Geographical Sub-Area 7 and more specifically in the area referred to in Article 4.

Article 7

Authorised vessels

1. Vessels authorised to fish in the area referred to in Article 4 shall be issued with a fishing authorisation by their Member State in accordance with Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy [3].

(*) Twenty working days after the entry into force of this Regulation.
[3] OJ L 343, 22.12.2009, p. 1.

2. Fishing vessels which do not have records of fishing within the area referred to in Article 4 prior to 31 December 2008 shall not be authorised to start fishing therein.

3. Member States shall, not later than … (*), communicate to the Commission the national legislation in force on 31 December 2008 concerning:

(a) the maximum number of hours per day a vessel is permitted to engage in fishing activity,

(b) the maximum number of days per week a vessel is permitted to stay at sea and be absent from port, and

(c) the compulsory times for fishing vessels to exit from, and return to, their registered port.

Article 8

Protection of sensitive habitats

Member States shall ensure that the area referred to in Article 4 is protected from the impact of any other human activity jeopardising the conservation of the features that characterise that area as an area of spawners' aggregation.

Article 9

Information

Before 1 February of each year, Member States shall submit to the Commission in electronic format a report on the fishing activities carried out in the area referred to in Article 4.

The Commission may adopt implementing acts as regards detailed rules for the format and transmission of the report on such fishing activities. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 25(2).

Section II

Fisheries restricted areas in order to protect DEEP-SEA sensitive habitats

Article 10

Establishment of fisheries restricted areas

Fishing with towed dredges and bottom trawl nets shall be prohibited in the following areas:

(a) Deep-sea fisheries restricted area 'Lophelia reef off Capo Santa Maria di Leuca' bounded by lines joining the following coordinates:

— 39° 27.72′ N, 18° 10.74′ E

— 39° 27.80′ N, 18° 26.68′ E

— 39° 11.16′ N, 18° 32.58′ E

— 39° 11.16′ N, 18° 04.28′ E;

(b) Deep-sea fisheries restricted area 'The Nile delta area cold hydrocarbon seeps' bounded by lines joining the following coordinates:

— 31° 30.00′ N, 33° 10.00′ E

— 31° 30.00′ N, 34° 00.00′ E

— 32° 00.00′ N, 34° 00.00′ E

— 32° 00.00′ N, 33° 10.00′ E;

(c) Deep-sea fisheries restricted area 'The Eratosthenes Seamount' bounded by lines joining the following coordinates:

— 33° 00.00′ N, 32° 00.00′ E

— 33° 00.00′ N, 33° 00.00′ E

— 34° 00.00′ N, 33° 00.00′ E

— 34° 00.00′ N, 32° 00.00′ E.

Article 11

Protection of sensitive habitats

Member States shall ensure that their competent authorities are called upon to protect the deep-sea sensitive habitats in the areas referred to in Article 10 from, in particular, the impact of any other activity jeopardising the conservation of the features that characterise those habitats.

CHAPTER II

Establishment of a closed season for the dolphinfish fisheries using fish aggregating devices

Article 12

Closed season

1. The common dolphinfish (Coryphaena hippurus) fisheries using fish aggregating devices ('FADs') shall be prohibited from 1 January to 14 August of each year.

(*) Twenty working days after the entry into force of this Regulation.

2. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, if a Member State can demonstrate that, due to bad weather, the fishing vessels flying its flag were unable to make use of their normal fishing days, that Member State may carry over days lost by its vessels in FAD fisheries until 31 January of the following year. In that case, before the end of the year Member States shall submit to the Commission an application in respect of the number of days to be carried over.

3. Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall also apply in the management zone referred to in Article 26(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006.

4. The application referred to in paragraph 2 shall contain the following information:

(a) a report containing the details of the cessation of fishing activities in question, including appropriate supporting meteorological information;

(b) the name of the vessel and its EU Fleet Register number.

5. The Commission shall decide on applications of the kind referred to in paragraph 2 within six weeks from the date of receipt of an application and shall inform the Member State in writing of that decision.

6. The Commission shall inform the Executive Secretary of the GFCM of decisions taken pursuant to paragraph 5. Before 1 November of each year Member States shall send to the Commission a report on the carrying over of days lost in the previous year as referred to in paragraph 2.

7. The Commission may adopt implementing acts as regards detailed rules for the format and transmission of the applications referred to in paragraph 4 and of the report on such carrying over referred to in paragraph 6. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 25(2).

Article 13

Fishing authorisations

Fishing vessels authorised to participate in the common dolphinfish fishery shall be granted a fishing authorisation in accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 and shall be included in a list containing the name of the vessel and its EU Fleet Register number, which the Member State concerned shall provide to the Commission. Vessels of an overall length of less than 10 metres shall be required to have a fishing authorisation.

This requirement shall also apply to the management zone referred to in Article 26(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006.

Article 14

Data collection

1. Without prejudice to Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 of 25 February 2008 concerning the establishment of a Community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy [1], Member States shall set up an appropriate system of collection and treatment of fisheries catch and fishing effort data.

2. Member States shall report to the Commission by 15 January of each year the number of vessels involved in the fishery, as well as the total landings and transhipments of common dolphinfish carried out in the previous year by the fishing vessels flying their flag in each Geographical Sub-Area of the GFCM Agreement area as set out in Annex I.

The Commission may adopt implementing acts as regards detailed rules for the format and transmission of such reports. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 25(2).

3. The Commission shall forward the information received from the Member States to the Executive Secretary of the GFCM.

CHAPTER III

Fishing gear

Article 15

Minimum mesh size in the Black Sea

1. The minimum mesh size for nets used for trawling activities exploiting demersal stocks in the Black Sea shall be 40 mm. Panels of netting smaller than 40 mm mesh size opening shall not be used or kept on board.

2. Before 1 February 2012, the net referred to in paragraph 1 shall be replaced by a square-meshed net of 40 mm at the cod-end or, at the duly justified request of the ship-owner, by a diamond meshed net of 50 mm with an acknowledged size selectivity equivalent to or higher than that of square-meshed nets of 40 mm at the cod-end.

3. Member States whose fishing vessels conduct trawling activities exploiting demersal stocks in the Black Sea shall submit to the Commission, for the first time not later than … (*) and subsequently every six months, the list of fishing vessels that conduct such activities in the Black Sea and are equipped with a square-meshed net of at least 40 mm at the cod-end or diamond meshed nets of at least 50 mm, as well as the percentage that such vessels represent of the whole national demersal trawl fleet.

[1] OJ L 60, 5.3.2008, p. 1.

(*) Twenty working days after the entry into force of this Regulation.

The Commission may adopt implementing acts as regards detailed rules for the format and transmission of the information referred to in this paragraph. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 25(2).

4. The Commission shall forward the information referred to in paragraph 2 to the Executive Secretary of the GFCM.

Article 16

Use of towed dredges and trawl nets fisheries

The use of towed dredges and trawl nets fisheries at depths beyond 1 000 m shall be prohibited.

TITLE III

CONTROL MEASURES

CHAPTER I

Register of vessels

Article 17

Register of authorised vessels

1. Before 1 December of each year, each Member State shall send to the Commission, through the accustomed data-processing support, an updated list of the vessels of more than 15 metres in overall length flying its flag and registered in its territory that it authorises to fish in the GFCM Agreement area by issuance of a fishing authorisation.

2. The list indicated in paragraph 1 shall include the following information:

(a) the vessel's EU Fleet Register number and its external marking, as defined in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 26/2004;

(b) the period during which fishing and/or transhipment is authorised;

(c) the fishing gears used.

3. The Commission shall send the updated list to the Executive Secretary of the GFCM before 1 January of each year so that the vessels concerned can be entered on the GFCM register of vessels of more than 15 metres in overall length authorised to fish in the GFCM Agreement area ('GFCM register').

4. Any change to be made to the list referred to in paragraph 1 shall be notified to the Commission for transmission to the Executive Secretary of the GFCM, through the accustomed data-processing support, at least 10 working days before the vessel begins fishing activity in the GFCM Agreement area.

5. EU fishing vessels of more than 15 metres in overall length that are not entered on the list referred to in paragraph 1 shall not fish, retain on board, tranship or land any type of fish or shellfish within the GFCM Agreement area.

6. Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that:

(a) only vessels flying their flag that are included in the list referred to in paragraph 1 and that hold on board a fishing authorisation issued by them are permitted, under the terms of the authorisation, to carry out fishing activities in the GFCM Agreement area;

(b) no fishing authorisation is issued to vessels that have carried out illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing ('IUU fishing') in the GFCM Agreement area or elsewhere, unless the new owners provide adequate documentary evidence that the previous owners and operators no longer have any legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or exercise any control over, their vessels, or that their vessels neither take part in nor are associated with IUU fishing;

(c) as far as possible, their national legislation prohibits owners and operators of vessels flying their flag that are included in the list referred to in paragraph 1 from taking part in, or being associated with, fishing activities carried out in the GFCM Agreement area by vessels not on the GFCM register;

(d) as far as possible, their national legislation requires owners of vessels flying their flag that are included in the list referred to in paragraph 1 to be nationals or legal entities within the flag Member State;

(e) their vessels comply with all the relevant GFCM conservation and management measures.

7. Member States shall take the necessary measures to prohibit fishing, retention on board, transhipment and landing of fish and shellfish caught in the GFCM Agreement area carried out by vessels of more than 15 metres in overall length that are not on the GFCM register.

8. Member States shall, without delay, communicate to the Commission any information showing that there are strong reasons for suspecting that vessels of more than 15 metres in overall length that are not on the GFCM register are fishing for or transhipping fish and shellfish in the GFCM Agreement area.

CHAPTER II

Port state measures

Article 18

Scope

This Chapter shall apply to third-country fishing vessels.

Article 19

Prior notice

By way of derogation from Article 6(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008, the period for prior notification shall be at least 72 hours before the estimated time of arrival at the port.

Article 20

Port inspections

1. Notwithstanding Article 9(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008, Member States shall carry out inspections in their designated ports of at least 15 % of landings and transhipment operations each year.

2. Notwithstanding Article 9(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008, fishing vessels that enter into a Member State's port without prior authorisation shall be inspected in all cases.

Article 21

Inspection procedure

In addition to the requirements provided for in Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008, port inspections shall comply with the requirements set out in Annex II to this Regulation.

Article 22

Denial of use of port

1. Member States shall not allow a third-country vessel to use their ports for landing, transhipping or processing fisheries products caught in the GFCM Agreement area and shall deny it access to port services, including, inter alia, refuelling and resupplying services, if the vessel:

(a) does not comply with the requirements of this Regulation;

(b) is included in a list of vessels that have engaged in, or have supported, IUU fishing adopted by a regional fisheries management organisation; or

(c) does not have a valid authorisation to engage in fishing or fishing-related activities in the GFCM Agreement area.

By way of derogation from the first subparagraph, nothing shall prevent Member States from allowing, in situations of force majeure or distress within the meaning of Article 18 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea [1], a third-country vessel from using their ports for services strictly necessary to remedy such situations.

2. Paragraph 1 shall apply in addition to the provisions on denial of use of port provided for by Article 4(2) and Article 37(5) and (6) of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008.

3. Where a Member State has denied the use of its ports to a third-country vessel in accordance with paragraph 1 or 2, it shall promptly notify the master of the vessel, the flag State, the Commission and the Executive Secretary of the GFCM of such action.

4. Where the grounds for denial referred to in paragraph 1 or 2 no longer apply, the Member State shall withdraw its denial and notify the addressees referred to in paragraph 3 of that withdrawal.

TITLE IV

COOPERATION, INFORMATION AND REPORTING

Article 23

Cooperation and information

1. The Commission and Member States shall cooperate and exchange information with the Executive Secretary of the GFCM, in particular by:

(a) requesting information from, and providing information to, relevant databases;

(b) requesting cooperation and cooperating in order to promote the effective implementation of this Regulation.

2. Member States shall ensure that their national fisheries-related information systems allow for the direct electronic exchange of information on port state inspections referred to in Title III between them and the Executive Secretary of the GFCM, taking due account of appropriate confidentiality requirements.

3. Member States shall take measures to share, by electronic means, information among relevant national agencies and to coordinate the activities of such agencies in the implementation of the measures set out in Chapter II of Title III.

4. Member States shall establish a list of contact points for the purpose of this Regulation, which shall be transmitted electronically, without delay, to the Commission and to the Executive Secretary and the contracting parties of the GFCM.

[1] OJ L 179, 23.6.1998, p. 3.

5. The Commission may adopt implementing acts as regards detailed rules for cooperation and the exchange of information. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 25(2).

Article 24

Reporting of statistical matrices

1. Member States shall submit before 1 May of each year to the Executive Secretary of the GFCM the data for Tasks 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5 of the GFCM statistical matrix as set out in Section C of Annex III.

2. For the submission of data referred to in paragraph 1, Member States shall use the GFCM data-entry system or any other appropriate data submission standard and protocol that is set by the Executive Secretary of the GFCM and that is available on the GFCM website.

3. Member States shall inform the Commission of the data submitted on the basis of this Article.

The Commission may adopt implementing acts as regards detailed rules for the format and transmission of data referred to in this Article. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 25(2).

TITLE V

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 25

Committee procedure

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Committee for Fisheries and Aquaculture established by Article 30(1) of Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002. That Committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.

Article 26

Delegation of powers

As far as is necessary, in order to implement in Union law amendments that become obligatory for the Union to existing GFCM measures that have already been implemented in Union law, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts, in accordance with Article 27, in order to amend the provisions of this Regulation in respect of the following:

(a) the provision to the Executive Secretary of the GFCM of information under Article 15(4);

(b) the transmission of the list of authorised vessels to the Executive Secretary of the GFCM under Article 17;

(c) port state measures set out in Articles 18 to 22;

(d) cooperation, information and reporting set out in Articles 23 and 24;

(e) the table, the map and the geographical coordinates of GFCM Geographical Sub-Areas ('GSAs') as set out in Annex I;

(f) port state inspection procedures for vessels set out in Annex II; and

(g) GFCM statistical matrices as set out in Annex III.

Article 27

Exercise of the delegation

1. The power to adopt delegated acts is conferred on the Commission subject to the conditions laid down in this Article.

2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in Article 26 shall be conferred on the Commission for a period of three years from … (*). The Commission shall draw up a report in respect of the delegation of power not later than six months before the end of the three-year period. The delegation of power shall be tacitly extended for periods of an identical duration, unless the European Parliament or the Council opposes such extension not later than three months before the end of each period.

3. The delegation of powers referred to in Article 26 may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the Official Journal of the European Union or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of the delegated acts already in force.

4. As soon as it adopts a delegated act, the Commission shall notify it simultaneously to the European Parliament and to the Council.

5. A delegated act adopted pursuant to Article 26 shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.

(*) Date of entry into force of this Regulation.

Article 28

Amendments to Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006

Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 is hereby amended as follows:

(1) in Article 4, paragraph 3 is deleted;

(2) in Article 9, paragraph 3 is replaced by the following:

'3. For towed nets, other than those referred to in paragraph 4, the minimum mesh size shall be at least:

(a) a square-meshed net of 40 mm at the cod-end, or

(b) at the duly justified request of the ship owner, a diamond-meshed net of 50 mm of an acknowledged size selectivity that is equivalent to or higher than that of nets referred to under point (a).

Fishing vessels shall be authorised to use and keep on board only one of the two types of nets.

The Commission shall submit a report on the implementation of this paragraph to the European Parliament and the Council by 30 June 2012, on the basis of which, as well as on the basis of the information supplied by Member States before 31 December 2011, it shall propose due amendments where appropriate.';

(3) Article 24 is deleted;

(4) in Article 27, paragraphs 1 and 4 are deleted.

Article 29

Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the 20th day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at, …

For the European Parliament
The President
…

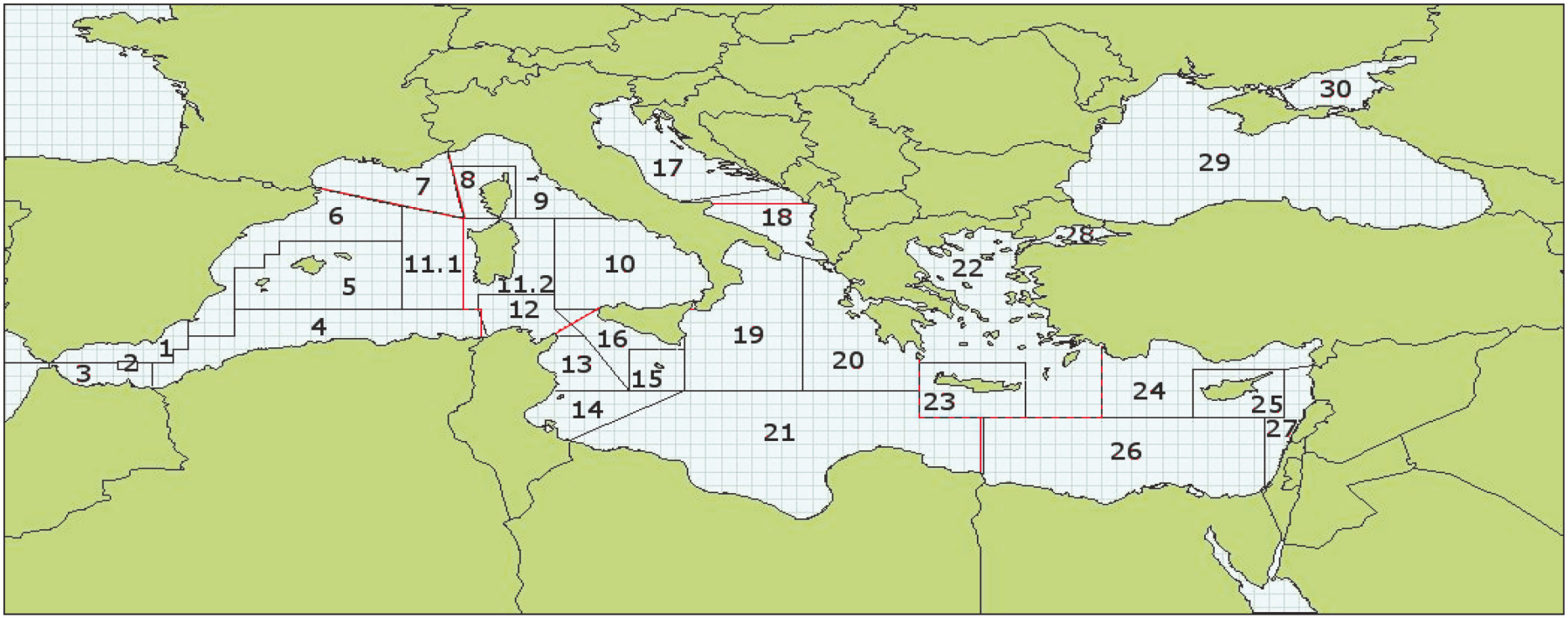
For the Council
The President
…

ANNEX I

A) **Table of GFCM GSAs**

FAO SUB-AREA	FAO STATISTICAL DIVISIONS	GSAs	
WESTERN	1.1 BALEARIC	1	Northern Alboran Sea
		2	Alboran Island
		3	Southern Alboran Sea
		4	Algeria
		5	Balearic Island
		6	Northern Spain
		11.1	Sardinia (west)
	1.2 GULF OF LIONS	7	Gulf of Lions
	1.3 SARDINIA	8	Corsica Island
		9	Ligurian and North Tyrrhenian Sea
		10	South Tyrrhenian Sea
		11.2	Sardinia (east)
		12	Northern Tunisia
CENTRAL	2.1 ADRIATIC	17	Northern Adriatic
		18	Southern Adriatic Sea (part)
	2.2 IONIAN	13	Gulf of Hammamet
		14	Gulf of Gabes
		15	Malta Island
		16	South of Sicily
		18	Southern Adriatic Sea (part)
		19	Western Ionian Sea
		20	Eastern Ionian Sea
		21	Southern Ionian Sea
EASTERN	3.1 AEGEAN	22	Aegean Sea
		23	Crete Island
	3.2 LEVANT	24	North Levant
		25	Cyprus Island
		26	South Levant
		27	Levant
BLACK SEA	4.1 MARMARA	28	Marmara Sea
	4.2 BLACK SEA	29	Black Sea
	4.3 AZOV SEA	30	Azov Sea

B) **Map of GFCM GSAs (GFCM, 2009)**



— FAO Statistical Divisions (red) — GFCM GSA (black)

01 - Northern Alboran Sea	07 - Gulf of Lions	13 - Gulf of Hammamet	19 - Western Ionian Sea	26 - South Levant
02 - Alboran Island	08 - Corsica Island	14 - Gulf of Gabes	20 - Eastern Ionian Sea	27 - Levant
03 - Southern Alboran Sea	09 - Ligurian and North Tyrrhenian Sea	15 - Malta Island	21 - Southern Ionian Sea	28 - Marmara Sea
04 - Algeria	10 - South and Central Tyrrhenian Sea	16 - South of Sicily	22 - Aegean Sea	29 - Black Sea
05 - Balearic Island	11.1 - Sardinia (west)	17 - Northern Adriatic	23 - Crete Island	30 - Azov Sea
06 - Northern Spain	11.2 - Sardinia (east)	18 - Southern Adriatic Sea	24 - North Levant	
	12 - Northern Tunisia		25 - Cyprus Island	

C) **Geographical coordinates for GFCM GSAs (GFCM, 2009)**

GSAs	LIMITS
1	Coast Line 36° N 5° 36′ W 36° N 3° 20′ W 36° 05′ N 3° 20′ W 36° 05′ N 2° 40′ W 36° N 2° 40′ W 36° N 1° 30′ W 36° 30′ N 1° 30′ W 36° 30′ N 1° W 37° 36′ N 1° W
2	36° 05′ N 3° 20′ W 36° 05′ N 2° 40′ W 35° 45′ N 3° 20′ W 35° 45′ N 2° 40′ W
3	Coast Line 36° N 5° 36′ W 35° 49′ N 5° 36′ W 36° N 3° 20′ W 35° 45′ N 3° 20′ W 35° 45′ N 2° 40′ W 36° N 2° 40′ W 36° N 1° 13′ W Morocco-Algeria border
4	Coast Line 36° N 2° 13′ W 36° N 1° 30′ W 36° 30′ N 1° 30′ W 36° 30′ N 1° W 37° N 1° W 37° N 0° 30′ E 38° N 0° 30′ E 38° N 8° 35′ E Algeria-Tunisia border Morocco-Algeria border
5	38° N 0° 30′ E 39° 30′ N 0° 30′ E 39° 30′ N 1° 30′ W 40° N 1° 30′ E 40° N 2° E 40° 30′ N 2° E 40° 30′ N 6° E 38° N 6° E
6	Coast line 37° 36′ N 1° W 37° N 1° W 37° N 0° 30′ E 39° 30′ N 0° 30′ E 39° 30′ N 1° 30′ W 40° N 1° 30′ E 40° N 2° E 40° 30′ N 2° E 40° 30′ N 6° E 41° 47′ N 6° E 42° 26′ N 3° 09′ E
7	Coast line 42° 26′ N 3° 09′ E 41° 20′ N 8° E France-Italy border
8	43° 15′ N 7° 38′ E 43° 15′ N 9° 45′ E 41° 18′ N 9° 45′ E 41° 20′ N 8° E 41° 18′ N 8° E
9	Coast line France-Italy border 43° 15′ N 7° 38′ E 43° 15′ N 9° 45′ E 41° 18′ N 9° 45′ E 41° 18′ N 13° E
10	Coast line (including North Sicily) 41° 18′ N 13° E 41° 18′ N 11° E 38° N 11° E 38° N 12° 30′ E
11	41° 47′ N 6° E 41° 18′ N 6° E 41° 18′ N 11° E 38° 30′ N 11° E 38° 30′ N 8° 30′ E 38° N 8° 30′ E 38° N 6° E
12	Coast line Algeria-Tunisia border 38° N 8° 30′ E 38° 30′ N 8° 30′ E 38° 30′ N 11° E 38° N 11° E 37° N 12° E 37° N 11° 04′ E
13	Coast line 37° N 11° 04′ E 37° N 12° E 35° N 13° 30′ E 35° N 11° E
14	Coast line 35° N 11° E 35° N 15° 18′ E Tunisia-Libya border
15	36° 30′ N 13° 30′ E 35° N 13° 30′ E 35° N 15° 18′ E 36° 30′ N 15° 18′ E
16	Coast line 38° N 12° 30′ E 38° N 11° E 37° N 12° E 35° N 13° 30′ E 36° 30′ N 13° 30′ E 36° 30′ N 15° 18′ E 37° N 15° 18′ E
17	Coast line 41° 55′ N 15° 08′ E Croatia-Montenegro border

GSAs	LIMITS
18	Coast lines (both sides) 41° 55′ N 15° 08′ E 40° 04′ N 18° 29′ E Croatia-Montenegro border Albania-Greece border
19	Coast line (including East Sicily) 40° 04′ N 18° 29′ E 37° N 15° 18′ E 35° N 15° 18′ E 35° N 19° 10′ E 39° 58′ N 19° 10′ E
20	Coast line Albania-Greece border 39° 58′ N 19° 10′ E 35° N 19° 10′ E 35° N 23° E 36° 30′ N 23° E
21	Coast line Tunisia-Libya border 35° N 15° 18′ E 35° N 23° E 34° N 23° E 34° N 25° 09′ E Libya-Egypt border
22	Coast line 36° 30′ N 23° E 36° N 23° E 36° N 26° 30′ E 34° N 26° 30′ E 34° N 29° E 36° 43′ N 29° E
23	36° N 23° E 36° N 26° 30′ E 34° N 26° 30′ E 34° N 23° E
24	Coast line 36° 43′ N 29° E 34° N 29° E 34° N 32° E 35° 47′ N 32° E 35° 47′ N 35° E Turkey-Syria border
25	35° 47′ N 32° E 34° N 32° E 34° N 35° E 35° 47′ N 35° E
26	Coast line Libya-Egypt border 34° N 25° 09′ E 34° N 34° 13′ E Egypt-Gaza Strip border
27	Coast line Egypt-Gaza Strip border 34° N 34° 13′ E 34° N 35° E 35° 47′ N 35° E Turkey-Syria border
28	
29	
30	

ANNEX II

Port state inspection procedures for vessels

(1) Vessel identification

Port inspectors shall:

a) verify that the official documentation on board is valid, if necessary, through appropriate contacts with the flag State or international records of vessels;

b) where necessary, arrange for an official translation of the documentation;

c) verify that the vessel's name, flag, any external identification number and markings (and International Maritime Organization ('IMO') ship identification number when available) and the international radio call sign are correct;

d) as far as possible, examine whether the vessel has changed name and/or flag and, if so, note the previous name(s) and flag(s);

e) note the port of registration, name and address of the owner (and operator and beneficial owner if different from the owner), agent, and master of the vessel, including the unique ID for company and registered owner if available; and

f) note the names and addresses of previous owners, if any, during the past five years.

(2) Authorisations

Port inspectors shall verify that authorisations to fish or transport fish and fishery products are compatible with the information obtained under point (1) and examine the duration of the authorisations and their application to areas, species and fishing gear.

(3) Other documentation

Port inspectors shall review all relevant documentation, including documents in electronic format. Relevant documentation may include logbooks, in particular the fishing logbook, as well as the crew list, stowage plans and drawings or descriptions of fish holds if available. Such holds or areas may be inspected in order to verify whether their size and composition correspond to these drawings or descriptions and whether the stowage is in accordance with the stowage plans. Where appropriate, this documentation shall also include catch documents or trade documents issued by any regional fisheries management organisation.

(4) Fishing gear

a) Port inspectors shall verify that the fishing gear on board is in conformity with the conditions of the authorisations. The gear may also be checked to ensure that features such as, inter alia, the mesh sizes (and possible devices), length of nets and hook sizes conform with applicable regulations and that identification marks of the gear correspond to those authorised for the vessel.

b) Port inspectors may also search the vessel for any fishing gear stowed out of sight and for fishing gear that is otherwise illegal.

(5) Fish and fishery products

a) Port inspectors shall, to the greatest extent possible, examine whether the fish and fishery products on board were harvested in accordance with the conditions set out in the applicable authorisations. In doing so, port inspectors shall examine the fishing logbook and reports submitted, including those transmitted by a vessel monitoring system (VMS), as appropriate.

b) In order to determine the quantities and species on board, port inspectors may examine the fish in the hold or during the landing. In doing so, port inspectors may open cartons where the fish has been pre-packed and move the fish or cartons to ascertain the integrity of fish holds.

c) If the vessel is unloading, port inspectors may verify the species and quantities landed. Such verification may include product type, live weight (quantities determined from the logbook) and the conversion factor used for calculating processed weight to live weight. Port inspectors may also examine any possible quantities retained on board.

d) Port inspectors may review the quantity and composition of all catch on board, including by sampling.

(6) Verification of IUU fishing

Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 applies.

(7) Report

A written report shall be prepared and signed by the inspector on completion of the inspection and a copy provided to the master of the vessel.

(8) Results of port state inspections

Results of port state inspections shall include at least the following information:

1. Inspection references

— Inspecting authority (name of inspecting authority or the alternate body nominated by the authority);

— Name of inspector;

— Date and time of inspection;

— Port of inspection (place where the vessel is inspected); and

— Date (date the report is completed).

2. Vessel identification

— Name of the vessel;

— Type of vessel;

— Type of gear;

— External identification number (side number of the vessel) and IMO-number (if available) or other number as appropriate;

— International Radio Call Sign;

— MMS I-number (Maritime Mobile Service Identity number), if available;

— Flag State (the State where the vessel is registered);

— Previous names and flags, if any;

— Home port (the port of registration of the vessel) and previous home ports;

— Vessel owner (name, address, contact);

— Vessel beneficial owner if different from the vessel owner (name, address, contact);

— Vessel operator responsible for using the vessel if different from the vessel owner (name, address, contact);

— Vessel agent (name, address, contact);

— Names and addresses of previous owners, if any;

— Name, nationality and maritime qualifications of master and fishing master; and

— Crew list.

3. Fishing authorisation (licences/permits)

— The vessels' authorisations to fish or transport fish and fish products;

— States issuing the authorisations;

— Terms of the authorisations, including areas and duration;

— Relevant regional fisheries management organisation;

— Areas, scope and duration of the authorisations;

— Details of allocation authorised — quota, fishing effort or other;

— Species, by-catch and fishing gear authorised; and

— Transhipment records and documents (where applicable).

4. Fishing trip information

— Date, time, zone and place current fishing trip commenced;

— Areas visited (entry and exit from different areas);

— Transhipment activities at sea (date, species, place, quantity of fish transhipped);

— Last port visited;

— Date and time when current fishing trip ended; and

— Intended next port of call, as appropriate.

5. Result of the inspection on the catch

— Start and end of discharge (times and date);

— Fish species;

— Product type;

— Live weight (quantities determined from the logbook);

— Relevant conversion factor;

— Processed weight (quantities landed by species and presentation);

— Equivalent live weight (quantities landed in equivalent live weight, as 'product Weight multiplied with the conversion factor');

— Intended destination of fish and fishery products inspected; and

— Quantity and species of fish retained on board, if any.

6. Results of gear inspection

— Details of gear types.

7. Conclusions

— Conclusions of the inspection including identification of the violations believed to have been committed and reference to the relevant rules and measures. Such evidence shall be attached to the inspection report.

ANNEX III

A) **GFCM/SAC Fleet Segmentation**

Groups	< 6 metres	6-12 metres	12-24 metres	More than 24 metres
1. Polyvalent small-scale vessels without engine	**A**			
2. Polyvalent small-scale vessels with engine	**B**	**C**		
3. Trawlers		**D**	**E**	**F**
4. Purse seiners		**G**	**H**	
5. Longliners		**I**		
6. Pelagic Trawlers		**J**		
7. Tuna seiners			**K**	
8. Dredgers		**L**		
9. Polyvalent vessels			**M**	

Description of segments

A *Polyvalent small-scale vessels without engine* - All vessels less than 12 metres in length (LOA) without an engine (wind or propulsion).

B *Polyvalent small-scale vessels with engine less than 6 m* - All vessels under 6 metres in length (LOA) with engine.

C *Polyvalent small-scale vessels with engine between 6 and 12 metres* - All vessels between 6 and 12 metres in length (LOA) with engine, that use different gears during the year without clear predominance of one of them or that use a gear not considered in this classification.

D *Trawlers less than 12 m* - All vessels less than 12 metres in length (LOA) allocating more than 50 percent of their effort operating with a demersal trawl.

E *Trawlers between 12 and 24 m* - All vessels, between 12 and 24 metres in length (LOA) allocating more than 50 percent of their effort operating with a demersal trawl.

F *Trawlers longer than 24 m* - All vessels over 24 metres in length (LOA), allocating more than 50 percent of their effort operating with a demersal trawl.

G *Purse Seiners between 6 and 12 m* - All vessels between 6 and 12 m in length (LOA), allocating more than 50 percent of their effort operating with a purse seine.

H *Purse Seiners longer than 12 m* - All vessels over 12 m in length (LOA), allocating more than 50 percent of their effort operating with a purse seine, excluding those using a tuna seine during any time of the year.

I *Longliners longer than 6 m* - All vessels over 6 m in length (LOA), allocating more than 50 percent of their effort operating with a longline.

J *Pelagic Trawlers longer than 6 m* - All vessels over 6 m in length (LOA), allocating more than 50 percent of their effort operating with a pelagic trawl.

K *Tuna seiners* - All vessels operating with a Tuna Seine for any length of time during the year.

L *Dredgers longer than 6 m* - All vessels over 6 m in length (LOA), allocating more than 50 percent of their effort operating with a dredge.

M *Polyvalent vessels longer than 12 m* - All vessels over 12 metres in length (LOA), that use different gears during the year without clear predominance of one of them or that use a gear not considered in this classification.

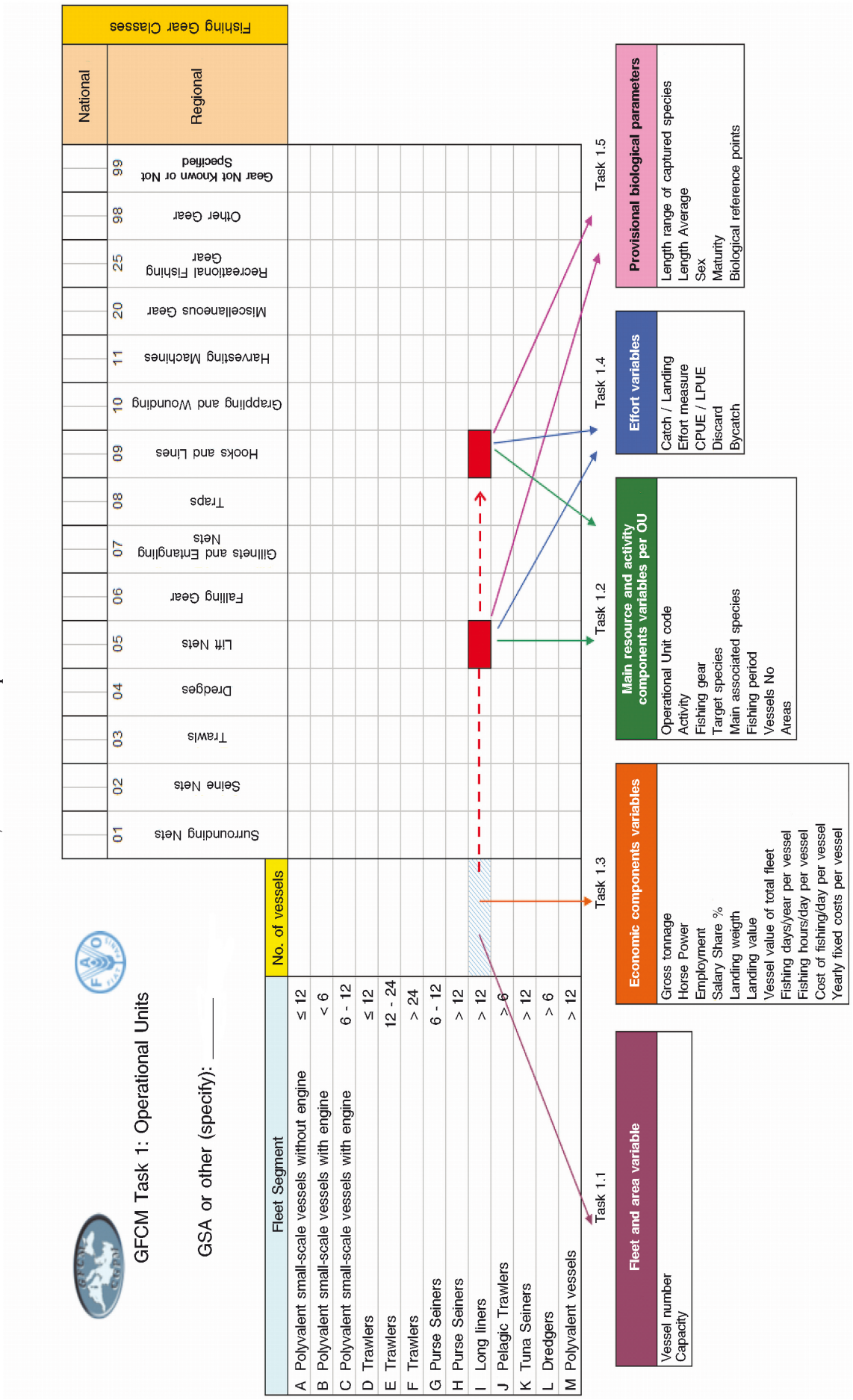
Note: All the cells are open for collecting information. The cells left blank in the above table are considered as unlikely to have a significant population. However, if necessary, it is advisable to merge the information of a "blank cell" with the most appropriate neighbouring "grey cell".

B) **Table on measurement of nominal fishing effort**

Gear	Number and dimension	Capacity	Activity	Nominal Effort (1)
Dredge (for molluscs)	Open mouth, width of mouth	GT	Time fishing	Dredged bottom surface (2)
Trawl (including dredges for flatfishes)	Type of trawl (pelagic, bottom) GT and/or GRT Engine power Mesh size Size of the net (width of mouth) Speed	GT	Time Fishing	GT * days GT * hours kW*days
Purse seine	Length and drop of the net GT Light power Number of small boats	GT Length and drop of the net	Search time Set	GT * Fishing sets Length of the net * fishing sets
Nets	Type of net (e.g. trammel net, gillnets, etc.) Net length (used in regulations) GT Net surface Mesh size	Net length and drop	Time fishing	Net length * days Surface*days
Long lines	Number of hooks GT Number of longline Characteristics of hooks Bait	Number of hooks Number of longline unit	Time fishing	Number of hooks * hours Number of hooks * days Number of longline units * days/hours
Traps	GT	Number of traps	Time fishing	Number of traps * days
Purse seine/FADs	Number of FADs	Number of FADs	Number of trips	Number of FADs * Number of trips

(1) The effort measures that do not include a time activity should be referred to a period of time (i.e. by year).
(2) Should be referred to a particular area (indicating the surface) to estimate fishing intensity (effort/km^2) and to relate the effort to exploited communities.

C) **GFCM Task 1 – Operational Units**



STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S REASONS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 16 September 2009, the Commission submitted this proposal to the Council. Following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the proposal is subject to Article 43(2) of the TFEU and the ordinary legislative procedure applies.

2. The Economic and Social Committee gave its opinion on 17 March 2011.

3. The European Parliament adopted its position at first reading on 10 March 2011.

4. The Council adopted its position in first reading on 20 October 2011.

II. OBJECTIVE

5. Recommendations adopted by the GFCM are binding on its Contracting Parties. The European Union is a contracting party and the GFCM recommendations should therefore be transposed, where their content is not already covered by EU legislation, into EU legislation.

6. Until recently, recommendations adopted by GFCM have been transposed into EU legislation on a temporary basis through the annual regulations on fishing opportunities (TACs and quota) [1]. However, the permanent character of such recommendations would also require a more permanent legal instrument for their transposition into EU legislation; it seems therefore appropriate to transpose these recommendations via a single legislative act, where future recommendations can be added by way of amendments to that act. This will also improve legal certainty and constitute an important step towards simplification.

7. The content and obligations of the recommendations adopted by GFCM are often entirely or partly covered by EU legislation adopted previously and therefore only those aspects which differ from the EU legislation in question need to be transposed, as well as the relevant reporting obligations, where appropriate.

8. Since GFCM recommendations apply to the entire GFCM agreement area which covers the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and connecting waters as referred to in Annex II to Council Decision 1998/416/EC of 16 June 1998 [2], for reasons of clarity of EU legislation they should be transposed in a regulation separate from Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 which only covers the Mediterranean Sea.

III. ANALYSIS OF THE COUNCIL'S POSITION AT FIRST READING

General

9. The proposal was subject to three informal trilogues with the European Parliament on 11 May and 25 October 2010 and on 21 June 2011. Although an overall agreement on the text existed between the institutions following the two first trilogues, outstanding issues remained in relation to the scope of application of delegated acts and on the duration of delegation. Therefore, work has concentrated on finding an agreement on the outstanding issues in relation to delegated acts, leaving aside issues agreed in the two first trilogues which were subsequently set out in the position of the Parliament of 10 March 2011. Work thus progressed on the presumption of a tacit acceptance of the Parliament's amendments in its position except for the issues relating to delegation of powers, and subject to later finalisation by the legal-linguistic services of the two institutions.

10. More concretely this means that the following EP amendments were deemed to become included in the Council's position at first reading: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 40, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51 and 52.

11. Amendments 42, 43 and 44 relating to delegation were not accepted.

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[1] Reg. 43/2009, Reg. 40/2008,Reg. 41/2007 and Reg. 51/2006
[2] OJ L 190, 4.7.1998, p. 34

Delegated powers

12. On the horizontal issue of delegation of powers, the Commission and Member States were initially at opposite ends with Member States considering many aspects of the GFCM recommendations to be essential elements and therefore not suited for transposition into EU law by delegated acts. In the light of the fact that no solutions were found on these issues during the first two trilogues, the European Parliament adopted its position in the first reading on 10 March 2011 - a position which with regard to delegated acts could be described as a "half way house" between the Commission and Member States.

13. The European Parliament's move was seen as positive and in the right direction and helped the Hungarian Presidency to engage in new discussions with the various concerned delegations on their views regarding the elements of the transposition they considered to be essential elements. This allowed COREPER to agree on 1 June 2011 to grant the Hungarian Presidency a mandate to negotiate a solution on the outstanding issues at the third informal trilogue on 21 June 2011. An agreement was reached between all three institutions which reads as is set out in Article 26 in the Council's position (doc. 12607/11 PECHE 199 CODEC 1173).

14. In addition, it was agreed that (Article 27(1) ex-Article 28) "the power of referred to in Article 27 shall be conferred on the Commission for a period of *three years* from the date of entry into force of this Regulation" and (5) that " a delegated act adopted pursuant to Article 26 shall enter into force if no objections has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of *two* months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or […]".

Implementing powers

15. The Commission specified during the third trilogue in respect of which concrete provisions of the Proposal adoption of implementing acts would be advisable, namely Articles 9 (information - report on fisheries activities) Article 12 (4) and (6) (on closed seasons), Article 14 (data collection), Article 15 (3) on minimum mesh size in the Black Sea), Article 23 (cooperation and information) and Article 24(4) (statistical matrices). No objections to this list were raised during the third informal trilogue and the draft Council position in first reading has been drawn up taking account of this list.

Other changes included in the Council's position at first reading

16. The text as finalised by the legal-linguistic experts has been aligned to take account of necessary changes due to the entry into force of the Lisbon treaty, standard formulations based on the new Comitology Regulation and on the Common Understanding on Delegated Acts. The recitals are aligned to the final contents of the legal provisions of the Proposal.

17. The Commission has indicated that it can accept the Council's position in the first reading.

IV. **CONCLUSION**

18. In adopting its position as set out in doc. 12607/11 PECHE 199 CODEC 1173, The Council hopes that the European Parliament can confirm the agreement reached among the institutions and thus enable an early adoption of the Regulation.

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