

REC.CM-GFCM/29/2005/1

**Management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and deepwater species
and the establishment of a fisheries restricted area below 1000 m**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

RECALLING that the objective of the Agreement for the establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM Agreement) is to ensure the conservation and sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of living marine resources in the area of application;

RECALLING the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference for the Sustainable Development of the Fisheries in the Mediterranean held in November 2003 in Venice and, in particular, paragraph 4, third indent;

RECALLING that effective management measures aim to curb the decline in stocks identified in the scientific advice, and to improve the exploitation pattern in the fisheries;

RE-AFFIRMING the principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and recalling the precautionary approach to fisheries management therein and, in particular, in relation to the development of new fisheries;

CONSIDERING that in the absence of any scientific information on the status of fisheries and of the exploited resources a more cautious approach is needed and that suitable information coming from adjacent areas could be used for proper and precautionary management of fisheries;

NOTING that the selectivity of codend mesh sizes currently in use in the various demersal trawl fisheries is not suitable to ensure adequate protection for juveniles of several species, as well as to reduce discarding practices;

CONSIDERING also that in the advice for 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004 the GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC) considered that certain stocks are overexploited, some with a high risk of collapse, and that sustainable management requires that measures aimed at limiting the capture of juveniles are implemented;

NOTING that the stock assessment conducted by the SAC only concern specific geographical subareas (GSAs) corresponding to the data supplied by certain Contracting Parties and that the assessed stocks may be shared with adjacent GFCM GSAs;

RECALLING Recommendation REC.CM-GFCM/27/2002/1 which urges the control of fishing effort and the improvement of the exploitation pattern of demersal fisheries, as well as limiting catches of juveniles of small pelagic species;

ADOPTS, in conformity with the provisions of Articles 5 (b), 8 (b) and 13 of GFCM Agreement that:

DEMERSAL FISHERIES

1. The Contracting Parties of GFCM shall adopt measures aimed at increasing the selectivity of demersal trawl nets, notably by immediate implementation of at least a 40 mm mesh size opening for the whole

demersal trawl codend. Contracting Parties are invited to explore and implement additional measures in order to improve further the selectivity.

DEEPWATER FISHERIES

2. The Contracting Parties of the GFCM shall prohibit the use of towed dredges and trawl nets at depths beyond 1 000 m of depth.

GENERAL ASPECTS

3. The Contracting Parties of GFCM shall notify the Executive Secretary, each year, one month prior to the plenary session of the Commission, with a report on the implementation of the management measures adopted.
4. The SAC shall evaluate the impact of the implementation of the management measures and shall recommend, if necessary, to the GFCM either possible adjustments or new additional measures.