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MED RAC POSITION ON RECREATIONAL FISHING

The MED RAC Executive Committee adopts, through written procedure the position approved by the members of the working group on recreational fishing that took place in Barcelona on March 23, 2011, in order to present it during the 35th Session of the GFCM where the recommendations proposed by SCESS of the SAC (Scientific Advisory Committee), will be examined.

In particular, regarding the SCESS recommendations at pag.6 of the document: GFCM/SAC 13/2011/INF.7 Draft Report of the 11th Session of the SAC/SCESS, the RAC MED expressed its unanimous support as to the following points:

- i. Adopt and include to the GFCM Glossary the following amended definitions:
 1. Recreational fishing: *Fishing activities exploiting marine living aquatic resources for leisure or sport purposes from which it is prohibited to sell or trade the catches obtained.*
 2. Underwater fishing: *Recreational fishing activity practiced as a sport or for leisure by snorkeling techniques without the help of mechanical devices (e.g.scooter);*
- ii. Provide a definition of “Pesca turismo” to be included in the GFCM Glossary; (It was agreed that “Pesca turismo” should not be part of recreational fishing and required a definition to be drafted);
- iii. The SCESS underlined the importance to develop a common and harmonized scientific monitoring framework protocol for recreational fisheries. The SCESS recommended that a regional study be carried out to overview the recreational fishing activities with the following data, in order to estimate basic indicators of recreational fisheries for each segment (leisure and sport) and also for each modality (shore based, boat based, underwater fishing):
 - a. Number of licenses issued
 - b. Targeted species list
 - c. Catch amounts by targeted species (kg)



- d. Recreational fishing expenditures per fisher (hotel, restaurant, transport, fishing gears [*e.g.* baits and accessories], etc.)
 - e. Age and gender of the recreational fisher
 - f. Fishing days per year and average hours per fishing day
- iv. The SCESS recommended that an **obligatory** licensing system should be **adopted** for the recreational fisheries in the GFCM area (**not to be seen as a tax or levy, but used only for monitoring and enforcement of the sector**)
- The SCESS recommended the elaboration of a Code of Practice/technical guidelines on recreational fisheries, in support of the responsible development, promotion and management of recreational fisheries in the GFCM area.

