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Rome, 4th June 2012

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP (WG 4) ON RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

ROME 29TH FEBRUARY 2012

Participants: see attached list

Coordinator: Esteban Graupera

Attached documents: Agenda, slides presented by Camille Samier.

1. Working Group WG4 met in Rome on 29th February 2012 to continue the work which began last year on the harmonisation of current legislation on fisheries in the Mediterranean.

2. The RAC MED Executive Secretary opened the session and thanked the participants and the associations. The Executive Secretary reminded the meeting of the RAC MED Working Group procedures and underlined the double role held by the coordinators who coordinate the working groups and are also responsible for conveying the results achieved to the Executive Committee. The Agenda of the meeting was approved and the coordinator Esteban Graupera took the floor.

3. The coordinator summarised the Opinion adopted last year on recreational fisheries, which was the result of the work carried out during these meetings:

- The first meeting of the Working Group in Barcelona. 16 representatives were present of which 11 from the extractive sector (23rd March 2011);
- The first Opinion distributed during the 35th annual session of the GFCM (5th May 2011);
- The Director General Lowri Evans replied to the RAC MED Opinion with some minor clarifications and shared the collaboration with the GFCM Sub Committee for Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS) (12th October 2011);
- The coordinator formally presented the proposal to the SCESS during its meeting held in Rome, (26th January 2012).

The GFCM representative Camille Samier took the floor and presented the definition of recreational fisheries of the GFCM Members and illustrated the list of international initiatives currently in force (i.e. UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries). On the issue of regulations



regarding recreational fisheries in the GFCM countries, she stated that the situation is rather disparate around the area and it would be appropriate to consider measures towards harmonisation for a common legal framework.

4. The coordinator thanked Ms Samier for the presentation and retraced the stages that have formed the basis for this WG, beginning with FAO GFCM Studies and Reviews n. 81, which was the first internationally recognised document on the Mediterranean basin, although the document is presently being updated. The coordinator made three proposals:

- a) Long term objective of the group: use as a baseline document the FAO GFCM “Studies and Reviews n. 81 – Recreational Fisheries in the Mediterranean Countries – a review of existing legal frameworks”. This document will be used to choose the basic information to present to the SCESS.
- b) Prepare an Opinion to be brought to the attention of the EC, in which ICCAT is requested to modify its current definitions of recreational and sports fisheries and to adopt the definition in the FAO GFCM glossary.
- c) In the light of the reform and the possible consequences: present an Opinion relative to the two paragraphs of art.17 which refer to non commercial fisheries in the EC Regulation on the Mediterranean. On this issue the coordinator underlined that if changes are made to the Regulation it would be advisable to be resolute about the need to ban sale of specimens caught during sports fishing competitions as this is in conflict with professional fisheries.

5. The representative of FEDAS requested the insertion of the definition of underwater fishing without equipment (such as the use of a scooter) as was proposed by the SCESS in Palma de Mallorca.

6. The coordinator suggested that the definition of underwater fishing should not be included in the proposal to be sent to ICCAT via the EC as the ICCAT definition refers exclusively to bluefin tuna fisheries which are not carried out by underwater fishers.

7. The EAA representative agreed with the coordinator’s suggestion to elaborate on the FAO glossary and if necessary send the GFCM a more articulated definition of recreational fisheries concerning charters and distinguishing fishing tourism carried out by professionals. She underlined the need to differentiate between recreational angling and recreational fisheries carried out with passive gear. Lastly, she shared the opinion expressed on banning any sales of specimens caught during sports fishing competitions and also on sending the definitions adopted by the FAO glossary to ICCAT.

8. The coordinator thanked the participants and closed the session informing those present that two draft Opinions will be prepared, one to be addressed to the EC in the case of the draft definition in the FAO glossary and the other in which the proposal to modify art. 17 of the EC Mediterranean Regulation is detailed will be sent to all the members of the Working Group and then submitted to the Executive Committee for approval.

