



Ref.:183 /REL

Rome, 3 June 2013

REPORT OF THE RAC MED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On 20th March 2013 at 10.30 in the Cavour Congress Centre in Rome, the Executive Committee met to discuss the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the Executive Committee meeting report (Rome 6 November 2012);
2. Closure of the 2012 financial statement and 2013 budget proposal - approval;
3. Discussion and approval of the election procedures for the Executive Committee and the Chairmanship on the basis of the information already distributed by the Secretariat as proposed by the Chair's office.
4. Presentation of the following projects:
 - Pilot Project 2 (DISCATCH) "Catch and discard composition – solutions to limit and potentially eliminate by catch in Mediterranean trawl fisheries". Agreement of members.
 - TEMPO project. Agreement of members
 - MAREFRAME project. Agreement of members;
5. Report by the coordinator on the developments and results of WG4;
6. Proposal to modify the Working Group procedures;
7. The updated list of the RAC MED members, the status of membership fee payments for 2013 and the membership requests that have been received.
8. Participation by the Chair or ExCom members in international meetings (GFCM, SAC 8-11 April Rome, Plenary session 13-17 May, Split, Croatia; ICCAT, SCRS 23-27 September, Madrid, Plenary session, 18-25 November, Cape Town, South Africa). Agreement of members;
9. Any other matters

At the time the meeting began the following participants were present: Paolo Pelusi; José Maria Gallart; Kahoul Mourad; Giampaolo Buonfiglio; Genaro Amigo Chouciño; Jose Manuel Gonzalez Gil De Bernabé; Snezana Levstik; Erika Monnati; Rosa Caggiano; Marco Sammiceli; Iolanda Piedra Mañes; Joan Parera Molero; Eusebi Esgleas Pares; Mario Vizcarro i Gianni; Antonio Marzoa Dopico; Antonio Marzoa Notlevsen; Luca Stasi; Giacomo Ottonello; Lapo Nannucci; Pierre D'Acunto; Marc Planas; Alain Rico; Oscar Sagué Pla; Susana Sainz-Trapaga; Maria José Cornax; Gianfranco Santolini; Esteban Graupera; Gennaro Scognamiglio; Antonio Pucillo; Marco Rinaldi; Maria Isabella Verardi; Elisabetta Giannocari; Sergio Schiavone; Gilberto Ferrari; Mario Ferretti; Gian Ludovico Ceccaroni.



The list of participants was signed by all present and is annexed to this report.

Mr Mourad Kahoul was elected Chair of the meeting and the meeting secretary was Ms Rosa Caggiano.

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He then introduced the Agenda and informed the Meeting that the expected 2013 financial statement would be presented. Under the item “any other matters” the WWF expressed its intention to present the proposed document on discards and the Secretariat would provide a brief summary of the Inter-RAC meeting organised on the 1st March and during which the issue of discards was extensively discussed.

The Big Game Italia representative proposed that an agenda item be added “critical points and gaps in the RAC MED Statute”, before item 3 on the Agenda. The agenda was adopted with these changes.

Agenda Item I: Adoption of the Executive Committee meeting report (Rome 6 November 2012)

The report was adopted by the members with no changes

Agenda Item II: Closure of the 2012 financial statement and 2013 budget proposal - approval

The RACMED assistant presented financial situation as of 31.12.2012, showing the income and expenditures of the year according to the matching concept, because on the date of the Meeting the contribution from the European Commission had not been received. This circumstance did not make it possible to present the statement of accounts and relative audit. The auditor Alessandro Ficicchia informed the Meeting that the audit is usually conducted on the basis of the financial report, which is the accounting statement that shows income and expenditure relative to the financial period in question. If no financial report is available the it is not possible, for these reasons, to carry out the audit.

RAC MED is not a recognized association and the national law of the host country (Italy) requires the preparation of a financial statement both for the budget estimate and for the final balance, carried out by verifying income and expenditures in the financial period. If deemed necessary, the Chair proposed that the financial situation be described using the matching concept, therefore not considering the financial representation of events; in this way the General Assembly to be held the following day would be in a position to approve the 2012 accounts. The auditor then presented the summary of accounts, annexed to this report, first in the manner requested by the European Commission, subdivided according to the income and outflow; after which the same accounts were presented grouped into credits and debts, so as to provide a clearer and more correct picture of the reserve funds. The auditor recalled that the only difference between the situation described according to the matching concept and the final financial statement will depend on the entity of the EC contribution. The summary of accounts for 2012 provisionally approved by all present.

The RAC MED assistant then presented the draft budget for 2013 with the help of slides (attached to this report). The only difference if compared to the planned expenditures is the appointment of a substitute for the Executive Secretary's assistant while she is on maternity leave (from the end of April to the end of September), in order to



guarantee the coordination, organization and other activities of the Secretariat in that period. The Federcoopescas representative commented that as the expenditure involved is very small, the Chair should be authorized to choose a temporary substitute for the assistant as quickly as possible. Where income is concerned, the ETF representative asked why it had not been possible to reduce the membership fees, the Secretary replied that not all Member States would have agreed to an increase in their annual quota. Moreover she recalled that out of seven Member States only four pay the annual contribution requested by RAC MED.

Agenda item III Discussion and approval of the election procedures for the Executive Committee and the Chairmanship on the basis of the information already distributed by the Secretariat as proposed by the Chair's office

The Executive Secretary began by illustrating the existing regulations on the procedures for election of the Chairmanship and the ExCom. The Meeting was reminded that the Council decision that established the RACs (585/2004) does not give any indications on this matter while the RAC MED Statute only states that the GA should vote for the Chair and 3 vice-chairs while it doesn't mention the majority necessary, the candidates nor the procedures.

Article 5.6 of the Statute states that "The resolutions drawn up by the General Assembly shall be approved as by law by means of consensus. In the case where consensus is not reached, the Assembly shall rule on a simple majority". Where the election of the ExCom is concerned, the Statute establishes that the members should be assigned by the associations that they represent. Therefore, as both the Statute and the internal regulations do not provide procedural rules for the election of the Chairmanship and the ExCom, the Executive Secretary recalled that the Secretariat had sent out two proposals, one concerning the composition of the ExCom and one on the procedures for election of the Chairmanship.

The Executive Secretary also reminded the Meeting that the Secretariat had received mandates for proxy votes from Pepma, Paseges, CRPMEM PACA and Ghaqda, who were not able to be present at this meeting. She asked if the members agreed to accept these mandates. After a long debate and a vote by the ExCom, it was established that the General Assembly should be advised not to accept these mandates as the Statute does not specify this possibility.

Mr Buonfiglio proposed the future introduction of such mandates, at least for the General Assembly, specifying which agenda items can be voted on by the delegate and the maximum number of proxy votes each member can place. This would, of course, mean modifying the Statute of adopting and internal regulation. He further reminded the Meeting that the current ExCom is about to be replaced and therefore can only formulate proposals for electoral procedures, both for the ExCom and for the Chairmanship, to be presented the following day to the GA, the only body that can take such decisions.

Mr Buonfiglio therefore reminded the Meeting that it was necessary to begin by deciding whether to propose to the GA the adoption of the procedure described in the email sent out by the Secretariat over a month earlier (double ballot voting), and if so, whether to vote in the first ballot considering all the ExCom members as candidates or all the GA members.

The UNACOMAR representative proposed the election of the Chair from among all the GA members.



The EMPA representative proposed that all the GA members should not be considered candidates, but only those interested should be allowed to express their wish to be candidates for Chair. This proposal met the agreement of several GA members.

The representative of Big Game Italia suggested that the candidatures should include the whole Chairmanship committee, therefore the lists should indicate both the Chair and the three vice-chairs.

Mr Buonfiglio summarised these different positions stating that most of those present would opt for a system of self-nomination by those interested, considering all GA members as eligible, not only the ExCom members, and not using a double ballot system as originally proposed by the Chairmanship. This solution was approved by the Meeting.

The participants were then asked whether the same system should be implemented for the individual election of the three vice-chairs (no single self-nominations) or whether these candidates should be proposed by the candidates running for the position of Chair, therefore setting up a comprehensive list of all the Chairmanship.

The Meeting then voted on this issue and the majority approved the proposal of the first option to the GA, which was that those interested in the position of Chair should put themselves forward and at the same time propose their choice of three vice chairs. (two associations voted against, WWF and OCEANA, and two abstained, IFSUA and EAA).

Mr Buonfiglio recalled that, as well as respecting the proportion of 2/3 and 1/3 for the three vice chairs, it would also be necessary to respect the criterion of different nationality at least between the vice chairs of the 2/3 and the Chair, as established in the Statute. It was further recalled that, for the vice chair of the 1/3, the former Chairmanship had already waived this requirement allowing two representatives of the same nationality; (such waivers could now be foreseen in the changes to be made to the Statute).

Where the outgoing Chair is concerned, Mr Buonfiglio suggested that the role of honorary chair could be established so as to give due recognition to the work carried out. There was no opposition to this idea and therefore the ExCom decided to present this idea to the GA.

Once a majority decision had been taken on the electoral procedure for the Chairmanship to be presented to the GA the following day, the matter of the Executive Committee was discussed. Mr Buonfiglio recalled that the Secretariat had already sent an email in mid-January on the composition of the ExCom and summarizing its subdivision into 24 seats. The French and Spanish delegates were asked whether agreement had been reached on the allocation of the representatives for the three seats assigned. The French and Spanish organizations informed the Meeting that they would communicate their candidatures the following day.

The WWF representative asked the Secretariat whether any new information was available on the entry of Croatia into RAC MED. The Executive Secretary informed the meeting that in the 2/3 of the ExCom there is a free seat that should by rights belong to Cyprus, however as repeated requests made to the associations and ministry in Cyprus had only resulted in a communication from the Cypriot ministry stating that no Cypriot association was interested in belonging to RAC Med, it was proposed that this free seat should be assigned to Croatia.

Mr Buonfiglio took the floor to illustrate the situation concerning the 8 seats assigned to the 1/3 that should be occupied by aquaculture (1); consumers (1); 3 NGOs and 3 recreational fisheries. The problem exists for the recreational/sports fishery associations and the hope was expressed that they would reach an agreement on the allocation of the seats that they are entitled to, otherwise an election would be necessary (by all the GA or just the recreational/sports associations, or all the 1/3), in order to assign these 3 seats.



The IVEAEMPA representative asked the Chair why they had been put into the ExCom as representatives of the 2/3 when this association had always strived for economic diversification, fisheries tourism and underwater fisheries and therefore she requested that this association should be recognized as belonging by rights to the associations of the 1/3. She further informed the Meeting that the Spanish ministry had recognized that this association is part of the “other stakeholder groups” and therefore requested that, as such, a seat in the ExCom should be allocated to it. To find a solution to this matter and to attempt to envisage the creation of a seat for “other stakeholder groups”, the EAA representative proposed that, as one vice chair would be from the 1/3, a seat could be made free in the ExCom. The IVEAEMPA representative thanked the EAA for the suggestion but expressed the opinion that all the 1/3 should be represented.

Mr Buonfiglio closed this agenda item stating that on the following day the GA would have to decide which approach to follow in order to achieve balance and proportion within the ExCom. Lastly, following the requests received from several members, the vice-Chair Mr Buonfiglio proposed the establishment of a voluntary Working Group with at least one Italian expert, with the aim of amending the Statue and internal regulation on the basis of the suggestions made by the RAC MED members.

Agenda item IV: Presentation of the following projects: (DISCATCH) “Catch and discard composition – solutions to limit and potentially eliminate by-catch in Mediterranean trawl fisheries”; TEMPO project; MAREFRAME project.

Agreement of members

With the help of slides, the Executive Secretary briefly illustrated the three pilot projects and she underlined that the most relevant and interesting ones for RAC MED are Discatch and MareFrame because they already have a budget and a quota of this budget has already been allocated to RAC MED. The EMPA representative asked the secretariat to issue further information on the three pilot projects. The members agreed that RAC MED should participate actively in the hope that these pilot projects will be selected.

Agenda items V and VI: Report by the coordinator on the developments and results of WG4. Proposal to modify Working Group procedures

The Coordinator Esteban Graupera presented the ongoing activities of the WG4 which aim to produce a document summarizing recreational fisheries in the Mediterranean. The Coordinator requested that the ExCom prepare a set of rules for the management of working groups.

The Secretary recalled that the existing WG procedures are not exhaustive and need to be integrated, item 6 was added to the Agenda with the purpose of establishing some basic rules. Several proposals for procedural regulations for the WGs had been received by the secretariat prior to this meeting and it is expected that there will be more suggestions.

Agenda item VII: The updated list of the RAC MED members, the status of membership fee payments for 2013 and the membership requests that have been received.

The Executive Secretary illustrated the up-to-date list of RAC MED Members and requested agreement among the Meeting’s participants for the addition of two associations, one French (Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Elevages Marins de la Corse - CRPMEM CORSE) and one Italian (Organizzazione dei Produttori e Pescatori della vongola della Sacca di Goro e Gorino - O.P.G.G.). These two associations have already completed the membership



procedures. There were no objections and so the ExCom approved the increase in RAC MED members from 38 to 40. The Meeting was further informed that Federconsumatori had made a request to join RAC MED and that the Secretariat was awaiting acknowledgement by the Italian Ministry; a membership request had also been received from the Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts (HOK). On the matter of membership fee payment, the Executive Secretary recalled that several payments were still due, mostly from associations with some ministries also still owing fees. The Meeting was reminded that the last date for payment was 2nd April.

Agenda Item VIII: Participation by the Chair or ExCom members in international meetings (GFCM, SAC 8-11 April Rome, Plenary session 13-17 May, Split, Croatia; ICCAT, SCRS 23-27 September, Madrid, Plenary session, 18-25 November, Cape Town, South Africa). Agreement of members;

The Executive Secretary informed the participants on the forthcoming international meetings.

Mr Buonfiglio suggested that decisions be limited to imminent meetings as the new ExCom would be elected the following day together with the Chairmanship. Various members suggested that the Chair should be given the mandate to participate and if this should not prove possible the Chair could delegate to his or her deputies according to who is available. The meeting participants agreed.

Agenda Item IX: Any other matters

As put forward and approved at the beginning of the meeting, the Secretary gave the floor to the WWF representative who illustrated the proposed letter on discards. The Federcoopescas representative expressed his disagreement with the idea of presenting this letter on RACMED's behalf because, in his opinion, the position already communicated by the Council is acceptable.

The EFT representative informed the meeting that he had already conveyed his position to the Secretariat, and he underlined that, in this text, there is no mention of the socio-economic impact that the discards ban and landing requirement would cause. The Executive Secretary suggested that, as there was little time left, this proposal should be approved in writing, by sending any comments and amendments to the Secretariat by the end of March.

In view of the forum on the Mediterranean to be held in the Balearic Islands in May, before the closure of the meeting the IVEAEMPA representative asked the ExCom members for their agreement so that the Secretariat could send IVEAEMPA the list of all the associates by the following evening, in order to be able to forward the list to DG MARE.

The KGZS representative expressed the hope that in the future more time would be dedicated to the numerous problems faced by the fisheries sector rather than focusing on bureaucratic issues.

No other matters were put forward for discussion, so the Chair thanked the participants and the interpreters and closed the meeting at 18.00.

