



Ref: 258/REL

Rome, 25th October 2011

RAC MED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

A meeting of the RAC MED Executive Committee was held on 9th June 2011 at the RAC MED headquarters, Rome, Italy. The meeting was called to consider and discuss the following matters:

Agenda

1. The adoption of the report of the Executive Committee meeting held in Rimini, Italy (21st February 2011).
2. The adoption of the reports of the Working Groups (21, 22 March and 19-20 April 2011) presented by the coordinators.
3. The adoption of the opinion on the Mediterranean Regulation (n.1967/2006).
4. The updated list of the RAC MED members, membership fee payments for 2011 and the membership requests that have been received.
5. The 2010 final balance. Presentation of the financial situation for 2011 (up to 31/05/2011) – slides. Extra quota 2009 and information on the extra quota 2010.
6. The schedule of forthcoming RAC MED meetings (two Working Groups and one Comex).
7. The participation (President or Secretariat) in selected international meetings (e.g. ICCAT, 9-19 November, Istanbul) and members' agreement.
8. Any other matters.

The meeting began at 10.15 on 9th June 2011 and the followings were present: Snezana Levstik; Antonio Angotti; Didier Devandeul; Gianfranco Santolini; Esteban Graupera ; Gemma Quilez ; Antonio Marzoa Dopico; José Maria Gallart; Gilberto Ferrari; José Manuel; Gonzalez Gil de Bernabé; Eusebi Esgleas Pares ; Kahoul Mourad ; Giampaolo Buonfiglio ; Clotilde Guyot; Antonio Pucillo; Jonathan Lemeunter; Francesco Zizzo; John Bountoukos; Martin Judith; Mario Vizcarro; Enos Bortolozzo; Oriol Ribalta; Alain Rico ; Paolo Pelusi ; Marina Illuminati, Alain Rico, Maria Isabella Verardi ; Elisabetta Giannocari ; Mario Ferretti ; Corrado Piccinetti ; Enzo Fornaro ; Pedro Hernandez; Erika Monnati.



Mrs Barbara Focquet also attended representing DG MARE. 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, the agenda was introduced and presented to the meeting for approval

Agenda item 1: Adoption of the report of the Executive Committee meeting held in Rimini, Italy (21st February 2011).

The report of the Executive Committee meeting held in Rimini was approved with no changes.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the reports of the Working Groups (21, 22 March and 19-20 April 2011) presented by the coordinators.

The coordinator of the Working Group on Swordfish was present at the meeting and illustrated the report. It was underlined that the adoption of the WG report had proved complicated due to the diverging opinions on point 4. The representative of CRPMEM LR asked for clarifications, in particular concerning point 4.b; the coordinator explained that the WG had decided to request information relative to the effective mapping of the fishing vessels which capture swordfish, both as a target species and as bycatch. The report of the Working Group on Swordfish was adopted with the abstention of CRPMEM LR.

The coordinator of the Working Group on Recreational Fisheries summarised the discussions of the WG meeting and mentioned the difficulties encountered in reaching a unanimous position. Especially in the case of paragraph 20 art. 4 which recommends that licensing should be obligatory; although the EAA representative did not object during the meeting, subsequently the EAA expressed its opposition to the introduction of compulsory licences. The coordinator stressed that the report reflects the agreement reached by the WG. The report was therefore adopted with no changes.

Before giving the floor to one of the two coordinators of the Working Group on Shared Stocks, the Executive Secretary informed the Meeting that the EC had sent a reply to the opinion on shared stocks. The Delegates were informed on the contents, in particular the request for clarification on the criteria used to distinguish between primary and secondary stocks. The Secretary invited the coordinator to provide further details and suggestions on the matter. The coordinator explained that the list of stocks used in the opinion was drawn from the list approved in 2006 by SAC, during the Working Group it was deemed necessary to highlight those stocks that are commercially more relevant. The coordinator therefore proposed that the WG members proceed with the collection of all scientifically valid data available, with the help of the GFCM database, and to subdivide them on the basis of the capture data into the categories primary and secondary. The WG approved the proposal put forward by the coordinator.

The Executive Secretary asked the EC representative to provide clarifications on the proposal suggested by the WG, however the EC was not in a position to supply further information. The Secretary proposed that the coordinator's suggestion should be followed and, once the GFCM data have been received and the results analysed, the outcome will be adopted in writing.

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the opinion on the Mediterranean Regulation (n.1967/2006).

The coordinator of the Working Group on the Mediterranean Regulation presented the results of the work carried out. The PEPMA representative intervened to recall that his association had sent an email



requesting modification of paragraph 10 of the report in order to underline the difficulty in applying art. 13 of the Mediterranean Regulation. Following the Secretary's apologies the report was adopted with the change requested by PEPMA.

The coordinator presented the draft opinion on the regulation adopted by the Working Group in which urgent evaluation of the impact that will result from the application of some technical measures described in the opinion is requested. An example being the mesh size in the end of the net. It was furthermore proposed that a workshop should be held between RAC MED and the DG Mare services, in order to tackle these issues. It was also decided that the opinion should be sent to PECH as follow up to the measures requested and accepted during the WG meeting and following the procedure of co-decision. The Secretariat will send the COMEX members the final version of the opinion which will be approved in writing.

Agenda item 4: The updated list of the RAC MED members, membership fee payments for 2011 and the membership requests that have been received

The Secretariat informed the Meeting that three new requests for membership had been received from: I.P.I. (Italiana Produttori Ittici), FEDEROP.IT (Federazione delle Organizzazioni di Produttori) and FBCP (Federaciò Balear de Confraries de Pescadors). The membership procedures on all three accounts have been successfully completed and no objections have been raised therefore the three groups were admitted into RAC. The RAC members were also informed that a membership request from SAPPT (Syndacat des Artisans Pêcheurs Professionnels de Thon rouge) is being assessed. The Secretariat notified the Meeting on the issue of membership fees: 29 out of 31 members have paid the annual quota; after several requests it was decided to exclude the two members that have not fulfilled this requirement: Penelope Aktea and Etang de Berre.

Agenda item 5: The 2010 final balance. Extra quota 2009 and information on the extra quota 2010. Presentation of the financial situation for 2011 (up to 31/05/2011).

Using slides that are available on the RAC website, the Secretariat informed the Meeting on the financial situation with reference to 2010 and on the closure of activities. The balance revealed non-admissible expenses relative to missions by the Presidency to non RAC meetings and telephone expenses, this was due to the fact that the admissible expenses were only fully defined in the course of implementation. The delegates were reminded that this problem had already arisen in the start-up phase of other RACs.

Discussion ensued on how to cover these non-admissible expenses for 2010, given that the Rimini General Assembly had already established that the non-admissible expenses for 2009 would be covered by an ad hoc contribution divided among the RAC MED members.

The Vice President Mr Buonfiglio underlined that the problem of non-admissible expenses had been present at the start up phase of almost all RAC MEDs. He furthermore recalled that DG MARE had explained the difference between the admissible and non admissible expenses prior to this year. He proposed the division of the amount between the members who express their agreement.



The RAC MED President reminds the Meeting that the start up phase of RAC MED, which began in 2008, was complicated and the Secretariat's office has only been operative since the second half of 2010.

The following meeting participants expressed their opinions on the issue: the CRPMEM LR delegate stated that her association as well as CNPMEM, would not contribute. The WWF delegate also confirmed the same position.

The representative of KGZS declared that she could not give a reply due to the current situation concerning the schedule of her association.

The Cepesca delegate upheld the position established during the General Assembly, that 2009 should be paid and a solution should be found for 2010.

The Executive Secretary presented the current situation (up to 31st May 2011) concerning the budget expenses with the help of slides that are available on the website. The Meeting was informed that the only divergence from the provisional budget presented in Rimini concerns the expenses relative to interpreting and translation as the number of work, documents and meetings has increased. It was recalled that all members except two have paid their fees.

Agenda item 6: The schedule of forthcoming RAC MED meetings (two Working Groups and one Comex).

The Executive Secretary informed the Meeting (using slides that are available on the website), on the forthcoming RAC MED meetings: a Working Group on the CFP Reform; a WG on bluefin tuna and a WG on swordfish to be held on 20 and 21 September 2011. The third and last Executive Committee will be held on 20th October at IAMB, Bari.

The formation of four permanent Working Groups was proposed: 1) the impact of EC legislation in the Mediterranean basin; 2) pelagic species (bluefin tuna, swordfish and ICCAT correlated matters); 3) a GFCM dossier; 4) recreational fisheries.

The Vice President, Mr Buonfiglio, expressed his agreement on the creation of these permanent Working Groups and suggested a fifth to study the socio-economic impact of the CFP Reform on the single countries. He reminded the Meeting that the EC uses macroeconomic parameters to assess the GDP of each macro-region and not of the individual Member States and this leads to inconsistencies in the structural policies of the sector.

The members approved the proposal to establish these five permanent Working Groups.

Agenda item 7: The participation (President or Secretariat) in selected international meetings (e.g. ICCAT, 9-19 November, Istanbul).

The Secretary asked the Meeting participants to agree on RAC MED being represented by the President or Secretary at the forthcoming ICCAT Annual Session which will take place in Istanbul, Turkey in November. The delegates were informed that the cost of participation as an observer at this meeting will be 500 dollars.



Thanks to the agreement of the Meeting participants, RAC MED will be represented at the ICCAT Session by the President and the Executive Secretary.

Agenda item 8: Any other matters.

The Chair, Mr Kahoul informed the Meeting that, due to the increase in the number of members within RAC MED, as of 2012 the membership fees would be reduced by 100 Euro, from 1500 to 1400 Euros.

The Secretariat informed the delegates that the CNPMEM had made a written request to RAC MED requesting support for their appeal to the EC to lengthen the bluefin tuna fishing period by 5 days due to the poor weather and maritime conditions. It was decided that RAC MED would write to back up this request, the WWF objected.

The Executive Assistant informed the Meeting (using slides that are available on the website), on RAC MED's participation in the GAP2 project financed by the EC.

After brief debate it was decided to approve the proposal formulated by the Vice President Mr Buonfiglio to add a sentence in the opinion suggesting to the EC that a workshop of at least 2 days should be organised in order to deal adequately with the delicate issues such as the situation in Greece or the island areas so as to be in a position to face these matters effectively.

No other matters were presented for discussion, the Chair thanked the interpreters and closed the meeting at 16.00.

