



Prot: 74/REL

Rome, 22nd March 2013

REPORT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

The General Assembly met on 5th November 2012 at 10.00 in the meeting room of “Palazzo della Cooperazione” in Rome to consider and discuss the following Agenda:

1. Approval of the report of the General Assembly held on 29th February 2012 in Rome
2. Presentation by the President of the GFCM, Stefano Cataudella, and the Executive Secretary, Abdellah Srouer concerning the future activities to be carried out by the GFCM in cooperation with RACMED
3. The list of the RAC MED members and the membership requests that have been received by new organisations (information)
4. Questionnaire on the role of the RACs prepared by DG MARE
5. In the framework of the request for funding in relation to RAC MED operations in 2012, the meeting examined:
 - a. Closure of accounts for 2012;
 - b. Final report on activities carried out in 2012;
 - c. Presentation of the RACMED budget for 2013;
 - d. Work Programme for 2013;
6. Any other matters

At the time the meeting began the following participants were present: Marco Sammiceli, Oscar Sagué Plà, Gianfranco Santolini, Massimo Brogna, Horst Schneider, Luca Stasi, Federica Barbera, Mario Ferretti, Francesco Zizzo, Erika Monnati, Marco Rinaldi, Rosa Caggiano, Giampaolo Buonfiglio, Mourad Kahoul, Edouard Pages, Didier De Vandeul, Jose Maria Gallart, José Manuel Gonzalez Gil De Bernabé, Amelie Malafosse, Philippe Maraval, Abdellah Srouer, Stefano Cataudella, Fabio Massa, Caroline Mangalo, Marc Planas, Susana Sainz-Trapaga, Paolo Guerriero, Joan Parera Molero, Sergio Schiavone, Gennaro Scognamiglio, Francis Caruana, Paul Piscopo, Isabella Verardi, Elisabetta Giannocari, Alessandro Buzzi, Antoni Garau, Gianludovico 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, in particular the representatives of the GFCM and of the French, Maltese and Italian Ministries.

Before beginning the discussion, the deputy Chair Gil de Bernabé suggested that under “any other matters” the Meeting could also discuss the recent events which occurred off the coast of Tarragona, where a Spanish fishing vessel was attacked by Greenpeace. This proposal was adopted.

Agenda item 1: Adoption of the report of the General Assembly held in Rome, Italy (29th February 2012)

The report of the Rome General Assembly was approved with no changes

Agenda item 2: Presentation by the President of the GFCM, Stefano Cataudella, and the Executive Secretary, Abdellah Srour concerning the future activities to be carried out by the GFCM in cooperation with RACMED

The Chair thanked the GFCM delegation for attending the General Assembly once more and for presenting the contents of the GFCM work programme for 2013, taking into account the activities that it will be possible to carry out in cooperation with RAC MED. The GFCM President informed the Meeting that the GFCM had signed seven Memorandums of Understanding , including one with RAC MED, in order to make the Commission more functional and proactive. The Executive Secretary informed the participants that the Commission will concentrate its efforts according to three main lines of action: long term management plans; *atelier* on artisanal fisheries and aquaculture. Collaboration between the GFCM and RAC MED will help enhance participation and collaboration between the research and fisheries sectors, in order to improve the response to technical and scientific needs among the Mediterranean countries.

Mr Kahoul thanked Mr Srour for the presentation and underlined that, with the Memorandum of Understanding in place, it will be possible to work efficiently together and achieve concrete results.

The WWF representative asked how the GFCM plans to develop and execute multi-annual management plans and she also asked how the GFCM manages to collect the opinions of all the stakeholders.

Mr Cataudella appreciated the question as it identified the main problems within the GFCM participation process which have brought about the creation of the *ad hoc* task force established with a view to its reform. RAC will be a valuable resource as it endeavors to represent the fisheries organizations. Mr Srour informed the Meeting that, at the end of November, a first meeting will be held which scientists will also attend, the aim being to investigate possible methods to apply to the multi-annual management plans. Moreover, from November until March/April, meetings will be held at sub regional level to adopt any multi-annual management plans. The partners and all other stakeholders will be able to participate in these sub-regional meetings on the basis of their specific competencies and not because of their membership of a particular fisheries organization.



. I partner e i vari attori, tra cui gli stakeholder, potranno partecipare a queste riunioni sub-regionali non per conto dell'organizzazione di appartenenza, ma in base alle sue competenze specifiche.

Agenda item 3: The list of the RAC MED members and the membership requests that have been received by new organisations (information)

The Executive Secretary informed the Meeting that RAC MED currently has 36 members the associative process has been completed for two out of the three organisms requesting membership: FIPSAS e UNCIPESCA. The deputy Chair Mr Gil De Bernabé asked the two candidate associations to quantify their level of representation, the reply from UNCIPESCA stated that it is made up of 270 vessel-owner cooperatives, while FIPSAS explained that it is a sporting federation with 230 000 members who belong to the Italian Recreational Fisheries Federation (FIPS). While on the matter of representation, the deputy Chair Mr Buonfiglio suggested a census of RAC MED members with regard to the number of vessels, associated companies, crew members etc in order to establish the level of representation within RAC.

Where the Corsican organization CRPMEM CORSE is concerned, the Secretary has requested formal recognition from the French Ministry. Their membership request will be examined during the next COMEX. The WWF representative asked when the Croatian associations will be able to become members of RAC. The Secretary informed the Meeting that a request had already been addressed to DG MARE and that a reply was expected.

Agenda item 4: Questionnaire on the role of the RACs prepared by DG MARE

The Secretary reminded the Meeting that comments from RAC MED had been due to be presented to the EC by the end of October, however during the INTER-RAC meeting at DG MARE, RAC MED had pointed out that it had been necessary to translate the questionnaires. It was therefore proposed and agreed that the new deadline should be mid November. It was therefore decided that all contributions on the matter should be sent to the Secretariat by 10th November, in English only.

Agenda item 5: In the framework of the request for funding in relation to RAC MED operations in 2012, the meeting examined:

- a. Closure of accounts for 2012;**
- b. Final report on activities carried out in 2012;**
- c. Presentation of the RACMED budget for 2013;**
- d. Work Programme for 2013;**

The Executive Secretary gave the floor to her assistant who used slides to illustrate 2012 expenditures, informing the Meeting that the final statement of accounts would be adopted at the beginning of 2013. Due to the limited



financial resources, it was decided that a COMEX would be organized each year in November to approve the provisional budget and the work programme for the year to come. After much discussion it was established that the general Assembly would always meet within the first four months of the following year to adopt the final statement of accounts for the previous year. The Executive Secretary's assistant used slides again to present the draft budget for 2013, in which it was decided that the quota for the associations could decrease by 100 € if the ministries agree to increase their quotas to 350 €. In any case the sponsor quota will be reduced significantly thanks to the increase in members. The 2013 work programme proposed by the Secretariat was approved as illustrated. The assistant informed the Meeting to that the EC had authorized the organization of a RAC MED meeting in a third-party country, which will be Algeria, to raise awareness and to begin to work towards the main aim of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the GFCM. Anapi Pesca offered to organize the WG2 meeting in Palermo. The budget for 2013 was approved.

Agenda item 6: Any other matters

As agreed at the beginning of the meeting, the deputy Chair Mr Gil de Bernabé summarized the events of 17th October when Greenpeace attempted to attack a Spanish fishing vessel and suggested that a letter should be addressed to the EC as occurred in June 2012. During the COMEX further information will be given on these events. Mr Buonfiglio suggested that the letter should be addressed directly to the EC Commissioner Mrs Damanaki, so that the EC will be in a position to intervene, condemning the illegality of the incident. On the day following this GA meeting the COMEX would therefore decide whether or not to adopt this draft. The OCEANA representative underlined that RAC MED is not the appropriate body for this kind of action and therefore she expressed her opposition.

No further matters were put forward for discussion and nobody requested to speak further, the Chair therefore closed the meeting at 17.00.

