

## **Resolution GFCM/44/2021/6**

### **on the application of an International Maritime Organization number, amending Resolution GFCM/41/2017/6**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*RECALLING* that the objective of the Agreement for the establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM Agreement) is to ensure the conservation and sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of marine living resources in the GFCM area of application;

*EMPHASIZING* that the identification of fishing vessels is a necessary step in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and for the management of fishing activities, and that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) number assigned under the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme is an established and reliable unique vessel identifier, which stays permanently assigned to a vessel irrespective of change of name, ownership, flag or marking;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the decision by the IMO Assembly, as its twenty-eighth session, in 2013, to adopt Resolution A.1078(28) extending the application of the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme to fishing vessels of 100 gross tonnage (GT) and above, and the decision by the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its thirty-first session, in 2014, to use the IMO number as the unique vessel identifier for vessels of 100 GT and above to be included in the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels;

*FURTHER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the decision by the IMO Assembly, as its thirtieth session, in 2017, to extend the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme to all motorized fishing vessels of less than 100 GT down to a size limit of 12 metres length overall that are authorized to operate outside waters under national jurisdiction, and fishing vessels of non-steel hull construction of 100 GT and above;

*CONSIDERING* that the Compliance Committee, at its fourteenth session (online, May 2021), concurred that it was time to facilitate a broader implementation of the IMO number by the GFCM;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the rapid development of requirements for fishing vessels to acquire an IMO number and the need to provide clarity to fishing vessel operators and flag states in this regard;

*ADOPTS*, in conformity with Articles 5 and 8 of the GFCM Agreement, the following resolution:

#### **Amendment of Resolution GFCM/41/2017/6**

1. Paragraph 1 of Resolution GFCM/41/2017/6 shall be amended as follows:

Effective from 31 December 2022, the contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties (CPCs) shall authorize their fishing vessels of steel and non-steel hull construction of 20 metres or above to operate in international waters, only if eligible vessels have an IMO number allocated by the manager of the IMO ship identification number scheme. Eligible vessels under the IMO ship identification number scheme that are not identified with this number shall not be included in the record of vessels over 15 metres authorized to operate in international waters in the GFCM area of application.