

Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/13 on the establishment of a GFCM logbook, amending Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/1

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;

RECALLING Rule XVII paragraph 1 b) of the GFCM Rules of Procedure, according to which contracting parties and relevant non-contracting parties have the obligation to provide information on catches and other relevant data to enable the Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC) to carry out its duties;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/17 on information contained in the GFCM record of authorized vessels over 15 metres in the GFCM area of application, amending Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/6 and repealing Recommendation GFCM/44/2021/18;

RECALLING Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/1 concerning the establishment of a GFCM logbook, amending Recommendation GFCM/34/2010/1;

NOTING the conclusions of the fifteen session of the Compliance Committee and the Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, including a session on the clarification process (Cyprus, May 2022);

ADOPTS, in conformity with Articles 5 b), 8 b) and 13 of the GFCM Agreement, the following recommendation:

Amendment of Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/1

Paragraph 4 of Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/1 shall be added as follows:

“4. Contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties shall ensure that, without prejudice to the minimum specifications and information set out in Annex 1, the masters of fishing vessels over 15 m in length overall authorized to fish in the GFCM area of application and registered in the GFCM record of vessels record the following information separately in their logbook for each reported catch or incidental catch (FAO 3-alpha codes shall be used):

- any event of incidental catch and release of seabirds;
- any event of incidental catch and release of sea turtles;
- any event of incidental catch and release of monk seals;
- any event of incidental catch and release of cetaceans; and
- any event of incidental catch and, where required, release of sharks and rays pertaining to the species listed in Annex II or Annex III of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol) of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention).”