



**GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ)
1st Meeting of the Aquaculture Task Force
Naples, Italy, 4-6 May 2016**

Information note

Date and Place

- 4-6 May 2016
- Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, Villa Comunale, 80121 Naples, Italy

Background

Although aquaculture in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region is a large and dynamic industry that has grown substantially during the past decades in helping to meet the rising demand for fishery products, further aquaculture development raises sustainability concerns in terms of governance, economic, environmental and social dimensions. For years, aquaculture has been on the agenda of the GFCM, which tackles the main challenges of the sector in order to support aquaculture development in the region, and establish a cooperation framework for sustainable development.

In 2013 the GFCM launched the aquaculture multi-stakeholder platform (AMShP) to facilitate the participation of regional actors in aquaculture development and to link national and regional commitments and priorities. The high-level Regional Aquaculture Conference held in Bari in December 2014 on “*Blue Growth in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea: developing sustainable aquaculture for food security*” provided key elements for collaborative actions to address priorities towards aquaculture sustainability, including transboundary challenges.

Consequently the GFCM, within the remit of its renewed mandate to promote the growth of responsible aquaculture, considered taking stock of recent progress and supporting members to facilitate this development process within the framework of regional and local specificities.

Following up on this, the GFCM at its 39th Session agreed to establish the GFCM Aquaculture Task Force (ATF) in order to develop a “*Strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea Aquaculture*”. The GFCM strategy on aquaculture aims to be an instrument for GFCM members to improve cooperation in the region and to ensure a coordinated and responsible aquaculture development within a Blue Growth perspective.

The work of the ATF and the preparation of the GFCM strategy on aquaculture is supported by a series of activities, background documents and knowledge tools addressing key challenges and based on the recent achievements in the region. The background documents will provide the rationale for the consultation process, and raise key questions for GFCM ATF members’ consideration and to be presented at the 40th GFCM Session.



Objectives of the first GFCM-ATF meeting

In this context, the first ATF meeting will engage members in the consultative process. Based on the background documents and discussions, the ATF will provide advice on the key challenges and strategic scope for aquaculture progress in the region. The outcomes of the first ATF meeting will be presented at the 40th GFCM Session. More specifically the objectives of the meeting are:

- Operationalize the GFCM ATF;
- Take stock of recent progress and strategic activities on aquaculture undertaken by the Commission;
- Gain a better understanding of the diversity and priorities of the sector within the GFCM region (*national priorities and regional challenges*) and based on the different characteristics of the aquaculture sector at the national, sub-regional and regional level;
- Discuss recent progress on the main current issues in particular on cross-cutting and cross-bordering issues and to improve cooperation for aquaculture development;
- Identify questions and working areas for the preparation of the Strategy on Aquaculture including its *modus operandi* and roadmap, to be presented to the Commission at its 40th Session.

Meeting documents

The draft **agenda** and relevant additional information will be accessible through the [meeting webpage](#).

Languages

The working language of the meeting will be English.

Funding

Please note that the GFCM will cover the attendance expenses of the ATF to attend the meeting. In this regard, nominated focal points should contact the GFCM Secretariat (GFCM-Secretariat@fao.org) as soon as possible.

Registration

Participants should **register online** on the [meeting webpage](#).

Participants are kindly requested to submit the registration form no later than **10 April 2016**.

Visa

Participants in need of a VISA are required to independently handle their application procedures *in due time* with the Italian Embassy in their respective countries. Should an invitation letter be needed to support the application, please do not hesitate to contact the GFCM Secretariat.



Contacts

For technical matters:

- Mr Fabio Massa, GFCM Senior Aquaculture Officer: Fabio.Massa@fao.org

For administrative issues and any other matter:

- GFCM-Secretariat@fao.org

Hotel information

Kindly note that the *Stazione Zoologica di Napoli* is located between Via Caracciolo and Riviera di Chiaia where there are several hotels in proximity and walking distance from the meeting venue particularly in Via Partenope, and many other hotels conveniently located in the city. A list of hotels will be shortly available on the [meeting webpage](#).