



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



General Fisheries Commission
for the Mediterranean
Commission générale des pêches
pour la Méditerranée

GFCM Working Group on the Black Sea (WGBS)

SUBREGIONAL GROUP ON STOCK ASSESSMENT FOR THE BLACK SEA (SGSABS)

Date and Place

- Monday 4 – Saturday 9 December 2017
- Batumi, Georgia (meeting venue tbc)
- Working hours: 09:00 - 13:00 14:30 -17:30

Main objectives

The GFCM subregional group on stock assessment in the Black Sea (SGSABS) was established in 2013 with the aim to i) revise the status of the main fish stocks in the Black Sea, with a specific focus on turbot and small pelagic stocks and ii) review the existing data and stock assessment methods for the main stocks in the area. The SGSABS has also carried out some work on the harmonization of methods for surveys at sea.

To achieve the above mentioned objectives, SGSABS is requested to work in practical sessions to run and test stock assessment models and reference points for particular priority stocks, as well as also compile information for additional stocks in order to provide the most comprehensive advice on the status of Black Sea stocks. The objectives of the SGSABS for its upcoming meeting in 2016 are:

SGSABS long term ToRs:

- Review the status of the main commercial stocks in the Black Sea, with focus on turbot and small pelagic stocks;
- Review existing data and stock assessment methods for main stocks in the area, with special focus on the estimation of IUU fishing and discards which are required to conduct stock assessments;
- Review updated information on stock identification
- Provide advice to the GFCM and other relevant organizations on stock status and research priorities to improve the knowledge on the status of stocks.
- Attempt to provide a range a MSY related reference points for *Psetta maxima*.

ToRs provided by the WGBS and the Commission:

- Test the usefulness of fishing effort, CPUE and bycatch and their proposed targets as indicators of Good Environmental Status, together with the possibility to complement these indicators with others such as body condition and age composition;
- When lack of data to perform analytical stock assessments, identify alternative possibilities to provide an advice on the status of priority stocks;
- Perform a benchmark assessment for turbot and piked dogfish;
- Analyse stock-recruitment relationship for anchovy and test alternative simulation models

- Perform, when possible, short and/or medium term simulations, with the aim to provide an advice on the potential effect of alternative fishing regimes in relation to reference points (when available);
- Provide advice for the following priority species included in the mid-term strategy towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries:

Pelagic species	<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	<i>Trachurus mediterraneus</i>
	<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	<i>Sarda sarda</i>
Demersal species	<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	<i>Psetta maxima</i>
	<i>Rapana venosa</i>	<i>Mullus barbatus</i>
Species of conservation concern	<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	

Call for Scientific Papers and Data

Participants are requested to prepare the assessments by filling draft **stock assessment forms** (SAFs - [small pelagic form](#) and [demersal species form](#)) and providing relevant input data required to run stock assessment models for the species/stocks to be discussed at the meeting. Input data could be provided as standard text files, R objects or through the dedicated [excel template](#).

A table of proposed national experts as well as proposed stock coordinator to assist in the collection of input data is available in the Appendix of this Information Note. Please note that this list of experts is only done for internal technical purposes and is based on previous SGSABS work, while national administrations remain the ultimate responsible for the collection of data required for the assessment of main commercial species, in line with the contents of Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3.

Participants are also invited, when applicable, to upload scripts used to run their tentative stock assessment models if using FLR.

SAFs and input data must be uploaded, **by 17 November 2017 at the latest**, through the dedicated [SharePoint](#) meeting page; SAFs can be uploaded by clicking on the button *Upload Stock Assessment Forms* located in the bottom-right corner; input data and (when relevant) scripts must be uploaded in the *Input Data and Scripts* folder.

Participants can submit other type of short contribution on all the above-mentioned discussion topics by inserting an abstract when registering online for the meeting.

Language

The meeting will be carried out in English.

Attendance

Please note that the GFCM will do its best to cover attendance expenses for participating experts. In this regard, please contact the GFCM Secretariat (GFCM-Secretariat@fao.org) as soon as possible.

Registration

Kindly register your participation on the GFCM website at:
www.fao.org/gfcm/meetings/info/en/c/1040670

Participants will then be invited to access the [SGSABS Sharepoint Portal](#), where background documents and constantly updated working material can be consulted and where participants are kindly asked to upload their stock assessment forms.

Visa

Participants in need of a VISA are required to independently handle their application procedures *in due time* with the Georgian 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 Miguel Bernal, GFCM Fisheries Resources Officer (Miguel.Bernal@fao.org)
- For logistics issues and any other matters: GFCM Secretariat (GFCM-Secretariat@fao.org)

Logistics and hotel information

The exact meeting venue is still being determined. Further information will be communicated in due time.

Appendix: Proposed experts to compile the information for SGSABS 2016

Stock	Coordinator	Contact*				
		Bulgaria	Georgia	Romania	Turkey	Ukraine
Turbot (<i>Psetta maxima</i>)	<i>Feriha Tserkova</i>	Feriha Tserkova	NEA	Valodia Maximov	SUMAE	Oleksandr Chashchyn /IFME
Anchovy (<i>E. encrasicolus ponticus</i>)	<i>Ali Cemal Gücü</i>	Yoana Georgeva	NEA	Madalina Galatchi	Ali Cemal Gücü	Oleksandr Chashchyn /IFME
Piked dogfish (<i>Squalus acanthias</i>)	<i>Gheorghe Radu</i>	Violin Raykov	NEA	Gheorghe Radu	SUMAE	Oleksandr Chashchyn /IFME
Sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>)	<i>Violin Raykov</i>	Yoana Georgeva	NEA	Valodia Maximov	SUMAE	Oleksandr Chashchyn /IFME
Horse mackerel (<i>Trachurus mediterraneus ponticus</i>)	<i>Maria Yankova</i>	Violin Raykov/ Yoana Georgeva	NEA	Gheorghe Radu	SUMAE	Oleksandr Chashchyn /IFME
Red Mullet (<i>Mullus barbatus</i>)	<i>Georgi Daskalov</i>	Yoana Georgieva	NEA	Valodia Maximov	SUMAE	Oleksandr Chashchyn /IFME
Whiting (<i>Merlangius Merlangus</i>)	<i>Valodia Maximov</i>	IO-BAS/IFR	NEA	NIMRD	SUMAE	Oleksandr Chashchyn /IFME
Bonito (<i>Sarda sarda</i>)	<i>Murat Dagtekin</i>	IO-BAS/IFR	NEA	NIMRD	SUMAE	Oleksandr Chashchyn /IFME
Rapa whelk (<i>Rapana venosa</i>)	<i>Violin Raykov</i>	IO-BAS/IFR	NEA	NIMRD	SUMAE	Oleksandr Chashchyn /IFME

* **CONTACT DETAILS:**

BULGARIA

GEORGEVA, Yoana. BAS (georgieva.ioana@gmail.com)

IVANOVA, Petya. IO-BAS (pavl_petya@yahoo.com)

RAYKOV, Violin. IO-BAS (vraykov@io-bas.bg)

TSERKOVA, Feriha. IFR (feya1980@gmail.com)

YANKOVA, Maria. IO-BAS (maria_y@abv.bg)

GEORGIA

National Environmental Agency (NEA) – Tbilisi / GUCHMANIDZE, Archil (guchmanidze@gmail.com) Cc: DEVIDZE, Aleqsander (devidzes.12@gmail.com)

ROMANIA

National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa" (NIMRD) – Constanta / Director: NICOLAEV, Simion (nicolaev@alpha.rmri.ro)

GALATCHI, Madalina (madalina.galatchi@gmail.com)

MAXIMOV, Valodia (vmaximov@alpha.rmri.ro)

RADU, Gheorghe (gpr@alpha.rmri.ro)

TIGANOV, George (gtiganov@alpha.rmri.ro)

TOTOIU, Aurelia (atotoiu@alpha.rmri.ro)

TURKEY

Research Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SUMAE) – Trabzon / Director: AYDIN, Ilhan (ilhan61@gmail.com)

GÜCÜ, Ali Cemal. Middle East Technical University (gucu@ims.metu.edu.tr)

UKRAINE

Institute of Fisheries and Marine Ecology (IFME) – Berdyansk / Head of unit: DIRIPASKO, Oleg (olegdiripasko@ukr.net)

CHASHCHYN, Oleksandr. YUGNiro Odessa Centre (alchashchin@yandex.ru)