



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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



GFCM Research Programme on European eel in the Mediterranean

WORKSHOP

**University of Tor Vergata (Rome) - Hybrid
14-15 June 2022**

BACKGROUND AND DRAFT AGENDA

BACKGROUND

The meeting of the GFCM Working Group on the management of European eel (WGMEASURES-EEL) held on 23–25 February 2022 expressed deep satisfaction on the finalization of the GFCM Research Programme on European eel in the Mediterranean (RP) which collected, collated and analyzed an impressive quantity of information providing the scientific basis for both future actions and the management discussions carried out by the WGMEASURES-EEL in 2022.

The WGMEASURES-EEL recommended to organize a workshop within the framework of the RP, before the twenty-third SAC session, for a final evaluation of the results by the focal points of the countries involved in the RP towards drafting proposals and recommendations for the way forward, including the constitution of a permanent GFCM expert group on European eel in the Mediterranean to consolidate the network of experts (scientific and administration) created by the RP, ensure Mediterranean-wide coordination of the work and provide mutual assistance in addressing stock-wide issues.

The WGMEASURES-EEL also proposed a future second phase of the RP be considered, to address the recommendations stemming from the RP itself and further requests from the SAC and the GFCM.

Finally, the WGMEASURES-EEL acknowledged the proposal of the RP for the revision of the DCRF Task VII-Eel and the standardization of data submission, noting that this was the most comprehensive analysis of data submission needs for European eel done to date at the Mediterranean level. In this context, the WGMEASURES-EEL agreed on the need to harmonize the data requirements for the provision of advice from all CPCs taking due account of all existing data collection frameworks and data requirements. To this end, the WGMEASURES-EEL recommended that a reflection be launched on the implications of the proposed changes towards providing the SAC with clear views of possible ways forward. This reflection should include discussions during the workshop proposed above.

The workshop will be articulated over two days. The first day will be devoted to discussions among scientific partners pertaining to issues related to the finalization of the final deliverables of the RP, the participation in the joint ICES/EIFAAC/GFCM WGEEL, future peer-reviewed publications and future work. The second day will be devoted to discussions between scientific partners and administration focal points, including the presentation of the RP deliverables, discussions on data submission and the proposed changes to the DCRF Task VII.6-Eel as well as management proposals for the SAC and future work.

DRAFT AGENDA

SCIENTIFIC PARTNERS WORKSHOP

Tuesday 14 JUNE 2022

Morning, 09.30 – 13.00

Afternoon, 14.00 – 17.30

Morning Session, 9:30-13:00

- 9:30-9:45 Opening and arrangements of the workshop
- 9:45-10:15 Final agreement on deliverables:
- Final Report
 - On-line tool
 - Videos and SSF Eel Meeting outcomes
 - Final Databases
 - Website
- 10.15-11:15 Participation in the WGEEL
- Participants, decisions on Country eel experts,
 - Interactions with National Focal Points for the Data Call
 - Organization of the presentation on RP outcomes
 - Planning of work
- 11.15 *Coffee break*
- 11.30-13:00 Work for peer-reviewed publications:
- Presentation of planned papers
 - Organization of work
- 13:00-14:00 *Lunch*

Afternoon Session, 14:00-17:30

- 14.00-15.00 Work for peer-reviewed publications (continued)
- 15:00-16:30 Developments for future research and work:
- Possible frameworks
 - Perspective projects
 - Further actions in coordination with GFCM Secretariat
- 16:30 *Coffee break*
- 16:45-17:30 Developments for future research and work (continued)

SCIENTIFIC PARTNERS AND FOCAL POINTS WORKSHOP

Wednesday 15 JUNE 2022

Morning, 09.30 – 13.00

Afternoon, 14.00 – 17.30

Morning Session, 9:30-13:00

- 9:30-9:45 Opening and arrangements of the workshop
- 9:45-10:15 Presentation of the RP deliverables:
- Final Report
 - On-line tool
 - Videos and SSF Eel Meeting outcomes
 - Website
- 10:15-11:00 Proposal for amending the Recommendation GFCM/41/2017/6 on the submission of data on fishing activities in the GFCM area of application (Annex 1) and Proposal for amending the DCRF manual (Appendix “H.2 - Gear types for the European eel fishery” of the DCRF)
- 11:00 Coffee break*
- 11:15-12:00 Proposal for inclusion of European eel in in Subtask VII-I Stock assessment input data of DCRF (implementation of the DCRF Task VII with a dedicated system for European eel assessment-related input data)
- 12:00-13:00 Modalities for revising DCRF fishery-related data and their use for international Data Calls
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch*

Afternoon Session, 14:00-17:30

- 14:00-16:00 Final evaluation of the results by the focal points of the countries involved in the RP towards drafting proposals and recommendations for the way forward
- 16:00 Coffee break*
- 16:00-16:45 Proposal for the establishment of a GFCM Working Group on Eel in the Mediterranean (Eel National Experts)
- 16:45-17:30 Future work and further actions in coordination with GFCM Secretariat