



GFCM WORKING GROUP ON ILLEGAL UNREPORTED UNREGULATED FISHERY AND ON VMS 19-20 May 2021



Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (WGIUU), 19 May

- The meeting carefully reviewed progress made during the two-year intersessional period in the implementation of GFCM decisions

- The commitment of contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties (CPCs) was praised, despite the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the work of national administrations
- **The compliance tables for the year 2021 were adopted**
- The meeting also encouraged that further progress be urgently made in the development and implementation of catch documentation schemes.

See Appendix 4

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WG IUU

Working Group on VMS and related control systems (WGVMS), 20 May

- The need to urgently ensure the full implementation by all CPCs of national vessel monitoring system (VMS) was emphasized in order to **promptly operationalize the establishment of a centralized/regional VMS and related control systems by the GFCM.**
- The WGVMS also addressed the **monitoring of fisheries restricted areas** by CPCs noting the importance of furthering concerted efforts at the regional and subregional levels.

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WG VMS



GFCM COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

21 May 2021



Compliance Committee, 21 May

- **Concerning the status of compliance with GFCM decisions**, the Committee decided to upgrade the compliance categories of some contracting parties and cooperating non-contracting parties (CPCs).



More specifically, the **European Union, Morocco and Turkey** were upgraded to a **fully compliant status**, whereas Israel was upgraded to a partially compliant status.



- It also decided that the identification and clarification process would continue on the basis of a **compliance assessment scheme** which would streamline the detection of infringements and their severity.
- Several **proposals on compliance advice** to the Commission were presented and discussed:
 - GFCM **flag State performance assessment** framework, based on FAO Guidelines
 - extending the obligation to obtain an **IMO number to all fishing vessels** of 15m length overall (LOA) and above
 - the operationalization of the upcoming **centralized/regional GFCM VMS and control systems**,
 - the implementation of the electronic reporting system (ERS) (e-logbook) with a view to undertaking pilot projects
 - the introduction of a sighting procedure to facilitate the pursuit of fishing vessels caught in IUU fishing activities;
 - the **management of lost, abandoned and discarded fishing gear**, in line with FAO and RFMOs standards and guidelines;
 - the launching of a pilot project on a control and inspection scheme for the **common dolphinfish fishery**; and
 - the introduction of minima standards to improve the **control and monitoring of fisheries restricted areas (FRAs)**
 - ...and OTHERS