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Rome, 27th March 2012

RAC MED OPINION ON DEFINITIONS OF RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

The Executive Committee, held in Rome on March 27, adopted the opinion proposed by the Working Group on recreational fisheries (WG4), held in Rome on 29th February 2012, on the following definitions of recreational and sport fishing following the definitions given by the GFCM/SAC Glossary here below:

- *“Recreational fishing: Noncommercial fishing activities exploiting marine living aquatic resources. For Mediterranean fisheries management purposes it comprises four independent segments: leisure, sport, underwater and charter fisheries.*

- *Sport fishing: Recreational fishing practiced from the coast or a boat with competitive intentions, within an established institutional framework which sets clear rules, collects data on catches and informs the public on the outcomes of the competition.*

The RAC MED suggests ICCAT to take into consideration the possibility of transposing the aforementioned definitions in the ICCAT *Recommendation to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 06-05], that states the following distinction between sport and recreational fisheries:

“– *Recreational fishery means a non-commercial fishery whose members do not adhere to a national sport organisation or are not issued with a national sport license.*

– *Sport fishery means a non-commercial fishery whose members adhere to a national sport organisation or are issued with a national sport license.*”

NB: This opinion has been approved by all the participants of the RAC MED with the exception of FEDAS who believes that a modified definition of the underwater fishing of the CGFM Glossary should include also “without the help of mechanical devices (e.g. scooters)”.

