



Meeting 7th Work Package
ECOSYSTEM APPROACH OF FISHERIES
APPLICATION TO THE PILOT CASE STUDY
The Mediterranean Sea
Athens, 7-8 February 2008

Executive Summary of the meeting

13 participants from 4 countries had been attending the meeting. (Cf. the list of participants).

France (workpackage 7 leader) will bear the operating costs (travel and hotel) of this meeting.

1. Objectives

1. Discuss and provide information to partners regarding the work-package 7 of the MARIFISH project
2. Present the progress in the Channel Pilot Project
3. Identify and decide on the general topic of the Mediterranean pilot project
4. Identify and propose national sub-topics under the general topic for each Mediterranean member state

2. Presentation of research areas / Project(s) in the Mediterranean Sea

Following the agenda, the scientists presented their national research programmes (Cf. Power Point presentations).

Spain

- Summary of the Mediterranean fisheries research program of the IEO
 - ☞ Christobal SUANZES – IEO
- “ Small pelagic fisheries ”
 - ☞ Luis QUINTANILLA – IEO

Greece

- “ Small pelagic fisheries ”
 - ☞ Athanasios MACHIAS – H.C.M.R.
- “ Large pelagic fisheries ”
 - ☞ George TSERPES – H.C.M.R.

France

- “ Contamination of the trophic web for pelagic, demersal fishes and marine mammals ”
 - ☞ Capucine MELLON - Ifremer
- “ Biology and ecology of the Bluefin tuna ”
 - ☞ Jean Marc FROMENTIN - Ifremer

3. Discussion and decisions

It appears clearly that except the common Data Collection Regulation programme, no common priorities between the national programmes were apparent. For these reasons the group developed a transversal approach to find common processes to study which can be applied to different species and different areas of the Mediterranean Sea, by merging the national programmes to a common Mediterranean ecosystem approach of fisheries.

The group obtained a consensus on a following general topic (1) and 2 main issues (2)

Decision (1)- general topic:

Towards an ecosystem based approach for fisheries management in the Mediterranean: Essential fish habitats and their trophic interactions.

The decision of the main topic is based on the existing knowledge on the subject, the latest trends in European Area research and technology and the similarities with the Channel Pilot Project so that in the future during the execution of both projects, knowledge and experience exchange will be possible to some extent.

Decision (2) - main sub-topics:

Essential fish habitats: Mapping key spawning, feeding and nursery habitats of exploited fish population. Identify refuges and key areas to be used for the implementation of Marine Protected areas.

- Large pelagics (bluefin tuna and swordfish): whole Mediterranean
- Small pelagics (anchovy and sardine): Western Mediterranean and Aegean Sea (*and Adriatic sea if Italy and Croatia*)
- Demersal (hake): Western Mediterranean and Aegean Sea (*and Adriatic sea if Italy and Croatia*)
- Benthic (red mullet and sole): Western Mediterranean and Aegean Sea (*and Adriatic sea if Italy and Croatia*)
- Shellfish (red shrimp): Western Mediterranean and Ionian Sea

Key words : *refuges, spawning and feeding habitats, nurseries, mapping, abiotic and biotic characteristics, spatial and time scales, climate impact, exploitation, management, Marine Protected Areas.*

Trophic interactions: Understanding trophic interactions of key Mediterranean food webs and its implications on fish condition and contamination.

- Gulf of Lions: from phytoplankton to marine mammals (key species: hake, sardine, anchovy, bluefin tuna)
- Balearic Islands: interactions between plankton and tuna larvae
- Aegean Sea: pelagic food web (key species: sardine, anchovy, hake and swordfish)

Key words : *contaminant, DEB model, fish condition, trophic levels, isotopes, stomach contents, individual markers, predation, resilience, stability, top-down versus bottom-up controls, climate impact*

The geographic areas and particularities for the pilot project execution are based on ongoing research projects in the member states, the existence of data time series from previous scientific work and the general research and scientific interests for all participating member states.

4. Further notes

Cyprus did not contribute in the general subject selection and reserved the right to return with a proposal for national participation in the Mediterranean pilot project after a central decision on the matter is resolved by RPF.

The absence of participants from Italy, Malta and Croatia did not allow the inclusion of sub-topics of interest for these member states for the geographic areas of Sea of Malta, Tyrrhenian Sea, Adriatic Sea and Sea of Cyprus.

5. Further actions – Follow up

The group decided for the following action for the progress of work package 7:

- France will contact Italia, Croatia for application in the Adriatic Sea and will elaborate a memorandum of understanding between the Mediterranean member states which will be circulated for approval and signing by the responsible parties.
- Greece will contact Turkey to see if they are interested to participate to this programme.
- the next meeting for the Mediterranean Sea will be held in France [Montpellier – La Grande Motte - 30 May 2008 (to be confirmed)] and will be organized by Ifremer.

6. Participants

<i>Partner</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Full Name</i>	<i>e-mail</i>
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