



**Work Package 7**  
**Mediterranean regional collaborative programme**

**Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Management and Scientific Committee meeting**  
**March 30 & 31, 2009**  
Stareso - Corsica (France)

**Attendance list**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role/Affiliation</b>	<b>e-mail of participants</b>
Maurice Heral	WP7 Leader (IFREMER, France)	<a href="mailto:maurice.heral@ifremer.fr">maurice.heral@ifremer.fr</a>
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**Apologies**

Katerina Kari - Cyprus

Antonio Cervantes - EC/ DG MARE

**Invitations**

No answer from Croatia (Mr Katavic)

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## Objectives of the meeting:

- **Progress updates** on the MariFish collaborative programme and further development in the Mediterranean
- Implication of a new operator: IRD

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## Welcome and Introduction to MariFish

Maurice Heral (Chair) and Costas Papakonstantinou (Med programme leader) opened the meeting and thanked all participants for attending the meeting, particularly the colleagues from IRD (represented by Nathalie Bodin and Christian Chaboud) and CNR-Italy (represented by Bernardo Patti), who are very important partners for collaboration in the Mediterranean.

A welcome was given by Pierre Lejeune, the head of the Stareso office, who hosted the meeting. He explained that the Stareso station is a private institution strongly involved in coastal Corsica fishery surveys, mainly on spiny lobster. The Stareso observers collect data about fishing effort, landings and discards within the European data collection regulation (DCR). An important part of the research carried out in the station is financed by the regional community of Corsica. More about the Stareso research programmes can be found at [http://www.stareso.com/prog\\_rech.php](http://www.stareso.com/prog_rech.php).

### a) Introducing MariFish

Maurice Heral presented a short overview of the MariFish project, an ERA-Net supported by the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework programme and a Network of Ministries and Funding agencies.

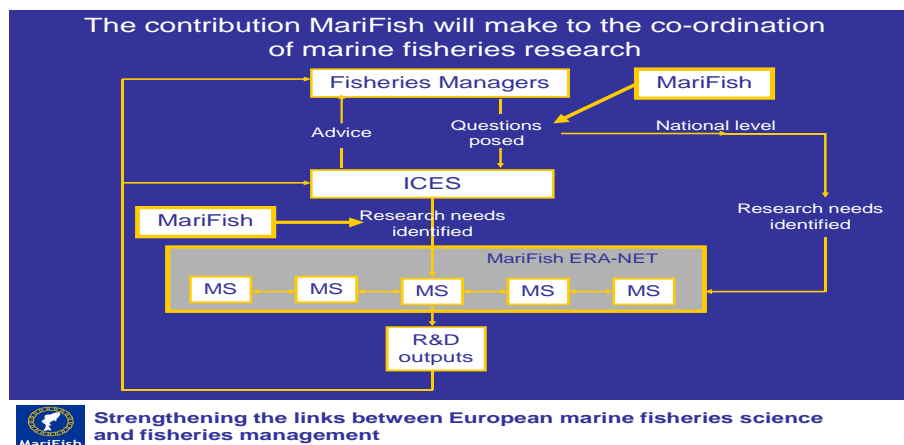
- *An ERA-Net is an EU funded initiative aimed at encouraging the co-operation and co-ordination of national research activities through networking of research programme managers. ERA-NETs involve the funders of research.*

#### **What is the MariFish ERA-Net?**

The aim of the MARIFISH ERA-Net is favour dialogue, cooperation and partnership between the main national and European financial funders of marine research (18 partners) to develop a sustainable management strategy for fisheries, based on ecosystems. The total amount of the marine research budget for all the partners is about €190 millions, a significant part of the resources devoted to fishery research at the European scale.

For a period of five years (2006-2011), MariFish aims to lead the following key-activities:

- sharing the information about Research & Development / research programmes,
- improving practices on research planning by sharing knowledge,
- identifying regional, European and international cooperation,
- reinforcing coordination between marine research and other fields,
- comparing and analysing national research programmes,
- identifying fields of common interest and lacks,
- **implementing shared research programmes, (WP7)**
- identifying a strategy to develop new research programmes jointly financed (WP8).



**MariFish’s action within WP7: implementation of joint European research collaborative programmes**

MariFish intends to promote regional or thematic approaches to reinforce long-term cooperation between States having common interests, especially scientific interests to manage the same sea. So, within the MariFish framework, the partners are organized to strengthen cooperation on fisheries research, seeking to increase complementarity between the national research programmes (existing and planned), and to optimize the results of research and expertise in terms of financial investment in each country.

This collaboration is conducted in the WP7 of MariFish, coordinated by France (Ifremer) and also led by UK, Spain, Greece and Ireland. It consists in joint programmes to develop an ecosystem approach to fisheries management at the regional or thematic scales (five selected collaborative programmes).

The management of these programmes has the following main objectives:

- develop innovative concepts: avoid duplication, share expertise,
- contribute to the management of a same ecosystem with the same fish and self-fish stocks,
- increase scientific cooperation: (a) exchanging information on national priorities, (b) sharing knowledge and scientific cruises (c) access to common databases, (d) mutual use of facilities and instruments of each partner,
- Develop personnel exchanges (junior and senior scientists – technical experts) as well as students.

**b) Introducing WP7 updates for the five collaborative projects**

Regional case study / Theme
(1) Channel “spatial characterization and contribution to the management of fishing effects”
(2) Mediterranean “essential fish habitats and their trophic interactions”
(3) Reduction of by-catch and discards
(4) Influence of climate on small pelagic biology, distribution and population dynamics
(5) Use of indicators to support an ecosystem approach management

Maurice Heral gave a brief update of the five programmes of collaboration [See Power point 1].

**Channel:**

MariFish contributes to the integration between these different projects in the area. MariFish allows better connection between scientists and managers to contribute to a comprehensive approach of fishery management and biodiversity concern in the Channel;

MariFish helps to solve some difficulties related to common access to the VMS data;

Further action: The choice of the model to predict the fishing impact will be determined by a group of experts.

**Mediterranean:**

**The Corsica meeting had to contribute to review the progress of the different projects of the collaborative programme (see paper 1) with a set of questions: How to raise awareness and mobilize resources to implement these projects: Are they challenging enough? Analysis of commitment level – Eventual need for other projects to develop stronger collaboration in common programme.**

**Reduction of by-catch and discards:**

Partners agreed on a selection of 10 priorities. A process is on the way to avoid duplication of programmes which are already financed by the commission and also the ones which are coordinated by ICES.

**Influence of climate on small pelagic biology, distribution and population dynamics**

The project began in November 2008. A group of 8 countries is preparing a MoU to develop a common programme about how the recruitment processes are affected by environmental conditions, and developing coupled biophysical models of pelagic ecosystems. The work will be focused on small pelagic fish in specific eco-regions.

**Use of indicators to support an ecosystem approach to management**

For the subject on “Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management”, it has been decided at the last Steering Committee meeting (Reykjavik; June 25-26. 2008) to reduce the scope, considering that it was too wide and complex. It was decided to identify a less ambitious but more realistic issue while avoiding what is already under development within the ICES community. The first workshop will take place in April 2009.

*How to collaborate?* Maurice Heral outlined the objectives and funding model for these collaborations. The main objective of WP7 is to push the national programmes for European collaboration. The cooperation is the junction of each national programme funded by the partners through their national marine research organizations (Operators – RPOs), in view of contributing to common research programmes (studies and expert assessments). Funds and/or resources available at the national level are devoted to carry out the programmes, to ensure regular communication, to maintain and share databases, and to exchange personnel.

WP7 has to keep in mind the EU MariFish added value: (i) the scientific aspects, (ii) the programmes management, and (iii) the complementarities between national projects for innovative topics not already coordinated by another structure, to go towards a common vision of research developed at regional or thematic levels.

- **This experimental approach of building the first bricks of joint programming is an important process.**

**Presentation of IRD (new operator) and CNR – Italy (new associated partner?)****The French Institute of Research for Development (IRD)**

Christian Chaboud - Economist *Resource exploitation and governance*, presented the institute and its contribution to an ecosystemic based approach for the Mediterranean fisheries [[See Power point 2](#)]. Based at Sete, the Exploited Marine Ecosystems Research Unit, with 45 researchers from IRD, Ifremer and the University of Montpellier, conducts research on food webs, essential fish habitats, exploitation and governance of marine resources and ecosystems.

Dr Philippe Cury is currently the Director of this research Unit.

Christian Chaboud presented an update of the research projects that are currently carried out in the Mediterranean Sea by the institute and its partners: 6 research projects dealing with Mediterranean Sea ecosystems and fisheries.

- 1st. Mediterranean and East Atlantic bluefin Tuna reproduction strategy, Population structure, Life cycle and Spatial dynamics (METROPOLIS)**, on understanding the key biological and ecological processes that affect and determine the life cycle and the dynamics of Atlantic bluefin tuna ⇒ Topic not funded by EU FP7 [[See description Power point 2a](#)]
- 2nd. Marine Ecosystem Evolution in a Changing Environment (MEECE)**, on dynamics of the marine ecosystems in a changing environment ⇒ EU FP 7 Funding [[See description Power point 2b](#)]
- 3rd. Mitigating ADverse Ecological impacts of open ocean fisheries (MADE)**, on mitigating adverse impacts of fisheries ⇒ EU FP 7 Funding [[See description Power point 2c](#)]

- 4th. **Governance of Protected Marine Areas for Sustainable management of Biodiversity and coastal Uses (GAÏUS)** [See description Power point 2d]
  - 5th. **Evaluation of Marine Protected Areas as a management strategy for valuable migratory marine resources (AMPED)** ⇒ French funding Agency [See description Power point 2e]
  - 6th. **Diversity of Mediterranean Fishes and ecosystemic approach (DPMAE)** [See description Power point 2f]
- **Christian Chaboud has confirmed the interest of IRD to join the MariFish regional approach in Mediterranean. All Partners agreed that IRD will be added in Annex 3 of the Med. MoU in the list of operators.**

**Action1:** WP7 administration to implement the procedure



**The National Research Council (CNR)**

Bernardo PATTI - Institute for Coastal Marine Environment (IAMC), attended the meeting on behalf of CRN. The National Research Council (CNR) is a public organization; its duty is to carry out, promote, spread, transfer and improve research activities in the main sectors of knowledge growth and of its applications for the scientific, technological, economic and social development of the Country.

The CNR Scientific Network is made by 107 institutes, divided into centers and territorial sections. The department of Earth and Environment (DTA) has 1100 employees active in 29 institutes and with the support of 800 other employees.

Environmental issues including climate change, natural hazards, natural resources including fisheries and their sustainable use are the challenges of the 21st century in which the DTA is primarily involved.

The Department of Earth and Environment (CNR-DTA) is responsible for planning and coordinating scientific research and technological breakthrough in the network of CNR institutes, such as IAMC and ISMAR for marine science.

<p>Institute for coastal marine environment</p> 	<p><b>Research fields:</b> Biological resources and sustainability, with particular attention to fishing and aquaculture resources. Biodiversity of marine ecosystems and biogeochemical cycles, devoted to the study of: ecosystems of coastal strip and resources; mechanisms determining biodiversity; marine system tolerance of perturbation. Marine geology and morpho-bathymetry based upon the study of the morphology of the sea floor, the acoustic characteristics of the floor, and the stratigraphic and tectonic aspect of the seafloor. Pre-operation and ecological oceanography of sensorial systems aiming at a continuous forecast of the future conditions of the sea.</p>
<p>Marine science institute</p> 	<p><b>Research fields:</b> Physical, biophysical, and ecological processes linked to the oceanic circulation affecting climatic changes. Mechanisms governing the biogeochemical cycles linked to oceanic circulation. Survey on the origins of the Italian seas (within the Mediterranean geology) and of the oceanic basins, as strictly connected to seismic risks and volcanoes. Formation and modification of continental edges also connected to climatic changes. Biology of fish species, marine ecology, interactions between environment and fishing, and improvement of mariculture and aquaculture.</p>

Regarding the tasks of the MariFish Med. Collaborative programme, Bernardo PATTI presented the research that was currently carried out in the IAMC [See Power point 3]:

- **Small pelagic fish** - Sicilian channel & Malta (IAMC) ANCHEVA
- **MEDITS 2009** - the 2009 campaign will provide 120 hauls between 10 and 800 m with stratified random design and allocation of hauls proportional to layer and its extension. It will be conducted between May and June of 2009.

- **Importance of distribution** - mapping the species - the case of red mullet
  - **Biodiversity in demersal assemblages** - size spectra
  - **Environmental conditions** - Sicily Strait Regional Model - from SKIRON fields in slave mode
  - **Trophic interactions** - a systematic tool for determining trophic levels
- **The partners reminded that they are very favorable to involve Italy in Med. collaboration. The CNR is encouraged to sign the MoU as associated partner, and IAMC and ISMAR as operators.**

Maurice Heral said that the CNR is a partner in the new marine ERA-Net "SEASERA" (also WP leader on "capacity building"), which does not exclude the participation of Italy from MariFish until 2011 and beyond within the framework of the common programmes.

**Action2:** Bernardo Patti was invited to circulate the information about the meeting to the CNR/DTA and to the two institutes IAMC and ISMAR; The WP7 co-ordinator will ask for an official position of the CNR.

### **MariFish joint call (WP8) - announced on 15th December 2008**

*NB/ MariFish WP8 aims to identify the strategic research evidence that will meet at the best the fishery manager needs in the future. A joint call for research is the final output of this work package.*

Nine MariFish partners have agreed to hold a joint call for research, with a combined total budget of €4.1m.

The MariFish Call for Proposals is closed now.

In total, six research proposals were submitted to the Call Secretariat by the deadline of 2nd March 2009. An independent peer review panel will meet on 6th May to provide a ranking of the proposals, and then members of the Call Committee will meet later in May to take the final funding decisions.

*Table1. General information about the proposals sent to the MariFish Joint Call*

Proposal no	Nationality of consortium members										Topic
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	
N°1	UK	NO	ICE								(5)
N°2	GR	FR	NL	SP	UK	DK	ICE	DK			(2)
N°3	SP	GR	FR	SP	PT						(1)
N°4	DK	UK	NO	NL	NL						(5)
N°5	UK	SP	PT								(5)
N°6	DK	UK	DK	NL	NO	GR	ICE	UK	UK	DK	(1-5)

Topic (1) Stock – recruitment relationships with process understanding - Topic (2) By-catches and discards

Topic (3) Biological interaction between species - Topic (4) Environmental impact of fisheries

Topic (5) Economic indicators

The partners recognized that there was just one proposal addressing the Mediterranean basin, on *processes determining recruitment strength of two key southern European pelagic species (sardine and anchovy), and provide recruitment models that integrate information from the stock abundance, structure and distribution together with environmental data, including a study in the Aegean Sea.*

## Summary of the Climate and Small pelagics collaborative programme “Influence of climate on small pelagic fish biology, distribution and population dynamics”

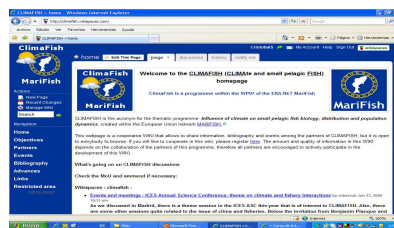
Cristobal Suanzes presented the collaborative programme lead by Spain on the “**Influence of climate on small pelagic biology, distribution and population dynamics**” [See Power point 4].

- **General Goal of the WP7 thematic collaboration:** progress in understanding the effects of climate variability on small pelagic fish.
- **Objectives:**
  - Analyze changes in the biology, life cycles and distribution of the main small pelagic fish species,
  - Analyze changes in the pelagic ecosystem,
  - Simulate potential variability of the pelagic community under different scenarios combining human pressure and climate variability,
  - Identify options for management of small pelagic fish communities taking into account their ecosystems given different climate scenarios.

One of the highlights of this collaborative programme is the creation of a website dedicated to the Joint Programming named CLIMAFISH (climate and small pelagic fish).

Partners are invited to visit this webpage at:

<http://climafish.wikispaces.com/>



At the time of signing the MoU for the WP7 thematic collaborative programme, some of the operators participating decided to set up a consortium to submit a proposal to the WP8 MariFish 1<sup>st</sup> joint call for new research.

Cristobal explained that this was the natural reaction of the operator partners when provided with publicity on the scope of the WP8 call. He also pointed out the added value of this joint effort without using any funds from WP7 and explained that this was felt as an advantage more than harm for WP7 which would strengthen the links between the Operators for the improvement of the WP7 results.

Some partners agreed to say that it could be necessary to attract some other sources of funding for WP7 as for instance INTERREG or national funding from the Ministries to develop the common programme. This general comment was made at the last WPMG4 meeting in Faro:

- Building common programme without extra money coming from the Commission is the challenge of the WP7
- This experimental approach could need a mix up of competitive and non-competitive funding, but find additional fund to achieve WP7 collaboration could not be a priority.

The following collaborative tasks have been suggested for this collaborative programme:

- . Coordination between the different countries to organize the different surveys,
- . Hydrodynamic models, comparison and training with personnel exchanges,
- . Trophic web models on the target species such as anchovy and sardine, comparison and training with personnel exchanges.

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## Summary of the inventory of the National Programmes in the Mediterranean - Dissemination plan of this task

Cristobal Suanzes explained the progress of this task.

Ifremer is still waiting for some complement from the French Universities. Italy suggested to participate.

The partners agreed to disseminate the database on the detailed research programme of the Mediterranean on:

- The EUROCEAN website (permanent structure),
- The MariFish website,
- and contact the CIESM (the Mediterranean Science Commission - <http://www.ciesm.org/about/index.htm>) for a link with this site.

**Action3:** This inventory is not an exhaustive list, and other countries could add new information later, so that the deadline to complete the database is set to the end of June 2009; Dissemination in websites will be managed by Sophie Sergent with the support of other partners. Cristobal Suanzes will send the table format to the Italian colleagues. Costas Papakonstantinou will send a proposal for the introductory text.

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## Funds by the operators or under MariFish ERA-Net (depending on Commission's answer – Yvan Conesa) for PhD and Post-doc – application to the Mediterranean

The WP7 leader suggested using the EC funds available from MariFish to co-finance (together with RPOs) Post Doc or PhD positions. Indeed it is believed that this approach could increase the efficiency of the programmes developed in the WP7. Students could carry out their research in laboratories of the different RPOs of the MariFish MoUs participants. The question of whether this would be eligible under MariFish was raised at the last WPMG4 in Faro, Portugal.

Sophie Sergent informed of the negative answer of Yvan Conesa (DG Research): The Commission has specified that Coordination Action (CA) grant contracts for ERA-Net can not fund research activities and the payment of salaries such as PhD are not eligible - only expenses for travel and meetings may be eligible. ERA-Net grant shall be used only for coordination & management activities to develop joint activities between national R&D funding Institutions and Programmes. In this sense, it can be used to develop a joint PhD scheme between different national programmes, but it can not fund the PhD themselves nor any scientific R&D project or activity (to be funded by participating national R&D Programmes or funding scheme).

For now, we can only propose a process of co-funding between the RPOs. Under the Channel collaborative programme, Imares and Ifremer have decided to co-finance a PhD to conduct a research action: *45,000 Euros over each 4 years - In Holland a PhD lasts 4 years.*

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## Cooperation among national programmes

### a) Free exchange of data to build a shared data base under common format / MEDITS / building an historical data base between the MariFish partners

Jacques Bertrand presented the context.

MariFish could be a good way to push the situation, and MariFish partners could try to use the possible way to move the system.

Through the new DCR rules (2009), all the data collected and managed independently by the European countries must be made available after 3 years. Nevertheless, MEDITS data have been created by the partner institutes since 1994. The MariFish agreed to build a common historical data base with the data collected by the project from this year.

This task has to be managed in agreement with the DG MARE which co-finances the data collection through the DCR.

The two following aspects have been considered:

- a) the question of availability of a standard exchange format,
- b) the question related to a common data base.

It has been decided to clearly identify why MariFish is interested by the historical data and what research topics have to be addressed (indicators - rare species – impact of climate change).

It was noticed that MariFish will not have any commitment with stock assessment.

To investigate these scientific key issues, the MariFish partners have to find an agreement to give an access to the data, satisfying the scientific community.

During the meeting, a sub-group composed by Jacques Bertrand, Costas Papakonstantinou, Luis Gil de Sola and Maurice Heral drafted a statement for free access to the MEDITS data.

**Action4:** All participants agreed on a statement for free access to the MEDITS data [\[See below\]](#), that Jacques Bertrand will present to the next MEDITS coordination meeting which will take place in April 2009. Jacques Bertrand will make a report of this MEDITS meeting to all the Med. partners.



### **Work package 7: Prepare and commission shared research programmes**

MEDITS – building an historical data base between MariFish partners

The Era-Net MariFish partners have considered that to progress on knowledge for an ecosystem approach of demersal fisheries in the Mediterranean, different research topics must be addressed by the scientific community. These topics focus mainly on questions about structure and function of the demersal ecosystems, which include knowledge on species by species biology, assemblages and biodiversity approaches, habitat characterisation, elaboration and testing of population and community indicators. The MariFish group has not considered the needs specifically required for stock assessments of the demersal Mediterranean resources which are under responsibility of other international bodies.

To progress towards these objectives, basic information related to the ecosystem characteristics, including abiotic and biological aspects are required. The main data available at a large scale on the demersal and benthic fauna in the Mediterranean are produced through the Medits surveys. Furthermore, the length of the series (about fifteen years) makes it interesting to test trends and variability of the system components not only on a spatial scale but also temporally. So, an easy access to the scientific community to the data produced by these surveys is considered by the MariFish partners as an important asset to favour advancement on ecosystem characterisation in the area, and for this reason they propose a wide open access to the Medits data.

The MariFish group has checked different ways to improve this access. The main preliminary aspects considered by the group were related to data validation, data responsibility and intellectual property. According to the existing rules applied by most European countries, the group has taken notice that the management of the Medits data at first is under the responsibility of each country. This responsibility includes the collection, qualification and validation of these data. Nevertheless, the MariFish partners have acknowledged that the availability of a common tool to check the data (as it has been made in the past by the Medits group) could strongly help the countries to ensure a basic standard quality of the data. Thus, they invite the Medits partners to examine the possibility to manage in common this question.

The MariFish partners have taken into account that a standardized exchange format of the Medits data already exists. They consider that this format should be used as a common standard for data exchange between them.

The MariFish partners recognise that the final situation might be a full free access of the historical data. These data could be used only for research publications or projects and not by private companies in order to make a profit.

Nevertheless, to take into account intellectual property rights of the data and priority of use by the teams involved in the data production, the MariFish partners have decided (i) to put in website their historical data 1994-2001 and (ii) to ask to the national and EU relevant authorities to give access as soon as possible to the data obtained in the framework of the European data collection regulation (DCR).

The MariFish group invites the other Mediterranean groups involved in Medits to join this initiative which intends to help the improvement on the Mediterranean fisheries knowledge.

Calvi, the 31 March 2009

The MariFish partners: France (Ifremer), Greece (HCMR) and Spain (IEO)

## b) Mapping of the abundance of Small pelagic

Andreas Palialexis and Magdalena Iglesias presented new results of the MariFish collaborative project between HCMR & IEO on **Identification and mapping of the Essential Fish Habitat of small pelagics: anchovy and sardine in the Mediterranean Sea** [See Power point 5] - The work is organized around four WPs:

### WP1. Identification of anchovy and sardine habitat using satellite data

The aim of this WP is to use satellite environmental parameters to identify and map those areas in the Mediterranean Sea that could be considered as Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for anchovy and sardine in different phases of their life cycle. For this purpose, the following data will be used:

- Satellite environmental data
- Presence absence and/ or abundance data (ichthyoplankton and acoustic data) for anchovy and sardine from different areas of the Mediterranean i.e. Aegean Sea and Iberian coast

Mapping of EFH will include:

Task1: Compilation of the existing data

Task2: Eggs and larvae habitat (data from ichthyoplankton surveys, Aegean Sea and Iberian coast )

Task3: Juvenile habitat (acoustic and/or fisheries data, Aegean Sea and Iberian coast)

Task4: Adult habitat (acoustic and/or fisheries data, Aegean Sea and Iberian coast)

*Deliverables: Maps of anchovy and sardine habitat*

*Duration: 17 months.*

### WP3: Species environmental preferences

The aim of the specific WP is to identify anchovy and sardine environmental preferences in the Mediterranean Sea based on field measurements of ambient environmental conditions during research surveys at sea. For this purpose the following data will be used:

- available CTD and plankton environmental data (or data from other in situ measurements)
- presence absence and/ or abundance data (ichthyoplankton and acoustic data) for anchovy and sardine from different areas of the Mediterranean i.e. Aegean Sea and Iberian coast

The analysis will be the same as in WP1 in 3 tasks:

Task1: Eggs and larvae Env. Pref. (data from ichthyoplankton surveys)

Task2: Juvenile Env. Pref. (acoustic and/or fisheries data)

Task3: Adult Env. Pref. (acoustic and/or fisheries data)

*Deliverables: Statistical models and maps describing the environmental preferences of anchovy and sardine based on field measurements of environmental parameters*

*Duration: 22 months.*

### WP2: Temporal variation in Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) - Identification of the spatial variability of potential habitats during the last decade.

The aim of this WP is to predict the EFH of each target species during the last decade in an effort to identify whether variability of potential habitats is related to population abundance or fisheries catches.

- The models estimated within WP1 will be used to predict the EFH of each species and the spatial location of preferential sites across the last 10 years.
- Mapping of eggs and larvae habitat, juvenile habitat and adult habitat will be the deliverables of the specific WP

*Deliverables: Maps of anchovy and sardine habitat for the last decade.*

*Duration: 12 months*

### WP 4: Project management

In the framework of the project 3 coordination meeting workshops will be held.

- The first will take place in the beginning of the project. During the meeting the data and the methods that will be used, will be discussed and agreed.

- The second meeting will take place by the end of the first year of the project. During the meeting the work of the first year of the project will be reviewed and the work of the second year of the project will be decided.

- The last meeting will be done three months before the end of the project. The aim of this meeting will be the preparation of the reports

*Deliverables: Technical reports*

*Duration: throughout the project*

Italy was interested to participate. France has to be involved in the collaborative research.

### Action5:

Study in details co-funding of a Post-doc by 3 operators / plan for the next year (2010):

- Magdalena Iglesias will write the proposed content of the position – deadline September 2009
- Participants operators should clearly define their availability of funds (from the Ministry or from their own budget)

France and Italy to give contact details of researchers interested to be involved in this task.

Ifremer to contact and ask Pelmed and Sardone researchers about their opinion and collaboration.

### c) Demersal Fisheries and Trophic relationships

*No contact between Capucine Mellon (Ifremer) and Enric Massuti (IEO) since October 2008.*

Konstantinos Tsagarakis presented the outstanding research in HCMR on **Mass-balance modeling for the Ecosystem of N. Aegean Sea** [See Power point 6]

The partners who are developing separately trophic models agreed to organize a common work to compare the efficiency, precision and realism of the different trophic models already developed in the Mediterranean.

For this task, the partners decided to focus on a comparison between the models. A workshop led by Greece is planned in 2010. During the 6 months of preparation, it is proposed that a common set of data will be used by the different experts with different models, to identify by analyze of the results what is the best tool to characterize the trophic web in the Mediterranean.

**Action6:** Greece to propose the organization of a workshop on Ecosystem modeling

### d) "Large pelagic – Tuna"

A Data base on the tagging experiments achieved in the Mediterranean by different countries will be developed to better understand the migration pattern of the Med Bluefin Tuna.

IRD proposed to develop a research programme to validate if some pollutants in the flesh of fish or in otoliths can be used as tracers of Bluefin Tuna origin.

After the first step of validation, a comprehensive Med programme could be developed by participating in a common sampling strategy or by sharing the analyses of the tracers between the different countries.

In a second step, the project could contribute to a better understanding of the fish behavior and migration pattern.

[See Power point 7] The proposed project presented by Nathalie Bodin "**Future Project: Organic and Inorganic Contamination of Mediterranean and East Atlantic Bluefin Tuna**"

**Action7:** After validation of this approach (IRD-Ifremer), other MariFish partners will be contacted to join this project.

## Information about the FP7 implementation in the field of fisheries particularly as regards WP 2010 - Theme 2 "International cooperation (fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea)"

Maurice Heral gave an information about the "DRAFT" Call proposals **KBBE.2010.1.4-08: Improving research in support to scientific advice to fisheries management in the Mediterranean and Black Seas - Mandatory ICPC Mediterranean Partner Countries and Black Sea region** [See Power point 8] - Call: FP7-KBBE-2010-4 [publish July 2009 – deadline January 2010]

⇒ **The call will support the development of a network of research bodies and teams including third countries in the two regions**, with the aim to further improve coordination of research programmes on fisheries management promoted by different actors.

⇒ **The call intends to facilitate coordination on mining data available and harmonisation of methodologies applied to collection, analysis, dissemination and management procedures**, in support to Ecosystem approach to fisheries management and scientific advice to fisheries management.

➔ **The call will contribute to identify needs for further research** in order to maintain the basis for a sustainable use of the marine resources and **facilitate programming of research by national, Community** and international funding organisations.

**Action8:**

The MariFish partners proposed a writing group (France, Greece and Spain) to:

- analyse the project

- suggest Research programmes and management issues to include in the draft;

A presentation of the project will be made to the next EFARO GA meeting (May 2009) to:

- involve the institutes - include the MariFish recommendations

- establish link with the management level – associate Non-EU Med countries.

It appears that a network of researchers is currently being organized with the participation of the GFCM. All the proposals must be joined together.

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**Discussion about the dissemination plan of the Mediterranean programme (ICES action - poster - others...)**

As discussed at the last MG WPWP4 in Faro, all the WP7 activities and generally MariFish are not visible enough and not well known by the scientific community and by the fishermen.

The question is: how knowledge on the ERA-Net and WP7 approaches can be improved?

Proposals:

- ▶ **Mailing list** - establish a mailing list with all the participants in the MariFish Med. regional events [meetings, reports, information, Calls...]
- ▶ **Dynamic Website** - It is important to make accessible all the informations to the network of partners, operators and researchers (not only in the private area).

**Action9:** Sophie Sergent will make a proposal to the MariFish co-ordinator for a site dedicated to WP7 with free access in the MariFish website – link with a webpage could be created as the “climafish” home page, elaborated for the WP7 Climate and Small Pelagics collaborative programme.

- ▶ **Series of posters/topic flyers /leaflet** - major results to be highlighted for the WP7 communication and to present some WP7 outputs to the international community.

**Action10:** Firstly tasks data base (Jacques Bertrand) and small pelagic (Magdalena Iglesias) to send proposals to Sophie Sergent

- ▶ **Symposium:** prepare a special MariFish session for ICES annual conference (Nantes-2010)

**Next Med. meeting**

The next scientific and management meeting will take place in Greece – **Chios Island** on the invitation of Costas Papakonstantinou (October or November 2009).

An enquiry will be put on a web site to decide on the meeting date as soon as possible.

**Closure**

The chairman expressed special thanks to Pierre Lejeune, Director, and all the team of Stareso for their very nice hospitality.