



Work package 7: Prepare and commission shared research programmes

Database on the research projects in the Mediterranean

The partner states of Marifish project and which participate in the regional project for the Mediterranean as it was organized during the Marifish partner meeting in Athens and was included in WP7, have agreed through a mutually signed MoU to promote common scientific activities within this project. These activities will be implemented by the Mediterranean partner countries of Marifish or any other country which would be interested to participate. The general title of the project is “Towards an ecosystem based approach for fisheries management in the Mediterranean: Essential fish habitats and their trophic interactions”.

For the better organization of the project, the Mediterranean partner countries of Marifish and namely Greece, France and Spain, decided to establish a common database of information related to research projects which are carried out in the Mediterranean waters. The Mediterranean partner states consider that this database will be enlarged significantly with the input from other Mediterranean countries for which there is an effort to join Marifish project.

The first contribution from IAMC-CNR (Italy), specifically from the Group of Interdisciplinary Oceanography of the laboratory located in Mazara del Vallo (Sicily), is including.

The database provides a list of research projects relating to two themes: 1) essential fish habitats and 2) trophic interactions, carried out by the Mediterranean partner countries of MariFish- France (FR), Greece (GR), Italy (IT) and Spain (SP). The database is organised by research theme per country and provides a range of information on completed and on-going projects (e.g. title, cost, duration, description, area covered).

The final goal is to include all research activities which are carried out in the region.

The aforementioned database is different from the database established for the general needs of the Marifish project since its aim is to support the resolution of localized research problems as well as the needs of the regional Mediterranean project (WP7). In order to fulfill this purpose, the Mediterranean database exhibits a different structure than the general Marifish database and includes more information. These differences in aim and content justify, at the moment, the existence of both databases. However, both databases could homogenize or linked in the future should such a need arise.