



MariFish
Strengthening the links between European marine fisheries science and fisheries management

7th Work Package

1st Management and Scientific meeting : Case study in the Mediterranean

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

Málaga (Spain) – October 6th & 7th 2008

REPORT ON THE MAIN DECISIONS

Objective of the meeting:

Draft a coordinated proposal of a project or a group of subprojects based on the draft proposals that each task leader will provide and present.

Attendee list

Name	Field of work within the Med. Case Study	Institution
Pilar Pereda	Operator Coordinator	IEO (SS.CC Spain)
Alberto Garcia	Early Life Ecology	IEO (Malaga, Spain)
Cristobal Suanzes	Operator management	IEO (SS.CC Spain)
Maurice Heral	Coordonnateur WP7	Ifremer (France)
Sophie Sergent	Administration WP7	Ifremer (France)
Jacques Bertrand	Demersal fisheries	Ifremer (France)
Chrissi-Yianna Politou	Demersal fisheries	HCMR (Greece)
Athanassios Machias	Small Pelagics	HCMR (Greece)
Enric Massuti	Small Pelagics	IEO (Balearic Islands, Spain)
Capucine Mellon	Trophic Relationships, Pollutants	Ifremer (France)
Victor M. Leon	Pollutants	IEO (Murcia, Spain)

Apologies by Costas Papaconstantinou (Med. Case study leader), J.M. Fromentin (Ifremer), George Tserpes (HCMR), Luis Quintanilla (IEO Málaga), Magdalena Iglesias (IEO Balearic Islands), Luis Gil de Sola (IEO Málaga), Mariano Garcia (IEO).

No response by Angelo Bonanno (CNR, Italy) or Valerio Bartolino (University of Rome, Italy) and Yvan Katavic (Croatia).

11 participants from 3 countries (Spain, France and Greece) attended the meeting. Italy and Croatia never responded to the invitation to participate. Spain will cover the cost of catering, lodging and dinner/meals. Each partner organizes and supports its own travel arrangements.

Maurice Heral was selected as Chairperson with the agreement of Greece, the Project leader. Maurice Heral made a short description of Marifish, outlining the crucial importance of the multilateral collaboration in the field of fisheries research and management and explained the role that Marifish and other ERANET may take in this kind of cooperation, the joint programming and the joint call for proposals. He went through the state of the art of the WP7 project with 5 case studies being developed (two regional, Channel and Med., and three thematic Discards, Ecosystem Approach and Climate). The future MARINET, a merge of the three marine related ERANET already in place (MarinERA, Marifish and AMPERA) supported by a 2 mill € call of proposal by the 7TH FP of the EU was presented.

A relevant debate was raised after the presentation regarding some concerns felt by some of the scientist involved in the case studies regarding the similarities and differences between WP7 (Pilot collaborative case studies) and WP8 (Pilot call with national funding on a virtual common pot) and the absence of funding –except for coordination meetings- for WP7 case studies.

Maurice Heral acknowledged that WP7 goal is to collaborate and communicate to try to find gaps while WP8 will study the possibilities of a joint national funding call based on the virtual common pot. WP7 is flexible therefore maybe 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.

Athanasios Machias made an overview of the Mediterranean Case Study - **Annex 1. WP7_MED_ StateoftheArt.CostasP.ppt** - and the objectives of the meeting. All participant agreed that it would be crucial to have the CNR from Italy on the project.

Sophie Sergent, IFREMER described the MoU. Three countries (France, Greece and Spain) have signed the MoU as partners while Cyprus will act as observer.

The MoU sets out the details of the planned collaborative work which will take place in the Mediterranean Sea. The MoU has the same structure than all the WP7 agreements (regional/thematic): Purposes, Basis principles, Management, Evaluation procedure, Funding model...

The MoU encourages the extension of the collaboration with “Associated Partners”. We thought about Italy, Croatia and possibly Turkey. For WP7, it is feasible that the partnership could be “à la carte” to develop a large collaboration in the Mediterranean Sea.

Regarding Italy, Mr. Cavarretta has been appointed as representative to all Marine ERANET. Mr Katavic is the representative of the Split oceanographic institute and the research ministry.

We have to go step further and we expect that Croatia and Italian colleagues join us to collaborate efficiently by the nomination of a national co-ordinator for the MariFish Med project, the nomination of the scientific establishment doing the work (operator) and the scientists involve.

It is important to keep the objective to increase the partnership in the Mediterranean Sea also with non EU countries as the ecosystem based approach for fisheries management in the Mediterranean must be achieved at the regional level.

All agreed that the MoU will enter into force for four years, on the date of signature by the 3 main MariFish partners, not waiting for the other participants.

Maurice Heral and John Lock will send a formal letter to Italy (Mr. Cavarretta) and Croatia (Yvan Katavic) to invite them to participate in this collaborative case study. There was a proposal on the table to request Jean Marc Fromentin to contact Professor Issic Oray for the demersal subproject.

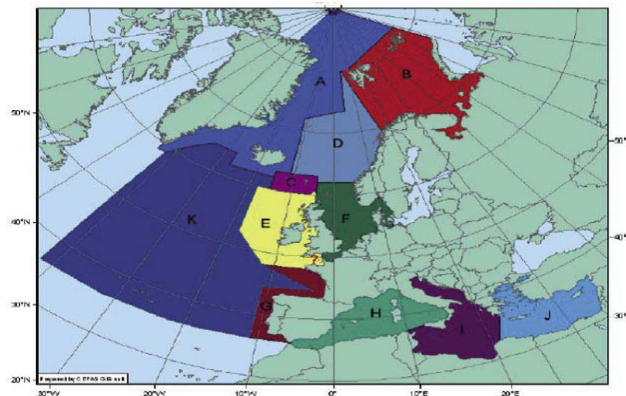
Maurice Heral and John Lock to send formal letter of invitation to representatives of Italy and Croatia.and possibly Turkey.

Relevant Decisions:

I. Details of inventory National Programmes in the Med (table model)

Alberto Garcia presented the inventory of projects currently gathered in a table format - **Annex 2. Summary of Programmes by areas_Marifish_SP_FR_GR-**. Following some discussion about the objectives of the exercise, the format and the grouping of the tables (by group of species or by species), it was agreed the following:

1. Add a new field on the table for *publications* related to the Project.
2. Harmonize the format
3. Obtain the national information of all the other relevant partners such as Universities, other institutes
4. Organize the information based on “group of species” –Demersals, small pelagics and great pelagics- and ecoregions (H, I and J) from the sea basin approach according to the EU Marine Strategy (see map below).



5. Send the combined table of the projects (Spain, France and Greece) to all participants
6. Deadline: Next meeting.

The goal of the exercise is to use the information for the development of the collaborative case study and have a better overview of the global situation in the Mediterranean.

Luis Quintanilla, Athanassios Macias and Capucine Melon to request new data and contact by email to organize the information by group of species and eco-regions.

II. Common access to data bases

Jacques Bertrand presents a power point on Common access to data bases in the Mediterranean from 2009 and the present situation related to the MEDITS survey (see document - **Annex 3. WP7_MED_MEDITS_data_common_access_J.Bertrand.ppt-**.

- The situation: A Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 –a set of common rules related to the data access for all the data collected through the DCR framework- applicable to the EU member states will entry into force for the data to be collected in the DCR since January 2009
- The framework: Data collected includes all the surveys at sea as MEDITS, Medias, etc. for the Mediterranean sea
- The consequence: Primary data to be provided timely to an appropriate regional fisheries management organisation such as GFCM
- The proposal: Wait or create an Open web site with National data of the MariFish partners on a voluntary basis

The following debate remarked the complexity of the issue mostly all agreeing about the necessity and inevitability to have a shared data access instrument in the Mediterranean context but with some participants (Greece) with reservations about the mechanism to protect data ownership and intellectual property rights (publications), the speed of the process, the differences between Historical and current data, the lack of recognition of the fisheries scientific career, the DCR transformation from facilitate to obligate, the lack of a Med. regional fisheries institution that manage the data and the unwillingness to share data.

Conclusion: In the future, all data produced through public funds will be made available publicly and Marifish is an opportunity to apply the compulsory regulation through a voluntary, restricted and controlled data base funded by DG MARE to give access to the GFCM assessment working group. Spain and France are open to give access to no sensible data to the scientific community step by step with formal restrictions (i.a: Formal request approach, not open access, citation of data ownership) for the current data available while Greece reserved its opinion to the Ministry's decision. A total open access will be given after 3 years to all public. Historical data along the whole time series will be addressed in a second step.

Participants to inform their respective institutions (Ministries and Research Institutions) on the proposal

III. Large pelagic – habitat mapping

Maurice Heral made a summary of the proposal - **Annex 4. WP7_MED_Large_Pelagic_Proposal_GTserpes_JMFromentin.doc** - by G. Tserpes and

J.M. Fromentin on the identification of essential habitats for large pelagic species to model seasonal spatial trends in bluefin tuna and swordfish abundance in the Mediterranean as functions of environmental spatial, and temporal variables.

Alberto García proposed to include information on spawning areas and larval data produced by Spain and noted the lack of references about the sources of data required and the type of data to be used (time series?).

Alberto Garcia to be contacted by mail to include a WP on spawning habitats and more info about larvae data.
Cyprus to be contacted by Alberto Garcia and J.M. Fromentin for Tuna fish data

The project is supported by the group and it is asked to the task leader if they can be ready to prepare an answer to the Call of the MariFish WP8.

IV. Environmental conditions: access of satellite data

J.M. Fromentin submitted a paper - **Annex 5. WP7_MED_Env_Data_Proposal_JMFromentin.doc** - with information concerning the access to satellite data relevant for the Med. Collaborative case study including an appropriate list of the main environmental databases of interest for fisheries ecology in the internet.

Partners to use the potential of the information submitted in the future steps of WP7

V. Mapping of the abundance of Small pelagic

Athanassios Machias summarized a project proposal submitted with Magdalena Iglesias. The aim is to identify and map the essential fish habitat of small pelagics as anchovy and sardine in the Mediterranean Sea. -**Annex 6. WP7_MED_Small_Pelagic_Proposa_AMachias-MIglesias.ppt** - and -**Annex 7.WP7_MED_Small_Pelagic_Proposal_AMachias-MIglesias.doc-**

WP 1, 2 and 3 will be based on intense man/month work power due to the large amount of data to be handle. WP4 and 5 will need additional funds. A PhD student/postdoc could be necessary. Regions to work would depend on the countries participating.

Regarding funding, WP1, 2 and 3 could be developed within the Marifish WP7 framework while WP4 and 5 within the WP8 (thus making a joint proposal to the Marifish Pilot Call to be released shortly).

Some recommendation where expressed by the participants, as Alberto Garcia raised the idea to merge data from acoustic surveys and larva surveys; Maurice Heral stated the necessity of a calibration exercise maybe in the context of DCR and the development of a common software for intercalibration purposes.

Furthermore, a detailed analysis on the change in potential man-power force for the participating institutions (WP1, 2 and 3) would need to be available for Directors of IFREMER, IEO and HCMR to consult and decide upon.

Athanassios Machias in coordination with Magdalena Iglesias to further develop the proposal for WP1, 2 and 3 concerning potential man power requirements.

Maurice Heral to inform and confirm the option of combining the funding of a WP7 Collaborative case study with the submission of a proposal to the WP8 Marifish Pilot Call

VI. Demersal Fisheries and Trophic relationships

Capucine Mellon made a synthesis of the project AMPED while Enric Massuti summarized the project IDEADOS both nationally funded starting shortly with a duration of 4 and 3 years respectively.

Participants discussed on the complementarities of both projects, mainly at the trophic and contaminants level, and the opportunity to develop synergies between them at the technical and regional level. France and Spain could collaborate at the regional level while Greece at the methodological level.

It was agreed to have contacts by e-mail to develop the ideas and coordinate between both project leaders and other similar activities developed in Greece (MCMR project), write a summary including other projects related as MERLUMED –almost finished- and organize a meeting if necessary within the WP7 context, with the final goal of:

1. Develop a coordination proposal within the WP7: from 3 parallel National programmes (Fr, Gre and Sp) to a more holistic Regional programme through the exchange of scientist, data or modelling.
2. Decide on the submission of a project to the Marifish WP8 Pilot Call within the topic "*biological interaction between species*" to attract additional fund to embrace the Regional goals.

Capuchine Mellon to contact Enric Massuti and Chrissi-Yianna Politou by e-mail, meet if necessary within the WP7 framework, develop the synergies of the current funded projects, coordinate and decide on the submission of a proposal to the Pilot Call.

It was agreed to have all information requested by the leaders in charge of each task for the next meeting to be held in Corsica at the end of march, beginning of april, maybe 2ND and 3rd of April (Holy week 6th-12th April). The case study leader will coordinate the meeting and will decide the date shortly, with the support of France (Ifremer).

List of annex:

Annex 1. WP7_MED_StateoftheArt.CostasP.ppt

Annex 2. Summary of Programmes by areas_Marifish_SP_FR_GR.xls

Annex 3. WP7_MED_MEDITs_data_common_access_J.Bertrand.ppt

Annex 4. WP7_MED_Large_Pelagic_Proposal_GTserpes_JMFromentin.doc

Annex 5. WP7_MED_Env_Data_Proposal_JMFromentin.doc

Annex 6. WP7_MED_Small_Pelagic_Proposa_AMachias-MIglesias.ppt

Annex 7. WP7_MED_Small_Pelagic_Proposal_AMachias-MIglesias.doc-