



Strengthening the links between European marine fisheries science and fisheries management

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## 7<sup>th</sup> Work Package

1<sup>st</sup> Management and Scientific meeting:

"Influence of Climate on fish biology and population dynamics" Collaborative programme

Madrid (Spain) – November 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> 2008

**Venue:** IEO offices, Calle Orense 58, 7th floor. 28020 Madrid, Spain

### Objective of this meeting:

To enable interested partners to meet to find ways of collaboration on the topic

### Attendee list

Name	Role/Affiliation	Institution	E-mail
Miguel Bernal	Scientific Committee Coordinator	IEO (Cádiz, Spain)	miguel.bernal@cd.ieo.es
Pilar Pereda	Joint Management Committee Coordinator	IEO (SS.CC Spain)	Pilar.pereda@md.ieo.es
Cristobal Suanzes	Joint Management Committee support	IEO (SS.CC Spain)	Cristobal.suanzes@md.ieo.es
Maurice Heral *	Coordinator WP7. Scientific representative	IFREMER (France)	Maurice.heral@ifremer.fr
Costas Papacostantinou	Marifish Partner. Scientific Representative	HCMR, Greece	pap@ath.hcmr.gr
Andy Payne	Operator management and Scientist	Cefas, UK	andy.payne@cefas.co.uk
Beatriz Roel	Scientist	Cefas, UK	beatriz.roel@cefas.co.uk
Yorgos Stratoudakis	Scientist	IPIMAR, Portugal	yorgos@ipimar.pt
Andrés Uriarte	Scientist	AZTI	auriarte@pas.azti.es
Sigrídur Hjørleifsdóttir **	Scientist	MATIS, Island	Sigrídur.hjørleifsdottir@matis.is
Jörn Schmidt	Scientist	vTI-OSF-IFM-GEOMAR Germany	jschmidt@ifm-geomar.de

\* 2<sup>nd</sup> day attendance

\*\* 1<sup>st</sup> day attendance

11 participants from 7 countries (National research institutions named from now on as the operators) attended the meeting.

### 1. Welcome and Introduction to the ERANET and Marifish

Pilar Pereda (elected Chair) opened the meeting, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending; she explained the purpose of the meeting and presented a short overview

of the Marifish project, highlighting the benefits of collaboration on existing national research.

Valentín Gonzalez, Head of the Department managing the ERANET from the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation made a summary of the ERANET strategy and future (Annex 1) and underlined the innovative component of the ERANET scheme providing funding to improve cooperation and coordination of national research activities.

All attendees introduced themselves (see list of attendees above).

Cristóbal Suanzes, who kindly offered to provide the minutes of the meeting, presented WP7&WP8 highlighting the differences between both (Annex 2).

## 2. Open debate about WP7 and WP8

An in-depth debate was had about some concerns felt by scientists regarding similarities and differences between WP7 (collaborative programme) and WP8 (Pilot call with national funding on a virtual common pot) and the absence of funding – except for coordination meetings and other instruments of WP7.

WP7 seeks to increase long-term multinational cooperation through the development of five collaborative programmes with different thematic approaches, focusing on filling in the main gaps and achieving added value through closer working arrangements, whereas WP8 will promote collaboration through a joint call funded by member states based on the virtual common pot (funding is provided to the research organisation of the origin country, applying the ‘juste retour’ principle). The joint call proposed is about the development of indicators for fisheries management. A draft summary paper is available on request from the Management Committee support staff.

	WP 7	WP8
<b>AIM</b>	Fill in gaps and determine how to collaborate on a theme	Foster collaboration through a joint call funded with national funds from member states
<b>TYPE OF CALL</b>	No call. Voluntary collaboration. May be Partner or Observer.	Joint open call for proposals
<b>FUNDING</b>	From Marifish Project (VI FP - 100.000 €)	National (joint virtual common pot ) 4.270.000 €
<b>RESEARCH</b>	Collaborative programme: Detect added value through existing data from current projects	New hypothesis, innovative research

## 3. Presentation of a proposal by Miguel Bernal

Miguel Bernal presented a draft proposal for collaboration within the field “influences of climate on fish biology and population dynamics” entitled: Integration of spatial components, species interactions and environmental data for improving the understanding and management of small pelagic fish (Annex 3). The proposed project is based on:

1. collecting the available information on environment and pelagic fish distribution and abundance, from both fishers and direct surveys
2. checking the available models for hydrodynamics and habitat distribution/occupancy and building stochastic ecosystem models which
3. testing different ecological hypotheses on the combined effect of climate and human exploitation on small pelagic fish communities

It was noted that, for better results, the proposal could be initially developed within the WP7 context (1 and 2) and perhaps at a later stage within the WP8 framework (2 and 3). It was noted that from the information received by partners by email (a table was previously circulated by the Secretariat), most operators have regional models without any coordination between them.

The need was recognized to narrow the collaborative programme research field to the fish biology and population dynamics of small pelagic fish to adjust it to the collaborative preferences of all interested partners. This decision, approved by all participants, will be submitted for approval at the next WPMG4 meeting in Faro, Portugal, in March 2009.

**Action 1:** The Secretariat of the joint management committee (JMC) to inform the partners on the adjustment of the name of the collaborative programme to the collaborative preferences of all interested

#### 4. Presentation of research currently underway and questions of interest by participant

Presentations were given by each of the 'Operators' (research bodies) and these are available from the Secretariat or the MariFish website.

Name	Institution	Title of Presentation
Yorgos Stratoudakis	IPIMAR (PI)	SPF dynamics and management advice in relation to environmental conditions – IPIMAR contribution
Beatriz Roel	Cefas, (UK)	Small Pelagics in the waters around UK
Costas Papacostantinou	HCMR, (Gr)	Small pelagic research status and research interest
Miguel Bernal	IEO (Sp)	Pelagic ecosystem collaborative programme proposals
Andrés Uriarte	AZTI, (Sp)	AZTI work on Pelagic ecosystem
Sigrídur Hjörleifsdóttir	MATIS, (Is)	Genetics
Jörn Schmidt	vTI-OSF-IFM-GEOMAR (Ger)	German expertise and possible cooperation
Maurice Heral	IFREMER (Fr)	Climate change and small pelagic: what we do and proposals.

#### 5. General discussion on How to work together

- Some noted the similarities with the Mediterranean collaborative programme on small pelagic fish and therefore possible duplication. The Secretariat will send the Malaga minutes (last Mediterranean collaborative programme Meeting) to all

participants and contact the Mediterranean collaborative programme leader to find gaps, synergies and possible areas for collaboration.

- The point was raised of the necessity to avoid duplication with other related EU-funded projects.
- To develop a collaborative programme, participants discussed how the national projects could be linked and what areas would be most valuable for collaboration. Some participants favoured a regional focus, others viewed the thematic focus as important to bring together not only researchers on common regions or species but also researchers of common approaches, instruments or methodologies. Existing work would form the framework of the overall programme, and any additional or new work would aim to focus on cross-cutting themes.
- All participants agreed on the benefits and advantages of WP7 inter alia awareness of the work done in other countries besides the usual fisheries commissions experts (ICES, GCFM etc...), professional contacts with mutually unexpected researchers, logistic facilities given (in terms of funds for meetings), strong political support by the EU Commission and National Funders (Ministries), and possibilities to interact not found in other fora. For instance, for Spain, the IEO would be very interested in comparing the data gathered on small pelagic fish in surveys in the north of the Bay of Biscay with their own data from the south.
- A three step collaboration was agreed: exchange of information, find synergies and common research areas where value could be added by collaboration, and develop new hypotheses for future jointly submitted proposals to open calls.

**Action 2:** Secretariat of the JMC to send the last Mediterranean collaborative programme meeting -the Malaga report- to all partners

## 6. General overview of MoU

Cristóbal Suanzes presented an overview of the future MoU to be signed in the very near future by interested partners, describing the organizational structure as the Joint Management Committee (JMC), to be chaired by Pilar Pereda (IEO) and the Scientific Committee (SC), to be chaired by Miguel Bernal (IEO), with support provided by Cristóbal Suanzes (IEO) on both. Communication would primarily be via email, with meetings held jointly where possible.

**Action 3:** Cristóbal Suanzes to draft MoU and circulate it to all Marifish partners before next meeting

## 7. Technical Annex: Goals, objectives, potential candidate research themes, candidate key species and areas already identified

Partners developed, as a key delivery of the meeting, a list of potential candidate research themes for possible collaboration through an open general scientific discussion over the collaborative programme road map. This list (see below) will be included, after more debate, in the Technical Annex in the future MoU for consideration as the details of the project are developed.

## **TECHNICAL ANNEX:**

### General Goal

Gain understanding of the effects of climate variability on small pelagic fish.

### Objectives:

- Analyse changes in the biology, life cycles and distribution of the main small pelagic fish species (BIOLOGY).
- Analyse changes in the pelagic ecosystem (ECOLOGY).
- Simulate potential variability of the pelagic community under different scenarios of combined human pressure and climate variability (MODELLING).
- Identify options for management of small pelagic fish communities taking into account their ecosystems given different climate scenarios (MANAGEMENT).

### Potential Candidate research themes:

- Habitat modelling, spatio-temporal patterns, and stock structure
- Recruitment processes and drivers.
- Ecological and trophic interactions.
- Conceptual models of the pelagic ecosystem *inter alia* in support of management
- Variability in ecosystem carrying capacity and energy transfer.
- Coupling the required components to produce end-to-end pelagic ecosystem models; hydrodynamic, lower trophic levels, pelagic fish community, top predators, and fishers.
- Linking the above in a management context.

### Candidate key species and areas already identified:

- *Species:* sardine, herring, anchovy, mackerel, sprat,
- *Areas:* Northeast Atlantic, Baltic Sea, Celtic Sea, North Sea, English Channel, Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Iberian peninsula, North Aegean Sea.

**Action 4:** Cristóbal Suanzes to contact Sigridur Hjorleifsdottir by email (not present the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the meeting) to give details on the process of elaboration of the technical annex and request wording for insertion of other objectives and potential candidate research fields if needed.

## **8. Future meetings and timetable:**

The next meeting of the Scientific Committee of this collaborative programme will take place in Madrid on 8 and 9 January 2009. The results of this meeting especially in terms of future plans will be submitted for discussion and approval at the WPMG4 meeting in Faro, Portugal, in March 2009.

**LIST OF ANNEX:** (presentations during the meeting):

- Annex 1. MICINN\_strategic\_vision\_ERA\_VGonzalez.pdf
- Annex 2. MariFish WP 7&8\_CSuanzes.pdf
- Annex 3. WP7\_CLIMATE\_MBernal Proposal.pdf
- Annex 4. WP7\_CLIMATE\_IPIMAR\_YStratoudakis.pdf
- Annex 5. WP7\_CLIMATE\_CEFAS\_BRoel.pdf
- Annex 6. WP7\_CLIMATE\_HCMR\_CostasP.pdf
- Annex 7. WP7\_CLIMATE\_IEO\_MBernal.pdf
- Annex 8. WP7\_CLIMATE\_AZTI\_AUriarte.pdf
- Annex 9. WP7\_CLIMATE\_vTI-OSF-IFM-GEOMAR\_JSchmidt.pdf
- Annex 10. WP7\_CLIMATE\_IFREMER\_PPertigas.pdf