



Project no. 025989

**MARIFISH**

Coordination of European Marine Fisheries Research Programme

Instrument: FP6

Thematic Priority: ERA-NET

## **Interim Report for Months 37-42**

Period covered: from 16/01/2009-15/07/2009

Date of preparation: 09/09/2009

Start date of project: from 16/01/2006

Duration: 60 months

Project coordinator name: John Lock

Project coordinator organisation name: Defra

Version 1

## **Section 1 – Project objectives and major achievements during the reporting period**

During this interim period good progress has been made on a number of fronts. The Work Package Management Group met in Faro, Portugal. An optional visit was arranged to observe first-hand the research that was being undertaken at IPIMAR's aquaculture laboratory. Responses to the WP8 call for proposals were received and evaluated, and three proposals selected for funding. The collaborative programmes under WP7 continue to make progress and the draft report for Knowledge Management has been received.

Two new activities were discussed at the Faro meeting: Task 8.13 MariFish workshop based around the WP8 research funded through the common pot and Task 1.12: Enhanced Communication Plan. Subject to approval from the Commission (now granted) these two new tasks will be added to the work plan.

The following deliverables were completed during the reporting period.

## **Section 2 – Workpackage progress over the period**

### **Workpackage 1 – Programme Management**

Following the submission of the RP2 report The Secretariat has been liaising with the Commission Project Officer regarding any missing details.

The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Work Package Management Group was hosted by Portugal, at Faro. Discussions focussed on the following items:

- A review of spend to date with the aim of identifying savings to fund new tasks.
- An update from WP7 programme leaders, and a proposal from Ireland for the final collaborative programme on ecosystem indicators.
- A summary of proposals received following the closure of the WP8 call on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March, and the budgetary request.
- An interim presentation on Knowledge management
- A discussion on two new tasks, one to enhance communication and the second to hold a WP8-related workshop in 2010.
- A presentation from Jacques Fuchs from the Commission on FP7 and how to further raise the profile of MariFish

Deliverable 1.11 – Knowledge Management in Fisheries Science and Policy. Draft report received and commented on by Coordinator. (Final Report received 29/07/09, circulated to partners and placed on web). The overall aim of this task was to examine the broad topic of 'knowledge management' and consider what practices partners need to adopt in order to access and use existing and future knowledge. The report lists a number of key factors that need to be taken into account when seeking to adopt better KM practice. The report sets out nine 'golden rules' of KM and a number of suggested actions that partners can take to embed good KM practice in their work.

New Task 1.12 MariFish Communication Plan. The overall aim of the plan is to help increase the profile of MariFish to external stakeholders. Building on the initial work carried out in D1.5 'Communication Strategy', the plan includes making the outputs from MariFish more accessible through the circulation of concise summary papers, updating progress through regular newsletters, giving presentations at key meetings, and holding a key event at the 2010 ICES Annual Science Conference.

### **Workpackage 2 – Best Practice – COMPLETE**

### **Workpackage 3 – Existing collaboration - COMPLETE**

### **Workpackage 4 – Socio-Economic Research – COMPLETE**

### **Workpackage 5 – National research programme analysis**

The new project database, found at <http://marifish.addition.pt/index.jsp>, was demonstrated at WPMG 4. Partners were urged to forward details of active projects to Partner 5 (Germany) to make the database more comprehensive.

### **Workpackage 6 – Analysis of research topics - COMPLETE**

### **Workpackage 7 – Collaborative shared research projects**

#### Towards adopting an ecosystem based approach for fisheries management in the Channel

Common access to VMS data, which is essential for a comprehensive picture of fishing effort and environmental impacts in the Channel, is still not achievable. Although UK data is available further progress is still needed by France and Belgium to make their data available. The French vessel data is available only to Ifremer at this stage. Further work is needed to allow access by non Ifremer scientists. The next step will be to harmonise the data with the UK and Belgian data. To help make progress on this Partner 7 (France) is organizing a meeting with the MariFish co-ordinator, the MariFish WP7 leader, the VMS data experts of CEFAS, Ifremer and ILVO and a representative of the French Department for Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture from the Ministry of Agriculture and fisheries. The meeting will discuss VMS Data exchange within the framework of MariFish and the EU project CHARM 3, develop common approach and methodology to use these data for calculating fishing effort and environmental impacts for the different métiers. The Co-ordinator has written to the Belgian authorities requesting the data to be made available.

#### Reductions of by-catch and discards

Following on from the MariFish meeting in Lyon in October collaboration has been taken forward on a number of fronts, and through a number of routes including Commission-related meetings, sea trials, and conferences. Scientists from the UK (Cefas) and Denmark have been carrying out sea trips investigating the potential use of cameras for monitoring discards; Belgium (ILVO) has set up a project demonstrating the potential of electro-fishing on a Dutch vessel, and there is interest also from Germany; T90 development work led by Poland (SFI) also involves interests from Belgium, France, Germany, and Norway.

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

During this reporting period progress has been made on three major priority areas: data sharing, mapping and modelling. The partners have agreed to build a common historical database based on the data collected during the MEDITS project implementation since 1994. The partners have identified three aspects that need to be resolved - (a) the availability of the data, (b) the availability of a standard exchange format and (c) the agreement between partners for the building of the common data base. To address this the partners have agreed on a statement of free access to the MEDITS data. On mapping the abundance of small pelagic species, it was decided to implement this through a series of 3 workshops focusing on the following 3 themes: (a) Identification of anchovy and sardine habitat using satellite data, (b) Temporal variation in Essential Fish habitat (EFH) and (c) species environmental preferences. On trophic modelling of demersal fisheries the partners agreed to organize a common action to compare the efficiency, precision and realism of the different trophic models already developed for the Mediterranean ecosystems.

## Influence of climate on fish biology and population dynamics

The objectives of this collaborative programme include analysing changes in the biology, life-cycles and distribution of the main small pelagic fish species, analyse changes in the pelagic ecosystem, and identify options for management of these stocks. One of the highlights so far of this collaborative programme is the creation of a website dedicated to the CLIMAFISH joint programme. Future collaborative tasks discussed at a meeting on 8/9 January included coordination between countries to organise the different surveys in the Biscay Gulf, and collaborate on trophic web model development.

## The use of indicators to support an ecosystem approach to fisheries management

A kick-off meeting was held in Dublin on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of April. Four keynote presentations were given, one each by France (Indicators as a Monitoring Tool), Ireland (Using Indicators for Irish Inshore Fisheries), Netherlands (Non-Fisheries Indicators), and the United Kingdom (Status and Future Directions of Indicators). These helped set the scene for the later country/partner presentations and especially so for the dialogue on what this virtual project could achieve in its short timeframe. In the country presentations, the speakers from each country provided comprehensive summaries of what they and their colleagues were involved in nationally with regard to indicator work for fisheries management, naturally focusing on their own involvement, but nevertheless managing to provide a flavour of the massive amount of research effort currently being devoted to the subject. From the sheer amount of effort being devoted Europe-wide, it is likely that this WP7 project could be viable, as long as strong leadership of the topics ultimately decided upon is provided.

The outcome of the meeting was that a follow-up get-together would be held in association with the ICES Annual Science Conference if possible (again to be chaired by Ireland), but that prior to that, Ireland would circulate minutes, including project objectives, and perhaps also a draft MoU for consideration and hopefully signature, to all MariFish countries, including those that were not represented in Dublin this time. The focus for the project will be on deep-sea ecosystems and close-inshore fisheries.

## **Workpackage 8 – Ten year forward look**

Marifish launched its call for proposals on 15 December 2008 with a closing date of 2 March 2009. Nine partners – Cyprus, Denmark, France, Greece, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Spain and UK (Defra) – committed a total of just over €4 million to the “virtual common pot”.

Six proposals were received and following peer review by a panel of international experts the MariFish partners agreed to fund the following three projects:

**REPROdUCE:** Understanding recruitment processes using coupled biophysical models of the pelagic ecosystem. This project is led by the Spanish institute Espanol de Oceanographia (IEO) and involves research teams from Greece (HCMR), France (IFREMER) and AZTI also from Spain.

**BADMINTON:** Bycatch and discards: management indicators, trends and location. This project is led by the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) and involves research teams from France (IFREMER), the Netherlands (IMARES), Spain (IEO), UK (Cefas), Denmark (IFM and DTU-AQUA) and Iceland (MATIS).

**Definelt:** Developing fisheries management indicators and targets. This project is led by the Danish Technical University (DTU-AQUA) and involves research teams from the UK (Cefas, IC, USTAN), Netherlands (IMARES), Norway (IMR), Greece (HCMR), Iceland (MRI) and INE also from Denmark.

The total budget provided through the MariFish ‘common pot’ amounts to €3.96m. An additional €1.7m is being made available by a number of partners through co-financing.

New task: T 8.13 Strengthening the links between fisheries science and management: A MariFish workshop examining the development of operational fisheries indicators for future management plans. The overall of the workshop is to learn about the preliminary results emerging from the research funded through the ‘common pot’, and discuss potential application for fisheries management.

### **Section 3 – Consortium management**

Management activity during this reporting period has fallen into the following main areas of work:

- Presenting a summary to partners of actual spend against budget at the end of Year 3 and discussing options for new work.
- Working with the Commission Financial Officer following submission of RP2 report to try to ensure rapid release of funds.
- Developing two new project tasks: Task 8.13 a workshop based around the WP8 research funded through the common pot, and Task 1.12: Enhanced Communication Plan. Seeking agreement and support from Partners (and now approved by the Commission).

## **Section 4 –Other issues**

### **Networking and dissemination**

The tables below summarise the dissemination and networking activities undertaken during this period and planned in the future.

**Table 1 Networking:**

<b>Meeting name</b>	<b>Date held</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
MariFish 4th WPMG meeting	9-10 Mar 09	Faro, Portugal	To discuss progress on WP7, develop the call for WP8 and discuss 1.11.	Ivan C-A, MariFish partners.
Mediterranean meeting 4	2-3rd April 09	Corsica	Med meeting - sub regional project progress discussed	
WP8 Peer Review Panel meeting	6 May 09	Copenhagen	Panel meet to discuss ratings for proposals and provide comments.	Peer Review Panel (international scientists)
WP8 Call Committee meeting	19 May 09	Copenhagen	Call Committee meet to make final decision on proposal selection.	Call Committee (MariFish partner representatives)
WP8 working group for 2010 Workshop	1 <sup>st</sup> July	Copenhagen	To plan the 2010 Workshop on indicators Partners 1 and 8	
<b>Future/Planned meetings</b>				
MariFish 5th SC meeting	21-22 Sept 09	Berlin, Germany	5 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee	MariFish partners.
WP7 collaborative programme leaders	21-22 Sept 09	Berlin, Germany	Discussion with scientists on strengths and weaknesses of WP7 activity, how to enhance collaboration, expected outcomes etc	MariFish partners and WP7 scientists
Discards meeting 3	Sept 09	Cadiz, Spain	To discuss developments and encourage greater collaboration.	All Discards members (scientists and managers)
Mediterranean Collaborative Programme	Oct-Nov 09	Greece	WP7 Collaborative programme	Greece, France, Spain
WPMG5 meeting	Feb/March 10	?	To be decided at SC 5	MariFish partners
SC6	21-25 Sept 2010?	Nantes, France?	6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee Review WP7 progress Review WP8 progress Review progress of any new tasks funded from un-allocated budgets.	MariFish Partners

**Table 2 Dissemination:**

Planned/ actual dates	Type	Type of audience	Countries addressed	Size of audience	Partner responsible /involved
Jan-09	Presentation to Defra directorate on MariFish progress	Defra Directorate	UK	100	P1
4 during 2008-see coordination activities	A series of meetings were attended that aimed to develop a Marine ERA-NET for FP7.	ERA-NET participant country representatives	International level	25-30	Several partners
Feb-09	Publication of article in Defra's 'Landscape' magazine to highlight MariFish's discard work	All of Defra's 3000 staff	UK	3000	P1
1 June-09	Presentation to ICES on MariFish progress	ICES	International	4	P1
August/September	Preparation of Newsletter and summary sheets	Stakeholders, including scientists, policy makers, managers	International		P1
Sept -09	Poster and hand-outs	Scientists	International	3,000	All MariFish partners

**Table 3: List of Deliverables (months 37-42)**

*(Any changes made to the original deliverables set out in the Description of Work have been highlighted in yellow for ease of reference. Highlights in green show changes to deliverables)*

This table includes deliverables that were not finalised in the previous reporting period.

Del. no	Deliverable name	Del. date	Actual date due	Date delivered
D8.6	Detailed description of the research topics of the jointly funded programme for call 2 Cancelled. One call held in 2008.	37	15/02/09	Cancelled

New D1.11	Report on Knowledge Management Rescheduled to April 2009.	31 39	15/08/08 15/03/09	29/07/09
D8.7	Finalised administrative framework for the common call for proposals	42	15/07/09	
D8.8	Text of main call for proposals (call 2) Cancelled. One call held in 2008.	42	15/07/09	Cancelled
D8.9	Report on evaluation of monitoring process for pilot call	42	15/07/09	
D8.13	Workshop report of progress of fishery management indicator projects	58	14/11/10	