



*SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION TO SUPPORT  
RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES IN THE ADRIATIC SEA*

**MiPAAF**

Food and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of the  
United Nations

Italian Ministry  
of Agriculture  
Food and  
Forestry  
Policies

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AdriaMed

GCP/RER/010/ITA

Report of the Tenth Meeting of the AdriaMed  
Coordination Committee

Chioggia, Italy, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009

The conclusions and recommendations given in this and in other documents in the *Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea* Project series are those considered appropriate at the time of preparation. They may be modified in the light of further knowledge gained in subsequent stages of the Project. The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of FAO or MiPAAF concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or concerning the determination of its frontiers or boundaries.

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Preface

The Regional Project “Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea” (AdriaMed) is executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and funded by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies (MiPAAF). The DG-Fish of the European Commission co-funded the project from April 2007 to March 2008.

AdriaMed was conceived to contribute to the promotion of cooperative fishery management between the participating countries (Republics of Albania, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia), in line with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries adopted by the UN-FAO.

Particular attention is given to encouraging and sustaining a smooth process of international collaboration between the Adriatic Sea coastal countries in fishery management, planning and implementation. Consideration is also given to strengthening technical coordination between the national fishery research institutes and administrations, the fishery organizations and the other relevant stakeholders of the Adriatic countries.

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## GCP/RER/010/ITA Publications

The AdriaMed Project publications are issued as a series of Technical Documents (GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-00) and Occasional Papers (GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-00) related to meetings and research organized by or conducted within the framework of the Project.

Occasionally, relevant documents may be translated into national languages as AdriaMed Translations (GCP/RER/010/ITA/AT-00).

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## Preparation of this document

This document is the final version of the Report of the Tenth Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee, organised by the FAO-AdriaMed Project (*Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea*) in Chioggia, Italy, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

### Acknowledgements

The Ministry of Agriculture Food and Forestry Policies which provided kind hospitality and assistance in the organization of the Meeting, is gratefully acknowledged.

AdriaMed.

Report of the Tenth Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee. Chioggia, Italy, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

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### **ABSTRACT**

The Tenth Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the FAO AdriaMed Regional Project “Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea” was held in Chioggia, Italy, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009. It was attended by representatives of the Project’s participating countries (Albania, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro, and Slovenia) and other interested parties. The meeting sought to present and discuss the results of the activities carried out by the Project referring to the 2008. The activities followed the methodological approach used by the Project and were presented according to the three main components that are: the Adriatic Fishery resources, the Adriatic social and economical fishery sciences and the Adriatic fishery statistics and information systems. The document “Project Future Implementation” was illustrated and the Committee agreed on the programme of activities proposed. In addition some additional specific suggestions for the next intersessional period of implementation were formulated by the meeting.

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## Report of the Tenth Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee

Chioggia, Italy 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009

### **Opening of the meeting and election of the Chairman (Agenda Item n.1)**

1. The Tenth Coordination Committee Meeting of the FAO Regional Project AdriaMed “Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea” was held in Chioggia, Italy 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009.
2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Donor, delegations from the countries participating in the Project (the Republics of Albania, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia), the GFCM Deputy Executive Secretary, the GFCM Aquaculture Officer, a Representative from the European Commission, a representative of FAO FIMF and of the FAO MedSudMed Project, as well as the Fishery Officer of the FAO AdriaMed Project.
3. Dr Plinio Conte was elected as Chair for this Tenth AdriaMed Coordination Committee Meeting. He welcomed all the participants on behalf of the Government of Italy and recalled the relevance Italy has given to the Mediterranean scientific cooperation on fisheries. The support that the Italian government provides to the FAO Mediterranean regional projects and to AdriaMed in particular is considered highly significant in consolidating these activities. He acknowledge the role of the FAO projects in the development of fisheries science in the Mediterranean and, in particular, the AdriaMed project for its invaluable help in conducting pioneer activities related to the sustainable responsible fisheries in the Adriatic Sea.
4. He expressed satisfaction regarding the quality of the documentation presented by the Project, which reflect the success of the activities of regional cooperation being achieved thanks especially to the partnership fostered among the Adriatic Sea countries. Furthermore, he underlined that such strong collaboration has laid the foundation for long standing future cooperation.
5. The Delegations echoed the appreciation expressed by the Italian Representative in thanking the AdriaMed Project for its work.
6. The FAO AdriaMed Officer Ms Nicoletta Milone took the floor and thanked the Italian authorities for hosting the meeting. She welcomed the Delegations, recalling that the meeting is taking place after ten years the Project activities began in 1999 however the Project is increasingly called upon to give answers and provide support to new challenging topics on fishery science. She recalled to the representatives that a preliminary meeting to this Committee took place at the beginning of January with all the AdriaMed National Focal Points with the specific purpose of preparing this meeting and drafting the priorities and workplan for the future. She expressed the hope that the work carried out jointly would contribute to the optimization of the two

days' Coordination Committee work. She then drew the Meeting's attention to the documents provided to support the Committee.

7. The Albania Delegation offered its thanks to the Project for the many fields of intervention covered in the context of its implementation. Above all the significance of the Adriatic Sea countries cooperating under a common umbrella was underlined.
8. The Croatian Delegation reiterated the gratitude expressed towards the Project and its staff for the work carried out since the Project began. It was underlined that although science is the foundation stone for fisheries management, socio economic issues are also important, emphasising the need to manage fishers as well as resources, aspects that are amply covered in the AdriaMed activities.
9. The representative of Montenegro thanked the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies for hosting the meeting and the AdriaMed Project for the support given to the countries as it provided a chance for cooperation with other institutions in the Adriatic area.
10. The Slovenian Representative thanked the Italian authorities for the kind hospitality, in particular the Ministry of Agriculture Food and Forestry Policies and mentioned of some important tasks and issues where Slovenia is concerned in the framework of AdriaMed.

#### **Adoption of the Agenda (Agenda Item n. 2)**

11. The Agenda was presented to the Coordination Committee. The Chair invited the participants to offer any comments. The Agenda was adopted with no changes.

#### **Report on the Project's Progress (Agenda Item n.3)**

12. The AdriaMed Project Officer introduced this point of the agenda and the document "Report on the intersessional activities of the Project", in which most of the activities carried out by AdriaMed from January 2008 to January 2009 are presented. The activities described concern the established work programme agreed on during the ninth Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee, held in Zagreb, Croatia, in December 2007 and the requests formulated by the 10<sup>th</sup> GFCM SAC (Nicosia, Cyprus, October 2007).
13. A brief reminder was given on the Project objectives, activities and the results achieved. On the basis of the main AdriaMed components, a detailed presentation was then made on the progress of the Project.
14. The Committee was informed that relations and interactions with the participating countries were further strengthened and the Project continued to provide technical

support to the research institutes as well as other institutions involved in fisheries activities or fisheries Directorates. The communication and information system of the Project was further updated, as well as the AdriaMed web pages. The databases available on line were upgraded as was the application AdriaMed Trawl Surveys Information System (ATrIS). The FAO MedSudMed Project was also assisted in the creation of a regional web interface for its Fishery and Ecosystem Information System (FEIS).

15. The Meeting was informed on the progress made on the sub regional fisheries monitoring systems, both for small pelagic and for demersal resources. The Project organized the annual WG on shared demersal fisheries resources and the WG on small pelagic fishery resources. The main outcome of the meetings was the review of the scientific information available that can be provided to the GFCM SAC SCSSA, the update of the priority list of species and shared stocks in the Adriatic Sea and thorough discussions on specific activities to be implemented.
16. The meeting was informed about the additional results obtained during surveys at sea organized during the intersessional period. The study area of the SOLEMON Project was extended to Slovenian, Montenegrin and Albanian waters, thus allowing for valuable results on the location of high concentration areas of *Solea solea* spawning females and recruits. Moreover, a deep sea survey was carried out on board the M/P Andrea of the LMBF in the Southern Adriatic, making it possible to obtain preliminary information on deep sea fishery resources, habitats and biodiversity. Finally, a joint, cooperative ichthyoplankton and acoustic survey was carried out in cooperation between Albania, Montenegro and Italy.
17. As regards stock assessment methods, the meeting was informed that the Project supported activities related to method comparison and produced stock assessments that were presented at the GFCM SAC-SCSSA. An assessment of *Merluccius merluccius* produced with two methods was carried out in the GSA 18 (empirical indicators and SURBA method). Moreover, in cooperation with MedSudMed, the Coordinating Team on echo-survey carried on the comparison work on acoustic data processing methods used by the ISMAR-CNR and the IOF.
18. The Project also produced a compilation of information dealing with the biology, population dynamics and stock assessment of small pelagic fish in the Adriatic Sea, with the cooperation of Adriatic research institutions. The review also includes economic and fishery data taken from the bibliography.
19. Training activities were also carried out during the intersessional period. On-the-job training was organized during the surveys at sea and *ad hoc* training courses were held on issues such as the use of the Echoview software for the processing of acoustic data (Ancona, May 2008). As a result, a manual on the use of the software was produced.

20. In the field of socio-economics, a pilot study to support the fisheries sector of Montenegro was designed with the aim of implementing a monitoring system for Montenegrin fisheries sector and was carried out in cooperation with the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor, the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Water Management of Montenegro (Fisheries Directorate) and the IREPA (Italy). The Project has designed and created a database to hold and manage the data collected from socio-economic surveys, the AdriaMed Database on fisheries social surveys version 1.1 (AdriaMed DBS). The database includes information retrieved from the social survey carried out in Albania in 2003 and was customized to host the data collected in Montenegro.
21. Regional and International cooperation was strengthened. Contributions were brought to GFCM, both in terms of support provided to experts and in terms of scientific contributions. Scientific results obtained within the AdriaMed activities were presented at the GFCM Sub Committees and the Project supported the compilation of the GFCM Task 1 for GSA 17. Whenever possible, joint activities were organized in collaboration with the other FAO Regional Projects Copemed II and MedSudMed.
22. The Project described the steps taken on management issues such as Operational Units, the identification of pilot schemes and finally, the meeting was reminded that the collection of updated information on fisheries legislation in the Adriatic Sea undertaken in cooperation with the administrations of the countries involved and is available on the website.
23. The Representative of Montenegro thanked the Project for the wealth of activities carried out, which have been an opportunity for the development of both scientific and administrative aspects of the Montenegrin fisheries sector. He recalled the importance of the support provided which gave Montenegro the opportunity to participate in and carry out important scientific activities, and this year Montenegro officially joined the GFCM.
24. The Committee members expressed their general satisfaction with the activities carried out and commented that the briefing provided by the Project made evident the amount of scientific achievements compared with the given objectives of each scientific programme. In particular the scientific activities carried out on small pelagics were acknowledged, both in terms of their current state and the future options and actions to be considered for sustainability and continuity also under a national execution scheme.
25. The GFCM Deputy Executive Secretary expressed his appreciation to the Project for its continued contribution to the GFCM in terms of the presentation of the results of Project activities in the relevant fora.
26. While satisfaction was expressed by the EC representative for the considerable efforts of the Project in the intersessional period, he asked about the progress made on the Jabuka/Pomo Pit issue.

27. The Committee was then reminded of the work carried out so far by the Project on this sensitive issue. The scientific evidence collected by the Adriatic experts over the years, and presented on several occasions (some previous Coordination Committee meetings) was summarized in a technical paper proposed by scientific experts and presented to the Countries during the 8<sup>th</sup> AdriaMed Coordination Committee meeting (Albania, December 2006). The paper represented a synthesis of the analysis of the scientific available information on the area; some proposals for fisheries management were included. During the 9<sup>th</sup> Coordination Committee meeting (Zagreb 2007), the delegations reiterating the relevance of this area and agreed that, on the basis of the existing scientific information, fine tuning on some specific technical aspects such as the dimensions of the areas, should be discussed among the Adriatic experts through the AdriaMed Working Group (WG) on demersal resources. As follow up, during the WG on demersal fisheries resources (Montenegro, June 2008) it was agreed that a team of Adriatic experts involved in this issue so far would meet jointly under the umbrella of the AdriaMed Project, to elaborate a proposal on the feasibility of creating a protected zone in Pomo/Jabuka Pit area, indicating different management measures and their possible benefits. The issue of Jabuka/Pomo Pit was then reiterated during the 11<sup>th</sup> SAC session held in Marrakech, 13-16 December 2008.
28. The delegate of Italy underlined that, according to the newly adopted GFCM forms for the submission of proposals for Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRA), information on legislative, social and economic aspects are still missing for the Jabuka/Pomo Pit area, thus postponing the organization of the meeting to a date to be defined after this information has been collected/compiled by the interested parties. The delegate from Slovenia agreed with the need to further define some technical aspect on this issue.
29. The delegate from Croatia recalled how the Jabuka/Pomo Pit issue has already been discussed on several occasions in the last years in the AdriaMed framework. She recalled the characteristics, constraints and weakness of the areas as well as the biological features that indicated the Jabuka/Pomo Pit as a critical area for the management of fisheries activities in the Adriatic Sea from a biological, environmental and economic point of view. She reiterated the importance of having all the information needed available as soon as possible for the formulation of an FRA proposal.
30. The Committee was then reminded by the Deputy Executive Secretary of the GFCM that the Commission recommended two years ago for all the scientific information at regional level to be made available and channeled through its Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC); this also applies to the compilation of FRA proposals. He took as an example the proposal submitted to the 11<sup>th</sup> SAC meeting for the Gulf of Lions, which is based, inter alia, on the existing bibliographic evidence, in order to underline that, when scientific evidence exists, the lack of some information for the Jabuka/Pomo Pit need not prevent the submission of a new FRA in this area to the next SCME meeting (November-December 2009).

31. The former AdriaMed Project Coordinator, Mr Fabio Massa, intervened to emphasise that the strength of the achievements is due to the collaborative network established and also to the inter-project cooperation which exists. This latter is vital to optimise resources in activities. He stressed the importance of making available the large amount of scientific documentation produced by the Project so far.
32. The Chair thanked the Delegations for their contributions to the meeting. He underlined the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to the issues covered by the Project as a necessary condition for the countries to manage resources responsibly.

#### **Project Future implementation (Agenda Item 4)**

33. The document CC/10/03 “Project Future Implementation” was introduced by the AdriaMed Project Officer. It was underlined that the proposed work plan for the future period aims to consolidate the achievements of the past years and provide technical assistance at national and regional level.
34. The presentation focused on priority issues and activities, taking into account the objectives and results achieved so far, mainly in 2008, the recommendations received during the 9<sup>th</sup> Coordination Committee meeting and the scientific cooperation established in the framework of the GFCM. Furthermore, the document includes the suggestions resulting from the AdriaMed internal meeting of the National Focal Points held at FAO HQ, Rome, on 12 January 2009, which was organized to hold preliminary discussions of the work programme for the coming period.
35. Moreover, since the implementation of these activities is contingent upon the Project’s budget availability, during the internal meeting of the AdriaMed National Focal Points it was agreed to prioritize them according to their implication on the budget: those signed with double stars \*\* are the activities whose implementation should be considered low priority for the Project in financial terms.
36. The proposed activities were reported according to the main five outputs that represent the methodological framework of the project and were commented on by the delegates.
37. In relation to “Computerised communication networks and fisheries information systems”, the Delegate from Italy stressed the usefulness of improving contacts between Institutes using recent communications technology (voip, teleconferencing, etc). This would allow resources to be used more efficiently by reducing the number of meetings without reducing the communication between Institutes.
38. The meeting was also informed that the Fishery Country Profiles available on the AdriaMed web site are being updated and that they will be standardized among Regional Projects. However in order to avoid confusion with the FAO Fishery

Country Profiles it was suggested to rename the Regional Projects' Country Profiles, for example Country Fishery Information.

39. The Delegate from Montenegro reiterated the usefulness of ATrIS, including for reporting results to the Fisheries Administrations and he requested that a 2-3 day course be organized to strengthen the skills of scientists and technicians who regularly use this application.
40. The Delegate from Albania recalled the importance of the support provided by AdriaMed in cooperation with the MedFisis Project to the national fisheries statistics system and he underlined the need for Albania to finalize the artisanal fishing fleet register currently available at the Fisheries Directorate.
41. It was recalled that during the forthcoming AdriaMed WGs on small pelagic fishery resources and demersal fishery resources a joint stock assessment exercise should be carried out. In this regard, the GFCM Executive Deputy Secretary informed the meeting that during the last SAC session (Marrakech, Morocco, 1-5 December 2008), it was decided that, in addition to the joint stock assessment which should be undertaken during the WG, stock assessment can also be carried out at sub-regional scale within the Regional Projects and results can be presented directly at the SCSA. A close cooperation with the GFCM Secretariat is therefore advisable to make sure that the methods used are comparable with those used elsewhere. It was stressed that the results of stock assessment should be made available before the meeting of the SAC-SCSA. In this respect, the GFCM Deputy Executive Secretary informed the meeting that four thematic sub-groups were established within the SCSA WG on demersals (crustaceans, hake, red mullets, other demersal species).
42. The Committee stated that it was favourable to carry out joint stock assessment within the Project WGs. On the basis of data availability, research institutions will be called on for full support to these activities through the National Focal Points.
43. The Delegate from Croatia highlighted that the work on the identification of priority species and shared stocks carried out in GSA 18 was valuable and should be extended to GSA 17, as it would be an important contribution to the GFCM-SAC.
44. The GFCM Deputy Executive Secretary also recalled that there is a current SAC management proposal of a 45-day fishing closure in order to protect the sardine spawning stock in GSA 17. The interested Countries will be consulted on the period of the fishing closure before the next GFCM session (Tunis, Tunisia, March 2009).
45. The Delegate from Italy recalled that the SAC discussed the issue of the timing of data processing and urged the Countries to deliver the results of the 2008 surveys as soon as possible and to carry out joint stock assessment on sardine and anchovy.
46. Supporting this proposal, the Croatian Delegate stressed how crucial stock assessment is. The collection of information available in the countries is paramount for stock

assessment and the use of partial data is misleading. She underlined the importance of having the totality of information available.

47. The meeting agreed on the insufficiency of data for the application of VPA to evaluate sardine stocks in GSA 18, while echo survey data are available both for Albania and Montenegro. The meeting briefly discussed the possibility of rebuilding historical data. As a conclusion, it was agreed that the priority issue is to find out the real situation of the sardine stock in the Adriatic Sea and to have a general overview rather than isolated evaluations.
48. During the coming period, the work of the Coordinated team on echo-survey will be further supported and synergies should be sought with MEDIAS (EU initiative on MEDiterranean Acoustic Surveys).
49. The Committee agreed that more information should be provided on MEDIAS, such as detailed activities, regional coverage and funding possibilities, so as non-EU Countries work at arranging funding for echosurveys they wish to carry out. The forthcoming WG on small pelagic fishery resources will be the occasion to take stock of information available on the MEDIAS initiative.
50. The Italian Delegate underlined the importance of covering the whole area of distribution of sardine and anchovy, including the non-EU countries (Albania, Montenegro, Croatia) using the same protocols.
51. In this regard, the GFCM Deputy Executive Secretary recalled that GFCM is currently setting a regional protocol for surveys at sea and that the last SAC session invited all member countries to provide GFCM secretariat with detailed protocols so as to make progress on the preparation of a 1<sup>st</sup> draft regional protocol. Therefore he encouraged the AdriaMed participating countries to make available any protocol currently used in the Project area.
52. In relation to the possibility of organizing a joint international bottom trawl survey, the participants agreed that the countries should support surveys covering national waters whenever funds are available and that international support would be welcomed to extend the sampled areas. It was agreed that the forthcoming AdriaMed WG on demersal fisheries resources would be the right moment to take stock of the funds available, both at national and international level.
53. The participants agreed with the training activities proposed in the work-plan. They were also informed that joint training courses would be organized in cooperation with the other Mediterranean Regional Projects whenever there are common requests coming from the countries participating in AdriaMed, CopeMed II and MedSudMed. Furthermore, cooperation will be sought with the Mediterranean Regional Projects on topics of common interest. The Committee acknowledged the initiatives and recalled that the training activities should remain one of the relevant components of the Project.

54. With reference to the scientific investigation of deep waters, and following the positive results of the preliminary survey performed in August 2008, the possibility of supporting a second survey in the South Adriatic area, carried out jointly by the Adriatic research institutes involved in the Project, was briefly discussed. The delegate of Italy informed the Committee that the MiPAAF is going to support the test of new fishing equipment for deep sea scientific investigation on board of the M/P Andrea. The Committee welcomed the initiative and agreed that the Project could organize the deep sea survey in the South Adriatic Sea, after having received the results of the testing of the new equipment. The scientific results will be shared among the research institutes and the details of the survey will be agreed on during the next meeting of the Working Group of Demersal Fisheries Resources.
55. The meeting was reminded that two documents on demersal fishery resources were presented at the last Coordination Committee meeting (18-19 December 2007, Zagreb, Croatia). The documents include the information collected during the Adriatic trawl surveys carried out in the period 2001-2007 for GSA 17 and GSA 18. The two documents were written following different formats and there is a need to merge them into a single publication. The Committee agreed that the details of the documents should be further discussed during the forthcoming AdriaMed WG on demersal fishery resources.
56. Discussion was held on the possibility to support the SOLEMON Project again, which has been indicated by the National Focal Points meeting as a low priority activity, when budget availability is concerned. The representative of Croatia, in remarking on the appraisal of the work carried out so far, stated the need that activities planned for the following year period should be considered *vis a vis* the envisaged financial possibilities. The Committee therefore agreed that this activity should not be regarded as first priority and implemented once financial means are available.
57. The Committee discussed the possibility of alternative methodologies to be used to assess demersal fisheries resources (i.e. *Nephrops norvegicus*) by means of underwater burrow counting, giving additional data to compare with the trawl survey data. The possibility to at least experiment this method in the Pomo/Jabuka Pit area was proposed. Although considering relevant this kind of alternative stock assessment method, the Committee agreed that this activity could be discussed in the future upon budget availability.
58. The importance of carrying out social surveys was underlined by the Delegates from Montenegro and from Albania. The Committee considered the continuation of the pilot study in Montenegro with the collection of social data of high relevance for a better understanding of fishery in GSA 18. In addition, the pilot study will be carried out in Albania, thus allowing the collection of relevant information for the future fulfillment of GFCM data Task 1.3 and Task 1.4.
59. The Slovenian Delegate confirmed that the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of Slovenia will organize, in cooperation with AdriaMed, a workshop on socio-

economic data collection systems for fisheries management. The objective is to take stock of the current activities taking place in the Adriatic Sea and have an idea on the existing data collection schemes and the possibility of harmonizing them. The Delegate from Slovenia stressed the usefulness of such a workshop, as countries use different methods; she declared that May-June 2009 could be a suitable period to hold the seminar.

60. The Committee considered postponing the organization of a workshop on small scale fisheries in the Adriatic Sea to a later stage on the basis of funding availability. It was specified that any activity under this topic would be a continuation of a work started in 2003 within the AdriaMed Project.
61. With reference to the Pomo/Jabuka pit area, the Project's willingness to provide a forum for further debate was reiterated, thus facilitating cooperation. The Committee, in underlining the importance of having the Project's support on this issue, requested the Project to convene an *ad hoc* meeting, with the scientists involved so far, so as to draft scientific evidence on which to prepare the proposal of the FRA (Fishery Restricted Area).
62. Some discussion ensued on the importance of fixing deadlines, the Meeting was reminded that any proposals should be addressed to the GFCM SAC at least two months before the SAC Sub-Committee meetings. It was tentatively decided to hold the meeting back to back with the AdriaMed Working Group on Demersal Fisheries Resources. The timing of both the meetings should be defined accordingly.
63. The Project will support the establishing Centre for the Conservation of Marine Biodiversity at the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor. The Albanian Delegate acknowledged the initiative and expressed the willingness of Albania to cooperate with the Centre. The centre will support activities of restocking for stock enhancement, research and didactic activities in the coastal areas. Support will also be given to Albania on the aquaculture data collection based on the scheme discussed during the last CAQ session held in December 2008.
64. The Delegate from Montenegro recalled the relevance of aquaculture activities within the Adriatic Countries and acknowledged the initiative of the Project on aquaculture and stressed that in the next future more space should be given to aquaculture.
65. After thorough discussion and comment on the content of the Document CC/10/03, the Committee agreed on the programme of activities proposed and suggestions made by the participants for the coming period; some specific elements were pointed out with reference to some activities and related outputs. The activities will be carried out upon budget availability. In particular, the Committee stressed the importance of the following activities:
  - Carry out joint stock assessment during the AdriaMed WGs on demersal fishery resources in GSA 17 and 18

- Perform joint stock assessment during the AdriaMed WGs on small pelagic fishery resources in GSA 17 and 18
- Hold a workshop on socio-economic data collection
- Conduct a deep sea survey in the Southern Adriatic Sea
- Establish a socio-economic survey in GSA 18 (Albania and Montenegro)
- Organise training activities (benthos species identification, fish age reading, ATrIs)
- Arrange an *ad hoc* meeting on Jabuka/Pomo Pit
- Provide support to the Centre for the Conservation of Marine Biodiversity (in Montenegro)
- Support aquaculture production data collection (in Albania)

#### **Other matters (Agenda item n.5)**

66. The Project requested the confirmation of the National Focal Points, according to the Terms of Reference set out at the start of the Project and made available. The Meeting was reminded of the importance of this person for communication between the Countries and the Project on a daily basis, the need to reconfirm the persons identified by each country has arisen over recent months so as to ensure the continuation of this role. The Delegation of Montenegro will communicate the name of their Focal Point in the days following the meeting; the Delegations of Albania, Italy and Slovenia confirmed the current focal points. The Delegate of Croatia nominated Mr. Nedo Vrgoc.
67. The Slovenian delegation referred to some maps and other data in the documents distributed in the meeting and suggested the experts that they should avoid the use of any kind of maps and other data which have implication regarding unresolved territorial issues.
68. The Croatian delegate expressed her regret this issue has been brought up in this inappropriate scientific context.
69. The Committee was informed that the vacancy for the Project Coordinator position has been posted on the FAO web site until the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2009 and was invited to circulate this information as appropriate. The Committee highlighted the importance to have someone particularly experienced from the Projects areas.
70. In addition, the Committee was also recalled that the Italian Donor granted additional funds for the continuation of the Project activities until June 2010 and, in addition, the preparation of a Project proposal for a second phase of the Project has been requested.

The draft of the document will be based on the results of a technical review that will be implemented in the next months. The consultancy for the review will be prepared in consultation with the Adriatic countries.

71. The Committee was then reminded by the Deputy Executive Secretary of the GFCM that the Commission will move to the new headquarters in Rome and invited the countries to take into consideration the invitation, already expressed in the past, to host the regional Projects, at least those based in Rome, like AdriaMed, at the GFCM new premises.
72. The Delegates and Meeting participants expressed their thanks to the Italian authorities for having hosted the meeting in Chioggia.
73. Upon the kind invitation of the Montenegrin Delegation, the AdriaMed Coordination Committee will be a guest of the Republic of Montenegro for its next meeting, the opportunity was taken to further thank the Project, describing the inclusion of Montenegro in AdriaMed as a turning point for the country's fishery sector. The date and venue will be proposed in due time by the Project. This proposal was welcomed by the Meeting participants.

This report was adopted on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

**List of Participants****ALBANIA**

Roland Kristo  
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## Agenda

**1. Opening of the meeting and election of the Chairman**

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

**3. Report on the Project's progress**

*The main Project activities performed and the output achieved during the intersessional period will be presented to the Committee.*

**4. Project future implementation**

*The programme of the ongoing and scheduled activities for the next period will be dealt with, as well as possible future strategy and development of the Project. The participating countries will be asked to indicate/confirm the Project's National Focal Points.*

**5. Other matters**

## **Report on the intersessional activities of the Project**

### **Background**

This paper summarizes the main activities carried out by the Project AdriaMed between January 2007 and January 2008, including workshops, training, research activities and the technical assistance provided to the countries; as well as the cooperation established with the GFCM, the SAC and Sub-Committees and other relevant institutions. The work programme and recommendations of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee (Zagreb, Croatia, 12-13 December 2007) were implemented (CC/10/info 2).

The activities carried out during the inter-committee period were according to the methodological framework of the Project and its mandate for this phase. This report details the main outputs of the Project activities and the results achieved with direct reference to the following Project Objectives:

1. Strengthening of the sub-regional network by involving relevant institutions of the fisheries sector to follow up on aspects of scientific coordination and cooperation.
2. Supporting the establishment of a sub-regional fisheries monitoring system, based on standardized research methodologies.
3. Identification of management schemes to be applied on a pilot scale in selected zones towards strengthening the international and regional cooperation.
4. Supporting shared resource management decisions, including promotion of harmonised fisheries legislation.
5. Supporting the development of responsible mariculture, in particular for the enhancement of positive interaction between fisheries and aquaculture.

### **1. Strengthening of the sub-regional network by involving relevant institutions of the fisheries sector to follow up on aspects of scientific coordination and cooperation**

The relations and interactions with the participating countries were further strengthened, which contributed to the improved implementation of the Project activities.

#### **AdriaMed Information System (AIS)**

The AIS, which is available on the AdriaMed portal, has been updated and further consolidated in particular with respect to the existing AdriaMed online databases. A new section dedicated to the AdriaMed Trawl Survey Information System (ATrIS) was created as well as a routine to upload external data (in different format, e.g. pdf, .doc, .xls) to be added to the ATrIS dedicated web pages. The database containing the ASFA abstracts related to publication focused on the Adriatic Sea (updated to 2006) was upgraded to 2007.

### **AdriaMed Trawl Survey Information System (ATrIS)**

The updated version ATrIS, version 2.1, the computerized system developed to organize storage and undertake preliminary analysis of the data set available after the AdriaMed trawl survey is being distributed to all the AdriaMed institutes (17 Institutes and more than 20 experts are currently using ATrIS). This new version includes a module for the estimation of biological indicators as identified by the Adriatic researchers. Assistance to the Malta Centre for Fisheries Sciences (MCFS) to upload Maltese data into ATrIS has been provided. In addition, following a request expressed during the European Commission Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) Subgroup on the Mediterranean (SGMED-08-01) the application has been distributed to the SGMED experts for the estimation of biological indicators. The Project is continuing to improve this application.

### **Technical Support to the countries for the creation/updating of databases, Web pages and information systems**

The Project provided technical support for the upgrading of the Fishery Directorate of Albania Web pages (Ministry of Environment Forestry and Water Administration, (<http://www.dfishery.gov.al>).

### **Information on Aquatic and Fishery Sciences (ASFA)**

As one of the ASFA International Partners, the AdriaMed Project is continuing the activities carried out so far for the inclusion of Adriatic Scientific publications into the ASFA database, as well as supporting the collaboration centres created at the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (IOF) in Split, Croatia, and at the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor (Montenegro). In addition the Project is continuing to provide assistance to the FAO ASFA Secretariat. In the framework of this assistance, a five-day training course on ASFA input methodology was organized and carried out by AdriaMed staff at the newly established ASFA Partner in Egypt: the National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries of Alexandria (Egypt, 2 - 6 March 2008). A report summarizing the activities carried out and the records submitted to the ASFA publisher has been prepared and submitted to the ASFA Board Meeting (Norway, September 2008) (CC/10/info16).

### **AdriaMed Portal**

The AdriaMed Portal ([www.faoadriamed.org](http://www.faoadriamed.org)) has been updated and further improved. Over the last year, a monthly average of 18,000 users visited the AdriaMed Web site. Over 30,000 pages were visited each month and over 54,000 AdriaMed Technical Documents have been downloaded over the last seven years. The most recent Project publications have also been distributed through the Project's mailing list, which has 474 contacts including experts and institutions.

### **MedSudMed Fishery and Ecosystem Information System (FEIS)**

The Project supported the MedSudMed Project to develop a web interface of the regional component of the MedSudMed Fishery and Ecosystem Information System (FEIS). The regional component includes geo-referenced metadata concerning the information available in the Institutes that provided information. Metadata on the data entered in the AdriaMed Trawl Information System (ATrIS) were also incorporated in the FEIS.

## **2. Supporting the establishment of a sub-regional fisheries monitoring system, based on standardized research methodologies**

### **Demersal Fisheries Resources**

#### **Working Group on Shared Demersal Fisheries Resources**

A meeting of the AdriaMed Working Group on Demersal Fishery Resources in the Adriatic Sea was held at the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor (Montenegro), from 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008. The meeting was attended by researchers from the Adriatic fisheries research institutes involved in the Project and members from the AdriaMed networks. Staff from FAO regional Mediterranean Fisheries Projects also attended the meeting. The meeting dealt with specific technical issues related to demersal fisheries resources in the Adriatic Sea and informed the participants on the progress so far achieved by the AdriaMed project. In particular the Working Group reviewed the information available on demersal stocks and the support to provide to the GFCM SAC Sub Committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA) in the testing phase of the criteria for identification of priority species (thus tentatively creating a list of priority species) and in the assessment of the demersal fisheries stocks (in particular of *Merluccius merluccius*). Moreover, other specific activities to be implemented within the AdriaMed framework were discussed. Full details are available in the relative Meeting Memorandum (CC/10/info 9).

#### **SOLEMON Project**

In the framework of the activities related to the Demersal Fisheries Resources of the Adriatic, the Project continued to support the research programme “Stock Assessment of *Solea solea* in the northern and central Adriatic Sea and evaluation of the impact of the different fishing activities (SOLEMON)”. In February 2008 the programme, and consequently the associated survey, was extended from Italian and Croatian waters to include Slovenian, Montenegrin and Albanian waters. An “*ad hoc* meeting on data evaluation of the spatial distribution and abundance of common sole (*Solea solea*) in the Adriatic Sea (on the basis of the surveys carried out in 2007 and 2008)” was organized in cooperation with the Institute of Marine Sciences (CNR - ISMAR) of Ancona and held at their premises, 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2008. The results of this meeting, a joint analysis of the data that resulted from the surveys carried out from spring 2005 to autumn 2007, were presented during the GFCM-SAC/SCSA Working Group on Demersal Species (Turkey, September 2008) (CC/10/info 14).

#### **International bottom trawl survey in the Adriatic Sea**

The 6<sup>th</sup> AdriaMed bottom trawl survey foreseen for Winter 2007/2008 in GSA 17 (Croatian and Slovenian waters) and postponed to December 2008, was again postponed in the first weeks of January due to technical problems. A total of 40 sampling stations will be surveyed also thanks to the national financial contributions.

With reference to the document that gathers all the data collected during the AdriaMed trawl surveys (2001, 2002, 2004, 2005/2006 and 2007), as well as the western Adriatic data, two reports have been prepared: one for GSA 17 and one for GSA 18. Following the discussion held during the Working Group of Demersal Fisheries Resources (Kotor, Montenegro 18-19 June 2008) the WG agreed to finalize the document upon collection of suggestions and comments of all the Adriatic Institutes involved in the trawl surveys.

### **Deep Sea survey**

A scientific survey in the deep waters of the South Adriatic Sea was performed from 18 to 23 August 2008, in accordance with the request made during the 9<sup>th</sup> AdriaMed Coordination Committee meeting (Croatia, December 2007), and following the preliminary discussions on the survey's organization that were held in Trani (Italy) in April 2008 and in Kotor (Montenegro, AdriaMed Working Group on Demersal Fisheries Resources) in June 2008. The survey was carried out on board M/P "ANDREA" with a mixed Adriatic scientific crew. This preliminary survey mainly aimed to arrive at a better understanding of the existing habitats and species for biodiversity and ecological appraisal (CC/10/info 12).

### **Updating of the priority species and shared stocks lists**

The Project continued to provide support for the identification and listing of priority species and shared stocks in support of the GFCM activities. Further to a request formulated by the 9<sup>th</sup> GFCM SAC (October 2006) during the GFCM Sub Committee meeting on Stock Assessment (Kavala, September 2007) the Adriatic experts prepared and presented a list of possible criteria for the updating of the SAC priority species and shared stocks lists. On the basis of those criteria endorsed by the 10<sup>th</sup> GFCM SAC (October 2007) during the AdriaMed Working Group on Demersal Fisheries Resources (Montenegro, July 2008) the Adriatic experts agreed to prepare a paper to test the criteria in both the GSA 17 and GSA 18. A document was then prepared by the Adriatic experts of GSA 18 and presented during the GFCM SAC SCSA (Antalya, October 2008) proposing methodology to identify the priority species and shared stocks for the South Adriatic (GSA 18) (CC/10/info 5).

### **Stock Assessment**

With reference to the support provided by the Project to the GFCM - SAC SCSA in terms of stock assessment, a scientific contribution to compare two different methods for the stock assessment of hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) in GSA 18 (Southern Adriatic Sea) was prepared and presented at the GFCM-SAC/SCSA (Antalya, Turkey, 13-16 October 2008). Data from the 1996-2006 trawl surveys carried out in the GSA n°18 were analysed by using both Empirical Indicators and the SURBA method. The paper highlights the similarity of the results obtained with the application of the two methods (CC/10/info 6).

### ***Small Pelagic Fisheries Resources***

#### **AdriaMed Working Group on Shared Small Pelagic Fisheries Resources**

The AdriaMed Working Group (WG) on Small Pelagics took place on 17th June 2008 in Kotor (Montenegro) kindly hosted by the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor. The meeting was attended by researchers from the Adriatic fisheries research institutes involved in the Project and members from the AdriaMed networks. Staff from FAO regional Mediterranean Fisheries Projects also attended. The objectives of the meeting were mainly i) to review the knowledge and information on small pelagic stocks and to discuss the progress on monitoring activities with particular attention to the echo survey exercise; ii) to review the monitoring activities with particular attention to the newly established Coordinating Team on echo surveys in the Adriatic Sea. Moreover other specific activities to be implemented within the

AdriaMed framework were discussed. Full details are available in the relative Meeting Memorandum (CC/10/info 8).

### **Coordinated Team on echo-survey**

The project continued to assist the newly established Coordinating Team on echo surveys in the Adriatic Sea, whose work began in 2007. Further to the first training activity carried out in May 2007, a second one-week training activity to verify the feasibility of joint analysis of data on small pelagic fisheries resources from national echo surveys was organized in Ancona, 15-17 May 2008. During this training session, a step-by-step comparison of the methodologies used by the Institute for Oceanography and Fisheries of Split (IOF) and the CNR-ISMAR of Ancona was carried out, underlining the similarities and dissimilarities. The results of this activity were presented at the GFCM-SAC/SCSA (Antalya, Turkey, 13-16 October 2008) (CC/10/info 7).

### **Training activities on small pelagic fishery resources appraisal methods**

Following the numerous requests for training on this issue, and as follow-up to the meeting of the AdriaMed Coordinated Team on echo-survey in the Adriatic Sea, in cooperation with the ISMAR-CNR of Ancona the Project provided assistance for theoretical and onboard training activities for national staff from Montenegro and Albania during the acoustic surveys on R/V DALLA PORTA carried out in July 2008 in the South Adriatic Sea (national staff from Slovenia underwent training in Autumn 2007).

### **Technical Review on small pelagic fisheries resources of the Adriatic Sea**

After the collection and compilation of biological and economic data, population dynamic and stock assessment information, with the cooperation of the Adriatic Research Institutions, the Project is finalizing the technical document: “Small pelagic fish in the Adriatic Sea: sardine, *Sardina pilchardus* (Walbaum, 1792) and anchovy, *Engraulis encrasicolus* (Linnaeus, 1758), an ecological and fishery review” (CC/10/info 3).

### **Training course on the software “Echoview”**

Following the request formulated by the Coordinating Team on echo surveys in the Adriatic Sea, in cooperation with the MedSudMed Project AdriaMed organized a training course on the Echoview software, which is used to analyse acoustic data. The training course was held at the CNR - ISMAR, Ancona, 12-14 May 2008. The material used during the training was also used to prepare the AdriaMed Technical Document N. 24 “Hydroacoustic data processing for standard stock assessment using Echoview: technical manual (CC/10/info 4).

### **Acoustic and ichthyoplankton survey**

A joint acoustic and ichthyoplankton survey using R/V “Dalla Porta” covered South Adriatic waters (GSA18) was carried out thus extending the survey generally performed in Italian waters to Albania and Montenegro waters, in July 2008. The survey was implemented in cooperation with the CNR-ISMAR of Ancona (Italy) the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor (Montenegro) and the Agricultural University of Tirana (Albania). Taking advantage of the occasion, theoretical and onboard training activities were carried out during the acoustic survey for national staff from Albania and Montenegro. The preliminary results were presented at the GFCM-SAC/SCSA (Antalya, Turkey, 13-16 October 2008) (CC/10/info 13).

## **Socio-Economics**

### **Pilot study to support the fisheries sector in Montenegro**

The Project further supported a pilot study designed with the primary objective of implementing a monitoring system for the Montenegrin fisheries sector, including biological, environmental, economic and social information, applying the Operating Unit (OU) concept. The pilot study was carried out in cooperation with the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor and the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Water Management (Fisheries Directorate). The economic survey was performed in cooperation with IREPA (Italy). The collection of data was executed throughout 2008. The main purposes of the Pilot study are i) to build up a national monitoring system covering all the dimensions of fishing activities (social, biological and economic); ii) to provide a description of the main resources exploited and landed per fishing fleet segment; iii) to support the country in compliance with the requirements of the regional and sub-regional bodies in terms of fisheries resources monitoring, management and conservation. The preliminary results were presented during the GFCM SAC SubCommittee on Statistics and Information (Antalya, Turkey, 13-16 October 2008) (CC/10/info 12, /info11).

### **Workshop on socio-economic data collection systems for fisheries management**

In cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of Slovenia, the Project is organizing a workshop on socio-economic data collection systems for fisheries management, further to the specific request formulated by the countries during the 8<sup>th</sup> AdriaMed Coordination Committee (Albania, 2006). The workshop, without entering into specialised subjects, will describe the data collection systems on fisheries socio-economics currently in use in each Adriatic country and will be very practical, trying to address the problems faced by the Adriatic countries on this issue. The Workshop, planned for the 9-11 December 2008 was postponed to the first half of 2009 for unforeseen technical problems (CC/10/info 15).

### **AdriaMed Database on fisheries Social surveys data (DBS)**

The Project has designed and created a database to hold and manage the data collected from socio-economic surveys. The AdriaMed Database on fisheries social surveys version 1.1 (AdriaMed DBS) is a stand-alone application designed and produced for organizing, storing and undertaking the preliminary analysis of the data set available after the AdriaMed social survey of the fisheries sector in Albania (carried out in 2003). It is a simple and common tool to store and perform basic processing of the data collected during fisheries social surveys. AdriaMed DBS has been consolidated and customized for storing data collected in Montenegro. AdriaMed DBS was delivered to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Montenegro in May 2008. In addition, following a request formulated by a South African NGO, the application was delivered for use by a project that is developing socio-economic indicators in South Africa.

### **3. Identification of management schemes to be applied on a pilot scale in selected zones with the aim of strengthening the international and regional cooperation**

#### **Jabuka/Pomo Pit**

On the basis of the work carried out so far by the Project on Jabuka/Pomo Pit, some summary notes were prepared by the Adriatic experts and presented to the countries during the 8<sup>th</sup> AdriaMed Coordination Committee meeting<sup>1</sup>. The paper represented a synthesis of the analysis on the scientific available information on the area and some proposals for fisheries management were included. During the 9<sup>th</sup> Coordination Committee meeting (Zagreb 2007), the delegations reiterating the relevance of this area for the Adriatic demersal resources and agreed that, on the basis of the existing scientific information, fine tuning on some specific technical aspects, such as the dimension of the areas, should be discussed among the Adriatic experts through the AdriaMed Working Group (WG) on demersal resources. As follow up during the WG on demersal fisheries resources (Montenegro, June 2008) it was agreed that a team of the Adriatic experts involved so far in this issue will jointly meet, under the umbrella of the AdriaMed Project, to elaborate a proposal on the feasibility of creating a protected zone in Pomo/Jabuka Pit area, indicating different management measures and their possible benefits.

#### **Operational Units (OUs)**

Further to the work carried out on the identification of OUs in the Adriatic countries, and following the 2007 work plan approved by the 8<sup>th</sup> Coordination Committee and the activities to support the GFCM SAC, the Project started to update the information on OUs collected so far by the Adriatic countries (up to 2004) including Montenegro (who joined the AdriaMed Project in 2004).

For the GFCM-SAC Transversal Workshop on the Compilation of the GFCM Task 1 data (Morocco, July 2007), the AdriaMed experts tested the feasibility of obtaining a list of OUs for AdriaMed for the GSA 17, using the GFCM Task 1 tool. Consistency with the information requested by GFCM Task 1 was demonstrated and the main differences related to fleet segmentation and the economic data were underlined.

#### **Regional and International Cooperation**

Furthermore, a presentation was given on the FAO Regional Projects in the Mediterranean at the workshop organized by the Profet Policy Project (Marseille, France, 12-13 June 2008). This initiative is funded by the European Commission within the Sixth Framework Programme and aims at delivering information to aquaculture and fisheries stakeholders on the European policies and research efforts that affect their sectors. The Project intervened at: the seminar “Giornate di Incontri su Problematiche e su Aspetti Ambientali Sanitari e Gestionali della Pesca in Adriatico” (Trani, Italy, 1-2 April 2008) “Il dialogo tra scienza, sicurezza alimentare ed amministrazioni pubbliche per una migliore gestione delle risorse del mare e la tutela del cittadino” (Pescara, Italy July 2008) organized in the framework of the community initiative programme INTERREG IIIA Open Adriatic Sea Integrated System – OASIS Project.

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<sup>1</sup> Jabuka/Pomo Pit: a critical area for the Adriatic demersal fisheries resources. Scientific issues and management options. Summary Notes – FAO AdriaMed CC/08/info 10.

### **Strengthening the cooperation with the GFCM and other FAO Regional Projects**

In order to strengthen international and regional cooperation the Project interacts closely with the FAO Regional Project MedSudMed “Assessment and Monitoring of the Fishery Resources and Ecosystems in the Straits of Sicily”, with support provided on administrative matters, information technology and Web-site building, as well as other technical issues.

In addition, an outline of the AdriaMed activities was presented at the COPEMED II Inception Meeting, (Spain, June 2008) with the view of establishing cooperation between the two projects. Informal meetings were held with the COPEMED II Project Coordinator to fine tune the activities of the two Projects.

Cooperation was further sustained with the GFCM Secretariat and the GFCM Subsidiary bodies. AdriaMed continued to support the activities of the GFCM by funding the participation of 17 Adriatic experts in 6 GFCM meetings held in the intersessional period, and actively participated by providing scientific contributions for discussion. Further to a specific request of the GFCM-SAC the Project produced two scientific working papers thus contributing to the discussion on the testing of the criteria for the identification of priority species and shared stocks and on stock assessment of demersal species. The two scientific contributions presented at the GFCM SAC SubCommittee on Stock Assessment (Antalya 13-16 October 2008) are:

- 1) Identification of the priority species and shared stocks in the Mediterranean Geographical sub-area 18 (Southern Adriatic Sea);
- 2) Comparability of two different methods for the stock assessment of hake (*Merluccius merluccius* L.) in the Mediterranean Geographical Sub-Area 18 (Southern Adriatic Sea).

The Project actively participated and supported the participation of 18 Adriatic experts in the following GFCM meetings:

- 32<sup>nd</sup> session GFCM (Rome, Italy 25 - 29 February 2008)
- GFCM SAC Coordination Meeting of the Sub-Committees (CMSC) (Rome, Italy, March 2008)
- GFCM - Scientific Advisory Committee - SCSA Ad Hoc Workshop on Regional Fleet Register, FAO HQs, Rome (Italy) 12-14 May 2008
- GFCM - Scientific Advisory Committee - SCSA Training courses on methodologies for Stock Assessment, El Cairo (Egypt) 22-26 June 2008
- GFCM - Committee on Compliance (CoC) - Ad-Hoc Working Group on VMS as a MSC tool Rome, Italy 23 - 24 September 2008
- GFCM - Scientific Advisory Committee - SCSA/SCSA Workshop to refine the fleet segmentation (back to back with the SCSA), Antalya, Turkey 13 - 16 October 2008
- GFCM - Scientific Advisory Committee - SCSA/SCSA Working Group on Recreational Fisheries (back to back to the SCSA session), Antalya, Turkey 13 - 16 October 2008
- GFCM - Scientific Advisory Committee - Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information (SCSI) - 10th Session, Antalya, Turkey 13 - 16 October 2008
- GFCM - Scientific Advisory Committee - Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA) - 10th session, Antalya, Turkey 13 - 16 October 2008

- GFCM - SAC - Sub-Committee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS) - 9th Session, Antalya, Turkey 13 - 16 October 2008
- GFCM SAC Coordination Meeting of the Sub-Committees (CMSC) (Antalya, Turkey, 17 September 2008)
- GFCM - Scientific Advisory Committee – 11<sup>th</sup> session (Marrakech, Morocco 1-5 December 2008)
- GFCM - Committee on Aquaculture – 6<sup>th</sup> session (Tirana, Albania 17 - 19 December 2008)

#### **4. Supporting shared resource management decisions, including promotion of harmonized fisheries legislation**

In 2007 the Project started to collect updated information on the legislation on fisheries in the Adriatic Sea (up to September 2004) in cooperation with the administrations of the countries involved. The information has been finalised and made available online on the AdriaMed Web site. Upon agreement, an updated version of the AdriaMed Technical Document N.14 (rev.1) is being produced. Moreover the project began to expand and update the section related to Recreational Fisheries (RF), starting the collection of data in 2007 with the aim of preparing an overview of RF in the Adriatic Sea countries.

#### **5. Supporting the development of responsible mariculture, in particular for the enhancement of positive interaction between fisheries and aquaculture**

The Project supported the participation of experts to the 6<sup>th</sup> session of the GFCM - Committee on Aquaculture (Tirana, Albania 17 - 19 December 2008).

### **Project Future implementation**

The aim of this document is to offer the Coordination Committee (CC) members elements for discussion on the *AdriaMed* Project Work Programme for next year. The Project will focus on priority issues and activities, taking into account the objectives and results achieved so far (mainly during 2008); the recommendations received during the 9<sup>th</sup> Coordination Committee meeting (December 2007, Zagreb, Croatia), as well as the scientific cooperation established within the framework of the GFCM.

In addition, this document includes the suggestions resulting from the *AdriaMed* internal meeting of the National Focal Points held at FAO HQ, Rome, on 12 January 2009, which was organized to hold preliminary discussions on the planning of the 2009-2010 work programme prior to the Coordination Committee meeting. The final work plan will also take into due account the recommendations of this Coordination Committee meeting.

The FAO *AdriaMed* Project "Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea" has been operative since October 1999. A Mid-Term Review of the Project took place in the third quarter of 2003 and was presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> *AdriaMed* Coordination Committee meeting. On that occasion, the Committee reviewed the conclusions and recommendations of the Mid-Term Review and recommended a five-year extension from October 2005 to October 2010. The Committee also gave indications of priority areas to be dealt with in future activities.

During the 7<sup>th</sup> CC meeting (11-12 October 2005, Ljubljana, Slovenia), the current Italian donor (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies, MiPAAF), reiterated its financial support for the Project. On that occasion, the European Commission also informed the Project of its intention to make a financial contribution. Consequently, the Italian donor financed the activities planned for 2007 and 2008, and the EC co-financed the period from March 2007 to April 2008 in the context of their Action Plan for Mediterranean Fisheries. In June 2008, the Italian donor confirmed the extension of its financial support to the Project activities until June 2010 and communicated, at the same time, its readiness to support a second phase of the *AdriaMed* Project. In view of that, the MiPAAF requested the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Division perform a technical review of the Project to evaluate the relevance and effectiveness of the project's activities and to recommend any complementary measures that might be required for the improvement of the efficiency of the Project during the proposed extended period. The review would be prepared on the basis of the results achieved so far and the comments and requirements from the participating institutes.

Therefore, over the next period, the Project will focus on the activities outlined below, which refer to the long term outputs/objectives that were indicated in the first CC meeting (March 2000, Termoli, Italy) and reoriented during the 7<sup>th</sup> CC (11-12 October 2005, Ljubljana, Slovenia). The proposed activities are reported according to the main five outputs

that represent the methodological framework of the project. Moreover, since the implementation of these activities is contingent upon the Project's budget availability, during the internal meeting of the AdriaMed National Focal Points it was agreed to prioritize them according to their implication on the budget: those signed with double stars \*\* are the activities whose implementation should be considered low priority for the Project in financial terms.

## **Output 1 Computerised communication networks and fisheries information systems operated by national administrations and research institutions and used by policy makers for national and subregional fisheries management purposes**

### **Technical Support**

Technical support will continue to be provided to the participating countries for the creation and updating of databases, Web pages and national information systems as in the past years. In particular, following the request of the Directorate of Fisheries Policies of Albania (Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration, [www.dfishery.gov.al](http://www.dfishery.gov.al)), support will be provided for the digitalization of historic information on fisheries (fishing, fleet, catch, species) which is available at the Directorate, as well as for the creation of an archive to store and retrieve these data.

The upgrading (scientific contents) of the Web site of the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor (Montenegro, [www.ibmk.org](http://www.ibmk.org)) is foreseen too. In addition, the diffusion and use of voip (voice-over-ip) communications among the member parties will be supported, as well as other ways to enable the improvement of the communications among the Adriatic scientists participating in the Project.

### **AdriaMed Web site**

The AdriaMed portal ([www.faoadriamed.org](http://www.faoadriamed.org)) will be consolidated and developed and the online databases will also be further updated. A link to or a special section on the information related to the Adriatic Countries (based on the identification of Operational Units) that is reported in the GFCM Statistical Bulletin will be created.

Moreover, an internal repository will be created to store all the project documents and working materials which are not or not yet published and grey literature not available, for the use of scientists.

The fisheries information included in the Country Fisheries Profiles available on the Project's website will be updated. In addition, the web section dedicated to the AdriaMed Trawl Survey Information System (ATrIS) will also be updated and made available with more technical information such as maps of the software coverage, maps of the area surveyed by the scientific campaigns and some elaborated data related to the AdriaMed trawl surveys.

### **AdriaMed Trawl Survey Information Systems (ATrIS)**

ATrIS, the computerized system developed to organize, store and undertake the preliminary analysis of the dataset collected during the AdriaMed trawl surveys will be further upgraded. Support to the research institutes on the use and/or development of special/new features of ATrIS is foreseen (e.g.: Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor).

In addition, in order to strengthen and enlarge the scientific community which uses ATrIS, the possibility to translate the application onto a web-server platform is foreseen for investigation as well as the possibility to export data from ATrIS ready for use in selected statistical packages/software for stock assessment.

### **Collaboration between AdriaMed and ASFA**

The activities carried out so far for the inclusion of Adriatic scientific publications in the ASFA database will continue. In addition, the Project will continue to provide assistance to the FAO ASFA Secretariat. Furthermore, support to the Croatian national collaborating centre for AdriaMed-ASFA (IOF-Split) and the newly created Montenegrin ASFA data entry centre (IBMK-Kotor) will be provided.

### **Support to the national fisheries statistics systems**

The Project will continue, in cooperation with the MedFisis Project, to support the national fisheries statistics systems in eastern Adriatic countries, if requested. A joint programme for further support to the other Adriatic countries will be considered after discussion and agreement with the counterparts concerned.

## **Output 2      Fishery monitoring systems, developed in a coordinated way by member countries, based on regular assessments and surveys of the fish stocks and fishing capacities, and made fully operational**

### *Small pelagic fisheries resources*

#### **Working Group on Small Pelagic Fisheries Resources**

The annual AdriaMed Working Group (WG) on Small Pelagic Fishery Resources will be organized to discuss the progress made on monitoring activities with particular attention to the established AdriaMed Coordinating Team on Echo Survey; the involvement and cooperation with the MEDIAS programme; and the request made by the GFCM SAC to provide subregional stock assessment on priority species. The WG on small pelagic fisheries resources is tentatively planned to take place during the first semester of 2009.

#### **Coordinating Team on Echo Survey**

The activities of the AdriaMed Coordinating Team on echo survey in the Adriatic Sea, whose work began in 2007, will be further supported. Moreover, synergies should be defined with the newly established European Commission initiative “MEDIAS” (MEDIterranean Acoustic Surveys) launched for the creation of a coordinated acoustic survey on small pelagic species in the Mediterranean.

#### **\*\*Building up expertise on echo survey, analytical assessment and daily egg production method**

Assistance to the countries in building up expertise on small pelagic fisheries resource appraisal methods will be provided upon request. In cooperation with the CNR-ISMAR of Ancona and as a follow-up to the meetings held by the Coordinating Team on Echo survey in

the Adriatic Sea (CTE), support to national staff from Albania, Montenegro and Slovenia will also be provided for their participation in theoretical and on-board training activities during the acoustic surveys.

### **\*\*Joint survey exercise using both acoustic methods and DEPM**

The feasibility of carrying out a joint echo survey/DEPM, with particular attention to Albania and Montenegro, will be investigated by seeking collaboration with the CNR-ISMAR Ancona.

### ***Demersal fisheries resources***

#### **Working Group on Demersal Fisheries Resources**

The annual AdriaMed Working Group (WG) on Demersal Fisheries Resources will be organized to discuss the progress made on monitoring activities in the Adriatic area, paying particular attention to the AdriaMed international bottom trawl survey; the updating of the list of priority species/shared stocks in the Adriatic Sea; the development of indicators and reference points for fisheries management in the Adriatic Sea; the survey in deep sea waters; and the request from the GFCM-SAC to provide subregional stock assessment on priority species. During the WG, joint analysis of data from the GSA 17 and GSA 18 is foreseen to take place thus creating an additional opportunity for cooperative analysis and joint assessment of the common and shared stocks in the Adriatic Sea. The WG is scheduled to take place during the first semester of 2009.

#### **International Bottom Trawl Survey**

The feasibility of continuing to support the execution of the AdriaMed International Bottom Trawl Survey in the eastern Adriatic Sea, in cooperation with the research institutions involved, will be further investigated (also depending on budget availability).

#### **Training activities**

Some specific training activities will be organized further to specific requests formulated by the Adriatic experts during the past year and also raised during the recent Project Working Groups. In particular, following the request during the *ad hoc* meeting of Adriatic experts to evaluate data coming from the 2007 *Solea solea* survey (carried out in July 2008, Ancona, Italy), and the need to rebuild the expertise in the whole Adriatic region, the importance of holding training activities for the identification of specific taxa of benthos has been expressed on several occasions by the Adriatic experts. The possibility of organizing such training exercises will be investigated.

Regarding fish ageing, following suggestions made by the Working Group on Demersal and Small Pelagics (June 2008, Kotor, Montenegro), the Project identified a general need for the harmonization, at Adriatic level, of the fish ageing analysis by means of otolith reading. Therefore the organization of an intercalibration exercise among all the Adriatic research institutes involved in fish ageing research activities is foreseen. In addition, and further to a request by the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor (Montenegro), a training course on otolith preparation will be organized in cooperation with the CNR-ISMAR of Ancona.

### **Investigation in deep Adriatic Sea waters**

With reference to the scientific investigation of deep waters, the possibility of supporting a second survey in the South Adriatic area, carried out jointly by the Adriatic research institutes involved in the Project, will be investigated. The activities are foreseen in accordance with the request made during the AdriaMed Coordination Committee 9<sup>th</sup> meeting (2007), following preliminary discussions held during a meeting in Trani (April 2008), the request formulated during the Working Group on Demersal Fisheries Resources (18-19 June 2008, Kotor, Montenegro) and the preliminary AdriaMed survey carried out in August 2008 in the South Adriatic Sea deep waters.

### **Document on the demersal fishery resources in the Adriatic Sea**

A document including all the data resulting from the surveys carried out by AdriaMed in the eastern Adriatic Sea waters since 2001 (Albania, Croatia, Montenegro and Slovenia) and the information collected by the parallel Italian GRUND in the Italian waters will be finalized.

### **\*\*Support to the research programmes on the impact of fishing activities**

The possibility to continue the eastward extension of the Stock Assessment of *Solea Solea* in the Northern and Central Adriatic Sea through Rapido Trawl Surveys (Solemon Project) as well as in the Southern Adriatic will be investigated.

## ***Socio-economics***

### **Social and economic survey on fisheries in Montenegro**

A pilot study designed with the primary objective of describing and monitoring the Montenegrin fisheries sector, including economic and social information, applying the Operating Unit (OU) concept will be further supported. The collection of data will continue throughout 2009. Following the positive results of the pilot study's first year, the Project received a similar request from the Directorate of Fisheries Policies of Albania. The establishment of such a monitoring programme in Albania will be also supported.

### **Field training programmes and advanced seminars on the socio-economic aspects of fisheries management**

A workshop on socio-economic data collection systems for fisheries management will be organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of Slovenia, following the request made during the 8<sup>th</sup> Coordination Committee meeting.

### **\*\*Adriatic small scale fisheries**

The organization of a workshop on small scale fisheries in the Adriatic Sea is foreseen on the basis of the importance of updating the knowledge on the current state of the small-scale fishery sector in this particular area, and further to the need of identifying common priorities at subregional levels as raised during the AdriaMed Working Group on Demersal Fisheries Resources (18-19 June 2008, Kotor, Montenegro). Such a workshop would represent the follow-up to the AdriaMed Technical Consultation on Adriatic Sea Small-scale Fisheries (14-15 October 2003, Split, Croatia). The workshop would update the information on the available scientific and technical knowledge in each country (including Montenegro which

was not partner of the Project in 2003) and would consider the existing monitoring systems, the on-going programmes focusing on small-scale fisheries and the formulation of possible joint proposals. Synergy with the ArtFiMed Project (under the umbrella of COPEMED II) may be considered.

### **Output 3 Fisheries management strategies and related technical measures prepared and implemented in selected areas of the Adriatic**

#### **Strengthening the cooperation with the GFCM and other FAO regional Projects**

The international and regional cooperation at Mediterranean level with the GFCM and its related bodies, i.e.: SAC (Scientific Advisory Committee) and CAQ (Committee on Aquaculture) will be further strengthened through the participation of experts from the AdriaMed countries in the GFCM events, in function of budget availability. The existing cooperation with other FAO Regional Projects such as the MedSudMed Project will continue and further collaboration with the newly established COPEMED II, ArtFiMed, EASTMED and MedFisis is sought. Cooperation with international institutions or projects on topics that may be of common interest (e.g.: MedSea Large Marine Ecosystem) will also be sought.

In particular, regarding the activities outlined for the output I and II synergies are foreseen with the other regional Projects as follows, also taking into consideration the indications collected during an informal internal meeting of coordination among the Projects (Rome, FAO-HQ 8-9 January 2009). The activities proposed would be implemented upon discussion and agreement within the Projects' respective Coordination Committee meetings.

#### **OUTPUT1**

--The voip communication system, when implemented in AdriaMed, could be extended/made available to the other Projects

--In order to harmonize the information provided on the Projects' web site, cooperation is foreseen with CopeMed II to design the new Project home page using the AdriaMed homepage as a template, and to upload the data from the old into the new web site. Coordination with MedSudMed, on the structure of the website will continue.

--In order to standardize the information provided online in the Country Fisheries Profiles (available on the Project's website) a unique standard scheme to be used by all the Projects will be agreed on and used (taking into consideration both the examples of the AdriaMed FCP and CopeMed I FCP).

--In order to facilitate the circulation of scientific knowledge on fisheries in the Mediterranean a link to the document repository of other Mediterranean Regional Projects such as MedSudMed and CopeMed II, will be created.

--Synergy among the Projects is foreseen when dealing with GFCM-MedFisis collaboration (e.g sharing of lessons learned on national statistics systems).

## **OUTPUT II**

--An area of cooperation among the AdriaMed Working Groups on fisheries resources and the newly established Working groups on species of CopeMed II is foreseen.

--An area of cooperation on the echosurvey with CopeMed II is foreseen (i.e. starting to circulate the information available on acoustic surveys in the respective areas). The cooperation with MedSudMed for the standardization of the echosurvey methodology will continue.

--Training activities will be coordinated among all the Projects, in order to avoid duplication or overlapping of activities. The participation of CopeMed II and MedSudMed experts in training courses organized by AdriaMed will be foreseen as well the contrary. e.g. the training course on fish ageing could be tentatively organized for the experts of the three Projects.

--An area of cooperation for the implementation of an explorative survey in the deep sea waters of the South Mediterranean (e.g. Channel of Sicily) is foreseen with MedSudMed.

--Synergies with the ArtFiMed Project when dealing with the artisanal fisheries are foreseen.

### **Jabuka/Pomo Pit**

On the basis of the work carried out so far by the Project on Jabuka/Pomo Pit and further to the request formulated on several occasion and the continued reference made in different fora, upon specific request of the Coordination Committee, the relevance of this area as a sensitive and critical zone for spawning and nursery for important fishery target species as well as the role of this area in ensuring the successful recruitment of these species, could be further reiterated and elaborated by the Project, that in cooperation with the Adriatic research institutions could facilitate the scientific discussion.

### **Operational Units**

Following the 2007 work plan approved by the 8<sup>th</sup> CC, support to the GFCM-SAC, and on the basis of the work carried out so far on the identification of **Operational Units** in the Adriatic countries, effort will be made to further update the information on OUs collected so far by the Adriatic countries (up to 2004) also including data from Montenegro (which joined the AdriaMed project in 2004).

## **Output 4 Support for shared resource management decisions, including promotion of fisheries legislation harmonization**

### **\*\*Recreational Fisheries (RF)**

An update of the information on the legislation related to recreational fisheries in the Adriatic countries, already started in 2007 by the Project, is foreseen. This activity would support the GFCM SAC SubCommittee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS).

**Output 5 Sustainable mariculture plans available for possible implementation in the area, with due consideration of the marine environments, coastal fisheries interests and coastal management plans including indicators for monitoring the interaction between capture fisheries and aquaculture**

**Production statistics data on aquaculture**

In accordance with the recommendation expressed during the GFCM Committee on Aquaculture meeting (CAQ) (17-19 December 2008, Tirana, Albania) on the need to standardize the collection of production statistics data on aquaculture, and following the request formulated by the Directorate of Fisheries Policies of Albania, support will be provided to the Directorate to establish a monitoring programme to collect socio-economic data on aquaculture in Albania.

In addition, following the information provided by the delegated from Montenegro during the last session of the GFCM-CAQ (December 2008, Tirana) about a programme of the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor which leads to the future realization of a Centre for the Conservation of Marine Biodiversity in Montenegro, the Project foresees support to this initiative and cooperation with the centre once it has been established. The centre will support activities of restocking for stock enhancement, research and didactic activities, in the costal areas.

### List of Documents

<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/10/01</b>	Provisional Annotated Agenda
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/10/02</b>	Report on the intersessional activities of the Project
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/10/03</b>	Project Future implementation
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/10/info 1</b>	Provisional list of participants
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/10/info 2</b>	Report of the Ninth Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee. <i>AdriaMed Technical Documents</i> N. 23: 32 pp.
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/10/info 3</b>	Small pelagic fish in the Adriatic Sea: sardine, <i>Sardina pilchardus</i> (Walbaum, 1792) and anchovy, <i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758), an ecological and fishery review. <i>AdriaMed Technical Documents</i> N. 24 (DRAFT)
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/10/info 4</b>	Hydroacoustic data processing for standard stock assessment using Echoview: Technical manual. <i>AdriaMed Technical Documents</i> N. 25(DRAFT)
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/10/info 5</b>	Identification of the priority species and shared stocks in the Mediterranean Geographical sub-area 18 (Southern Adriatic Sea). Paper presented at the GFCM-SAC Sub Committee on Stock Assessment (Antalya, Turkey, 13-16 October 2008). GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-29. <i>AdriaMed Occasional Papers</i> , 29
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/10/info 6</b>	Comparability of two different methods for the stock assessment of hake ( <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> L.) in the Mediterranean Geographical Sub-Area 18 (Southern Adriatic Sea). Paper presented at the GFCM-SAC Sub Committee on Stock Assessment (Antalya, Turkey, 13-16 October 2008). GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-30. <i>AdriaMed Occasional Papers</i> , 30
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/10/info 7</b>	Coordinating Team for an echo survey in the Adriatic Sea-Second one-week training (Ancona, 15 - 17 May 2008). <i>AdriaMed Meeting Memorandum</i> 163. GCP/RER/010/ITA OM 163)
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/10/info 8</b>	AdriaMed Working Group on Shared Small Pelagic Fisheries Resources (Kotor, Montenegro 17 June 2008). <i>AdriaMed Meeting Memorandum</i> 164. GCP/RER/010/ITA OM 164
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/10/info 9</b>	AdriaMed Working Group on Demersal Fisheries Resources (Kotor, Montenegro 18-19 June 2008). <i>AdriaMed Meeting Memorandum</i> 165. GCP/RER/010/ITA OM 165

<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/10/info 10</b>	Preliminary report of the Pilot Project to implement a monitoring system for the fisheries sector in Montenegro, including biological, environmental, economic and social information, applying the Operating Unit (OU) concept: BIOLOGICAL SAMPLING (DRAFT)
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/10/info 11</b>	Preliminary report of the Pilot Project to implement a monitoring system for the fisheries sector in Montenegro, including biological, environmental, economic and social information, applying the Operating Unit (OU) concept: ECONOMIC SURVEY (DRAFT)
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/10/info 12</b>	Preliminary information on the AdriaMed survey in deep waters of the Southern Adriatic Sea (August 2008)
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/10/info 13</b>	Preliminary report of the echosurvey carried out in August 2008 in the South Adriatic Sea (GSA 18) - Albania and Montenegro continental shelf
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/10/info 14</b>	SOLEMON programme: report of the ad hoc meeting on data evaluation on the spatial distribution and abundance of sole ( <i>Solea solea</i> ) in the Adriatic Sea” (on the basis of the surveys carried out in 2007) Ancona, Italy 21 to 23 May 2008
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/10/info 15</b>	Tentative agenda of the AdriaMed Workshop on socio-economic data collection systems for fisheries management
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/10/info 16</b>	Report on AdriaMed ASFA activities
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/10/info 17</b>	List of Documents