



*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

AdriaMed

GCP/RER/010/ITA

Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the AdriaMed
Coordination Committee

Kotor, Montenegro, 3rd and 4th March 2010

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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 and from 1 January 2010 for an additional period of 12 months.

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.

FAO-AdriaMed Project
FAO (FIRF)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Roma, Italy

Tel: ++39 06 570 55467/53886/56092

Fax: ++39 06 570 55188

e-mail: adriamed@fao.org

URL: <http://www.faoadriamed.org>

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).

Comments on this document would be welcomed and should be sent to the Project headquarters:

FAO AdriaMed
FAO (FIRF)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Roma
Italy
adriamed@fao.org

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This document is the final version of the Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee, organised by the FAO-AdriaMed Project (*Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea*) in Kotor, Montenegro, and 21st and 22nd March 2010.

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AdriaMed.

Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee. Kotor, Montenegro, 3rd and 4th March 2010.

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ABSTRACT

The Eleventh Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the FAO AdriaMed Regional Project “Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea” was held in Kotor, Montenegro, 3rd and 4th March 2010. 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 2009, including the outcomes of an Internal Technical Review performed on the Project’s activities. In the intersessional period the Project efforts were also devoted to the drafting of a new Project proposal for a new phase of AdriaMed which is to be presented to the Donor, a draft of which that was illustrated during the meeting. 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 11th Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee

Kotor, Montenegro, 3-4 March 2010

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

1. The Eleventh meeting of the Coordination Committee of the FAO Regional Project AdriaMed “Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea” was held in Kotor, Montenegro, on 3rd and 4th March 2010, kindly hosted by the Institute of Marine Biology.
2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Italian Donor (the Ministry of Agriculture Food and Forestry Policies), delegations from the countries participating in the Project (Albania, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia), staff of FAO-Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources Use and Conservation Division, a representative of the FAO sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe, representatives of other FAO regional Projects (namely CopeMed II and MedSudMed), a representative of the GFCM Secretariat and the staff of the FAO AdriaMed Project.
3. On behalf of the Government of Montenegro, and in particular of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, the Deputy Ministry Mr. Branko Bulatović welcomed all the Coordination Committee Meeting participants. He greeted the Meeting delegates and expressed his honor at having the Committee members gathered in Kotor on occasion of the eleventh Meeting. He underlined the remarkably good relations that have been achieved in the context of AdriaMed between the Adriatic countries’ fishery administrations and research institutes. The importance of this network in the work of the Project towards the goal of responsible sustainable fisheries in the Adriatic Sea was also underlined. He wished the meeting every success and also that the results of this meeting would entail the continuation of coordination and collaboration on all issues related to fisheries management as well as the continuation of the AdriaMed Project activities through a third phase.
4. Mrs Slavica Pavlovic acted as Chair for this eleventh AdriaMed Coordination Committee Meeting. She welcomed all the Committee Meeting participants and she expressed her thanks to the former Project Coordinator of AdriaMed for the support received in the past. She recalled that the Project has played and is playing a very important role for fisheries research and management in Montenegro. Through it, the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor and the Ministry had the possibility to cooperate with several institutions involved in fisheries, thus strengthening the cooperation in the Adriatic region. She also expressed her wish to have a continuation of the Project activities.
5. Mr Aleksandar Joksimovic, Director of the host Institute of Marine Biology welcomed the participants and expressed his honour at having the Committee members gathered at the Institute on the occasion of this meeting. He recalled the participants that they are called to give their contribution on two very important items of the agenda: the outcomes of the internal technical review, performed in 2009 and

the concept note for the future of the project. He underlined that the Adriatic Sea is a very peculiar area in the Mediterranean, with 5 countries sharing fisheries resources and this peculiarity has been supported by the Project.

6. The FAO AdriaMed Project Coordinator took the floor and thanked the Montenegrin authorities for hosting the meeting and for the excellent organization and assistance provided. He thanked and welcomed all the Delegations. He underlined the importance of having the countries supporting the Project in this moment when the bases for the future years are being laid. He recalled the need to continue strengthening the scientific cooperation in the Adriatic region and to reinforce particularly the support to the development of the capacity of the fisheries administrations.
7. The Committee was reminded that this meeting was the moment to discuss the activities carried out by the Project as well as to discuss and approve the work plan for the next year. Information was also given on the organisation of the meeting, the Agenda and the documents available in the folder distributed by the project staff.
8. Mr Fabio Massa, Aquaculture Officer of the GFCM Secretariat, thanked Montenegrin authorities and the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor for their hospitality. He also thanked the Project staff for the organization of this meeting and emphasised the importance of AdriaMed for the GFCM and its Scientific Advisory Committee and the Committee on Aquaculture. The need to further strengthen countries participation and support to the GFCM activities through the Project was stressed.
9. The Croatian delegation thanked the Montenegrin authorities and the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor for their hospitality and for the organization of this important meeting. The Project staff was thanked as well for the work carried out in these years to provide the necessary assistance to the Adriatic countries to strengthen the scientific cooperation in the region.
10. The Italian Representative took the opportunity to thank the host institute and the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Water Management of Montenegro. He stressed the highly positive appraisal of the AdriaMed Project, remarking its relevance for the work carried out to date and for the important contribution in terms of scientific support at Mediterranean level. The level of scientific outputs produced so far, and the cooperation established, was also commended. The Representative stressed the interest of the Italian Donor in continuing the support to the Project in the next phase. He also informed the participants that, to this extent, the two administrations, the Italian Government and FAO, are negotiating the administrative procedures to be followed.
11. The representative of Albania and Slovenia thanked the Montenegrin authorities and the IBMK for the organization of the meeting and recalled the importance of the AdriaMed Project in the Mediterranean region.

Adoption of the Agenda (Agenda Item n. 2)

12. The Agenda was presented to the Coordination Committee. The Chair invited the participants to offer any comments. Further to the discussion it was decided to amend the agenda and move the discussion on the internal technical review to agenda item n. 4. The meeting agreed and the amended Agenda was adopted (Annex 1).

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

13. The AdriaMed Fishery Information 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 February 2009 to February 2010 are presented. These include workshops, training and research activities as well as the technical assistance given to the countries and the cooperation of the Project with the GFCM, the SAC and its Sub-Committees and other relevant institutions. The activities described correspond to the work programme and recommendations of the Tenth Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee held in Chioggia, Italy in January 2010.
14. The first semester of 2009 was dedicated in part to the Internal FAO Technical Review of the Project that resulted from the request by the Italian Donor to evaluate Project activities and to recommend any complementary measures for an extension period. This in turn was the direct consequence of the Italian Donor's willingness to support a third phase of the AdriaMed Project. The Project efforts were also devoted to the drafting of a new Project proposal for a third phase of AdriaMed which is to be presented to the Italian Donor, by taking into consideration the comments and suggestions collected during the technical review mission and the new challenges for fisheries management in the Adriatic and in the Mediterranean (CC/11/05).
15. The Committee members were informed that in the Meeting document folder there was a series of documents and reports that supported the presentation on the Project's intersessional activities.
16. The Project staff illustrated activities carried out under each of the Project objectives over the last twelve months. Particular relevance was given to the activities carried out in the framework of the Project Working Groups, all of which have held recent meetings.
17. Through the WG on Demersal Fisheries Resources the Project performed a preliminary joint stock assessment of *Nephrops norvegicus* and *Merluccius merluccius* during a training working session in which the Survey Based Assessment (SURBA) method was applied to the data made available by the Adriatic institutions. In addition the Project continued to support the SOLEMON project and the ongoing scientific experiments in the Pomo/Jabuka pit area carried out using towed UnderWater TV (UWTV) methodology. A second deep sea survey of this area has been planned for 2009.

18. The Working Group on Small Pelagic resources took forward the issues of stock assessment of anchovy and sardine that was performed for GSA 17 by combining all the data (including acoustic data) made available by the research institutions. Some of the outcomes of the Working Groups were presented during the GFCM SAC meetings.
19. The Project further supported the study aimed at improving the monitoring system for the Montenegrin fisheries sector and a workshop on socio-economic data collection systems for fisheries management was held in Slovenia in response to the countries' request.
20. The Project continued to improve and distribute the ATrIS software. The AdriaMed Portal continues to be developed and the Project continues to support ASFA.
21. Technical support continues to be provided to the other FAO Regional Projects as requested and all potential synergies are being developed. In the framework of the support given to the GFCM and its subsidiary, the Project supported the presence of regional experts at nine GFCM-related meetings in the intersessional period.
22. Furthermore, the Project maintained its commitment to supporting the development of a framework for shared management decisions by updating the review of fisheries legislation. The Project also continued its support to the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor for the creation of a Centre for the Conservation of Marine and Inland Biodiversity in Montenegro.
23. The Committee members expressed their appreciation for the amount of work done by the Project and emphasized that it represents the follow up to the programme of work approved by the last Coordination Committee.
24. The representative of the GFCM Secretariat, congratulated the Project for the excellent work carried out and for the valuable scientific contributions given to the activities of the subsidiary bodies of the SAC. He recalled the role of the FAO regional Projects in improving the scientific contributions to the GFCM and stimulating scientific cooperation and stressed also the role of the regional projects in sharing knowledge within the Mediterranean. The use of ATrIS in more than 20 research institutions, not only in the Adriatic Sea but across the whole Mediterranean was mentioned as a success of the project. He also congratulated the project about the documentation prepared on shared resources and priority species as well as on the support given for the identification of Operational Units. He expressed the wish of the GFCM that AdriaMed will continue supporting the countries' technical contributions to the work of the GFCM also through the presentation of the main achievements to its Subsidiary bodies.
25. The Chairperson acknowledged the relevance of the workshop on socio-economic issues held in Slovenia and underlined the importance of addressing these topics in the workplan of the Project for next year, but also for a longer-term future. She

commented that the future evolution of AdriaMed should continue to tackle more ample, common practical problems of the different components of the fishing sector in order to forward sustainable fisheries management in the region.

Project Internal Review (Agenda item 4 rev.)

26. The Coordination Committee's attention was drawn to document CC/11/04, the Summary of the Internal FAO Technical Review of the AdriaMed Project. Mr. Pedro de Barros, FAO Fishery Resources Officer and Lead Technical Officer for the FAO FIRF Mediterranean projects, presented the summary of the project review carried out during 2009, upon request by the Italian donor.
27. The presentation covered the following points: i) Background and execution of the review; ii) Review of Project Objectives and main Activities carried out; iii) Main remaining gaps regarding the activities and Objectives; iv) Main constraints and problems encountered; v) Relevance of the present phase of the project for development objectives; vi) Sustainability of the results achieved after termination of the project; vii) Recommendations on themes to focus for potential next phase of project.
28. Overall, the review concluded that on top of an impressive list of activities carried out, the main achievements of the project were linked to the regional cooperation and communication environment created. Furthermore the review highlighted the remarkable increase in human and institutional capacity of the national fisheries institutions participating in the project and also the agreement established on standardisation of methods for research and data analysis.
29. The main gaps identified related to: the need of completing the databases and data management tools used and/or developed by the project, incomplete work on standardisation of methods and biodiversity research, and insufficient capacity development activities for managers and for research on socio-economic aspects of fisheries as well as on fleet and landings monitoring. Also the need of addressing EAF principles in a more systematic way was pointed out.
30. The coordination shortage of the project experienced in the last years, the insufficient number of staff of the national fisheries institutions to cover all main areas of work, or to ensure resilience of the institutions to possible staff loss, were indicated as the main constraints and problems faced by the project in its current phase. The project was considered to be very relevant to development priorities and needs, because it contributed directly and significantly to the sustainability of the fisheries sector of the participating countries. Also, the results achieved were evaluated to be sustainably supported by the participating institutions, but the sustainability of fisheries management should be further improved according to EAF.
31. Finally, the review recommended the prolongation of the project through a new phase with a minimum duration of 4-5 years, that should ensure the sustainability of the results already achieved, but also reinforce the work on the areas identified as lacking and explicitly

address the development of national capacity for managing fisheries according to the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.

32. The review suggested and listed seven main areas that should be addressed by this new phase. These included i) Reinforce and support the existing networking process and cooperative frameworks established by the Project, including by facilitating the exchange and dissemination of knowledge and information; ii) Continue supporting the development of national capacity for fisheries-related research activities, with a focus on multidisciplinary research in support of fisheries management compatible with EAF; iii) Reinforce the activities on training and human capacity development of staff of fisheries institutions; iv) Support a fuller implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and EAF in the Adriatic; v) Reinforce the capacity for including aquaculture in fisheries management; vi) Increase work on small-scale, artisanal and recreational fisheries; vii) Reinforce the support to research and capacity development on the socio-economic component of fisheries.
33. General consensus with the report's findings was expressed by the Committee. The delegates took the opportunity to renew the maximum appreciation of the AdriaMed Project in all areas of activity being implemented, sharing also the positive appraisal expressed by the consultant as well as his recommendation to further extend the Project activities. The Committee also expressed the willingness to see in the new project proposal the suggestions and the priorities that were identified in the technical review, so as that the remaining gaps will be minimized in the new phase.
34. With reference to the work on artisanal fisheries and the importance that the Project should address to these in a future phase, the CopeMed II Project Coordinator, Mr Camiñas, brought the example of the ArtFiMed Project which is active in Morocco and Tunisia. The outputs of the Project were very positive and all the CopeMed participating countries requested the extension of the pilot action to their territory. He offered the cooperation of ArtFiMed to exchange the lessons learned from the work already carried out.
35. The meeting was recalled that the Project in 2002 organized a technical consultation on small-scale fisheries in the Adriatic Sea and that one of the outcomes of that meeting was the establishment of a Working Group on Small Scale Fisheries. It was commented that the Project should re-establish this Working Group for the future phase, by taking also advantage and benefit from the experience gained by other regional Projects like CopeMed II and ArtFiMed.
36. The problem of the insufficient availability of human resources was discussed to some extent. The Representative of Croatia stressed the fact that in some cases the National Focal Points are overwhelmed by work and would benefit from some kind of local assistance in order to enhance the countries' capacity to contribute and participate to the Project. After a brief discussion it was agreed that in the new Project this issue will be discussed on a case by case basis.

Project Future implementation (Agenda Item 5)

37. The document “Project Future Implementation” was introduced by the AdriaMed Project Coordinator. Before the presentation it was underlined that the proposed work plan includes activities for next 12 months despite the fact that the second phase of the Project is due to end in June 2010. It was also reiterated that FAO is preparing the formulation of a third phase of the Project following the information by the Italian Donor of its willingness to continue supporting the Project activities.
38. The presentation focused on priority issues and activities identified taking into account the objectives and the results achieved so far, as well as suggestions arising from a series of informal meetings held with the Project participants during the last six months. It was reiterated that the activities proposed will be implemented on the basis of availability of budget.
39. The annual AdriaMed Working Groups (WGs) on Demersal Fisheries Resources and on Small Pelagic Fishery Resources will be organized to discuss the progress made on stock monitoring activities in the Adriatic area; to identify possible synergies with the ongoing monitoring activities; and to discuss the request from the GFCM-SAC to provide subregional stock assessment on priority species.
40. The Project will continue to support sampling at sea through the organisation of surveys on demersal (e.g. bottom trawl surveys, SOLEMON) and small pelagic (e.g. eco- and DEPM surveys) fisheries resources, either taking advantage from ongoing national research surveys or planning *ad hoc* activities if budgetary resources are available.
41. Some training activities related to demersal and small pelagic fisheries resources will be organized depending on budget availability. These will address specific requests formulated by the Adriatic experts during the past years and also raised during the recent AdriaMed Working Groups.
42. The Project will continue to provide technical support to the participating institutions in terms of creation and updating of databases, web and national information systems, as this is a prerequisite for national and sub-regional fisheries management purposes. In particular, following the request of the Directorate of Fisheries Policies of Albania (Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration), support will be provided for the digitalization of historic information on fisheries (fishing, fleet, catch, species) which is available at the Directorate.
43. The Project, in order to strengthen and enlarge the scientific community which uses ATrIS, will explore the possibility to translate the application onto a web-server platform, as well as the possibility to export data from ATrIS ready for use in selected statistical packages.

44. Following the outcome of the AdriaMed Workshop on fisheries socio-economic data collection for fisheries management (Slovenia, January 2010), and the experience accrued during the AdriaMed “Training activities on Responsible Fisheries Management” (Portogruaro, Italy, September – December 2005) the Project will organize field training programmes for both data managers and data collectors on collection of fisheries socio-economic data (CC/11/info11).
45. The activities of the project on research of special nursery areas were recalled. The possibility of increasing the research and monitoring activities on nurseries and particularly sensitive areas will be investigated. In conjunction, the Project will evaluate the possibility to support a broadening of the coverage of trawl surveys either increasing the number of sampling stations in the Central Adriatic by taking advantage of surveys already in place in the area or by supporting an additional *ad-hoc* survey.
46. The Committee expressed appreciation for the work plan presented by the Project. The importance of addressing fisheries socio-economic aspects, mainly related to data collection was widely acknowledged by the meeting.
47. The representative of Montenegro stressed the importance of the development of a centre for biodiversity and stock enhancement in the IBMK related to the high natural value of some specific sites in Kotor Bay. The meeting was informed that in the IBMK there is potential and willingness to develop specific activities related to aquaculture and that thanks to the support of AdriaMed, some first steps were laid down in 2009. In this view further assistance to AdriaMed was required to explore possible synergies with other international initiatives to further support the development of such centre.
48. The representative of Albania, agreeing with the importance of the aquaculture sector in the Adriatic, recalled the resolution of the GFCM 33/2004/4 regarding the collection of data on aquaculture. He also reiterated the request of the GFCM for the countries to provide socio-economic information on fisheries according to GFCM Task 1, particularly task 1.3. He requested that the AdriaMed activities regarding data collection, including for the socio-economic aspects of fisheries and aquaculture, be planned in the light of supporting countries to comply with the data requested by the GFCM and its subsidiary bodies.
49. In addition, the Albanian delegate made reference to the support received from MedFisis and AdriaMed for the national fisheries statistical system, in particular on data collection, on the national fleet register and the data base on artisanal fisheries. He requested assistance to improve the information systems provided by the MedFisis Project.
50. The representative of the Secretariat of the GFCM noted with pleasure that many of the activities proposed are also in line with the workplan of the SAC for 2010. He also invited the Committee to consider the report of the 12th SAC session (Montenegro,

January 2010) which includes many of the issues that AdriaMed is considering in the future workplan, such as: support to fishery monitoring systems, sensitive habitats and stock assessment. He also expressed the wish of the GFCM Secretariat that the results of the project activities and in particular the assessments of the small pelagic and demersal stocks would be presented to the SAC at the appropriate level, such as the SAC working groups. He stressed the importance for the GFCM Secretariat that the project would continue giving assistance to the countries in updating the information on Operational Units.

51. He also stated that the issue of data collection, including for the socio economic aspects of fisheries and data on aquaculture, should also be considered in the framework of the GFCM Task 1 statistical matrix and the requirements made by the CAQ. Finally he invited the project and the research institutions of the region to cooperate with the CAQ in the implementation of the newly funded project “Lagoon Management and interaction between aquaculture and capture fisheries”, a follow-up of the request made during the sixth session of the CAQ and recalled during the 33rd Session of the GFCM to reactivate the work on Mediterranean lagoon management. Finally he pointed out the importance that some areas of the eastern Adriatic may play in the development of sustainable aquaculture in line with the Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture.
52. The representative of Slovenia pointed out the utility of the project in allowing the participant countries with limited staff in fisheries research to acquire knowledge on the level of exploitation of shared stocks in the region (through the demersal and small pelagic working groups), and on the socioeconomics aspects of the fishing activities through specific training.
53. The need for training in ecological modelling through mass balance models (e.g. Ecopath and Ecosim) was raised and discussed. The Committee agreed that this subject should be considered for future workplans.
54. Comments were made by the FAO Fisheries Officer of Eastern Central Europe that the Project work plan could include some main emerging subjects like Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fisheries, Monitoring, Control and Surveillance as well as port state control. The meeting acknowledged the importance of such issues. However, after the discussion and taking into consideration the current phase of the Project and the amount of high priority issues, it was concluded that these aspects could only be included in the short-term work plan of the Project provided that external funding will be available.
55. The discussion focused on the importance of carrying out a pilot survey on deep water of the Southern Adriatic Sea. Very little knowledge is available on these areas which may have an important role from a scientific point of view. Reference was made to the GFCM recommendation GFCM/2005/1 on the management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and deep-water pelagic resources. It was suggested to survey these areas to investigate these particular habitats.

56. The Croatian representative, acknowledged and pointed out the relevance of the activities proposed in the work plan, pointed out the importance to further broaden the perspective of the activities by including in the work plan the introduction of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF). The delegation underlined the importance of fully understanding the meaning and the basic principles of the EAF as intended by FAO in order to plan future activities accordingly. In this view the possible cooperation with the “UNEP Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean” Project was sought and the organisation of a specific workshop jointly organised with AdriaMed on this issue was strongly recommended.
57. The meeting was recalled that the EAF principles are not new and are already included in the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF). In addition, it was mentioned that FAO is preparing a specific “tool box” to facilitate the understanding and spreading of the basic principles of the EAF that will be made available to the Project participating countries to facilitate the adoption of the EAF principles in the management planning. The Committee agreed that in the new Project special emphasis will be given on development of capacity for EAF.
58. After wide discussion and comment on the content of the document on the Project’s future activities the Committee agreed on the programme of activities proposed for the coming period. Moreover, since the implementation of these activities is contingent upon the Project’s budget availability it was agreed to prioritize them according to their implication on the budget. The support to the AdriaMed Trawl Surveys, to the SOLEMON programme as well as training activities on age reading and benthos identification are the activities whose implementation should be considered low priority for the Project in financial terms. Among the others, the Committee stressed the importance of the following activities:
- Support joint small pelagic survey exercise using acoustic methods and DEPM in the South Adriatic Sea;
 - Organise training activities (e.g. stock assessment);
 - Support joint biological monitoring of demersal stocks in the Central Adriatic;
 - Support the data collection of aquaculture production (in Albania and Montenegro);
 - Organize field training programmes for fisheries data manager and data collectors for socio-economic data
 - Capacity development on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries;
 - Provide support to the Centre for the Conservation of Marine Biodiversity (in Montenegro).

Proposal for a new Project phase (Agenda item n.6)

59. Mr. Pedro de Barros presented the concept note developed by FAO for the possible next phase of the project, emphasizing that this was a document to raise discussion

and opinions, and not a final proposal. He presented the lessons learned about the management of the project, and the linkages with MedSudMed, with explicit reference to the conditions that suggest that merging the two projects for management and administrative purposes might lead to a more efficient use of the available human and financial resources.

60. He drew the attention of the participants to the similarities among the Adriatic and the Straits of Sicily, in terms of ecology but especially of the need for international cooperation on fisheries research and management, with mostly transboundary marine resources, heavily dependent on oceanographic variations, and very dynamic fleets operating in national and international waters.
61. He briefly reviewed the main achievements of the two projects, enhancing the “regional attitude” created in both regions and the good environment for regional cooperation and communication, together with the improvement of national capacity that resulted in both areas, and that culminated recently with the preparation in each area of joint stock assessments that were presented at the GFCM level.
62. He concluded his presentation by a summary of the proposed areas of work of the new joint project, grouped under six major outputs: i) Enhanced institutional capacity for identification of management strategies, as a basis for the implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF); ii) Improved capacity for fisheries monitoring, research and assessment and production of management advice according to the EAF; iii) Socio-economic issues of sustainable fishery management in the Adriatic region; iv) Improved understanding of the interactions between capture fisheries and aquaculture in the Adriatic region; v) Project organization and Information exchange and dissemination of scientific outputs; vi) Regional cooperation reinforced. The proposed organisation of the project under the new format concluded the presentation, being suggested that although a single Coordination Committee would be created, most of the activities should be organized by area (Adriatic and Straits of Sicily), with separate Working Groups and possibly sub-sections of the CC.

After the presentation, the Chairperson opened the discussion and requested comments from the participants.

63. Several participants intervened, requesting clarifications and expressing their opinion. After some discussion, the Committee agreed on the following general guidance for the third phase of the project:
 - the regional networking and cooperation framework already attained by the participating institutions should continue to be supported by the project, as one of the main tools for fisheries scientific cooperation;
 - The organization of the project should include a Coordination Committee dedicated to the Adriatic region;
 - The activities and areas of work already planned or even in execution under the AdriaMed project should not be reduced;

- An important level of support should continue to be given to the development of national capacity for fisheries resources management, database development and maintenance and other needs of the countries responding to particular needs in the fisheries sector;
- The project should increase the level of support to fisheries directorates and enhance the activities of capacity development of fisheries managers. It should also reinforce the activities of supporting the networking and enhanced coordination among the different Adriatic Fisheries Administrations;
- The Project terms of reference should be widened to include activities addressing monitoring of artisanal/small-scale fisheries, studies on coastal zone management, (inter-relationship between artisanal fishery, mariculture, etc) socio-economics market issues and emerging issues like ecolabelling and quality control, in order to promote adequate marketing strategies.
- Training on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries should be included in the priority activities. More attention should be paid to aquaculture and its interaction with capture fisheries.
- In addition a wider diffusion to the public of the Project activities should be one of the new challenges in the new phase: a major involvement of the stakeholders, at all the level, and a stronger effort in awareness-raising campaigns.

64. Finally, the participants unanimously expressed the wish that the third phase should start immediately after the end of the second phase without any time gaps.

65. The Committee was recalled that in a few weeks the MedSudMed Coordination Committee will be called to comment on the new project proposal as well. In view of that and on the basis of the previous discussion, the Committee agreed that each participating country should provide, within one month, its comments and suggestions on the concept note for the new project proposal to the Project. Further to this and according to the indications provided by the countries the FAO could proceed with the preparation of a new Project proposal for the third phase of the Project for four-five years (as indicated in the technical review).

Other matters (Agenda item n.7)

66. Delegates and Meeting participants wished to express their thanks to the Chair for the good coordination of the meeting and the Institute of Marine Biology for the hospitality provided.

67. The Committee agreed that the venue and date of the next meeting of the Coordination Committee will be defined after the framework for the new phase of the project is set.

This report was adopted on 4 March 2010.

List of Participants

ALBANIA

Artan Luku
Head of Division
Fishery Policies Directorate
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water
Administration
Rruga e Durrës, No. 27
Tirana, Albania
Tel: +355 4 246171
Fax: +355 4 270627
Email: aluku@moe.gov.al

Rezart Kapedani
Officer
Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water
Administration,
Rruga e Durrës, No. 27, Tirana
Tel./Fax: +355 4 246171
Fax: +355 4 2270627/5
E-mail: rkapedani@moe.gov.al

CROATIA

Josip Marković
Head of Marine Resources Management
Division – Directorate of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural
Development,
Ulica Grada Vukovara, 78, 10000 Zagreb
Tel.: +385 1 6106626
Fax: +385 1 358 650
Email: josip.markovic@mps.hr

Neda Skakelj
Head of Directorate
Directorate of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural
Development,
Ulica Grada Vukovara, 78, 10000 Zagreb
Tel: +385 1 6106 577

Fax: +385 1 6106 558
E-Mail: nedica@mps.hr

Nedo Vrgoc
Senior Scientist
Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries-Split
S. Ivana Meštrovića, 63
21000 Split, Croatia
Tel: 00385 21 408051;
Fax: 00385 21 358 650
Email: vrgoc@izor.hr

ITALY

Luca Bedin
Officer
General Directorate of Maritime
Fisheries and Aquaculture, PEMAC VI
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
Policies
Viale dell'Arte, 16 - 00144 Roma
Tel.: +39 0659084050
Fax: +39 0659084818
Email: l.bedin@politicheagricole.gov.it

Corrado Piccinetti
Professor
Laboratory of Marine Biology and Fisheries,
University of Bologna
Viale Adriatico 1/N, 60132 Fano (PS)
Tel: 0039 0721 802689
Fax: 0039 0721 801654
Email: corrado.piccinetti@unibo.it

MONTENEGRO

Branko Bulatović
Deputy Minister
Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water
Management
Rimski trg 46
81100 Podgorica

Slavica Pavlović
Senior Adviser
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water
Management
Rimski trg 46
81100 Podgorica
Tel: 00381 81 482 292
Fax: 00381 81 234 306
Email: slavica.pavlovic@gov.me

Maja Sljivacanin
Adviser for fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water
Management
Rimski trg 46
81100 Podgorica
Tel: + 382 20 482 270
Fax: +382 20 482305
Email: maja.sljivacanin@gov.me

Aleksandar Joksimovic
Director
Institute of Marine Biology
PO Box 69, 85330 Kotor
Tel: 00381 82334569
Fax: 00381 82334570
Email: acojo@ac.me

SLOVENIA

Polona Bunič
Adviser
Hunting and Fisheries Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
Dunajska 58, SI-1000 Ljubljana
Tel.: + 386 01 4789367
Fax: + 386 01 4362048
E-mail: polona.bunic@gov.si

Matej Zagorc
Head of the Sector for Hunting and Fisheries
Hunting and Fisheries Sector
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
Dunajska 58, SI-1000 Ljubljana
Tel.: + 386 01 4789387
Fax: + 386 01 4362048
E-mail: Matej.Zagorc@gov.si

FAO

Thomas Moth-Poulsen
Fishery Officer
FAO Sub-Regional Office for Central and
Eastern Europe
Benczur Utca 34
Budapest, Hungary, H1068
Tel: +36 1 461 2019
Fax: +36 1 351 7029
E_mail: Thomas.mothpoulsen@fao.org

Pedro de Barros
Fisheries Resource Officer
FAO - Fisheries Management and Conservation
Service
Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources Use and
Conservation Division
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Roma,
Tel: 0039 06 570 56469
Fax: 0039 06 570 53020
Email: pedro.barros@fao.org

Fabio Massa
GFCM Aquaculture Officer
FAO -- International Institutions and Liaison
Service
Fisheries and Aquaculture Economics and
Policy Division
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Roma,
Tel: +39 06 570 53885
Fax: +39 06 57056500
Email: fabio.massa@fao.org

Juan Antonio Camiñas
Project Coordinator
FAO CopeMed II/ArtFiMed
Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources Use and
Conservation Division (FIRF)
Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
Subdelegacion del Gobierno en Malaga
P de Sancha 64, Malaga Spain
Tel: +34 952989299
Fax: +34 952989245
E-mail: juanantonio.caminas@fao.org

Luca Ceriola
MedSudMed Fisheries Monitoring Expert

FAO- MedSudMed Project
Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources Use and
Conservation Division
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Roma,
Tel: +39 06 570 54492
Fax: +39 06 570 53020
Email: luca.ceriola@fao.org

Enrico Arneri
Project Coordinator
FAO-AdriaMed Project
Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources Use and
Conservation Division
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Roma,

Tel: +39 06 570 56092
Fax: +39 06 570 53020
Email: enrico.arneri@fao.org

Nicoletta Milone
AdriaMed Fisheries Information Officer
FAO-AdriaMed Project
Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources Use and
Conservation Division
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Roma,
Tel: +39 06 570 55467
Fax: +39 06 570 53020
Email: nicoletta.milone@fao.org

Approved 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 activities and the Project's outputs will be presented and reviewed. Information will be given on the activities of the AdriaMed Working Groups, the on-going cooperative research work, the training sessions, and the relationship and cooperation of the Project at Mediterranean level.

4. Project Technical Review

The outcomes of the FAO Internal Technical Review of the Project's activities, performed in 2009, will be presented. The outcomes have been used to formulate a draft proposal of a new phase of the Project.

5. Development of the Project's Programme for the next period

The work plan of the Project will be outlined and discussed. Topics to be dealt with are those pertaining to the ongoing research, the training activities and the joint activities directed toward the national capacity building. Particular attention will be given to the follow-up of AdriaMed Working Groups and initiatives on the fisheries socio-economic aspects. The international cooperation, the relationship with other projects at basin level, the relationship with the Donors, and other topics brought forth by the Committee will be discussed. The Committee will be asked to provide the Project with an appraisal and orientation of the programme presented and/or any other contribution.

6. Proposal for a new Project phase

The concepts notes of the new Project proposal will be introduced, the new framework, the foreseen main outcomes and activities will be illustrated. The Committee will be asked to provide the Project with an appraisal and orientation on the new phase of the Project.

7. Other matters

8. Date and venue of the next Coordination Committee meeting

Report on the intersessional activities of the Project
(February 2009-February 2010)

This paper summarizes the main activities carried out by the Project *AdriaMed* between February 2009 and February 2010, 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 10th Meeting of the *AdriaMed* Coordination Committee (Chioggia, Italy, 26-27 January 2009) were implemented (CC/11/info02).

In addition to the work programme detailed below, a considerable part of the first semester of 2009 was devoted to the organization of the Internal FAO Project Technical Review. Following the communication by the Italian Donor, the Ministry of Agriculture Food and Forestry Policies (MiPAAF), concerning its readiness to support a third phase of the *AdriaMed* Project, the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Division was requested by the Italian Donor to carry out a technical review of the Project to evaluate its activities and to recommend any complementary measures for the proposed extended period.

Between March and May 2009 the Project staff and the consultant appointed by FAO to carry out the technical review visited all the countries participating in the Project as follows:

Croatia (7-9 April 2009): Croatian Directorate of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development (Zagreb) and Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries of Split (Split).

Slovenia (15 April 2009): Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Directorate for European Affairs and Bilateral Political Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Slovenia and Fisheries Research Institute of Slovenia (Ljubljana).

Albania (16 April 2009): Directorate of Fisheries Policies, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration (Tirana); Laboratory of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Agricultural University of Tirana (Durrës).

Italy (20 April 2009): Istituto di Scienze Marine-Centro Nazionale delle Ricerche (ISMAR-CNR) (Ancona) and Laboratory of Marine Biology and Fisheries of Fano, University of Bologna.

Montenegro (5-6 May 2009): Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor, (Kotor) and the Montenegro Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (Podgorica).

Each beneficiary institution was interviewed and provided a comprehensive overview of the achievements and constraints of the Project activities in the respective country from their perspective. Thematic areas and activities were identified for inclusion in a Project Document for future implementation during a possible future phase of the Project. A summary of the outcome of the internal technical review is given in the relative document (CC/11/04).

In this context, FAO is formulating a third phase of the Project following the informal indications provided by the Italian Donor concerning its willingness to continue supporting Project activities, the consultations with the countries made during the Technical Review performed in March-May 2009 and the indications given in the Technical Review. The Project staff, in coordination with FIMF, started drafting a new Project proposal for a third phase of AdriaMed which is to be presented to the Italian Donor, by taking into consideration the comments and suggestions collected during the technical review mission and the new challenges for fisheries management in the Adriatic and in the Mediterranean (CC/11/05).

The activities carried out during the inter-committee period comply with 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 Portal

The AdriaMed portal (www.faoadriamed.org) and the AdriaMed databases available on line have been further consolidated and developed. Currently, the Project Web site hosts 13 databases: (e.g. Fishing Ports, Fish Markets Species, Fisheries Legislation). The section including the information related to the fisheries and aquaculture sector of each participating country has been updated (Country Fishery Information Sheets). 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 nine years. The most recent Project publications have also been distributed through the Project's mailing list, which has about 500 contacts including experts and institutions. Moreover, efforts have been made to harmonize the web sites of all the regional projects of the Mediterranean in terms of the presentation of the information through the same web page format and in the fisheries information sheets.

AdriaMed Trawl Survey Information System (ATrIS)

The updated version of ATrIS (version 2.1), the computerized system developed to manage and undertake preliminary analysis of the data sets from the AdriaMed trawl survey, has been distributed to the MEDITS participants following a request expressed by the MEDITS coordination group (April, 2009). ATrIS is now the common tools being used by more than 20 Mediterranean research institutes to manage trawl survey data (including in many cases MEDITS data). The Project continues to provide technical assistance to the research institutes and continues to work on the development and improvement of this application.

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 in 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. 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 (Goa, India, 7-11 September 2009) (CC/11/info10).

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

Working Group on Demersal Fishery Resources

A meeting of the AdriaMed Working Group on Demersal Fishery Resources in the Adriatic Sea was held at the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries of Split (Split, Croatia), from 23 to 25 June 2009. 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 Mediterranean Regional Fisheries Projects also attended the meeting. The meeting was organized in three days: A two day training working session was organized to jointly apply the Survey Based Assessment (SURBA) method to the data made available by the Adriatic experts. Preliminary assessments of *Nephrops norvegicus* and *Merluccius merluccius* for the Adriatic Sea were performed jointly, exploring the possibility of dealing either separately with the two GSAs or combining all the data for the Adriatic. This was followed by a third day to discuss the ongoing and future Project activities. Full details are available in the relative Meeting Memorandum (CC/11/info03; CC/11/info08).

SOLEMON Project

In the framework of the activities related to the Demersal Fisheries Resources, 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)”. On December 2009 the associated survey covering Italian, Croatian and Slovenian waters was performed in cooperation with the CNR-ISMAR of Ancona. Stock assessment of *Solea solea* in GSA 17 resulting from the past year activities was performed

and discussed at the SAC/SCSA Working Group on Stock Assessment of Demersal Species (Ancona, October 2009).

Deep Sea survey

With reference to the scientific investigation of deep waters, a second survey has been foreseen in the South Adriatic area, to be carried out jointly on board M/P “ANDREA” by the Adriatic research institutes involved in the Project for February 2010. The activity has been postponed for adverse weather conditions. The activity was in accordance with the request made during the 10th and the 9th AdriaMed Coordination Committee meeting (January 2009, December 2007 respectively), 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.

Support to the research programmes on demersal stocks in the Central Adriatic

The Project continued to support the scientific experiments carried out in the Pomo/Jabuka pits area on *Nephrops* stocks as an example of methodology to assess demersal fisheries resources giving additional data to compare with the trawl survey data. The Istituto di Scienze Marine (CNR – ISMAR) of Ancona (Italy) in cooperation with the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries of Split (Croatia), under the auspices of AdriaMed, carried out an evaluation of the *Nephrops* stocks in the Jabuka/Pomo pits area using the towed UnderWater TV (UWTV) methodology in May 2009. The corresponding results were presented during the SAC-SCSA (Malaga, November/December 2009).

AdriaMed Working Group on Small Pelagic Fisheries Resources

The AdriaMed Working Group (WG) on Small Pelagic Fisheries Resources took place on 23-24 October 2009 in Ancona (Italy) kindly hosted by the Istituto di Scienze Marine (CNR – ISMAR) of Ancona. The meeting was attended by researchers from the Adriatic fisheries research institutes involved in the Project and members from the AdriaMed networks. The meeting reviewed the knowledge and information on small pelagic fish stocks, mainly anchovy and sardine. The stock assessments of anchovy and sardine were performed for GSA 17 by combining all the data made available by the experts of the participating countries. The WG also reviewed the results of the echosurveys in Western and Eastern GSA 18 and the application of DEPM in GSA 18; both activities carried out under the umbrella of the Project. The future Project activities were identified including those concerning the Coordinating Team on Echo Surveys in the Adriatic Sea. The results of the stock assessment of anchovy and sardine for GSA 17 were presented and discussed during the SAC SCSA (Malaga, November/December 2009). Full details are available in the relative Meeting Memorandum (CC/11/info04; CC/11/info05).

Pilot study to support the fisheries sector in Montenegro

The Project further supported the study started in 2007 and designed to implement a monitoring system for the Montenegrin fisheries sector, including biological, environmental, economic and social information, applying the Operational Unit (OU) concept. The 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 collection of catch

data is being restarted in September 2009. The socio-economic survey has been suspended. Some preliminary results are provided in the relative report (CC/11/info09).

Workshop on socio-economic data collection systems for fisheries management

In cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of Slovenia the Project organized a workshop on socio-economic data collection systems for fisheries management, further to the specific request formulated by the countries during the 8th AdriaMed Coordination Committee meeting (Albania, 2006). The workshop was held in Ljubljana, on 21-22 January 2010. The workshop described the data collection systems on fisheries socio-economics currently in use in each Adriatic country and identified common problems faced by the Adriatic countries on this issue as well as the priorities to be addressed. Full details are available in the relative Meeting Memorandum (CC/11/info06).

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, the 10th AdriaMed Coordination 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 a proposal of an FRA (Fishery Restricted Area) in the area. The meeting was convened informally in October 2009, in Ancona back-to-back to the GFCM–SAC SCSA Working Group of Demersal Species and agreed to collect updated data throughout 2010 for the completion of the proposal on the feasibility of creating a protected zone in the Jabuka/Pomo Pit area, indicating different management measures and their possible benefits.

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, several informal meetings of coordination were held with the other Regional Projects CopeMed II, ArtFiMed and EastMed and official meeting was also held in order to consolidate and coordinate common activities (Rome, FAO-HQ 13-15 January 2010). In this respect efforts were made to harmonize the information included in the respective Projects' web sites, commencing from the information of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in each participating country. The Project also participated in the Coordination Committees of MedSudMed (February 2009) and CopeMed II (June 2009) where additional synergies were identified.

With the support of the other Regional Projects (namely CopeMed II, ArtFiMed and MedSudMed) the Project prepared a publication listing all the documents produced by the Mediterranean Projects since 1999 (FAO Mediterranean Projects Products: 1999- February

2009, CC/11/Info12). In addition a poster describing the Regional Projects' aims and a leaflet on the activities of the AdriaMed Project were prepared and distributed during the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the 33rd GFCM session.

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 25 Adriatic experts in 9 GFCM meetings (both SAC and CAQ related; CC/11/info13) held in the intersessional period as follows:

- 33rd session GFCM (Tunis, Tunisia 23 - 27 March 2009)
- GFCM - SAC - SCSA - Workshop on a GFCM Regional Logbook for the Mediterranean and Black Sea, Rome, Italy 29 June 2009 - 1 July 2009
- GFCM - SAC - SCSA Working Group on Demersal Species (Ancona, Italy, 19-23 October 2009)
- GFCM - CAQ - WG on Marketing on Aquaculture - Development of a Strategy for Marketing and Promotion of Mediterranean Aquaculture (Tangiers, Morocco, 26-27 October 2009)
- GFCM - SAC - SCSA - Working Group on Small Pelagic Species (Ancona, Italy, 26-30 October 2009)
- GFCM - CAQ – Multi-stakeholder Workshop on Siting and Carrying Capacity (ShocMed) (Tangiers, Morocco, 29-30 October 2009)
- GFCM - CAQ - Workshop on guidelines and application on sustainable indicators in aquaculture (InDAM) (Salammbô, Tunisia, 19-20 November 2009)
- GFCM - SAC - Sub-Committees meetings - (Malaga, Spain, 30 November-3 December 2009)
- GFCM - SAC - Coordination Meeting of the Sub-Committees (CMSC) (Malaga, Spain 4 December 2009)
- GFCM - CAQ - Workshop on harmonisation standards for Mediterranean aquaculture data collection (Trabzon, Turkey, 8 December 2009)
- GFCM - Committee on Aquaculture - 11th SIPAM Annual Meeting (Trabzon, Turkey, 9- 10 December 2009)
- GFCM - Scientific Advisory Committee - 12th Session (Budva, Montenegro 25-29 January 2010)

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

In 2007 the Project began to expand and update the information on the legislation on fisheries in the Adriatic Sea countries related to Recreational Fisheries (RF). The activity has been postponed due to budget constraints.

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 several Adriatic experts in a number of GFCM - CAQ related meetings.

The Project continued its support to the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor (IBMK) for the creation of a Centre for the Conservation of Marine and Inland Biodiversity in Montenegro. In this respect a technical mission was organized at the IBMK to verify the most relevant aspects and considerations to be taken into account for the preparation of a plan for the restoration of the aquaculture facilities at the IBMK (CC/11/info11).

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 the coming year.

The Project has been operative since October 1999 with an initial mandate of 5 years (*AdriaMed* I phase). During the 5th *AdriaMed* Coordination Committee meeting (2003), the Committee reviewed the conclusions and recommendations made by the Project Mid-term Review and recommended a five-year extension period from 2005 to 2010 (*AdriaMed* II phase). 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 third phase of the *AdriaMed* Project. In view of that, the MiPAAF requested that the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Division carry out a technical review of the Project in order to evaluate the Project's activities and to recommend any complementary measures for a proposed third phase. The review was accomplished by carrying out technical missions in the participating countries after which the results achieved so far by the Project were described in addition to the comments and requirements received by the participating institutes as priorities for the future. The end date for the Project is now set for 30th June 2010 according to the last extension of the Project activities provided by the Italian Donor.

This document includes activities that cover the next 12 months despite the fact that the second phase of the Project is due to end in June 2010. Indeed FAO is preparing the formulation of a third phase of the Project following the informal indication provided by the Donor on its willingness to continue supporting the Project activities, and on the basis of the consultations with the countries carried out during the Technical Review carried out in March-May 2009 and the indications given in the Technical review.

The new, third phase of *AdriaMed*, is foreseen to start in July 2010 thus assuring continuity between the second and the new phase of Project activities.

The concepts notes on which the new Project proposal is being prepared have been drafted and were circulated among the participating countries in the month of February, in order to facilitate the discussion during the Coordination Committee meeting (CC/11/info 5).

In this context, the activities proposed in this document take into account the objectives and results achieved so far, the recommendations received during the 10th Coordination Committee meeting (January 2009, Chioggia, Italy), as well as the scientific cooperation established within the framework of the GFCM and the indications collected from the countries during the specific missions for the technical review of the Project.

The final work plan will take into due account the recommendations of the 11th Coordination Committee meeting, in accordance with the priority expressed by the countries on each activity and directly linked to the budget availability of the Project.

WORKPLAN

In order to facilitate the presentation of the workplan for the next 12 months, all the activities were organized into four main themes:

- Fisheries Resources
- Socio-Economic
- Statistics and Information System
- Regional Cooperation

These themes cover the Outputs foreseen in the second phase of the Project and the new proposed Outcomes for the third phase. Moreover, efforts have been made, in coordination with the participating countries, and all the Mediterranean Regional Projects, to draft a tentative common calendar of the activities, in order to avoid any overlap as well as to find synergies and strengthen the coordination among the activities of the Regional Projects.

Fisheries Resources

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; the training needs on stock assessment methods; and the request made by the GFCM SAC to provide subregional stock assessment on priority species. Taking into account the successful work produced by the WG and in the view of streamlining and speeding up the stock assessment process, the possibility of having a common database on an AdriaMed server under an agreed set of rules of utilisation among the participating countries will be explored. The WG on small pelagic fisheries resources is tentatively planned to take place in October 2010.

Coordinating Team on Echo Survey

The activities of the AdriaMed Coordinating Team on echo survey (CTE) in the Adriatic Sea, whose work began in 2007, will be further supported. The CTE will define a workplan that aims, among other things, to identify possible steps to finalize the harmonization of the research vessels equipped for acoustic surveys in the North Adriatic Sea and to plan the joint data analysis session; to identify training needs for the experts of the sub-region or to rebuild the expertise in the area; to identify synergies with the newly established European Commission initiative “MEDIAS” (MEDiterranean International Acoustic Surveys) launched for the creation of a coordinated acoustic survey on small pelagic species in the Mediterranean.

Joint survey exercise using acoustic methods and DEPM in the South Adriatic Sea

A joint acoustic survey using R/V “Dalla Porta” covering South Adriatic waters (GSA18) is being organized in July 2010 thus repeating the survey carried out in July 2008 in

cooperation with the CNR-ISMAR of Ancona. Taking this opportunity, theoretical and onboard training activities will be carried out during the acoustic survey for national staff from Albania and Montenegro. The feasibility of concurrently carrying out a DEPM survey tentatively covering the whole GSA 18, will be investigated by seeking collaboration with the CNR-ISMAR Ancona and the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor.

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 MEDITS programme; the survey in deep sea waters; the document reviewing the trawl surveys in the Adriatic Sea, 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 2010.

Review of the current knowledge on shared demersal resources stocks of the Adriatic Sea

The AdriaMed Technical Document N. 8 “Review of current knowledge on shared demersal stocks of the Adriatic Sea” published in 2004 will be updated and published.

AdriaMed 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.

Document on the demersal fishery resources in the Adriatic Sea

A document including and summarizing all the data collected during 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 (National Group for Demersal Resource Evaluation) in the Italian waters, will be finalised and published.

Joint biological monitoring of demersal stocks in the Central Adriatic

The possibility to support the UnderWater TV (UWTV) survey carried out in the Pomo/Jabuka Pits area on *Nephrops norvegicus* stocks to assess this demersal fisheries resource giving additional data to compare with the trawl survey data, will be investigated.

In conjunction with this activity, and for the sake of better monitoring the occurrence of juvenile hake and other demersal resources of this area, the Project is evaluating the possibility to support an increased coverage of the trawl survey activities either increasing

the number of sampling stations in the area by taking advantage of surveys already in place in the area (e.g. MEDITS surveys) or by supporting an additional *ad-hoc* survey.

SOLEMON Project

In the framework of the activities related to the Demersal Fisheries Resources, the Project will investigate the possibility to support the eastward extension of 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).

Training activities

Some specific training activities will be organized further to specific requests formulated by the Adriatic experts during the past years and also raised during the recent AdriaMed Working Group on Small Pelagic (October 2009, Ancona, Italy). In particular:

Training activities on small pelagic fisheries resources direct appraisal methods (Echo survey and DEPM)

Following the numerous requests for training on this issue, and as follow-up to the meeting of the Coordinated Team on echo-survey in the Adriatic Sea, in cooperation with the CNR-ISMAR of Ancona and the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (IOF) of Split, the Project will continue to provide assistance for theoretical and onboard training activities for national staff during the acoustic surveys on R/V DALLA PORTA foreseen in Summer 2010. The aim is to create a sub-regional, mixed, working team on echosurvey. Moreover the possibility of providing on the job training on daily eggs production method during the DEPM survey in GSA 18 will be investigated.

Training course on ageing

A general need for the harmonization, at Adriatic level, of the fish ageing analysis by means of otolith reading has been identified. The possibility to organize an intercalibration exercise among all the Adriatic research institutes involved in fish ageing research activities will be investigated.

Training course on stock assessment methods

In addition, a specific request for an on-the job training session on the management of data to be used for the application of the Virtual Population Analysis (VPA) stock assessment method has been formulated. The possibility of having a training session on stock assessment of small pelagics using the Adriatic data will be investigated.

Training course on benthos species identification

The importance of holding training activities for the identification of specific taxa of benthos and the need to rebuild the expertise in this area in the whole Adriatic region has been expressed on several occasions by the Adriatic experts. Following the request formulated during an *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 proposal made during the last Project Coordination Committee meeting (January 2009), the Project will investigate the possibility of organizing such a training exercise.

Socio-economics

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

Following the outcome of the AdriaMed Workshop on fisheries socio-economic data collection for fisheries management (Slovenia, January 2010), and the experience accrued during the AdriaMed “Training activities on Responsible Fisheries Management” (Portogruaro, Italy, September – December 2005) the Project has foreseen the organization of field training programmes for both data manager and data collectors in the field of fisheries socio-economic data collection (CC/11/info11).

Review on the fisheries legislation

In 2003 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 was published as AdriaMed Technical Document N.14 and made available online on the AdriaMed web site. In 2007 an updated version of the AdriaMed Technical Document N.14 (rev.1) was produced. An update of the information on the legislative framework in the Adriatic countries is foreseen.

Statistics and Information Systems

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), 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.

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 (Albania and Montenegro), if requested.

AdriaMed Web site

The AdriaMed portal (www.faoadriamed.org) will be consolidated and developed and the online databases will also be further updated.

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.

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.

Collaboration between AdriaMed and ASFA

The activities carried out so far for the inclusion of Adriatic scientific publications in the ASFA database will continue. 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. In addition, the Project will continue to provide assistance to the FAO ASFA Secretariat.

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.

Centre for the Conservation of Marine Biodiversity at the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor

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 coastal areas.

Regional Cooperation

Strengthening the cooperation with the other FAO Regional Projects

The existing cooperation with other FAO Regional Projects (RP) such as the MedSudMed Project will continue and further collaboration with CopeMed II, ArtFiMed, EASTMED and MedFisis is sought.

In this context, synergies are foreseen with the other regional Projects, also taking into consideration the indications collected during an internal coordination meeting among the Projects (Rome, FAO-HQ 13-15 January 2010). A second coordination meeting of the Mediterranean Regional Projects has already been planned for June 2010 in order to

consolidate and coordinate common activities. Areas of cooperation have been indicated for surveys at sea and socio-economic aspects of fisheries.

Training activities will be coordinated among all the Projects, in order to avoid duplication or overlapping of activities. The participation of other RP experts in training courses organized by AdriaMed will be foreseen as well as the contrary.

In this respect the efforts being made to harmonize the information provided by the Projects through their respective web sites will be continued and the realization of a common repository of all the documents produced by the Mediterranean Regional Project is planned.

The preparation of common material (leaflets, CD-rom, etc.) that can improve the visibility of the RPs in the Mediterranean area and in the international context is foreseen.

Moreover, the Project will participate in the Coordination Committees of MedSudMed (March 2010), EastMed (April 2010) and CopeMed II (June 2010) where additional synergies will be identified.

Strengthening the cooperation with other initiatives in the region

Cooperation with international institutions or projects on topics that may be of common interest will also be sought. Synergies with other initiatives acting in the Adriatic region regarding fishery subjects will be sought for the sake of avoiding duplication of efforts and optimizing the use of financial resources.

In particular, synergies are sought with the GEF Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem - MedSea LME Project, Sub-Component 3.2: Promote the Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources in the Mediterranean through the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries -- Activity 3.2.1: Application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, for the identification of training needs and priorities for mainstreaming the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries into fisheries research and management.

Strengthening the cooperation with the GFCM

The Project will continue to strengthen international and regional cooperation at Mediterranean level with the GFCM and its related bodies, according to budget availability, (SAC, SubCommittees, Working Groups, CAQ) through the preparation of scientific contributions for GFCM events, the participation of experts from the AdriaMed countries in GFCM events and through support to the countries to be compliant with the GFCM requests.

List of Documents

FAO AdriaMed: CC/11/01	Provisional Annotated Agenda
FAO AdriaMed: CC/11/02	Report on the intersessional activities of the Project
FAO AdriaMed: CC/11/03	Project future implementation
FAO AdriaMed: CC/11/04	AdriaMed Project – Internal FAO Project Technical Review
FAO AdriaMed: CC/11/05	Project Concept Note--Proposal for the new Project's phase
FAO AdriaMed: CC/11/info 1	Provisional list of participants
FAO AdriaMed: CC/11/info 2	Report of the Tenth Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee. <i>AdriaMed Technical Documents N. 26</i>
FAO AdriaMed: CC/11/info 3	AdriaMed Working Group on Demersal Fisheries Resources (Split, Croatia June 2009). <i>AdriaMed Meeting Memorandum 166</i> . GCP/RER/010/ITA OM 166
FAO AdriaMed: CC/11/info 4	AdriaMed Working Group on Small Pelagic Fisheries Resources (Ancona, Italy, 23-24 October 2009). <i>AdriaMed Meeting Memorandum 167</i> . GCP/RER/010/ITA OM 167
FAO AdriaMed: CC/11/info 5	Assessment Form on <i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i> and <i>Sardina pilchardus</i> . Data presented at the GFCM-SAC Sub Committee on Stock Assessment (Malaga, Spain 30 November – 3 December 2009)
FAO AdriaMed: CC/11/info 6	AdriaMed Workshop on socio-economic data collection systems for fisheries management (Ljubljana, Slovenia, 21-22 January 2010). <i>AdriaMed Meeting Memorandum 168</i> . GCP/RER/010/ITA OM 168
FAO AdriaMed: CC/11/info 7	Proposal for the AdriaMed training course on socio-economic data collection for data collectors and data managers
FAO AdriaMed: CC/11/info 8	Survey based assessment of Mediterranean fish stocks using SURBA. <i>AdriaMed Technical Documents (Preliminary DRAFT)</i>

FAO AdriaMed: CC/11/info 9	Preliminary report of the Project to implement a monitoring system for the fisheries sector in Montenegro, applying the Operating Unit (OU) concept: BIOLOGICAL SAMPLING (II year - <i>DRAFT</i>)
FAO AdriaMed: CC/11/info 10	Report on AdriaMed ASFA activities
FAO AdriaMed: CC/11/info 11	Proposal for the restoration of the aquaculture facilities at the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation in the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor (Montenegro) (<i>DRAFT</i>)
FAO AdriaMed: CC/11/info 12	FAO Mediterranean Projects products. 1999- February 2009
FAO AdriaMed: CC/11/info 13	Major activities of the FAO Regional Projects. Documents presented at the GFCM 33rd Session (Tunis, Tunisia, 23-27 March 2009) and at the GFCM SAC 12th session (Budva, Montenegro, 25 - 29 January 2010)
FAO AdriaMed: CC/11/info 14	List of Documents