



*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 Twelfth Meeting of the AdriaMed  
Coordination Committee

Ljubljana, Slovenia, 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011

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 EU or MiPAAF concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or concerning the determination of its frontiers or boundaries.

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, 2010 and 2011.

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 Twelfth Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee, organised by the FAO-AdriaMed Project (*Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea*) in Ljubljana, Slovenia, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011.

### Acknowledgements

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of Slovenia, which through Ms Anica Zavrl Bogataj, provided kind hospitality and assistance in the organization of the Meeting, is gratefully acknowledged.

AdriaMed.

Report of the Twelfth Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee. Ljubljana, Slovenia, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011.

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### **ABSTRACT**

The Twelfth Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the FAO AdriaMed Regional Project “Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea” was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011. 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 2010.

The activities followed the methodological approach used by the Project and were presented according to the main components. Attention was drawn on the working paper “Project Future Implementation”, in which objectives, outputs and activities of the proposed extension phase of AdriaMed for 2011 were introduced and illustrated.

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## **Report of the Twelfth Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee**

**Ljubljana, Slovenia, 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011**

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

1. The Twelfth Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the FAO AdriaMed Regional Project “Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea” was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, 1st and 2nd March 2011 on the invitation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of Slovenia and kindly hosted by the Fisheries Research Institute of Slovenia.

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Donors, delegations from the countries participating in the Project (the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Italy, the Republic of Montenegro and the Republic of Slovenia), a representative of the Marine and Inland Service of the Fisheries Resources Use and Conservation Division (FAO-FIRF) of FAO, also in the capacity of Coordinator of the FAO MedFisis and MedSea LME Projects, a representative of the FAO Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe, a representative of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), staff of the FAO Regional Projects CopeMed II, EastMed and MedSudMed as well as the staff of the FAO AdriaMed Project. The List of Participants is given in Annex A.

3. The Head of the Section for Hunting and Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of Slovenia, Ms Urška Srnec, was unanimously elected as Chairperson for this twelfth AdriaMed Coordination Committee Meeting. She greeted the Meeting delegates and expressed her honour at having the Committee members gathered in Slovenia in occasion of this meeting.

4. On behalf of the Government of Slovenia, the Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of Slovenia, Directorate for Forestry, Hunting and Fisheries, Ms Anica Zavrl Bogataj, welcomed all the Committee Meeting participants. She drew the attention of the participants to the remarkably good relations that have been achieved in the context of AdriaMed between the fishery administrations, the research institutes, producers’ and fishers’ associations in the Project area. The important role played in the subregion by the Project was acknowledged, because the large amount of scientific data collected and compiled in the framework of AdriaMed represents the building blocks of a responsible fishery policy which in turn can contribute meaningfully to the sustainable management of fisheries resources. She underlined that this is particularly important in the Adriatic area where most of the fishery resources are shared and she recalled that when joint assessments of shared stocks are carried out with common analysis of all data pooled together, the management of these fisheries stocks is greatly facilitated; the role of the project in promoting these joint activities was highlighted. She wished the meeting every success and in particular she expressed the hope that the results of this 12th Coordination Committee meeting would lead to the continuation of AdriaMed activities. High appreciation on the

work performed so far by the Project was expressed and the support given to Slovenia was emphasized especially in terms of building national capacity. The rising role of the Project within the Mediterranean region and the significant contribution for the national fishery sectors were also pointed out.

5. Ms Urška Srnc echoed the importance of the FAO AdriaMed Project for Slovenia. She underlined that the country has a small coastline and fishing fleet and accordingly the administration and scientific staff allocated to these activities is very limited. Therefore, in terms of reliable scientific data and capacity for the evaluation and management of the shared stocks, she underlined that Slovenia is very much dependent on regional projects and in particular on the FAO AdriaMed Project.

6. The Director of the Fisheries Research Institute, Mr Dejan Pehar, welcomed the participants, and expressed his honor to host the second meeting of AdriaMed, in the new HQ of the Institute.

7. The Project Coordinator, Mr Enrico Arneri, took the floor and welcomed all the Delegations. The Slovenian authorities were thanked for hosting the meeting, being the third official FAO AdriaMed Coordination Committee meeting held in the country following the 2nd Coordination Committee meeting in Portorož in 2000 and the 7th meeting in Ljubljana (2005).

8. The delegate from Montenegro, Mr Aleksandar Joksimović, thanked the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of Slovenia for hosting the meeting and the AdriaMed Project for the support given to the countries in particular for the technical assistance provided. He further recognized the importance of the Project for the future responsible management of the Adriatic and stressed the role that each cooperating country can play and the advantages it can receive from this process.

9. The Croatian Representative, Mr Josip Suić, the new Director of the Directorate of Fisheries from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development expressed his gratitude to the Slovenian Ministry for organizing this meeting. He thanked the Italian Donor as well as the EC DG MARE for their continued support to the Project and the FAO AdriaMed staff for the preparation of the meeting and for the hard work that has been put into the finalisation of the documents presented. He further stressed the importance of the Project to the work on shared stocks, which are of primary importance for the fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. He ensured that Croatia will continue to participate fully in the development of Project activities and expressed the hope that scientists, administrations and stakeholders would all be involved in the cooperative work promoted by the Project.

10. The EC Representative, Ms Silvia Scalco, thanked the Slovenian Ministry for hosting the meeting and each member country for the cooperation and the achievements in the context of AdriaMed. She stressed the importance of the AdriaMed Project for the European Commission and confirmed the strong interest of DG MARE in AdriaMed and the other FAO Regional Projects, which are considered very important tools to enhance the regional cooperation on fisheries issues and to achieve sustainable results.

11. The FAO FIRF Fishery Resource Officer, Mr Pedro de Barros, on behalf of FAO FIR Division thanked the Slovenian Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food for hosting the meeting. He underlined that AdriaMed and the other FAO Projects in the Mediterranean are widely regarded as excellent tools for promoting scientific and management cooperation in the region and are fully supported by the Division. He also reiterated the availability of FAO FIRF to support the countries in the region in their efforts to enhance their fisheries management systems to ensure sustainable fisheries in the region.

12. The Representative of Italy, Mr Plinio Conte thanked Slovenia for hosting the meeting. He remarked that Italy strongly believes in the AdriaMed Project and in the importance of the results achieved in its framework. He stressed the highly positive appraisal of the AdriaMed Project, remarking on its relevance for the work carried out to date and for the contribution in terms of scientific support to the management of fisheries in the Adriatic region.

13. The Coordinator of the FAO EastMed Project, Ms Constantina Riga, thanked the hosting country and the AdriaMed Project for the invitation to the meeting. She also underlined that this is the first participation of Eastmed staff in the AdriaMed Coordination Committee and wished a fruitful and successful meeting.

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

14. The Chairperson introduced the Agenda and invited the participants to comment and to propose changes. The Agenda was adopted with no changes.

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

15. The Project Information Officer, Ms Nicoletta Milone, made a presentation of the major activities carried out by AdriaMed from March 2010 to February 2011, based on the "Report on the intersessional activities of the Project" (Annex C, CC/12/02) and on other documents and reports included in the Meeting document folder.

16. Particular relevance was given to the activities carried out in the framework of the Project Working Groups, all of which have held recent meetings. Emphasis was given to the results of the WG on Demersal Fisheries Resources, during which the stock assessment of sole *Solea solea* in GSA 17 and of Hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) in GSA 18 were presented and discussed. This resulted in the presentation of two joint stock assessment at the Working Group on Demersals of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and Black Sea (GFCM). The Project continued to support the SOLEMON project and the ongoing scientific experiments in the Pomo/Jabuka pit area carried out using towed Under Water TV (UWTV) methodology. In addition, a specific action to further investigate the abundance of fishery resources in the Pomo/Jabuka Pit area was supported and additional trawl hauls were performed during the standard MEDITS surveys carried out in the area. A document summarizing some management options for the area has been compiled in the framework of AdriaMed and preliminarily discussed among

the scientists. Moreover the Committee was informed that in August 2010 a second deep sea survey was performed in the South Adriatic area.

17. Where small pelagic resources are concerned the relative Project Working Group carried forward all the ongoing discussions and in particular in July 2010 a joint acoustic and ichthyoplankton survey was carried out in GSA 18 including theoretical and practical training activities. Following this a training-workshop on the Daily Egg Production Method (DEPM) for the evaluation of the spawning biomass of anchovy was carried out. A joint stock assessment of sardine and anchovy was performed for GSA 17 by combining all the data (including acoustic data) made available by the research institutions. Likewise, the spawning stock biomass of anchovy in GSA 18 was estimated based on the outcomes of the DEPM exercise. The joint stock assessments carried out were presented during the Working Group on Small Pelagics of the SAC – GFCM. Furthermore the Committee was informed that a training course on “Virtual Population Analysis (VPA) methods in Fish Stock Assessment” was organised as well as data collection in specific areas.

18. The Project further supported the study started in 2007 and designed to implement a monitoring system for the Montenegrin fisheries sector, including biological, environmental and economic 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).

19. The Project continued to improve and distribute the ATrIS (AdriaMed Trawl Information System) package. The AdriaMed Portal continues to be developed. 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 was created.

20. As an ASFA International Partner, the Project continues to support ASFA, as well as 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 continued to provide assistance to the FAO ASFA Secretariat.

21. The Committee was informed that technical support was provided to the other FAO Regional Projects as requested and all potential synergies are being developed. A common exposition during the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) session (Italy, 31 January – 4 February 2011) was organized for all the FAO Mediterranean Regional Projects displaying informative material and posters of the Projects activities. Cooperation with “MedSea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedSea-LME)” Project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)” on topics that may be of common interest, was also sought. It was further recalled that the Project continues to support the activities of the GFCM by providing scientific contributions for discussion at key GFCM, SAC and CAQ meetings as well as providing specific, ad hoc support to participating countries according to their individual requirements. In this framework the Committee was informed that the Project supported the presence of regional experts at 10 GFCM-related meetings in the intersessional period.

22. The Committee members appreciated the amount of work done by the Project and emphasized that it represents the follow up to the planning approved during the last Coordination Committee meeting.

23. The GFCM representative, Ms Pilar Hernandez thanked the Project for the invitation to the meeting and mentioned that this was her first participation at the Coordination Committee meeting. She expressed the honor of the GFCM to be a member of such an important forum in which the main decisions for the planning of the Project are taken. She conveyed the greetings of the GFCM Acting Executive Secretary and she congratulated the Project on the results achieved, most of which have provided extremely valuable contributions to the priority issues for SAC and CAQ. She further acknowledged the work carried out by the Project on the compilation of biological parameters that resulted in an important contribution for the SAC Biological Parameters Regional Database. She made particular reference to the relevance that the joint stock assessment performed for both small pelagic and demersal fisheries resources had for the GFCM SAC. She acknowledged the cooperative work carried out by the countries and strongly encouraged them to continue, through AdriaMed and the other FAO Regional Projects.

24. The FAO Senior Fisheries Officer of the Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe (FAO-SEUM) Mr Thomas Moth-Poulsen, expressed satisfaction for the achievements of the Project since the 11th Coordination Committee meeting. Recognizing the importance of the support for the data collection, in particular on aquaculture, he envisaged some synergies between the initiatives on aquaculture in place under the supervision of FAO SEUM and the census of marine aquaculture facilities initiated by the AdriaMed Project in 2010.

#### **Development of the Project's Programme for the next period (Agenda Item n.4)**

25. The document CC/12/03 "Project Future Implementation" was introduced by the AdriaMed Project Coordinator, Mr Enrico Arneri. 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 sub-regional level.

26. The Committee was reminded that the end of AdriaMed Project was scheduled for June 2011 and thanks to additional funds provided by the Donors the activities have been extended to June 2012.

27. The Committee was informed that an Internal Evaluation of the Pproject will be performed by FAO probably in late 2011 or at the beginning of 2012.

28. The presentation focused on priority issues and activities, taking into account the objectives and results achieved so far, mainly in 2010, the recommendations received during the 11th Coordination Committee meeting and the scientific cooperation established in the framework of the GFCM. In principle all the activities proposed were considered of high relevance, moreover each Delegation took the floor to illustrate where the Project was

meeting their specific needs as well as where it was addressing a general need for the Adriatic region.

29. The delegate from Montenegro thanked the Project for the presentation and reiterated the important role that the AdriaMed Project played in the development of the fishery sector of his country, starting from 2004 when Montenegro joined the Project. He underlined that the support of the Project allowed for the active involvement of Montenegro in the Adriatic scientific community, which is essential for the country, in particular considering that since 2008 it has been a full member of the GFCM. He acknowledged the mechanisms established by the Project for strengthening the scientific cooperation in the sub-region. He manifested his high appreciation of the workplan, in particular where concerning the appraisal of fisheries resources, indicating the importance that the support planned for the ichthyoplankton surveys and the associated evaluation with the DEPM method has for Montenegro. He further welcomed the training activities foreseen as they will contribute to the continuing improvement of the Montenegrin national capacity. Moreover he also welcomed the activity planned to update the information on the legislative framework in place in all the AdriaMed participating countries, mentioning that Montenegro adopted new legislation last year. Finally he reiterated the importance of the support provided to the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor (IBMK) in establishing the Centre for the Conservation of Marine and Inland Biodiversity in Montenegro.

30. The Delegate from Albania recalled the value of the support provided to his country by AdriaMed mainly in terms of capacity building through the training activities and in terms of data collection. In particular the importance of the support provided to the Directorate in the establishment of a monitoring programme to collect socio-economic data on aquaculture in Albania was noted. He further welcomed the initiatives related to the updating the information on the fisheries legislation, since the legislative framework on capture fisheries and aquaculture changed recently in Albania. He expressed the wish that the Project would pursue the process of investigating the interactions between capture fisheries and aquaculture and in particular presented his country's request for a pilot study on this matter.

31. The Slovenian delegates reiterated the significant role that the Project plays for her country, in which the fishing sector plays a minor role since the Slovenian portion of the Adriatic coasts is small. She underlined the importance for the Fisheries Directorate of taking advantage from the results of the cooperation established in the framework of AdriaMed. She gave the example of the joint stock assessment performed on small pelagic resources under the umbrella of the Project, it would have been impossible for Slovenia to provide the same global picture just using the data collected during its national surveys.

32. With reference to the activities related to continuing the work on indicators, the representative of the Fisheries Research Institute of Slovenia, Mr Bojan Marčeta, mentioned that the guidelines provided by the EC Directive on Marine Strategy Framework Directive set a new level of demands on the countries for which they would need the support of the Project. Reference was then made to the work carried out by the Project so far on this issue and the Committee agreed to take advantage of the results already achieved in order to further proceed. It was agreed that the Project should include a special session in the agenda of the

next AdriaMed Working Groups on fisheries resources in order to progress on this particular matter.

33. The Croatian representative thanked the Project staff for the presentation and underlined that a large amount of work is foreseen for the coming period. From an “administrative” point of view, he congratulated the participants for the positive and cooperative environment that has been built in the framework of AdriaMed. In particular he pointed out the importance of the synergy created and of the process for exchanging and sharing data and information among institutes. He also reiterated the relevance of the scientific work for the assessment of the fish stocks which provides the administrations with the necessary information to plan management strategies. In this process transparency was also considered an added value which should always be maintained. He also confirmed that the Fishery Directorate in Croatia will provide the best possible participation and follow up to the Project activities.

34. From a “technical” point of view, the Croatian representative strongly supported the work and report produced on the Jabuka/Pomo pit, which should be seen as a pilot action to verify the capability to manage shared stocks at regional level. In addition, while recognizing that the proposed work plan comprised the discussion held during the year, he envisaged the importance to re-establish, in the medium term, the “Working Group on coastal fisheries”.

35. With reference to the Jabuka Pomo Pit the document CC/12/info13 was discussed, in particular regarding its future use by the National Administrations concerned. The document summarizes this issue which has been discussed through time at international level and during several AdriaMed meetings; it gives a description of the status of the main resources in this area and a set of possible management options in terms of closed areas to trawl fishing. The document was compiled for transmission to the National Fisheries Administrations. While the Committee underlined the importance of such a document, the lack of detailed socio-economic data and data on fishing effort distribution was noticed by the EC representative. The Committee, in underlining the importance of continuing to have the Project’s support on this issue, suggested that, upon request of the Administrations concerned, AdriaMed could convene an ad hoc meeting for the next steps towards the proposal for the establishment of agreed management measures in line with what is proposed in the document.

36. The Committee generally agreed on the relevance of the investigation on deep sea waters, both for the scientific importance of this activity and for the methodology followed, which foresaw the involvement of all the Adriatic institutes in all the stages of the investigation according to their specific expertise.

37. With reference to the small pelagic fisheries resources data, discussion was held on the draft “Memorandum of Understanding on the use of a common database on small pelagic fisheries”. The aim of the MoU is to regulate access to the data stored in a common database by the Adriatic Fishery Laboratories in order to facilitate the performance of stock assessments by the AdriaMed Working Group on small pelagic fish. During the discussion the document was amended, incorporating a clear statement on the fact that National

Fisheries Administrations retain ownership of the data. A clarification on the definition of AdriaMed partners was requested and the Committee recognized the need to include the reference terminology in the document. Further clarification on possible conflicts with the rules established by the Data Collection Framework for the EU member countries were also requested by the EU representative. The Memorandum of Understanding was approved in general by the Coordination Committee and the Project staff was mandated to include the detailed comments and clarifications requested and to circulate the amended version among the Committee members through the appropriate channels.

38. The FAO Fisheries Officer of Central and Eastern Europe acknowledged the impressive amount of work carried out and proposed for the workplan. He further suggested the possible inclusion in the Project work plan of some main emerging subjects like Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fisheries and Monitoring, Control and Surveillance as well as port state control. He also underlined the importance of fully involving the fishing industry when implementing technical measures. To this extent he envisaged the Project acting as a catalyst for the Adriatic region in tackling this issue.

39. The GFCM representative presented the draft work plan of GFCM-SAC envisaged for 2011/2012. The Committee members thanked her for a very complete presentation, and noticed that the large list of proposed meetings and the calendar proposed might prevent the countries from ensuring timely contributions to the SAC activities .

40. The issue of the relation between the FAO Mediterranean Regional Projects and the GFCM was discussed at length following also the results of the recent GFCM Performance Review presented at the last GFCM SAC meeting in Marseille. The Committee underlined the autonomy of AdriaMed in relation to GFCM. AdriaMed and the GFCM share the common objective of sustainable fisheries management in the region. All the activities carried out in the framework of AdriaMed contribute to reinforcing the GFCM, through the enhancement of the capacity of the countries and the improvement of information and knowledge on Adriatic Fisheries and living resources. Nevertheless the meeting agreed and reaffirmed that decisions on the priorities of the countries and activities to be supported by the Project, are defined by the AdriaMed Coordination Committee.

41. After wide discussion and comment on the content of Document CC/08/03, the Committee agreed on the programme of activities proposed for the coming period; some specific elements were pointed out with reference to some of the activities and related outputs. The approved Programme of work is annexed to this report.

**Other matters and Date and venue of the next Coordination Committee meeting (Agenda item n.5 and 6)**

42. Delegates and Meeting participants wished to express their thanks to the Minister of Agriculture Forestry and Food, the Director for Forestry, Hunting and Fisheries of Slovenia for the hospitality provided.

43. Upon the kind invitation of the Albanian delegation, the next Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee will be held in Albania. 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 2 March 2011.

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## 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. 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, with the GFCM 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.*

### **5. Other matters**

### **6. Date and venue of the next Coordination Committee meeting**

**Report on the intersessional activities of the Project**  
(March 2010 – February 2011)

This paper summarizes the main activities carried out by the Project *AdriaMed* between March 2010 – February 2011, 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 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the *AdriaMed* Coordination Committee (Kotor, Montenegro, 3-4 March 2010) were implemented (CC/12/info2).

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. Several missions were organised to Croatia (Split), to Montenegro (Kotor and Podgorica) and to Slovenia (Ljubljana). The meetings were held at the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (Split), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Montenegro and at the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor (IBMK) and at the Fisheries Research Institute of Ljubljana to discuss with the national counterparts on the implementation of the national activities for the 2010 as discussed during the 11<sup>th</sup> Coordination Committee. The activities discussed and planned during the mission are reported separately in the related Project objectives of this report.

### **Technical support to the countries**

The Project continued to provide technical support to the countries. In particular, technical support to the Water and Fisheries Resources Directorate (WFRD) Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration of the Government of Albania was given for the digitalization of the historical fisheries data as well as the creation of an archive to store and retrieve these data. WFRD houses a large amount of paper-based historical documentation (mostly handwritten documents) on fisheries which includes: catch data by fishing vessel, by sampling stations, data on duration of hauls, fishing period (month/day), by species, by group of species (small pelagic/demersals) and by maritime district. Monthly data is reported from the early 1947's onwards. Additional reporting is available on the size and capacity of the fleet, fishing effort, and some socio-economic aspects of the sector. In addition data on coastal lagoons (catch by species) and artisanal fisheries are included. Most of the documentation is available in handwritten documents with an estimated overall amount of about 15000 pages. This activity is part of a systematic effort in the Albania Republic to ensure the availability of important Albanian data for a better understanding of the historical availability of fisheries resources in the Adriatic Sea thus providing important useful additional information for a sustainable fisheries management in the whole Mediterranean.

### **AdriaMed Portal**

The AdriaMed portal ([www.faoadriamed.org](http://www.faoadriamed.org)) and the AdriaMed databases available on line have been further consolidated and developed. Currently, the Project Web site hosts 13 databases: Institutions (155), Fishing Ports (252), Fish Markets (27), Libraries (211), Links (210), Library (810), Documents available (over 50 documents), Fisheries Legislation (covering all the Adriatic countries), Abstracts (4500 records, including abstracts) and Shared Demersal Stocks (13 species with new additional information on Essential Fish Habitat and nursery areas maps). An effort was made, in cooperation with MedSudMed, EastMed and CopeMed II (including ArtFiMed), to harmonize the information provided in the Project web sites. In particular, the Country Fishery Information sheet containing the basic information on geography, fisheries and aquaculture for each country were updated and standardized with the CFI provided by the other Mediterranean Regional Projects. In addition, the web section dedicated to the AdriaMed Trawl Survey Information System (ATrIS) was also updated and made available with more technical information. 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 was created. Moreover, an internal repository has been 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. Over the last year, an average of 17,235 users visited the AdriaMed web site each month. Over 26,000 pages a month were visited and over 54,000 AdriaMed Technical Documents have been downloaded in the last six years. The most recent Project publications are also disseminated through the Project's mailing list, which includes 474 names.

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

The updated version of the AdriaMed Trawl Survey Information System (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 has been distributed to all the AdriaMed institutes. In particular this new version includes a module for the estimation of

biological indicators (identified by the Adriatic area researchers). 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). Moreover following the ATrIS presentation to the Oman delegation in May 2010 in FAO-HQ the Director General of Fisheries Department, Ministry of Fisheries Wealth, Sultanate of Oman, requested that a proposal be formulated for further consideration by the Ministry to develop a version of ATrIS particularly suited to the Omani recent and historical geo-referenced fisheries data. The Project continued in upgrading ATrIS. Support to the research institutes on the use and/or development of special/new features of ATrIS was further provided (e.g. Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor).

### **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 training course on ASFA methodologies has been organized and carried out for the newly established ASFA National Partner the Institute of Oceanology of Varna (IO-BAS), Bulgaria (12nd - 16th April 2010). 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 (Casablanca, Morocco, 5-9 July 2010) (CC/12/info14).

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

### **Working Group on Demersal Fishery Resources**

The annual meeting of the AdriaMed Working Group on Shared Demersal Fisheries Resources was held at the Laboratory of Marine Biology of Fano (Italy, 21-22 September 2010). The meeting was attended by researchers from the Adriatic fisheries research institutes involved in the Project and members from the AdriaMed networks. The Working Group was focused on the appraisal and stock assessment (standard and alternative methods) of demersal stocks and on indicators and reference points which may be considered at the regional level. In addition the demersal surveys in the Adriatic Sea (including the AdriaMed trawl survey) as well as the investigation in deep Adriatic Sea waters were discussed. The stock assessments for sole *Solea solea* in GSA 17 and for Hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) in GSA 18 were presented and discussed. The stock assessments were presented during the GFCM SAC - SCSA Working Group on Demersal Species (Turkey, October 2010). Full details can be found in the relative Meeting Memorandum and stock assessment forms (CC/12/info3 and CC/12/info5).

### **SoleMon Project**

In the framework of the activities related to the Demersal Fisheries Resources the Project supported the cooperation, in terms of technical advice, between the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries of Split (IOF) and CNR - Istituto Scienze Marine (ISMAR) of Ancona for the "Stock Assessment of *Solea solea* in the northern and central Adriatic Sea and

evaluation of the impact of the different fishing activities” (SoleMon) research programme. A joint survey has been performed in November 2010 and a joint stock assessment for *Solea solea* has been presented at the GFCM SAC SCSA Sub Committee on Stock Assessment for the GSA 17 (Malta, December 2010) (CC/12/info5).

### **Deep Sea survey**

With reference to the scientific investigation of deep waters, a second survey was performed in the South Adriatic area, carried out jointly on board M/P “ANDREA” by the Adriatic research institutes involved in the Project in August 2010. The activity was in accordance with the request made during the 11<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> AdriaMed Coordination Committee meeting (March 2010 and January 2009, respectively) (CC/12/info11).

### **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 August 2010. Moreover additional collection of data by means of trawl survey was supported by the Project in the area, to gather additional data for the completion of a proposal for the management of this critical area (CC/12/info10).

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

The annual meeting of the AdriaMed Working Group on Small Pelagics took place from 11 to 15 October 2010, kindly hosted by the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries of Split (Croatia). 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 of anchovy and sardine. The stock assessments of sardine and preliminary for anchovy was jointly performed for GSA 17 combining all the data made available by the experts of the participating countries. The Small Pelagic WG reviewed also the preliminary results of the joint acoustic and DEPM survey performed in GSA 18 under the umbrella of the AdriaMed Project. The future Project activities were identified including those concerned the Coordinating Team on echo surveys and joint research activities in the Adriatic Sea. The results of the stock assessment of anchovy and sardine for GSA 17, as well as preliminary results for GSA 18 were presented and discussed during the GFCM SAC-SCSA Working Group on Small Pelagic Species (Italy, November 2010). Full details can be found in the relative Meeting Memorandum (CC/12/info4).

### **Joint acoustic and ichthyoplankton survey in the South Adriatic Sea (GSA 18)**

The Project continued to support the countries in building up expertise on small pelagic fisheries resources as well as for the standardization of the methodologies applied. In July 2010, a joint acoustic and ichthyoplankton survey using R/V “Dallaporta” covering South Adriatic waters (GSA18) was organized and supported, in cooperation with CNR-ISMAR Ancona) and the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor (Montenegro) and the Laboratory of

Fisheries and Aquaculture of Durres Agricultural University of Tirana (Albania). Taking advantage of the occasion, theoretical and onboard training activities on acoustic survey were carried out for national staff from Albania and Montenegro (CC/12/info9).

#### **Workshop on Daily Eggs Production Method (DEPM)**

The project continues to organize training activities according to the request formulated by the participating countries. In September 2010 a training-workshop on Daily Eggs Production Method (DEPM) for the evaluation of the spawning biomass of anchovy was held in Kotor from 26 to 29 September 2010 (Montenegro) hosted by the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor. 9 Participants from all the research institutes collaborating with the Project attended the workshop. A preliminary spawning biomass for anchovy with the data collected during the survey performed in the south Adriatic Sea under the framework of AdriaMed was carried out jointly (CC/12/info9).

#### **Training session on the management of data to be used for the application of the Virtual Population Analysis (VPA) stock assessment method**

Following a specific request formulated during the 11<sup>th</sup> Coordination Committee (Montenegro, March 2010) 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, the Project organized and held a training course on “Virtual Population Analysis (VPA) methods in Fish Stock Assessment” (Rome, 21-26 November 2010). The activity was extended to the other Mediterranean Projects participating countries and it was attended by 21 scientists (CC/12/info12).

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

As follow up of the AdriaMed Working Group on Small Pelagic Fisheries Resources (Ancona, Italy, 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> May 2006) a meeting to establish a Coordinated Team on echo-survey in the Adriatic Sea was held in Rome (FAO-HQ) in March 2007. The aim was to discuss on the standardisation of the methodologies/scientific protocol adopted by the countries in the Adriatic Sea for the evaluation of small pelagic fisheries resources (GCP/RER/010/ITA/OM-157). The activities of the AdriaMed Coordinating Team on echo survey in the Adriatic Sea, were further supported. In order to define synergies with the European Commission initiative “MEDIAS” (Mediterranean Acoustic Surveys) launched for the creation of a coordinated acoustic survey on small pelagic species in the Mediterranean, the participation of one expert to the MEDIAS annual meeting was supported.

#### **Monitoring system for 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 pilot study has been developed in coherence with the indications given by the GFCM and according to the EU regulations, bearing in mind the existing monitoring practice and the data collected in the country. The survey started in September 2007 and the collection of data was executed throughout 2008, 2009 and 2010 and will go throughout the 2011. The preliminary results of

2010 survey were presented during the AdriaMed Working group on Demersal Fisheries (Italy, September 2010) (CC/12/info8).

### **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 10<sup>th</sup> 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. As requested during the 10<sup>th</sup> Coordination Committee meeting (Montenegro, March 2010), the Project continued to provide support on technical aspects on the Pomo/Jabuka Pit issue. A document summarizing some management options for the area has been compiled and preliminarily discussed among the scientists (CC/12/info13).

#### **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 meetings of coordination were held with the other regional projects, CopeMed II, ArtFiMed and EastMed throughout the year (the last being on 14 January and 10 February 2011) in order to consolidate and envisage common activities. In this respect the Project also participated to in the Coordination Committee of CopeMed II (May 2010), EastMed (April 2010) and MedSudMed (May 2010), where synergies were identified.

A common exposition during the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) session (Italy, 31 January - 4 February 2011) was organized for all the FAO Mediterranean Regional Projects displaying informative material and posters of the Projects activities.

Cooperation with “MedSea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedSea-LME)” Project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on topics that may be of common interest, was also sought. In particular, the Project staff participated in the workshop “Implementing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries - Framework and Practical Guidance” organised in the framework of the MedSea-LME Project (Rome, December, 2010), where representatives from Montenegro and Croatia participated.

Cooperation was further sustained with the GFCM Secretariat and the GFCM Subsidiary Bodies. AdriaMed continued to support the activities of the GFCM by providing scientific

contributions for discussion and by funding the participation of 22 Adriatic experts in the following 10 GFCM meetings (both SAC and CAQ related; CC/12/info15) held in the intersessional period:

- GFCM - General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean - 34th Session (Athens, Greece 14 - 17 April 2010)
- GFCM SAC Coordination Meeting of the Sub-Committees (CMSC, Rome, Italy June 2010)
- GFCM - SAC - SCSA Working Group on Demersal Species (Istanbul, Turkey 18 - 23 Oct 2010)
- GFCM - SAC - SCSA - Working Group on Small Pelagic Species (Mazara del Vallo, Italy 1 - 6 Nov 2010)
- GFCM - CAQ - WGSC - SHoCMed Workshop on Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZA) (Seville, Spain, 18 - 20 Oct 2010)
- GFCM - CAQ - WGMA - SIPAM joint meeting on marketing data scheme and marketing data collection (Malta, 22 Nov 2010)
- CAQ - WGSC - SHoCMed - Meeting on Environmental Quality Standards for marine fish farms (Malta, 23 - 25 November 2010)
- GFCM - Committee on Aquaculture - 12th SIPAM Annual Meeting (Malta, 23 - 25 November 2010)
- GFCM - CAQ - WGSA - InDAM - Expert meeting on definition of Regional minimum set of the indicators for sustainable aquaculture (Malta, 25 - 26 November 2010)
- GFCM - SAC - Transversal Workshop on Fishing Capacity (Rome, Italy 27 – 28 September 2010)
- Workshop on data collection methods applied to all segments of the Fleet and their coherence with the requirements of the GFCM Task 1 (Rome, Italy 29 September – 1 October 2010)
- GFCM - SAC - Sub-Committees meetings - (Malta 29 November-, 2 Dec 2010)
- GFCM - SAC - Coordination Meeting of the Sub-Committees (CMSC) - 10th Session (Malta, 3 Dec 2010)
- GFCM – 13<sup>th</sup> session Scientific Advisory Committee (Marseille, France 31 January – 4 February 2011)

#### **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 providing technical support to the countries, in particular in accordance with the recommendation GFCM/2009/33/4 (17-19 December 2008, Tirana, Albania), and 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 is being provided to the Directorate to establish a monitoring programme to collect data on aquaculture in Albania.

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.

### **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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 and the end date for the Project is now set for June 2012.

Moreover, according to the ruling procedures of FAO, due to the total budget and the life span of the project, AdriaMed should be subject to an internal evaluation (as also foreseen in the Project Document). The FAO evaluation objectives are to analyse the effectiveness and efficiency of the FAO executed projects, including the role of partners and beneficiaries, to provide an assessment of the implementation status, and to provide recommendations to improve the implementation process towards sustainable effects and impact on beneficiaries. The findings, lessons learned and recommendations of the evaluations are officially provided to the concerned authorities of the recipient countries and of the funding institutions, for better formulation and implementation of future projects. Therefore in 2011 action will be taken to organize a mid-term evaluation of the project and to prepare draft Terms of Reference (TOR) that will define the scope, including evaluation issues and questions, and the modalities for conducting the evaluation.

The activities proposed in this document take into account the objectives and results achieved so far, the recommendations received during the 11<sup>th</sup> Coordination Committee meeting (March 2010, Kotor, Montenegro), as well as the scientific cooperation established within the framework of the GFCM and the indications collected from the countries during the year.

The final work plan will take into due account the recommendations of the 12<sup>th</sup> 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 the following main themes:

- Fisheries Resources
- Training activities

- Socio-Economic
- Statistics and Information System
- Aquaculture
- Regional Cooperation

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 is tentatively planned to take place in the second semester of 2011, and according to the time schedule of the GFCM SAC SCSA Working Group on Small Pelagic Species. The meeting aims are to discuss the progress made on monitoring activities with particular attention to the established AdriaMed Coordinating Team on Echo Survey; the organization of joint surveys in the Adriatic Sea; the training needs; the joint assessment of small pelagic species for both GSA 17 and GSA 18 and the request made by the GFCM SAC.

#### **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 complete the harmonization of the research vessels equipment for acoustic surveys in the North Adriatic Sea and to plan the joint data analysis session; identify training needs for the experts of the sub-region or to rebuild the expertise in the area; 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. In addition the possibility to prepare common maps summarizing the distribution of small pelagic fisheries resources in the Adriatic Sea by using all the acoustic data available will be investigated.

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

A joint acoustic and DEPM survey using R/V “Dalla Porta” covering South Adriatic waters (GSA18) is being organized in July 2011 thus repeating the survey carried out since 2008 in cooperation with the CNR-ISMAR of Ancona (Italy). The Institutes involved are the CNR-ISMAR of Ancona, the Institute of Marine Biology of Kotor (Montenegro) and the Laboratory of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Durres (Albania). Theoretical and onboard training activities will be carried out during the acoustic survey for national staff from Albania and Montenegro.

## *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 development of indicators and reference points for fisheries management in the Adriatic Sea and the request from the GFCM-SAC to provide sub-regional stock assessment on priority species. During the WG, joint analysis of data from the GSA 17 and GSA 18 is foreseen to take place. The WG is scheduled to take place during the second semester of 2011.

### **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.

### **Indicators**

Following the work carried out so far by the Project on indicators, considering the interest expressed by the Working Group of Demersal Fisheries Resources (Fano, Italy, September 2010) and considering the EC Directive on Marine Strategy Framework Directive, as well as the use of indicators proposed during the 13 session of the GFCM SAC, the Project is investigating the possibility to organize a workshop to further progress on indicators. In this regard, the EC framework and the criteria and methodological standards to be applied for good environmental status will be taken into due consideration.

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

A unique 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 published.

### **Joint biological monitoring of demersal stocks in the Adriatic**

The project will continue in supporting the process of standardization of sampling methodologies and monitoring and appraisal of demersal stocks (also depending on budget availability). In addition, the possibility to continue to support the analysis of data gathered during the UnderWater TV (UWTV) survey carried out in the Central Adriatic Sea (mainly in the Jabuka/Pomo Pits) will be investigated.

### **SoleMon Project**

In the framework of the activities related to the Demersal Fisheries Resources, the Project will investigate the possibility to continue to support the activities carried out in the framework 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), in GSA 17 involving research institutes from Slovenia and Croatia. The possibility to produce identification keys for macrobenthonic species related to the beam

trawling activities will be investigated. Moreover the Project will facilitate the circulation of recent scientific information available in the region on gear selectivity.

### **Monitoring system for the fishery sector in Montenegro**

The Project will continue to support the collection of bio-economic fisheries data in Montenegro, started in 2007, throughout 2011. An effort to collect also by catch data is foreseen. Moreover, following the indication provided during the 11th Coordination Committee, the Project is investigating the possibility to organize training activities for socio-economic data collectors and/or data managers for all the participating countries by seeking synergies with other programmes such as the “EC funded IPA Project on the sustainable development of the fisheries sector of Montenegro”.

### **Training activities**

Some 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 Groups (September and October 2010). In particular:

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

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 2011. The aim is to create a sub-regional, cooperative, working team on echosurvey. Moreover by taking advantage of the concurrent DEPM survey, on the job training on daily eggs production method will be provided as well.

### **Intercalibration on age determination of fish**

A general need for the harmonization, at Adriatic level, of the fish ageing by otolith reading on sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) has been identified. Following the request made by the countries during the last Coordination Committees and Working Groups on Small Pelagic Fisheries Resources, the Project will support the organization of an intercalibration exercise on the age determination of fish by otolith reading among all the Adriatic research institutes involved in fish ageing research (tentatively planned in the first semester of 2011).

### **Training course on stock assessment methods**

A general need for training on stock assessment, at basic and advanced level, has been indicated in several occasions to the Project. The possibility of having training sessions prepared by the Project or take advantage of training session organized by other FAO Mediterranean regional Projects or Mediterranean initiatives will be investigated.

### **Training course on GIS**

Following the request formulated during the annual Working Group of Demersal Fisheries Resources (October 2010), the Project envisages activities to enhance the expertise on GIS tools in the Adriatic region. The possibility to organize a GIS advanced training course, by taking advantage of the experience gained during the “AdriaMed Training course on the use

of GIS in fisheries and aquaculture” organized in 2007, will be explored also seeking synergies with other FAO Mediterranean Regional Project.

#### **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 will investigate the feasibility to organize an advanced training course on the Echoview software, which is used to analyse acoustic data. Synergies with other FAO Mediterranean Regional Project, or tailored training session alternatives will be sought.

#### **Training course on EAF**

Further to the several requests received from the countries and the recommendation of the 11th Coordination Committee meeting, the Project will promote the organization of sub-regional/regional meetings and training sessions on the integration of EAF principles in the management processes involving scientists and management representatives (mainly fisheries directorates), also by seeking synergies with the GEF Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem - MedSea LME Project.

### **Socio-economics**

#### **Technical support**

Technical support will continue to be provided to the participating countries for the GFCM Task 1, in particular for the for the fulfilment of the GFCM data Task 1.3 (according to the Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3).

#### **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.2) was produced. An update of the information on the legislative framework in the Adriatic countries is foreseen. Moreover the project will update the section related to Recreational Fisheries (RF).

### **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 addition, the Project will continue to support the national fisheries statistics systems in eastern Adriatic countries (Albania and Montenegro).

### **AdriaMed Web site**

The contents, and consequently the AdriaMed portal ([www.faoadriamed.org](http://www.faoadriamed.org)), will be updated and reorganized based on the on main Project components and areas of activity, in order to group information around more logical and easy accessible areas of interest to website users. Following the reorganization of the AdriaMed portal there will be need to create new thematic sections, according to the new structure, which will focus on specific subjects e.g. small pelagic fisheries resources; socio-economic indicators.

### **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, following the request of some participating institutions, ad hoc specific training course on the better use of tools included in ATrIS will be organized.

### **Database for small pelagic data**

Following the recommendations of the 11th Coordination Committee (Montenegro, March 2010) and the discussion held during the annual Working Group of Small Pelagics (Split, October 2010), on the basis of the experienced gained through the preparation of ATrIS, the Project will finalise the work commenced to design and develop a database to store, manage and making preliminary analysis of small pelagic data.

### **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 Montenegrin ASFA data entry centre (IBMK-Kotor) will be provided. In addition, the Project will continue to provide assistance to the FAO ASFA Secretariat (in particular to the ASFA National Partner of Egypt and Bulgaria).

## **Aquaculture**

### **Production statistics data on aquaculture**

In accordance with the recommendation GFCM/2009/33/4 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, and the indication given during the 10<sup>th</sup> Coordination Committee, the Project will continue to support the Directorate in the establishment of a monitoring programme to collect socio-economic data on aquaculture in Albania. The Project will continue to support the Adriatic countries, upon request, for the collection of data on aquaculture consistent with the GFCM guidelines and in supporting pilot studies on the interactions between capture fisheries and aquaculture.

### **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 costal 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 and EastMed will be sought. In this context, synergies are foreseen with the other regional Projects, also taking into consideration the indications collected during the internal coordination meeting among the Projects (Rome, January 2011). Several coordination meeting of the Mediterranean Regional Projects have already been planned in 2011 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. The preparation of common informative 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 2011), EastMed (April 2011) and CopeMed II (June 2011) 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

<b>FAO <i>AdriaMed</i>: CC/12/01</b>	Provisional Annotated Agenda
<b>FAO <i>AdriaMed</i>: CC/12/02</b>	Report on the intersessional activities of the Project
<b>FAO <i>AdriaMed</i>: CC/12/03</b>	Project future implementation
<b>FAO <i>AdriaMed</i>: CC/12/info 1</b>	Provisional list of participants
<b>FAO <i>AdriaMed</i>: CC/12/info 2</b>	Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the <i>AdriaMed</i> Coordination Committee. <i>AdriaMed Technical Documents N. 27</i>
<b>FAO <i>AdriaMed</i>: CC/12/info 3</b>	<i>AdriaMed</i> Working Group on Demersal Fisheries Resources (Fano, Italy September 2010). <i>AdriaMed Meeting Memorandum 169</i> . GCP/RER/010/ITA OM 169
<b>FAO <i>AdriaMed</i>: CC/12/info 4</b>	<i>AdriaMed</i> Working Group on Small Pelagic Fisheries Resources (Split, Croatia, 11-15 October 2010). <i>AdriaMed Meeting Memorandum 170</i> . GCP/RER/010/ITA OM 170
<b>FAO <i>AdriaMed</i>: CC/12/info 5</b>	Stock Assessment Forms on Demersal Fisheries Resources, namely <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> and <i>Solea solea</i> . Data presented at the GFCM-SAC - Working Group on Stock Assessment on Demersal Species (Istanbul, Turkey, 18 - 23 October 2010)
<b>FAO <i>AdriaMed</i>: CC/12/info 6</b>	Stock Assessment Forms on Small Pelagic Fisheries Resources, namely <i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i> and <i>Sardina pilchardus</i> . Data presented at the GFCM-SAC Working Group on Stock Assessment on Small Pelagic Species (Mazara del Vallo, Italy 1-6 November 2010)
<b>FAO <i>AdriaMed</i>: CC/12/info 7</b>	<i>AdriaMed</i> Memorandum of Understanding on Data Access and Use of Small Pelagic Fisheries Data in the Adriatic
<b>FAO <i>AdriaMed</i>: CC/12/info 8</b>	Preliminary report of the monitoring of fisheries sector in Montenegro, applying the Operational Unit (OU) concept: BIOLOGICAL SAMPLING (III year - <i>DRAFT</i> )
<b>FAO <i>AdriaMed</i>: CC/12/info 9</b>	Preliminary report of the echosurvey carried out in July 2010 in the South Adriatic Sea (GSA 18) - Albania and Montenegro continental shelf Daily egg production method (DEPM) survey in Southern Adriatic (August 2010)
<b>FAO <i>AdriaMed</i>: CC/12/info 10</b>	Assessment of Norway lobster, <i>Nephrops norvegicus</i> , in the central Adriatic Sea

<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/12/info 11</b>	Preliminary information on the AdriaMed survey in deep waters of the Southern Adriatic Sea
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/12/info 12</b>	Summary of the AdriaMed training course on Virtual Population Analysis (VPA) methods for Fish Stock Assessment
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/12/info 13</b>	A synthetic draft proposal for the protection of the Jabuka/Pomo Pit area
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/12/info 14</b>	Report on AdriaMed ASFA activities
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/12/info 15</b>	Major activities of the FAO Regional Projects. Documents presented at the GFCM 34th Session (Athens, Greece, 14 - 17 April 2010) and at the GFCM SAC 13th session (Marseille, France, 7-11 February 2011)
<b>FAO AdriaMed: CC/12/info 16</b>	List of Documents