

EastMed TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS

01



**REPORT OF THE INCEPTION MEETING OF THE EASTMED
PROJECT COORDINATION COMMITTEE
19-20 APRIL ATHENS, GREECE**





**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS**



REPORT OF THE INCEPTION MEETING OF THE EASTMED PROJECT CORDINATION COMMITTEE

PROJECT PREMISES, ATHENS, GREECE

19-20 APRIL 2010



**ITALIAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD
AND FORESTRY POLICIES**



GCP/INT/041/EC – GRE – ITA

Athens (Greece), 19, 20 April 2010

The conclusions and recommendations given in this and in other documents in the *Scientific and Institutional Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Eastern Mediterranean* 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 donors concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or concerning the determination of its frontiers or boundaries.

Preface

The Project “Scientific and Institutional Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Eastern Mediterranean- EastMed is executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and funded by Greece, Italy and EC.

The Eastern Mediterranean countries have for long lacked a cooperation framework as created for other areas of the Mediterranean, namely the FAO sub-regional projects AdriaMed, MedSudMed, CopeMed II and ArtFiMed. This fact led for some countries to be sidelined, where international and regional cooperation for fishery research and management is concerned. Following the very encouraging experience of technical and institutional assistance provided to countries by the other FAO sub-regional Projects,

EastMed

was born to establish multidisciplinary expertise necessary to formulate appropriate management measures under the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) to ensure rational, responsible and participative fisheries management

The project’s **longer-term objective** aims at contributing to the sustainable management of marine fisheries in the Eastern Mediterranean, and thereby at supporting national economies and protecting the livelihoods of those involved in the fisheries sector. The project’s **immediate objective** aims at supporting and improving the capacity of national fishery departments to increase their scientific and technical information base for fisheries management and to develop coordinated and participative fisheries management plans in the Eastern Mediterranean sub-region.

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Publications

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Occasionally, relevant documents may be translated into national languages as EastMed Translations (GCP/INT/041/EC – GRE – ITA/ET-00)

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Preparation of this document

This document is the final version of the Report of the First Meeting of the Coordination Committee, organized by the FAO-EastMed Project (Scientific and Institutional Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Eastern Mediterranean) in Athens (Greece), 19-20 April 2010.

Acknowledgements

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ABSTRACT

The Inception meeting of the EastMed project was carried out in Athens from 19-20 April 2010 and was attended by representatives of the donors (Greece, Italy and EU), of the participating countries/members (Turkey, Egypt, Cyprus, Gaza strip and West Bank, Greece and Italy), representative of GFCM, FAO-FIMF and sub-regional projects (AdriaMed, MedSudMed, CopeMed and ArtFiMed).

The preparatory phase of the project was first presented and accompanied by the project objectives and structure. Similar objectives were mentioned from the representatives of the sub-regional projects while a need for synergies among the projects in the whole region was highlighted. The representatives of the countries presented the current situation in fisheries in their countries and also their expectations from the project. The GFCM frame was presented and the importance of the sub-regional projects for the achievement of its goals was stressed.

The EastMed Work Plan was adopted by the Coordination Committee for the 1st year of the project, which was consisted of activities related with collection and analysis of fisheries data, training and development and institutional strengthening for increasing participation and cooperation. .

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REPORT OF THE INCEPTION MEETING OF THE EASTMED PROJECT COORDINATION COMMITTEE

PROJECT PREMISES, ATHENS, GREECE 19-20 APRIL 2010

Opening and arrangement of the meeting

The Inception meeting of the Coordination Committee of the EastMed Project was held in the project premises, Athens, Greece on 19-20 April 2010. It was attended by the representatives from Italy, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Egypt, Gaza Strip and West Bank, FAO, GFCM, the donors (Greece, Italy and EC) as well as the Coordinators of the sub-regional projects in the Mediterranean (Annex 1).

Ms Constantina Karlou-Riga, Coordinator of the EastMed project welcomed the participants, while she emphasized that the meeting signals the start of the project implementation for the benefit of the Eastern Mediterranean countries which had not had an adequate framework for cooperation in fisheries management and research for a long time.

Mr. Kevern Cochrane, Director of the FAO, Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources Use and Conservation Division welcomed the participants and thanked the donors for their support to this and other FAO projects. He also thanked the representatives of the Greek Government for their kindness in hosting the project offices and arranging the meeting. In his speech, he gave a brief background to the project (Annex 2). He recalled the global agreement in the Ministerial Conference held in Venice (November 2003) for a sustainable development of Fisheries in the Mediterranean. He explained the role of the other sub-regional projects in the Mediterranean, which together with the EastMed form an integrated and coordinated forum supporting the Mediterranean in achieving sustainable fisheries management in the region. Regarding EastMed project he stressed that although the youngest project it by no means is the smallest. On the contrary it covers the widest area and is already standing on its own feet carrying out an important work for the benefit of sustainable fisheries in the region. He pointed out the important role of the focal points that are requested to contribute to the development of the national capacity. Finally while he highlighted the support of the Organization during the whole life of the project, he thanked again the donors that are the Government of Greece (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Rural Development & Food) the Government of Italy (MiPAAF) and the European Commission (DG Mare).

Mr. George Kanellopoulos General Secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food and Mr Demetropoulos from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomed the participants to the Inception Meeting and also to the beautiful city of Athens. In particular, Mr Kanellopoulos thanked the other donors who contributed to the implementation of the project (Annex 3). In his speech he stressed his country respect

to the International Agreements and his awareness of the role that the General Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) is called to play. Finally after he wished a fruitful discussion to producing outcomes for the good of the beneficiary countries, he opened the meeting.

The focal points and other representatives of the countries introduced themselves followed by the representatives of GFCM and the other FAO sub-regional projects (AdriaMed/MedSudMed and CopeMed/ArtFiMed). The meeting appointed Mr Demetropoulos as Chairman and Mr. Pedro Barros, Mr. Piero Mannini and Mr. Michel Barriche as rapporteurs.

The Project Coordinator asked the representatives of the participating countries whether they had objection to accept the Gaza Strip and West Bank as entity equal with the other member-countries both at the Inception Meeting and the project. Since there was no objection, the proposal was unanimously accepted.

The agenda of the meeting was adopted without any change (Annex 4) and the Chairman opened the session by giving the floor to the Project Coordinator.

Presentation of the EastMed Project

The Project Coordinator before analyzing the project objectives and expected outcomes gave the floor to Mr. Piero Mannini (Senior Fishery Officer in the FAORNE) for presenting the preparatory phase of the project for which he was responsible at that time.

Mr. Piero Mannini presented the objectives and outcomes of the preparatory EastMed phase. He stressed that the Eastern countries had received limited international support when compared with other regions in the Mediterranean resulting in weaker country capacity and in some cases limited capability for regional cooperation in fisheries management.

During visits of the project formulation team to the Eastern Mediterranean countries the following issues were notified:

- Scarce and/or fragmented fisheries data
- Absence of network
- Weak institutional framework
- Limited participation of scientist/managers to the GFCM meetings
- No multidisciplinary fishery research
- Reporting overfishing
- Unexplored deep water fishing grounds
- Pollution in coastal waters
- Marine ecosystem poorly studied
- Socio economic studies in fisheries are lacking

The events that took place leading to the project announcement as operational are the following in chronological order:

- a. The 24th GFCM Session (1999) endorsed the SAC proposal to develop a project in the Eastern Mediterranean similar to AdriaMed and CopeMed
- b. The call was reiterated at the 26th (2001) and 27th GFCM Session (2002)
- c. At the 28th GFCM Session, FAO announced the approval of the eastern Mediterranean component (TCP/INT/2940) of the MedFisis project (GCP/INT/918/EC)
- d. In the Ministerial Conference (Nov 2003), EC expressed the intension to support the implementation of a project in the Eastern Mediteterranean
- e. In 2004, Italy announced the financial support for the project formulation and preparatory phase “*Sustainable Fisheries Policies and Strategies in the Eastern Mediterranean – EastMed Project Formulation and Preparatory Phase* (GCP/INT/989/ITA)
- f. The project formulation team was established in Nov 2004 and completed its activities in 2005
- g. In the 29th GFCM Session (2005), FAO informed for the formulation of a project in the Eastern Mediterranean (EastMed)
- h. In the 29th GFCM Session (2005), Greece announced that would co-fund the project and offered to host the project headquarters in Athens
- i. On 28 June 2006 in Rome an informal Briefing Meeting took place on the EastMed Project proposal with Representatives of Donors and of Eastern Mediterranean Countries
- j. On 1 September 2009 EastMed Project was declared by FAO operational

The Project Coordinator Ms Constantina Karlou-Riga presented the long-term and immediate objectives of the project. The project’s longer-term objective aims at contributing to the sustainable management of marine fisheries in the Eastern Mediterranean, and thereby at supporting national economies and protecting the livelihoods of those involved in the fisheries sector. The project’s immediate objective aims at supporting and improving the capacity of national fishery departments to increase their scientific and technical information base for fisheries management and to develop coordinated and participative fisheries management plans in the Eastern Mediterranean.

She then described the structure of the project. She stressed that the establishment of the Country Participatory Working group (CPWG) is an new initiative which gives the opportunity to all stake holders to participate to the discussions and advice the relevant Governments and the Project for the activities that need to be implemented. Finally she highlighted the importance of the role of the focal points who will be,

besides the linkage between Administration and Project, the Administration support of the CPWG.

Ms Constantina Karlou-Riga later described the framework of the four sub-components of the Project, 1) Institutional strengthening, 2) Staff training and development, 3) Data collection and analysis and 4) Increased participation and cooperation and she referred to the need of co-funding for the implementation of surveys at sea.

She finally reported on the activities done since the starting date (September 2009), which can be summarized to administrative support to the project, scientists support to participate in GFCM meetings, contribution to the production of fish cards dealing with sharks and rays in the Mediterranean, contribution to the production of leaflet regarding the fish identification in the Eastern and South Mediterranean (English and Arabic) and finally with recruitment of project staff (Secretary and Fisheries Expert). She also informed that she had visited Egypt, Lebanon and Turkey and she promised that visits will continue to the other countries for promoting the project and also to improve the knowledge on the countries institutional framework in fisheries.

The floor was then taken by Mr. Michel Bariche, who presented the “Field Identification guide to the living marine resources of the eastern and Southern Mediterranean” through a partnership with FAO. The activity is co financed by EastMed and is of major importance for the fishermen in the field.

Mr. Michel Bariche described this activity’s objectives:

- Precise identification of common marine organisms encountered in fisheries work, on the market or at sea
- Immediate access to accurate and updated scientific knowledge regarding biology, distribution and fisheries for each species

and the selection criteria:

- Economic or potential economic interest
- Commonness in the area
- Endangered status
- Invasive status

Mr. Michel Bariche also said that the field guide considers 372 species, selected according to economic interest, commonness, endangered or invasive status in the concerned area, provides accurate and updated scientific knowledge regarding identification, biology, distribution and fisheries for each species, is user-friendly and accessible to various types of readers without prior knowledge in marine biology or fisheries and is translated into the Arabic language for a better dissemination among Arabic-speaking users, particularly fishermen. In the future, it is expected to become a practical working tool for fisheries professionals and inspectors reporting landings at the national level, but also useful for scientists, fishermen, students, sports anglers or

naturalists and can serve as a baseline for environmental assessments and fisheries managements in the Mediterranean.

Presentation of the national reports of participating countries

Egypt

The General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD, established in 1983) is responsible for the development of inland, marine fisheries and aquaculture. The objective of the GAFRD is to sustainably manage national marine, coastal and inland fisheries and aquaculture according to the relevant resolutions and recommendations of GFCM, ICCAT & COFI taking the environmental issues into consideration. The focal point described later the strengths and weaknesses of Egypt relative to fisheries research and management. In particular concerning the strengths he referred to the large water extent, the high diversity of fish species, the technical expertise in many fields and to the existence of Cooperative Union. Regarding the weaknesses however he mentioned as such the absence of reliable databases, the lack of fisheries legislation enforcement, the weak implementation of environmental laws, the lack of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Policy, the interface with local authorities, the deficiency of food supply in aquaculture activities, insufficient marketing, low financial and human support to managerial/scientific institutions, ineffective policies for water usage, illegal fishing of fish fry used in aquaculture and the delay in introducing modern technology. He also said that investment in fishing ports and fishing units or horizontal expansion of marine cages and exportation of commercial and ornamental fish species could be seen as opportunities. But the competition in land availability between tourism, industry, agriculture, urban development and fisheries can certainly be considered as threats.

Egypt production in 2008

Source	Production in Tons	%
Mediterranean sea	88882	8.33
Red sea	47361	4,44
Northern Lakes	114482	Northern Lakes
Inland Lakes	43402	4.07
Nile River	79688	7.46
Fish Farms	693815	64.99
Total in Tons	1067630	100

Egypt is expecting from the project:

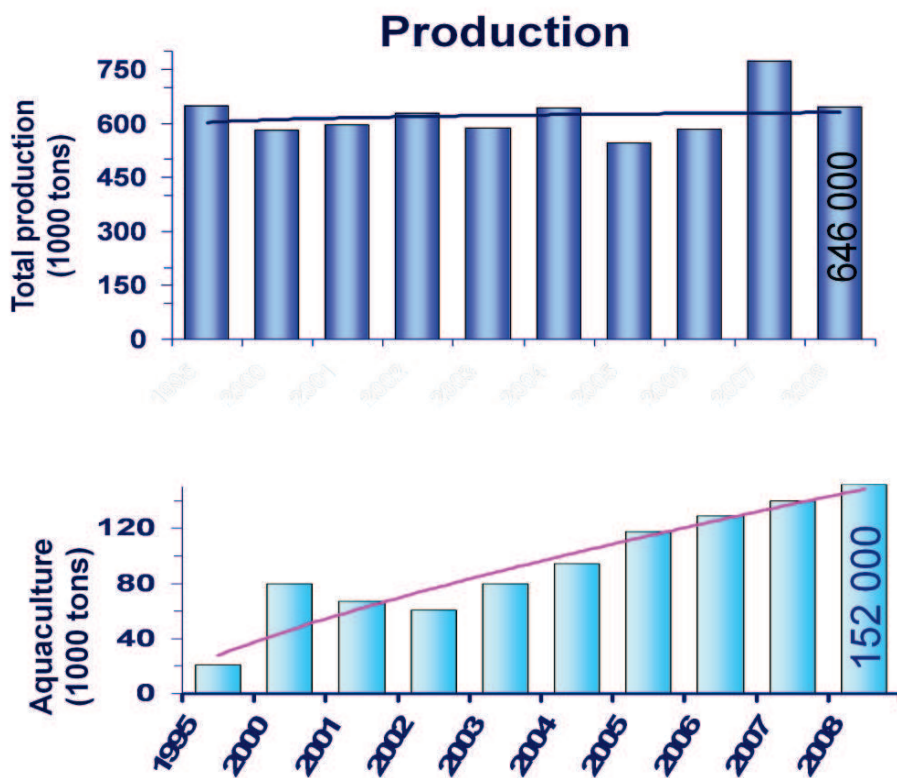
- Technical and financial support for introducing VMS
- Financial support for aquatic weeds control in coastal lagoons
- Financial support for inspection IUU fishing
- Technical and financial support for improving fishing ports

- Technical and financial support for the establishment of the GAFRD laboratories
- Training of staff for quality control of fish products

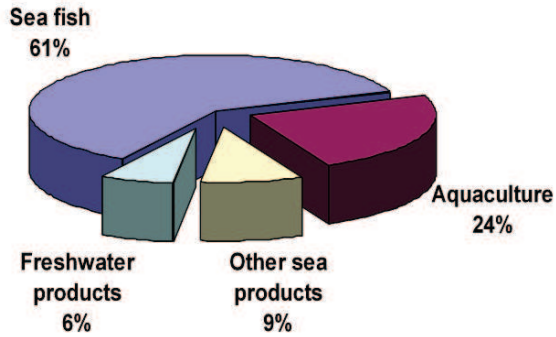
Turkey

Institutional capacities and current situation

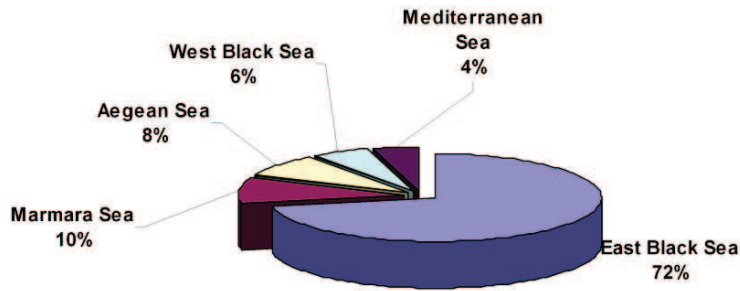
The main authority for fisheries in Turkey is the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA). Other related Institutions are the Ministry of Interior Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Forestry and the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK). MARA has 4 General Directories, 81 Provincial Directories and 4 Research Institutes



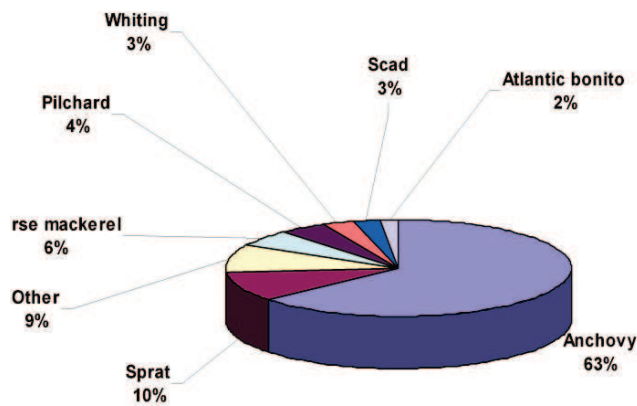
Distribution of fishery products, 2008



Catch of sea fish by sea products regions, 2008



Distribution of sea fish, 2008



The licensed fishermen count 127,810 and 8,972 in the marine and inland sector respectively, while the vessels 18,342 and 3,420 respectively. From the marine vessels over 10% has size over 12 meters.

Research and scientific capacities

The research national capacity in MARA is shown on the table:

	BSc	MSc	PhD	TOTAL
Number	86	32	25	143
Percent	60.38	22.12	17.50	100.00

However fisheries research is also conducted in Universities:

- Fisheries Faculties 15
- Faculty of Marine Science 2
- Fisheries Departments 7
- Marine Science Institutes 3

National fisheries statistics and data collection systems

The Competent authority for statistics is the Turkish Statistics Institute (TURKSTAT), which collaborates with MARA

The fishery information flow operates through the Fisheries Information System (FIS) the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and the Fishery Port Officers

Cooperation between countries and Regional Fisheries Organizations

- Membership in FAO, GFCM, ICCAT, OECD, EUROFISH, CITES
- Routine participation into the meetings and activities of these international organisations
- Decisions taken by these organisations are adopted into national fisheries management

Expectations and priorities

Turkey wants:

- ✓ to strengthen cooperation with regional countries in fisheries
- ✓ to develop network
 - For managers
 - Researcher & Scientist
 - Sharing all kind of documents
- ✓ to make GAP analysis for,
 - Fisheries management ,
 - Data collection system in countries
- ✓ to determine training needs according to GAP Analysis results
- ✓ to translate FAO manuals into local languages.

Cyprus

The Ministry of Agriculture Natural Resources and Environment is the Institutional body responsible for Marine Research in Cyprus and the responsible department is the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR). Research in the field of Responsible fisheries is carried out by the DFMR or through the DFMR by public tenders. There are no Research Institutes in the field of Marine Research in Cyprus. DFMR is divided in the Marine Resources Division and the Environmental Marine Research Division.

Research activities

- DFMR carries out scientific research in accordance with the requirements of the Data Collection Regulation (2008/199 EC, 2008/949/EC), as follows:
 - Biological parameters
 - Medits (Mediterranean trawl survey)
 - Information related to ICCAT requirements
 - Environmental research
- Research is also carried out on the lessepsian migrant *Lagocephalus sceleratus*

Data collection

Data network collection system (Data Transmission)

Central Database

iii) Fishing Vessel Fleet Register (FVR)

Data collected

- Fishing Licence applications
- Fisheries Catch (logbook, sample boats)
- Sale notes
- Biological data
- Economic data

Cooperation between Countries and Regional Fisheries Organizations

- GFCM (member)
- ICCAT (member)

Cyprus is in close cooperation with Greek institutes through the implementation of MEDITS

National Fisheries Statistics

- The DFMR is responsible for the data collection systems
- National legislation requires fishermen to provide the DFMR with any information requested in relation to these fishing activities

Cyprus fleet

The Cyprus capture fisheries consist of the small-scale inshore fishery (artisanal fishery), the trawl fishery and the polyvalent fishery

- ✓ Artisanal fishery (small scale fleet) is practised with wooden boats of 4 to 12m LOA, which mainly operate using bottom set nets, long lines and traps
- ✓ Multipurpose fishery fleet is consisted of boats of 12 – 26 m LOA using surface long lines and operate in international waters in the eastern Mediterranean targeting large pelagic species. The fleet also operates in territorial waters using bottom set nets and bottom long lines
- ✓ Trawl fishery. There are four bottom otter trawls of 21,4 - 26,8 m in length (OAL). They are licensed to operate in the territorial waters of Cyprus. Trawlers licensed to operate in international waters are active exclusively in the Mediterranean

Expectations and priorities from EastMed Project

Strengthening national capacities in the following areas:

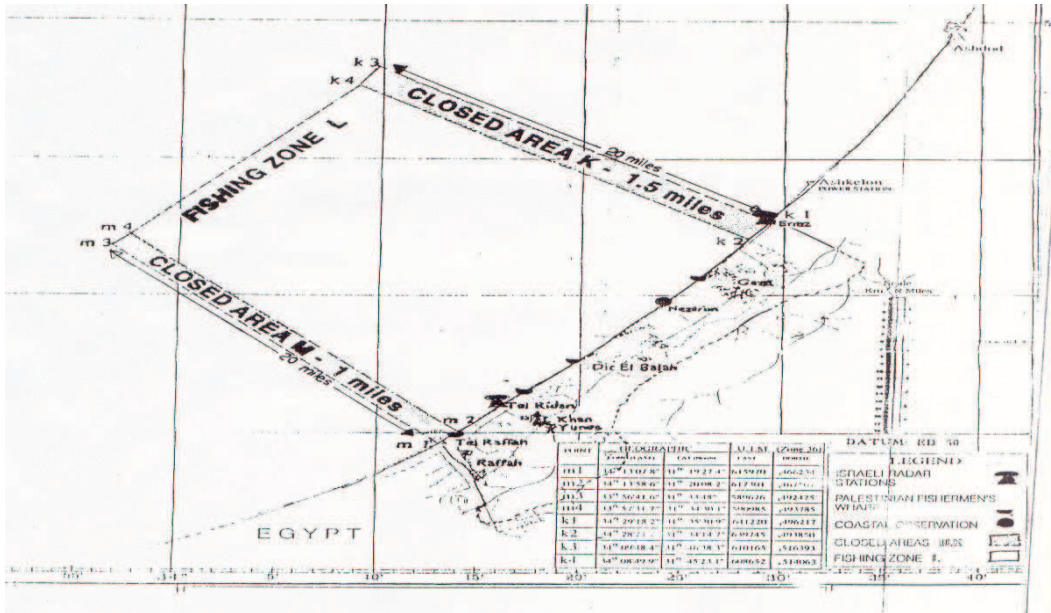
- Processing and analyzing statistical data on catch and effort
- Estimation of biological parameters
- Age reading, species identification

Scientific Regional cooperation

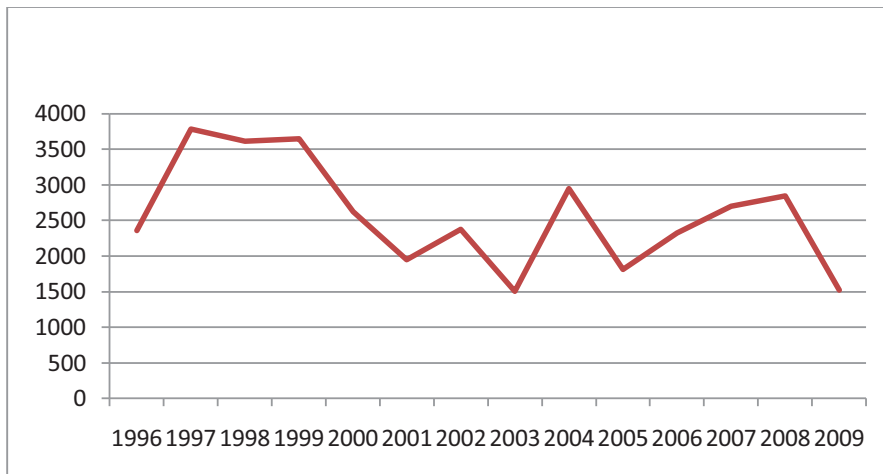
- socioeconomic/biological effects of the lessepsian migrant *Lagocephalus* spp

1. Gaza Strip and West Bank

The Gaza Strip and West Bank has a fishing zone 20 miles off shore with a 3 miles coast line, while on the Egyptian border and the Israel right there are two restricted areas of 1 and 1.5 miles respectively in width (see fig below). There are four fishing ports: Gaza, Dair Elbalah, Khanyouni and Rafah. The fish production since 1996 shows a decreasing trend



Fish Production



The Institutional capacity consists of

Governmental

- The General Directorate of Fisheries (G.Dof F)
- Directorate of mass sail (Dom)
- Palestinian coastal police (PCP)
- The authority of the ports

Non-governmental

- Al Towfiq fishermen cooperative
- General syndicate of fishermen
- Others

Research and scientific capacities

A stock assessment was conducted from 1998 to 2000 through the DANIDA project (Collaboration with Danish Institute), but was not completed due to the departure of Danish scientists.

The research in Gaza Strip and West Bank is in a close cooperation with the Islamic University

Cooperation with other countries and organization

Gaza Strip and West Bank is cooperating with countries such as Denmark, Norway, Italy Kuwait, Japan and United Nations Organizations (UNDP, WFP, FAO)

Reporting and Information exchange

The following have been provided to the Arabic Organization:

- Report on the Palestinian marine environment in 2006.
- A scientific research on fish species
- A research on the situation of the Palestinian fisheries sector .
- Report about the fisheries statistics in Palestine

Gaza Strip and West Bank provides FAO with yearly fisheries statistics in Palestine.

Gaza Strip and West Bank expectations

- Expanding the fishing zone
- Support fishermen employment
- Involvement fishermen to aquaculture
- Fishing ports infrastructures including slip way construction

Italy

The General Directory of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Ministry for Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies is the responsible Institution in Italy.

The interest of Italy as a beneficiary country for the Project concerns the Geographical Area (GSA) 19 (southeastern Italian coast). In this area, fisheries research is carried out by the Fisheries ecology laboratory of University in Bari, which is in charge of biological data collection. In south Italy, IREPA is responsible for the data collection on landings, on fleets-effort and on socio-economy.

Catch-effort and socio-economic data on commercial fisheries are collected since 2002 (EU – DCF: EU reg. 199/2008). On the other side, trawl surveys are carried out since 1985 (1985-2007 GRUND; 1994-2009 Medits)

Total annual production in the area is 18.000 Tons (7% of national production) and the fishing fleet is composed of 1672 fishing vessels

The target species are:



Red shrimps (deep water trawling)



Hake (trawling, gillnets and longlines)



Pink shrimps (Bottom trawling)

Red shrimps (deep water trawling)
Hake (trawling, gillnets and longlines)
Pink shrimps (Bottom trawling)

Through the GIS – PESCA Project, the following data are collected:

Abundance (Kg/Km2, n/Km2) of commercial and non commercial species (also for size classes)

Data on fishing fleets by port

Data on landings of commercial species (by region and GSA)

Data on fishing effort by region and GSA and fishing metier

Data VMS by quarter since 2006

Environmental data (SST, Chl, Sediments maps, Biocenosis)

The main expectations of Italy from the EastMed project are related to the improvement of collection and analyses of fisheries dependent and independent data in the area covered by the project in particular between GSAs 19 and 20, with the objective to increase knowledge on the status of the shared stocks and support sustainable fisheries exploitation in the long-term.

In this context, a particular attention should be given to fisheries exploiting stocks of pelagic species, such as bluefin tuna, swordfish, albacore, dolphin-fish, Atlantic bonito, that are shared among many different Eastern Mediterranean GSAs. The collection of standardized data on pelagic fisheries, including fishers, catch, effort, fish stocks, processing and trade will be very relevant for future management of shared stocks of pelagic species either at national or Mediterranean scale.

Greece

The Institution responsible for fisheries is the Ministry of Rural development and Food – General Directorate of Fisheries

The fishing fleet is composed of:

- 17,259 Fishing vessels of 86,281 GT and 508,150 KW
- 16,641 are the coastal fishing vessels
- 616 are the bottom trawls and Purse seines
- 659 are the fishing vessels >15m

Fishery Information

- 29,488 people occupied in the marine fisheries sector
- 93,639 t are coming from marine fisheries landings
- 335,258 euro is the value of the total marine fisheries catch
- Main species captured are anchovies, sardines, hakes and bogues

Restrictions regarding fisheries

- Minimum permissible size to be harvested
- Specifications of the vessels and fishing tools
- Periods of fisheries prohibition
- Forbidden fishing gears
- Minimum distances and depths beyond of which fisheries is allowed

Conditions for carrying out fishery with bottom trawls

- Beyond 3 nautical miles or the 50m isobath and in no case within 1 nautical mile
- Prohibition of fishery 4 months per year (June-September)
- Local and temporal prohibitions
- Use of square-meshed net of 40mm

Conditions for carrying out fishery with boat seines¹

- Traditional national fishing gear
- Towed seine hauled from a boat at anchor, maximum length of hauling ropes 700 m
- Fishery is permitted from October through March plus local and temporal prohibitions

Greek National Fisheries Data Collection Program

Data on marine capture fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing sector are collected based on 199/2008 Council Regulation. The sampling stations are Aegean Sea (GSA 22), Ionian Sea (GSA 20) and Crete (GSA 23)

Economy variables Income and income per species

- Value and production per species
- Production cost
- Investments
- Employment
- Financial position
- Effort

Biological – métiers related variables

- Specific fishing métiers (groupings of specialized fishing activities according to fishing gears, fishing grounds and groups of target species)
- Landings
- Discards

Biological – Stock related Variables

- Age
- Length
- Weight
- Sex
- Maturity
- Fecundity

Transversal Variables

- Capacity (number of vessels, KW, GT, mean age, mean length)

¹ This kind of activity is forbidden since March 2010, the extension of which is under EC approve. In case the derogation be valid, the boat seine will continue operate but not further 2012

- Effort
- Landings

International Bottom Trawl Surveys in the Mediterranean (MEDITS)

- Abundance indices
- Length frequency distributions
- Environmental indicators on different populations or on the community level

Mediterranean Acoustic Survey (MEDIAS)

- Target species: anchovy and sardine
- Acoustic surveys
- Abundance estimates
- Abundance indices such as NASC (Nautical Area Scattering Coefficient, m^2/nm^2) and Biomass values (t)

Indicators for the Evaluation of the effects of the Fishing Sector on the Marine Ecosystem

- Conservation status of fish species
- Proportion of large fish
- Mean maximum length of fishes
- Size at maturation
- Distribution of fishing activity
- Areas not impacted by mobile bottom gears
- Discarding rates
- Fuel efficiency of fish capture

Research Activities

- Hellenic Center for Marine Research
- Fisheries Research Institute
- Universities
- Technological Institutions

FAO Sub-regional projects in the Mediterranean

The project AdriaMed (Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea) aims are: Promote scientific cooperation among the Adriatic nations to improve the management of fishing activities in conformity with the Common Code for Responsible Fisheries (FAO 1995); Improve information related to shared fishery resources in the Adriatic Sea (often fragmented); Reinforce the scientific coordination among the different institutions to establish a permanent network among them; Provide technical support to the participating countries. The Project has achieved Regional Cooperation through working groups implementation, has established common knowledge on fisheries through data collection and management and also methods standardization, has enhanced the national capacity through training courses, working groups and workshops, together with experts consultations and technical

assistance and has created availability and accessibility of fisheries information through the establishment of on line data bases, technical publications and ASFA. The participating countries are Albania, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia and the donors are Italy and EC.

The Project MedSudMed (Assessment and monitoring of fisheries resources and their ecosystems in the Strait of Sicily) aims are: Promote scientific cooperation between institutes in the southern part of the Central Mediterranean for the assessment and monitoring of fishery resources; contribute to the development of responsible fisheries management by increasing scientific knowledge on fisheries resources and their ecosystems in the Strait of Sicily; strengthen the national and sub-regional research capacities and support national capacity development and finally provide technical assistance as per request of the participating countries. The participating countries are Italy, Malta, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Tunisia and the donors are Italy and EC.

The Project CopeMed II is the second phase of the project and is built on the results obtained in the first phase. It contributes to enhance sub regional scientific cooperation and to strengthen scientific advice and capacity for sustainable management of shared resources. It supports existing national consultative bodies and the participation of the fisheries sector on them. The Project phase II duration is 3 years up (starting from September 2008). The participating countries are Algeria, Italy, Malta, Spain, France, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia and the donors are Spain and EC. The main results are:

Strengthening national capacity in the field of fisheries statistics

- Rapport on the national statistics systems
- Task force with the GFCM to support the countries
- Coordination for actions with MedFiSis

Strengthening fisheries research

- Training on methods for stocks assessment
- Activities in the countries related with national fisheries research
- GFCM requests
- The Alboran small pelagic fisheries
- Shared resources in the CopeMed subregion
- Implementing the 40 mm square mesh size

Strengthening institutional capacity at national sub-regional levels

- Coordination Committee meeting with national representatives, GFCM, donors and FAO-Projects
- Regional coordination meetings on artisanal fisheries in Morocco and Tunisia
- Web pages for ArtFiMed and CopeMed II
- Cooperation between national institutions from Spain, Algeria, Italy facilitating the Algerian experts participation in Italian and Spanish surveys

Strengthening regional cooperation

- Supporting the participation of experts from Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria in different SAC and GFCM meeting

- Support experts and Institutions to participate in the International Master on Fisheries Management organised by the CIHEAM and the University of Barcelona
- Coordination, Cooperation and Synergy between subregional projects

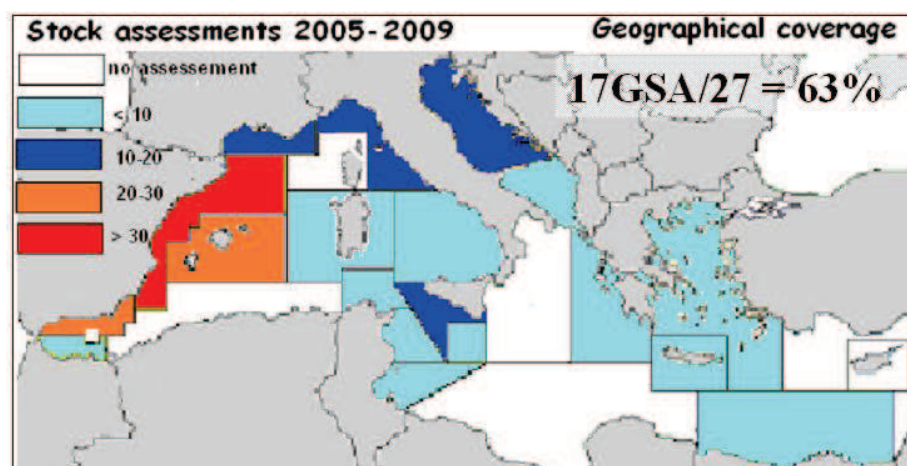
The Project ArtFiMed has a 3-year duration (March 2008-February 2011). The objective of the project is to Contribute to reduce the poverty of the target artisanal fisheries communities, by improving their livelihood in the respect of the ecosystems which they exploit, and contribute to improve positive integration of these communities, in the dynamic which affects them directly, in particular the fisheries management and the development of the coastal areas. The beneficiaries of the project are the artisanal fishermen in Ghannouch (Tunisia), the women collecting clams in El Akarit (Tunisia), artisanal fishermen in Dikky (Morocco) as well as the national institutions in Morocco and Tunisia along with the countries and the GFCM. The expected results are

- Results obtained at the three **communities levels** where the project is carried out
- Results obtained at **country level** (Morocco and Tunisia) and particularly lessons learned and promotion of the artisanal fisheries at national scale
- Result obtained at the **GFCM region**, strengthening the artisanal fisheries information and promoting lessons learned and methodologies at regional scale.

GFCM Frame and priorities with relevance for EastMed

The acting executive secretary for the GFCM Mr. Abdellah Srour made a presentation on the status of stocks in the Mediterranean (see below) and on the 34th GFCM session recommendations accompanied with the activities scheduled to be convened in the intersessional period. The limited number or even absence of assessments from the Eastern Mediterranean was highlighted. The recommendations that were adopted at the session referred to fishing capacity, logbook and identification of no-Compliance.

Status of stocks in the Mediterranean and Black Sea during the period 2005-2009



Mr. Srour described the under each sub-committee goals on which the various activities for the intersessional period were based.

Under the sub-committee on stock assessment:

- Knowledge on biology and stock structures
- Agreements on parameters for the stock assessments
- Biological indicators and development of the Reference Points
- Inclusion of survey-based assessments in the assessment forms
- Development of GFCM protocol for surveys at sea
- Stock status for Demersal and small pelagics
- Information on the stocks of eel (*Anquilla anquilla*)
- Knowledge on elasmobranches
- Selectivity studies
- Studies on EAF

Under the sub-committee on Marine Environment & Ecosystems:

- Identify sensitive habitats
- Inclusion of endangered species in the Task 1
- Knowledge on artificial reefs
- Alien species & their interaction with fisheries
- Selectivity improvement
- Studies on EAF
- Implementation of the programme on Elasmobranch species

Under the sub-committee on Statistics and Information

- Data Collection Methods
- GFCM logbook
- Statistical Bulletin
- Fishers' social structure
- Studies on cost of energy
- Recreational fisheries
- Studies on fuel prices impact

Transversal issues:

- Knowledge on red corals
- Knowledge on mucilaginous algae blooms
- Fishing capacity
- Impact of FAD Fisheries on dolphinfish stocks

Mr. Srour finally presented the GFCM meetings for the intersessional period as shown in the table below:

Meetings	Place/Date
Ninth Session of CNSC	Rome, Italy/ 9-10 June 2010
Transversal Workshop on red coral	Italy/ 16-17 September 2010
First expert Meeting on the status of elasmobranches in the Mediterranean and the Black sea	Tunisia/ 20-22 September 2010
Transversal workshop on European eel	Tunisia/ 23-24 September 2010
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
Workshop on algal and jelly fish blooms	Istanbul, Turkey/ 6–8 October 2010
Working Group on stock assessment of demersal species	Istanbul, Turkey/18–23 October 2010
Workshop on monitoring recreational fisheries in the GFCM area	Palma de Mallorca, Spain/20–22 October
Transversal Workshop on selectivity improvement, bycatch reduction and alternative gears	Egypt/25–27 October 2010
Working Group on stock assessment of small pelagic species	Mazzara del Vallo, Italy/1–6 November 2010
Session of the SCSA	Malta/29 November–2 December 2010
Session of the SESS	Malta/29 November–2 December 2010
Session of the SCSI	Malta/29 November–2 December 2010
Session of the SCMEE	Malta/29 November–2 December 2010
Workshop on alien species and their interaction with fisheries (back to back with the SCMEE meeting)	Malta/29 November–2 December 2010
10th Session of the CMSC	Malta/3 December 2010
Thirteenth Session of the SAC	France/7–11 February 2011

ICCAT priorities regarding tuna and tuna like species in the Mediterranean

The representative from ICCAT could not participate due to other commitments

Priority Activities for the first Year of EastMed

The Project Coordinator presented the outcomes of the missions she has carried out to Egypt, Turkey and Lebanon, which were taken into account when the work plan for the 1st project year was presented and discussed together with a tentative time frame (see below).

The representatives of the countries took the floor in order to present their specific expectations and support from the project. In particular the Egyptian representative highlighted his country request to implement a pilot survey on Data Collection. He also asked for IT support at the Administration. The Cyprus representative asked scientific knowledge and also managerial policy to confront the lessepsian species and mainly *Lagocephalus sceleratus* impact on fisheries. The same representative asked for Cypriot experts to be trained on otolith age reading. The scattering data on fisheries and the need to be organized for their effective management were highlighted by the Turkish representatives. The same representatives asked financial and technical support for the translation to local language of some FAO technical documents. The Greek representatives offered to the participating countries the facilities of Research Institutes for training and also the facilities of a Research Vessel to be trained on board. Medits surveys implemented by Cyprus were suggested to the countries to participate as observers.

The initiative of the establishing the Country Participating Working Group (CPWG) was welcome by the participants. All the delegations indicated the importance of these groups for their fisheries management system and the support of the project. Turkey commented that this kind of groups exists in the country and that they hold meetings two times a year.

Workplan for the 1st Year (Apr 2010 – March 2011) of the EastMed Project and tentative time frame

Activity	Sep 09 to Mar '10	Apr '10	May '10	Jun '10	Jul '10	Aug '10	Sep '10	Oct '10	Nov '10	Dec '10	Jan '11	Feb '11	Mar '11
Organize the project HQ	√												
Have the FPs nominated	√												
Project staff PC, Secretary Fisheries expert	√	VA	∞	∞									
Org. the Inception meeting													
Identification of national and sub-regional priorities		√											

(√: activity done, ∞: activity to be done, VA: Vacancy)

Workplan continued (√: activity done, ∞: activity to be done)

Activity	Sep 09 to Mar '10	Apr '10	May '10	Jun '10	Jul '10	Aug '10	Sep '10	Oct '10	Nov '10	Dec '10	Jan '11	Feb '11	Mar '11
Contacts with regional and national groups and organizations to be familiarized with their functions, rules and regulations													
PC participates to the Coordination meeting among the sub-regional projects	√												
PC participates to the GFCM/SAC meeting and to the CMSC	√												
National groups in some countries are contacted through the missions to the countries	√												

Workplan continued (√: activity done, ∞: activity to be done)

Activity	Sep 09 to Mar '10	Apr '10	May '10	Jun '10	Jul '10	Aug '10	Sep '10	Oct '10	Nov '10	Dec '10	Jan '11	Feb '11	Mar '11
Undertake an institutional appraisal mission and an assessment of the Fisheries Department needs													
Egypt, Lebanon, Turkey	√												
Other countries			∞	∞	∞								
Reporting						∞							
Changes proposed to be implemented							∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	
Establish the CPWG			∞	∞	∞	∞							

Workplan continued (✓: activity done, ∞: activity to be done)

Activity	Sep 09 to Mar '10	Apr '10	May '10	Jun '10	Jul '10	Aug '10	Sep '10	Oct '10	Nov '10	Dec '10	Jan '11	Feb '11	Mar '11
Strengthening national capacity on data collection													
Sub-regional/Regional WS					∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	
National WS on Data collection procedures and techniques (catch, effort biology, socio-economy)				∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	
Organize regional training courses (upon request)				∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	
Pilot studies				∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	
Plan scientific surveys (included fund-raising)				∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	

Workplan continued (√: activity done, ∞: activity to be done)

Activity	Sep 09 to Mar '10	Apr '10	May '10	Jun '10	Jul '10	Aug '10	Sep '10	Oct '10	Nov '10	Dec '10	Jan '11	Feb '11	Mar '11
Strengthening national capacity in processing and analyzing data													
Sub-regional/Regional WS					∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	
National WS					∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	
Organize regional training courses (upon request)					∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	

Workplan continued (√: activity done, ∞: activity to be done)

Activity	Sep 09 to Mar '10	Apr '10	May '10	Jun '10	Jul '10	Aug '10	Sep '10	Oct '10	Nov '10	Dec '10	Jan '11	Feb '11	Mar '11
Strengthening the institutional capacity at national and sub-regional level													
Organize CPWG meeting				∞	∞	∞	∞						
National and sub-regional WS (Standardization, lessepsian sp, sensitive habitats)				∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	
Support participation to RFO	√	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	
Sub-regional Experts on Fisheries Management Strategies and Approaches			∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	
Reporting							∞						∞

Mr. Pedro Barros from FAO-HQ took the floor afterwards and spoke on the coordination among the sub-regional projects and their network establishment for improving the Fisheries Management in the Mediterranean Topics like multi-species fisheries, shared stocks, the international identity of the most part in the Mediterranean, the problems in the small-scale fishery, the variety in coast users have led to the creation of a net work among the sub-regional projects for enhancing the capacity of the countries and reinforcing the regional cooperation. The sub-regional projects, which cover now the whole Mediterranean (see map below) have similar goals, like to reinforce the capacity of the countries for implementing sustainable fisheries, reinforce regional cooperation and participate in regional/global initiatives.



Those above mentioned goals can be implemented by training and development, scientific knowledge improvement, research improvement, support regional cooperation, support stakeholder participation and by dissemination and visibility actions. Mr. Barros said that the Mediterranean sub-regional projects:

- Are tightly coordinated for the benefit of the participating countries, for the establishment of synergies, for the best use of the financial and human resources
- Have specific coordination activities
- Have common project activities

For the future, the following activities are expected by the sub-regional projects:

- Continue reinforcing the capacity of countries' institutions to manage fisheries sustainably according to the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
- Continue promoting regional cooperation and dialogue
 - North-South
 - South-South

General Conclusions and Recommendations

The Coordinator was recommended to continue the contacts with the countries aiming at promoting the project and establishing better links with the authorities and specialists of the different participating countries.

The process which should be followed for the implementation of the various activities (Terms of Reference, focal points) is given in annex 5.

The activities agreed to take place during the first year of the project are given below and described under each project component

Adjusted Work plan for the first year of EastMed Project

Based on the workplan as presented by the Project Coordinator and the requests raised by the representatives, the Coordination Committee agreed on the following activities to hold during the 1st year of the project (see also annex 6). Regarding the Project management, the Coordinator will continue the contacts with the countries aiming at promoting the project and establishing better links with the authorities and specialists of the different countries.

Project Component 1: Institutional Strengthening

This component will ensure that the Fisheries Departments of the Eastern Mediterranean countries have the institutional structure, financial capacity and technical competences necessary to undertake the fundamental elements of fisheries management, and can collect fishery statistics, perform fisheries assessments and characterize marine ecosystems

- *Strengthen and improve the institutional structure at local level, if appropriate and upon request*
- *Translation of key technical documents/manuals relevant to the project objectives into the languages of the participating countries*

The specific documents to be translated will be defined when the time comes

Project Component 2: Staff Training and Development

This component will develop the capabilities of the national administrations staff to undertake the various components of regionally consistent multi-disciplinary fisheries appraisal (including stock assessment) and management. The project will offer on-the-job training, national and sub-regional workshops and opportunities for the fishery administration staff to participate in regional management meetings. This will be undertaken on a needs basis on issues identified by the project or requested by the Fisheries Departments.

- *Pilot fisheries-dependent data collection survey*

This should be carried out in Egypt, to test methods and approaches. It may also include a preliminary national workshop to design the system

- ***Exchange training programme for collection of survey data at sea***

This will be an on-board training programme. The participating countries will identify training opportunities in their regular research activities, and offer these to the other countries and institutions, through the Project. In particular it was suggested by Greece and Cyprus running bottom trawl (e.g. MEDITS) and acoustic fish stock abundance surveys (e.g. MEDIAS)

- ***Training programme on Fisheries Biology***

- Training of Fisheries Biologists in specialized laboratories within the region (Study visit)
- Expert workshop(s) on specialized fisheries Biology topics (including Otolith age reading)

It should be mentioned that the trainees should focus on priority species of common interest at the sub-regional level

Project Component 3: Data Collection and Analyses

This component introduces the fisheries management fundamentals and develops the capacity of fisheries departments and other relevant institutions to collect and analyse the required data. The project will assist the countries in designing or improving and implementing national data collection programmes. Additionally, the project will carry out experimental fishery resources appraisal surveys, aiming at supporting and developing the capacity of the participating countries to undertake more coordinated and cooperative fisheries research activities in support of fisheries management in the Eastern Mediterranean sub-region in partnership with GFCM

Strengthening national capacity on fisheries data collection

- ***Sub-regional workshop on collection and organization of fisheries data***

TORs

The WS will gather experts from the countries in the region to

- Review the systems/procedures/methods used in each country for collection and organization of fisheries data (include all types/subsets of data);
- Identify common issues and main differences in the systems of the different countries;
- Provide an overview and discuss different systems, processes and methods currently advocated to design and carry out fisheries data collection systems and used successfully in other countries or regions
- Identify the needs of the different countries;
- Design a programme for working with the countries to improve the capacity for data collection

Notes:

The convener of the workshop will provide the participants with a template for the report of the system on data collection, so that the information collected from all participants is systematically organized and covers all essential points;

This workshop should be organized before the GFCM regional workshop on data collection for Task 1 reporting, if possible

The GFCM Acting Executive Secretary informed the Meeting about the coming GFCM Workshop on Data Collection scheduled for September 2010 and also for the Workshop on Fishing Capacity to be held in Rome and he stressed that these workshops would be a good opportunity to address issues of concern to EastMed.

Strengthening national capacity for processing and analyzing fisheries data

- ***Sub-regional workshop on processing and analysis of fisheries data and information for fisheries management purposes***

The sub-regional workshop will be convened to:

- Review the current information needs of the fisheries management systems of the different countries
- Identify the common needs, as well as the differences in the data needs
- Agree on common minimum data products and processing procedures
- Identify possible ways and common methods for data processing and analysis

- ***Exchange of experience on data processing and analysis (study visits)***

It will include exchange of scientists to other more specialised laboratories

Project Component 4: Increased participation and Cooperation

This project component will support processes that encourage participation and cooperation within the wider context of fisheries management. To achieve this: (a) The project will establish and support Country Participatory Working Groups (CPWGs) in each country to facilitate communication among all the relevant stakeholders involved in the fishery sector. (b) The project will provide support when necessary and if appropriate to the Eastern Mediterranean countries. (c) The project will promote sub-regional cooperation and collaboration for fishery research, monitoring and management, and use expertise to enable contributions and responses to global policies agendas. A degree of regional cooperation among participating countries and with the GFCM is expected to have been developed by the project

- ***Support the meeting of the Country Participating Working Groups***
- ***Sub-regional Technical Meeting on Lessepsian species***

A technical meeting will be organized on Lessepsian species, with the following

Terms of Reference

- ✓ To gather and compile all knowledge available on Lessepsian species in the Eastern Mediterranean
- ✓ To review the knowledge currently available on the impact of these species on fisheries and ecosystems;
- ✓ Propose a work plan for future work

Notes: A convener should be appointed to the meeting, who will be responsible for providing a template for the information to be supplied from each country, as well as assist the countries, where necessary, in organizing this information;

The GFCM Acting Executive Secretary informed the Committee on the initiatives being carried out on these issues in the framework of GFCM, including the meeting planned for October 2010.

- ***Workshop on Fisheries Management Strategies and Approaches***

Terms of Reference:

The Workshop will bring together managers and/or decision-makers to develop capacity on fisheries management, including:

- ✓ Present information on the management strategies, approaches and measures that are currently being used in each country;
- ✓ Discuss the strategies and approaches used, and share the experiences of the different countries;
- ✓ Discuss other strategies, approaches and methods presented and analysed in the literature or used in other regions of the world;

Note: An expert should be invited to serve as resource person

- ***Support of experts from the participating countries to the GFCM meetings***

Any other business

The issue to coordinate the meetings schedule as much as possible to avoid overlap of meetings and activities was highlighted

Date and venue of the next Coordination Committee meeting

At the invitation of the Turkish delegation, the Committee decided to hold its next meeting in Antalya, Turkey, tentatively in March or April 2011

Adoption of the Report

The Report was adopted on the 20th of April 2010

ANNEXES

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**Official Opening Address at the Inception Meeting
By Kevern Cochrane, Director, FIR, FAO**

- General Secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, Mr. George Kanellopoulos
- Representatives of the East Med countries and other participants in the project,
- Dear colleagues,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to you all and welcome to the first Inception meeting of the EastMed Project.

It is with great pleasure that I attend the opening ceremony and later the inception meeting of the Project. We have all waited a long time for this project and it is a great honour for me to be here on this historic occasion.

Allow me to give you a brief background to the EastMed Project, and to the work of FAO and its Member States and partner organizations in the Mediterranean Sea.

The FAO Mediterranean fisheries projects have been assisting Member countries in the Mediterranean region to improve their capacity for fisheries management since 1996, when CopeMed first started its activities in the western and Central Mediterranean. However, while the countries from the Eastern Mediterranean had been requesting an extension of the support into this region for several years, it was only recently that the FAO could find the means to do this, thanks to the support of our donors.

The other members of the “family” are the AdriaMed, ArtFiMed, CopeMed, MedFisis, MedSudMed and Med-LME projects that together form an integrated and coordinated whole, supporting the Mediterranean countries in achieving sustainable fisheries management in the region. The presence at this meeting of the coordinators of all the other projects in the suite is a sign of the importance of EastMed, the youngest member of the family, to our work, and of the need to work together to optimise our collective efforts. Now at last it is possible to state that FAO, through all of you and the others involved, is supporting the whole Mediterranean on its way towards sustainable fisheries.

The need for the suite of projects is well understood by all involved. Various scientific studies have demonstrated that numerous stocks of fish in the Mediterranean are suffering from excessive levels of exploitation, aggravated by environmental degradation and change. During the Ministerial Conference for the Sustainable Development of Fisheries in the Mediterranean, held in Venice in November 2003, a global agreement was reached, recognizing that effective regional cooperation in fisheries management and governance of the Mediterranean, taking into account

environmental, economic and social factors, would offer a unique opportunity for the advancement of the sustainable development of the region. This Ministerial Conference also recognized that the FAO sub-regional projects were contributing in a significant way to reinforcing regional cooperation in the Mediterranean. Furthermore, the member countries of the GFCM have agreed on the necessity to reinforce the Commission in order to better meet the increasing needs of the individual countries and of the region as a whole with regard to fisheries management.

The process towards implementation of EastMed started with the one-year Preparatory phase, during which FAO teams visited the countries in the sub-region, discussing with the national fisheries managers and scientists their needs and interests, and assessing the work conditions and the regionally established cooperation mechanisms, as well as the main difficulties that could hinder its development.

Now we are starting the full phase of this project, that is a fully integrated member of the suite of FAO Mediterranean fisheries projects, aimed at supporting regional cooperation and regional and national capacity development for sustainable fisheries management in the Mediterranean, according to the principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.

But being the youngest project is by no means equivalent to being the smallest or the least important. On the contrary, EastMed covers the widest area, and it is already standing on its own feet, carrying out important work in developing cooperation among the countries in the sub-region for the benefit of sustainable fisheries.

We have high expectations for the youngest member of our family. The national representatives (focal points) are expected to contribute to the development of national capacity in fisheries research and management, to advancing knowledge on fisheries and their resources, to increasing the participative character of fisheries management, and to the development of adequate systems for the monitoring and assessment of the fishery sector, including biological, social, economic and technical aspects, besides many other daunting tasks.

We know that the road will be long, and not always easy. There are many obstacles to surmount, many tasks to complete, many challenges to rise to. However, we can assure that you will not be alone on this path. The other Mediterranean regional projects and the whole of FAO stands beside you, at the distance of a phone call, an e-mail or a simple hello, to support you whenever necessary, but without interfering with the path you choose to take.

This meeting is the first step of our joint journey. After years of discussing, planning, sometimes arguing, checking options and packing our luggage, we are finally taking off. We will be travelling together for a long time, and I am sure we will all benefit greatly from the experiences we will have during this period. We from the FAO Secretariat are proud of being in this project with all of you, working for a better future for fisheries in the Mediterranean.

None of this would have been possible without the necessary financial resources and I am pleased to acknowledge and thank the donors of the EastMed project, which are the Governments of Greece and Italy and the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission (DG Mare).

This Inception Meeting aims at setting out the work plan for the project's first year. May I stress here that FAO greatly values your experienced advice and good counsel in preparing the work plan and later in supporting the work towards achieving the expected outcome of the project.

In concluding, I wish you a constructive and successful meeting and hope you'll have an enjoyable stay in Athens in spite of all the work to be done.

Thank you very much, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your attention.

Official Opening Address at the Inception Meeting

**by Georges Kanellopoulos
General Secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development & Food**

Director of the FAO, Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources Use and Conservation Division Mr. Kevern Cochrane, representative of GFCM, distinguished representatives of Turkey, Palestine Authority, Cyprus, Egypt and Italy, representatives of the project donors (Greece, Italy and EU), of the Greek Research Centres, the Private Sector,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I welcome you on behalf of the Ministry of Rural Development & Food to the Inception Meeting of the FAO sub-regional project “EastMed”, which is hosted in the project premises.

This year we have the honour to host in Athens two important international events, the 34th FAO/GFCM Session and the Inception Meeting of the FAO/EastMed project both aiming among others to the sustainable fisheries management.

Taking the opportunity I would like to reiterate my country’s respect to the International Agreements such as the Law of the Seas, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the EU. We recognize the role that GFCM is called to play. We are aware that this role has been supported by the sub-regional projects in the western and Central Mediterranean (CopeMed, ArtFiMed, AdriaMed, MedSudMed) as well as aware of the Eastern Mediterranean till very recently sidelining. This is actually the reason that Greece has undertaken this initiative, which implementation today we welcome by its 1st Coordination Committee meeting.

I would also like to say that we are proud to collaborate with FAO which we trust, proud to collaborate with the donors like Italy and EU who we thank and finally proud we host the project premises. Last and not least I should stress that the proper operation of the project premises is supported by the Memorandum of Understanding accordingly ratified by the Greek Parliament.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I welcome you again in Athens; I wish during your two days work to produce outcomes that will provide breath and hope to the countries expectations and bring together the countries in an area which could be considered as the meeting place of different people and cultures.

Finally I wish you a pleasant stay in Athens enjoy this city beauties and historical heritage

Agenda

- 1. Opening of the meeting and designation of the Chairman**
 - Welcome by the Greek authorities and the Director of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources Use and Conservation Division of FAO
 - Introduction by the participants
 - Introduction by the Organizations and Agencies
 - Designation of the Chairman

- 2. Presentation of the EastMed Project**
 - Introduction
 - Project justification
 - Preparatory phase – Outputs
 - Objectives and main expected outcomes
 - Structure of the project including staffing
 - Organization and Management (Coordination Committee, National Focal points, Country Participating Working Groups, Partnerships arrangements)
 - Partnership with FAO-Field Identification Guide to the Living Marine Resources of the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean

- 3. Presentation of the national reports of participating countries**
 - Current situation and countries' expectations and priorities
 - Research and scientific capacities
 - Institutional capacities
 - Cooperation between countries and Regional Fisheries Organizations
 - National fisheries statistics systems and data collection systems

- 4. FAO Sub-regional Projects in the Mediterranean**
 - CopeMed and ArtFiMed
 - AdriaMed and MedSudMed

- 5. GFCM frame and priorities with relevance for EastMed**
 - Reference framework of the Scientific Advisory Committee and priorities for the 1st year programme of EastMed

- 6. ICCAT priorities regarding tuna and tuna like species in the Mediterranean**
 - Proposals for activities on large pelagic species to be coordinated within the framework of EastMed

- 7. Priority activities for the first year of EastMed**
 - Information collected during visits to 3 countries which may be taken into account for the 1st year work plan

- Presentation of work plan and tentative time frame
 - Establishment of the Country Participatory Working Group (CPWG)
 - Strengthening national capacities in obtaining statistical data on catch and effort, including biological and socioeconomic data
 - Technical and financial support for a competitive institutional structure
 - Organise national and if deemed sub-regional workshops
 - Organise training courses
 - Carry out pilot studies in specific countries
 - Strengthening national capacities in processing and analysing data
 - Organise national and if deemed sub-regional workshops
 - Organise training courses
 - Strengthening the institutional capacity at national level (functioning of organizations, relations between actors, development of management strategies) and at sub-regional level (cooperation between countries and with regional fisheries organizations)
 - Organise the CPWG
 - Organise national and sub-regional workshops (standardization needs, lessepsian sp, sensitive habitats)
 - Support participation to RFO
- Cooperation and coordination among the FAO sub-regional projects

8. General Conclusions and Recommendations

9. Adjusted Work plan for the first year of EastMed

- Presentation of the final work plan taking into account the Coordination Committee proposals

10. Any other business

- Other proposals to be decided by the Coordination Committee

11. Date and venue of the next Coordination Meeting

12. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting

Activities process

- The Coordination Committee and the Focal Points in each country constitute with the Coordinator and the FAO the vertebral column of the project with respect to the sub-regional activities and outcomes
- Activities needing Terms of Reference will be drafted by the Coordinator and distributed to the Focal Points for discussion and adoption
- Activities proposed during the year by a Focal Point others than those adopted during the Coordination Committee should be sent to the Coordinator to be discussed in the next Coordination Committee
- Focal Points have the duty to channel the national proposals to the Project Coordinator
- Focal Points are the persons who channel and distribute in the country the information and/or request from the Project Coordinator

Adjusted Work plan for the first year of EastMed Project

Project Component	Apr 10	May 10	Jun 10	Jul 10	Aug 10	Sep 10	Nov 10	Dec 10	Jan 11	Feb 11	Mar 11
Institutional Strengthening											
• Strengthen and improve the institutional structure at local level, if appropriate and upon request	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕
• Translation of key technical documents/manuals relevant to the project objectives into languages of the participating countries	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕
Staff Training and Development											
• Pilot fisheries-dependent data collection survey	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕
• Exchange training programme for collection of survey data at sea	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕
• Training programme on Fisheries Biology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training of Fisheries Biologists in specialized laboratories within the region (Study visit) ○ Expert workshop(s) on specialized fisheries Biology topics (including Otolith age reading) 	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕
Data Collection and Analyses											
• Sub-regional workshop on collection and organization of fisheries data	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕
• Sub-regional workshop on processing and analysis of fisheries data and information for fisheries management purposes	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕

Project Component	Apr 10	May 10	Jun 10	Jul 10	Aug 10	Sep 10	Nov 10	Dec 10	Jan 11	Feb 11	Mar 11
Increased Participation and Cooperation											
● <i>Support the meeting of the Country Participating Working Groups</i>	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
● <i>Sub-regional Technical Meeting on Lessepsian species</i>	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
● <i>Workshop on Fisheries Management Strategies and Approaches</i>	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
● <i>Support of experts from the participating countries to the GFCM meetings</i>	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒

Beneficiary countries

Countries with waters included in the GFCM
Geographical Sub-Areas (GSAs) 19-20 and 22-28

Donors

Greece

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Rural Development and Food

Italy

- Ministry of Agriculture Food and Forestry Policies

European Community

- Directorate General of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG-MARE)



Hellenic Ministry of Rural
Development and Food

Hellenic Ministry of
Foreign Affairs



ITALIAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD
AND FORESTRY POLICIES



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