
BACKGROUND

The importance of the relationship between environmental and fishery variability has been repeatedly addressed in the Mediterranean. Understanding the mechanisms that govern year to year fluctuations in abundance as well as year class strength of Mediterranean fishes is essential for the assessment and management of this resource. Correlations between environmental variables and variations in the spatial and temporal distribution of fish populations in the Mediterranean have been addressed. The relationship between environmental forcing and different stocks of fish has not, however, been clearly identified. There are a number of challenges that present themselves when attempting to move this subject forward. Amongst them: 1) poor dialogue between fishery scientists and oceanographers 2) limited access to data and information 3) data of differing spatial/chronological scales.

The workshop provided an opportunity for:

- I. Presentation and stimulation of current scientific thinking on this topic;
- II. Assessment of relevant Mediterranean data sources/owners;
- III. Assessment of existing techniques/software useful in these type of studies;
- IV. Assessment of the feasibility of a joint project involving interested workshop participants.