



Food and
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Italian
Ministry
of Agriculture
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Policies

GDP/RER/010/ITA/TD-11

*Scientific Cooperation
to Support Responsible Fisheries in
the Adriatic Sea*

Report of the Fifth Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee





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

MiPAF

Food and
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AdriaMed

GCP/RER/010/ITA

Report of the Fifth Meeting of the AdriaMed
Coordination Committee

Rome, 18th and 19th September 2003

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Preface

The Regional Project “Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea” (AdriaMed) is executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and funded by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Policies (MiPAF).

AdriaMed was conceived to contribute to the promotion of cooperative fishery management between the participating countries (Republics of Albania, Croatia, Italy 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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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, missions 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 Fifth Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee, organised by the FAO-AdriaMed Project (*Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea*) in Rome, 18th and 19th September 2003.

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AdriaMed.

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ABSTRACT

The Fifth meeting of the Coordination Committee of the AdriaMed Project (Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea) was attended by representatives of participating countries (Albania, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia and for the first time the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro) and other interested parties.

The meeting sought to present and discuss the results of the activities carried out by the Project referring to the period 2003-2004. The operative programme followed the methodological approach applied by the Project in implementing the Research Programmes, in strengthening and supporting the AdriaMed Working Groups and network of experts, in improving relations at Mediterranean level between the Project, the GFCM and other regional project entities. The outcome to date on all field research projects was presented and the work plan for the coming period was discussed and approved, relative to the main areas of Project activity: Adriatic Sea shared fishery resources; Adriatic fishery social and economic aspects; Fishery statistics and information systems; Adriatic fishery management; Relations at Mediterranean basin level. The scientific cooperation achieved, the multidisciplinary frame which is being established, the effective data sharing and the progress made in the cooperative appraisal of fishery resources, make the concrete foundations to initiate the process of identifying and agreeing on an array of multidisciplinary sustainable fisheries development indicators, concerted at regional level. The AdriaMed cooperative framework will be further strengthened by the imminent adherence of the Republic Serbia and Montenegro. The AdriaMed participating Countries, through their delegates, wished to clearly point out that the future continuation of the AdriaMed experience is an essential condition to ensure the management and development of the fisheries sector of the whole Adriatic Sea.

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Report of the Fifth Meeting of the FAO AdriaMed Coordination Committee

Rome, Italy, 18th and 19th September 2003

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and election of the Chair

1. The Fifth Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the FAO AdriaMed Project “Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea” was held in Rome, Italy, 18th and 19th September 2003 and hosted by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Policies. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the Donor, delegations from the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Italy and the Republic of Slovenia, the Assistant Director General of the FAO Fisheries Department, a representative of the Marine Fishery Resources Service of FAO, the Secretary of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, a representative of the FAO Technical Cooperation Department, a representative of the European Commission, the Director of the FAO Regional Project CopeMed as well as the staff of the FAO AdriaMed Project. It was the pleasure of the Coordination Committee (hereafter referred to as the Committee) to welcome a representative of the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro to the Meeting.
2. On behalf of the Italian Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry Policies, the Director General for Fisheries, Dr Attilio Tripodi, welcomed all the Committee Meeting participants, a greeting was given on behalf of the State Under Secretary for Agricultural Resources, the Hon. Paolo Scarpa Bonazza Buora, and thanking each member country for the cooperation and the achievements in the context of AdriaMed. He took note with satisfaction of the participation of the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro for the first time, underlining the Ministry’s intention to ensure the full involvement of Serbia and Montenegro in the AdriaMed initiative, thus further strengthening the common efforts being made towards resource appraisal and fisheries management, which implies progress in the direction of political integration.
3. Moreover, the Director General stated that such relevant initiatives as AdriaMed should be further reinforced, as they constitute common tools to deal with common resources. Lastly, he wished to express the willingness of the Italian Government to ensure the continuity of the AdriaMed Project.
4. The floor was taken by the Director of the FAO Fisheries Department, Dr Ichiro Nomura, who thanked the Italian Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry Policies for the continued support to FAO and to the Fisheries Department in particular, he stressed the challenge presented by AdriaMed at the moment in which it was conceived and the highly satisfactory execution and results which can be seen as the Project approaches its final year of implementation. Thanks were given to all the AdriaMed partners for the success of the Project. The Committee was reminded that the ultimate goal of the Project is to put the member countries in a position to adopt measures for long term conservation and sustainability of the shared Adriatic fishery resources, with conservation measures at all levels based on the best available scientific evidence.
5. The Albanian representative expressed the highest appreciation on the work performed so far by the Project and particularly highlighted the new way of working which has been proposed and implemented by AdriaMed, the results of which reflect the expectations of AdriaMed and

have proved a significant contribution for the national fishery sector. He also wished to remark on how the overall Project activities support the growing role of the GFCM. The high desirability of AdriaMed's future continuity was pointed out, also considering the rising role of the Project within the Mediterranean region.

6. The Slovenian delegation, expressing general satisfaction with the AdriaMed performance, wished particularly to remark on the level of standardization achieved concerning data collection procedures and data sharing, as well as on stakeholder involvement (fisheries management authorities, scientists and resource users). On the basis of the experience acquired, he renewed the conviction that the continuation of the Project can only be successful and beneficial.
7. The Croatian representative stressed the highly positive appraisal of the AdriaMed Project, remarking on its relevance for Croatia, which makes the continuation of AdriaMed highly welcomed and indeed necessary. The level of scientific output produced so far, and the cooperation established, was also commended.
8. The EC Representative thanked the Italian Ministry and Government as well as the FAO for the effort being made to implement AdriaMed. He noted that, given the Commission's current focus on Mediterranean fisheries as shown by the Mediterranean Action Plan issued in December 2002, clear reference is made to the key role of the FAO Regional Projects (i.e. AdriaMed, CopeMed, MedSudMed). Full EC interest to support to the continuity of the AdriaMed Project was conferred with the wish for this to take place in the context of the GFCM autonomous budget. The forthcoming EU Ministerial Conference (November 2003) is expected to take into consideration the present and future role of such multilateral cooperation initiatives of which AdriaMed is a particularly positive and relevant example.
9. The Representative of the FAO Technical Cooperation Department referred to the FAO Fisheries ADG intervention to express the Technical Cooperation Department's positive appraisal of the cooperative framework established by AdriaMed. He highlighted the request forwarded by the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro to join AdriaMed as an extremely positive step and ensured the Committee that the FAO TCAP Department will make all the necessary efforts to finalise the Protocol of Agreement in the shortest possible time.
10. The GFCM Secretary made special reference to the overall performance of AdriaMed in terms of effective support provided by the Project to GFCM SAC work. He wished to underline how such contributions were provided through concrete input.
11. The Representative of the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro took the opportunity to thank the Italian Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry Policies, the FAO and GFCM, as well as AdriaMed participating countries for the strong interest shown in the forthcoming participation of the Country in AdriaMed. Serbia-Montenegro is looking forward to hosting some of the next AdriaMed international meetings.
12. Professor Stefano Cataudella was proposed as Chair, as occurred at the First Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee in March 2000.

Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Agenda

13. The Chair, in introducing the Agenda, invited the participants to offer any comments. The Agenda was adopted with no changes.

Agenda item 3. Report on the Project's progress

14. The Project coordinator introduced this point and the participants were reminded of some particularly relevant reflections and considerations that emerged during the 4th Committee meeting held in December 2002 in Split. It was recalled that a fairly comprehensive understanding of the Adriatic Fishery sector is now possible, thanks to the establishment of the network among the main Adriatic institutions involved in fisheries, together with the research programmes implemented by the Project with the countries. Such results have depended on the experience of the different institutions cooperating with AdriaMed, with particular focus on shared fishery resources. This has also been possible thanks to the level of standardisation achieved by the Project in data collection and processing methodologies.
15. Furthermore, the previous meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee highlighted that the issue of fisheries management in the Adriatic is highly complex; the fishery activities aimed at some specific resources are influenced by biological, ecological, economic and social aspects, all of which influence fishery management and strategy. This underlines the importance of the multidisciplinary approach that the Project is trying to implement, in part to provide an answer to the various questions posed at national and sub-regional level by the fishery management. The role played by the Project in the context of the GFCM SAC Sub-Committees and Working Groups, especially in terms of pilot activities and scientific contributions, was recalled.
16. In the presentation of the document "Report of the intersessional activities of the Project" (CC/05/03), the Committee was informed that the document describes the activities for the programme referring to the period 2003-2004, as approved during the previous Committee Meeting. Most are scheduled, executed and/or ongoing. The operative programme followed the methodological approach applied by the Project in implementing the Research Programmes, in strengthening and supporting the AdriaMed Working Groups and network of experts, in improving relations at Mediterranean level between the Project, the GFCM and other regional project entities. The description of the activities carried out was for the most part structured according to the three main Project components: Adriatic Fishery Resources, Adriatic Social and Economic Fishery Science and the Adriatic Fishery Information System.
17. The Committee members were also informed that in the Meeting document folder there were a series of documents including some of the results achieved by the Project and also presented to GFCM SAC Sub-Committee meetings. The list of documents distributed is given in the meeting folder as CC/05/info11. Further detailed information on Project activities, (ongoing and executed) are given in the annexes (reference is made to CC/05/03, annexes to the draft report of the AdriaMed technical review).
18. An overview of some Project activities was provided to the Committee. Particular attention was paid to some of the results achieved during the eight-month period since the previous Coordination Committee meeting. An overview was made focussing on the efforts and

progress of AdriaMed through the involvement of its national counterparts to approach the Adriatic fishery system in all its components.

19. It was brought to the attention of the Committee that level of scientific cooperation achieved, the multidisciplinary frame which is being established, the effective data sharing and the progress made in the cooperative appraisal of fishery resources, make the concrete foundations to initiate the process of identifying and agreeing on an array of multidisciplinary sustainable fisheries development indicators, concerted at regional level.
20. On the basis of the outline of the current state of AdriaMed implementation, the Committee discussed and agreed on the formulation of a number of remarks which are reported hereunder, (paragraphs 21-25).
21. Many positive results of the Project activities are directly relevant to the management of the Adriatic fishery resources. The Project has been promoting strong motivation in national staff which should be properly channelled and given due value. The Committee stressed the need to ensure that the relevance of AdriaMed performance and experience gained so far should be made evident at the highest level of national fisheries administrations.
22. The Committee wished to point out that the AdriaMed cooperative framework will be further strengthened by the joining of the Republic Serbia and Montenegro. The AdriaMed participating Countries, through their delegates, wished to clearly point out that the future continuation of the AdriaMed experience is an essential condition to ensure the management and development of the fisheries sector of the whole Adriatic Sea.
23. The Committee considered the integrated adaptive approach being adopted and developed by AdriaMed as highly appropriate to put Adriatic fisheries into a single framework and encouraged the Project to continue pursuing this line. This was regarded as coherent with the role of science in the process of developing indicators drawing from multidisciplinary competencies. This will much strengthen the decision making process by facilitating communication between fishery science and fishery management.
24. The above was also fully concurred by the GFCM Secretary, who wished the future phase of AdriaMed to continue further as a pilot and innovative experience of which one of the direct beneficiaries is the GFCM SAC. He made specific reference to the Operational Unit issue and confirmed the need for Project assistance in the pilot testing of the Operational Unit concept applicability.
25. The EC Representative wished to comment that AdriaMed constitutes one of the best examples of multilateral scientific cooperation and one of the best sources of advice available to the GFCM. Within the central role being given by the EC to the GFCM, and consequently for the EU fishery policy for the Mediterranean, the necessity of relying on regional projects is a matter of fact. The EC representative stressed again the need for multilateral cooperation also at political level for any initiative aiming at enhancing the implementation of sustainable fisheries policy in a very sensitive area such as the Mediterranean. Considering AdriaMed as one of the most successful experiences in the multilateral cooperation field, it is the intention of the EC in the forthcoming Venice Ministerial Conference to take into possible consideration how to give continuity to initiatives/activities such as the AdriaMed Project as well as other main topics for the Mediterranean fisheries policy (IUU, Common management of resources, control). Lastly, the Project was requested, and Committee agreed, to make the updated

information on the small pelagic fishing fleets of the Adriatic Sea available as recommended by the SAC, so as to fully complete the joint small pelagic fishery appraisal being undertaken.

26. The support provided by the Project to national fisheries statistical system was described. The national systems being developed in the AdriaMed Region consist of a set of databases and associated statistical data collection and implementation methodologies covering the Census, the Catch and Effort Survey, and other surveys. They have a modular implementation to enable each country to progress according to its priorities and resources and, at the same time, ensure that each step is achieved and consolidated before a new step is initiated, thus avoiding jeopardising the work already achieved. According to the plan, the work programme was mostly devoted to the establishment or reinforcement of the national infrastructures. This included training and activities related to undertaking the Census and building up the Fishing Vessel Register, i.e. analysis, methodology and forms, data-collection system, national reporting system, regional and international reporting system. Further work will be devoted to catch and effort and fleet capacity surveys whose results, combined and matched with the results of other biological, economic, and environmental surveys, should give a better idea of management possibilities in the area. The systems are designed and implemented using the most advanced technology in user interfacing and database implementation. The user interface is designed to serve maximum user friendliness and minimum false data entry. All national representatives expressed their appreciation for the work being carried out through this activity.
27. The AdriaMed Information System was briefly introduced to the Committee, with particular attention being given to the value of tools such as the website, the mailing list, the databases available online and the possibility to download all the Project Technical Documents easily. The major achievements of AdriaMed in this field were highlighted in terms of improved accessibility for all stakeholders to information on the region's fishery sector, in line with the Project mandate. Relevant statistics on the use of the Project website were also provided to the Committee.
28. With reference to the issue of information, it was brought to the Committee's attention that a great amount of data now exists at Mediterranean level, through the work of the FAO Regional Projects. The question of integration of such information was raised, it was suggested that a common interface and graphic language needs to be created in order to optimise the work carried out and thus create a coherent information system for the region, also in coherence with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. However, the danger for the target users of attempting to integrate too great a number of information systems was also expressed.
29. The Copemed Director expressed his agreement and indicated that this would be a task for FAO through all the Regional Projects present in the Mediterranean, with FAO developing a practical approach to the task. This view was concurred by the FAO FIRM Backstopping Officer. There was general agreement that, through the GFCM, an effort must be made to unite the information available from AdriaMed, CopeMed, MedSudMed, Sipam and all other relevant entities. The EC representative stressed that this could also be considered within the MedFisis initiative, supported by the EC using the GFCM umbrella, as this would be the best way not to risk losing data and experience of Regional Projects.
30. The Secretary of the GFCM reminded the Meeting that this position has already been endorsed by the GFCM at its 27th Session (2002), progress is being made in this direction although it has a high cost. It was highlighted that publication of regional scientific papers under the GFCM umbrella would be opportune, thus taking a step towards the linking together of the

region's information sources, aiming towards a stronger, faster system. Currently, the GFCM in cooperation with the FAO Regional Projects AdriaMed and Copemed, is embarking on the task of the inventory and abstracting of all GFCM publications from its foundation in the early nineteen fifties.

Agenda item 4. Project Review

31. The Coordination Committee's attention was drawn to the document CC/05/03, the Draft Review of the AdriaMed Project. The consultant presented the conclusions of the Review. He praised the excellent work achieved by the Project and listed the output of the Project that he found highly satisfactory. The report outlined the significant achievements in the fields of training, institution building, stock assessment, networking set up and databases created; he emphasised the need to consolidate the results further. The involvement of Administrations and policy makers in the Project activity was considered a priority of the present phase of the Project. The consultant recommended to move the present Project HQ premises to a more efficient site and to strengthen the staffing. He also recommended a second phase of the Project for at least a three-year period, to be reviewed as required on the basis of expectations raised, and he expressed the need to phase out some activities, passing responsibility to the member countries. The consultant finally recommended the allocation of the funds necessary for the adherence of the new member, the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro.
32. The Representative of the Italy acknowledged the results of the draft release of the Review and expressed his agreement with the recommendations concerning Serbia-Montenegro, mentioning the importance of discussing the necessary resources. The Meeting was informed that Italy welcomed in particular the possibility of joint research activities in the AdriaMed Project framework, expressing the intention to investigate the availability of funding after a presentation of a specific programme for which the Project will be informed shortly by the Italian Fishery Directorate on the necessary procedures.
33. General consensus with the report's findings was expressed by the Committee. The delegates took the opportunity to renew the maximum appreciation of the AdriaMed Project in all areas of activity being implemented, sharing also the positive appraisal expressed by the consultant as well as his recommendations. It was concurred that member countries while participating in the identification of the structure and context of the reference document for the second phase of AdriaMed should take into due account budget availability in order to fulfil the tasks posed by the objective of dealing with the fishery system as a whole.
34. The FAO FIRM Backstopping Officer, while expressing full satisfaction for the review report, highlighted three important issues. It was remarked that the Committee should now have an idea of the extension of the Project, in terms of its activities, as it should now begin to be clear if activities need to be in a closing phase or if they can be further consolidated and developed. This in order to permit the necessary planning. His personal consideration was that it would be opportune to think in terms of extending the Project for a period of five years, as this would be a more suitable period in consideration of the envisaged tasks and mandate. In this framework however it is to be stressed that the preparation of a second Project phase is not a task to be undertaken without due consideration or without the consensus of all the interested parties. The final point made in the light of the review report was that the finalisation of the adherence of Serbia-Montenegro needs to be resolved with all the necessary authorities as soon as possible and preferably before the forthcoming 28th GFCM Session (October 2003). It was underlined

that the necessary resources will need to be made available in order to finance this aspect and this question needs to be raised at this and not at a later stage of the Project.

35. The CopeMed Director drew similarities between the findings of the AdriaMed Review and that of CopeMed, commenting that, as for CopeMed, the future evolution of AdriaMed should continue to tackle more ample, joint practical problems of all the fishing sector components at regional (Mediterranean basin) level. The first of these would be to facilitate a preliminary analysis (in the context of the GFCM SAC) of the consequences (biological, ecological, sociological, economic) of the foreseeable fishing effort reduction measures for each fishery concerned. A further issue concerning the establishment of pilot plans on specific shared fisheries or critical habitats with the direct involvement of the three main actors of the fishery system (Administrations, Research and Industry) to try to demonstrate practically that international co-management of fisheries is feasible. It was commented that the Project, also in cooperation with other regional bodies, should increasingly deal with matters related to the commercialisation of the fishery product, to the management of coastal zones as a way to ensure the future of artisanal fisheries and to standardise the information system for the GFCM as a whole.
36. From the GFCM side, the Secretary agreed that aspects of future planning need to be faced immediately. He also noted the constraints outlined and highlighted the need for maximum efficiency, especially in terms of professional staffing as the workload is now unsustainable, and of Project HQ location in respect of operational cost optimisation. It was also commented that a peculiarity of the Project to be maintained is how it has been approaching the fishery as system pursuing a multidisciplinary implementation finalised to assist management and enhance availability of scientific data.
37. With reference to the issue of sustainability, it was positively noted that AdriaMed participating Countries are co-financing some activities of the Project such as the forthcoming AdriaMed trawl survey in order to improve the survey sampling coverage.
38. The EC representative informed the Committee that the Commission is looking with great favour to the continuation of AdriaMed also through the possible EC direct participation. With reference to the duration of AdriaMed second phase, the EC point of view is that this should also be seen within the general context of the developments in the GFCM and in the Mediterranean area.
- 38.1 The Coordination Committee members and national representatives unanimously gave the mandate to FAO-FIRM to prepare a project proposal for the extension of AdriaMed for five years in consultation with the GFCM, EU, Representatives from national institutions and others concerned AdriaMed entities. They also stressed that, in preparing the proposal, due attention must be given to widen of the Project terms of reference which, in addition to the research component, should also include activities concerning artisanal fisheries, studies on coastal zone management, (inter-relationship between artisanal fishery, mariculture, coastal agriculture, etc) in order to promote adequate marketing strategies, improve employment opportunities and other factors to improving the living conditions of coastal communities. They also expressed the wish to start the second phase immediately after end of the first phase without any time gaps.
39. Lastly, the Chairman remarked, and the Committee agreed, that the new AdriaMed phase should be based, because of the Project current achievements, on completely different

scenarios which impose an active role of the member countries in drafting the reference document. This should also represent the logical evolution of the Project first phase and should take into account the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the recent COFI Session outcome and indications, and the EU Action Plan for the Mediterranean. The indication of the Donor in this context underlined the fundamental importance of involving all actors in the conceiving the second phase of AdriaMed. FAO was asked to take into due consideration the above in drafting the Project second phase.

Agenda item 5. Other matters

40. All the delegates and Meeting participants wished to express their thanks to the Italian authorities for the kind hospitality.

Agenda item 6. Date and venue of the next Coordination Committee meeting.

41. Upon the kind invitation and favourable disposition of the Serbia-Montenegro delegation the next Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee will be held in Serbia and Montenegro. The date and venue will be proposed in due time by the Project. This proposal was welcomed by the Meeting participants.

42. This report was adopted on 19th September 2003.

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Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and election of the Chairman
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Report on the Project's progress
4. Project Review
5. Other matters
6. Date and venue of the next Coordination Committee meeting

Report on the inter-sessional activities of the Project

Background

This paper summarises the most significant activities carried out by the Project AdriaMed between December 2002 and September 2003. The activities described concern the work programme for the period 2003-2004 as approved during the previous Coordination Committee meeting.

The operative programme of the Project concentrates on the directive to pursue the following:

- Implementing the Research Programmes (field research, studies and reviews)
- Strengthening and supporting the AdriaMed Working Groups and networks of experts
- Supporting the national fishery statistics systems in the participating countries
- Improving relations at Mediterranean level, between the Project and the GFCM and other regional projects and entities.

Following the previous meetings of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee, the Project work is structured according to three main components: Adriatic fishery resources, Adriatic social and economics fishery sciences, Adriatic fishery statistics and information systems.

1. Adriatic Shared Fishery Resources (demersal and small pelagic)

1.1 Identification of Population Units in Adriatic Sea Shared Stocks by Genetic Structure Analysis.

The results of the research programme are being incorporated in a final report that will detail the analysis and assessment of genetic homogeneity/heterogeneity of the main species whose stocks are shared in the Adriatic Sea. The genetic sampling has been completed for all the seven target species; adequate sample size has been obtained for each species and area. Microsatellite molecular markers have been developed and optimised for analysis. When necessary species-specific *loci* have been identified and molecular database created. Final results and the relative technical report will soon be available and will represent the first document of its kind for the Adriatic Sea area. Slovenian research staff are also now fully trained and equipped to carry out further such studies. Some results on specific aspects of the work performed have been communicated to the scientific community through international journals.

1.2 Joint assessment of small pelagic fish in Geographical Sub Area – GSA 17 (Echo-Survey and Environmental Parameters Monitoring Exercise)

A combined hydro-acoustic and mid-water trawl survey was successfully carried out in the Northern Adriatic Sea in November 2001. For the first time the survey was performed over the whole area concerned, including the international and territorial waters of Croatia, Italy and Slovenia. Distribution patterns and standing stock biomass of small pelagic fish as a whole and by species group were obtained. A working group was established for the continuation of the Adriatic Echosurvey initiative and the first meeting was held in May 2003, researchers from all the countries involved were present. This workshop included the preparation of a feasibility study for a further international, collaborative echosurvey for the Central and North Adriatic Sea. Moreover, as further follow-up to the positive outcome of the first joint echo-survey in the Northern Adriatic Sea, research institutes of all coastal countries have pooled together (with the partnership of AdriaMed) to address the issue of available financial sources for the financing of a joint acoustic appraisal of small pelagic stocks in the whole Adriatic Sea.

1.3 Joint assessment of small pelagic fish in GSA 18 (eggs and larvae)

The workplan for this activity has been discussed by the Institutes involved. In consideration of the existing scientific expertise and available equipment in this GSA (Southern Adriatic), the feasibility for a joint eggs and larvae survey is currently being considered. Such a survey would in the meantime constitute an opportunity for on-the-job training in this method.

1.4 Data Collection and Biological Sampling on small pelagics

A Regional monitoring system for the assessment of the small pelagic fish biomass and related fishery exploitation patterns in the Adriatic Sea has been set up. Sardine and anchovy commercial catch samples were collected monthly from 12 ports in the Adriatic Sea. Catch and effort statistics and biological data have been compiled in a common database. A training session on small pelagics biological data collection and analysis was carried out in December 2002 (Split, Croatia). The first regional joint stock assessment exercise for the whole Adriatic was carried out in February 2003. The first results were presented at the GFCM-SAC Working Group on Small Pelagic Species, Documents CC/05/info7 and 8 refer. Document CC/05/info6 is the “Manual of the Recorder” produced in the context of this programme.

1.5 Cooperative Approach for the Identification of Management Options for the Pomo/Jabuka Pit Critical Habitat

The collection of most of the available knowledge on the Pomo/Jabuka Pit has been carried out and the elaboration, analysis and appraisal of existing knowledge are reported in a Technical Document which is under finalisation. The reference knowledge-base for any management action of the Pomo/Jabuka Pit fisheries will thus be strengthened. Consultations are foreseen with all the interested parties as soon as the technical document is available.

1.6 International Bottom Trawl Survey in the Adriatic Sea

All the necessary arrangements are being made for the second phase of the trawl survey programme which will take place in the autumn/winter of 2003 in the Eastern Adriatic back to back with the Italian national survey in the Western Adriatic. Additional funds to increase the sampling coverage are being made available by beneficiary countries.

A regional data bank holding the complete data set from the previous survey (2001/02) has been developed and is being tested in the participating research institutes. Document CC/05/info3 refers.

1.7 Critical review of the current knowledge and available data sets on demersal resources

The complete draft of the document Reviewing and assessing the level of scientific knowledge on the main demersal species whose stocks are shared in the Adriatic Sea including the species ecology, population dynamics and stock assessment has been prepared and it is being finalized.

A Working Paper on the application of biomass dynamic models to the recovered thirty-year Albanian fishery statistics time series was presented at the GFCM-SAC Working Group on Demersal Species. Document CC/05/info9 refers.

1.8 Adriatic experts network on small scale fisheries

Several species whose stocks are shared in the Adriatic Sea are also exploited by national small-scale fisheries either regularly or during specific phases of their life-cycle. In the Adriatic Sea it is thought that in number small-scale fishing vessels make up about 70% of the total registered regional fishing fleet.

The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries also underlines the need for research on small-scale fisheries because of their possible bearing on the sustainability of resources. Therefore in cooperation with the region's Research Institutes and following the indications of the 4th Coordination Committee meeting, a network has been established and reference documents have been prepared for each AdriaMed country.

To respond to the need for collaborative action on this issue, a Technical Consultation on Adriatic Sea Small-Scale Fisheries has been arranged and will take place on 14-15 October 2003 (Split, Croatia), this meeting will review current knowledge on this key sector of Adriatic fisheries, identifying needs and priorities as well as providing the basis for cooperative future work either within AdriaMed or other contexts.

1.9 Mapping of benthic fauna associated with trawl samples

This issue has been identified as an area in which further research would be valuable for the scientific community. It has been ascertained by the Project that suitable data exist in the participating countries and the necessary mapping support is being evaluated.

2 Adriatic Social and Economic Fishery Sciences

2.1 Social survey of the Albanian marine fisheries

This is an ongoing activity, first conceived in the year 2002 and currently under implementation, it is particularly relevant as Albanian fisheries have changed remarkably since the 1990s and this makes it necessary to know the current characteristics of the social component of the national fisheries. A local expert was recruited and trained who in turn identified and trained a field recorder team. Data have been gathered on: personal data of crew, working condition and fishing strategy, marine district characteristic and relations. The database holding the information gathered has been designed and developed. Data analysis is underway and results are planned to be available by the end of 2003/early 2004. Survey design and progress have been presented to the GFCM SAC Sub-committee on Social and Economic Sciences.

2.2 Operational Unit identification: pilot-study in GSA 18.

A pilot-study on Operational Unit identification in GSA 18 could be executed in cooperation with the SAC. Particular attention will be given to include information on fishery economics in the study. The activities could start once the programme has been finalized and its feasibility verified.

2.3 Adriatic Fishery Associations

AdriaMed is engaged in the follow-up of the two previous meetings (Split, 2001 and Pula, 2002) organised by the Project with the fishing industry and fishers' representatives from the Adriatic countries. The dissemination of the Project's scientific results to resources users is regularly maintained. A review document on the Adriatic Sea professional fishery associations is being finalized and specific topics to be used as pilot-cases to foster cooperation among fishery managers, resource users and scientists are being considered.

3. Adriatic Fishery Statistics and Information Systems

3.1 Albania: the census has been completed. The census results and the database have been assumed as the National Register of Fishing Vessels and is located in an office of the Director General of Fisheries - Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fishery. A manual on the use of the census database has been prepared. The Catch and Effort Survey data preliminary processing tools have also been developed. The trial period for the Catch Assessment Survey - Industrial Fishery has been started. All national experts involved have been fully trained.

3.2 Croatia: census of fishing vessels is in progress. Till June 2003 2247 questionnaires (each represents a vessels) were collected and most of the data have already been inserted into the database. Training of national experts in underway.

3.3 Slovenia: the fishery statistics system for the census is now operative. The census results and the database are located in the office of the "Capitaneria Marittima" in Koper (Istria) and are under the control of the "Director General of Fisheries - Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fishery" Ljubljana. A first draft manual on the use of the census database has been finalised. The Catch and Effort Survey design has been completed and a survey scheme has been finalised and adopted. National experts involved have been fully trained and briefed.

3.4 Operational Unit identification: pilot-study in GSA 18

A pilot-study on Operational Unit identification in GSA 18 could be executed in cooperation with the SAC. A multidisciplinary approach will be implemented on the basis of the available data. The activities could start once the programme is finalized and its feasibility verified.

3.5 AdriaMed Information System

In order to maintain and improve widespread accessibility to information related to Adriatic fisheries, the AdriaMed Information System has been further updated and developed.

3.6 Information on Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences

AdriaMed as International ASFA partner continues to facilitate improved access within participating countries to publications and information on aquatic sciences and fisheries, and to provide monitoring and indexing services to 23 scientific journals published in the AdriaMed countries. Document CC/05/info10 refers.

4. Expert Consultation on the interaction between aquaculture and capture fisheries

AdriaMed has finalized the organization of an expert consultation dealing with interactions between aquaculture and capture fisheries in the Adriatic Sea, with contributions also coming from a wider area. National contributions have been prepared by experts from the participating countries to provide background information. The aims of this expert consultation are to have an exhaustive description and analysis of the aquaculture sector at Adriatic basin level and improve the knowledge of the relationship between fisheries and aquaculture in the Adriatic Sea. The Consultation will be held in Rome and is tentatively scheduled for November 2003.

5. Relations and cooperation with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean; Presence of the Project within other international scenarios

AdriaMed supported the participation of the experts from the Adriatic countries at the majority of the GFCM-SAC Working Groups and Sub-Committees meetings. At the meetings the Project provided scientific contributions through the presentation of working papers and technical reports.

In the context of its cooperation with the other FAO Regional Projects, in this intersessional period the Project has also attended the First FAO COPEMED Forum on Fisheries in the Western Mediterranean entitled “Regional Cooperation: the Future of the Fishing Sector” (July 2003, Madrid); the FAO MedSudMed Expert Consultation on Spatial distribution of demersal resources in the Strait of Sicily and the influence of environmental factors and fishery characteristics (December 2002, Malta); the FAO MedSudMed Expert Consultation on Marine Protected Areas and Fisheries Management (April 2003, Tunisia); several further contacts between the three FAO Regional Projects have proved beneficial to the activities of all concerned.

During the period December 2002 – September 2003 the Project also attended the 3rd Advisory Committee Meeting of the UNEP-MAP project for the preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP-BIO), in January 2003. The Project was also invited to the European Commission DG XIV “Regional Workshop on Conservation in the Mediterranean” held in May 2003 in Brussels, at which a presentation was made entitled “Some Facts Relevant to Fishery Management Planning in the Adriatic Sea”, cooperation with DG XIV on some policy matters continues to be strong. The Project was present at the 10th Biennial Conference of the European Association of Aquatic Science Libraries and Information Centres, held in Kiel, Germany in May 2003 and during which the AdriaMed Information System was presented. Further to these instances of AdriaMed attendance at international events, it is also to be noted that papers have been presented by experts collaborating with the Project on several occasions, those related to the GFCM-SAC are detailed in the spreadsheet, in addition at the Conference “Economics and Politics of Fisheries and Aquaculture, held in Venice, March 2003, a paper was presented entitled “The productive and commercial dynamics of capture fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Adriatic through a reading of the historical time series. Prospective for the Future”.

Furthermore, the Project intervened at: the conference “Adriatic, a resource for Europe” (Rimini, February 2003); at the presentation of the first echosurvey conducted in Montenegrin waters (Ancona, April 2003); at the Italian Union of Agricultural Workers meeting (Molfetta, June 2003); at the “Rassegna del Mare” event (Trani, June 2003). FAO AdriaMed collaboration with the EU Adriatic INTERREG Programme also continues on several fronts, to be noted is the advice given to the recently instigated “Consortium of Adriatic Provinces”, several meetings have already been attended and the Project is assisting in the preparation of some research proposals. The Project is member of the Scientific and Technical Committee of this programme.

FAO AdriaMed intersessional activities and workplan 2003 - 2004					
N(°)	Title	Action		Participants	Events
		achieved/underway	to be done		
1,1	Identification of population units from genetic stock structure analysis	Finalisation of results	Preparation of Technical Document	University of Bologna, Environmental Sciences Laboratory, Ravenna, Italy; Marine Biology and Fisheries Laboratory (Fano-Italy) and National Institute of Biology (Ljubljana -Slovenia)	Meeting March 2003 in Ravenna, output in March and July
1,2	Joint assessment of small pelagic fish biomass in GSA 17 (echosurvey)	Finalisation and Joint Exercise to prepare a Technical Document	Feasibility of wider coverage survey	ISMAR (Italy) , IOF, Split (Croatia) and Fishery Research Insitute of Ljubljana (Slovenia)	Meeting in April followed by international ad hoc feasibility workshop in May 2003, Ancona, Italy
1,3	Joint assessment of small pelagic fish biomass in GSA 18 (eggs and larvae)	Discussion of workplan with Intitutes	On-the-job training and field exercise	Marine Biology Laboratory (Bari, Italy) - Fisheries Research Insitute Durres (Albania)	Discussions took place for the definition of the programme.
1,4	Data collection and biological sampling on small pelagics	Continuation of field activities	Continuation of the programme, otolith reading intercalibration training exercise	ISMAR (ex IRPEM Italy) and IOF, Split (Croatia) FRI Durres (Albania), FRI (Slovenia)	Workshop for joint assessment 24-28 Feb 2003
1,5	Cooperative approach for the identification of management options for the Pomo/Jabuka Pit	The basic technical document is being finalised	distribution of TD, follow up technical consultations	Research Institutes involved and Fisheries Directorates	The issue has been on the agenda of several ad hoc meetings with researchers.
1,6	International Bottom Trawl Survey in the Adriatic Sea	Finalisation of trawl data bank	second phase will begin autumn/winter 2003/2004	Marine Biology and Fisheries Laboratory (Fano-Italy), Marine Biology Laboratory (Bari, Italy) IOF Split (Croatia) FRI Durres (Albania), FRI (Slovenia)	Meeting with the researchers (FAO HQ 27 February 2003) , final arrangements made during missions to the research insitutes involved
1,7	Review of current knowledge on demersal shared stocks of the Adriatic Sea	The basic technical document and results of the study are being finalised	The TD is being prepared for publication	All the research Insitutes involved in the AdriaMed activities	n/a
1,8	Adriatic Experts network on small scale fisheries	Experts have been contacted by AdriaMed; country reports are being prepared	The October Technical Consultation will propose priorities to be followed up, a TD will be issued	All the research Insitutes involved in the AdriaMed activities	Meeting will be held on 14/15 October 2003 (Split)
1,9	Mapping of benthic fauna associated with trawl samples	Map support in under evaluation, data are available at the Insitutes	Assessment of the work feasibility	All the research Insitutes involved in the AdriaMed activities (GSA 17)	none

2,1	Social-survey of the Albanian fishery sector	The data were collected from the stratum identified and software implemented	Data analysis	Fisheries Directorate Albania, University of Molise	The survey was introduced at the WG of SCESS (Barcelona) 3-5 March 2003
2,2	Economic survey of the Albanian Fishery sector	Programme has been prepared	Field data collection and on job training	Fisheries Directorate of Albania, FRI Durres (Albania) and Institute of Research in Fishery Economics (Italy)	n/a
2,3	Adriatic Fishery Associations	Two meetings have been held to date	AdriaMed progress and results will be communicated to the network	Representative of the Fisheries associations / Fisheries Directorates / Researchers	TBD
3	Support to the National Administrations for data collection and information systems (Albania, Croatia and Slovenia)	Survey design and implementation, Data collection and technical backstopping/training	Data processing and analysis of the results is underway	Fisheries Directorates	Several meetings, training sessions and missions have taken place
4	Expert Consultation on Relationship between aquaculture and capture fisheries	National reports acquired, further specific contributions under preparation	Holding of the Expert Consultation	National Institutes, Regional and International experts	The Expert Consultation will be held in Italy at the end of October/beginning of November 2003
5	Other relevant meetings in which the Project has participated				
	Events	Venue	Data	AdriaMed contribution	
	1) Committee on Fisheries	Rome - Italy	24th - 28th February 2003		
	2) GFCM SAC Working Group on Socio-Economic Indicators	Barcelona - Spain	3-6 March		Social-survey of the Albanian fishery
	3) GFCM SAC Working Group on Demersal Species	Tangeri - Mororcco	12-14 March		Assessment of hake and red mullet stocks (GSA 18, Albanian Fisheries)
	4) GFCM SAC Working Group on Pelagic Species	Tangeri - Mororcco	12-14 March		Regional assessment of anchovy and sardine stoks (GSA -1 7)
	5) GFCM SAC Joint Working Group on Operational Units	Rome - Italy	8-9 April		
	6) GFCM SAC Sub-Committees meetings	Nicosia - Cyprus	3-6 June		AdriaMed contribution to the GFCM - SAC SubCommittee will be presented/discussed
	7) Coordinating Group of the GFCM SAC Sub-Committees	Nicosia - Cyprus	6 June		
	8) Sixth Session of GFCM SAC	Thessaloniki - Greece	30 June -3 July		
	9) 7th SIPAM coordinators meeting	Casablanca Morocco	19 - 20 September 2003		
	10) 28th Session of GFCM	Casablanca Morocco	14 -17 October		
(9)	The numbers above in the column refer to the paragraphs in this paper				

List of Documents

FAO AdriaMed: CC/05/01	Provisional Agenda
FAO AdriaMed: CC/05/02	Report on Inter-sessional Activities
FAO AdriaMed: CC/05/03	AdriaMed Mid-Term Review
FAO AdriaMed: CC/05/info 1	Provisional list of participants
FAO AdriaMed: CC/05/info 2	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee (GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-09)
FAO AdriaMed: CC/05/info 3	AdriaMed Trawl Survey Databank – User Manual
FAO AdriaMed: CC/05/info 4	Lecture notes. AdriaMed Training Course on Fish Population Dynamics and Stock Assessment (GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-08)
FAO AdriaMed: CC/05/info 5	Aspects of Fish Markets in the Adriatic Sea (GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-10)
FAO AdriaMed: CC/05/info 6	Manual of the Recorder. AdriaMed Training Course on Small Pelagics Data Collection and Biological Sampling System. GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-06(Rev.1).
FAO AdriaMed: CC/05/info 7	Anchovy (<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i> , L.) stock assessment in the Adriatic Sea: 1975-2002. Paper presented at the GFCM-SAC Working Group on Small Pelagic Species (Tangier, 12 th -14 th March 2003). (GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP09)
FAO AdriaMed: CC/05/info 8	Sardine (<i>Sardina pilchardus</i> , Walb.) stock assessment in the Adriatic Sea: 1975-2002. Paper presented at the GFCM-SAC Working Group on Small Pelagic Species (Tangier, 12 th -14 th March 2003). (GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP10)
FAO AdriaMed: CC/05/info 9	Assessment of demersal resources by the Albanian trawl fishery: the case studies “hake” and “red mullet”. Paper presented at the GFCM-SAC Working Group on Demersal Species (Tangier, 12 th -14 th March 2003) (GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP11)
FAO AdriaMed: CC/05/info 10	Summary Report of AdriaMed Inter-sessional Activities, 2003. Report presented at the ASFA Advisory Board Meeting
FAO AdriaMed: CC/05/info 11	List of Documents

List of AdriaMed Publications

A. AdriaMed Technical Documents

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