



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

MiPAF

Food and
Agriculture
Organization
of the
United Nations

Italian Ministry
of Agriculture
and
Forestry
Policies

AdriaMed

GCP/RER/010/ITA

Report of the Fourth Meeting of the AdriaMed

Coordination Committee

Split, 3rd and 4th December 2002

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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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GCP/RER/010/ITA Publications

The AdriaMed Project publications are issued as a series of Technical Documents (GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-00) and Occasional Papers (GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-00) related to meetings, 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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This document is the final version of the report of the Fourth Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee, organised by the FAO-AdriaMed Project (*Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea*) in Split, 3rd and 4th December 2002.

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AdriaMed.

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ABSTRACT

The Fourth 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 and Slovenia) and other interested parties. The meeting sought to present and discuss the results of the activities carried out by the Project. 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.

The Coordination Committee expressed its approbation of the standard and the substance of the work carried out by AdriaMed in the region. As well as approving the plans made by the Project for development in the inter-committee period, the Committee gave some further indications and suggestions on some issues.

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Report of the Fourth Meeting of the FAO AdriaMed Coordination Committee
Split, Croatia, 3rd and 4th December 2002

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

1. The Fourth Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the FAO AdriaMed Project “Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea” was held in Split, Croatia on 3rd and 4th December 2002 and hosted by the Fisheries Directorate of the Croatian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the participating countries (the Republics of Albania, Croatia, Italy and Slovenia), representatives of the Marine Fishery Resources Service of FAO, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, the FAO Regional Project Copemed as well as the staff of the FAO AdriaMed Project. The full list of participants is given in Annex A of this report.
2. The AdriaMed Project Coordinator thanked the participants for their attendance and briefly introduced the items of the Agenda. The Prefect of the County of Split - Dalmatia, Prof. Branimir Lukšić expressed his wishes for a pleasant stay in the Region as well as fruitful scientific discussions. He informed the participants that, as a Professor of Maritime Law, he feels a particular affinity with the matters before the Committee. He emphasised the importance of concerns such as the conservation and management of living and non-living marine resources, the threat of over exploitation and his hopes that measures can be taken to approach an optimum sustainable yield where Adriatic fisheries are concerned. A further consideration put before the Committee was the need for a change of the ethical paradigm from anthropological to biological/ecological concerns, with consideration for the legal capacity of all living beings and the universal heritage of humankind in terms of natural resources.
3. The Mayor of the city of Split, Prof. Slobodan Beroš, continued the opening ceremony by welcoming the delegates to the historic city, home to almost 2000 years of civilisation. The need for effective international cooperation in all fields was stressed, along with the equally important areas of resource sustainability and economic agreement.
4. The Head of the Croatian Delegation gave a speech from the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, providing his apologies for absence and informing the participants that he would be present for the second day's work. The Meeting delegates were greeted and told of Croatia's pleasure to have the chance to host such an important meeting. The results obtained to date by the Project were praised along with the efforts to coordinate scientific research with management strategies and the recommendations of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the European Commission, bringing together all aspects of the regions fisheries by reaching all users. The relevance at basin level of the AdriaMed Project was once again asserted and the Republic of Croatia thereby communicated full support for all areas of Project activity.

The speech of the Croatian Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Forestry is given in Annex B of this report.

5. The delegates present appointed the Head of the Department of Fisheries at the Croatian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Dr Josip Marković, as Chair for this fourth AdriaMed Coordination Committee Meeting.

Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Agenda

6. The Chair invited the participants to offer any comments of the Agenda presented by the AdriaMed Project. The Agenda was adopted with no changes and is given in Annex C of this report.

Agenda item 3. Report on the Project's progress

7. The Project Coordinator touched on some elements considered relevant for the work to be done by the Coordination Committee. In particular attention was drawn to the work carried out during the three years of AdriaMed activities. In order to achieve its aims, AdriaMed set up specific working groups through the twelve Research Institutes involved in the Project. This allowed the organisation of research activities, training and numerous working sessions dealing with issues related to fishery resources and socio-economic aspects of the fishery sector. Technical documents were also prepared jointly by the researchers and institutions present in the AdriaMed countries and widely distributed. The Project was enriched by the strengthening of the socio-economic network, the involvement of the Adriatic Fisheries Associations, which lead to the establishment of the Adriatic Committee of Fishery Associations for Responsible Fisheries during the recent Second AdriaMed Meeting of the Adriatic Fishery Associations. The newly conceived Fisheries Management component also gives more emphasis to the multidisciplinary approach to the Adriatic Fishery Sector, and to the services provided by the Project to the participating countries.
8. It was also mentioned that Programme carried out by the Project is relevant for the Adriatic Basin and also, where some specific topics are concerned, at Mediterranean level; in such FAO Regional Projects like AdriaMed can be considered to play a pilot role. Attention was drawn to the recent EC Plan of Action for the Mediterranean, in which references are also made to the AdriaMed Project. Aspects of the characterisation and the localisation of information, which is considered important for fisheries management, were mentioned. Assisting the fishery managers in the decision making process and ensuring appropriate information at local or sub-regional level is being carried out in the framework of the GFCM for all information related to the Geographical Sub-Areas (GSA) and Operational Units.
9. The AdriaMed framework and regional scientific cooperation are a reality; the scientific networks are established, they are functioning and producing results. In order to continue

with these activities, and in coherence with the process of cooperation at basin level, it would be appropriate that the Project activities and components be in direct relation to the GFCM; thus they could be referred to as: Adriatic Fishery Resources (including the topics related to the environment and marine ecosystems); Adriatic social and economic sciences; Adriatic statistics and information systems. Furthermore, as recommended during the third Coordination Committee Meeting held last year in Tirana, the Adriatic Fishery Management Component can be considered a multidisciplinary aspect related to all the other areas of intervention.

10. The main areas of Project activity were introduced with particular emphasis to the results that are coming out of the Working Group meetings and Research Programmes. A summary of the meetings of the socio-economic network and the Adriatic fishery associations was given. Specific reference was made to the documents in the fourth Coordination Committee Meeting folder for the information of the delegates present, provided in many cases in draft format, the list of documents is given on Annex D of this report. The participants' attention was drawn to the recommendations of the Third Coordination Committee Meeting and the relative progress made by the Project in all directions and described in the document CC/04/02 (Annex E).
11. Further details of the various programmes and activities, in terms of work implemented on biological resources, socio-economic aspects and fishery management issues, were given to the Coordination Committee members, highlighting the achievements and progress made during the last inter-Committee period. Particular relevance was given to the level of standardisation reached in the application of data collection and processing methodologies. The scientific contributions jointly produced and which are being made available to the scientific community as well as to the GFCM-SAC were listed. A brief outline of the composition and characteristics of the Adriatic fishing fleet was given.
12. Starting from the recently held AdriaMed Seminar on Fishing Capacity, which constituted an opportunity to address the fishery management component in a multidisciplinary way, reference was made to the current trend to address this issue within the relatively new concept of the fishery systems. The fishery systems notion encompasses the resources, the fishers and the fishing industry, the scientists assessing the resources and the socio-economy of their exploitation, as well as the managers who regulate the fishery. Thus, the fishery system attempts to overcome the traditional approach to fisheries that mainly concentrates on the fish stock. Furthermore, the need to develop a Sustainable Development Reference System for the Adriatic Sea was underlined as a base to evaluate the management system adopted and whether the goals of sustainable development are being achieved.
13. The Chair thanked the FAO AdriaMed Project Staff for the detailed presentations. The FAO FIRM Officer gave a brief integration to the previous presentation with some information on the fishery statistics component. As the FAO officer who is also responsible for this task, the statistical work programme being carried out in the Adriatic Region was described together with the complementary work undertaken in parallel in the Western Mediterranean under the FAO-CopeMed Project applying same

methodology and approach. He reiterated that the objective of AdriaMed support to member countries, in this field, was to encompass the establishment or improvement of a serviceable and functional statistical system aiming at facilitating the statistical data management and the exchange of information to boost the cooperation between the supporting Institutions of the Sub-Region.

14. An overview of the current status of the fishery statistical systems actually supported was presented. It was reported that the final registry of fishing vessel has been released in Albania and Slovenia and that it was fully functioning and its reporting facility being used successfully. The catch assessment scheme was launched officially in Albania and had started in Slovenia and Croatia. An automatic processing system was currently being developed and tested in Albania. He anticipated that in January 2003 the first catch and effort estimates would be produced for commercial fishery in Albania and the processing tools finalised.
15. Furthermore, in describing the technical situation in each country, he underlined the following: the participating Institutions were well equipped and can meet the requirements. Data collection activities were under way in all countries; national databases had been set up or were under finalisation and optimisation. National counterparts were kept constantly aware of the work being carried out. The Register of Fishing Vessel was completed in Albania and Slovenia, and was under revision in Croatia.
16. He concluded by stating that all the work that had been conducted in collaboration with national staff would also facilitate the future task concerning the sub-regional application, which needed national skills to produce information technology (IT) material and improve integration between countries and institutions.
17. It was also stressed that the overall coordination exerted by AdriaMed and backstopped by FAO FIRM ensured, among other things, that the systems being developed were FAO and EC compliant and that they will be made colloquial according to a sub-regional needs and agreements.
18. The Italian Delegate thanked the Project Staff for the presentations and expressed particular gratitude for the management advice and suggestions resulting from Project activities and especially from the multidisciplinary approach adopted. AdriaMed and all other Regional Projects are considered as great support for the management of fishery resources.
19. The representative of the CopeMed Project thanked AdriaMed for the invitation to attend this Coordination Committee Meeting and apologised for the absence of the Project Director due to last minute engagements. The importance of cooperation between the two FAO Projects was stressed, with particular reference to aspects which can see common areas of intervention.

20. The Secretary of the GFCM thanked the Project and emphasised the importance of AdriaMed for the GFCM and its Scientific Advisory Committee. The need to further strengthen coordination among the FAO Regional Projects was stressed. As a result of the quality of its contributions, AdriaMed is considered a pioneer project at Mediterranean level for many aspects related to the GFCM SAC and its Sub-Committees.
21. The Committee, while taking note with satisfaction of the efforts made by the Project to organise training sessions related to the different fields of activity, commented on the importance of ensuring and maintaining the positive feedback consequent to the development of such scientific expertise in each country. It was however observed that a number of tangible results, as follow-up to training sessions, are already evident and demonstrable in the scientific production of the experts participating in AdriaMed.
22. The Albanian Delegate reported to the Meeting that, although the Government representative was not present, the presentations made, reflecting the results and achievements of AdriaMed in Albania, were highly appreciated. He went on to the present the need that is felt for greater emphasis on small pelagic stock assessment and statistical data collection.
23. The Delegate from Slovenia expressed his satisfaction with the programme which AdriaMed has achieved and is in the process of realising. It was emphasised that the Republic of Slovenia would continue to support all the AdriaMed activities with particular reference to the improvement of the fisheries statistics system.
24. The Chairman read a communication from the Fisheries Directorate General B of the European Commission, in which the Head of the Unit for International and Regional Arrangements apologised for not being able to attend the AdriaMed Coordination Committee Meeting. In the same communiqué he remarked on the importance of AdriaMed support to the GFCM concerning the Adriatic Sea basin and the participating countries in terms of research and multilateral cooperation.
25. The Committee took note of the relevance given by the EC to the role of the GFCM and its Scientific Advisory Committee, stressing the support that sub-regional organizations such as the FAO Projects AdriaMed, CopeMed and MedSudMed can provide which is translated into the successful results of the SAC. The meeting was informed that the EC recognises the importance of the FAO Regional Projects' work and hopes to see these continue in the years to come.

Agenda item 4. Development and guidelines for the Project's programme for the next period

26. The workplan as outlined in the document CC/04/04 (Annex F) was submitted to the Committee members. The ensuing discussion focused on the main areas of work of the Project (i.e. Adriatic Sea shared fishery resources; Adriatic fishery social and economic aspects; Fishery statistics and information systems; Adriatic Fishery Management;

Relations at Mediterranean basin). With reference to fishery resources the following was agreed as reported hereby:

26.1 Identification of Population Units in Adriatic Sea Shared Stocks by Genetic Structure Analysis: Finalisation and dissemination of the analysis of the genetic structure of target species stocks. A comprehensive scientific technical document will be prepared. However, before the completion of this programme, and issuing of the scientific document, a technical meeting would be necessary to assess the work performed and to undertake the necessary actions should it be required.

26.2 Joint assessment of small pelagic fish biomass in GSA 17: on the basis of the results obtained from the first pilot exercise successfully carried out in 2001/2002 in full cooperation by Croatia, Italy and Slovenia through the coordination of AdriaMed, it was concurred to possibly extend the survey coverage to include the whole Northern and Central Adriatic. This possibility was strongly supported by all the countries bordering the GSA concerned as an important step toward the establishment of a joint assessment routine. Particularly AdriaMed should assist in synchronizing and harmonizing this activity so to ensure the effective conveying of the information to the national fishery management authorities concerned.

26.3 Joint assessment of small pelagic fish biomass in GSA 18: in consideration of the existing scientific expertise and available equipment in this GSA (Southern Adriatic), it was concurred by the representatives of the coastal countries that it would appropriate to implement joint eggs and larvae surveys which in the meantime will constitute an opportunity for on-the-job training in this method.

26.4 Data collection and biological sampling system on small pelagics: The performance of this programme, in terms of national scientific capacity strengthening and of data collection and processing methodologies, was positively appraised and its continuation should be sought so as to ensure its future sustainability through the integration into the national monitoring systems. The thorough appraisal in the near future of all the information gathered and the first regional joint stock assessment exercise were considered as highly relevant moments in this programme's execution.

26.5 Cooperative approach for the identification of management options for the Pomo/Jabuka Pit: Upon finalisation of the basic reference technical document being elaborated by the ad hoc AdriaMed working party, it was considered necessary to hold an immediate and urgent meeting with the fishery management authorities of the parties concerned to discuss the management options and scenarios formulated on the basis of the scientific advice provided. Furthermore, it was underlined that in future the possibility to run within-the-year surveys should be taken into consideration, as this would allow a deeper knowledge of the population dynamics of the fish stocks occurring in this important area.

26.6 International demersal surveys: It was agreed on the need and convenience to finalize the logical databank proposed by the Project to hold the whole data set obtained from the execution of the bottom trawl survey in 2001/02. With reference to the future

work, the need to increase the numbers of hauls was stressed. Moreover, the sustainability issue was raised as this is pursued by the Project in all its activities. Albania and Slovenia confirmed their intention to co-finance the execution of the programme. With this respect, the Committee was informed that Croatia is currently engaged in the execution of national monitoring of the commercial demersal fishery funded through an international bilateral project. However, the possibility to co-finance fishery-independent demersal survey could be considered depending on availability of financial resources. It was also deemed useful to finalise the current survey protocol as a reference for future bottom trawl surveys in the Adriatic Sea.

26.7 Review of current knowledge on pelagic shared stocks of the Adriatic Sea: A critical review of the available knowledge on main pelagic species whose stocks are shared should be carried out, the resulting scientific technical document will be similar and complementary to that prepared by AdriaMed on the demersal shared stocks.

26.8 Experts network on small scale fisheries: In consideration of the relevance of small scale fisheries and of their role in the exploitation of some shared stocks, a network of regional experts will be established. In this initial stage the network should focus on the appraisal of current knowledge concerning the exploitation performed by the small scale sector on those priority demersal species agreed by the AdriaMed experts, whose stocks are shared and targeted also by the commercial trawl fishery.

26.9 Trawl gear technology: The Committee wished to reiterate the consideration of the Third AdriaMed Coordination Committee that AdriaMed should assist in the cooperation between Croatia and Italy concerning the experimental work on fishing gear technology. This was considered relevant because it aims at improving the trawl net selectivity and at reducing the by-catch.

26.10 Further to the above, it was proposed to undertake the thematic mapping of the benthic fauna associated with the trawl samples collected during the years in the Central Adriatic (GSA 17). Moreover the Committee asked the Project to assess the feasibility of elaborating maps of Adriatic fishing grounds as resulting from the national specific fishery legislations regulating the spatial allocation of fishing effort.

27. With reference to Adriatic fishery socio-economics, the workplan as outlined in paragraph 2 (2.1. and 2.2) of document CC/04/04 was approved. The following paragraphs quote the content of the relative paragraph of document CC/04/04.

27.1 The sociological survey will be completed in Albania as a pilot study; on the basis of the results and of a detailed study of the ensuing operative considerations, the Project may consider broadening the scope of the survey to the other AdriaMed countries.

27.2 The characterisation of the economic performance of Adriatic fisheries will be initiated as a pilot-case with Albania fisheries back to back to the current social survey. This will provide a thorough understanding and knowledge of the national fishery.

27.3 The tasks identified by the AdriaMed network of socio-economic scientists will be finalized and the relative technical documents will be produced and circulated. Further intervention will be identified by the network of experts that will discuss the initial results in the first half of the coming year.

27.4 In the memorandum of the meeting Adriatic Fishery Associations – Second AdriaMed Meeting held in Pula, Croatia in September 2002, the Adriatic Fishery Associations fully agreed to create the Regional Committee of Adriatic Fishery Associations for Responsible Fisheries. This initiative will be a step towards setting up sub-regional or regional arrangements to group together the fish producers, fishing industry, and other relevant fishery stakeholders. Further contacts will be established and a meeting will be organised with the members of the network. AdriaMed progress and advances will be communicated to them.

28. With reference to the support to national fishery statistics systems, it was concurred to continue along the line indicated in paragraph 3 of document CC/04/04.

28.1 Within the framework of intervention as support to the national fishery statistical systems, in Croatia, Slovenia, and Albania the Project is providing direct technical assistance to support the Fisheries Directorates. The Project will also continue to build up the national expertise in terms of data collection. All the scientific and technical data gathered by the Project activities will be progressively integrated into the Adriatic information System.

29. The Committee acknowledged that the established AdriaMed frameworks encompass most of the components of the Adriatic Sea fishery system thus providing the fundamental information and knowledge-base to address the fishery management component of the Project. Following the general consensus on the positive experience constituted by the AdriaMed Seminar on Fishing Capacity, it was decided to attempt to extend the application of some of the multidisciplinary case-studies discussed to the Adriatic Sea. This could be also of support for the coming work on the Operational Unit as also requested by the 27th Session of the GFCM in 2002.

30. The need to identify the kind of bio-economic scientific advice necessary for the formulation of fishery management options in the Adriatic was pointed out. The Project was requested to continue and to further develop this process through the multidisciplinary approach already pursued (e.g. by specific seminars, working groups and pilot studies), also initiating the identification process of biological and socio-economic indicators and associated reference points in the region. It was agreed that because of the Project's achievements so far, the national fishery management authorities should meet within the AdriaMed framework to address specific fishery management issues of regional relevance.

31. With reference to the issue of the formulation and scientific advice for fishery management, the Committee was informed of the planned seminar organised by CopeMed to review the consultation processes followed by countries participating in this

project. The information needed will be obtained through questionnaires to be passed to all the interested parties (e.g. fishermen associations, scientists and administration managers). AdriaMed will be kept informed of such an event and invited to participate.

32. The Committee appreciated the effort made by AdriaMed in compiling the draft document reviewing fisheries legislation in the Adriatic basin countries participating in the Project. This document is considered a good basis and a starting point for future work. Given that the content of the document is a summary, it was suggested to the Meeting that the national Administrations should now decide the direction to be taken on this issue. The importance of the matter is such that the Committee would welcome a meeting on legislative issues to be held in the framework of AdriaMed at basin level. This is further emphasised by the fact that the countries have different status where EU membership is concerned, hence different legislation and obligations thereto. The organisation of this meeting before the Ministerial meeting scheduled by the EU for the beginning of 2003 was suggested and agreed on by the Committee. The FAO AdriaMed meeting suggested could also be the opportunity to discuss the implementation of the EU fisheries regulations by the non/member states in the AdriaMed region based on the experience of the EU countries.
33. Relations between AdriaMed, the GFCM, CopeMed, MedSudMed, FishCode and other non-FAO regional project such as the UNEP/MAP SAP BIO Project will be either maintained or further developed as reported in paragraph 5 of the document CC/04/04. Lastly, the Committee was informed that the Expert Consultation on the relationship between aquaculture and capture fisheries, as referred to in the document CC/04/04, paragraph 6, should take place within the next inter-Committee period.
34. Referring to point 5 of the document CC/04/04 on strengthening the relations at Mediterranean level and between AdriaMed, the GFCM and other regional projects in particular, consideration was made by the participants on the direct participation of AdriaMed to the SAC which must be deepened both on the level of working groups and sub committees. A contribution to the topics related to the AdriaMed Fishery Management component such as fishing capacity, strengthening the involvement of the private sector, and fishery legislation measures, could be considered relevant.
35. Furthermore the Committee suggested that the papers and technical documents which are to be presented to the GFCM or SAC or other bodies working in the framework of these international fora by the FAO AdriaMed Project are to be circulated among the member countries prior to their submission to the GFCM/SAC meetings. This is to further increase the significance of the input provided by the Project as well as to stress the importance of the common positions of the countries around the Adriatic basin.
36. The Secretary of the GFCM warmly thanked the FAO AdriaMed Project for its valuable contribution to the work of the Commission, particularly its scientific advice with the framework of SAC. He also stressed the need to further strengthen coordination among the regional projects.

37. It was noted that output emanating from sub-regional level often carry with them the scientific base necessary for formulating sound management options and that harmonising experiences and methodologies on issues of common interest might greatly facilitate the work in other sub-regions, notably in the Eastern Mediterranean. In this respect, a greater use of the GFCM Series “Studies and Reviews” for disseminating consolidated results was called for, in addition to planning joint technical meeting among regional projects.
38. After the conclusion of this point of the agenda, the AdriaMed Coordinator remarked on the number of activities the Project is addressing and expressed his consideration that the work plan will cover 2003 and part of 2004. Furthermore, the Meeting was informed that the activities would be implemented according to the availability of the budget and the time necessary for their implementation. In order to follow the guidelines indicated and to achieve the results expected by the Coordination Committee, further strong support in terms of cooperation from the Fisheries Directorates in the participating countries is requested. The finalised workplan will be communicated to the participating countries.

Agenda item 5. Other matters

39. The Committee was informed that at several institutional levels (Regional Administrations, Local Chambers of Commerce, and so on) AdriaMed has been requested to provide advice and cooperation on the preparation and/or formulation of cooperative programmes concerning the Adriatic basin. In particular, support was requested for the EU programme INTERREG. In order to strengthen cooperation around the Adriatic Sea, the intervention of the Project has so far focused on providing technical information as requested and according to the various priorities identified by the AdriaMed Working Groups. The Committee will be notified on the further development of this cooperation.
40. The Committee was informed that AdriaMed had been invited to attend the Fifth Symposium of Yugoslav Fisheries in October 2002. On that occasion the AdriaMed framework was presented to the national scientific community. The scientific cooperation established by AdriaMed and the results obtained so far were much appreciated by the Symposium participants, particularly the level of regional standardisation achieved in many of the AdriaMed scientific programmes. The same appreciation was expressed for the joint paper presented as an output of the AdriaMed scientific network highlighting the whole Adriatic approach and the cooperative effort upon which it was based. The Project was thanked for having made it possible for a Montenegrin scientist to participate in one of the AdriaMed training courses. The need for closer relations between Montenegrin fishery scientists and AdriaMed was concurred by all Symposium participants.
41. The Committee expressed its deep concern over the recent oil pollution disaster caused by the sinking of an oil tanker off the Spanish Atlantic Coast. The importance of prevention was stressed, it was noted that a similar event in the Adriatic Sea would have non-quantifiable consequences. The Committee invited AdriaMed to support, in any

appropriate fora, those instances aimed at the establishment of risk aversion strategies against pollution hazards.

42. All the delegates and Meeting participants wished to express their thanks to the Croatian authorities for the generous and friendly hospitality, and for the effective assistance in organizing the Meeting.

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

43. Upon the kind invitation and favourable disposition of the Italian delegation the next Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee will be held in Italy. The date and venue will be communicated in due time. This proposal was welcomed by the Meeting participants.

44. This report was adopted on December 4th 2002.

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Annex B

Speech given by Ivan Katavić, the Croatian Assistant Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

Dear colleagues, distinguished delegates of countries gathered together in the FAO-AdriaMed Project, Ladies and Gentleman!

First of all, I would like to apologize for my delay, and to once again wish you all a warm welcome on behalf of the Government of Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. I hope your stay in Split has so far been a pleasant one, and I hope you shall keep the feeling for long after your stay as well.

It is with great enthusiasm that I express again the appreciation for the assistance and cooperation received from FAO AdriaMed Project. Taking into consideration the short time and the amount of tasks set before the Committee, I would now like to briefly stress some of the important points which have been achieved so far as well as those which could be faced in the future.

The results of the Project which have been obtained so far, and which could be used as the basis for our future work, might be summed up in several basic points: the stock assessment, statistical system development, legislation analysis, fishing associations' activities and regional cooperation on the whole. None of these could be singled out as the most important one, since it is the joint results of all these tasks that will eventually lead us to the common goal.

It is not the first time in the international meetings of this kind that someone calls for the importance of regional cooperation as to implement management and conservation measures of common interest willing to secure long-term sustainable and responsible outcomes to all. Our concerns and expectations are not surprising because fisheries in the international waters of the Adriatic (after 12 Nm of territorial waters) is absolutely uncoordinated and uncontrolled, and as such burdened with a number of problems. Among those, inspections, fisheries legislations and regulations are the most serious problems, and need further urgent actions.

It is with the same expectations that we are waiting for the results of the small pelagic monitoring programme, which could for the first time really present the status of this resource in the eastern part of the Adriatic as to complement the results of the regular monitoring performed by Italy in the western Adriatic. Given the importance of the resource and the status of this fishery component as well as the biological characteristics of the species which depend more on the environmental properties than on the fishing mortality as such, the deep and full understanding of the stock dynamics is an essential element that would have to be tackled in the future in order to set up a long term management strategy.

The demersal issues undertaken in the framework of the AdriaMed Project represent another important point. It is from these results that the list of common and shared species was drafted and later accepted by the GFCM. We have to work out effective conservation and management measures for respective species. Among these, management measures for common and shared stocks including Mediterranean hake and Norway lobster are top priorities. Every party concerned is encouraged to enter into debate over the TACs, conservation and other restrictions of these stocks. Otherwise, we ourselves would endanger the sustainability of stocks on which our coastal societies are socially, economically, and culturally dependent.

In terms of stock assessment, the work on Jabuka pit represents an essential basis for decisions on how to make an effective management and conservation programme for an area important for fisheries and biologically highly sensitive. It must be noted that further delay in introducing such conservation measures will aggravate the situation to a level where our other protective measures are negated completely.

It is to be recognised that the term "management in fisheries" has the most difficult note. This is not because it would be difficult to manage the resource itself – it's because it is difficult to manage the resource-users. As the data of the Mediterranean show, 80% of the fleet in the basin is comprised of vessels smaller than 12m in length. This in itself is an indicator of the status of the fisheries. Also, the social and economic structure of the fishing communities all over the Mediterranean were recognised as "special" in recent studies. This status was further reiterated in the recent Common Fishery Policy (CFP) document for the Mediterranean. All the aforementioned issues bring us to the question of legislation analysis and socio-economical studies.

Republic of Croatia welcomes and recommends the activities of the Project in drafting the document which briefly sets out the basic elements of national fisheries legislation of the four countries gathered in the FAO-AdriaMed project. However, this document brings up the next questions: (1) where do we start from and (2) where do we go from here? Adriatic region has a lot of distinguishing features. First of all, it is small. Second, it consists of 4 different countries, one of which is an EU member, one is soon to be an EU member, and the remaining two are still out of the EU framework as such, although en route to the Community, considering it to be a strategic goal. This means that they must implement EU technological and environmental standards. To all of them the most important sector for economic development is and will be tourism and fisheries including aquaculture. This means increased demand for coastal resources, greater pressure on the environment and consequently more conflicts among users. Seafood consumption by tourists has increased over the past several years together with domestic seafood demand. Realistically, projected demand will have to be satisfied throughout a combination of increased imports and increased mariculture production.

With this situation, the question of how to really "adjust" the legislation comes in mind. From the point of view of the Republic of Croatia, answers to this question would be warmly welcomed. The EU regulation as currently in place as well as those foreseen for the future, or at least discussed, suggest the lowering of fishing effort by a substantial percentage. The reduction of the fishing fleet will initially mean job losses. By way of compensation, more

money would be made available to help fisherman find alternative work and for restructuring the sector in EU member countries. Everybody among us representing the four countries agrees on over-capacity and that present situation being unsustainable has to "change". The differences are over how to do it? Croatia is opening the debate hoping to get some feedback. Although some of us may be sympathetic with the proposed Mediterranean package of CFP reforms, by restructuring the fisheries sector in the proposed manner, our coastal societies will have to make sacrifices. It will not be the case with the countries which have the proper mechanisms to enforce reforms – such as incentive and compensation mechanisms, or transfer to other sectors of activities. But, where such a system is not in place, difficulties arise. The most prominent difficulties are of course linked to the socio-economical issues related to the resource users and their future.

Ladies and Gentleman, dear friends, taking this opportunity I will carefully observe the proceedings of this meeting and report to my Government. I look forward the ongoing reforms of CFP proposed for Mediterranean as well as the announced meetings of Regional Fisheries Bodies. Croatia will continue with active participation in the FAO AdriaMed, EUROFISH, ICCAT and GFCM being seen as an umbrella organisation for fisheries issues in the Mediterranean region.

Finally, I hope that the meeting will be marked with success and that the outcome will serve to promote sustainable and responsible fisheries in the Adriatic Sea.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to make this statement on behalf of Croatian delegation.

Agenda

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

List of Documents

FAO AdriaMed: CC/04/01	Provisional Agenda
FAO AdriaMed: CC/04/02	Report on Project Progress (November 2001-December 2002)
FAO AdriaMed: CC/04/03	AdriaMed Information System
FAO AdriaMed: CC/04/04	Development of Project programme
FAO AdriaMed: CC/04/info1	Provisional list of participants
FAO AdriaMed: CC/04/info2	Summary Report of AdriaMed Inter-sessional Activities, 2002. Report presented at the ASFA Advisory Board Meeting
FAO AdriaMed: CC/04/info3	Report of the Third Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-07
FAO AdriaMed: CC/04/info4	Report of the AdriaMed Meeting on the Aspects of Fish Markets in the Adriatic Sea (<i>draft version</i>)
FAO AdriaMed: CC/04/info5	Review of the Professional Fishery Associations of the Adriatic Sea
FAO AdriaMed: CC/04/info6	Adriatic Fishery Associations - Second AdriaMed Meeting
FAO AdriaMed: CC/04/info7	Lecture notes. AdriaMed Training Course on Fish Population Dynamics and Stock Assessment. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-08
FAO AdriaMed: CC/04/info8	Review of Fisheries Legislation and Regulations in the AdriaMed Countries (<i>draft version</i>)
FAO AdriaMed: CC/04/info9	List of AdriaMed publications
FAO AdriaMed: CC/04/info10	List of Documents

Report on the progress made by the Project

Introduction

This paper summarises the most significant activities carried out by the Project *AdriaMed* between November 2001 and December 2002. The activities described concern the work programme approved during the previous Coordination Committee meetings and in particular represents the follow-up to the 3rd Meeting of the *AdriaMed* Coordination Committee, held in Tirana, 21st – 23rd November 2001 (GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-07, refers).

During the 3rd Coordination Committee Meeting the implementation of an operative programme for the 2001/2002 period was identified, this focused on:

- The implementation of the Research Programmes (field research, studies and reviews)
- Reinforcing the activities of the *AdriaMed* Working Groups and network of experts;
- Supporting the national fishery statistic systems in the participating countries;
- Improving relations at Mediterranean level, between the Project and the GFCM and other regional projects.

The framework of *AdriaMed* activity, as approved by the Coordination Committee, includes the following areas which *AdriaMed* has implemented: component identification; regional working groups; training and seminars on specific themes; implementation of scientific research programmes; preparation of technical documents; dissemination of information. The development of these areas and the results of the activities carried out are presented in this document, which is organised according to the subject area: Adriatic Shared Fishery Resources (including ecosystem-related aspects); Economic and Social Sciences; Statistics and Information Systems.

Furthermore, during the last *AdriaMed* Coordination Committee Meeting, held in Tirana, November 2001, the Committee agreed to initiate a new component concerning aspects of fisheries management. This area of activity should be treated as multidisciplinary, encompassing the aforementioned Project components.

The Working Groups remain, for *AdriaMed*, the main functional tool in implementing the activities of the Project, identifying the scientific priorities, fostering and strengthening the regional scientific network. The Working Groups have proved central to reinforcing scientific coordination among the region's institutions.

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

The topics related to shared fisheries resources have remained the main aspects of the field research activities carried out by the Project during the inter-committee period. The experts

from the four AdriaMed countries, who have met regularly since the first two working groups on demersal and small pelagic species, participated in the identification and development of the cooperative research programmes. In the year 2001 the research work began and the first phase of activities ended in 2002, therefore this report includes the results of the AdriaMed research programmes from their beginning to the present moment. The meetings organised in this context during 2002 focused on the improvement of the work in progress, the training courses held endeavoured to standardise the methodologies applied.

1.1 Cooperative Research Programmes

- Data Collection and Biological Sampling System on Small Pelagics of the Adriatic Sea
- Combined Echo-Survey and Environmental Parameters Monitoring Exercise in the Northern Part of the Adriatic Sea
- International Bottom Trawl Survey in the Adriatic Sea
- Identification of Population Units in Adriatic Sea Shared Stocks by Genetic Structure Analysis
- Cooperative approach to the identification of fishery management options for the Pomo/Jabuka Pit critical area
- Review of current knowledge on shared demersal stocks of the Adriatic Sea

Introduction to the data-sheets on each of the research activities

The Research Programmes are presented in summarised form in data sheets, which highlight the main aspects (title, overall objective, methodology and preliminary results) as well as some more detailed information describing the scientist in charge for each participating country, the institution and experts involved, the AdriaMed meetings at which the subjects were identified. For the activities in which training exercises were carried out, the main subject as well the attendance is indicated. In order provide information on the output of the research activities, the publications to date are indicated along with the reports given to the Project. For the same purposes the relative AdriaMed web pages are also specified. Finally other relevant aspects are described in order to identify the main results related to the objectives of the Project (scientific cooperation and networks) and to highlight the sustainability of the actions carried out. These include the establishment of a common sampling protocol; the strengthening of international cooperation between the Adriatic countries; the support of the international capacity building in terms of expertise as well as other relevant aspects aimed to share knowledge and reinforce the capacity of analysis.

1.2 Data Collection and Biological Sampling System on Small Pelagics of the Adriatic Sea

Programme	Data Collection and Biological Sampling System on Small Pelagics of the Adriatic Sea			
Overall Objective	Regional monitoring system for the assessment of the small pelagic fish biomass and related fishery exploitation patterns in the Adriatic Sea.			
Methodology	Commercial catch and effort data collection by species/gear at selected landing sites (base ports) around the Adriatic coast with associated biological sub-sampling.			
Preliminary Results (Starting from June 2001)	Sardine and anchovy commercial catch samples were collected monthly from the ports in the Adriatic Sea Rovinj, Novigrad Sea, Zadar and Postira, Vlore, Durres, Shengjin, Sarande, Chioggia, Porto Garibaldi, Ancona and San Benedetto del Tronto; statistical data analysis has been carried out. Catch and effort statistics and biological data have been compiled in a common database. First joint stock assessment exercise for the whole Adriatic is planned in early 2003.			
	ALBANIA	CROATIA	ITALY	SLOVENIA
Scientist in charge (4) *Scientific Supervisor	Eqerem Kapedani	Gorenka Sinovčić	Nando Cingolani*	Tjaša Kariš
Institute involved (4)	Fisheries Research Institute (FRI)	Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (IOF)	Marine Fisheries Research Institute – National Research Council (IRPEM)	Fisheries Research Institute (FRI)
Experts involved (14)	Eqerem Kapedani, Jerina Kotari, Edmond Gorenca,	Gorenka Sinovčić Marijana Franičević, Ivica Saskor, Vesna Poropat-Medakovic, Vanja Cikes-Kec, Barbara Zorica	Nando Cingolani, Alberto Santojanni, Gianfranco Giannetti, Andrea Belardinelli, Fortunata Donato, Sabrina Colella, Enrico Arneri	Tjaša Kariš
AdriaMed Meetings (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ First Meeting of the Working Group on the Definition of Priority Topics Related to Small Pelagic Resources of the Adriatic Sea (Adriatic Sea Shared Stocks), Split, Croatia 12-13/10/2000 (ref. GCP/RER/ITA/TD-03)○ Joint Meeting of the AdriaMed Working Groups on Shared Demersal and Small Pelagic Fishery Resources, Bari, Italy 13-15/02/2001○ Meeting of the AdriaMed Working Groups on Shared Fishery Resources, Fano, Italy, 17– 18 /10/ 2001○ Second Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee, Portorož, Slovenia, 22-23/11/2000 (ref. AdriaMed Technical Documents 4: 41pp)○ Third Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee, Tirana, Albania, 21-23/11/2001 (ref. AdriaMed Technical Documents 7: 34pp)			
Presentation at other meetings	GFCM-SAC, Working Group on Small Pelagic Species - Rome (Italy), 20-22 March 2002 GFCM-SAC, Sub Committee on Stock Assessment - Barcelona (Spain), 6-9 May 2002 -International Conference on Mediterranean Fisheries - Naples (Italy), 21-22/06/2002			

Training exercises	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training course on data collection and biological sampling system on small pelagics; IRPEM-CNR, Ancona (Italy), 8–11/05/2001 2. Training course on fish age determination by otolith reading, IRPEM-CNR, Ancona (Italy), 13–17/05 and 20-24/05/2002
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cingolani, N., and Santojanni, A. 2002. Manual of the Recorder. AdriaMed Training Course on Small Pelagics Data Collection and Biological Sampling System. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-06. AdriaMed Occasional Papers, 6: 41 pp. ✓ Cingolani, N., Karis, T., Sinovcic, G., Kapedani, E. 2002. FAO-AdriaMed Research Programme: Data collection and biological sampling system on small pelagics in the Adriatic Sea – Advancement of the Programme. Paper presented at WG on Small Pelagics. Rome 20-22 March 2002: 22 pp. ✓ Giannetti, G., and Donato, F. 2002. Age Determination Manual. AdriaMed training course on fish age determination by otolith reading. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-08. AdriaMed Occasional Papers, 8 (in preparation).
Web resources	http://www.faoadriamed.org/html/res_prog/adriamed-sp/adriamed-sp.shtml
Reports for AdriaMed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Interim Reports (Albania): AdriaMed-SP programme (April-June 2002) ❑ Interim Reports (Slovenia): AdriaMed-SP programme (October 2001, January 2002, updated to June 2002) ❑ Interim Reports (Croatia): AdriaMed-SP programme (January 2002-June 2002) ❑ Advancement of the Programme (Albania, Croatia, Italy and Slovenia) (June 2001-February 2002) ❑ Advancement of the Programme (Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Albania) (February 2002-June 2002, in preparation) ❑ AdriaMed Meeting Memorandum GCP/RER/010/ITA/OM-56 ❑ AdriaMed Meeting Memorandum GCP/RER/010/ITA/OM-81
Long-term results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishment of common sampling protocol in Albania, Croatia, Italy and Slovenia. ○ Standardized methodology used around the Adriatic for small pelagic fish age determination by otolith reading. ○ Strengthening of international cooperation between the Adriatic countries (creation of a permanent network of 17 experts involved on this topics) ○ Supporting of the national capacity building in terms of expertise, through the AdriaMed Training Courses ○ Tentative re-building of historical time series for the whole of Adriatic small pelagic fisheries (<i>i.e.</i> <u>Italy (North and Central Adriatic)</u>: catch and effort data 1975-2002 by species, cpue data 1975-1992 by fishing days for both species, biological data 1975-1981 and 1984-2002 by species (IRPEM database), <u>Italy (South Adriatic)</u>: catch data from ISTAT on yearly/species basis; <u>Slovenia</u>: catch data available for 1999 and from June 2001 up to now, tentative re-building for previous years is on going; <u>Croatia</u>: yearly catch data of sardine 1947 to present, yearly catch data of anchovy 1947 to present, yearly sardine cpue (catch/fishing day) from 1965 to 1992; <u>Albania</u>: daily catch data for both species from July 2001 to present, effort data by fishing days for both species; historical time series are being recovered). ○ Creation of a regional database in each participating country holding all the data collected by country and for the whole region.

1.3 Combined echo-survey and environmental parameters monitoring in the northern part of the Adriatic Sea

Programme		Combined echo-survey and environmental parameters monitoring exercise in the northern part of the Adriatic Sea		
Overall Objective	Estimate of the small pelagic fish biomass and distribution pattern in the Adriatic Sea and the relationship with environmental variables.			
Methodology	Combined acoustic and biological sampling survey of the Northern Adriatic Sea with associated environmental parameters monitoring.			
Preliminary Results (Starting from November 2001)	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 pattern and standing stock biomass of small pelagic fish as a whole and by species group were obtained.			
	ALBANIA	CROATIA	ITALY	SLOVENIA
Scientist in charge (3) *Scientific Supervisor		Ivona Marasović	Massimo Azzali*	Tjaša Kariš
Institution involved (3)		Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (IOF)	Marine Fisheries Research Institute – National Research Council (IRPEM)	Fisheries Research Institute of Ljubljana
Experts involved (15)		Ivona Marasović, Marijana Franičević, Vjekoslav Tičina, Živana Ninčević, Branka Grbec, Frano Matić, Frano Kršinić, Grozdan Kušpilić, Lambe Stojanovski	Massimo Azzali, Manlio Luna, Giuseppe Caccamo, Andrea De Felice, Vito Palumbo	Tjaša Kariš
AdriaMed Meetings (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ First Meeting of the Working Group on the Definition of Priority Topics Related to Small Pelagic Resources of the Adriatic Sea (Adriatic Sea Shared Stocks), Split, Croatia 12-13/10/2000 (ref. GCP/RER/ITA/TD-03)○ Joint Meeting of the AdriaMed Working Groups on Shared Demersal and Small Pelagic Fishery Resources, Bari, Italy 13-15/02/2001○ Meeting of the AdriaMed Working Groups on Shared Fishery Resources, Fano, Italy, 17– 18 /10/ 2001○ Second Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee, Portorož, Slovenia, 22-23/11/2000 (ref. AdriaMed Technical Documents 4: 41pp)○ Third Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee, Tirana, Albania, 21-23/11/2001 (ref. AdriaMed Technical Documents 7: 34pp)			
Presentation at other meetings	GFCM-SAC, Working Group on Small Pelagic Species - Rome (Italy), 20-22 March 2002.			
Training exercises	❑ On-the-job training on data processing and analysis. Ancona, Italy 22-29/01/2002			

Publications	Azzali, M., Marasović, I., Luna, M., Tičina, V., Kariš, T., Franičević, M., De Felice, A., Ninčević, Ž., Grbec, B., Matić, F., Kršinić, F., Kušpilić, G., Stojanovski, L., Caccamo, G., Palumbo, V. Pilot joint echo-survey and training exercise in the Northern part of the Adriatic Sea to assess the pelagic fish biomass and correlation with environmental parameters. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD. <i>AdriaMed Technical Documents</i> , (in preparation).
Web resources	In preparation
Reports for AdriaMed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Interim Report (Slovenia): (November 2001) ❑ Final Report of the Programme (Croatia, Italy and Slovenia) (March 2002) ❑ AdriaMed Meeting Memorandum GCP/RER/010/ITA/OM-56 ❑ AdriaMed Meeting Memorandum GCP/RER/010/ITA/OM-81
Long term results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishment of common survey procedures ○ Strengthening of international cooperation between the Adriatic countries ○ Development of national scientific capacity in terms of expertise ○ Appraisal of small pelagic stocks through whole area coverage ○ Established capability to execute a cooperative international echo-survey in the Adriatic Sea (Geographical Sub-area 17).

1.4 International bottom trawl survey in the Adriatic Sea

Programme	International bottom trawl survey in the Adriatic Sea			
Overall Objective	Execution of joint groundfish appraisal survey in the Adriatic Sea.			
Methodology	Demersal trawl survey in the Eastern Adriatic Sea (Albania, Croatia and Slovenia) complementary to the routine survey carried out in the Western Adriatic part (Italy).			
Preliminary Results (Starting from November 2001)	The bottom trawl survey has been completed for the entire eastern Adriatic. Data collected and basic processing are given in the survey report. A regional logical data bank holding the complete data set is being developed.			
	ALBANIA	CROATIA	ITALY	SLOVENIA
Scientist in charge (5) *Scientific Supervisor	Kastriot Osmani	Stjepan Jukić-Peladić*	Nicola Ungano, Corrado Piccinetti	Bojan Marčeta
Institute involved (5)	Fisheries Research Institute (FRI)	Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (IOF)	Laboratory of Marine Biology of Bari (LMB), Laboratory of Marine Biology and Fishery of Fano (LBMF),	National Institute of Biology (NIB)
Experts involved (16)	Kastriot Osmani, Pirro Decolli, Bilal Ballgjini	Stjepan Jukić-Peladić, Nedo Vrgoč, Svjetlana Krstulović-Šifner, Miro Tonković, Vlado Dadić, B. Kokan	Giovanni Marano, Nicola Ungaro, Luca Ceriola, Luigi Quaranta, Fausto Tinti, Corrado Piccinetti	Bojan Marčeta
AdriaMed Meetings (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Meeting of the Working Group on the Definition of Priority Topics Related to Demersal Resources of the Adriatic Sea (Adriatic Sea Shared Stocks), Fano, Italy 24-25/07/2000 (ref. GCP/RER/ITA/TD-02) Joint Meeting of the AdriaMed Working Groups on Shared Demersal and Small Pelagic Fishery Resources, Bari, Italy 13-15/02/2001 Meeting of the AdriaMed Working Groups on Shared Fishery Resources, Fano, Italy, 17– 18 /10/ 2001 Second Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee, Portorož, Slovenia, 22-23/11/2000 (ref. AdriaMed Technical Documents 4: 41pp) Third Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee, Tirana, Albania, 21-23/11/2001 (ref. AdriaMed Technical Documents 7: 34pp) 			
Presentation at other meetings	GFCM-SAC, Working Groups on Demersal Species- Rome (Italy), 20-22 March 2002.			
Training exercises	On-the-job national training on data compilation and processing. Durrës (Albania), 6-8 February 2002.			
Publications	Vrgoč, N., Arneri, E., Jukić-Peladić, S., Krstulović Šifner, S., Mannini, P., Marčeta, B., Osmani, K. Piccinetti, C. and Ungaro, N. Review of current knowledge on demersal shared stocks of the Adriatic Sea. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD. <i>AdriaMed Technical Documents</i> , (in preparation).			
Web resources	http://netserv/html/res_prog/trawl/trawl-survey.html			

Reports for AdriaMed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Final Report (Albania): AdriaMed - AL 2001 Trawl-Survey programme (November 2001) ❑ Interim Report (Slovenia): Trawl-survey in the Adriatic Sea in the Slovenian Sea waters (February 2002) ❑ International bottom trawl survey in the Eastern Adriatic Sea. AdriaMed Survey. Final Report (in prep.) ❑ AdriaMed Meeting Memorandum GCP/RER/010/ITA/OM-56
Long term results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishment of common sampling protocol ○ Strengthening of international cooperation between the Adriatic countries ○ Support to national scientific capacity building in terms of expertise ○ Size structure and relative abundance indices of priority species stocks ○ Creation of a regional logical databank holding all the data collected by country and for the whole region

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

Programme	Identification of Population Units in Adriatic Sea Shared Stocks by Genetic Structure Analysis			
Overall Objective	Analysis and assessment of genetic homogeneity/heterogeneity of the main species whose stocks are shared in the Adriatic Sea.			
Methodology	Use of DNA molecular marker analysis to analyse samples of seven selected demersal species representative of the whole Adriatic Sea basin (<i>Solea vulgaris</i> , <i>Pagellus erythrinus</i> , <i>Merlangius merlangus</i> , <i>Sepia officinalis</i> , <i>Loligo vulgaris</i> , <i>Eledone cirrhosa</i> , and <i>Eledone moschata</i>).			
Preliminary Results (Starting from March 2001)	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 <i>loci</i> have been identified and molecular database created.			
	ALBANIA	CROATIA	ITALY	SLOVENIA
Scientist in charge (2) *Scientific Supervisor			Fausto Tinti*	Andreja Ramšak
Institution involved (2)	Fisheries Research Institute (FRI)	Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (IOF)	University of Bologna, Laboratory of Marine Biology and Fishery (LBMF) Laboratory of Marine Biology of Bari (LMB)	National Institute of Biology (NIB)
Experts involved (6)		Snjezana Stambuk	Fausto Tinti, Corrado Piccinetti, Alessandra Norici, Ilaria Guarniero,	Andreja Ramšak
AdriaMed Meetings (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ First Meeting of the Working Group on the Definition of Priority Topics Related to Demersal Resources of the Adriatic Sea (Adriatic Sea Shared Stocks), Fano, Italy 24-25/07/2000 (ref. GCP/RER/ITA/TD-02)○ Joint Meeting of the AdriaMed Working Groups on Shared Demersal and Small Pelagic Fishery Resources, Bari, Italy 13-15/02/2001○ Meeting of the AdriaMed Working Groups on Shared Fishery Resources, Fano, Italy, 17– 18 /10/ 2001○ Second Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee, Portorož, Slovenia, 22-23/11/2000 (ref. AdriaMed Technical Documents 4: 41pp)○ Third Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee, Tirana, Albania, 21-23/11/2001 (ref. AdriaMed Technical Documents 7: 34pp)			
Presentation at other meetings	International Workshop on Stock Assessment and Production of Demersal resources in the Mediterranean. Rome (Italy), 18-19 March 2002. GFCM-SAC, Working Groups on Small Pelagic and Demersal Species - Rome (Italy), 20-22 March 2002			
Training exercises (2)	Methodological Training course, Ravenna (Italy), 7-12/05/2001			

Publications	Guarniero, I., Ramsak, A., Ungaro, N., Vallisneri, M., Tommasini, S., Cavicchi S., Garoia, F., Piccinetti, C., Mannini, P., Massa, F., Tinti F. Geographic structuring of central Mediterranean populations of common sole <i>Solea vulgaris</i> inferred by morphological and genetic marker analyses: a scientific study for sustainable management of a demersal fishery resource. International Workshop on Stock Assessment and Production of Demersal Resources in the Mediterranean. Rome, 18-19 March 2002. (<i>in press</i>)
Web resources	http://netserv/html/res_prog/ipuas/ipuas.shtml
Reports for AdriaMed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Interim Reports (Slovenia): AdriaMed-IPUAS programme (March/July 2001, August/November 2001, December 2001/April 2002) ❑ Advancement of the Programme (Italy and Slovenia) (March 2002)
Long term results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishment of common sampling and genetic data analysis methodology ○ Strengthening of international cooperation between the Adriatic countries ○ Development of national scientific expertise and related laboratory equipment. ○ Creation of an Adriatic Sea regional molecular database for some key-species. ○ Eventual availability of a genetic atlas of main shared stocks of the Adriatic Sea.

1.6 Cooperative approach to the identification of fishery management options for the Pomo/Jabuka Pit critical area

Programme	Cooperative approach to the identification of fishery management options for the Pomo/Jabuka Pit critical area			
Overall Objective	Gathering and reviewing of scientific knowledge on the Pomo/Jabuka Pit fishing grounds for management purposes			
Methodology	Analysis of available information which may be followed by <i>ad hoc</i> field research			
Preliminary Results (starting from June 2001)	The collection of most of the available knowledge on the Pomo Pit has been carried out and the elaboration, analysis and appraisal of existing knowledge are reported.			
	ALBANIA	CROATIA	ITALY	SLOVENIA
Scientist in charge (4) *Scientific Supervisor		Stjepan Jukić-Peladić*	Corrado Piccinetti	
Institute involved (3)		Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (IOF)	Laboratory of Marine Biology and Fishery of Fano (LBMF), Marine Fisheries Research Institute – National Research Council (IRPEM)	
Experts involved (4)		Stjepan Jukić-Peladić, Nedo Vrgoc	Corrado Piccinetti, Enrico Arneri	
AdriaMed Meetings (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1st Meeting of the Working Group on the Definition of Priority Topics Related to Small Pelagic Resources of the Adriatic Sea (Adriatic Sea Shared Stocks), Split, Croatia 12-13/10/2000 (ref. GCP/RER/ITA/TD-03) ○ Joint Meeting of the AdriaMed Working Groups on Shared Demersal and Small Pelagic Fishery Resources, Bari, Italy 13-15/02/2001 ○ Meeting of the AdriaMed Working Groups on Shared Fishery Resources, Fano, Italy, 17– 18 /10/ 2001 ○ Second Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee, Portorož, Slovenia, 22-23/11/2000 (ref. AdriaMed Technical Documents 4: 41pp) ○ Third Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee, Tirana, Albania, 21-23/11/2001 (ref. AdriaMed Technical Documents 7: 34pp) 			
Presentation at other meetings	GFCM-SAC, Working Groups on Demersal Species - Rome (Italy), 20-22 March 2002			
Training exercises				
Publications				
Web resources	http://netserv/html/res_prog/pomo_pit/pomo_pit.shtml			
Reports for AdriaMed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Advancement of the Programme (Croatia, Italy) (February 2002) ❑ AdriaMed Meeting Memorandum GCP/RER/010/ITA/OM-56 ❑ AdriaMed Meeting Memorandum GCP/RER/010/ITA/OM-73 ❑ AdriaMed Meeting Memorandum GCP/RER/010/ITA/OM-94 ❑ AdriaMed Meeting Memorandum GCP/RER/010/ITA/OM-95 			
Long term results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strengthening of international cooperation between the Adriatic countries ○ Knowledge-base reference for any eventual management action of the Pomo/Jabuka Pit fisheries 			

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

Programme	Review of current knowledge on shared demersal stocks of the Adriatic Sea
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Overall Objective	Reviewing and assessment of the level of scientific knowledge on the main species whose stocks are shared in the Adriatic Sea including the species ecology, population dynamics and stock assessment.			
Methodology	Gathering and critical review of published and “grey” scientific literature including the characteristics of each data set, such as temporal and spatial coverage, kind of information collected, sampling methodology, data storage media.			
Preliminary Results	The complete draft of the document has been prepared and it is being finalized. The review has been used as an essential source of information by the EC Subgroup on the Mediterranean Sea (SGMED) of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) at the First Meeting on Mediterranean Fisheries Shared Stocks, Brussels, 4-7 September 2002.			
	ALBANIA	CROATIA	ITALY	SLOVENIA
Scientist in charge (5) *Scientific Supervisor	Kastriot Osmani	Nedo Vrgoč *	Nicola Ungano, Corrado Piccinetti	Bojan Marčeta
Institute involved (5)	Fisheries Research Institute (FRI)	Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (IOF)	Laboratory of Marine Biology of Bari (LMB), Laboratory of Marine Biology and Fishery of Fano (LBMF), Marine Fisheries Research Institute – National Research Council (IRPEM)	National Institute of Biology (NIB)
Experts involved (16)	Kastriot Osmani,	Stjepan Jukić- Peladić, Nedo Vrgoč, Svjetlana Krstulović-Šifner,	Nicola Ungaro, Corrado Piccinetti, Enrico Arneri	Bojan Marčeta
AdriaMed Meetings (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1st Meeting of the Working Group on the Definition of Priority Topics Related to Demersal Resources of the Adriatic Sea (Adriatic Sea Shared Stocks), Fano, Italy 24-25/07/2000 (ref. GCP/RER/ITA/TD-02) ○ Joint Meeting of the AdriaMed Working Groups on Shared Demersal and Small Pelagic Fishery Resources, Bari, Italy 13-15/02/2001 ○ Meeting of the AdriaMed Working Groups on Shared Fishery Resources, Fano, Italy, 17– 18 /10/ 2001 ○ Second Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee, Portorož, Slovenia, 22-23/11/2000 (ref. AdriaMed Technical Documents 4: 41pp) ○ Third Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee, Tirana, Albania, 21-23/11/2001 (ref. AdriaMed Technical Documents 7: 34pp) 			
Presentation at other meetings	International Workshop on Stock Assessment and Production of Demersal resources in the Mediterranean. Rome (Italy), 18-19 March 2002.			
Training exercises				

Publications	Vrgoč, N., Arneri, E., Jukić-Peladić, S., Krstulović Šifner, S., Mannini, P., Marčeta, B., Osmani, K. Piccinetti, C. and Ungaro, N. Review of current knowledge on demersal shared stocks of the Adriatic Sea. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD. <i>AdriaMed Technical Documents</i> , (in prep.).
Web resources	
Reports for AdriaMed	Interim Report (Croatia): The preparation of a critical review of the current knowledge and available data sets on demersal resources and associated fisheries including a bibliographical review of each species. (March 2001)
Long term results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Comprehensive review of the scientific knowledge accrued throughout the time on priority species whose stocks are shared in the Adriatic Sea ○ Reference scientific document on main demersal resources of the Adriatic ○ Extensive up to date bibliography ○ Essential knowledge-base text for future work on main Adriatic demersal species

2. Adriatic Economic and Social Science

An awareness and understanding of socio-economic aspects of the fishery sector is considered essential for any intervention aimed at improving management decisions concerning the Adriatic fishery resources and stakeholders at all levels. AdriaMed is therefore continuing its multi faceted approach to the improvement of knowledge on this key issue at basin level.

In this framework several meetings have taken place and action has been taken at various levels. The network of Adriatic socio-economic experts, established in 2001, has continued to implement the tasks identified as priorities in this field. The activities carried out by the Project are as follows:

2.1 The Third AdriaMed Meeting on Socio-Economics of the Adriatic Sea Fishery Sector took place in Rome on 9th and 10th January 2002. During the meeting the implementation of standardised data collection on Adriatic fishery economics were discussed together with the need to prepare a standardized overview of the Adriatic fishing fleet.

2.2 The document “Source and Accessibility of Socio-Economic data in AdriaMed member countries” was prepared and released as an occasional paper. This document represents a guideline to detect the existing data on socio-economic issues in fisheries for the Adriatic region (GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-07).

2.3 A technical meeting entitled “Aspects of Fish Markets in the Adriatic Sea Fishery Sector” was held in Ancona, Italy on 27th and 28th June 2002, (CC/04/info4). The main objective of the meeting was to gain a better knowledge of the fish markets through the collection of relevant information available at national and if possible international (Adriatic Sea) level. The key aspects discussed were: national and international marketing policy; the distribution systems, problems related to import/export; the prices of fishery products. For each country a series of technical papers on the subject were presented. An overview of the import-export patterns around the Adriatic basin was discussed and the relevant results were presented to the 2nd AdriaMed Meeting of the Adriatic Fishery Associations in September.

2.4 The Representatives of the Fishery Associations of the Adriatic Sea met in Pula, Croatia, on 12th and 13th September 2002 for the Second AdriaMed Meeting of the Adriatic Fishery Associations (CC/04/info6). The meeting was attended by the representatives of the Adriatic Fisheries Associations, representative of the Fisheries Directorates and of the Research Institutions. The meeting aimed to inform the participants on the development and results achieved so far and to provide information on the indications that have emerged from the document “Memorandum on common and priority topics highlighted during the discussion of the (Split 2001) Meeting”. With reference to the establishment of a Regional Network, the Meeting agreed to create the Regional Committee of Adriatic Fishery Associations for Responsible Fisheries. The technical document “Adriatic Fishery Associations – First AdriaMed Meeting GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-06” was distributed during the meeting and the draft of the document “Review of the Professional Fishery Associations of the Adriatic Sea was introduced (CC/04/info5).

2.5 The draft of the document “Review of Fisheries Legislation and Regulation in the AdriaMed Countries” (CC/04/info8) was prepared by expert commissioned by the FAO Legal Department. The purpose of the document is to review the national fisheries legislation and regulations of AdriaMed participating countries. The document represent a first step on this topic, the distribution is for the moment restricted.

2.6 The Social Survey of Albanian commercial fisheries is being implemented by the Project. The methodology applied and data to be collected are those identified and discussed during the AdriaMed meetings on socio-economic aspects of the region’s fisheries. A training exercise was held for the field recorder team. The activity includes: a questionnaire on personal data, a questionnaire on crew working conditions and fishing strategy and a questionnaire on maritime characteristics and relations.

3. Adriatic Statistics and Information System

3.1 Direct support to the administrations of member countries to build up national fishery statistic systems

AdriaMed continued supporting the national fishery statistical systems in participating countries by providing assistance to the Albanian, Croatian and Slovenian Fisheries Directorates. In particular the Project backed the establishment of the national fishing fleet register "census data", the setting up of a national catch and effort survey system, training and capacity building.

3.1.1 In Albania. Following over a year of implementation, the census has been completed. The census results and the database have been assumed as the National Register of Fishing Vessels and this is located in an office of the Directorate General for Fisheries at the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fishery. The preliminary processing tools for the catch and effort survey data have also been developed. A second on-the-job training exercise for the five recorders and the supervisor involved in the data collection component was undertaken.

3.1.2 In Croatia. Support to the Croatian fishery statistical system began in July 2002. The preliminary database structure is ready and a week’s training course has been conducted.

3.1.3 In Slovenia. The fishery statistics system for the census is operative. A database holding the census data and census results are located in the office of the "Capitaneria Marittima" in Koper (Istria) and are under the control of the Directorate General for Fisheries at the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food, Ljubljana. The catch and effort survey design has been completed and a survey scheme has been finalised and adopted. A three-day on-the-job training exercise on data collection was conducted.

3.2 AdriaMed Information System

During the year the AdriaMed Project Information System (AIS) on the website has been designed and developed to incorporate knowledge which has already been acquired,

establishing a unique databank, and disseminating information that has been collected in the Adriatic area by the AdriaMed Project. It represents the effort of the Project to establish an integrated, standardised information system for both national and regional requirements. It has been designed with a modular structure: for each topic there is a related database, and a new database or system can be added without interfering with the global structure of the whole system. The AIS is hosted in the AdriaMed web site (www.faoadriamed.org). At the moment the sections present in the AIS contain the Research Institutions, the Virtual Library, the Adriatic Links, the AdriaMed Documents Available and the AdriaMed Documentation Service (this last is an experimental phase). Further information is available in the document CC/04/03.

3.3 Information on Aquatic and Fishery Sciences

AdriaMed is now actively providing improved access within participating countries to publications and information on aquatic sciences and fisheries. AdriaMed attended the ASFA Advisory Board Meeting held in Rome, Italy from 18th – 21st June 2002. On that occasion AdriaMed illustrated its intersessional report and was for the first time introduced to the ASFA Advisory Board. Contacts with other ASFA Partners have been made. Since July 2001 the AdriaMed Project has been assisting the FAO ASFA Secretariat in preparing the ASFA bibliographic records so that they could be included in the ASFA database (CC/04/Info2).

4. Adriatic Fishery Management

AdriaMed organised an international seminar on the issue of fishing capacity in October 2002, the Seminar, entitled “Fishing Capacity Definition, Measurement and Assessment” was held in answer to the need to clarify this term for operators in the fishery sector at all levels: fishery biologists, economists, managers and representatives of the fishery associations. The Seminar was run together with the staff from the Fishery Policy and Planning Division of FAO and it also focused on the characteristics of Mediterranean fisheries.

5. Expert Consultation on the relationship between fisheries and aquaculture

Some advances have been made in the organization the planned Expert Consultation on the relationship between capture fisheries and aquaculture. As requested by the first Coordination Committee meeting of AdriaMed, the Expert Consultation could focus on aspects related to the determination of economic and environmental effects of aquaculture, in particular on the prime species market. The aim of this Expert Consultation is in part to have a description and analysis of the aquaculture sector at Adriatic basin level and to improve knowledge of the relationship between capture fisheries and aquaculture. The Project is currently involving experts in the preparation of a country profile on aquaculture. A general document introducing and discussing the main issues related to this topic is being prepared.

6. Relations and cooperation with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

AdriaMed supported the participation of the experts from the Adriatic countries at the following GFCM-SAC meetings:

- Meeting of the Working Group of the GFCM-SAC Sub Committee on Economic and Social Sciences, Salerno, Italy 11th – 13th March 2002
- GFCM scientific advisory committee Workshop on Stock Assessment and Production of Demersal Resources in the Mediterranean, Rome, Italy 18th – 19th March 2002
- Meetings of the Working Groups GFCM-SAC on Demersal and Small Pelagics Species, Rome, Italy 20th – 22nd March 2002
- Annual Sessions of the GFCM SAC Sub-Committees, Barcelona, Spain 6th – 9th May 2002
- The 5th Session of SAC held in Rome, Italy, 1st – 4th July 2002

At some of the above meetings, AdriaMed provided a concrete, informative contribution in terms of working papers or the presentation of Project progress of direct relevance for the Sub-Committee or Working Group concerned. Notably these included a summary of the results of the research carried, the results of the other activities carried out by the Project and of interest to the GFCM were also provided.

During the 27th session of the GFCM held in Italy (Rome) in November 2002, the documents “AdriaMed Informative Notes”, “AdriaMed Publications”, “Adriatic Fishery Associations – First AdriaMed Meeting GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-06” and the *draft* “Adriatic Fishery Associations – Second AdriaMed Meeting”, were distributed to the participants. The Commission was also informed on some specific topics implemented by the Project and of interest to the GFCM.

7. Presence of the Project within other international scenarios

AdriaMed has been a member of the Advisory Committee of the United Nations Environment Programme - SAP BIO Project since February 2001. The same lines of cooperation were established and maintained with the FAO FishCode Project.

8. Cooperation with the other FAO Regional Projects

Copemed: Cooperation between the two Projects has continued through technical documentation exchanges and attendance at some of the Projects’ meetings. Areas of cooperation were also identified focusing on common issues dealt with by the two Projects in their respective areas of coverage.

MedSudMed Project: The First Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the MedSudMed Project MedSudMed “Assessment and Monitoring of the Fishery Resources and the Ecosystems in the Straits of Sicily” was held at the Fisheries Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Policies, Rome, Italy on 19th and 20th September 2002. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the participating countries (the Republics of Italy, Libya, Malta and Tunisia), representatives of the Marine Fishery Resources Service of FAO, the GFCM, the FAO Regional Project Copemed and the European Commission, Fisheries Directorate General for International Institutions and Arrangements as well as the staff of the MedSudMed Project. The main Project components and general research guidelines were discussed and it was decided that Expert Consultations should be organised on Spatial distribution of demersal resources; small pelagics; information systems and marine protected areas.

Development of the Project programme

The activities scheduled for the coming period are summarised below. In most areas of intervention the Project is actively at work, some are in the process of being expanded. The AdriaMed Coordination Committee is requested to provide the Project with all relevant suggestions and advice. The methodology applied will follow the same approach pursued by AdriaMed through its Working Groups and networks of experts, and will be structured according to the following areas:

- Adriatic Sea Shared Fishery Resources
- Adriatic Economic and Social Sciences
- Statistics and Information Systems
- Adriatic Fishery Management
- Relations at Mediterranean basin level

1. Adriatic Sea Shared Fishery Resources

This table represents on going research work focusing on biological resources

Table 1. AdriaMed Cooperative Research Programmes

Identification of Population Units in Adriatic Sea Shared Stocks by Genetic Structure Analysis	Finalisation and dissemination of the analysis of the genetic structure of target species' stocks. A comprehensive scientific technical document will be prepared. This will constitute the basis for the creation of an Adriatic Sea genetic atlas of the main shared stocks.
Combined echo-survey and environmental parameters monitoring in the Geographical Sub-Area 17 of the Adriatic Sea	On the basis of the results obtained in 2001/2002 an <i>ad hoc</i> meeting will be held to decide the plan of action for the continuation of the echo survey exercises in the Adriatic Sea which could be extended to the central Adriatic
Cooperative approach to the identification of fishery management options for the Pomo/Jabuka Pit critical area	The basic reference document will be further developed and completed, then distributed through the usual channels. The implications of this research programme's findings will be studied in a working-group meeting of the fishery sector management and stakeholders
Data Collection and Biological Sampling System on Small Pelagics of the Adriatic Sea	At the end of implementation of the initial phase of this activity, there will be a joint appraisal of the information gathered and a regional stock assessment exercise. Further expansion and integration into the national monitoring systems will be considered.

International bottom trawl survey in the Adriatic Sea	Further data elaboration and development into a simple regional logical databank holding all the data collected by country and for the whole region. The databank will be made available to each participating institution/country.
Review of current knowledge on shared small pelagics stocks of the Adriatic Sea	A critical review of the available knowledge on main pelagic species whose stocks are shared will be carried out, the resulting scientific technical document will be similar and complementary to that on the shared demersal stocks.
Experts network on small scale fisheries	In consideration of the relevance of small-scale fisheries and of their role in the exploitation of some shared stocks, a network of regional experts will be established through an <i>ad hoc</i> working group. The working group will exchange relevant information, discuss and identify common priorities at the regional level. Gaps in the knowledge of small-scale fisheries will be highlighted and research needs outlined.

The results and proceedings of the cooperative research programmes, including field researches, studies and reviews, will be published in the AdriaMed Technical Documents and Occasional Papers Series. The results will be widely distributed as appropriate. For some research, the outcome of which is of interest to the fisheries management, such as the *Identification of Management Options for the Pomo/Jabuka Pit critical habitat*, the results may be translated in the regional languages. As usual, all of these documents will be fully available also on the AdriaMed web pages and abstracted in ASFA.

AdriaMed Working Groups and network activities

The existing AdriaMed network of experts on small pelagics and shared demersal resources will be strengthened through the finalisation of the ongoing research programme activities and their further development. In order to have a first evaluation of the outcome of the research programmes, studies and reviews, a joint meeting of the Working Groups is foreseen within the first half of the year 2003.

2. Adriatic Economic and Social Sciences

2.1 Sociological and economic survey

The sociological survey will be completed in Albania as a pilot study; on the basis of the results and of a detailed study of the ensuing operative considerations, the Project may consider broadening the scope of the survey to the other AdriaMed countries.

The characterisation of the economic performance of Adriatic fisheries will be initiated as a pilot-case with Albania fisheries back to back with the current social survey. This will provide a thorough understanding and knowledge of the national fishery sector.

The tasks identified by the AdriaMed network of socio-economic scientists will be finalized and the relative technical documents will be produced and circulated. Further intervention will be identified by the network of experts that will discuss the initial results in the first half of the coming year.

2.2 Regional forum of fishery associations

In the memorandum of the meeting *Adriatic Fishery Associations – Second AdriaMed Meeting* (draft meeting report available for your consultation) held in Pula, Croatia in September 2002, the Adriatic Fishery Associations fully agreed to create the Regional Committee of Adriatic Fishery Associations for Responsible Fisheries. This initiative will be a step towards setting up sub-regional or regional arrangements to group together the fish producers, fishing industry, and other relevant fishery stakeholders. Further contacts will be established and a meeting will be organised with the members of the network. AdriaMed progress and advances will be communicated to them.

3. Fishery Statistics and Information

Within the framework of intervention as support to the national fishery statistical systems, in Croatia, Slovenia, and Albania the Project is providing direct technical assistance to support the Fisheries Directorates. The Project will also continue to build up the national expertise in terms of data collection. All the scientific and technical data gathered by the Project activities will be progressively integrated into the Adriatic Information System.

4. Fishery Management Component

On the basis of the established AdriaMed frameworks, which encompass most of the components of the Adriatic Sea fishery system, specific aspects related to the multidisciplinary approach to fishery management issues will be considered. In October 2002 AdriaMed held a Seminar on the “Definition, Measurement and Assessment of the Fishing Capacity”. As follow up to this meeting and the work carried out on fisheries legislation, as well as being in line with the recommendations of the third Coordination Committee meeting, the Project will also organise a meeting of the national Fishery Administrations. The process to identify common regional indicators for fishery management will be initiated.

5. Strengthening the relations at Mediterranean level and between AdriaMed, the GFCM and other regional projects

The strengthening of relations at regional and Mediterranean level between the GFCM and the Project is considered a relevant task to which all the Project activities contribute. AdriaMed activities planned or under implementation are in the line with the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and GFCM requests and recommendations

AdriaMed will continue with direct participation in the GFCM, the SAC and its Sub-Committee meetings scheduled for next year and will provide support to the experts from the Adriatic who request to attend. As relevant, technical papers and results will be presented at appropriate international fora.

The Project's close relationship with the new FAO Regional Project MedSudMed "Assessment and Monitoring of the Fishery Resources and Ecosystems in the Straits of Sicily" will continue to grow and develop. AdriaMed will participate actively in the planned Expert Consultations on Spatial distribution of demersal resources; small pelagics; information systems and marine protected areas.

Further meetings will be held with the COPEMED Project in the Western Mediterranean. The experience gained in the field of international scientific cooperation in the Mediterranean will be reviewed so as to constitute a useful knowledge-base.

Contacts with the UNEP/MAP SAP BIO Project will be maintained. In recognition of the fact that AdriaMed is considered a regional component of the FAO Global FishCode Project, information exchange will be strengthened and possible ways to develop collaboration between the two Projects will be considered.

6. Expert Consultation on the Relationship between Aquaculture and Capture Fisheries

AdriaMed is planning an expert consultation on the relationship between aquaculture and capture fisheries for 2003. As preparatory material, an aquaculture profile will be prepared for each AdriaMed member country. The expert consultation will open to experts or participants coming from other regions.

List of AdriaMed Publications

A. Technical Documents

Massa, F., Mannini, P. (eds). 2000. Report of the First Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-01: 64 pp.

AdriaMed. 2000. Priority Topics Related to Shared Demersal Fishery Resources of the Adriatic Sea. Report of the First Meeting of the AdriaMed Working Group on Shared Demersal Resources. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-02: 21 pp.

Mannini, P., Massa, F., and Milone, N. (eds). 2001. Priority Topics Related to Small Pelagic Fishery Resources of the Adriatic Sea. Report of the First Meeting of the AdriaMed Working Group on Small Pelagic Resources. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-03. *AdriaMed Technical Documents*, 3: 92 pp.

AdriaMed. 2001. Report of the Second Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-04. *AdriaMed Technical Documents*, 4: 41 pp.

AdriaMed. 2001. Socio-economic aspects of the Adriatic Sea fisheries. Report of AdriaMed Meeting on Socio-Economic Aspects of the Adriatic Sea Fishery Sector. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-05. *AdriaMed Technical Documents*, 5: 53 pp.

AdriaMed. 2002. Adriatic Fishery Associations – First AdriaMed Meeting. Shoqatat e Peshkimit ne Adriatik-Takimi i Pare i AdriaMed-it. Jadranske ribarske udruge – Prvi sastanak AdriaMed-a. Associazioni della Pesca in Adriatico – Primo Meeting di AdriaMed. Jadranska ribiška združenja – Prvo srečanje v okviru AdriaMed-a. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-06. *AdriaMed Technical Documents*, 6: 168 pp.

AdriaMed. 2001. Report of the Third Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-07. *AdriaMed Technical Documents* 7: 34 pp.

Kolding, J. and Ubal Giordano, W. 2002. Lecture notes. Report of the AdriaMed Training Course on Fish Population Dynamics and Stock Assessment. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-08. *AdriaMed Technical Documents*, 8: 143pp.

AdriaMed. 2003. Report of the Fourth Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-09. *AdriaMed Technical Documents* 9: 39 pp.

AdriaMed. Aspects of Fish Markets in the Adriatic Sea. Report of the AdriaMed Meeting on the Aspects of Fish Markets in the Adriatic Sea. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD. *AdriaMed Technical Documents* (in preparation).

Vrgoč, N., Arneri, E., Jukić-Peladić S., Krstulović Šifner. S., Mannini, P., Marčeta B., Osmani, K., Piccinetti, C., and Ungaro, N. Review of current knowledge on demersal shared stocks of the Adriatic Sea. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD. *AdriaMed Technical Documents* (in preparation).

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