



*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 Third Meeting of the AdriaMed
Coordination Committee

Tirana, Albania 21-23 November 2001

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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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Preparation of this document

This document is the final version of the report of the Third Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee, organised by the FAO-AdriaMed Project (*Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea*) in Tirana, 21st –23rd November 2001.

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AdriaMed.

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ABSTRACT

The third 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 was held aimed at presenting and discussing the results of the activities carried out by the Project. The activities of the AdriaMed's Working Groups, the cooperative research programme, the training activities, the issues on the fishery socio-economic aspects and the Project's support to the national statistical systems are reported. Preliminary results on four field research projects were reported, "Identification of population units in Adriatic Sea shared stocks by genetic structure analysis", "Data collection and biological sampling system on small pelagics in the Adriatic Sea", "International bottom trawl survey in the Adriatic Sea; "Joint echo-survey and environmental parameters monitoring in the Northern Adriatic Sea (pilot exercise)". Other three research projects concerning the "Inventory of IOF-Split historical data set and time series", "Preparation of a critical review of the current knowledge and available data set on demersal fishery resources of the Adriatic Sea", and "Identification of management options for the Pomo/Jabuka critical area" are presented.

AdriaMed has appeared as a driving force at Mediterranean level on some issues such as the definition of operational units, the development of socio-economic indicators and the participation of professional organisations in the management planning process.

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Report of the Third Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee
Tirana (Albania), 21st – 23rd November 2001

Opening of the meeting and election of the Chairman (Agenda Item n.1)

1. The Third Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee was held in Tirana, Albania, from November 21st – 23rd 2001.
2. The meeting was attended by delegates from the countries participating in the Project (the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Italy and the Republic of Slovenia), representatives of FAO HQ, the delegate of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the European Commission (EC, DG XIV) representative, the AdriaMed National Focal Points and the FAO-AdriaMed staff. The list of participants is given in Annex A of this report.
3. The Director of Fisheries of the Albanian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Dr Roland Kristo, welcomed the Committee members and expressed his honour at having the Committee members gathered in Albania in occasion of the third AdriaMed Coordination Committee meeting.
4. The Albanian Minister of Food and Agriculture, His Excellency Agron Duka, welcomed all the delegates of the member countries to Albania. He expressed his pleasure and honour at being able to discuss the results and objectives attained in order to promote responsible fisheries among the Adriatic countries. He further emphasised the exemplary role of the AdriaMed Project in cooperating with the four member countries, Albania, Croatia, Italy and Slovenia, with the participation of the EC and having the aim of increasing collaboration between them.
5. In the name of the AdriaMed Project and the delegates of the participating countries, the Coordinator of the AdriaMed Project thanked Albania for hosting the third Coordination Committee meeting, in particular the Fishery Directorate and the Division of Foreign Relations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food for their support.
6. The Minister invited the participants to express their opinions regarding the activities of the AdriaMed Project. The text of the Minister's speech is given in Annex B of this report.
7. The Director of Fisheries of the Albanian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, was elected as Chairman and declared the meeting open.

Adoption of the Agenda (Agenda Item n. 2)

8. The Agenda (Annex C) was presented to the Coordination Committee. The Chairman requested any comments or alterations considered necessary. It was agreed to include Agenda Item n. 6 under agenda item n. 3. The Agenda was thus adopted.

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

9. A set of documents prepared by the Project staff was previously distributed to the participants of the meeting. The list of documents is given in Annex D.
10. The participants were informed that the activities were carried out on the basis of the methodology approved during the previous Coordination Committee meeting consisting of the identification of priority issues, the inventory phase, an *ad hoc* intervention in specific areas to strengthen national expertise (Special Advisory Services) and the establishing of the scientific network in the Adriatic Sea. This is considered one of the main objectives of AdriaMed.
11. The Project Coordinator introduced document CC/03/02 (Annex E), Report on Project's Progress in which the most relevant activities carried out by the Project during the intercommittee period were described. The participants were reminded that they were attending the 3rd meeting of the Coordination Committee aimed at presenting and discussing the results of the activities carried out by the Project. An appraisal from the members on the ongoing and future programme is considered fundamental for the achievements of AdriaMed's objectives.
12. The information included in CC/03/02 regards the activities of: AdriaMed's Working Groups; the cooperative research programme; the training activities; the issues on the fishery socio-economic aspects and the Project's support to the national statistical systems. It was also recalled that the activities carried out are considered the follow up to the 2nd Coordination Committee.
13. A brief outline of the general framework of the Project was given. Particular attention was paid to the organisational and functional structure established by the Project. The function of and role played by the AdriaMed Project components and Working Groups were also outlined. During the intercommittee period a total of eight meetings and working groups were held by AdriaMed. Their aims were: the implementation of research programmes; the organisation of training sessions and the preparation of AdriaMed's technical papers as scientific contributions in different fora. The activities on the Working Groups on the shared fishery resources, the implementation of the networks on the socio-economics aspects and the Adriatic fisheries associations were introduced.
14. As far as the cooperative research programme is concerned, the Committee was informed that seven research programmes are being implemented by the Project. Four are field research projects on: "Identification of population units in Adriatic Sea shared stocks by

genetic structure analysis”, “Data collection and biological sampling system on small pelagics in the Adriatic Sea”, “International bottom trawl survey in the Adriatic Sea; “Joint echo-survey and environmental parameters monitoring in the Northern Adriatic Sea (pilot exercise)”. The other three concern the: “Inventory of IOF-Split historical data set and time series”, “Preparation of a critical review of the current knowledge and available data set on demersal fishery resources of the Adriatic Sea”, and “Identification of management options for the Pomo/Jabuka critical area”.

15. It was brought to the Committee members’ attention that nine scientific institutions from Albania, Croatia, Italy and Slovenia are currently involved in the field research programmes. It was also recalled that all the field research activities were discussed during the previous Coordination Committee meeting. The training activities implemented by the Project were also listed. These are considered an integral part of the research.
16. As an outcome of the Working Groups’ proceedings, the Committee was also informed on a series of Technical Documents and Occasional Papers produced by the Project. Some AdriaMed documents such as those concerning the identification and definition of the Geographical Management Unit of the Adriatic Sea, the preliminary contribution to the Mediterranean Operational Unit and the list of Adriatic shared stocks are papers which were presented to the GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings. They represent a scientific contribution at basin and Mediterranean level.
17. It was mentioned that in the Second Coordination Committee meeting in Portorož (November 2000), Greece’s intention to join the AdriaMed Project was highlighted. To this respect, it was remarked that the Officer in Charge at the Fishery Directorate in Greece was contacted and provided with detailed information on the Project’s activities. The Greek Fishery Directorate renewed its interest in AdriaMed. In order to progress in this direction the organisation of a meeting in Athens was considered. Furthermore, the possible involvement of Montenegro, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was discussed. It was commented by all the delegates that it would be highly desirable if Montenegro were to join the AdriaMed countries. However, while the exchange of information could be pursued, the formal FAO procedure should be followed by the interested parties to allow the official participation of other countries in the AdriaMed Project.
18. The scientific activities and research programmes carried out during the last 12 months were further detailed to the Committee by the Secretariat. The identification and formulation process pursued by AdriaMed through the specific Working Groups were outlined. The Committee was informed particularly on the progress (the accomplishment in some cases) of the activities and research programmes mentioned under Para 14 of this report.
19. Details were given on the national scientific research institutions participating in the various programmes, the established common research protocols and the level of standardisation of the work. The on-the-job training sessions carried out so far were highlighted. Particular attention was given to the three-week long training course on fish

population dynamics and stock assessment (September 2001). Lastly, the coherence of the Project's programmes with the guidelines given in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, a central tenet of the AdriaMed initiative, was pointed out.

20. The Chairman thanked the Project staff for their presentations of AdriaMed's progress and activities. The representative of the GFCM commended the increasing general work being carried out by AdriaMed. In particular, he emphasised that most of the Project activities are the full contribution to the work of the GFCM/SAC. Furthermore, AdriaMed has appeared as a driving force at Mediterranean level on some issues such as the definition of operational units, the development of socio-economic indicators and the participation of professional organisations in the management planning process.
21. The EC (DG XIV) representative wished to thank the Albanian Government for hosting the meeting. He expressed the EC's satisfaction and support for AdriaMed's activities. He underlined that the Commission is closely following such regional initiatives as the AdriaMed and CopeMed Projects. It was remarked that the EC is fully aware of the outcome of the AdriaMed Project and that there is full satisfaction of, and support to, the efforts of both AdriaMed and its participating countries. The importance of an international cooperation to address fishery matters is also clearly stated in the Commission's Green Paper on the future of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), particularly in the sections concerning the Mediterranean Sea fisheries and the aspects on the participation of the fishing communities within the CFP.
22. The high appreciation for the support and aid given to the GFCM and the SAC was stressed. Furthermore, the full support and interest from the EC for the involvement pursued of the resource users in the AdriaMed framework were confirmed. Therefore, the Project's initiative is regarded with due attention and is extremely appreciated.
23. The Italian delegate expressed high satisfaction for the work carried out so far. The activities organised by the AdriaMed Project were positively appraised, in particular the effective and practical approach followed and the results that are being achieved.
24. The Croatian delegate wished to thank the Ministry of Agriculture and Food for holding this meeting in Albania. He also wished to acknowledge the Donor Country's effort in having made the AdriaMed Project initiative possible. All the work implemented was positively appraised and it was stated that Croatia is following the progress of the Project with much interest and it is very pleased with the Project's implementation and achievements. The support to the GFCM /SAC was considered relevant. It was stated that it would be advisable to consider future collaboration with ICCAT. This was fully supported by the Italian delegates as being a further progress to develop regional cooperation at the Mediterranean level on this issue.
25. The importance of the training courses was recognised among others by the Croatian representative. It was also considered desirable to also contemplate a training course on fishery management so as to facilitate cooperation among the fishery management authorities. Moreover, assistance should be given to strengthen the capability of the

national fishery administrations by improving the effectiveness of the communication between them and the fishery research institutes. Lastly, the consideration that is being given to the fishery associations was much appreciated and it was suggested to develop it further.

26. The on-going work on the identification of management options on the Pomo/Jabuka critical area was regarded as extremely relevant and served as an example to progress towards responsible fisheries management. In this respect, the Committee expressed its concern about the high proportion of juveniles in trawl catches. It was commented that it would be important to realise the research activity aimed at the improvement of the trawl net selectivity as identified at the first meeting of the AdriaMed Working Group on shared demersal resources. It was remarked, however, that a complete and detailed proposal had not yet been forwarded to the Project. The Italian delegation informed the Committee that research on trawl net selectivity has recently been financed by the Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry Policies. Therefore Croatian cooperation with this programme would be welcomed.
27. The Director of the Fishery Research Institute of Dürres expressed his satisfaction for the regular execution of all the planned AdriaMed activities in Albania. Regarding the campaign on demersal fishery, the Committee was informed that everything went normally and according to the work plan. However, it was observed that there is currently no expertise available on the use of software for the processing of the trawl survey data. Therefore, the Project was summoned to assist in filling this gap. It was emphasised that the training courses have produced very good results. The first step would then be to have biologists on stock assessment and the second step the need of a fishery management expert.
28. Concerning AdriaMed's support to national fishery statistics systems, the coordinator of this activity reported on the work done, the achievements accomplished and the possible handicaps and problems that might have prevented some achievements.
29. The reporting period was from December 2000 – November 2001 and the countries involved were Albania and Slovenia. As far as Croatia is concerned, it is worth remembering that there was a joint agreement to let the Croatian Administration conclude the present restructuring of the data collection system (expected in Feb. 2002) and then explore areas of cooperation between AdriaMed and the Croatian administration.
30. It was reported that a preliminary assessment of the statistical system had been done in Albania and Slovenia, and its outcome was agreed upon. A statistical support unit was established, and tasks had been assigned to the staff. The statistical survey design was completed and consisted of the census and the catch and effort survey.
31. As far as the census is concerned, its design has been completed and the methodology defined and approved by both Fishery Departments. Once adopted, a pilot survey was conducted with the assistance of the FAO-AdriaMed Task Force and by the national staff. A bilingual regional/national codification system was established and applied.

32. Concerning this first exercise, the aim of the census was to obtain a record of all the registered fishing units operating in the marine waters of Albania and Slovenia. Data to be collected have a common base (the country, the FAO-GFCM and the EC specifications) plus some extra information or data specific to a country. In a broad sense, data collected are classified by ownership, size/gear category, fishing area, fishing season, type of licence and age class, type/class of engines etc. The results of the census will also be used to build up the sampling frame for the catch and effort sample survey.
33. The data collection and processing system has been designed to be EU compliant as well as FAO/GFCM compliant. An automated bilingual reporting system will facilitate data transfer to EU, FAO, GFCM and other national and international institutions. In accordance with the Director of Fisheries of Albania, the Albanian “case” was presented. The field work was concluded and all data entered in the database. The software was customised mainly to satisfy short-medium term needs, but will be open to future improvements. Moreover, a preliminary statistical analysis was conducted by the team and results presented to the Committee. The DataBase AlbaStat can be considered completed in all its parts, and will be finalised and therefore closed in Rome. Should a future development be needed, appropriate steps will be taken.
34. Having completed most of the work in Albania, the group will concentrate mainly in assisting Slovenia to close and finalise the census along the same line as Albania. Once this process is over, the catch and effort sample survey will be designed and undertaken. According to the programme elaborated by FAO-AdriaMed, it is expected to have the complete prototype statistical system in place in the second half of the year 2002 (See point 49 and 57). The participants congratulated the Project, the Project team and the national staff for the work done.
35. The Project Coordinator informed the Committee on the establishment and initial progress of the AdriaMed Working Group on the socio-economic aspects of the Adriatic Sea fishery. It was recalled that two meetings had been organised during the inter-committee period: the meeting in Campobasso, the objective of which was to establish a network on socio-economics and to identify the priorities in the sector and the second one in Salerno for the preliminary detailing of the work plan.
36. The Committee was informed that for the first time the representative of the majority of the Adriatic fishers and fishing industry were called by AdriaMed. A short document was prepared and a series of activities were identified. The Project was called upon to implement these activities. This document will be translated into five languages.
37. Reference was made to the outcome of the work carried out so far on the socio-economic aspects of Adriatic fishery. The delegates agreed on the importance of the social and economic components of the fishery sector which are being included in the AdriaMed work programme. Satisfaction was also expressed for the progress achieved in order to involve and make the resource users aware of the AdriaMed work as they are key elements in the fishery management process. The Project was encouraged to continue pursuing this approach, finalising the establishment of the Adriatic fishery associations

network and the participation of the fishery associations in the forthcoming work on commercial aspects of the fishery.

38. The necessity for training was considered by the Committee, particularly on safety at sea, as expressed at the First Meeting of the Adriatic Fishery Associations (Split, July 2001). The Project was requested to consider ways to meet this demand especially by promoting the further development of cooperation among the national fishery associations.
39. The importance of the fishery resource users' involvement in verifying the effects of the fishery management process was highlighted. In this respect, it was stated that Italy is fully supportive of the AdriaMed approach. The Albanian representative wished to remark that support should be given to those countries in which fishery associations are less developed, particularly concerning the organisational and functioning aspects of more advanced associations.
40. The Croatian delegate referred to the bearing of social and economic aspects in the fishery management process. Furthermore, considering that all the non-EU member countries are in the process of either establishing a closer link or even joining the EU, it was proposed to AdriaMed to facilitate and support the exchange of information and experience concerning the critical phase of transition from the national to the EU system. In this respect, the experience gained by Italy as the only EU member country among those participating in AdriaMed was considered particularly useful. It was commented that there should not be any problem on the EC's side concerning this initiative that is indeed seen with interest and in which the EC itself could participate.
41. Following the discussion on the previous point, the issue of the support which may be provided by AdriaMed to foster the exchange of information among the national fishery management authorities was raised. For this purpose, it was agreed to organise a meeting involving the interested parties, mainly the Fisheries Directorate from each part. In this meeting the existing management measures adopted by each country could be discussed and the feasibility of their possible integration evaluated so as to ensure their effectiveness. It was underlined that one of the results of the work on the identification of management options for the Pomo/Jabuka area will further contribute to the process of cooperative fishery management at regional level. The Committee expressed full agreement on the issue.
42. The Secretariat informed the Committee that AdriaMed has become a member organisation of the Advisory Committee of the SAP BIO Project (Preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for the biodiversity in the Mediterranean Region). Possible ways for the two Projects to cooperate were discussed. It was agreed, however, that this should not imply a further demanding commitment for the Project, as it is already coping with a large number of tasks, and that this should not negatively affect the Project's performance. Slovenia and Albania found this cooperation worthy of further consideration. Through AdriaMed, FAO will make available the technical reports available, the preparation of which has been agreed on with the SAP BIO Project. The feasibility of the joint organisation of a workshop on the impact of fishing on marine

biodiversity in the Adriatic Sea will have to be assessed by the AdriaMed management together with the SAP BIO Project.

43. With reference to marine biodiversity, the Croatian delegate reiterated that consideration should be given to developing the work on fishing gear selectivity and gear standardisation. The impact on both target and by-catch species should also be taken into account.
44. The Project Coordinator briefed the Committee on the initial progress of the MedSudMed Project that was funded by Italy through the Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry Policies and executed by the FAO under the management of AdriaMed. The delegates were informed that operative aspects of the MedSudMed work programme were going to be discussed by the participating countries (Italy, Libya, Malta, and Tunisia) within a few days in Tunisia.
45. All the delegates, however, while showing appreciation for the start-up of the aforementioned new regional project and recognising that this could represent an element of further cooperation among the countries, also expressed their concern for the increased duties of AdriaMed. The Project is already committed to many tasks and duties in almost all main sectors of the Adriatic fisheries. The FAO HQ-based officer in charge of the coordination of the FAO regional project in the Mediterranean communicated to the Committee that some arrangements are being undertaken to ensure the running of both Projects. The GFCM representative informed the meeting that FAO was fully aware of the risk of jeopardizing AdriaMed's strength as the project staff was already limited in view of current planned activities. He further stressed that logistical aspects may become even more difficult, time and efficiency consuming under the new set-up and that therefore, this particular aspect should be carefully reviewed.
46. The AdriaMed Coordinator recognised that AdriaMed is already approaching the limit of its possibility to maintain its timely and qualitative standards of performance. The Committee considered it appropriate to require the AdriaMed management to assess the situation and to propose possible options within three months, also taking into account the logistic aspects, optimising the operational costs.

Development of the Project's activities (Agenda Item 4)

47. Reference was made to the document CC/03/04 (Annex F). The AdriaMed Coordinator considered that at this stage of the Project's implementation the main tasks consist of strengthening the established AdriaMed Working Groups and further developing or finalising, when needed, the programmes and activities that have been positively initiated. The Italian representative proposed, and the participants agreed, to consider all the programmes and topics reported in Table 1 and 2 of the document mentioned above. The Committee concurred as follows:

48. Data Collection and Biological Sampling System on Small Pelagics in the Adriatic Sea: This programme was considered worth continuing provided that the compliance with the recently issued (June 2000) EC guidelines on fishery data collection would be as much as possible ensured and the integration with the national fishery statistics systems would be sought.
49. Preparation of a critical review of the current knowledge and available data sets on demersal resources: Upon appraisal of this review document which is being completed, a similar work could be undertaken for both the small and large pelagic fishery resources of the Adriatic Sea.
50. Inventory of the IOF-Split historical data sets and time series of abiotic and biotic variables: Such an inventory was considered extremely useful to fully exploit the highly valuable historical fishery related information that has been collected since a long time in the Adriatic Sea. It was suggested to make such an inventory widely accessible as a way of promoting multidisciplinary scientific international cooperation.
51. Identification of Population Units in Adriatic Sea Shared Stocks by Genetic Structure Analysis: Currently, seven priority species whose stocks are shared in the Adriatic are being analysed for genetic homogeneity/heterogeneity. The Italian delegate informed the Committee that, following a national research programme funded by the Italian Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry Policies, seven other species, identified by the AdriaMed Working Groups as a priority will be screened using the same methodology. The Committee concurred that further work could be carried out on other species on the basis of the results obtained, however what will be achieved at the end of the programme concerned could already be regarded as highly satisfactory.
52. AdriaMed bottom trawl survey: The national delegation strongly supported the establishment of a regular trawl survey execution as a fundamental element in the fishery resources appraisal process. In this respect, it was highly appreciated that Albania is considering to participate in this initiative in 2002 with its own national funds. The Committee agreed that while this programme should be continued, each country should assess the possibility of fully or partly participating to meet the costs in order to ensure the sustainability of such resource monitoring activities.
53. Identification of Management Options for the Pomo/Jabuka critical habitat: It was confirmed that the basic draft of this important reference document will be prepared by the *ad hoc* Working Party by the end of the year 2001. The final document including the management options proposal should possibly be made available for discussion at the foreseen meeting of the national fishery management authorities.
54. Pilot Joint Echo-survey in the northern part of the Adriatic Sea to assess the pelagic fish biomass and the correlation with environmental parameters: First, it was deemed necessary to have available the results of the current exercise. The further extension of such surveys to a larger portion of the Adriatic Sea should, however, take into account the relatively high costs involved. Contemporary surveys might be carried out in the eastern

and western Adriatic Sea sectors should Croatia be in the position to execute acoustic surveys with its own financial means and equipment.

55. Technical document on “source and accessibility of socio-economic data in AdriaMed member countries”: This was considered as a support document for the Working Group on fishery socio-economics. It was also necessary to formulate the work plan to be executed around the Adriatic.
56. Technical document on the Adriatic Fleet: Same as above. However, it was stressed that data collection work within each field (fishery statistics, resources, socio-economics) should as much as possible be integrated also ensuring compliance with the EC guidelines previously mentioned.
57. Review of the Professional Fishery Associations of the Adriatic Sea: This is one of the follow-ups to the Memorandum agreed on by the participants of the first AdriaMed meeting of the Adriatic Fishery Associations.
58. Technical Document reviewing the fishery management measures adopted by the Adriatic Countries: The Project will consider how to prepare this document.
59. Large pelagics: Further to the possible preparation of the review document mentioned under point 49, the Committee agreed on the organization of a specific AdriaMed Working Group to identify priority topics and possible ways to collaborate with the ICCAT.
60. Trawl gear technology: The Committee agreed that AdriaMed should assist in the cooperation between Croatia and Italy concerning the experimental work on fishing gear technology. This research was considered relevant because it aims at improving the trawl net selectivity and at reducing the by-catch.
61. Concerning the participation in the expert consultation on the relationship between fisheries and aquaculture, it was suggested to involve the multidisciplinary participation of fishery experts and the administrations. The Committee was informed that for this consultation the preparation of a reference document is being considered by AdriaMed.
62. With reference to the Working Groups and network activities listed in Table 2 of CC/03/04, the Project was requested to keep the experts informed and when appropriate to involve those from other disciplines. It was further stressed that the representative of the fishery associations will be invited to the AdriaMed Socio-Economic expert meeting on the Adriatic fish market.
63. The planned AdriaMed Seminar on Fishing Capacity was introduced to the Committee by the Secretariat. It was explained that the Seminar would deal with the Fishing Capacity definition, measurement and assessment, a topic considered relatively new for the Mediterranean. The Seminar will be run together with the FAO FIPP staff and it will also focus on the characteristics of the Mediterranean fisheries. The participants at the

Seminar are expected to be fishery biologists, economists, managers and representatives of the fishery associations.

64. The Committee considered the implementation of the Seminar on Fishing Capacity as a part of the AdriaMed activities related to the fisheries management in the Adriatic Sea.
65. The Seminar on Fishing Capacity was regarded as an aspect related to the issue of training on fishery management that had been raised during the discussion as a priority topic. It was observed that within the Project's implementation strategy, it was foreseen to tackle this component. Therefore, the Committee agreed that the AdriaMed Seminar mentioned above together with a training session on how to formulate scientific advice for fishery management, a meeting of the national fishery management authorities, and the use of the Pomo/Jabuka topic as a pilot case, would constitute a convenient and sound way to approach the AdriaMed's Fishery Management Component. The same meeting suggested previously on the administration and EU's integration means will be included in the fishery management component.

Other ongoing and planned Project Activities (Agenda Item n. 5)

66. With reference to this agenda item, the Committee agreed on the content of Section D of the document CC/03/04 that deals with strengthening the relationship at Mediterranean level and the relation between AdriaMed, the GFCM, and other international Projects. Concerning the support to the GFCM-SAC activities it was noted that the Terms of References for the various SAC Sub-Committees for the intersessional period were not yet available. However, in order to prepare AdriaMed's contribution to that meeting, it was suggested to organise the Joint Meeting of the AdriaMed Working Group on Shared Demersal and Small Pelagic Fishery Resources before the SAC meeting.
67. Moreover, the Committee considered cooperative initiatives in the fishing sector opportune and agreed that participating countries should inform AdriaMed of others even if localised on a small-scale. This useful information would then be made available for further dissemination on the AdriaMed website which is being visited by an increasing number of users.
68. The Meeting was informed that Albania would join the SIPAM through the support of AdriaMed.
69. Lastly, the Committee took note with satisfaction that the Adriatic Region has been included as a Regional Component of the FAO global FishCode Programme due to the relevance of the Code's implementation on the work being carried out through AdriaMed.

Project's means of Communication (Agenda item n. 6)

70. This Agenda item has been amended to be included within Agenda item n. 3.

Other matters (Agenda item n.7)

71. No other matters were raised by the participants.

72. All the delegates and Meeting participants wished to express their thanks to the Albanian authorities for the kind and friendly hospitality.

Date and venue of the next Coordination Committee meeting (Agenda item 8)

73. Upon the kind invitation and favourable disposition of the Government of Croatia the next Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee will take place in Split. The date will be proposed in due time by the Project. This decision was much appreciated by the Meeting participants.

74. The Report of the Meeting was adopted on November 23rd 2001.

List of Participants

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Annex B

Welcome Speech of Mr Agron Duka, Minister of Food and Agriculture

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and gentlemen

It is my pleasure to welcome all the delegates of the member countries of the AdriaMed Project who are gathered today in Tirana. Their purpose is to discuss the results attained and the future objectives so as to promote responsible fishery among the coastal countries of the Adriatic Sea and achieve a scientific and responsible exploitation of our joint resources.

This Project exemplifies the cooperation between the four participating countries: Albania, Croatia, Italy and Slovenia, and is under the umbrella of the FAO with the participation of the European Community. Its aim is to continue strengthening the cooperation between these countries and to provide scientific bases for the exploitation and management of joint resources.

The involvement of the public administrations and of the scientific research in the Project's implementation is a guarantee for the success of the entire Project.

We are convinced that the fishery realities in the Adriatic, in the participating countries, are different among themselves but at the same time they have many similarities as Mediterranean countries.

Within this context, the Project's implementation will make sure that the management, the scientific-technical coordination between the research institutions and the administrations, and the involvement of the resource users of each country are based on responsible fishery following the principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the FAO.

Welcoming the activities of the Coordination Committee, I would like to emphasise that in the last ten years Albania has been undergoing a period of transition that has had repercussions in the fishery sector as well.

The fishery development faced many difficulties that are gradually being overcome. The fishery sector is one of considerable importance not only within the context of agriculture but also in the country's economy in general. It represents a source of well-being and an exportation potential toward the European markets. This sector is at present in an intensive phase of development not only in the exploitation of marine resources but also in the aquaculture internal waters etc.

Aware of the importance of the sector, the Albanian Government planned and is planning important interventions for its support. Among these are the interventions from the foreign donors such as PHARE of the European Community and the investments estimated from the State's budget. Just a few days ago a credit of 5.6 million dollars was negotiated with the World Bank for the support of the sector and the improvements of the harbour infrastructures and services as well as the involvement of fishers' communities in the management of resources.

The integration of Albania in the European Union is one of the priority objectives of the Albanian government. In the following months, the opening of negotiations for the association with the European Union is an important step toward the Country's process of integration in the European structures. In this context we are aiming at directing the development policies of the fishing sector in accordance with the European Community's fishery policies. We must indeed confirm that in the Albanian economy this process will have its costs and effects in relation to the Country's level of development. The implementation of these policies requires a continual technical assistance in the training of Albanian experts, the support of scientific research for a responsible management of the resources.

The following will certainly have a positive impact for the fishery policies in Albania: the system of data collection and processing according to the standards of the FAO and the European Community that is already being developed with the support of the Project, the improvement of the scientific capacities of the Fishery Research Institute, the contacts between the scientists of the Project's member countries, and the involvement of the fishing community.

In conclusion, I would like to take the opportunity to extend good wishes and hope that everyone enjoys the meeting of the Coordination Committee that will certainly bring positive results for the future of the AdriaMed Project.

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 of the Project's programme for the coming period
5. Other ongoing and planned Project activities
6. The Project's means of communication
7. Other matters
8. Date and venue of the next Coordination Committee meeting

List of Documents

FAO AdriaMed: CC/03/01	Provisional Agenda
FAO AdriaMed: CC/03/02	Report on Project's Progress (November 2000-October 2001)
FAO AdriaMed: CC/03/03	Project communication
FAO AdriaMed: CC/03/04	Development of the Project's Programme for the next year
FAO AdriaMed: CC/03/Info 1	List of Participants
FAO AdriaMed: CC/03/Info 2	Information on Aquatic and Fishery Science (within the framework of AdriaASFA)
FAO AdriaMed: CC/03/Info 3	<p>The geographical management units of the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-02.</p> <p>The biology and stock assessment of <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> (L.) in the Adriatic Sea: an historical review by geographical management units. GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-03.</p> <p>A preliminary contribution to the Mediterranean Operational Units. GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-04.</p> <p>The FAO-AdriaMed Project and its activities of interest to the SAP BIO Project. GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-05.</p>
FAO AdriaMed: CC/03/Info 4	<p>Meeting of the AdriaMed Working Groups on Shared Fishery Resources (Fano, Italy, 17th - 18th October 2001). Meeting Memorandum GCP/RER/010/ITA/OM-56.</p> <p>Proposed guidelines for the preparation of a technical document on the identification of management options for the Pomo/Jabuka critical area (Fano, Italy, 17th - 18th October 2001). Meeting Memorandum GCP/RER/010/ITA/OM-57.</p> <p>The 2nd AdriaMed meeting of Socio-Economic Aspects of the Adriatic Sea Fishery (Salerno, Italy, 25th - 26th October 2001). Meeting Memorandum GCP/RER/010/ITA/OM-60.</p> <p>AdriaMed - Pilot Joint EchoSurvey in the northern part of the Adriatic Sea to assess the pelagic fish biomass and the correlation with environmental parameters (Split, Croatia 2nd October 2001). Meeting Memorandum GCP/RER/010/ITA/OM-61.</p>

FAO AdriaMed: CC/03/Info 5	Socio-economic aspects of the Adriatic Sea fisheries. Report of AdriaMed Meeting on Socio-Economic Aspects of the Adriatic Sea Fishery Sector. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-05. <i>AdriaMed Technical Documents, 5.</i>
FAO AdriaMed: CC/03/Info 6	Adriatic Sea professional fishery associations. Report of the Adriatic Fishery Associations, First AdriaMed Meeting. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-06. <i>AdriaMed Technical Documents, 6</i> (draft version).
FAO AdriaMed: CC/03/Info 7	List of Documents

Report on Project's Progress

Introduction

This paper summarises the most significant activities carried out by the Project AdriaMed between November 2000 and 2001. The activities described concern the work programme approved during the 2nd Coordination Committee meeting held in Portorož, Slovenia, 22-23 November 2001 (GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-04, refers) and represent the follow-up to that meeting.

During the 2nd Coordination Committee meeting an operative programme was identified and reviewed and its implementation was scheduled. Emphasis was placed on the priorities identified by AdriaMed's Working Groups (WGs) on shared fishery resources.

AdriaMed activities followed the methodological approach based on the framework established during the 1st Coordination Committee meeting (GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-01 refers). The activities presented were based on the two main groups of Project Components: the "*Inventory phase*" and the "*Special Advisory Services*". All activities aim to strengthen the network established in the AdriaMed area and at Mediterranean level.

1. Project Components, development and results

1.1 Working Groups and *ad hoc* meetings

The AdriaMed WGs represent an important functional tool in implementing the Project Components, identifying the scientific priorities and in creating a regional scientific network. They are also an initial step towards sharing scientific knowledge on fisheries at basin level. AdriaMed has organised three Working Groups and three *ad hoc* meetings during the last 12 months. Both the WGs and the meetings focused on the establishment of a permanent network of scientific institutions and researchers, as well as on the execution of "*coordinated research programmes and scientific activities together with increased skills and related capacities through training*", as indicated in the Project Document. The main outcome of the Working Groups is the identification and formulation of the necessary scientific research programmes and training courses as well as the preparation of Technical Documents and Occasional Papers (Table 1).

Table1. Main output of the AdriaMed Working Groups.

Title	Aims/Contents
"Ad hoc expert consultation on the Geographical Management Unit" (Fano, Italy 9th – 10th January 2001)	The meeting was considered as follow up to the AdriaMed meetings on shared demersal and small pelagic fishery resources held during 2000. The aim of meeting was to redefine the proposed GFCM criteria for the division of the Adriatic fishing area into Management Units.
Joint Meeting of the AdriaMed Working Groups on Shared Demersal and Small Pelagic Fishery Resources (Bari, Italy 13th - 15th February 2001)	This meeting focused primarily on the research activities to be carried out within the context of AdriaMed. During the meeting progress on the definition and limits of Management Units was examined. The discussion also covered the Operational Units in the Adriatic Sea, a regional approach was formulated as well as a practical contribution from AdriaMed on this issue.
"Ad hoc expert consultation on the Operational Units" (Fano, Italy 19th – 20th March 2001)	As follow-up to the previous AdriaMed Joint Meeting, this expert consultation aimed at defining the content of the documents to be presented at the GFCM-SAC meeting on Operational Units. Small pelagic species were considered for the preparation of the document. The meeting was attended by experts from Croatia, Slovenia and Italy. The results were presented to and discussed with the experts from Albania.
GFCM-SAC Working Groups on Operational Units (co-organized by AdriaMed and SAC, Ancona, Italy 18th -20th April 2001)	This meeting was co-organized in cooperation with the SAC-SCSI. During the meeting the results of the AdriaMed paper "Preliminary contribution to the Mediterranean Operational Units" were presented. 21 experts coming from 18 institutions attended the meeting.
The First AdriaMed Meeting on Socio Economic Aspects of the Adriatic Sea Fishery Sector (Campobasso, Italy, 28th - 29th May 2001)	The meeting focused on the establishment of a regional network of experts on socio-economics, the preliminary identification of a common work programme and the identification of areas of cooperation.
The Adriatic Fishery Associations - First AdriaMed Meeting (Split, Croatia, 17th- 18th July 2001)	The aims of the meeting were: to transfer recent developments and knowledge acquired by AdriaMed to the Adriatic fishery sector; to discuss matters related to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; to create the opportunity for the fishery resource user associations of the Adriatic to meet for the first time; to identify and discuss common and priority issues around the Adriatic basin; to establish a regional (Adriatic) network.
Meeting of the AdriaMed Working Groups on Shared Fishery Resources (Fano, Italy 17th – 18th October 2001)	The meeting focused on updating Project activities already implemented concerning shared small pelagic and demersal fishery resources of the Adriatic Sea and on preparing the research protocol for the work on the Pomo/Jabuka area. The meeting was organised in sub-sessions: the first dealt with demersal fishery resources, the second concerned small pelagic fishery resources and the third the identification of management options for the Pomo/Jabuka critical habitat.

1.2 Adriatic Sea Shared Stocks (Project Component AdriaSHARE)

a) AdriaSHARE - Output 1. Cooperative Research Programme:

The AdriaMed cooperative research programmes result from the priorities identified by the Working Groups. Most of the cooperative research is executed at Adriatic basin level and involves national research institutes from Albania, Croatia, Italy and Slovenia.

Priority topics related to the shared demersal and small pelagic fishery resources were identified in the framework of the AdriaMed Working Groups. The research priorities were presented and discussed at the 2nd AdriaMed Coordination Committee meeting held in Portorož, Slovenia in November 2000. The research activities identified were discussed at the joint meeting of the AdriaMed Working Group on “Priority Topics Related to Shared Demersal and Small Pelagic Resources in the Adriatic Sea” which was held in February 2001 in Bari, Italy.

The five AdriaMed research programmes currently involve nine different Research Institutions from Albania, Croatia, Italy and Slovenia. The list of research activities is in Table 2. The background rationale, the methodology and the expected results are available in the report of the 2nd AdriaMed Coordination Committee Meeting (GCP/RER/010/TD-04, refers).

Table 2. AdriaMed Research activities.

Identification of population units in the Adriatic Sea shared stocks by genetic structure analysis.	A research programme on the genetic structure of some target species in the Adriatic Sea is being carried out. This programme aims at assessing the genetic structure of target shared stocks and improving the knowledge on biological stock units. This programme includes research institutes from Slovenia, Croatia and Italy.
Data Collection and Biological Sampling System on Small Pelagics in the Adriatic Sea.	The objective of the research programme is to monitor and assess Adriatic small pelagic stocks at regional level through the knowledge of fishery dynamics and exploitation patterns of main commercial Adriatic pelagic fish stocks. This programme involves research institutes from Slovenia, Croatia, Italy and Albania.
International bottom trawl survey in the Adriatic Sea	The objective is to execute a joint appraisal survey of ground fishery in the Adriatic Sea. The activities focus on the eastern sector of the Adriatic. Cooperation has been established with similar research activities implemented on the west coast. The Project involves research institutes from Albania, Croatia, Italy and Slovenia.
Pilot Joint Echo-survey in the northern part of the Adriatic Sea to assess the pelagic fish biomass and the correlation with environmental parameters.	This research programme aims to strengthen scientific cooperation concerning echo survey studies at basin level with particular emphasis on improving scientific capacity in Adriatic nations. This programme will include three main tasks: Joint echo-survey exercise; Training on Echo-survey data collection and processing; Environmental parameters monitoring. The project involves research institutes from Croatia, Italy and Slovenia.

b) AdriaSHARE - Output 2. Training Activities:

In order to develop international scientific cooperation and to share existing and acquired knowledge, it is necessary to create and maintain a standard methodological approach where research activities are concerned. Furthermore, to ensure that there is an effective exchange of information and scientific knowledge around the region, it is essential to have suitably qualified human resources in the region's scientific institutes. For this reason during the 1st and 2nd Coordination Committee meetings emphasis was put on the need to include on-the-job training courses as a major part of the AdriaMed research activities.

During the last 12 months AdriaMed has carried out 3 training courses involving 21 trainees from the four participating countries (Table 3).

Table 3. AdriaMed Training courses.

Title	Content
Identification of population units in the Adriatic Sea shared stocks by genetic structure analysis (Ravenna, Italy 7th – 12th May 2001)	•containing a total of four participants and three research institutes
Data Collection and biological sampling system on small pelagics in the Adriatic Sea (Ancona, Italy 8th – 11th May 2001)	•covering a total of five participants and four research institutes.
Training course on fish population dynamics and stock assessment (Split, Croatia 10th – 29th September 2001)	•involving a total of twelve participants and five research institutes.

c) AdriaSHARE - Output 3. Technical Documents and Occasional Papers:

The proceedings of the activities carried out by the Working Groups and the “ad hoc” meetings are reported in the AdriaMed Technical Documents and the Occasional Papers. These are prepared by groups of experts from the Adriatic scientific institutes and the Project staff. Some topics discussed during the Working Groups constitute a scientific contribution at Mediterranean level. This underlines the importance of AdriaMed's role as a pilot project in the region.

During the period considered the following AdriaMed documents were published (Table 4a). Other Technical Documents are being prepared or finalised, these are included Table 4b.

Table 4a. Documents produced by the AdriaMed Working Groups.

Technical Documents and Occasional Papers	
Title	Info
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 (GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-03, refers).
The Geographical Management Units of the Adriatic Sea.	Paper presented at the GFCM-SAC Working Group on Management Units (Alicante, 23 rd -25 th January 2001). (GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-02: refers).
“The biology and stock assessment of <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> (L.) in the Adriatic Sea: an historical review by geographical management units.	Paper was presented at the GFCM-SAC Working Group on Demersal Species, Tunis, 13 th -16 th March 2001 (GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-03, refers).
A preliminary contribution to the Mediterranean Operational Units.	Paper was presented at the GFCM-SAC Working Group on Operational Units Ancona, 18 th -19 th March 2001 (GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-04, refers).

Table 4b. Other documents under preparation.

Other technical documents that are under preparation	
Title	Info
Inventory of the IOF-Split historical data sets and time series abiotic and biotic variables	In preparation
Critical review of the current knowledge and available data sets on demersal resources	In preparation

1.3 AdriaMed activities concerning Socio-Economic aspects of Adriatic Fisheries.

The issue of socio-economic aspects of Adriatic fisheries is highlighted in several AdriaMed Project Components and is considered highly relevant for improved resource management. Socio-economic analysis allows essential information to be obtained for a greater understanding of the fishery sector as well as providing the knowledge required for the management of fisheries. The importance of establishing a network of socio-economists at basin level was discussed during the 2nd Coordination Committee and the difficult to identify experts at a regional level was underlined. During this period the Project paid particular attention to establishing an experts network and to identifying the current knowledge on the socio-economics of Adriatic Sea Fisheries. This was achieved through the organisation of a specific Working Group.

The first AdriaMed meeting on Socio-Economic Aspects of the Adriatic Sea Fishery Sector was held at the University of Molise in Campobasso, Italy on the 28th and 29th May 2001. The current knowledge of the socio-economic aspects of the Adriatic Sea Fisheries was brought forward for discussion. Particular emphasis was placed on the results of the GFCM SAC Sub Committee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS) meeting held in Rome. The initial establishment of a regional network of experts on socio economics, the preliminary

identification of a common work programme and the identification of areas of cooperation were the output of the meeting (GCP/RER/010/ITA TD-05 refers).

A second meeting was held on the 25th and 26th October 2001 in Salerno, Italy as follow up to the previous meeting in Campobasso, it focused primarily on the preparation of the work plan. Four tasks were identified and prioritised by the participants in a Meeting Memorandum.

1.4 Adriatic Fishery Resource Users' Forum (Project Component AdriaFReUF)

The Adriatic Fishery Associations - First AdriaMed Meeting was held in Split, Croatia on July 17th – 18th 2001. The aims of the meeting were: to transfer recent developments and knowledge acquired by AdriaMed to the Adriatic fishery sector; to gain a deeper understanding of production in the Adriatic; to discuss matters related to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; to create the opportunity for the fishery resource user associations of the Adriatic (Albania, Croatia, Italy and Slovenia) to meet for the first time; to identify and discuss common and priority issues around the Adriatic basin which can see the intervention and support of the AdriaMed Project; to establish a regional (Adriatic) network. The regional network could promote the presence of the fishery resource users in relevant international fora, notably the GFCM. As a result, the AdriaMed Project was called upon to encourage the establishment of such a network and its activities. The possibility of organising a meeting of the network at least once a year was also considered.

In a Meeting Memorandum the common priority topics were highlighted by the participants the Project was called on to support some activities such as the preparation of document on the description of fishery associations; the legal aspects; promotion of pilot activities and the execution of training sessions and seminars.

1.5 Direct support to the administrations of member countries to build up national fishery statistics systems

The first meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee, among other issues, approved the creation of a sub-regional fisheries monitoring system based on standardised methodologies, sub-regional data-bases and networking systems covering all issues related to biological, socio-economic and environmental aspects of fisheries management planning. On this occasion the Committee also took note of the priority plan formulated to:

- set standards for the collection of statistical data, as well as facilitating the dissemination of information, data and statistics;
- the development of Governments' and national scientific institutes' capacities with particular emphasis on human resources, thus enabling them to collect and analyse information, carry-out research, implement improved policies and practices and to tackle major issues concerning fishery resource management.

Within this context, the Project is currently involved in providing direct technical assistance in Slovenia and in Albania in order to build up national expertise in the fields of data collection and information systems. Its aim is to support national fishery statistical systems by setting up statistical units to collect and evaluate data on the number of fishing vessels operating in the countries and systematically conduct catch and effort assessment surveys.

1.6 Information on Aquatic and Fishery Sciences (AdriaASFA)

AdriaMed is now actively providing improved access within participating countries to publications and information on aquatic sciences and fisheries. A new record batch was sent at the end of June to the ASFA publisher CSA, thus increasing the contribution of the Project to the ASFA database. AdriaMed attended the ASFA Advisory Board Meeting held in Brest, France from June 19th – 22nd 2001. On that occasion AdriaMed illustrated its intersessional report (2000-2001) and was introduced for the first time 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.

2. Strengthening of the network established in the AdriaMed area and cooperation at basin level

The links between the Project and the participating Institutions represent the AdriaMed Network. This consists of an interaction between research institutions and administrative bodies as well as computerised links between the participating countries. To facilitate this connection a mailing list of experts and researchers was prepared and the computer network and communication system were defined; the computer equipment necessary for the Project's purposes in Albania was determined; the new portal style AdriaMed website was created and published. The technical documents and relevant results of the Project were sent to the AdriaMed network and the AdriaMed distribution list including about 250 people, 104 institutions and 17 countries.

2.1 Relations with the participating countries.

A series of missions within the AdriaMed region were carried out by the Project staff. Missions were held at: the Fisheries Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Albania; the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food, Slovenia and at several research institutes around the Adriatic. Further missions took place at several research centres in Croatia and Italy. These missions were carried out with the aim of strengthening collaboration on Project activities with specific reference to the coordination of Working Groups, data collection and the implementation of cooperative research. At present, there are twelve national research institutes participating in the AdriaMed Working Groups and scientific activities (six from Italy; two from Albania; two from Croatia; two from Slovenia), for an approximate total of forty-five scientists. The research institutions are those

dealing with the biological and socio-economic sciences. There are currently eight Fisheries Associations participating in the AdriaMed network.

2.2 Relationship and cooperation with the GFCM

During the last 12 months cooperation with the GFCM was reinforced. This concentrated mainly on participation and collaboration with Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) activities. This cooperation consists not only in supporting the participation of the experts coming from the Adriatic area but also in the preparation of technical documents. This AdriaMed contribution is the result of joint activities by experts coming from all the Adriatic countries involved in the Project.

AdriaMed took part in the GFCM-SAC Sub Committee meetings on Stock Assessment, Economic and Social Sciences and Statistics and Information held in Rome in May 2001. The contributions of the AdriaMed experts were presented to the delegates. Furthermore, AdriaMed supported the participation of experts from Adriatic countries to the SAC meetings as reported in Table 5.

Table 5. GFCM-SAC Meeting with AdriaMed's participation.

The SAC Working Group on Management Units (Alicante, 23 th -25 th January 2001). During the meeting the AdriaMed contribution "The geographical management units of the Adriatic Sea" was presented.
The SAC Working Group on Demersal Species (Tunis, 13 th -16 th March 2001). During the meeting the AdriaMed contribution "The biology and stock assessment of <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> (L.) in the Adriatic Sea: an historical review by geographical management units" was presented.
The 2 nd Session of the SAC – Sub Committee on Economics and Social Sciences (Rome, 15 th –18 th May).
The 2 nd Session of the SAC – Sub Committee on Marine Environments and Ecosystems (Rome, 15 th – 18 th May).
The 3 rd Session of the SAC – Sub Committee on Stock Assessment (Rome, 15 th –18 th May).
The 4 th Session of the SAC held in Athens, 4 th –7 th June.

The activities of AdriaMed were also reviewed during the 26th session of the GFCM held in Italy (Ischia) last September.

2.3 Presence of the Project within other international scenarios

UNEP – MAP Since February 2001, AdriaMed has been a member organisation of the Advisory Committee of the United Nations Environment Programme – Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP-MAP) SAP-BIO Project, in this capacity AdriaMed attended at the "First Meeting of the national correspondents of the project for the preparation of a strategic action plan for the conservation of biological diversity (SAP-BIO) in the Mediterranean region". Several activities being implemented by AdriaMed and which are of relevance to the SAP-

BIO Project were mentioned at the meeting. It was pointed out that AdriaMed will promote closer links between its National Focal Points and the SAP-BIO National Correspondents. The flow of information and the optimisation of activities, which are coherent with the mandate of the two projects, will thus be ensured.

FishCode During the second Coordination Committee meeting AdriaMed was asked to strengthen its partnership with other countries in order to promote and strengthen understanding of the concept of responsible fisheries. Due to its efforts in this direction AdriaMed has been included as a regional project component of the global project FAO - FishCode and is monitored by the FishCode programme as an example of a regional project focusing on the implementation of the Code of Conduct within a specific geographical area. FishCode is a FAO special programme of global partnership to promote responsible fisheries. The overall objective is to raise the economic, social and nutritional benefits obtained from fisheries, especially in coastal fishing communities, through the adoption of responsible fisheries managements and resource conservation policies and practices.

SIBM AdriaMed took part in the 32nd Congress of the SIBM (Società Italiana di Biologia Marina) in June 2001. The Project's organisation, strategy and activities were presented to the participants.

COPEMED Project Cooperation between the two Projects has continued through the exchange of technical documents and attendance at some of the Projects' meetings. A coordination meeting between AdriaMed and COPEMED was held in Rome in March 2001 focussing on some common issues dealt with by the two Projects in their respective coverage areas. In October 2001 the AdriaMed Coordinator took part in the 9th COPEMED Steering Committee.

3. MedSudMed Project (GCP/RER/010/ITA)

During the first AdriaMed Coordination Committee meeting the implementation of the a new Trust Fund Project MedSudMed "Assessment and Monitoring of the Fishery Resources and the Ecosystems in the Straits of Sicily" financed by the Italian Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policies, was discussed. This Project has been operative since April 2001, and is under the responsibility of AdriaMed.

The headquarters of MedSudMed is the Institute for Research on Marine Resources and the Environment (IRMA-CNR), Mazara del Vallo, Trapani, Italy. FAO implemented this Project under the leadership of the mother-Project AdriaMed (GCP/RER/010/ITA) and with the technical supervision of the Marine Resources Service (FIRM) at FAO-HQ in Rome, where a Fishery Resources Officer is in charge of the coordination of the Project's activities.

The Republics of Italy, Malta and Libyan Arab Jamahiriya have signed the Project document and the signature of the Republic of Tunisia is imminent. Since 1st April 2001 FAO has been setting up the Project headquarters and organising staff recruitment following the necessary procedures.

Development of the Project's Programme for the coming period

The activities scheduled for the next inter-committee period are summarised below. Most of them are in progress and others are the follow-up to the *AdriaMed* Working Groups. The Coordination Committee members are called on to provide the Project with their opinions and advice. The methodology applied will follow the same approach pursued by *AdriaMed* through its Working Groups and network.

During the coming year *AdriaMed* plans to continue developing and strengthening the following areas of Project activity:

- Implementation of the Research Programmes (field researches, studies and reviews)
- Reinforcing the activities of the *AdriaMed* WGs and network (including training components)
- Support to the national fishery statistics systems in the participating countries
- Improving relations at Mediterranean level in particular between *AdriaMed*, the GFCM and other regional projects

a) Cooperative Research Programme (field research, studies and reviews)

The cooperative research programme covers field research and the activities concerning studies and reviews identified by the *AdriaMed* Working Groups and implemented by the Project.

With reference to the programme of research activities implemented by the Project, as indicated in the Report on the Project's Progress (CC/03/02), most of them are related to the issues of Adriatic Shared Fishery Resources (demersal and small pelagics) and are planned to finish by July 2002 (Table 1).

Table 1. AdriaMed Cooperative Research Programme (November 2001 – November 2002).

	Institutions	End of Activities	Final Report Scheduled
Field Research and Studies and Review related to the Shared Fisheries Resources			
Data Collection and Biological Sampling System on Small Pelagics in the Adriatic Sea	IRPEM - Ancona (Italy), Institute of Oceanography and Fishery - Split (Croatia), Fishery Institute of Dürres (Albania); Fisheries Research Institute of Slovenia	15 June 2002	30 July 2002
Preparation of a critical review of the current knowledge and available data sets on demersal resources	Institute of Oceanography and Fishery - Split (Croatia)	Ended	30 December 2001
Inventory of IOF-Split historical data sets and time series of abiotic and biotic variables	Institute of Oceanography and Fishery - Split (Croatia)	Ended	Available (not finalised)
Identification of Population Units in Adriatic Sea Shared Stocks by Genetic Structure Analysis	University of Bologna (Italy), National Institute of Biology - Ljubljana (Slovenia)	31 March 2002	30 April 2002
AdriaMed bottom trawl survey	Laboratory of Marine Biology of Fano (Italy), Institute of Oceanography and Fishery - Split (Croatia), Fishery Institute of Dürres (Albania); Fisheries Research Institute of Slovenia	30 December 2001	31 January 2002
Identification of Management Options for the Pomo Pit critical habitat	Laboratory of Marine Biology of Fano (Italy), IRPEM - Ancona (Italy), Institute of Oceanography and Fishery - Split (Croatia)	30 November 2001	30 December 2002
Pilot Joint EchoSurvey in the northern part of the Adriatic Sea to assess the pelagic fish biomass and the correlation with environmental parameters	IRPEM - Ancona (Italy), Institute of Oceanography and Fishery - Split (Croatia), Fisheries Research Institute of Slovenia	30 December 2001	15 February 2002
Field Research and Studies and Review related to Socio-Economic activities			
Technical document on “sources and accessibility of socio-economic data in AdriaMed members countries	AdriaMed Socio-Economy Network	30 December 2001	30 January 2002
Technical document on the Adriatic Fleet	AdriaMed Socio-Economy Network	30 December 2001	30 January 2002
Field Research and Studies and Reviews related to the Adriatic Fishery Associations			
Review of the Professional Fishery Associations of the Adriatic Sea	UNIMAR	Ended	1 February 2002
Technical Document reviewing the technical measures of the existing national fishery management	TBD	TBD	TBD
Identification of Management Options for the Pomo Pit critical habitat	Laboratory of Marine Biology of Fano (Italy), IRPEM - Ancona (Italy), Institute of Oceanography and Fishery - Split (Croatia)	30 November 2001	30 December 2002

As a result of the recent meeting on the socio-economic aspects of Adriatic Sea fisheries held in Salerno, the preparation of two Technical Documents is expected to be accomplished by the end of the year 2001 (Table 1). The first deals with the sources and accessibility of socio-economic data in AdriaMed member countries and the second concerns the Adriatic fishing fleet with the aim of collecting and gathering the available information in a standardised system. The members of the AdriaMed socio-economic network will participate in the preparation of these documents.

Furthermore, as follow-up to the meeting, the preparation of a research programme is scheduled for 2002. Its aim is to implement a standardised data collection programme in selected Adriatic fishing harbours. The activities of this component will be carried out in close collaboration with the Project Component on Fishery Statistics.

In the memorandum of the meeting Adriatic Fishery Associations – First AdriaMed Meeting held in Split, common and priority topics were highlighted and a series of initiatives were taken into consideration. The Project was requested to consider the ways of implementing some activities, one such activity is the preparation of two documents in the near future, the first on the characteristics, nature and scope of national fishery associations in the Adriatic Sea and the second reviewing the technical measures of the existing national fishery management taking into account pertinent EU regulations (Table 1). In order to do this a preparatory meeting will be held.

Moreover, the Technical Document Adriatic Fishery Associations – First AdriaMed Meeting (GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-06) will be translated into Croatian, Slovenian, Albanian and Italian and it will be widely distributed.

During the first meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee, representatives from the countries focused attention on aspects concerning responsible aquaculture. The Committee suggested that AdriaMed organise an expert consultation on the relationship between aquaculture and capture fisheries. This initiative was presented at the 2nd GFCM- Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) during which there was also a discussion on establishing contact between AdriaMed and the CAQ. It is necessary to create a preparatory document that focuses on the Adriatic area which should include an inventory of the items to be considered. This preparatory document is required for the preparation of the Terms of Reference for the expert consultation.

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

b) AdriaMed Working Groups and network activities

The existing AdriaMed network of experts on the shared small pelagic and demersal resources will be strengthened through the implementation and the finalisation of the ongoing research activities. In order to have a first evaluation of the outcome of the research programmes, studies and reviews, an intermediate meeting of the Working Groups is scheduled for the first half of 2002. The meeting will be organised as a seminar and could be open to experts coming from outside the network (Table 2).

Table 2. AdriaMed Working Groups and network activities.

		Topics	Place	Period
1	Joint Meeting of the AdriaMed Working Groups on Shared Demersal and Small Pelagic Fishery Resources	First internal expert meeting on the research programme carried out	TBD	June 2002
2	AdriaMed Socio-Economic expert meeting	To implement a standardised data collection programme	FAO-HQ	December 2001
3	AdriaMed Socio-Economic expert meeting	The Adriatic fish market	Ancona	May 2002
4	Adriatic Fisheries Association	Presentation of the documents and preparation of the network activities	Ancona (TBD)	May 2002
5	AdriaMed Seminar on Fishing Capacity	Fishing Capacity definition, measurements and assessment	TBD	2002

In the framework of the activities concerning the socio-economic aspects of Adriatic fisheries, a meeting is planned for December 2001. Its goal is to implement a standardised data collection programme. This meeting will be held at FAO-HQ in Rome. Another meeting is scheduled for the month of May 2002 which will deal with the fish market aspects. These are considered highly relevant for an improved understanding of the economic patterns of Adriatic fisheries (Table 2).

Concerning the network of Adriatic Fisheries Associations which is being established, the Project will make every effort to implement the activities identified during the first meeting held in Split (July 2001). Further contacts will be established and a meeting will be organised with the members of the network, AdriaMed's progress will be communicated to them. The nomination of reference persons for the network is being made by each country.

A second AdriaMed meeting of the Adriatic Fisheries Associations will probably be held in May 2002 and could take place during the "Fishery Fair of Ancona". During the meeting the two documents concerning the Adriatic fisheries associations and the legal aspects related to fisheries could be presented. This meeting will have some common points to share with the socio-economic meeting on Adriatic fishery marketing (Table 2).

Furthermore, in order to identify a more efficient and economic system of communication among the AdriaMed network members, the Project with the backstopping of the FAO Marine Fishery Resources Division (FIRM) and the support of the appropriate FAO Department is investigating the implementation of an interactive teleconferencing package.

Lastly, within the context of a multidisciplinary approach to fishery management issues, some specific aspects will be dealt with. A Seminar on the “Definition, Measurement and Assessment of Fishing Capacity” is being planned with the FAO Fishery Policy and Planning Division (FIPP) to take place during the first months of 2002.

c) To continue to support the national fishery statistics system in each participating country

The work carried out so far to strengthen the fishery statistics system in Albania and Slovenia will be continued. Particular attention will be given to boosting national expertise. The data collected on the fishing vessels will be analysed and catch and effort surveys will be carried out.

These activities will be conducted in Albania and Slovenia in close collaboration with the Fisheries Directorates. The country’s statistics staff assigned to this task will be trained as appropriate for the use of the national fishery statistics databases which are being developed.

Furthermore, the Project component on fishery statistics will be linked with the socio-economic component so as to ensure the optimisation of efforts and the standardisation of the field data collection programmes.

d) Strengthening the relationship at Mediterranean level and between the Project and the GFCM.

The Project activities coincide with the recommendations of the GFCM. Thus the relationship between the Project and the GFCM is being reinforced.

To achieve this AdriaMed will continue to contribute to scientific discussions at Mediterranean level on relevant topics regarding the fishery sector. Cooperating with the SAC and its Subcommittees.

AdriaMed will participate in the GFCM - SAC and SAC Sub-Committee meetings scheduled for next year and will support the attendance of experts from the Adriatic region. The Project, as recommended during the 2nd Coordination Committee meeting, will continue to encourage and assist the presentation of technical papers at regional and interregional fora. The purpose of these papers is to detail common views within the AdriaMed area. This will follow the same approach used for the identification of priority topics and consequent action concerning the shared fishery resources and fishery socio-economic aspects of the Adriatic Sea.

The expert consultation on the relationship between aquaculture and fisheries mentioned in the previous paragraph will be undertaken in cooperation with the CAQ-GFCM. The results of the preparatory document will be presented to the 3rd CAQ meeting that will be held in 2002. The expert consultation will be made at the Adriatic basin level and could be open to experts or participants coming from other regions.

The Project's interaction with the new FAO Regional Project MedSudMed "Assessment and Monitoring of the Fishery Resources and Ecosystems in the Straits of Sicily" will be apparent. This is not only because the MedSudMed Project is under the same management framework as AdriaMed, but also because of affinities with regard to the implementation strategy. As an example some AdriaMed support services such as the web-master in Termoli and some secretarial services in Rome are shared with MedSudMed.

A MedSudMed meeting of national experts will be held on November 27th in Tunis. The purpose of this meeting is to introduce the Project and describe the activities in the initial period, to prepare a draft for the work programme of the first year and to be present at the first Project Coordination Committee meeting for approval and implementation. The AdriaMed Coordination Committee members will be informed of the results.

Following recent contacts with the UNEP/MAP SAP BIO Project, in order to discuss the collaboration with AdriaMed, it was decided to establish relations between the National Focal Points of the two Projects. This could give additional support to the preparation of the SAP BIO national programme on the protection of marine biodiversity. The organisation of a common working group on the relationship between marine biodiversity and fisheries is being discussed.

Contact and cooperation will continue with COPEMED, the FAO Regional Project present in the Western Mediterranean. Furthermore, in the new programme planned for COPEMED 2, many tasks are similar to the activities implemented by AdriaMed such as the organisation of a discussion forum including the participation of the fishing industry and fishery associations and the joint appraisal of shared fish stocks. These could represent major areas of cooperation. The activities of the Project MedSudMed present in the same areas of intervention as COPEMED will increase the synergy between the Regional Projects.

In recognition of the fact that AdriaMed has been included as a regional project component of the global FAO – FishCode programme possible ways to further develop the collaboration between the two Projects are being considered.

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: 54 pp.

AdriaMed. Adriatic Sea professional fishery associations. Report of the Adriatic Fishery Associations - First AdriaMed Meeting. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-06. *AdriaMed Technical Documents*, 6 (in preparation).

AdriaMed. 2002. 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: 34pp.

B. Adriamed Translations

AdriaMed (Botim.). 2000. Përkthim në shqip i Kodit të FAO-s të Drejtimit për një Peshkim të Përgjegjshëm. GCP/RER/010/ITA/AT-01 40f. (Albanian Translation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, 1995).

AdriaMed (Izdavac). 2000. Hrvatski prijevod FAO Kodeks Odgovornog Ribarstva. GCP/RER/010/ITA/AT-02 38str. (Croatian Translation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, 1995).

C. AdriaMed Occasional Papers

AdriaMed. 2000. AdriaMed seminar on the preparation of the AdriaFISH project component (Adriatic Fishery Information System). FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-01: 12 pp.

AdriaMed. 2001. The geographical management units of the Adriatic Sea. Paper presented at the GFCM-SAC Working Group on Management Units (Alicante, 23th-25th January 2001). FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-02: 12 pp.

Ungaro, N., Vrgoč, N., and Mannini, P. 2001. The biology and stock assessment of *Merluccius merluccius* (L.) in the Adriatic Sea: an historical review by geographical management units. Paper presented at the GFCM-SAC Working Group on Demersal Species (Tunis, 13th -16th March 2001). FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-03: 15 pp.

AdriaMed. 2001. A preliminary contribution to the Mediterranean Operational Units. Paper presented at the GFCM-SAC Working Group on Operational Units (Ancona, 18th -19th March 2001). FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-04: 9 pp.

Massa, F., Mannini, P. 2001. The FAO-AdriaMed Project and its activities of interest to the SAP BIO Project. Paper presented at the First Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the project for the preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for the conservation of biological diversity (SAP BIO) in the Mediterranean Region (Tunis, 22th -23th February 2001). FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-05: 4 pp.

Cingolani, N., and Santojanni, A. 2002. Manual of the Recorder. AdriaMed Training Course on Data Collection and Biological Sampling System on Small Pelagics. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-06. *Adriamed Occasional Papers*, 6: 40 pp.