

## **2<sup>nd</sup> COPEMED Working Group**

### **"Pilot Study on Operational Units for *Coryphaena hippurus* fishery"**

FAO HQ, Rome, 28 and 29 April 2005

#### **1. Opening of the meeting.**

COPEMED officer opened the session welcoming the participants and thanking the FAO FIRM officers for the organisation of the meeting.

She did a short background presentation trying to refresh the objectives of the study and of the working group. She highlighted the objectives achieved, activities carried out and work in progress with a short overview on the work to be done and a rough time schedule given the circumstances of the project closure and the opening of a new one COPEMED II.

She also introduced the guidelines given by Dr. Franquesa, fisheries economist on the previous meeting he had held with COPEMED officer two days before in Barcelona.

These guidelines are summarised below.

According to him, within the GFM context a possible management option to be addressed would be a TAC sort, but in terms of effort limits (TAE) instead of catches limits. This limits should be assigned by Operational Units once these are fully described. Fishing days in the full season should be the maximum and cutting off this number should imply effects on the socio-economic side that have to be forecasted and eventually overcome. Therefore the socio-economic analysis is fundamental to know in advance the profit of the activity and the costs that any effort reduction should involve.

In the view of a possible application of such a type of measure, GFCM should ensure:

- Participation of all the member countries sharing the stock (Spain, Italy, Malta and Tunisia), with a compulsory provision of data.
- Regular revision of the TAE (Total allowable effort) according to annual stock assessments and to technological findings.

This could be the first effective step of the GFCM for the co-management of a fishery in the Mediterranean.

The previous day, (27 April) another technical meeting had been held with FIRM officers and the MCFS representatives. During this meeting, a first analysis of the data was undertaken. We analysed the coverage of data gathered in Tunisia, Malta and Spain in terms of fleet, ports, items recorded, gaps, redundancies, etc., and tried to summarise it as much as possible. The objective then was to design a new distribution of this basic info in one single table where all the basic fundamental information were stored and ready to use for the sake of fleet segmentation and effort measure identification. This synthetic table was presented and commented on by all the participants and is shown in Annex I. (Cory\_MainInfo\_28-04-2005.xls).

Discussion arose when dealing with several fields of the table what triggered the standardisation process foreseen in points 3, 4 and 5 of the agenda. Therefore, we touched these points on this first session.

Regarding the **standardisation of fleet segments**. After reviewing the segments assigned by the participants, we noticed that some groups of boats do not actually match the criteria for the established segments, either due to the gear type or to the length and gear combined. After commenting on that, the group decided to suggest to the SCESS the creation of a new segment specific for the *coryphaena* fishery. It would be inserted as follows:

Groups	< 6 metres	6-12 metres	12-24 metres	More than 24 metres
1. Minor Gear without engine	A	←		
2. Minor Gear with engine	B	C		
3. Trawl	⇒	D	E	F
4. Purse Seine		G	H	←
5. Long line			I	
6. Pelagic Trawl		⇒	J	←
7. Tuna Seine			K	←
8. Dredge		⇒	L	
9. Polyvalent			M	
10. Coryphaena FADs fishery		O	P	

On the second session during the same day the floor was given to the participants of Mallorca and Malta who gave us their views on the sampling and data entry process. They presented their results in the shape of tables and maps that were commented on by the participants.

Following the agenda, a discussion was opened to deal with the **fishing effort units**. This is a complex subject in any FADs fishery as was reported by FIRM Officer Mr Piero Manini and others, and is always a matter of discussion. We were analysing the different units lately used and concluded that an appropriate measure could be the **Number of fished FADs per trip**. Since in different countries, fishermen can do more than one trip per day and even do trips that may last for more than one day, the group decided that the unit in which to split the number of FADs effectively “operated”, (disregarding FAD’s visited) would be the fishing trip better than day.

At this point of the meeting, after have reviewed the existing data and the possibilities of gathering them on a regular basis, all the participants agreed on establishing some kind of guidelines aiming at establishing a methodology and data structure that would help the scientist to establish the fleet segments and to the decision makers, a tool for the purpose of managing the fishery.

2. Standardisation of the data collection structure, data processing functions and their relationship with other parent systems
3. Identification and description of the *Coryphaena hippurus* **Central-South Mediterranean** Operational Units.
4. Proposals for generation of information to be for the management of that fishery.
5. Drafting a final technical report.