



Demersal SRWG on shared stocks in the CopeMed II and MedSudMed area

Mazara del Vallo (Italy), 16-17 September 2010

Provisional Annotated Agenda

16 September

1. Opening of the meeting

2. Election of Chairperson and reporting group, adoption of the Agenda.

3. Objectives and Background information

The background, objectives and Terms of References (TORs) and expected outputs of the meeting will be introduced by the CopeMed II and MedSudMed Projects staff and by the Convenor of the WG. In this framework, the outcomes of the meeting held in Malaga on shared stocks (April 2010) will be recalled and presented as background for the discussion.

16 September - Shared stocks

5. Overview of the available data on demersal stocks in the projects area

National experts will give presentation on the data/information currently available in their country on demersal species (e.g. spatial distribution, length frequency distribution, growth parameters, reproduction information) the source of the information (e.g. landing or survey data, national programme, frame survey) and the period of time for which the information is available. Specific information on the fisheries exploiting demersal species will be presented as well. The table circulated during the preparatory phase of the meeting could be used as template for the information to be described.

6. Identification of existing gaps

Consideration will be given to the potential use of national data for joint stock assessment. Discussion will be held to identify the knowledge gaps to be filled for the definition of shared stocks as well as for the joint assessment of demersal fisheries resources. The possible methods and data needs for jointly assessing demersal stocks using available data will be tentatively outlined.

7. Results and main conclusions of the *Parapenaeus longirostris* meeting

*An overview of the work and results obtained during the 2-year joint analysis of data on *P. longirostris* will be presented as an example of cooperative analysis and stock assessment. The experience gained and lessons learned during the data compilation process, the analysis and data sharing, as well as the advantage of joint data analysis will be outlined.*



8. Identification of the stocks that could be assessed as shared stocks, and definition of the level of priority to their assessment

Taking advantage of the experience accrued in the cooperative assessment of P. longirostris and with reference to demersal resources, preliminary attempt could be made to jointly identify areas and species whose stocks should be assessed as a shared stock on the basis of available data and information. In this view, the specific characteristics of each area (e.g. geographical separation, hydrodynamic features, bottom morphology) and species (e.g. migration behaviour, biological parameters) will be considered. In addition, taking into account the results of previous assessments or the information available on the fisheries of each species, a tentative/preliminary work plan indicating species which require prompt analysis could be defined. The list of possible demersal shared stocks identified by the national experts during the meeting held in Malaga (April 2010) will be used as starting point for the identification of stocks for future joint assessment.

9. Need for conducting a feasible and phased work programme

Discussion will be held to define a work plan for future joint data analysis and priorities to be submitted to the Projects Coordination Committee.

17 September - Session 2: Fisheries closed seasons

10. General overview of the existing fishery regulation regarding closed seasons, by country or GSA

After defining closed season, national experts will give presentation on the existing regulation regarding fisheries closed season/s in their country. Presentations should provide details on the closed seasons foreseen during the year, comprising the objectives of each regulation, the fisheries and area/s involved (GSA, depth, etc.), the period, the resources for which they have been planned. Mention should also be given to: i) the scientific monitoring of the effectiveness of closed seasons; ii) the relationship between scientific results and recommendations and iii) the effective closed seasons implementation.

11. Identification of steps toward the harmonisation of closed seasons

On the basis of the scientific information provided, discussion will be held to highlight common issues, convergences and differences between countries regarding current closing seasons. The outcomes of the discussion will be part of the scientific background for the justification of an agreed strategy toward the harmonisation of closed seasons at sub-regional level.

10. Other matters

11 Date and venue of next SRWG meeting