



In the framework of CopeMed II Project, the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO) and the FAO organize a training course on fishery assessment addressed to experts from the North of Africa.

17/01/2011

Source: Spanish Institute of Oceanography

During one month and starting on January 17th, ten experts from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia participate in a training course on acoustic methods for the evaluation of the small pelagic in the headquarter of the Balearic Centre of the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO).

With the aim of strengthening the scientific capacities on fishery of the African countries of the western Mediterranean, researchers of the IEO will teach fishery assessment with acoustic methods to six experts from the National Research Center for the Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CNRDPA) in Algeria, two experts from the Institute National de Recherche Halieutique (INRH) of Morocco and two experts from the Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer (INSTM) of Tunisia.

The course, coordinated by Joan Miquel Batle, will be taught by four researchers and four technicians from the Oceanographic Centre of the IEO in Baleares. It will explain the methods and models needed for the assessment of small pelagic resources by acoustic methods and biological standards of European Union countries, which will benefit assessments and resource management in the Mediterranean framework of the GFCM. The theoretical program will focus on physics acoustics, use of sonar, positioning systems, gear, organizing a campaign of oceanographic research, data processing, etc. And it will also include practical lessons on otolith readings and sampling of commercial species. After completing the course, trained staff will be able to develop a campaign of acoustic survey and to determine the status of stocks of pelagic species and their spatial distribution.

Algeria, which this year will be operating an oceanographic research vessel, asked CopeMed II for the support on the training of experts in assessment of pelagic resources by direct methods, and other countries, like Morocco and Tunisia, were added to this demand, so that CopeMed II pledged to support the training of specialists in this field.

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