REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE COPEMED II COORDINATION COMMITTEE

28-29 April 2011
Madrid, Spain
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May 2011
The conclusions and recommendations given in this document and in other documents in the Co-ordination to Support Fisheries Management in the Western and Central Mediterranean CopeMed II Project series are those considered appropriate at the time of preparation. They may be modified in the light of further knowledge gained in subsequent stages of the Project. The designation employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO, the Government of Spain or the Commission of the European Union concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or concerning the determination of its frontiers or boundaries. This document has been financed by the European Union and the Government of Spain. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union or the Government of Spain.
Preface

The CopeMed II Project on Co-ordination to Support Fisheries Management in the Western and Central Mediterranean is executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and funded by the Government of Spain, represented by the Secretaría General del Mar, and the European Union, represented by the European Commission (EC).

The objective of the project is to maintain the sustainability of the marine fisheries in the central and western Mediterranean Sea and its ecosystem, taking into consideration environmental, biological, economic, social and institutional issues. In addition, the project will continue to reinforce the collaboration among the participating countries of the sub-region by supporting their participation in the activities of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

Regions covered by CopeMed II are the western and central sub-regions of the Mediterranean. Countries involved are Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Tunisia and Spain. The main beneficiaries are the fishery policy-makers, managers and fishery administrations in the western and central Mediterranean countries. The project is also contributing to the strengthening of regional collaboration by supporting the participation of the countries in relevant regional scientific organizations, such as the FAO’s General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Secondary beneficiaries include the national research institutes, fishers and fishers’ associations, and industrial organizations.
CopeMed II (GCP/INT/028/SPA – GCP/INT/006/EC) and ArtFiMed (GCP/RAB/005/SPA) Publications

CopeMed II – ArtFiMed project publications are issued in the CopeMed Technical Documents series and are related to meetings, missions and research organized or conducted within the framework of the CopeMed II and ArtFiMed Projects.

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ABSTRACT

The Fourth Meeting of the CopeMed II Coordination Committees was attended by representatives of the Donors (Spain, Secretaría General del Mar and AECID), delegations from the countries participating in the Project (Algeria, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia), the FAO representative in Tunisia, the GFMC acting Executive Secretary as well as a Fisheries Officer from FAO Rome HQ, the Coordinator of AdriaMed and MedSudMed and the CopeMed II staff. A brief reminder on the Project objectives and activities implemented during the inter-sessional period was done. A presentation on the implementation of the ArtFiMed Project objectives and activities in Morocco and Tunisia completed this phase of the meeting. Priority activities for the 4th year of CopeMed II were discussed and agreed. There was a general discussion on the achievements of the projects and the need to extend the duration of the two projects to ensure the achievement of their objectives. The country representatives and the GFMC recognized the important contribution of CopeMed II to the development of the national and regional capacity for management for sustainable fisheries and the key role of the project as support to the GFMC activities.

It was presented for discussion and adoption a proposal of activities for the next period of the project. Due to termination of the project next September, and considering a scenario of extending it, activities until the end of 2011 were programmed.

Priorities for ArtFiMed were also discussed and adopted by the Committee acknowledging the importance of prioritization of the activities to increase the probability of success of the project.
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1. Opening of the meeting, election of the Chairman and adoption of the agenda (Agenda Item 1)

1. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Donors, Secretaria General del Mar of Spain and Agencia Española de Cooperación internacional para el Desarrollo and the European Commission, delegations from the countries participating in the Project (Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia), the Deputy Executive Secretary of the GFCM, the FAO Fisheries Management and Conservation Service, Coordinators from FAO AdriaMed, MedSudMed and EastMed Projects, a representative of the FAO subregional offices in Tunisia as well as the officers from CopeMed II Project. The representative of Libya was not able to participate in the meeting due to the situation in this country. A representative of the France fisheries administration excused at the last minute due to urgent issues. The List of participants is included in Annex 3.

2. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Juan A. Camiñas, Coordinator of FAO-CopeMed II project who welcomed the participants and thanked the host country, particularly Ms. Alicia Villauriz and all the member of the Secretaria General del Mar for their kindness and the financial support given to the Project and expressed the gratitude to the SG Mar for organising the fourth Coordination Committee meeting.

3. The Coordinator recalled CopeMed II is working to maintain the sustainability of marine fisheries in the central and western Mediterranean Sea, taking into consideration environmental, biological, economical and social issues and promoting scientific cooperation as well as joint analyses mainly on shared stocks. He underlined that the management of shared exploited resources remains one of the great challenges to achieve long-term sustainable fisheries and that should be supported in the approach provided by the EAF (Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management) as the FAO is promoting in the Mediterranean.

4. The Coordinator mentioned that the current global crisis and budgetary restrictions in the countries are affecting many activities related with international issues, but he underlined at the same time the serious situation that are facing some of the South Mediterranean countries expressing the desire to end all regional open conflicts, particularly in those countries participating in CopeMed II. He considers this situation an opportunity not only to the current donors, Spain and the European Commission, but also to other European countries and the European Commission in making efforts to facilitate the transition to periods of prosperity and harmony based on regional cooperation.

5. The FAO FIRF representative, Mr Pedro de Barros, highlighted the importance of this meeting in the life-cycle of the Project and thanked the Spanish authorities for hosting the meeting. He welcomed the delegations of the participating countries, as well as those of the Donors, GFCM and other FAO Mediterranean Regional Projects. He mentioned that the presence of representatives from the other FAO Mediterranean Regional Projects reflected well the importance attached by FAO to the cooperation, coordination and synergy among all the FAO Mediterranean projects for the benefit of the participating countries.
6. FAO FIRF representative thanked the Spanish Secretaria General del Mar, Ministerio del Medio Ambiente, Medio Rural y Marino, the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID) and DG-Mare of the European Commission for their contributions to the funding of the project. He recalled the role of CopeMed II in establishing a model for the FAO support to the development of capacity and regional cooperation for fisheries management, including research, of its member countries.

7. He reminded the meeting that FAO sees CopeMed II as an essential part of the integrated suite of Mediterranean fisheries management support projects, that includes also AdriaMed, MedSudMed and EastMed, besides ArtFiMed and the MED-LME project, and that all these projects are tightly coordinated in order to ensure the optimal use of the resources put at the disposal of FAO by its donors and to facilitate the exchange of experiences across different sub-regions of the Mediterranean. In this context, the presence of the coordinators of all the other FAO Mediterranean Regional Projects is a clear indicator of the importance attached by FAO to the cooperation, coordination and synergy among all the FAO Mediterranean projects for the benefit of the participating countries, and a key instrument in ensuring the effective coordination among the projects.

8. He thanked again AECID for supporting the ArtFiMed project, and reminded the participants that the methods used by ArtFiMed (relying as much as possible on national institutions to implement the project activities, reinforcing these institutions as necessary) effectively ensured the reinforcement of the capacities of the wider national fisheries support systems, increasing its impact far beyond the support to the pilot fishing communities and creating the conditions for the long-term sustainability of the results achieved by the project. He reflected that these aspects made ArtFiMed a project whose replication across the Mediterranean has the potential to produce very important and sustainable results in the support to the small-scale artisanal fisheries sub-sector.

9. Mr Barros also recalled the high priority given by the 28th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI, Rome, 31 January- 4 February 2011) to work on small-scale and artisanal fisheries. FAO is currently carrying out a series of regional meetings on artisanal small-scale fisheries and one of these is being prepared by the FAO regional office in Cairo to be held in the region during 2012, an opportunity to present the valuable experiences of CopeMed II and ArtFiMed, as well as of the other Mediterranean FAO projects in this area.

10. He finally underlined that the meeting should remember that the benefits produced by CopeMed II exceeded by far the technical results achieved, because CopeMed II had become de facto a very effective promoter of regional cooperation in fisheries management and research. As a demonstration of this, he mentioned the fact that several of the participating countries had already established direct bilateral cooperation arrangements and joint activities without the intervention of the project, and this has only been possible due to the cooperation environment and attitude promoted by the project.

11. Mr Eduardo Balguerías, Director of the IEO, the Spanish representative in CopeMed II took the floor to thanks the organizers, CopeMed II and Secretaría General del Mar
for inviting to participate in the opening session of the coordination meeting of CopeMed II.

12. Director of the IEO noted the IEO the Spanish Institute of Oceanography, has a long tradition in marine research particularly in the Mediterranean fisheries. Mediterranean research dates from the early years of the XX century when two Centres were respectively established in Palma de Mallorca (1908) and Málaga (1910), and more recently, in the 1960’s, in Murcia.

13. Currently the IEO is conducting several important projects in the Mediterranean Sea, as a permanent network of marine observation and the monitoring of fisheries including and Marine Protected Areas, activities that have been possible only with the international collaboration. The IEO is convinced of the importance and the relevance of the international dimension in the study of the fisheries and related issues.

14. The IEO supported from the very beginning the establishment and the work carried out by CopeMed phase I and II, providing to FAO the two Directors of these projects, the national representatives from Spain in the two phases of the project and many scientists from different centres that have contributed to the work of the projects.

15. Director of the IEO stressed the working space for scientists from the Mediterranean provided by CopeMed I and II to share their experiences and knowledge and the role still playing the project in addressing questions related to the fisheries management in order to make the best use of them according to the principle of the sustainability. The reasons mentioned are the base for supporting the continuation of this initiative that the IEO look forward for an eventual extension.

16. Ms Alicia Villauriz, Secretaría General del Mar (Spain), welcomed the delegates and participating organisations and underlined the important contribution of the CopeMed II project and its member countries to the sustainability and development of the fisheries in the Mediterranean. She reminded the Spanish contribution to the sustainability of the Mediterranean fisheries resources and the creation in 1997 of the first fisheries protection zone in the Mediterranean as part of the Spanish policy in favour of the rational exploitation of the fisheries resources in internal and international waters.

17. She mentioned the Spanish initiative to strengthen the fisheries management and reinforce the cooperation in the Mediterranean financing COPEMED I in 1996 and the important influence of this project setting an example for other regional cooperation projects in the Mediterranean. It was the same idea of promoting cooperation in fisheries management that led the Secretaría General del Mar to support since 2008 a new phase of CopeMed II aimed to consolidate the activities undertaken during the first phase of the project.

18. After a revision of the main achievements of the project, she mentioned the essential role of the project in facilitating the common management of the fisheries resources of the central and western Mediterranean, including its role as a model and in the organization of different subregional working group in particular on shared stocks, that provides essential information to the national fisheries administrations and the GFCM.
19. The Secretaría General del Mar underlined the Spanish interest in supporting the future development of CopeMed II taking advantages of the experiences carried out on artisanal fisheries in Morocco and Tunisia under the ArtFiMed project financed by the Spanish AECID, as well as other regional initiatives. These experiences should be a base for a cooperation activity to support the development of sustainable artisanal fisheries in the Mediterranean.

20. Ms Villauriz thanked the other donors of CopeMed II and particularly the European Commission. She invited the other countries from the western and central Mediterranean to increase their support to the project, including joining the current donors and adopting a more active role as contributors and leaders of the project. In this line of thought she recognised that international cooperation projects are always more successful when institutions from different countries work together, as done by the Coordination Committee of CopeMed II.

21. Finally Secretaría General del Mar pointed out that the Spanish administrations consider CopeMed II to be of crucial importance for the reinforcement of the cooperation in the western and central Mediterranean. For that reason the Spanish Ministry will find the way to maintain its support to the prolongation of CopeMed II.

22. The European Commission representative, Mr. Antonio Cervantes, thanked the SG del Mar for their words and informed the Committee that this Coordination Committee meeting is his first participation as new responsible in the DG Mare of the FAO subregional projects. He welcomes the participation of the other Coordinators of the FAO projects in the Mediterranean and expressed the Commission interest in reinforcing the existing collaboration and coordination framework. By recognising the important role of the projects in the fisheries management of the Mediterranean resources he underlined the high priority that these regional projects have to the European Commission.

23. All the national delegates thanked the SG del Mar for hosting the meeting and expressed the interest of their respective administrations in maintaining the cooperation through CopeMed II as a unique platform for cooperation and collaboration on fisheries resources management and research. They also mentioned the important role played by the project in supporting the countries, in updating the scientific and technical knowledge base and in promoting and supporting a strong cooperation among the countries.

24. The delegates acknowledged the efforts of the Spanish administration in supporting CopeMed II and recognised the needs of maintaining the support of the Spanish government and welcomed the idea proposed by the Secretaria General del Mar, Ms Villauriz of incorporating other donors to the support of CopeMed II.

25. Mr Abdellah Srour, representative of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), thanked CopeMed II for the invitation to attend the meeting and the Spanish authorities for acting as hosts. He underlined the importance that the GFCM gave to the regional projects like CopeMed II, since these projects are essential to achieve its goals of improving fisheries management in the Mediterranean.
26. Ms Constantina Karlou-Riga, Coordinator of FAO-EastMed project thanked the Spanish authorities and CopeMed II Coordinator for this opportunity to participate for the first time in the Coordination meeting of the project stressing that the participation of the other projects in EastMed meeting are facilitating the initial phases of the project. She also underlined the strong cooperation between the projects and particularly with CopeMed II, considering the continuity of the south Mediterranean coast and the similar problems of the different countries involved in the FAO projects. The Coordinator also mentioned the very high importance of artisanal fisheries in all Mediterranean countries and the need of increasing collaboration on this area of work.

27. Mr. Henri Farrugio, delegate of France informed the difficulties of the representative of fisheries administration to participate in the meeting for urgent matters. He should prepare a report with the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, including the recommendations of the Spanish Fisheries General Secretary in order to inform the fisheries authorities in Paris and to facilitate a strong participation of his country in CopeMed II.

28. After the introduction of the members of the national delegations and other participants, Mr Jorge Baro (Spain delegate) was unanimously elected as chairperson. He addressed the Committee and thanked the honour and responsibility of chairing the Committee and wished a fruitful meeting and called the attention of the participants to the important issues on the Agenda and to the tasks to be undertaken during the meeting.

29. The Agenda was presented to the Coordination Committee. The chairperson invited the participants to provide any comments. The Tunisian delegate proposed to introduce an additional point after the point 4 to be informed on the activities that the other FAO projects that could have activities related with the activities of CopeMed II and particularly MedSudMed and EastMed were presented to the Committee. The proposal was accepted and the Agenda was adopted with no other changes. The chairperson informed that the staff of CopeMed II will act as rapporteur.

2. Report on the ArtFiMed Project’s Progress (Agenda Item 2)

30. The CopeMed II fisheries officer, Mr Bernardon, introduced this point of the Agenda based on document FAO CopeMed II CC04/20011/03 (Annex 5). He reviewed the general objective of the project underlining the three levels for the implementation of objectives: local, national and regional. In each of the three levels different actors should be involved in an attempt to place the artisanal fisheries in the national context at the same level as the other fishery sectors and to raise the importance of these fisheries not only from a socio economic point of view but also for the assessment of the shared stocks and the management of the fisheries within the GFCM regional context.

31. The project is financed by the Spanish AECID as a pilot project for the artisanal segment of the Mediterranean fisheries in three selected sites, in Morocco (Dikky) and Tunisia (Ghannouch and El Akarit, in the Gulf of Gabès).

32. The fisheries officer recalled that the identification of priority activities to be undertaken under the project is a permanent participatory process, coordinated in the
framework of an internal (FAO) and regional process. He informed the committee that the fourth meeting of the Internal Committee (CPSI) was held in November 2010 in Tunis.

33. Moreover, he also reviewed activities carried out to support sustainable livelihood and socioeconomic development. The project supported the creation of a women’s organization in Morocco and the training of its members. With the same purpose, it also organized and supported technical training for fishers (men and women) and finally ArtFiMed also supports the development of alternative income generating activities.

34. ArtFiMed and CopeMed II are working with Tunisian fisheries administration on a consultation to identify and implement a new small scale fisheries monitoring system. Moreover, ArtFiMed is involved in the Mediterranean GEF LME project, and particularly in supporting fisher’s participation in monitoring and management of coastal MPA’s.

35. In coordination with the Fisheries administrations in both countries, ArtFiMed is working on the organization of a small scale fisheries day in Tunisia and Morocco. The main objective of these meetings is to contribute to better understand the role of the artisanal fisheries in the context of the national fisheries, promotion and visualization of the artisanal fisheries and reinforce the information base on Mediterranean small scale Fisheries. All countries were invited to send representatives to these initiatives.

36. The Moroccan and Tunisian representatives mentioned the very interesting results achieved by the project and stressed that the involvement of actors and beneficiaries is the best way to insure the success and the sustainability of the results achieved. Mr Bernardon explained that the activities initiated to support the professional organization in Morocco and Tunisia are part of a long process. In order to obtain sustainable results this process need to be supported and reinforced during at least several years.

37. Mr Mohamed Ghezali, delegate of Algeria reiterated his country's interest in participating in the ArtFiMed project, as already expressed during the precedent Coordination Committee session.

38. The Committee reiterated the interest of having ArtFiMed future activities extended to all the CopeMed II project area.

3. Report on the CopeMed II Project’s Progress (Agenda Item 2)

39. The Coordinator introduced the second presentation of the item 3 of the Agenda based on the document FAO-CopeMed II CC04/2011/02 (Annex 6). He emphasized that all the activities carried out are in line with the Project objectives and reflect the suggestions agreed during the 3rd Meeting of the CopeMed II Coordination Committee (Tunis, 6-7 May 2010) and recommendations and requests from the last GFCM.
40. Under request from the DGPA (Tunisia) CopeMed II in collaboration with the national fisheries administration prepared a proposal for the diagnosis of the national small scale fisheries statistical system, including the identification of weaknesses and gaps. The project recruited one international and two national experts that will work with CopeMed II.

41. In the framework of the scientific cooperation, several activities related with shared stocks including joint analyses of the stocks status were carried out by the project. The definition of the shared stocks remains one of the great challenges to achieve long-term sustainable fisheries and scientific research on this area was promoted by CopeMed II in close collaboration with MedSudMed and the other subregional projects.

42. The Project, supported by specific funds from Spain for this activity, is supporting two pilot projects in Moroccan and Algerian with the collaboration of the fisheries administrations and research institutes to implement the 40 mm square meshes size in trawl gears. Actions in Bouzedjar (Algeria) and Alhoceima (Morocco) are on the way with the objective to obtain biological and socio-economic information and prepare a joint analysis on the biological and socio-economic effects at national level.

43. The committee acknowledged the fact that annual meeting MEDIAS (Ancona, March 2011) was attended for the first time by experts from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

44. CopeMed II financed the participation of 67 experts from all the countries, according to requests from the national focal points and the GFCM Secretariat, to participate to trainings and selected meetings, including those organized by the project and to eleven GFCM meetings.

45. The Committee thanked the Project Coordinator for the presentation and acknowledged the variety of the actions and the results achieved in such a short time. The support of the Donors was highlighted and the occasion was taken to emphasize their support to the Project activities.

46. He recalled the importance of issues like the advances in the pilot studies on the implications of the implementation of a minimum 40mm square mesh size in Algeria and Morocco, as well as the support to the further development of the national small scale fisheries statistics systems in Tunisia.

47. The E. Commission representative mentioned that the EU MEDIAS and MEDITS activities are part of the Data collection Regulation of the EU Commission. He informed that both activities are open to non EU members, underlining the interest of the EU Commission in the participation of southern countries in order to harmonise methodologies and reinforce the scientific cooperation.

48. Several participants mentioned the importance of the participation of non EU Mediterranean experts in methodological standardization activities. It was remembered that the SAC-GFCM is very interested in the standardisation of methodologies for the assessment of fisheries resources in the Mediterranean region.
49. The Tunisian delegate acknowledged the diversity of training and thanked the support of CopeMed II to the participation of Tunisian experts to the course on acoustic carried out in Palma de Mallorca in collaboration with the IEO (Spain). He recognised the quality and high level of the course underlining the comments by the participating experts on the short duration in relation to the density and complexity of some themes included. He requested the support of the project for new courses and also the possibility to receive financial support of CopeMed II to have the standard software used by the European countries for the acoustic surveys considering that the INSTM currently use a different software.

50. Mr Said Taleb, Moroccan delegate and Mr Fliti, Director of the CNRDPA (Algeria) also acknowledge the support of their national experts at the acoustic course in Palma de Mallorca requesting additional training. Several delegates commented the importance in continuing the training on acoustic that, for the specialist should be continued. The Committee also agreed that experience in applying acoustic methodologies should be obtained on board requesting to the project the support to on-the-job training.

51. Moroccan delegate explained the broad experience of the INRH experts on acoustic assessment mainly at the Atlantic waters and the possibility for training on board experts from other countries on acoustic. He also mentioned the disponibility of the INRH to participate as trainers if a future course on this mater is organized by CopeMed II.

52. Mr Fliti thanked the diversity in the support provided by CopeMed II to the CNRDPA experts mentioning the support to participate in scientific surveys on stocks assessment facilitated by EU countries and the training program agreed with CopeMed II. In relation with this issue he requested the participation of specialists from the CopeMed II countries to assist the national experts in organizing and carrying out the new campaigns that will be carried out soon by the CNRDPA with the new research vessel.

53. The Committee supported the participation of experts from Algeria in surveys carried out by other CopeMed II countries as the best option for on the job training of the experts.

54. The delegate from Tunisia informed the experiences of the INSTM facilitating the participation of experts from Libya at the national annual fisheries research surveys and the availability of position on board the research vessel Hannibal for the participation of the Algerian experts in the next campaign in September. The Tunisian delegate will send the calendar of his research vessel to the project to facilitate the necessary arrangements for on board training of experts from other countries.

55. Finally the Algerian delegate informed the Committee the arrival from Spain to the port of Alger of the material provided by CopeMed II for the realization of the selectivity survey on the use of 40 mm square mesh size. He mentioned the administrative formalities to recover the material and the commitment of the CNRDPA and the fisheries administration with these experiences, supporting the
cost of the fishing vessel through a convention with the vessel owner and the experts form the national research centre.

56. Tunisian delegate informed that the INSTM is carrying out several experiments on the implementation of the 40 mm square mesh size in order to have the necessary scientific information to advise on possible effects of such implementation to the national trawl fleet requesting the support of CopeMed II for the analysis of the socio-economic aspects of the experience.

57. The Committee commented that the briefing provided by the Project coordinator made evident the amount of activities and results obtained by the project during the intersessional period and the scientific achievements, the current state of some complex activities and the future options and actions to be considered in terms of international cooperation for their sustainability and continuity also under a national execution scheme.

58. The delegate of Italy pointed out the complexity of the CopeMed II project with all the activities carried out during last year and considered it must be a good indicator of the efficiency of the work done by the Director and his staff.

4. Proposals on national activities in the framework of the project (Agenda Item 3)

59. The delegate of Italy underlined the importance of a correct data collection mainly directed to obtain biological sampling of the main fish populations, useful for any stock assessment due to the lack of widespread research sampling and experimental surveys remarking the high costs of such activities. He highlighted the importance of strengthening biological and socio-economic data collection.

60. He stressed the importance of the on-the-job training, and underlined that Italy may send experts to work with the colleagues in Algeria on board of the new Algerian research vessel to improve and finalize working protocols on board in order to get all the basic information from their experimental surveys.

61. The delegate of Italy noted the important results that the project is reaching for the fishery resources management in the area, especially on the assessment on shared stocks such as for *Parapenaeus longirostris* and *Pagellus bogaraveo* and the coming meetings on *Merluccius merluccius* and on *Coryphaena hippurus*. Is therefore very important to maintain such an effort to go on the way of data collection, training and stock assessment to reach an operational strategy in the management of shared resources.

62. He stated that considering the critical moment for the southern Mediterranean area and the important work done by the CopeMed II project it is absolutely important to reinforce the collaboration with the EU countries and that the development of a common management, particularly for the shared resources, could provide the best perspectives.
63. He also commented that Italy gives high importance to extend the CopeMed II project for the next years with new financial support in the strategic and practical context of fishery management in the area.

64. Finally the delegate considered very important a more clear coordination among donor countries and institutions of the different regional projects in the Mediterranean Sea, including a meeting of donors and potential donors and FAO.

65. The FAO representative stated that FAO will organise the necessary activities for optimizing the funding of sub-regional projects. The GFCM representative requested to be included in this process.

66. The delegate of Morocco proposed the creation of a network of fishery research institutes of Mediterranean countries with the aim of consolidating the outputs of the activities performed by CopeMed I and II. This was supported by all delegates.

5. GFCM activities of relevance for CopeMed II and ArtFiMed (Agenda Item 4)

67. The GFCM representative presented the provisional 2011 work programme of the Scientific Advisory Committee focused on improving stock assessments; conducting studies regarding to marine environment and ecosystems; updating statistics and information; performing regional studies related to socio-economic sciences and other transversal issues with interest for the CopeMed II project. He also presented the next meetings of the SAC and its subsidiary bodies (Annex 9).


68. The project coordinators of EastMed, AdriaMed and MedSudMed presented the main activities planned for these projects related with the activities of CopeMed II.

69. The Delegate of Tunisia thanked for all the activities performed by CopeMed II and called for collaboration with Spanish experts for a research on Sardinella aurita in which parasites caused a big decrease on its population.

7. Priority activities for the next period of ArtFiMed (Agenda Item 6)

70. The Project fisheries officer presented the ArtFiMed priority activities and Agenda for 2011 based on document FAO CopeMed II CC04/2011/05 (Annex 7) and explained that the ArtFiMed activities corresponding to the last year should carried out to finish the 24 months second phase (implementation and follow up of the activities) and to activate and accomplish the 6 months last 3rd phase which concern the synthesis of the experiences, assessment and dissemination and finally the needs identification and consolidation.
71. The project will conduct a participatory assessment with communities targeted and related authorities and agencies involved, to identify assets and needs in terms of consolidating these gains, and to identify opportunities to support the needs identified.

72. In view of replication, ArtFiMed will identify the support and intervention of national agencies and authorities which are best suited to the problems addressed by the project and initiate an analysis of institutional processes to support the communities existing in connection with the activities and will disseminate learning about how to improve processes in support of communities on the topics covered by activities associated with the administrations and agencies.

73. The 2011 ArtFiMed workplan was adopted by the committee.

74. The Committee stressed the important number of activities that had to be carried out before the end of the project, and expressed the concerns if the project was not extended.

8. Priority activities for the next period of CopeMed II (Agenda Item 6)

75. Based on the document FAO CopeMed II CC02/2011/04 (Annex 8) the Coordinator presented for discussion and adoption a proposal of activities for the next period of the project. He recalled that currently the project is due to terminate next September and the organization of the activities according this option. At the same time he mentioned that, considering a scenario of extension of the project, activities until the end of 2011 are programmed.

76. The final Workplan will take into due account the recommendations of the 4th Coordination Committee meeting, in accordance with the priority expressed by the countries on each activity and directly linked to the budget availability until the end of the Project.

77. Some activities organised in collaboration with MedSudMed were discussed by the Committee. The Coordinator of MedSudMed informed on the intention of the two project in continuing the collaboration for the organisation in Tunisia in September 2011 the second meeting of the Subregional Demersal Working Group. In relation with the scientific experience related with deep sea pelagic proposed during a MedSudMed meeting at SAC the Coordinator of MedSudMed informed that is postponed expecting the availability of a suitable research vessel. The Committee agreed that this experience, if realised should be regional with the participation of all Mediterranean projects and countries.

78. The 2011 CopeMed II workplan was adopted by the Committee.
9. Other issues (Agenda Item 7)

79. The Committee discussed the need to raise the financial issues during the coordinating meetings of the project and that a specific Agenda item should be added in the next CopeMed II coordination committee.

80. The Committee underlined the constraints related to the incertitude for the extension of the project and the presented Workplan for the next month and supported the efforts of FAO in finding additional funding to allow the extension of the project, including the participation of other donors.

81. The FAO representative of the subregional office for North Africa, thanked the project for their participation to this important meeting and recalled the effective collaboration between FAO subregional office and Mediterranean projects.

82. The representative of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), Mr Abdellah Srour thanked CopeMed II project staff for the results achieved in supporting the GFCM and reiterated the importance of the continuation of the projects for the GFCM and its members.

83. All the national delegates thanked the project staff for the very important results achieved and reiterated the need for ensuring the availability of funding to cover the extension of the CopeMed II and ArtFiMed activities, allowing a consolidation of the results achieved until now.

84. The Tunisian representative, Mr Mrabet, suggested that every participant country may transmit an official letter expressing the need of each country for the continuation of both Projects CopeMed II and ArtFiMed.

85. The Committee expressed the interest to be informed on any development regarding projects extension and on the support of the current or new donors. The Committee agreed that the project staff and Committee members will explore all possible sources of funding for the extension of the activities of the project.

10. Date and venue of the next Coordination Committee (Agenda Item 8)

86. The Coordinator, members of the Committee and the other participants expressed their thanks to the Spanish authorities and Spanish delegation for their warm welcome and successful organization. He also thanked the Chairperson Mr Baro for the excellent management of the meeting and the final results.

87. The Chairperson thanked the participants for their contributions and called their attention for the implementation of the adopted questions that needs an active participation of the countries focal points and experts in all the activities to be carried out.
11. Adoption of the report (Agenda Item 9)

The Committee approved the report and the Chairperson finally declared the meeting closed.
ANNEXES
Annex 1: CopeMed II Coordinator Opening Speech

Good Morning, Madame the Secretary General of the Sea, Representatives of the Spanish and the European Commission donors, Representative of the GFCM, national delegates of CopeMed II, Director of the IEO, Representatives of FAO, Coordinators of the FAO sub-regional projects in the Mediterranean, dear colleagues:

First at all I would like to express our appreciation to our colleagues who were unable to be here with us expressing the desire to end all regional open conflicts, particularly in those countries participating in CopeMed II. We hope that we all meet soon in peace.

I would like to thanks the Secretaría General del Mar and the different persons that were and are involved in organising this meeting in Madrid for their efforts and contributions, because this dedication to our activities increases their current heavy workload.

We meet today in Madrid to have the Fourth Session of the Coordination Committee of CopeMed II, to promote and review the progress and advise the work plan, an obligation that provided me the pleasure that represents an annual encounter with friends and colleagues from a long professional travel.

In a brief reminder I will mention that in 1995, the Spain urged a change of direction in the region announcing the agreement with FAO for funding, from 1996 the first regional fisheries cooperation project in the Mediterranean, the project CopeMed (Advice, Technical Support and Establishment of Cooperation Networks to Facilitate Coordination to Support Fisheries Management in the Western and Central Mediterranean). CopeMed was established to strengthen scientific collaboration among countries involved in the management of fisheries in this area and it was financed through AECI (Spanish Agency for International Cooperation). CopeMed reinforced the capacities of the Southern Mediterranean countries, encouraged the collaboration between the participating states and supported scientific activities promoted by the regional fisheries management bodies as the GFCM.

CopeMed developed in the sub-region a sound scientific collaboration. This approach has contributed the subsequent development in the Mediterranean of other FAO projects of similar characteristics that today maintains a strength collaboration and cooperation: AdriaMed established in 1999, MedSudMed in 2001, MedFisis in 2004, CopeMed II and ArtFiMed in 2008 and EastMed in 2009 supported with funds from Italy, Greece, Spain and the European Commission.

The second phase of the CopeMed project, Co-ordination to Support Fisheries Management in the Western and Central Mediterranean, was declared operational since the end of February 2008. The project is a partnership between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the General Secretariat of the Sea of Spain, the EU Directorate General of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG-MARE), and the seven participating countries in the western and central sub-regions of the Mediterranean. In addition, the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID) approved a specific contribution to support a pilot project on the small-scale fishery in Morocco and Tunisia through the ArtFiMed project Sustainable development of the artisanal Mediterranean fisheries in Morocco and Tunisia, implemented under the CopeMed II umbrella. In December 2009 and October 2010, AECID agreed new contributions to support specific actions of CopeMed II.
CopeMed phase II has built on the achievements of the first phase of the project while strengthening the framework of international cooperation. CopeMed II is working to maintain the sustainability of marine fisheries in the central and western Mediterranean Sea, taking into consideration environmental, biological, economical and social issues and promoting scientific cooperation as well as joint analyses mainly on shared stocks. The management of shared exploited resources remains one of the great challenges to achieve long-term sustainable fisheries.

CopeMed II promotes a strong South-South and North-South collaboration, reinforcing regional management activities with the GFCM. Actions to improve the artisanal fisheries sector in the two countries participating in ArtFiMed, Morocco and Tunisia, has been possible through the AECID financial support to assist the many times forgotten artisanal sector, contributing to reducing isolation and to alleviate hunger and poverty and supporting alternatives to the fisheries generating revenues.

In order to consolidate and coordinate common activities to strengthen international and Mediterranean cooperation, CopeMed II interacts closely with the other FAO Regional Projects working together within the FAO Fisheries Department and with the FAO regional and subregional offices in North Africa. The project also works with the AECID delegations in the countries reinforcing national collaboration and between different international agencies.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you know CopeMed II and ArtFiMed activities must be completed in a few months. The FAO Fisheries Department and the Department of Cooperation, as well as the participating countries and the GFCM, have submitted requests to the donors so that the activities of these two projects can continue and not being truncated the expectations for the benefits they generate to both, the CopeMed II member countries and the Mediterranean region.

We know that the current global crisis means restrictions in the countries, but we also believe that the serious situation that are facing some of the CopeMed II southern countries is an opportunity not only to the current donors, Spain and the European Commission, but also to other European countries in making efforts to facilitate the transition to periods of prosperity and harmony based on regional cooperation. We hope that the opportunities offered by the extension of the activities of CopeMed II in the central and western Mediterranean regions could be considered by the different governments so that the seeds that have been planted in these three years of activities of CopeMed II and ArtFiMed can germinate and give the expected results.

I wish finally that our works during this one and a half day could be considered by you an opportunity to bridge the present with the future of the projects. I thank all the participants for their effort and for your contributions to this meeting aiming a strong future of cooperation in the Mediterranean. And I can’t finish without express again our gratitude to the SG Mar for organising with us the fourth Coordination Committee meeting.

Thank you very much for your attention.
Annex 2: Statement of the Secretary General of the Sea – Opening of the CopeMed Annual meeting

Representatives from CopeMed II member countries, Copemed II Director, IEO Director, Representatives of the European Union and FAO, CGPM acting Executive Secretary, I wish to thank you all for attending this CopeMed II Coordination Committee in Spain.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank you for your important contribution to the Sustainable Fisheries Development in the Mediterranean Sea within this Copemed Cooperation framework. I wish you success in your work in the next couple of days and hope this will be a fruitful experience for all of us. Furthermore, I would be delighted if you could also join us for dinner tonight to celebrate such important meeting.

Spain has always played an active role on the protection of resources and exploited ecosystems. Spain was the first country of the EU to create a fisheries protection zone in the Mediterranean (Royal Decree 1315/1997 of August 1st, then amended by Royal Decree 431/2000 of March 31st).

This is not an isolated event; we have not only steadily reduced our fishing effort in the latest decades, we have also promoted an internal policy to improve rational exploitation of resources, in collaboration with the Spanish Institute of Oceanography which provides valuable scientific expertise. We are willing, on the other hand, to defend sustainable and profitable fisheries for an activity that deserves the right to offer, to future generations, commitment to Marine Environment, considering resources and their habitats, as established in the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

In addition to an internal policy based on resources sustainability, Spain has focused its foreign policy to improve fisheries management tools in order to preserve resources in international waters, including offshore, strengthening country coordination in the management of shared, straddling or highly migratory marine fish stocks. Such conservation is also being applied in those vulnerable systems where Spanish fleet operates and where a multi-disciplinary research policy for the resources protection and the vulnerable ecosystems conservation, is taking place. The “White book” of Fishery (2007), established the importance of “increasing transnational cooperation and planning strategies for fisheries research with third countries”.

In this international framework, regional fisheries organizations, supported by Spain, play a crucial role. An active policy to strengthen these organizations is to provide them the best knowledge of the populations they manage and to support working mechanisms, consultation and planning to obtain data from the countries, assessment of the state of exploited populations and control on their evolution in order to establish an adequate management.

Spain called on Mediterranean countries to work together to strengthen fisheries management and to maintain the cooperation among riparian countries; it’s the only way to ensure there is a real future for the fishing industry and the only way to protect the marine environment, including exploited resources. For these reasons, Spain supported FAO in 2006, in order to create the second phase of CopeMed project in the Mediterranean, which would finally begin in February 2008. The second phase aimed to consolidate the activities undertaken during the first phase and do develop, according to such results, other activities taking into account not only the
exploitation of resources but also the social and economical aspects related to the fishery activities.

I’m aware of CopeMed II’s important influence in the Mediterranean, setting an example for other regional cooperation projects such as AdriaMed or MedSudMed. CopeMed II, with an active participation of most countries, has focused among other things, in:

- Promoting the sub-regional cooperation (north-south and south-south) to the share management of common resources, considering the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.
- Supporting countries in order to obtain the necessary statistical information (biological and socio-economic) for management in the CGPM framework.
- Strengthen the fisheries research among the member countries, encouraging regional cooperation on research in biological, ecological, socio-economic and institutional aspects, and in particular in regional scientific training.
- Creating regional fisheries information networks involving all the actors with the support of the regional and national institutions.
- Support the CGPM activities and the involvement of other countries in the management of exploited stocks in common.

If we go back to 1996, as CopeMed started then, we can actually say we have made considerable progress. The data and scientific results obtained from this Project have consolidated the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and its subsidiary bodies’ position in the Region. CopeMed has significantly promoted regional cooperation between scientists and managers at national and regional level, within the Mediterranean fisheries.

Even if there is still much to do according to the initial objectives of the project, CopeMed II has done at this stage, a fundamental job in the common management of the fishery resources of the occidental and central Mediterranean: the set up the basis to implement newer projects and the creation of different working groups that may provide useful information to the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, making possible to adopt appropriate management measures in the Mediterranean.

We would appreciate if CopeMed II could have in the future an important role in the establishment of FAO guidelines on artisanal fishery. The experiences that took place in Morocco and Tunisia on artisanal fishery under the ArtFiMed project, financed by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and coordinated by CopeMed II, as well as other regional initiatives, could be the base for a cooperation activity in order to develop the artisanal fishery in the Mediterranean. In the context of FAO, a significant progress has been done to encourage the good practices in the small scale fisheries governance. By supporting the artisanal fishery within CopeMed II, we should manage to produce an international instrument and implement a specific world program for this type of fishery.

The artisanal fishery has become quite an important instrument for the alimentary security as well as for the socioeconomic development. Small scale actors and vulnerable communities are at the heart of the Spanish fisheries policy and of the Spanish cooperation policy towards with third countries.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank the European Union for its support from the very beginning and we also invite other countries of the occidental and central Mediterranean area to actively support such project. The fact that other countries may participate in the projects and in
the financing procedure of CopeMed II would be very positive, as it would provide more opportunities and the possibility to initiate new areas of research. I therefore formally invite the coastal countries to adopt a more active role, joining Spain as donor countries and leaders of the project.

Spain and specially the General Secretariat of the Sea, has always taken into account the situation of the resources in order to support CopeMed II activities based on the common objectives adopted annually by the Coordination Committee. At the beginning, Spain was supporting FAO projects through the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation funds, but since 2008, the Secretariat of the Sea has assumed the financial cost of the CopeMed II project. We believe such project is crucial within the occidental and central Mediterranean and for that reason the Spanish Ministry will find the way to maintain its support to the development of the CopeMed II project.

We know international cooperation projects are always more successful when institutions from different countries work together; for this reason I invite you to work during the present annual meeting. I wish you the best for the next two days and hope your efforts will contribute to the welfare of fishermen, the coastal fishing communities’ security and the Mediterranean sustainability.
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Annex 4: Agenda

1. **Opening of the meeting, election of Chairperson and Adoption of the Agenda**
   - Welcome by the Spanish authorities
   - Introduction of the participants countries (Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Tunisia, and Spain) and the Organisations and Agencies (SG Mar; UE, AECID, FAO, GFCM, ICCAT) and others.
   - Designation of the chairperson an adoption of the Agenda

   - An overview of the main activities performed by CopeMed II and the outputs achieved during the intersession period will be given to the Committee.
   - An overview of the main activities performed by and by ArtFiMed and the outputs achieved during the intersession period will be given to the Committee.

3. **Proposals on national activities in the framework of the project**
   - Presentation of countries’ proposals to be carried out at national and subregional level

4. **GFCM activities of relevance for CopeMed II and ArtFiMed**
   - Presentation of the GFCM scientific and technical activities of relevance to the project

5. **Collaboration between CopeMed II and other sub-regional Mediterranean projects: EastMed and MedSudMed**

6. **Priority activities for the next period of ArtFiMed and CopeMed II**
   - A workplan, the programme of the ongoing and scheduled activities for the next period will be dealt with, according the duration of the two projects

7. **Other issues**

8. **Date and venue of the next Coordination Committee**

9. **Adoption of the report**
Annex 5: Report on the ArtFiMed Project’s Progress

Introduction

ArtFiMed (Sustainable Development of Artisanal Mediterranean Fisheries in Morocco and Tunisia) coordinated by CopeMed II, is a pilot project implemented in three sites: Ghannouch and El Akarit in Tunisia and Dikky in Morocco. Main goal of ArtFiMed is improving the livelihood of fishers and his families, but the whole artisanal system (fisheries, resources, marketing, intermediaries, social and economic aspects, including education) is a target.

Overall Objective

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to reduce the poverty of the target artisanal fisheries communities by improving their livelihood in the respect of the ecosystems which they exploit as to contribute to improve positive integration of these communities in the dynamic which affect them directly, in particular the management of fisheries and the development of the coastal areas.

Summary of Immediate Objectives and Expected Results

Immediate objectives are:

1. To contribute improving the socio-economic situation and sustainable livelihood of the target communities in Morocco and Tunisia.
2. To promote and extend the results of the project to other artisanal areas based on lessons learned through implementation and the application of methodologies.
3. To reinforce the information baseline on Mediterranean artisanal fisheries.

The expected results concern three different levels:

1. Results obtained at the three artisanal communities where the project is carried out (i.e. Dikky in Morocco; Ghannouch and El Akarit in Tunisia);
2. Results obtained at country level (Morocco and Tunisia) and particularly with regard to the promotion of the artisanal fisheries at national scale; and
3. Results obtained at the GFCM level, strengthening the artisanal fisheries information and promoting lessons learned and methodologies in the region.

PROGRESS REGISTERED FROM MAY 2010 TO APRIL 2011

Objective 1. To contribute in improving the socio-economic situation and sustainable livelihood of the target communities in Morocco and Tunisia.

1.2. Identification and planning

• The participatory identification of priority activities to be undertaken under the project is a permanent process with beneficiaries and actors in Morocco and Tunisia, coordinated in the framework of an internal (FAO) and regional process:
  - ArtFiMed Internal Committee (CPSI). Last meeting was held in November 2010 in Tunis.
  - FAO Mediterranean project’s Coordination meetings (December 2010, Malta), (January 2011, Italia) and (February 2011, Marseille)
1.3. Implementation

Promotion and support to sustainable fisheries
ArtFiMed promotes responsible fisheries through the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) principles and the dissemination of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF):

- **Support/reinforce the collaboration process between fisheries actors (Administration, research and profession) for sustainable fisheries management:**
  ArtFiMed meetings and activities contributed to create/reinforce the dialogue and the understanding between the fisheries actors. All the followings contributed to this result:
  - Fishermen Cooperative creation process in Tunisia and Morocco
  - Small scale fisheries day organization and preparatory meetings in Tunisia and Morocco
  - Consultation for revision the small scale fisheries monitoring system in Tunisia
  - Meeting on illegal practices in Tunisia
  - Training on safety at sea in Morocco and Tunisia
  - Trainings and dissemination on fisheries legislation in Tunisia

- **Contribute to disseminate the fisheries legislation and the good practices**
  ArtFiMed is working on field guides and material on small scale fisheries legislation and good practices in the 3 sites: (Documents in preparation)
  - Small scale fisheries in the Gabès region (Tunisia)
  - Landed species guide in Gabès and El Akarit (Tunisia)
  - Guide on small scale fishing gears in the Gabès region (Tunisia)
  - Small scale fisheries in Dikky (Morocco)
  - Landed species guide in Dikky (Morocco)
  - Guide on small scale fishing gears in Dikky (Morocco)
  - Authorized landed sizes; Measurement guide of species landed by the small scale fishery in Dikky (Morocco) and El Akarit (Tunisia)
  - The code of the fisherman good practices in Tunisia
  - Risks to human health associated to the exploitation and consumption of shellfish in the area of El Akarit (Tunisia) during closures
  - Management of clam fishing area in El Akarit (Tunisia)

- **Support the monitoring of the small scale fisheries activities**
  Monitoring fishing activities is a component of the project essential to have information and statistics of the activity in the various project sites. A system for regular monitoring was established to:
  - Monitor the activity and review developments in the fishing and marketing of products
  - Update the information collected during the diagnostic phase on the economic viability of fisheries
  - Provide the necessary information for calculating indicators for the project monitoring system

Despite common goals, this monitoring system has been implemented according the specificities of each site. However, for reasons of durability and consistency with the project objectives, and in particular the co-management vision, monitoring is provided by members of the fishing community. ArtFiMed selected and trained human resource in each site to enable them to provide reliable and regular information on their own activities.
• **Support fishermen’s organization**

Through a participatory process with beneficiaries and actors ArtFiMed supported the creation of producers’ organizations in Tunisia and in Morocco:

- Facilitating the process of consultation with fishers to identify the needs and expectations of the fishermen and the roles of the future cooperative.
- Preparing a proposal for formulation of a cooperative agreement and conducting a consultation to review and adopt the statutes.
- Supporting the organization and holding of the Constituent General Assembly of the fishing cooperative.
- Overseeing the Dikky fishing cooperative in its initial stage on:
  - the administrative and financial management of cooperatives;
  - Support for integrated cooperative network of existing fishing cooperatives (Cooperative Union of the Northern Region)
  - Solve some problems of members.
- Facilitating the process of consultation with fishers to develop a Protocol for management of winches by the cooperative of Dikky.

(The planed activities with the Tunisian fishermen organization in Ghannouch were postponed due to the situation in Tunisia)

• **Contribute to prevent and deter unreported unregulated fishing activities**

In Ghannouch (Tunisia) ArtFiMed organized a participatory process and meeting with fisheries administration, local authority and fishermen organizations to reduce illegal practices and use of destructive fishing techniques and practices and to promote sustainable fisheries.

Moreover, as a large number of fishermen are illegal because of non-registration of their boats, ArtFiMed assisted them to prepare an application for regularization of these boats, for the Fisheries Department. From an initial list of 100 boats, the authorities have initiated the process of regularization of 50 boats, which should allow the owner to comply with fisheries legislation and thus be eligible for social coverage and facilities provided for the small scale fisheries sector development.

In El Akarit (Tunisia) the development of toxic algal blooms is a major problem for the women collecting clams, which results in making this fishing activity very precarious and potentially dangerous for consumers. ArtFiMed fishing monitoring system in El Akarit reveals an important illegal activity, practiced during the closure of the fishing area. A training and awareness process is organized with women, researchers and authorities and shall proceed in the coming months.

• **Enhance safety at sea and improve the working conditions**

ArtFiMed support the provision of mechanical winches for fishermen organization in Dikky. The locations for the installation of these winches (under construction) have been identified by fishermen themselves. A Protocol for the management of winches by the cooperative is in progress.

• **Support the fisheries product transformation and quality**

ArtFiMed is organizing training on quality and transformation of fisheries products for women in Tunisia. Indeed, it has been identified possibility of processing fishery products by fisher’s wives in Ghannouch. ArtFiMed is organizing training on quality and hygiene of processing fishery products and opportunities for enhancement and conservation of sardines, currently poorly valued.
Sustainable livelihood and socioeconomic development
The small scale fishing communities living in very difficult social and economic conditions, due to irregular and declining revenues generated by this activity. The dependency of this community to the fishing activity is very important, because of the lack of alternatives due to the low access of social, health, education and financial facilities.

To improve living conditions and try to reduce the vulnerability of artisanal fishing communities ArtFiMed encourages diversification and development of alternative income generating activities.

- The project supported the creation of a women’s organization in Morocco and the training of its members on administrative and financial management of collective organizations and alternative income-generating activities.
- With the same purpose, it also organized and supported technical training for fishers (men and women) on:
  - Design and repair of small scale fishing nets (6 month on-the-job training for 25 women)
  - Artisanal fisheries legislation (2 weeks training for 25 women)
  - Beekeeping for Moroccan small scale fishing families (1 week and on-the-job for 10 fishermen)
  - Manual and traditional Tunisian embroidery for women collecting clams in Tunisia (6 month on-the-job training for 25 women)
  - Traditional carpet weaving for women collecting clams in Tunisia; (10 month practical on-the-job for 25 women)

- ArtFiMed supports the development of alternative income generating activities initiated
  - Support the promotion of artisanal products in Tunisia (products guide in preparation)
  - Support the beekeeping production (Support the creation of a cooperative and technical support from the production to the commercialization of the products). Those activities should allow the beneficiaries to receive some facilities (material, technical support, subsidies...) from the Moroccan Agricultural Ministry

Objective 2. To promote and extend the results of the project to other artisanal areas based on lessons learnt through implementation and the application of methodologies.

2.1-2.3. Identification of indicators, monitoring system elaboration and implementation
A document has been finished defining the ArtFiMed protocol for monitoring activities and indicators. The monitoring system, involving members of the fishing communities and professionals, has been implemented in each site to collect fisheries-related information and statistical data and is operational. All this information is recorded in a database in the project’ offices.

2.4. Information and communication
Activities related to the project’ visibility, public and media information and priority information on the results and follow-up to be transmitted to FAO, the donors and the countries involved.

- In order to contribute to the dissemination of documents and information on the implementation of the activities, the project website www.faoartfimed.org is periodically
updated. Moreover, the project elaborated and distributed several posters and informative flyers.

- The project participated in different national and international meetings and Workshop, promoting the results obtained and the role of artisanal fisheries, including: the CopeMed II annual Coordination Committee meeting and the coordination meeting between the different FAO Mediterranean projects; GFCM Subcommittees, SAC and Commission meeting; Technical meeting with Fishery ministry and national fisheries institutions in Morocco and Tunisia; Training course in CIHEAM, Zaragoza (Spain) on artisanal fisheries products markets and on gear selectivity; an Extraordinary Meeting of the Focal Points for SPAs and the 2nd Meeting of the SAP BIO National Correspondents (Istanbul, Turkey).

**Reinforcement of the regional cooperation with the FAO subregional projects**
In order to consolidate and coordinate common activities to strengthen international and regional cooperation, CopeMed II and ArtFiMed interacts closely with the other FAO Regional Projects, mainly with MedSudMed and GEF-MedLME and participating in the Coordination Committees of the other projects.

- Coordination between the different FAO project’s experts and meetings were carried out during the Sub Committees meeting in Malta and the SAC meeting in Marseille (France).
- A Coordination meeting within FIRF (Marine and Island Fisheries Service, Fisheries Department, FAO) was organised during January 2011 with the participation of the Mediterranean projects CopeMed II and ArtFiMed.
- The project staff participated at a retreat meeting organised by FAO-FIRF Service to review the Medium Term Plan 2010-13 and prepare the work programme for the biennium 2012-13.
- CopeMed II staff helped the EastMed staff in implementing different FAO procedures during the first months of the project.
- The FAO Mediterranean Projects, namely AdriaMed, MedSudMed, CopeMed II, EastMed, ArtFiMed, MedFisis and the GEF-supported Partnership for the Mediterranean (MED-LME) were present during the COFI meeting with a joint stand. Documents and products, including posters and flyers were available to the participants.

- Finally, representatives of CopeMed II/ArtFiMed were present during the Coordination meeting of AdriaMed (Slovenia), and EastMed (Turkey) presenting the progress of the two projects and supporting and coordinating with the other projects activities on common objectives.

**2.5. Facilitate the involvement of authorities and stakeholders in the activities.**
All the activities implemented in the framework of ArtFiMed, follows a process of consultation with beneficiaries and authorities, by involving all the relevant actors, from the identification until the implementation phase. This allows not only to keep all partners informed about the project activities, but also to involve the authorities and stakeholders in project implementation and achievement of expected results.
2.6. Dissemination of results to the authorities and competent bodies and identifying needs for consolidation and extension of learning

Due to the ArtFiMed and CopeMed II experiences and results on fisheries monitoring system and statistics, Tunisia Direction General for Fisheries and Aquaculture requested the projects support and expertise, to assess the current national system for monitoring artisanal fisheries. ArtFiMed and CopeMed II are working with Tunisian fisheries actors to identify and implement a monitoring system, which will produce updated statistical data on artisanal fisheries to provide the necessary data for the sustainable management of small scale fisheries. The project recruited an international expert on fisheries statistics and two national experts (one from the DG Fisheries and Aquaculture and one from the INSTM) to support the activities of the international expert during a programmed visit. A one-week visit of this expert to Tunisia is planned for the end of April 2011 aiming to contribute to:

- Evaluate the current systems for collecting statistics related with the artisanal fisheries
- Prepare a proposal for implementing a new statistical systems, and
- Prepare a draft project document PCT to help the DGPA in implementing a new artisanal fisheries statistics system in Tunisia.

Due to the project experiences in monitoring small scale fisheries, ArtFiMed is involved in the Mediterranean GEF LME project, Sub-Component 3.2. Promote the Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources in the Mediterranean through the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, and particularly in the implementation of the activity 3.2.3 to support fisher’s participation in monitoring and management of coastal MPA’s. That mean ArtFiMed experience is supporting the participation of the fishing communities on the monitoring of fishing activities and will contribute to the diffusion of the results and to build sustainable consultation mechanism for the elaboration and implementation of management measures in a MPA.

Objective 3. To reinforce the information base line on Mediterranean artisanal fisheries.

3.1. Identification and monitoring of indicators at regional scale

Information and data on national artisanal fisheries is necessary for the management of fisheries and other coastal activities, although countries do not always carry out periodical sampling. ArtFiMed, by preparing diagnostic reports and follow-up methodologies, contribute to reinforce the national information and also the regional information and databases.

3.2. Promotion and Experience sharing

ArtFiMed prepare publications on small-scale fisheries in Tunisia and Morocco, to contribute to promote sustainable fisheries and disseminate the ArtFiMed results, regarding the specificity of the small scale fisheries, the fishing gears and techniques, the landed species, and the fisheries legislation.

3.3. Project promotion and improvement of artisanal fisheries database

In coordination with the Fisheries administrations in both countries, ArtFiMed is working on the organization of a small scale fisheries day in Tunisia and Morocco. The main objective of this meeting is to contribute to better understanding the role of the artisanal fisheries in the context of the national fisheries, promotion and visualization of the artisanal fisheries and reinforce the information base on Mediterranean small scale Fisheries. These two national events will be held the 2 of June 2011 in Tangier (Morocco) and the 22 of June in Tunis, with a large representation of stakeholders involved in small scale fisheries at national, regional and global level.
ArtFiMed Reports:

Technical documents

Reports and publication in preparation:
1. La pêche artisanale dans la région de Gabès (Tunisie)
2. Guide des principales espèces débarquées par la pêche artisanale dans la région de Gabès (Tunisie)
3. Guide sur les engins utilisés par la pêche artisanale dans la région de Gabès (Tunisie)
4. La pêche artisanale dans la région de Dikky (Maroc)
5. Guide des principales espèces débarquées par la pêche artisanale à Dikky (Maroc)
6. Guide sur les engins utilisés par la pêche artisanale à Dikky (Maroc)
7. Le code du pêcheur en Tunisie (Tunisie)
8. Diagnostique de la filière apicole dans la région de Tanger (Maroc)
9. Situation actuelle de la pêcherie du thon rouge dans le détroit de Gibraltar en Méditerranée Marocaine (Maroc)
10. Les risques sanitaires liés à l’exploitation des coquillages dans la zone d’El Akarit (Tunisie)
11. La gestion des sites de collecte de palourdes dans la zone d’El Akarit (Tunisie)

Internal documents (Cf Annexe 1)
ArtFiMed internal document includes:
- A monthly report of activities by the national responsible of Morocco and Tunisia;
- Fields reports after each duty travel of the national responsible in Tunisia and Morocco.
- Fields reports on the fisheries activities and updated database monthly in the three sites.

Travel Reports (Back to Office Reports)
Internal report to inform the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department are produced after each duty travel of the staff:
BTOR CopeMedII/ArtFiMed BTOR Istambul (Turkey) 05/2010 Bernardon
BTOR CopeMedII/ArtFiMed Casablanca y Rabat (Morocco) 09/2010: Camiñas & Bernardon
BTOR CopeMedII/ArtFiMed Tunis and Gabès, Tunisia (19-22/10/2010) Bernardon
BTOR CopeMedII/ArtFiMed Malta, 12-2010 GFCM SAC Sub-committees. Camiñas & Bernardon
BTOR CopeMedII/ArtFiMed Rome, December 2010, EAF Training, Camiñas & Bernardon
BTOR CopeMedII/ArtFiMed Tangier, February 2010, ArtFiMed activities, Bernardon
BTOR CopeMedII/ArtFiMed Tangier, February 2010, CopeMed & ArtFiMed activities, Camiñas & Bernardon

Progress reports
ArtFiMed reports to Spain every 6 months to inform the donor (AECID) on the progress achieved and the planned activities.

GFCM reports
In coordination with the other FAO subregional projects, ArtFiMed produces an annual report to inform the SAC and an annual report to inform the CGFM on the main achievements of the project.
Activities related with the donor (AECID, Spain)

Contacts with the donor have been maintained: telephone and mail contacts; visits to Madrid and meeting with the AECID Technical Cooperation Officers during visits to the African countries.

- At request of the SG del Mar, the project’ staff prepared a draft proposal in March 2011 to extend CopeMed II, including the activities of ArtFiMed for 3 additional years.
- A meeting with AECID in October 2010 and discussion by email and telephone along the year facilitating the coordination and flow of information.
- The project has reported twice a year to the Spanish donors on the activities of the project.
- AECID agreed in the extension, without increasing the budget, of the activities of ArtFiMed until the end of July 2011.
- The donor (including technical offices) has been invited and/or in copy of all the activities carried out by the project.

Project Coordination and Management, Information and Communication.

The fourth meeting of the ArtFiMed internal coordination committee (CPSI) was organized in Tunisia (November, 2010). The objectives of this coordination meeting were the monitoring and discussion of the activities implementation and planning and the project work plan. This meeting permitted to coordinate the project activities and exchange between staff on lessons learned and experiences in Morocco and Tunisia. A report of the meeting was produced.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS BY THE COMMITTEE.

The Committee is invited to review the ArtFiMed Year 3 Progress report and to advise the Project staff on the necessary actions to be included in the annual Planning.

Annex 1: ArtFiMed Monitoring system and publication

<table>
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<th>Activity reports</th>
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ArtFiMed Fishing Activities monitoring system (FAMS)

El Akarit (Tunisia)
- **Authorized clam Fishing season 2009-2010 (November to May):**
  Database updated from November 2009 to May 2010
- **Authorized clam Fishing season 2010-2011 (November to May):**
  Database updated from November 2010 to March 2011

Ghannouch (Tunisia)
- Fishing activity monitoring: Database updated from 1 November 2009 to 31 December 2010
- Fishing gear pilot selectivity study: March to December 2010

Dikky (Morocco)
- Fishing activity monitoring Database updated from March 2009 to December 2010

ArtFiMed staff Back to office reports to Rome
- BTOR CopeMedII/ArtFiMed BTOR Istambul (Turkey) 05/2010 Bernardon
- BTOR CopeMedII/ArtFiMed Casablanca y Rabat (Morocco) 09/2010: Camiñas & Bernardon
- BTOR CopeMedII/ArtFiMed Tunis and Gabès, Tunisia (19-22/10/2010) Bernardon
- BTOR CopeMedII/ArtFiMed Malta, 12-2010 GFCM SAC Sub-committees. Camiñas & Bernardon
- BTOR CopeMedII/ArtFiMed Rome, December 2010, EAF Training, Camiñas & Bernardon
- BTOR CopeMedII/ArtFiMed Tangier, February 2010, ArtFiMed activities, Bernardon
- BTOR CopeMedII/ArtFiMed Tangier, February 2010, CopeMed & ArtFiMed activities, Camiñas & Bernardon

ArtFiMed: Reports and publication in preparation:
12. La pêche artisanale dans la région de Gabès (Tunisie)
13. Guide des principales espèces débarquées par la pêche artisanale dans la région de Gabès (Tunisie)
14. Guide sur les engins utilisés par la pêche artisanale dans la région de Gabès (Tunisie)
15. La pêche artisanale dans la région de Dikky (Maroc)
16. Guide des principales espèces débarquées par la pêche artisanale à Dikky (Maroc)
17. Guide sur les engins utilisés par la pêche artisanale à Dikky (Maroc)
18. Le code du pêcheur en Tunisie (Maroc)
19. Diagnostique de la filière apicole dans la région de Tanger (Maroc)
20. Situation actuelle de la pêcherie du thon rouge dans le détroit de Gibraltar en Méditerranée Marocaine (Maroc)
21. Les risques sanitaires liés à l’exploitation des coquillages dans la zone d’El Akarit (Tunisie)
22. La gestion des sites de collecte de palourdes dans la zone d’El Akarit (Tunisie)
Annex 6: Report on the CopeMed II Project’s Progress

Introduction
This paper summarizes the main activities carried out by the Project CopeMed phase II from May 2010 (3rd Coordination Committee meeting) to March 2011, including workshops, training, research activities and the technical assistance provided to the countries; as well as the cooperation established with the GFCM, the SAC and Sub-Committees and other relevant institutions. The work programme and recommendations of the 3rd Meeting of the CopeMed II Coordination Committee (Tunis, 6-7 May 2010) were implemented.

The activities carried out during the inter-committee period comply with the methodological framework of the Project and its mandate for this phase. This report details the main outputs of the Project activities and the results achieved with direct reference to the following Project Objectives:

1. Strengthening the national capacity to obtain statistical data on catch and effort, including biological and socio-economic data.
2. Strengthening fisheries scientific research and upgrading the research activity in the national and international context.
3. Strengthening the institutional capacity at national level (organization and network of fishery stakeholders, development of management strategies) and at sub-regional level (cooperation between countries and with Regional Fisheries Organisations).

Moreover, activities related with the donors, reporting and visualisation is included in this report for better information to the Committee.

1. Strengthening the national capacity to obtain statistical data on catch and effort, including biological and socio-economic data.

Technical support to countries
The 3rd Coordination Committee meeting decided that CopeMed II may support the countries that wish to run an evaluation of their statistical systems and that, to this end, the countries should formally request the assistance of the project for this task. Activities carried out include:

- Collaboration with MedFisis in improving the country’s capacity and to carry out new actions in the countries: during the SAC - SCs meeting (Malta, 28/11 to 2/12, 2010) CopeMed II and MedFisis met to review common activities in Morocco and Tunisia.

- Support the participation of experts at the GFCM Transversal workshop on the Monitoring of Recreational Fisheries in the GFCM Area 20 to 22 October, Palma de Majorca, Spain and at the Workshop on Data collection methods applied to all segments of the Fleet and their coherence with the requirements of the GFCM Task 1 (29 September to 1 October 2010), Roma, Italy and at the Subcommittee on Statistics and Information (SAC) in Malta (28/11 to 2/12, 2010).

- The project recruited an international expert on fisheries statistics to provide technical support to the DGPA (Tunisia) in the diagnosis of the national small scale fisheries statistical system, including the identification of weaknesses and gaps, and to prepare a draft project for monitoring these fisheries. The project recruited two national experts (one from the DG Fisheries and Aquaculture and one from the INSTM) to support the activities of the international expert during a programmed visit. A one-week visit of this expert to Tunisia is planned for the end of April 2011 aiming to contribute to:
  - Evaluate the current systems for collecting statistics related with the artisanal fisheries
  - Prepare a proposal for implementing a new statistical systems, and
  - Prepare a draft project document PCT to help the DGPA in implementing a new artisanal fisheries statistics system in Tunisia.
Several missions with different objectives, including statistics, were organised in Morocco (October, Meeting at the DGPMA); Tunisia (October and November. Meeting at the DGPA) and Algeria (meeting with the CNRDPA and the vessel owner and authorities of the port of Boudjezar (Oran). The MBRC in Tajura (Libya) was visited (18-19 May) during the MedSudMed Coordination meeting although a meeting with the authorities on fisheries was not organised.

**Socio-economic indicators**

- Experts from the CopeMed II countries participating in the SAC-SCESS requested to CopeMed II the possibility to publish a document on socio-economic indicators prepared during CopeMed phase I. The same request was posed during the SAC (Marseille).
- The project reviewed the related documentation and contacted the Editor requesting authorization to prepare a pdf version for distribution before publication.

**2. Strengthening the fisheries scientific research and upgrade the research activity in the national and international context.**

The relations and interactions with the participating countries were further strengthened, which contributed to the improved implementation of the Project activities in most of the countries. Several missions were organised in the countries and the Project supported experts from the fisheries research Institutions in international training courses, workshop and other joint research activities. Specific actions with the CNRDPA were carried out by the project answering different request from Algeria national focal point as a consequence of the current development of the CNRDPA and the launching of the *R/V Grine Belkacem* that should be operational for fisheries research soon in 2011.

**Subregional research activities related with shared stocks**

- CopeMed II and MedSudMed jointly organised a workshop in 2010 (Mazzara, Italy, 16-17 September) to assess the stock of *Parapenaeus longirostris* from the Sicily Strait area, participating experts from Italy, Malta, Libya, Tunisia and Algeria. The assessment was presented to the SCSA of the SAC-GFCM in November 2010.
- The first meeting of the CopeMed II and MedSudMed joint Subregional Demersal WG was organised in Mazzara during the same week. The meeting agreed that two new WG on shared stocks should be organised during 2011: *P. longirostris* between Algeria, Morocco and Spain and *M. merlucius* in the Sicily channel area. The Project and experts from Morocco and Algeria are already working to agree the TOR for the first *P. longirostris* from the Alboran area.
- A meeting in Tunisia on the shared stock *Coryphaena hippurus* was jointly organised by CopeMed II and MedSudMed. (Unfortunately the meeting was postponed).
- SRWG on shared demersal resources: an ad hoc scientific working group between Morocco and Spain on *Pagellus bogaraveo* was organised by CopeMed II following the GFCM request. Later the first Morocco-Spain joint assessment of *P. bogaraveo* stock in the Gibraltar Strait area was performed. The results were presented to the SCSA meeting in Malta by the national experts.
- Small pelagic in the Alboran sea in collaboration with Morocco and Spain. A document that revised the progress in the “pilot project for the management of small pelagic fisheries in the Alboran Sea” countries was produced by CopeMed II.
- CopeMed II organised a meeting “Small pelagic fisheries in the Alboran Sea within the framework of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management” (Málaga, Spain. 15 March 2011) with the participation of 20 experts from Algerian, Moroccan and Spanish research institutions and fisheries administrations and one NGO. A report was prepared.
Training activities
- On-the-job training on assessment of demersal stocks by direct methods by supporting two experts from the CNRDPA (Algeria) participating at the Italian Medits survey (May-June 2010).
- Support the participation of two experts from Morocco in: i) the course on Selectivity of fishing gear organised by the CIHEAM, (Zaragoza, Spain 14-18 June 2010) and ii) the International Master on Economy and Fisheries Management (CIHEAM-University of Barcelona- SG Mar, Spain)
- In the framework of the International Master on Economy and Fisheries Management, the staff of the project trained a Master graduate (from Morocco, INRH) participating at the “Commercialisation of the voraz (P. bogaraveo) from the artisanal site of Dikky, Morocco” (presented and approved in November 2010);
- Course on VPA methods organised by AdriaMed (Rome, Italy 22-26 November 2010): CopeMed II supported the participation of two experts from Morocco (INRH) and Algeria (CNRDPA, failed)
- A training workshop on “Implementing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Framework and Practical Guidance” was held during December 2010 (Rome) organised by the FAO project GEF_MedLME, with participation of experts from Tunisia and the Project.
- In collaboration with the IEO (Spain), a training course on “Theory and practice of the acoustic methodologies applied to the assessment by direct methods of small pelagic species” was organised in Palma de Majorca (17 January-18 February 2011). Ten experts from Algeria (CNRDPA), Morocco (INRH) and Tunisia (INSTM) were participating. A final evaluation by the scholars shows general satisfaction with the contents and performance although it was generally considered too short time for such level of information. Most of the participants requested new support to CopeMed II to be involved in acoustics surveys (on the job training) with the IEO.
- Support an expert from the fisheries administration in Morocco (DGPMA) to participate at a CIHEAM course on Tools for monitoring and surveillance in fisheries control systems (Zaragoza (Spain), 14-18 March 2011)

Other subregional and national research activities
- Support the new Algerian research vessel, through facilitating the participation of Algerian experts (CNRDPA) in demersal and small pelagic stock assessment surveys using direct methods and course on acoustic methodologies.
- Implementation of the 40 mm square meshes size in trawl gears. CopeMed II in collaboration with INRH and CNRDPA, is supporting two pilot projects in Morocco and Algeria on the implementation of 40 mm square mesh size bottom-trawl gears:
  - In collaboration with the CNRDPA the coordinator and a consultant on selectivity, visited Alger and Bouzedjar (Oran). The project prepared and financed material (codend and double codend) exported to Algeria. In agreement with the vessel owner and the CNRDPA the campaign will start on 11th April.
  - CopeMed II is in close contact with the Mediterranean professional sector in Morocco (Tangier and Al-Hoceima), the INRH and the fisheries administration to organize a pilot research survey with a professional vessel in Al-Hoceima to assess the biological and socioeconomic impacts of the use of 40 mm square mesh size in the bottom trawl fleet.
- CopeMed II financed the participation of 67 experts (7 unsuccessful from Algeria) from all the countries, according to requests from the national focal points and the GFCM Secretariat, to participate in training activities, CopeMed II meetings and GFCM and subsidiary bodies during the intersessional period.
3. Strengthening institutional capacity at national and sub-regional level (cooperation between countries and with Regional Fisheries Organisations).

- CopeMed II is collaborating with responsible of the fisheries administration at different levels (local, provincial and national) in different issues (statistics, participation at regional activities, coordination between countries, etc) and coordinating small scale fisheries activities (through ArtFiMed) in supporting the creation and reinforcement of artisanal fishers’ associations in Morocco and Tunisia;

- The FAO Mediterranean Projects have been invited to participate in the EU Mediterranean RAC and included in the groups of discussion. CopeMed II Project staff participated as representative of the FAO Mediterranean Projects in two RAC Med meeting on:
  - Technical measures and on the revision of Mediterranean EU Fisheries Policy including discussion on small scale fisheries (June 2010 in Marbella, Spain),
  - Collaboration between fishermen and scientists in June 2010 Brussels (Belgium).

- Represent FAO-FIRF in the third meeting at the working group on Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) for the Mediterranean (24 November 2010, Brussels) was an occasion to reinforce the cooperation of the FAO with the European Commission on: the Integrated Maritime Policy; the Maritime Spatial Planning; the Maritime Knowledge 2020 and the Mediterranean Maritime Surveillance.

- Served as a channel of communication among the different organizations dealing with fisheries issues in the project’s area, and disseminated information on events and activities of interest in the region through the project’s website (www.faocopemed.org) and the i-bulletin which is distributed bi-monthly to key persons in the eight countries.

- CopeMed II maintained the main fisher’s organisations and other stakeholders informed by distributing information generated by the project (meeting, documents), information from others (courses, meeting, documents) and the i-bulletin of the project main activities.

Reinforcing the regional cooperation and supporting the GFCM

The FAO subregional projects, and particularly CopeMed II, supports regularly the GFCM’ activities, in close collaboration with national focal points of the countries participating and the Commission’ Secretary by providing scientific contributions for discussion and by funding the participation. These efforts (in FAO staff workload, funds and time, but also providing GFCM meeting with the countries participation and information or data) during the Coordination Committee intersessional period (May 2010-March 2011) should be considered not only as a support to the countries but also as a true support to the GFCM. The project supported the GFCM and the countries during the mentioned period in eleven regional activities, facilitating the regional participation of the countries and disseminating the documents, data, knowledge and ideas of its national experts to the international GFCM arena: At the same time CopeMed II is also reinforcing the GFCM, facilitating regional activities by giving broad participation to countries that, without the project, will not be able to reinforce the GFCM participating in the numerous activities organised. The following eleven activities of the GFCM were supported by CopeMed II:

- Supporting the participation of a Libyan representative, SAC 2nd Vice-chair to the GFCM – SAC Coordination Meeting of the Sub Committees (Rome, Italy 9-10 June 2010)
- GFCM transversal workshop on red coral, by supporting one expert from Morocco (Alghero, Italy, September 2010)
- GFCM First Transversal Expert Meeting on the status of Elasmobranches in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, by supporting two experts from Morocco and Algeria (Sfax, Tunisia. 20-22 September 2010)
- GFCM-SAC Transversal Workshop on European Eel (Salambó, Tunisia. 23-24 September 2010) by supporting one expert from Morocco.
Workshop on data collection methods applied to all segments of the Fleet and their coherence with the requirements of the GFCM Task 1 (Rome, Italy 29 September 2010 - 1 October 2010) by supporting four experts from Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Algeria.

GFCM - SAC - Workshop on algal and jelly fish blooms (Istambul, Turkey 6-8 October 2010) by supporting three experts from Algeria and Morocco.

GFCM - SAC - Working Group on Stock Assessment on Demersal Species (Istambul, Turkey 18-23 October 2010) by supporting three experts from Algeria and Morocco.

GFCM - SAC - Workshop on monitoring recreational fisheries (Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 20-22 October 2010) by supporting two experts from Algeria (failed) and Morocco.

Transversal Workshop on selectivity improvement, bycatch reduction and alternative gears (Mazzara del Vallo, Italy 11-6 November 2010) by supporting two experts from Algeria and Morocco.

SAC annual Sub Committees meeting (Malta, 29 November - 2 December 2010) by supporting 10 experts from Algeria (3 failed), Morocco (1 failed) and Tunisia to participate in all the four sub committees.

SAC meeting (Marseille, France. 6-12 February 2011) supporting one expert (the national SAC delegate) from Morocco to represent his country.

Moreover,

The Project’ staff has participated actively in the SCs, SAC and GFCM by reinforcing the collaboration with the participating countries and the Commission.

In coordination with the other subregional projects CopeMed II and ArtFiMed prepared to the SAC a document on “Major activities of the FAO regional Projects in 2010”. This document summarizes the most significant activities carried out by the FAO Regional Projects during the intersessional period of the SAC. Project activities include research and training programmes, workshops and working groups, as well as the technical assistance provided to the countries, the SAC and its Sub-Committees and Working groups.

**Strengthening the FAO regional projects coordination, cooperation and synergy.**

In order to consolidate and coordinate common activities to strengthen international and regional cooperation, CopeMed II interact closely by correspondence and direct contact with the other FAO Regional Projects, mainly with MedSudMed and GEF-MedLME and participating in the Coordination Committees of the other projects.

- Coordination between the different FAO project’s experts and meetings were carried out during the Sub Committees meeting in Malta and the SAC meeting in Marseille (France).
- Organisation of subregional working groups on demersal species and facilitating experts’ participation at regional meeting in coordination with MedSudMed
- A Coordination meeting within FIRF (Marine and Inland Fisheries Service, Fisheries Department, FAO) was organised during January 2011 with the participation of the Mediterranean projects CopeMed II and ArtFiMed.
- The project staff participated at a retreat meeting organised by FAO-FIRF Service to review the Medium Term Plan 2010-13 and prepare the work programme for the biennium 2012-13.
- The AdriaMed coordinator participated at the CopeMed II meeting on “Small pelagic fisheries in the Alboran Sea within the framework of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management” presenting the experience in the Adriatic on small pelagic shared stocks.
- CopeMed II staff helped the EastMed staff in implementing different FAO procedures during the first months of the project.
- The FAO Mediterranean Projects, namely AdriaMed, MedSudMed, CopeMed II, EastMed, ArtFiMed, MedFisis and the GEF-supported Partnership for the Mediterranean (MED-LME) were present during the COFI meeting with a joint stand. Documents and products, including posters and flyers were available to the participants.
4. Activities related with the donors (UE and Spain)

**European Union**

The signature of the EC-FAO Grant Application for CopeMed II, Year 3, was signed by the two parties in 2010. The project (GCP/INT/006/EC) is operative from September the 4, 2010 and should be finished the 3 of September 2011.

- FAO in coordination with the project staff prepared the documentation requested by the E. Commission to the administrative closure of the EC project, Year 2.
- The EU as donor has been invited and/or in copy of all the activities carried out by the project and particularly on: Selectivity trials for 40 mm square mesh size; shared stocks activities including the small pelagic stocks in the Alboran sea; CopeMed II experts participation in EU MEDIAS; collaboration with the GFCM; Publications, visualisation documents and i-Bulletin.
- Informal meeting with the EU delegates were celebrated during the SCs and SAC of the GFCM meetings.
- The Coordinator was informed that a new Commission staff, Mr A. Cervantes will be in coordination with FAO for the follow up of CopeMed II.
- The project has reported annually (May 2010) to the Commission (progress report) on the activities of the project.
- The E. Commission was invited to participate at the 4th CopeMed II Coordination Committee meeting.

**Spain (Secretaría General del Mar and AECID)**

- Contacts with the two Spanish donors have been continuous by different ways: telephone and mail contacts; visits to Madrid and meeting during GFCM sessions.
- At request of the SG del Mar, the project’ staff prepared a draft proposal in March 2011 to extend CopeMed II, including the activities of ArtFiMed for 3 additional years.
- A meeting with the SG del Mar in October 2010 and in March 2011 facilitated the coordination and the discussion on the extension of CopeMed II.
- AECID approved in October 2010 the assignation of remnant funds (153.819 US $) for complementary activities of CopeMed II.
- A meeting with AECID in October 2010 and discussion by email and telephone along the year facilitating the coordination and flow of information.
- The project has reported twice a year to the Spanish donors on the activities of the project.
- SG del Mar and AECID agreed in the extension, without increasing the budget, of the activities of CopeMed II and ArtFiMed until the end of July 2011.
- The two Spanish donors have been invited and/or in copy of all the activities carried out by the project as mentioned to the European Commission.

5. Reports and documents

**Technical documents**

CopeMed II and ArtFiMed maintain a series of Technical documents and a series of internal documents aiming to reinforce common standards in the subregion and to disseminate general and scientific information. The list of technical and internal documents produced by CopeMed II and ArtFiMed are available in the project’ Web page [www.faocopemed.org](http://www.faocopemed.org). New documents from the 3rd Coordination Committee meeting include:

- Rapport of the third meeting of the Committee of Coordination. Tunis, May 2010.
- Spanish information about the red seabream (Pagellus bogaraveo) fishery in the Strait of Gibraltar Region; Gil, J. 2010
• Présentation ArtFiMed «La pêche artisanale à la Dorade rose Pagellus bogaraveo à Dikky (Maroc), dans la région du détroit de Gibraltar»
• Sistema de Seguimiento del Proyecto ArtFiMed - Versión en francés - Versión en español
• CopeMed II – ArtFiMed Technical Documents
• Situation sur la mise en œuvre des activités ArtFiMed en Tunisie. Novembre 2010
• Situation sur la mise en œuvre des activités ArtFiMed au Maroc. Novembre 2010
• Poster ArtFiMed au Maroc et en Tunisie: associer la pêche responsable au développement social
• Spanish information about the red seabream (Pagellus bogaraveo) fishery in the Strait of Gibraltar Region
• Report of the CopeMed II meeting on the definition of priority topics related to shared resources (demersal and pelagic) in the subregion. Málaga, Spain, 29-30 April 2010
• ArtFiMed Internal Committee (CPSI) meeting report. November 2010, Tunis. CopeMed II – ArtFiMed Technical Documents

Progress reports
Progress report are prepared to inform the donors on the progress within the year (for the EU according FAO-UE agreement) and every 6 months for the Spanish donors (Secretaría General del Mar and AECID). The entire staff of CopeMed II is also working for ArtFiMed.

Travel Reports (Back to Office Reports)
Internal FAO report to inform Fisheries and Aquaculture Department are produced after every duty travel by the staff of the project.

6. Project visualization
Web pages: An important aspect for visualization is the projects Web page. In coordination with the other FAO subregional projects, an expert update the CopeMed II and ArtFiMed web pages with news, documents, activities and information related with the projects (http://www.faocopemed.org; http://www.faoartfimed.org)
Projects brochures and posters: Brochures and posters of CopeMed II in Spanish, French and English are updated and distributed every time that Project staff participate in any international event.
Press notes and mentions in media: Information on the project activities appeared in digital national or international journals are compiled and linked to the Web page.

7. ArtFiMed activities
The Coordinator of the project CopeMed II is also coordinating ArtFiMed, as established in the Project document signed by FAO with the donor (AECID). The activities carried out under the coordination of CopeMed II corresponding to ArtFiMed are summarized in the document CopeMed II CC04/2011/03.
Annex 7: Priority activities for the 4th year of ArtFiMed

The remaining activities of the project ArtFiMed should be carried out before the end of July 2011, the NTE date of the project. The 24 months second phase of the project: Implementation and follow up of the activities and to activate and the 6 months 3rd phase: Synthesis of the experiences, dissemination, needs identification and consolidation, should be finished. Activities included in this document are related with the Objectives and were discussed and adopted by the fourth meeting of the ArtFiMed internal coordination committee (Tunisia, November 2010).

**Objective 1. To contribute to improving the socio-economic situation and sustainable livelihood of the target communities in Morocco and Tunisia.**

1.3. Activities implementation:
The following activities have been all identified through a participatory process and in conformity with the project’s objectives. The agreement process in each selected site to realize the communities’ needs follows the framework of the project objectives (Cf Table 1).

**Promotion and support sustainable fisheries**
ArtFiMed will persist in promoting responsible fisheries through the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) principles and the dissemination of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF):

- **Support/reinforce the collaboration process between fisheries actors (Administration, research and professional) for sustainable fisheries management:**
  ArtFiMed meetings (Morocco and Tunisia national small scale fisheries day) and outputs (awareness’ sessions, documents’ publications…) will contribute to create/reinforce the dialogue and the understanding between the fisheries actors.

- **Contribute to disseminate the fisheries legislation and good fishing practices**
  ArtFiMed will finalize, edit and disseminate field guides and informative material on small scale fisheries legislation and good fishing practices.

- **Support the monitoring of the small scale fisheries activities**
  ArtFiMed will analyse and disseminate the results of the small scale fisheries monitoring system created by the project. Moreover, ArtFiMed in coordination with CopeMed II will assist the international consultation to evaluate the current systems for collecting statistics related with small scale fisheries in Tunisia, to prepare a proposal for implementing a new statistical system, and to prepare a draft project document TCP to support the DGPA in implementing a new small scale fisheries statistics system.

- **Support fishermen’s organization**
  ArtFiMed will support technically, the professional fishermen organization especially in capacity building reinforcement on administrative and financial management of a professional organization.

- **Contribute to prevent and deter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities**
  ArtFiMed will support awareness sessions and material edition and dissemination for women collecting clams on health risks and illegal fishing.
• **Enhance fishing security and improve working conditions**
  ArtFiMed continue to prepare the activity concerning the provision and the management of mechanical winches for the artisanal fishermen organization in Dikky.

• **Support the fisheries products transformation and quality**
  ArtFiMed will support a training session on quality and transformation of fisheries products for women in the Gulf of Gabès (Tunisia).

**Sustainable livelihood and socioeconomic development**
The small scale fishing communities are living in very difficult social and economic conditions, due to irregular and declining revenues generated by this activity. The dependency of these communities to the fishing activity is very important, because of the lack of alternatives and low access to social, health, education and financial facilities.
To improve living conditions and try to reduce the vulnerability of artisanal fishing communities ArtFiMed encourages diversification by developing alternatives generating incomes.
The project will continue to support the development of income generating activities for men and women of the communities.

1.4. **Assessment, review and consolidation**
The project will conduct (i) a participatory assessment with communities targeted and related authorities and agencies involved, (ii) to identify assets and needs in terms of consolidating these gains, and (iii) to identify opportunities to support the needs identified.

**Objective 2. To promote and extend the results of the project to other artisanal areas based on lessons learned through the implementation and application of common methodologies.**

2.3. **Implementation of a monitoring system**
ArtFiMed will analyse and disseminate the results of the small scale fisheries monitoring system implemented by the project, including project indicators and related information.

2.4. **Information and communication**
To disseminate information, the project will continue to promote and update the website www.faoartfimed.org.

The project will organize national small scale fisheries day in Morocco and Tunisia and will participate in different national and international meetings and Workshop, including the GFMC, promoting the results and methodologies obtained and reinforcing small scale fisheries visualisation and knowledge.

2.5. **Facilitate the involvement of authorities and stakeholders in the activities.**
Focusing on replication (either at regional or national scale) of the activities, it is important to identify the modes of support and intervention of national agencies and authorities which are best suited to the problems addressed by the project under prerogatives of each institution. ArtFiMed will facilitate the involvement of key governmental institutions and identify with them the most appropriate communities and the necessary support (eg capacity building within the institutions concerned). This includes:
  - Working paper on the analysis of institutional processes to support the communities
  - Dissemination of lessons learned to support the communities on activities associated with the administrations
2.6. Dissemination of results to the authorities and competent bodies and identifying needs for consolidation and extension of learning

This includes:

- Preparation of the project report on preliminary results in terms of achievements, lessons learned and methodologies;
- Discussion of the document with the relevant authorities and agencies to identify additional needs for the dissemination, training and exchange of experience;
- Finalization and presentation of documents to the concerned agencies.

**Objective 3. To reinforce the information base line on Mediterranean artisanal fisheries.**

3.2. Promotion and experience sharing

Supporting the participation of fishers and other stakeholders in international meeting and the international exchange of experiences between fishers’ organisations.

This includes:

- Lessons learned and experiences compiled and disseminated to the GFCM member.
- Project’ reports available in several formats (eg website, newsletter);
- Regional beneficiaries informed of the results of the project.

3.3. Project promotion and improvement of artisanal fisheries database

The project activities will be communicated at regional level to improve the knowledge of small-scale fisheries (particularly the exploitation of target species of common or shared stocks):

- Through the progress reports made to the CopeMed II Coordinating Committee;
- Through CopeMed II and GFCM SAC reports, in order to consolidate the knowledge base on the Mediterranean artisanal fisheries with emphasis on themes of common interest addressed by the project and to facilitate reflections on the axes of exchanges and cooperation on artisanal fisheries at the regional level.
- Through the organization of national small scale fisheries day in Morocco and Tunisia
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<th>Objective 1. To contribute to improving the socio-economic situation and sustainable livelihood of the target communities in Morocco and Tunisia.</th>
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<td>Support to the professional organization</td>
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<td>Promote sustainable fisheries</td>
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<td><strong>3.1. Identification and monitoring of indicators at regional scale</strong></td>
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<td><strong>3.3. Project promotion and improvement of artisanal fisheries database</strong></td>
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Annex 8: Priority activities for the 4th year of CopeMed II

This document aims to offer the Coordination Committee members elements for discussion on the CopeMed II Project Work Programme for the coming months.

CopeMed Phase II aims at: (i) strengthening the national capacity to obtain fisheries statistical data; (ii) maintaining the sustainability of the marine resources in the Central and Western sub-regions; and (iii) facilitating the scientific cooperation among the countries from the Western and Central sub-regions of the Mediterranean.

The overall objective of CopeMed Phase II aims at maintaining the sustainability of the marine resources in the Central and Western sub-regions and its ecosystem, taking into account environmental, biological, economical, social and institutional issues and facilitates the scientific cooperation among the Western and Central sub-regions of the Mediterranean.

The project will continue to be executed by the Marine and Inland Fisheries Service (FIRF) of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources Use and Conservation Division of FAO, being also the Lead Technical Unit with operational functions. Close collaboration and coordination with the other sub-regional Mediterranean Projects (AdriaMed, MedSudMed, MedFiSis and EastMed) and GFCM is provided by FIRF Coordination.

The work plan is built around the three immediate objectives and their corresponding activities taking into account the objectives and results achieved so far, the recommendations received during the 3rd Coordination Committee meeting (May 2010, Tunis, Tunisia), as well as the scientific cooperation established with the members and within the framework of the GFCM.

The final Workplan will take into due account the recommendations of the 4th Coordination Committee meeting, in accordance with the priority expressed by the countries on each activity and directly linked to the budget availability until the end of the Project.

CopeMed II. 2011 Workplan

During the 3rd Coordination Committee meeting held in Tunis, (May 2010) there was a general agreement between the countries representatives on the necessity to prioritize the activities proposed on few issues involving all the participating countries rather than have many activities involving one or two countries only and to have all the member countries involved to the same extent in the Project activities. Moreover, efforts have been made, in coordination with the participating countries and all the Mediterranean Regional Projects, to draft a tentative common calendar of the activities, in order to avoid any overlap as well as to find synergies and strengthen the coordination among the activities of the Regional Projects.

According the existing information at the preparation of the document, the NTE date for CopeMed II Spain (project GCP/INT/028/SPA) is end of July 2011. Project CopeMed II European Commission (GCP/INT/06/EC) should finish in September 2011.

In order to facilitate the presentation of the Workplan for the next months, all the activities were organized into the following main themes:

- Technical support to countries on statistics
- Socio-economic indicators
Subregional research activities related with shared stocks
Training activities
Other subregional and national research activities
Regional cooperation
Reporting and documentation

Technical support to countries on Statistics
In collaboration with MedFisiss, CopeMed II could support and co-organize informative sessions to
the countries that are involved in both projects, in order to improve the country’s capacity on
Statistics. Joint sessions will be prepared to present the new software created by MedFisiss, including
new fleet register. Tentative dates and place will be agreed with MedFisiss.

An international consultant and two national consultants from Tunisia should work in the diagnosis
of the national small scale fisheries statistical system, including the identification of weaknesses and
gaps, and prepare a draft project for monitoring these fisheries. It is foreseen to have the report of the
mission and the draft TCP project during May 2011. A meeting will be organised in Malaga between
the consultant and CopeMed II staff to finish the report at the end of May and a meeting in June with
the DGPMIA in Tunis, with the participation of the FAOSNE Office.

Under request and defined TORs, CopeMed II will support Algerian CNRDPA in fisheries and
biological data collection methodologies for stocks assessment.

Socio-economic indicators
Following the SAC request, the project contacted the editor (Dr. Ramón Franquesa, Barcelona
University) of the document *The estimation of economic indicators for Mediterranean fisheries* to
finalize and published the document for broad distribution in collaboration with the GFCM
Secretariat and the SCESS coordinator. The original document is in Spanish and the project could
distribute it as pdf version according the editor. The support of CopeMed II for translation to
English should be discussed by the Committee. Alternatively, a translation by the GFCM and the
edition as a GFCM Studies and Revues or similar.

Subregional research activities related with shared stocks
Demersal stocks
The organization of the meeting on the shared stock *Coryphaena hippurus* could be arranged in
May, hosting by the Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer (INSTM) of Tunisia.
The meeting will be co-organized with the MedSudMed project and it will be opened to the network
of experts of the other FAO Mediterranean Regional Project.

Joint stock assessment on *Parapenaeus longirostris* co-organized with MedSudMed for the Sicily
Strait area, participating Italy, Malta, Libya, Tunisia and Algeria. The WG (Mazara del Vallo,
September, 2010) pointed out the importance to give most visibility to this cooperative work.
Therefore, the possibility to produce a Technical Document summarising the work carried out was
also discussed and agreed on. In addition, the WG agreed that based on the results obtained a
scientific paper could also be produced and submitted for publication on a scientific journal. The
same approach (joint CopeMed II-MedSudMed co-organisation) could be used for a joint stock
assessment of *Merluccius merluccius* in the south-central Mediterranean.

According the SCSA recommendation adopted by SAC on the joint assessment between Morocco
and Spain on *Pagellus bogaraveo* the Management option adopted said *Decrease the fishing effort.*
Adopt the same management measure in GSA 03 and GSA 01. Improve the sampling standardisation. Maintain the joint assessment”. The WG comment was: Improve the biological sampling and estimate the importance of the catches of juveniles that occur in more shallow areas by trawlers in order to improve the assessment in the case such removal be assessed as not negligible. The WG endorsed the assessment and recommendations. If requested by the two CopeMed II countries could support some activity as requested by SAC and the SCSA.

The joint Subregional Demersal WG (SRDWG) co-organised with MedSudMed (Mazzara del Valo, September 2010) agreed that two new WG on shared stocks should be organised during 2011: *Merluccius merlucius* in the Sicily channel and *P. longirostris* between Algeria, Morocco and Spain. The SRDWG acknowledged the importance to complete the mapping of nurseries and spawning grounds, to provide synoptic maps of fishing grounds for national fleets and to plan appropriate genetic studies to compare geographically distant populations. According to the SRWG, these activities should be considered for discussion during the next Projects Coordination Committee meetings. The TOR for the WG on *P. longirostris* prepared by Morocco (Annex 1) are included for discussion.

**Small pelagic stocks**

CopeMed II organised a workshop (WS) on small pelagic stocks from the Alboran Sea and related activities. The meeting agreed in creating a working group within the Subregional Pelagic WG, to improve the current knowledge on the north and south exploited resources of sardine and anchovy and other commercial species and advances in the knowledge of the status of the stocks. TORs are included (Annex 2) for discussion and improvement by the Coordination Committee. The Date and Venue of the WS should be agreed. Other members of the project are also invited to participate in this WS.

Annual joint Subregional Pelagic WG (SRPWG) in collaboration with MedSudMed will be co-organised aiming to discuss results from the different joint assessment and documents produced by the different WGs previously mentioned.

**Training activities**

A training course on basic stock assessment, organized in collaboration with the other subregional projects and with the support of the FIRF Fishery Resource Officer, will be considered by MedSudMed. The Committee should decide in reinforcing the cooperation and improve synergies with the other FAO Mediterranean Projects by supporting the organisation of this activity and proposing issues to be included in the TOR for a stocks assessment basic training at regional level.

On-the-job training in research vessels on standard acoustic methodologies for stocks assessment has been requested by some countries, mainly by Algeria. CopeMed II organised a theoretical acoustic course in January 2011 in collaboration with the IEO (Spain) for experts from the countries requesting the training, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. For the follow up of this training, the participants agreed in continuing the practical training and especially on-the-job training at acoustics surveys and data analysis. Taking advantage of the experience in implementing these methodologies from the project’ countries (north and south) and also from experiences in other areas as the AdriaMed region, on-the-job training during acoustic surveys should be considered and discussed by the Committee. Specific requests on participation in acoustic surveys during 2011 should be presented by the national coordinators during the Committee meeting for discussion.
On-the-job training in research vessels on standard methodologies for the assessment of demersal stocks was requested by Algeria. Take advantage of the experience in implementing these methodologies from the project’ countries (north and south) and also from experiences in other areas as the AdriaMed and MedSudMed regions, should be considered by the Committee. Specific requests on participation in demersal annual surveys during 2011 for on-the-job training on direct assessment methodologies should be presented by the national focal point during the Committee meeting for discussion.

Training on EAF. Last year a training course on ecosystem approach to fisheries management was organised by GEF MedLME project in collaboration with AdriaMed and the participation of Tunisian experts. If agreed by the Committee the Project could promote the organization of sub-regional/regional meetings and training sessions on the integration of EAF principles in the management processes involving scientists and management representatives, in collaboration with the other Mediterranean projects.

On-the-job training: trawl gear selectivity and selection parameters using the double cod-end methodology. CNRDPA will be assisted by CopeMed II in implementing a research survey on selectivity using a gear cod-end of 40 mm square mesh size and a cover cod-end in a commercial trawler in the region of Oran during April-May 2011. The objective is to have biological and economic data related with the selectivity of this commercial gear and the 40 mm square cod-end. Results will facilitate the administrative decision for the implementation of this GFCM measure in Algeria.

Other training activities that could be priority for the subregion or to some specific country, as for example training courses organised by CIHEAM on fisheries related issues, should be presented by the national focal point during this point of the Agenda for general discussion.

Other subregional and national research activities
Experts from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia were participating in the EU MEDIAS annual meeting on small pelagic standardisation. To reinforce the regional fisheries science and to facilitate the convergence in common methodologies for stocks assessment using direct methods in the Mediterranean, the participation of experts from the non EU-countries supported by CopeMed II should be considered by the Committee, including priorities according the countries needs.

Closed season was discussed during the SRDWG (Mazara, 2010) by the participants. In the view to harmonise the use of such management tool in the Projects area, collaboration between MedSudMed and CopeMed II in organising a meeting to address this issue and to better define the current situation in each country of the two projects should be decided by the Committee.

Scientific investigation by using pelagic net (24 m and 35 m horizontal and vertical opening respectively) in the south central Mediterranean was discussed between the MedSudMed partners during SAC (Marseille, 7-11 February 2011). As the same net has been already used for pelagic trawling in Tunisia, CopeMed II includes reference to this activity in the work plan to be discussed during the Coordination Committee and coordinate activities with MedSudMed.

Regional cooperation

**Strengthening the cooperation with the other FAO Regional Mediterranean Projects**
The existing cooperation with ArtFiMed Project will continue by incorporating the activities of this project to a single six month progress report, as agreed with the Spanish donors. Further collaboration with the other regional Mediterranean FAO-FIR projects (RP) MedSudMed, MedFisis,
AdriaMed, and EastMed will be reinforced. In this context, synergies are foreseen with the other regional Projects, also taking into consideration the indications collected during the internal coordination meeting among the Projects (Rome, January 2011). Several coordination meeting of the Mediterranean Regional Projects have already been planned in 2011 in order to consolidate and coordinate common activities. The preparation of common informative material that can improve the visibility of the FAO RPs in the Mediterranean area and in the international context is foreseen. Areas of cooperation have been indicated for shared stocks, mainly with MedSudMed, statistics, surveys at sea, closed seasons, and other aspects of fisheries.

Training activities will be coordinated among all the Projects, in order to avoid duplication or overlapping of activities. The participation of other RP experts in training courses organized by CopeMed II will be foreseen as well as the contrary.

Moreover, the Project will participate in the Coordination Committees of MedSudMed (May 2011), and in the AdriaMed and EastMed if possible, where additional synergies will be identified.

**Strengthening the cooperation with other initiatives in the region**

Cooperation with international institutions or projects and synergies with other initiatives acting in the western and central Mediterranean region regarding fishery subjects will be sought for the sake of avoiding duplication of efforts and optimizing the use of financial resources.

In particular, synergies are sought with the GEF Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem - MedSea LME Project, for the identification of priorities for mainstreaming the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries into fisheries research and management and in the management of Marine Protected Areas by reinforcing the artisanal fisher’s participation.

CopeMed II cooperation with CIHEAM aimed in supporting the participation of experts from the CopeMed II countries in international course on Sustainable fisheries management, also as teachers.

**Strengthening the cooperation with the GFCM**

The Project will continue to strengthen international and regional cooperation at Mediterranean level with the GFCM, SAC and its subsidiary bodies through the preparation of scientific contributions for GFCM events, the participation of experts from the CopeMed II countries in GFCM events and through support to the countries to be compliant with the GFCM requests and Resolutions and Or Recommendations and preparing annual reports of the activities for SAC and GFCM meeting.

**Reporting and documentation**

**Technical documents**

CopeMed II will continue preparing documents for the CopeMed II and ArtFiMed Technical Documents series. Documents in preparation include: Small pelagic in the Alboran Sea; *Pagellus bogaraveo* in the Gibraltar Strait area, fishery and commercialisation, Bluefin tuna in the Tangier region; Course on acoustics; Socio-economic indicators in Mediterranean fisheries, etc.

**CopeMed II Web site and visualisation**

The project will continue reinforcing the visualization of the activities and results updating the web pages with news, documents, activities and information related with the project ([http://www.faocopemed.org](http://www.faocopemed.org); [http://www.faoartfimed.org](http://www.faoartfimed.org))

Projects brochures and posters: Brochures and posters of CopeMed II in Spanish, French and English will be updated and distributed in international event.
Press notes and mentions in media: Information and Press notes on the project activities will continue to be sent to national and international media.


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<td>Finalise actions on statistics (SSPAT) with Tunisian administration</td>
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<td>Coordination with MedFisis for new statistics software implementation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support Algerian CNRDPA in data collection methodologies</td>
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<td>Coordination with the GFCM for statistical improvement in the countries</td>
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<td><strong>Shared resources</strong></td>
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<td>Co-organization of the meeting on the shared stock <em>Coryphaena hippurus</em></td>
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<td>Stock assessment meeting on <em>P. longirostris</em> Algeria, Morocco and Spain</td>
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<td>Co-organise with MedSudMed the assessment of <em>Merluccius merluccius</em> in the south-central Mediterranean region</td>
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<td>Annual Subregional small pelagic WG in coordination with MedSudMed</td>
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<td>Stocks assessment course in collaboration with the subregional projects</td>
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<td>CopeMed II countries experts in EU-MEDIAS annual meeting</td>
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<td><strong>Training activities</strong></td>
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<td>On-the-job training in research vessels on standard acoustic methodologies</td>
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<td>On-the-job training in research vessels on standard demersal methodologies</td>
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<td>On-the-job training: trawl gear selectivity in Morocco and Algeria</td>
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<td>Surveys on 40 mm cod-end square mesh size in Morocco and Algeria</td>
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<td>Experts meeting to analyse the square 40 mm effects</td>
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<td>Draft recommendations for the administration</td>
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<td>Scientific investigation by using pelagic nets in Tunisia with MedSudMed</td>
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<td>Training on EAF in coordination with GEF_MedLME</td>
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<td>Support countries expert on training courses organised by CIHEAM</td>
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<td>Participate in the Coordination Committee of other projects</td>
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<td>Participate in the GFCM, SAC and subsidiary bodies</td>
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<td>Support Experts participation in SAC and GFCM</td>
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<td>Support activities at SAC-SCs meeting</td>
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<td>Scientist from different countries present docs on shared stocks at SAC-SCs</td>
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<td>Co-organise closed seasons meeting in coordination with MedSudMed</td>
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<td>Meeting with fisheries sector to discuss on the EAF</td>
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<td>Participation in stakeholders’ organisations meeting</td>
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<td><strong>Reporting and documentation</strong></td>
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<td>Documents for the CopeMed II and ArtFiMed Technical Documents series</td>
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<td>Update Projects Web pages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distribute information to project network</td>
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**SUGGESTED ACTIONS BY THE COMMITTEE**

The achievement of the activities should depend on the animation and attention of the National Focal Points. The project is proactive in promoting activities according the available budget. Nevertheless the countries have the final decision on participation and initiatives implementation. The Coordination Committee is invited to review the Workplan and to provide general guidance to the Project.
CONTEXTE
Les groupes de travail, organisés par CopeMed II, sur les stocks partagés en Méditerranée revêtent une importance majeure en matière de la réorientation des approches des évaluations des stocks et de la mise en œuvre de plans d’aménagement adéquats pour les pêcheries ciblant ces stocks partagés. De part sa production, sa grande valeur commerciale et sa distribution large englobant plusieurs pays méditerranéens, la crevette rose du large (*Parapenaeus longirostris*) est l’une des principales ressources partagées en Méditerranée, principalement entre l’Algérie, l’Espagne et le Maroc (GSA 01, 02, 03 et 04).

L’évaluation de l’état du stock de la crevette rose du large passe nécessairement par la réalisation d’une étude multidisciplinaire dont l’objectif est d’élaborer d’une part les connaissances de base sur cette espèce, les principaux traits relatifs à sa bio-écologie et la variabilité spatio-temporelle qui la caractérise, et d’autre part de générer les principaux indicateurs sur les tendances de l’état d’exploitation de cette ressource.


Les connaissances bio-écologiques et les indicateurs d’exploitation du stock de la crevette rose du large dans les GSA 01, 02, 03 et 04 peuvent être déclinés en axes prioritaires ayant trait aux thématiques suivantes :

1. La caractérisation de l’exploitation de cette ressource ;
2. L’état des connaissances biologiques et écologiques sur ce stock au Maroc, en Espagne et en Algérie ;
3. Les résultats des évaluations antérieures de l’état d’exploitation de ce stock au niveau de ces pays.

I- CARACTERISATION DE L’EXPLOITATION DE LA CREVETTE ROSE DU LARGE DANS LES GSA 01, 02, 03 ET 04

I-1- Objectif
Le but est l’élaboration de matrices de données relatives à la production et à l’effort de pêche exercé sur la crevette rose du large, ce qui permettra de déterminer le schéma d’exploitation de cette ressource dans le temps et dans l’espace ainsi que l’analyse des stratégies et des tactiques de pêche. Deux principales actions seront traitées dans cette thématique à savoir ; les statistiques des pêches (production et effort de pêche) et les caractéristiques des navires de pêche.

1 La date et lieu de la réunion du groupe de travail relatif à l’évaluation conjointe du stock de *Parapenaeus longirostris* seront décidés par le Comite de Coordination de CopeMed II à Madrid.
I-2- Méthodologies
Pour aborder cette thématique, il importe d’une part de rassembler les données relatives à la production (tonnage) et à l’effort de pêche (en jours de pêche) exercé sur la crevette rose globalement et par point de débarquement et d’analyser les données sur les caractéristiques physiques des unités de pêche (Puissance, Tonnage de Jauge Brute JB, Age, Longueur). Les données relatives aux enquêtes de terrain sur l’activité des unités de pêche à savoir : les zones fréquentées, les engins utilisés, les profondeurs de pêche et la durée des marées, permettent de générer des indicateurs et des informations supplémentaires sur l’exploitation de cette ressource. Une cartographie des zones de pêche sera alors possible moyennant le Système d’information Géographique (SIG). Pour standardiser les efforts de pêche des navires de pêche ciblant la crevette rose du large au niveau de l’Algérie, de l’Espagne et du Maroc, la classification des bateaux de pêche adoptée par la CGPM sera considérée.

I-3- Résultats attendus
I-3-1- Caractéristiques des unités de pêche
- La détermination du nombre d’unités de pêche par type de flottille ciblant la crevette rose du large ;
- L’analyse des caractéristiques techniques des unités de pêche (Puissance, TJB, Age, Longueur …);
- La classification sur la base de la segmentation CGPM (Rec. GFCM/33/2009/3)
- La durée des marées ;
I-3-2- Indicateurs de l’exploitation
- La détermination de l’effort de pêche exercé sur cette espèce (par pays et par port de pêche) ;
- La production en tonnes ;
- L’analyse des principales tendances sur l’état d’exploitation de cette ressource (tendance des captures et de l’effort de pêche) ;
- Les zones et les profondeurs de pêche ;
- L’étude de la distribution géographique de cette espèce ;

II- L’ETAT DES CONNAISSANCES BIO-ECOLOGIQUES SUR LE STOCK DE PARAPENAEUS LONGIROSTRIS
II-1- Objectif

II-2- Méthodologies
Pour aborder cette action de recherche, il importe d’établir un état de lieu sur les données et les paramètres biologiques de la crevette rose du large à partir de l’échantillonnage biologique des captures de cette espèce, à partir des campagnes scientifiques en mer et à partir des enquêtes de terrain au niveau des ports de débarquement de cette espèce.
II-3- Résultats attendus

   II-3-1- Paramètres biologiques
- La compilation des données disponibles sur les principales caractéristiques biologiques de cette espèce (maturité sexuelle, fécondité cycle biologique, régime alimentaire, croissance, régime alimentaire…);
- L’élaboration de matrices de données relatives aux structures démographiques de ce stock en Espagne, en Algérie et au Maroc ;
- L’étude de sa distribution spatio-temporelle ;
- La détermination des périodes et des zones de ponte et de recrutement de cette ressource.

   II-3-2- Paramètres écologiques
- La distribution spatiale de cette espèce ;
- La cartographie des zones de ponte et de recrutement de cette ressource.

III- EVALUATION DE L’ETAT DU STOCK DE LA CREVETTE ROSE DU LARGE CONJOINTEMENT PAR L’ALGERIE, L’ESPAGNE ET LE MAROC

III-1- Objectif
Mettre à profit l’ensemble des données rassemblés en Algérie, en Espagne et au Maroc (Captures, effort de pêche, CPUE, indices d’abondance, composition démographique, paramètres biologiques) pour faire une évaluation conjointe de l’état du stock de la crevette rose du large.

Les actions entreprises sont le diagnostic de l’état d’exploitation du stock de la crevette rose du large et la préparation de recommandations conjointes pour l’Algérie, l’Espagne et le Maroc dans le but d’une gestion adéquate de ce stock.

III-2- Méthodologies
- La description des informations disponibles sur les pêcheries ciblant P. longirostris au niveau de la région ;
- La préparation d’un état de lieu sur les informations (publiées et non publiées) ainsi que les études réalisées sur P. longirostris au niveau de la région ;
- La description des tendances et de la qualité des données disponibles au niveau de l’Algérie, de l’Espagne et du Maroc ;
- L’identification de l’approche qui doit être utilisée pour une évaluation conjointe préliminaire de P. longirostris au niveau régional ;
- Initiation à l’évaluation conjointe du stock de P. longirostris en joignant les données disponibles au niveau des trois pays.

III-3- Résultats attendus

   III-3-1- Le diagnostic de l’état du stock de P. longirostris
Ce diagnostic peut être opéré sur la base de l’établissement des indicateurs suivants :
- La répartition spatiale de la ressource ;
- Les tendances des indices d’abondance ;
- Les structures démographiques ;
- La taille moyenne ;
- La production actuelle ;
- L'effort actuel ;
- La production optimale équilibrée (MSY) ;
- La mortalité naturelle et par pêche ;
- L'effort optimal ;
– Les points de références cibles (B0,1, F0,1, Fmax).

**III-3-2- La représentation spatiale des résultats obtenus par SIG**

– La cartographie de la ressource (répartition spatio-temporelle des ressources, des nourriceries et des zones de ponte);
– La répartition spatio-temporelle de l’effort de pêche et les interactions avec les autres flottilles de pêche.

**IV- RESPONSABILITES**

AGENDA PREVISIONNEL
GROUPE DE TRAVAIL RELATIF A L’EVALUATION CONJOINTE DU STOCK DE
PARAPENAEUS LONGIROSTRIS ALGERIE, ESPAGNE ET MAROC* (GSA 01, 02, 03 ET 04)

1er Jour

Objectifs du Groupe de Travail et adoption de l’Agenda
Les objectifs du Groupe de Travail seront introduits aux participants et l’Agenda sera discutée et adopté

Etat des connaissances actuelles sur le stock de *P. longirostris*
Les connaissances et les informations sur la biologie, la distribution spatiale et l’abondance de *P. longirostris* au niveau de la région du projet COPEMED II seront analysées. Les pêcheries ciblant cette espèce et le système de collection des données au niveau de chaque pays seront décrits et débattus.

Exploration des données disponibles
Les données disponibles au niveau de chaque pays sur *P. longirostris* ainsi que les tendances et la qualité des données seront explorées. L’approche la plus adéquate pour mener une évaluation conjointe de ce stock sera identifiée et discutée.

2ème Jour

Exploration des données disponibles
Suite

Initiation à l’évaluation
Un essai d’évaluation commune sera tenté dans le but de procurer une évaluation préliminaire du stock de *P. longirostris* au niveau régional.

3ième Jour

Évaluation conjointe
Finalisation de l’évaluation

Discussion des résultats
Les résultats de l’évaluation conjointe du stock de *P. longirostris* seront présentés et discutés. Les futurs groupes de travail sur l’évaluation conjointe de ce stock et la présentation des résultats au niveau CGPM seront discutés.

* La date et lieu de la réunion du groupe de travail relatif à l’évaluation conjointe du stock de *Parapenaeus longirostris* seront décidés par le Comité de Coordination de CopeMed II à Madrid.
Draft of the Terms of reference

First meeting of the working group on **Small pelagic fisheries management in the Alboran Sea under the ecosystem approach to fisheries**

**Provisional Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting and organizational issues.

2. Election of chairperson, reporters and adoption of the Agenda.

3. Objectives of the meeting and background information

4. Overview of the available data on pelagic stocks including fishery data (by national experts) for progressing in the definition of shared stocks:
   - **Biological and ecological characteristics (e.g. age-length key, length-weight relationship, growth equation, maturity at age, size at first maturity).**
   - **Fisheries dynamics.**
   - **Movements across the regions: eggs, larvae, recruits and adults.**
   - **Fleets exploiting common grounds.**
   - **Fishery Statistics available, e.g. effort and catches**
   - **Biological sampling of commercial catches**
   - **Surveys, e.g. acoustic and DEPM**

5. Review of methodologies and agreement on appropriate periods of year to carry out the surveys using direct methods, according the target species of the region.


7. Influence of the Atlantic current in the distribution of the different phases of the sardine and anchovy.

8. Standardization of protocols for biological sampling and statistics between countries

9. Research projects, experts, documents and results obtained

10. Preparation of a scientific network of experts and specialist on small pelagic species in the Alboran Sea area.
Annex 9: The GFCM provisional 2011/2012 work programme

Meetings of the SAC and its subsidiary bodies

The Scientific Advisory Committee proposed that the following meetings be convened during the intersessional period:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fisheries</th>
<th>Place/Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>14th Session of the SAC (5 days)</td>
<td>Varna, Bulgaria / 20-24 February 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session of the SCSA (4 days)</td>
<td>FAO HQs, Rome, Italy / 23-26 January 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working Group on stock assessment of Demersal Species (6 days)</td>
<td>Chania, Crete, Greece / 24-29 October 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working Group on stock assessment of Small Pelagic Species (6 days)</td>
<td>Chania, Crete, Greece / 24-29 October 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transversal Workshop (SCSA/SCMEE/SCESS) on Spatial Based Fishery Management (3 days)</td>
<td>GFCM HQs, Rome /21-23 November 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stock assessment of selected species of elasmobranchs (5 days)</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium / 12-16 December 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session of the SCESS (4 days)</td>
<td>FAO HQs, Rome, Italy / 23-26 January 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop on the processing and analysis of Task 1.3 data (back-to-back with the SCESS Session)</td>
<td>FAO HQs, Rome, Italy / 23-26 January 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expert meeting on Fisheries legislation within the framework of the LaMed Project (3 days)</td>
<td>Beirut, Lebanon / 21-23 September 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session of the SCSI (4 days)</td>
<td>FAO HQs, Rome, Italy / 23-26 January 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session of the SCMEE (4 days)</td>
<td>FAO HQs, Rome, Italy / 23-26 January 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting of the Working Group on by-catch (3 days)</td>
<td>Turkey / 7-9 December 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training course on age reading and growth parameters of the main elasmobranchs species (5 days)</td>
<td>Turkey / 5-9 December 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop (SCMEE) on Artificial Reefs, possibly back back with the SCMEE session</td>
<td>FAO HQs, Rome, Italy / 23-26 January 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Transversal Workshop on Red Coral (3 days)</td>
<td>Corsica / 5-7 October 2011</td>
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<td>12th Session of the CMSC (1 day)</td>
<td>FAO HQs, Rome, Italy / 27 January 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop on VMS (3 days)</td>
<td>Tunis, Tunisia / 28-30 November 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>First meeting of the ad-hoc Working Group on the Black Sea (3 days)</td>
<td>Romania / 16-18 January 2012</td>
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