

**REPORT OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE
COPEMEDII COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

Fuengirola (Malaga), Spain 28-29 May 2014



CopeMed II Technical Documents N°35
GCP/INT/028/SPA; GCP/INT/006/EC

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June 2014

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 de Pesca (M^o de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, MAGRAMA), and the European Union, represented by the European Commission (EC). The premises of the project at the Subdelegación del Gobierno in Málaga (Spain) are part of the Spanish contribution included in the agreement with the FAO.

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 facilitating their participation in the activities of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and in the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

Regions covered by CopeMed II are the western and central sub-regions of the Mediterranean. Participating countries 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). Secondary beneficiaries include the national research institutes, fishers and fishers' associations, and industrial organizations.

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CopeMed II 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 Projects.

Comments on this document would be welcomed and should be sent to the Project premises:

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This document is the final version of the report of the the Seventh Meeting of the CopeMed II Coordination Committee, organized by the FAO-CopeMed II Project *Coordination to support fisheries management in the Western and Central Mediterranean* Fuengirola (Malaga), Spain 28-29 May 2014.

Acknowledgements

CopeMed acknowledge the participation of national delegates and experts from the countries of the Western and Central Mediterranean regions, the donors and other invited participants. The Director of the IEO, Mr Jorge Baro that kindly provided hospitality and assistance in the organization of the meeting is gratefully acknowledged.

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ABSTRACT

The seventh meeting of the CopeMedII Coordination Committee was held in Fuengirola (Malaga), Spain 28-29 May 2014, kindly hosted by the Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO). The meeting was attended by representatives of the Spanish Donor, the Secretaria General de Pesca, representatives from the countries participating in the Project (Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia), a representative of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department-Marine and Inland Fisheries Branch (FIRF), as well as the staff from CopeMed II Project. A brief reminder on the Project objectives and activities implemented during the inter-sessional period was done.

The country representatives recognized the important contributions of CopeMed II to the development of the national and regional capacity and particularly the important advances in analysing data and produce assessment of shared stocks. The regional cooperation, coordination and the key role of the project as support to the GFCM activities was underlined. It was presented, discussed and adopted a proposal of activities for the next period of the project until January 2015.

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I. Opening of the meeting and election of the Chairperson

1. The seventh meeting of the CopeMedII Coordination Committee was held in Fuengirola (Malaga), Spain 28-29 May 2014, kindly hosted by the Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO).
2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Spanish Donor, the Secretaria General de Pesca, representatives from the countries participating in the Project (Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia), a representative of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department-Marine and Inland Fisheries Branch (FIRF), as well as the staff from CopeMed II Project.
3. The National representative of Libya, the EC representative and the Executive Secretary of the GFCM had presented their excuses for not being able to participate. The List of participants is included in Annex 1.
4. Mr Jorge Baro, on behalf of the Director General of the Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO), welcomed the Committee members and expressed his honour having the Committee members in Fuengirola and expressed the gratitude to the Secretaría General de Pesca and the European Commission for continuing financing the Project.
5. He informed the committee that the IEO is celebrating its century this year and exposed the role and main achievements of the research center since its creation.
6. The Committee elected Mr Caminas as Chairperson for this session of the CopeMed Coordination Committee. Mr Caminas acknowledged the committee and underlined the importance of holding the meeting in the IEO in Malaga.
7. The Agenda was presented to the Coordination Committee. The Chair invited the participants to offer any comments. The Agenda was adopted with no changes. (Annex 2)

II. Report on the CopeMed II Project's Progress

8. Mr Bernardon made a presentation of the major activities carried out by the CopeMedII project based on the document FAO-CopeMed II CC07/2014/02 (Annex 3). He exposed that despite budgetary constraints and evolution of the project staff, the amount of work done by the project represents the follow up of the workplan approved during the 6th Meeting of the CopeMed II Coordination Committee (Malaga, 7-8 March 2013).
9. This report details the main outputs of the Project activities and the results achieved with direct reference to the Project Objectives: 1) Strengthening the national capacity to obtain statistical data on catch and effort, including biological and socio-economic data; 2) Strengthening the fisheries scientific research and upgrade the research activity in the national and international context; 3) Strengthening institutional capacity at national and sub-regional

- levels; 4) Regional coordination, cooperation and synergy; 5) Project communication.
10. The participants were informed of a series of activities implemented in relation to Objective 1, dealing with statistical and socio economic data collection and analysis. CopeMed II project supported the participation of national experts in meeting on statistics, the GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework organizational process, the statistical analysis and standardization of protocols and the socio economic data collection and system analysis
 11. In the framework of the objective II and the Subregional research activities related with shared stocks, the Project informed the Committee on progress in the assessment of the stock dynamics and fisheries of *Parapenaeus longirostris*, *Merluccius merluccius* and Red mullets (*Mullus surmuletus* and *M. barbatus*).
 12. The Project organized the annual meeting of the Working Group on Demersal Fisheries Resources jointly with MedSudMed. The Working Groups were jointly organized in order to improve cooperation in the central and western Mediterranean Sea and to enhance the projects' achievements and to optimize human and financial resources.
 13. The participants were informed on Project activities regarding small pelagic fisheries resources. The Subregional Working Group on Small Pelagic Fisheries Resources in the Alborán Sea organized with the support of Algeria (Oran, 5-7 November 2013) was finally postponed. Particular importance was given to the finalization of two technical documents and the compilation of socioeconomic information of small pelagic fisheries presented at the GFCM SCEES, 2014.
 14. The Committee was reminded that CopeMed supported the national capacity development, mainly through training courses following specific requests of the participating institutes. Several joint activities have been organized to optimize the resources, e.g. the Joint training course on Improving the Analysis of Fisheries Data: An Introduction to R and the Fisheries Library based on R (FLR) in November 2013; and the First Regional Symposium on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (November 2013).
 15. During the intersessional period CopeMed II supported the participation of 17 national experts from the CopeMed area, to FAO projects and GFCM activities, mainly on training activities and on the assessment of shared stocks.
 16. The cooperation with "MedSea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedSea-LME)" Project on topics of common interest executed by FAO-FIRF, was also sought. CopeMed co-organized the "Atelier de formation sur les plans d'aménagement en accord avec l'approche écosystémique des pêches et de l'aquaculture" (FAO-HQs, Rome, Italy, 10 - 14 June 2013) with MedSea LME and the other FAO Mediterranean Projects (AdriaMed-EastMed- MedSudMed).

17. A central issue is regional coordination and in this respect coordination meetings were held, as well as a meeting to present the proposal of a unique Mediterranean Programme with the FAO Regional Mediterranean Projects and representative of all the Donors (EU, Italy, Spain and Greece). This was also an opportunity to present to the FAO Representatives of the Mediterranean countries with the concept note for the single Mediterranean Programme. In the framework of the FAO decentralisation process, CopeMed is reinforcing collaboration with the FAO offices for North Africa (FAO SNE) and Near East (RNE) and cooperation was further sustained with the FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean Sea (GFCM) and the GFCM Subsidiary bodies.
18. Following the decisions taken at its last Coordination Committee meeting, CopeMed II, in cooperation with FAO-FIRF service, reinforced the coordination and contacts with the donors of the project, the European Commission and the Spanish Government.
19. Since its publication, the Project's website is continually updated. The FAO Mediterranean projects harmonized the information and appearance of the different websites, to present a unified image to the visitor.
20. The Committee thanked the project for the work done and stressed the quality and the number of important results and products achieved.
21. Mr Rhida M'Rabet, national representative of Tunisia, thanked CopeMed II for all the activities conducted and particularly the support to Tunisia. He underlined that some activities were not achieved (i.e. analysis of the socio economic impact of the 40 mm square mesh size in Tunisia) and the importance to implement in priority the activities validated during the last coordination committee.
22. The chairman reminded that this particular activity was planned to be implemented with the Algerian data too, but was postponed due to the delay of the Algerian survey at sea.

III. Priority activities for the next period of CopeMed II

23. Based on the document FAO CopeMed II CC07/2014/03, Matthieu Bernardon presented for discussion and adoption, a proposal of activities for the next annual period of the project.
24. It was underlined that the proposed work plan for the future period aims to implement the activities not achieved and consolidate the achievements of the past years continuing to provide technical assistance at national and sub-regional level during the coming year.
25. He underlined that the final Workplan will take into due account the recommendations of the 7th Coordination Committee meeting the priorities

expressed by the countries on each activity and the GFCM activities adopted for the present year, and the project's budget availability.

26. Concerning the new situation of the project, Mr De Donno, representative of the FAO FIRF division, informed the committee that since the departure of the project coordinator, Mr J.A.Caminas, the coordination of the project is assumed and shared by the project Lead Technical Officer, Ms Gabriella Bianchi, and the project Budget Holder, Mr Pedro de Barros. A letter will be sent to officially inform the Spanish authority on the new situation of the project. Moreover, a letter of Agreement between FAO and IEO is actually on preparation in order to continue the technical support to the project implementation.
27. Concerning the financial situation of the project, he informed the committee that the new contribution approved by the Spanish donor for 2014 will cover project activities until the end of the year .
28. Regarding EC budget, he informed the committee that FAO is preparing a request for the extension of the EC actual remaining funds to the end of September, and a demand for an additional EC funding from October 2014 to April 2015.
29. Based on the document FAO CopeMed II CC07/2014/03, the committee adopted the following activities, and underlined that they will be carried out taking into account the level of priority suggested by the countries and base on funding availability.

Objective 1. Enhanced institutional capacity for identification of management strategies, as a basis for the implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF)	
<i>Activities</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Organize the first Dialogue Meeting of National Fisheries Managers for the Western Mediterranean Region (Constitution of the CopeMed Fisheries Administrations Network)	HIGH
During the CopeMed SRWG (Demersal and Small pelagic), identify measures and tools to better define stocks units of the western Mediterranean shared stocks of demersal and small pelagic species of commercial interest.	HIGH
Organize a Sub-regional Workshop on EAF approach for western and central Mediterranean fisheries management for shared stocks.	MEDIUM
Organize a regional Workshop on Fisheries-Aquaculture interactions in the CopeMed countries to share the problematic in the different countries looking the better solutions in the sub-region.	LOW
Promote and support the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries.	MEDIUM
Support subregional and regional actions aiming to prepare a regional program in coordination with the GFCM to securing SSF in the Mediterranean Sea Support the organization of a second Regional Symposium on Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea	HIGH

Objective 2. Improved knowledge on shared resources and capacity for fisheries monitoring and research and production of management advice according to the EAF	
<i>Activities</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Assist the countries to implement cooperative subregional surveys for fishery independent data collection by direct methods (surveys at sea) of small pelagic and demersal resources.	HIGH
Support the organization of the CopeMed subregional stocks assessment WG for demersal species in the Alborán sea (GSAs 01, 02, 03 and 04) and joint demersal stocks assessment WG of the south-central area in coordination with MedSudMed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>P. longirostris</i>, • <i>M. merluccius</i> and • <i>Mullus spp.</i> 	HIGH
Support the preparation of new data and standard methodologies to update the evaluation of the stock of <i>P. bogaraveo</i> of the Gibraltar Strait area and support the organization of the CopeMed WG on <i>P. bogaraveo</i> . Support the drafting of priority actions for the management of the stocks	HIGH
Support the organization of the CopeMed stocks assessment WG for the small pelagic in the Alborán sea (GSAs 01, 02, 03 and 04): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sardina pilchardus</i> and • <i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i> stocks 	HIGH
Support experts from non-EU countries in on-the job- training and WS in EU research institutions on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demersal and small pelagic evaluations by standard direct methods • Methodologies to sampling and evaluate discards. • Data collection and analysis 	HIGH
Organize and support a subregional workshop on ichthyoplankton standardization of analysis and methodologies. Improve networking on technical issues related to ichthyoplankton. In cooperation with other FAO regional projects.	HIGH

Objective 3. Project organization and Information exchange and dissemination of scientific outputs	
<i>Activities</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Organization of annual Coordination Committee meeting to assess the project progress, and formulate recommendations regarding requirements and priorities.	HIGH
Organization of periodic meetings with other FAO regional projects to find synergies and optimize the resources.	HIGH
Organization of annual meetings with the Donors to assess the project progress and to liaise with the Project FAO Lead Technical Unit FIRF.	HIGH
Promote scientific publications and sharing scientific results on marine species and its ecosystems, shared stocks, assessment methodologies, fishery related information and fisheries management proposals produced by scientist in the CopeMed sub-region.	HIGH

Objective 4. Regional cooperation reinforced	
Activities	Priority
Support the participation of experts of the CopeMed countries in activities adopted by the GFCM, including the scientific WGs and Sub Committees.	MEDIUM
Prepare assessment of the main priority shared stocks for revision during the SCSA Working Groups of demersal and small pelagic.	HIGH
In coordination with the other FAO projects, prepare the annual Rapport of activities and main achievements for the SAC and the GFCM present in a ppt.	HIGH
Support the organization of a Workshop on standardization of the methodology and the analysis of data (including the socio economic data) obtained during the selectivity surveys in Tunisia and Algeria using 40 mm square mesh size.	HIGH
Cooperate with the GEF MedSeaLME project activities and with other international Mediterranean organizations	MEDIUM

IV. Proposals on national activities in the framework of the project

30. The summary of activities and proposals presented by each national focal point are resumed as follow:
31. **Algerian** delegate expressed the need to jointly assess with Morocco, the Small pelagic stocks of the Alborán Sea. Moreover, he requested the support of the CopeMed project for the analysis of the socio economic data of the 40mm square mesh size pilot survey implemented in Algeria. He Finally requested the project to continue to support Algeria in term of capacity building and cooperation for fisheries management.
32. **Italian** representative pointed that Italia could provide experts and technical assistance on shared stocks and identification of stock boundaries in the region (i.e the EU MAREA STOCKMED project experience and expertise). Underlining the crucial importance of data collection and standardization of protocols and methodologies for assessment in the region, he draws the attention of the committee regarding the necessity of increasing collaboration and efforts on this domain.
33. **France** representative informed the committee on the development of a project by the IFREMER, focusing on the interactions between Lagoon and Sea for *Sparus aurata* life cycle dynamic and migration as a first step. Considering the similar situation regarding interaction between lagoon and sea and its importance and potential role for fisheries in the CopeMed region (i.e Tunisian and Moroccan experience) and around the Mediterranean, this project could be a link between the CopeMed countries on future research activities related with small scale fisheries.

France finally underlined the interest of France regarding stock boundaries subject and committee proposal to address this discussion during the CopeMed demersal and small pelagic SRWG.

34. **Maltese delegate** reminded the importance of the support of CopeMed on data collection, analysis and assessment concerning shared stocks in the region and the necessity to reinforce the consultation between the countries for fisheries management. Malta also asked to the project to support harmonization of methodologies and data collection on discards in the region. Malta informed the committee, due to the importance of the *Coryphaena* fishery, in Malta, Tunisia, Spain, Italia and Libya, the need of continuing data collection on *Coryphaena* for stock assessment. Malta invited CopeMed participants to send interested scientist to participate in the research currently ongoing on Bluefin Tuna aquaculture.
35. **Moroccan delegate** insisted on the importance in achieving the activities initiated by the project and requested the project to continue supporting capacity building and the participation of Moroccan experts in WS and GFCM meetings.
36. **Tunisian delegate** requested the project to assist the countries concerned by red coral fisheries to collect data for the assessment of the state of the resource. He supported the Maltese proposal on the importance of data collection and support of CopeMed on *Coryphaena* workshop. Tunisia also encouraged the project to continue joint stock assessment on shared stocks. Tunisia requested support for the elaboration of a regional catalogue on fishing gears. Tunisian delegate finally insisted in maintaining the subregional specificity concerning the new joint FAO Mediterranean program.
37. **Spanish delegate** insisted on the importance for CopeMed to continue supporting the Small pelagic and Demersal Subregional working groups. Spain will encourage the organization of CopeMed WG relating to assessment and stock boundaries issues. Spanish delegate reminded that Spain is always ready to receive experts for MEDIAS and MEDITS surveys. As indicated by Malta, scientists are invited to carry out experimental research on Bluefin tuna and Mediterranean bonito in the aquaculture facilities of the IEO.

V. GFCM activities of relevance for CopeMed II

38. GFCM Meetings planned for the intersessional period 2014–2015 and activities identified by the four subcommittees, reviewed and adopted by the Commission at its thirty-eighth session were distributed to the committee.

VI. Information on the new joint FAO Mediterranean project

39. The representative of FAO FIRF, Mr Paolo De Donno, presented the overview of the financial and budgetary situation of the FAO Regional Fisheries Projects in the Mediterranean and the proposed structure for a single Mediterranean Region Fisheries Programme developed by FAO (Document CC07_2014_Inf03) that would merge the current FAO subregional projects (AdriaMed, MedSudMed, CopeMed, EastMed) in an unique programme across for the whole region.

40. The overall objective of the Programme aims at strengthening regional and country-specific capacity for sustainable fisheries through the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.

41. Mr De Donno stressed that the new programme would build on the experience, lessons learned and results achieved by the current projects and will further improve the mechanism for the implementation of activities by increasing more activities related to the EAF component, reducing the administrative layer and seeking the possibility to amplify the funding sources to potential donors across the region.

42. He drew the attention of the participants to the structure of the new Mediterranean programme, which will maintain the current existing sub-regionalization by keeping the sub-regional specificities. In this respect, four steering committees (one per sub-region) are foreseen to be established back to back with a regional steering committee. He concluded the presentation by illustrating the roadmap identified for the formulation of the new programme (Annex 4 Roadmap for a single Mediterranean Programme).

43. The committee stressed the importance of maintaining in this new FAO program the subregional specificity, and insisted in continuing and reinforcing the activities already initiated in the previous phases of CopeMed.

44. Committee stressed

the need of having at least one technical officer, in the new structure, dedicated to the subregion, however Mr De Donno informed that in order to optimize as far as possible resources regarding staff cost and to provide more flexibility on the use of the current fisher technical officers already on board, the intention is to utilize aforementioned staff to work across the region, but to maintain staff and the office of the CopeMed project in Malaga (SPAIN).

VII. Date and place of the next coordination Committee

44. The committee decided to organize the next Coordination committee, during the first trimester, before the implementation of the new FAO Mediterranean Program.

45. Malta offered to host the next meeting of the CopeMed coordination committee

46. The Committee thanks the IEO for the warm welcome and successful organization. He also thanked the Chairperson Mr Camiñas for the excellent management of the meeting and the final results.

VIII. Adoption of the report

47. The Committee approved the report and the Chairperson finally declared the meeting closed.

Annex 1: List of participants

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Annex 2: Agenda

WEDNESDAY 28th May, 9:30-17:00

1. Opening of the meeting, election of Chairperson and Adoption of the Agenda

2. Report of the CopeMed II Project's Progress

The main activities and the Project's outputs will be presented and reviewed.

Information will be given on the activities of the CopeMed II Working Groups, the on-going cooperative activities, the training and the relationship and cooperation of CopeMed II at Mediterranean level.

Coffee break: 11:00

3. Priority activities for the next period of CopeMed II

A work plan of the Project will be outlined and discussed. Topics to be dealt with the ongoing research, the training, activities directed toward the national capacity building, the follow-up and organisation of CopeMed II Working Groups on shared stocks. The international cooperation, the relationship with other FAO projects, with the Donors, with the GFCM and other topics will be discussed. The Committee will be asked to provide orientation on the programmes presented.

4. Proposals on national activities in the framework of the project

The national focal points are invited to present subregional and national activities needing the adoption of the Coordination Committee.

Lunch time: 13:00-14:30

5. Proposals on national activities in the framework of the project (Suite)

6. GFCM activities of relevance for CopeMed II

The scientific and technical activities foreseen in the FAO GFCM work plan for 2014 will be presented. Discussion on how the activities foreseen by the Project are integrated and will contribute to the First GFCM Framework Programme (2013-2018) will be held.

Coffee break: 16:00

7. Other matters

Information on the new joint FAO Mediterranean project, especially regarding the set-up, roadmap and co-funding options will be presented and shared with the Committee.

8. Closure

THURSDAY 29th May, 10:30-13:00

9. Adoption of the report

The project staff will prepare a draft report with the main discussions and achievement of the meeting including a tentative timetable with the activities to carry out during the next months for CopeMed II. The Committee will review and adopt the report.

10. Date and venue of the next Coordination Committee

Annex 3: Report on the intersessional activities of the Project

(April 2013 - April 2014)

Introduction

This paper summarizes the main activities carried out by the Project CopeMed phase II from March 2013 (Malaga, Spain. 6th Coordination Committee meeting) to March 2014, including workshops, training, research activities and the technical assistance provided to the countries, as well as the cooperation established with the donors, the GFCM and the SAC and Sub-Committees and other relevant regional institutions.

CopeMed II project, coordinated by FAO-FIRF with offices in Málaga (Spain), started in February 2008 and is funded by DG Mare (UE) and the Spanish Government (Secretaría del Mar and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECID)).

The overall objective of the project is to maintain the sustainability of the marine resources in the Central and Western Mediterranean and their ecosystems, taking into account environmental, biological, economical, social and institutional issues, and promoting scientific cooperation among the regions. Countries involved are Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Malta, Italy, France and Spain. FAO-FI, GFCM, and the two donors are also members of the Coordination Committee.

The 6th meeting of the Coordination Committee of the CopeMed Project was held in 2013 in Málaga, Spain, hosted by the Government Delegation at the project headquarters. During the meeting the work plan for 2013 was discussed and approved. The Coordination Committee members reiterated concerns by the financial problems of the project and expressed wishes for the extension of CopeMed II with the support of the two traditional donors in solving the budgetary problems. The persistent budgetary problems during 2013-14 had important incidence in the implementation of activities adopted by the Committee during the intersessional period and are reflected in this document.

The work programme and recommendations of the 6th Meeting of the CopeMed II Coordination Committee were implemented according the availability of budget. 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 Project Objectives:

1. Strengthening the national capacity to obtain statistical data on catch and effort, including biological and socio-economic data.
2. Strengthening the fisheries scientific research and upgrade the research activity in the national and international context.
3. Strengthening institutional capacity at national and sub-regional levels
4. Regional coordination, cooperation and synergy
5. Project communication

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

Technical support to countries on statistics

CopeMed II continued the cooperation with national delegates and the countries experts, concerning the capacity of the fisheries administrations and research institutes to generate statistical data of interest for fisheries assessment and management. As of the national proposals agreed during the meetings of the CC, the actions summarized below were realized.

CopeMed continued to support national experts from research institutes and fisheries administrations to finalize documents related to biological and socio-economic conditions necessary for statistical analysis of shared stocks. After the GFCM workshop held in Frascati (Italy, March 2013) on fisheries data collection in the western, central and eastern Mediterranean, with the participation of the focal points of CopeMed countries and the Project Coordinator, the project continued collaborating with the countries on this issue.

Based on the discussion and conclusions from the workshop in Frascati, a Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF) in the GFCM area of convention was prepared by the GFCM Secretariat and sent to the projects for revision. During a transversal session on this issue and the annual session of the Subcommittee on Statistics and Information of the SAC in Bar (Montenegro, 3-5 February 2014), CopeMed participated in the discussions to improve the DCRF proposal. CopeMed participated in the revision and presented proposals during the SC in collaboration with the CopeMed area participating countries, Morocco and Tunisia.

Concerning socio-economic data, CopeMed prepared and presented two documents during the SCESS in Montenegro, i) *Socio économie des pêcheries de petits pélagiques en mer d'Alboran: Données, indicateurs, méthodologie et principaux résultats* and, ii) *Aspects socio économiques de la pêche artisanale au Maroc et en Tunisie: Méthodologie et principaux résultats issus du projet ArtFiMed*. Both documents are related with the needs of basic data for the formulation of recommendations for the management of fish stocks of small pelagic in the Alboran Sea and concerning artisanal fisheries data collection in Morocco and Tunisia.

Also in relation to socio-economic data, CopeMed contributed to the First Regional Symposium on Small Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (Malta, 27-30 November 2013) with the document *FAO-ArtFiMed promoting the sustainability of the resources, small scale fisheries management and social development based on EAF* presented to Thematic Session V. This document presented the results obtained through a community based monitoring system for the fisheries activity in Morocco and Tunisia developed by the projet as a first step of a co-management process and to improve data and information base of the fishery.

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

Interactions with the participating members were further strengthened and some missions were organized to the research institutes in the countries according the available budget. The Project supported experts from the national fishery research Institutions in international training courses, workshop and joint research activities. CopeMed organised and supported the subregional joint meetings on shared stocks of

demersal, including stocks assessment within the CopeMed region and facilitate the organization of a WG jointly with MedSudMed on demersal shared stocks.

The annual subregional joint meeting on small pelagic, although organized with the support of the Algerian administration finally was not celebrated by problems for travelling of some experts.

The project provided support to the national fisheries research institutes and experts facilitating the preparation of documents, data providing and shared stock assessments. Assessment forms documents were prepared by CopeMed and the countries and presented during the SCSA WGs on demersal in bar (Montenegro, February 2014).

2.1 Subregional research activities related with shared stocks

The project provided support to the GFCM and its WG and to the national fisheries research institutes and experts facilitating the preparation of documents, data and shared stock assessment.

Small pelagic species and shared stocks in the Alborán Sea area

The project organized the annual meeting of the Subregional Working Group on Small Pelagic Fisheries Resources in the Alborán Sea (Oran, Algérie, 5-7 Novembre 2013), with the valuable support of the Fisheries Ministry and the CNRDPA. The meeting was organizing to prepare a joint assessment form for *Sardina pilchardus* stock, and discuss the available data to prepare the assessment of *Engraulis encrasicolus* stock. Unfortunately there were some constraints on data availability and the participation of experts from Morocco was not sure and the meeting was postponed.

Nevertheless as mentioned in previous paragraphs, the main results of the socio-economic aspects of the small pelagic fisheries in Morocco and Algeria prepared with the support of the project were presented in the SCESS by the project and two Technical documents are available in the project Web page.

Demersal species

The third meeting on CopeMed II demersal species from the Alboran Sea (Gammarth, Tunis, 23-27 September 2013) was focus on Deep-water pink shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*), European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) and Red mullets (*Mullus surmuletus* and *M. barbatus*). During this meeting experts from Morocco and Spain shared the data and information and worked together performing stocks assessment on the three species. Experts from Algeria excused their participation.

Following the mandate by the respective Coordination Committees of the two projects, the MedSudMed and CopeMed II Working Group on Demersal Fisheries Resources in the south central and western Mediterranean was held in Gammarth, Tunisia, from 23 to 27 September 2013, kindly hosted by the Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer (INSTM). The Working Group of MedSudMed and CopeMed II were organized jointly to improve cooperation in the central and western Mediterranean Sea, to enhance the overall MedSudMed and CopeMed II achievements and, eventually, to optimize human and financial resources. To meet these objectives, the joint meeting activities and agenda were designed to favor the completion of the work programme initiated in the working group of each Project in the past years and, as further step, to promote a discussion among experts of different sub-regions on methods applied and results achieved. The MedSudMed and CopeMed II Working Group pooled together expertise, capacities and objectives of the single projects working groups on demersal

fisheries resources, each focused on different geographical sub-regions, i.e. south-central Mediterranean the MedSudMed Working Group, and western Mediterranean/Alborán Sea the CopeMed II working Group.

Following the recommendations by the Committee on the importance to prepare scientific documents concerning the fisheries in the region, and given the importance of demersal fisheries in the western Mediterranean Sea and particularly in the Alborán Sea, the Project is working in the preparation of a review of the national demersal fisheries from Algeria, Morocco and Spain in the Alborán Sea, including Gibraltar Strait area. The species to be included are those defined according to the list of CopeMed priority species in the area and taking into account the importance in terms of economic value and total commercial catch. A draft of the document contents has been prepared by the project for discussion with the three countries aiming to start the drafting of the document.

2.2 Support the standardization of common methodologies

CopeMed contributes to the standardization of common methodologies in the Mediterranean area by different ways as organizing joint WGs, supporting on the job training and international courses, etc. During this intersessional period the project prepared and supported:

- ✓ The participation of one expert from the INRH (Morocco) in the annual EU MEDIAS coordination meeting (Crete, 8-11 April 2014)
- ✓ In collaboration with CNRDPA (Algeria), the project is supporting actions on the implementation of the 40 mm square mesh size bottom-trawl experimental survey and selectivity effects on biological and economic aspects. The selectivity campaign was conducted in February-March 2013. The information obtained during the campaign with the selectivity of 40 mm square mesh in Boujedzar (Algeria) is currently analyzed using standard methodologies and software provided by CopeMed.
- ✓ CopeMed staff is participating with the project GEF_Med LME and MedSudMed on the implementation of different measures/methodologies to standardize the analysis of discards and by-catch in Tunisia, and to incorporate artisanal fishermen in the monitoring of the fishery activity in a MPA in Morocco. A FAO - DGPA Field mission for the preparation of the bycatch mitigation test was held in July with the participation of CopeMed.
- ✓ In relation with GEF_Med LME project CopeMed is participating in the implementation of a data collection system based on the involvement of artisanal fishers in the MPA of Al-Hoceima (Morocco), coordinated by FAO-FIR in collaboration with the INRH (Morocco).

Training activities

One of the key objectives of CopeMed II is to create the optimal conditions for the cooperation between the different participating countries. With this aim, the scientific institutions have to be capable to work together and with other countries in the Mediterranean region following standard methodologies and principles. Depending on each specific case, the training activities eligible for CopeMed funding take several forms: Courses, Master, on-the-job training, seminars, WS, etc. CopeMed II finances the attendance of scientists to training courses and coordinates the organization of others in the sub-region with the support and in coordination with the other subregional FAO projects. The following activities were supported, organized or co-organized by CopeMed:

- ✓ CopeMed contributed to a FAO Training Workshop on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and to Aquaculture (10-14 June 2013. FAO headquarters, Roma, Italy) organized by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department of the FAO, financing the participation of an Algerian Expert. The overall objective of the Workshop was to build a common pool of knowledge among the participants on concepts and processes of the EAF/EAA. The workshop contributes also to creating a regional network of EAF/EAA practitioners in the Region.
- ✓ In collaboration with the Joint Research Centre (JRC, EU), the GFCM Secretariat and the FAO Mediterranean projects, CopeMed facilitated the organization of a 5 days training course titled: "Improving the Analysis of Fisheries Data: An Introduction to R and the Fisheries Library based on R (FLR)". The training was held on 04-08 November 2013 at the GFCM, Rome (Italy).
- ✓ Universities, Environment and Fisheries Administrations and Research institutes and NGOs from Morocco and Spain are involved in the Alborán project funded by the POCTEFEX initiative of the EU. CopeMed participated in a seminar in Almeria (Spain) in April and a workshop in Málaga, Spain (19-21 June), aiming to create the scientific structures to facilitate the international cooperation for the implementation of transboundary systems of governance in the Alborán Sea in relation to climate change effects.

3. Strengthening institutional capacity at national and sub-regional levels

As part of this objective, CopeMed II continued to work in 2013-14 with the fisheries administrations of the project's countries and the productive and research sectors, with other FAO projects in the Mediterranean, GFCM and other regional representatives in various fisheries and marine issues. CopeMed II participated in 14 scientific related activities and financed the participation of 17 experts and consultants from Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Spain in different scientific activities, in the framework of the annual programme and according to requests from the national focal points and the GFCM, in different activities organized by the GFCM and by the FAO projects (mainly on the assessment of shared stocks).

Activities of CopeMed included in this objective are:

Actions at national level

During the reporting period, CopeMed held formal meetings visiting the countries with the fishery administrations of Morocco, Spain and Tunisia with different objectives. More informal meetings were organized during international events (GFCM meeting) with representatives from Algeria and Libya. Meeting organized or participated by CopeMed are summarized:

- During the reporting period, CopeMed held formal meetings visiting the countries and the higher authorities for fishery in Morocco, Spain and Tunisia with different objectives and to reinforce the collaboration.
- The project organized meetings with the General Directors of the national fisheries and marine research institutes from Algeria (CNRDPA), Tunisia (INSTM), Morocco (INRH) and Spain (IEO) at its offices and maintained a meeting with the new Director General of the MBRC (Libya) and responsible for fisheries, the Marine Wealth Authority during meeting in Italy, Spain and Morocco. CopeMed, jointly with MedSudMed and the GFCM and the FAO-SNE Office for the region, supported the organization of the Maghrebian Network of Research Institutes.

- CopeMed contributed to keep fisheries administrations, main fisher's organizations and other stakeholders informed on fisheries and marine-related issues by distributing information generated by the project (meeting agendas and documents, technical and occasional documents), information from others sources (courses, meeting, documents, jobs opportunities) It is also channeling communication among different regional organizations and disseminating fisheries documents and information on events and activities of interest in the region through the project's web page.
- Meeting with the Ministry of Fisheries of Algeria (Malta, November 2013). Mr. Sid Ahmed Ferroukhi, Minister of Fisheries and fishery resources of the Algerian Republic, participated at the first Symposium on artisanal fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea and CopeMed coordinator met to comment the activities in the country and different option for collaboration with countries in the region, particularly with Spain. The Minister expressed his great interest for the CopeMed work in the subregion.
- A meeting with DG for Fisheries and Aquaculture and other responsible for fisheries management in Tunisia was organized following the request of the country during the CC Committee meeting on fisheries and aquaculture interactions. The projects organized a visit to the country with an international consultant, an expert from the fisheries administration and the expert socio-economist of CopeMed. After receiving a formal invitation to support the fisheries administration and carried out an analysis of the interactions between fisheries and aquaculture and prepared a technical document in support to the Directorate General for Fisheries and Aquaculture (DGPA) in Tunisia. Main objective of this activity was to raise the main causes of conflicts and propose solutions to reduce interactions. The final report was officially transmitted to the Tunisian fishery Directorate.

At international and regional level

- ✓ FAO-FI Department and the FAO Mediterranean projects prepared a Concept Note on a joint Mediterranean-wide project concerning the future of FAO Fishery Projects in the Mediterranean. A Coordination meeting was organized at the FAO headquarters (Rome, Italy. 22-23 November) with donors to discuss the document most relevant issues. After the meeting with the donors it was organized a meeting with the representatives at FAO of the countries participating in AdriaMed, CopeMed, EastMed and MedSudMed and after the presentation of the new proposal by FIRF, the pros and cons were discussed and a roadmap adopted.
- ✓ CopeMed, in coordination with the other FAO subregional projects coordinated the Thematic Session I of the First Regional Symposium on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and FAO, in partnership with CIHEAM Bari, MedPAN, WWF and in collaboration with the Government of Malta, organized the Regional Symposium from 27 to 30 November 2013 in Malta. CopeMed also chaired session V and presented the experience of the ArtFiMed project. CopeMed also prepared with the other partners and projects, the conclusions of the Symposium, developed on the basis of the contents of the background papers prepared in connection with the five thematic sessions of the Symposium and the discussions maintained.
- ✓ To reinforce the cooperation and coordination in the Alborán Sea between North and South countries and with the international organizations, CopeMed participated in a Consultation meeting for the neighboring countries of the Alborán Sea

representing FAO. The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC-SPA, UNEP/MAP) organized a consultation meeting (Málaga, Spain 11-12 December 2013) to set up multilateral working groups to identify sites and establish Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Alborán open seas, including the deep seas. The meeting was organized in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med).

- ✓ In order to strengthen international and regional cooperation the Project interacts closely with the FAO Regional Project MedSudMed. In addition, several meetings of coordination were held with the other regional projects, AdriaMed and EastMed throughout the year (the last being on January 2014) in order to consolidate and envisage common activities.
- ✓ FAO Regional Mediterranean Projects meeting with donors; Conference for presentation of FAO Mediterranean Projects; Coordination meeting between DG Mare and FAO-FIRF (25 June 2012. Brussels, Belgium. Meeting at DG Mare). Two meetings and a Conference of the Marine and Inland Fisheries Service of the FAO Fisheries Department represented by the Coordinator Ms. Gabriela Bianchi and the staff, including the FAO Regional Mediterranean Projects (AdriaMed, CopeMed II, EastMed and MedSudMed) coordinators were held in Brussels DG Mare. The first meeting with the representatives of the countries and organizations funding the projects, Greece, Italy, Spain and the European Commission this represented by the Deputy Head of Unit Mr. Xavier Vazquez, was an opportunity to analyze the main results and achievements of the projects and to discuss priorities and funding options for the future of the regional projects, actually covering the whole Mediterranean region.

CopeMed maintained the fishery administrations, main fisher's organizations and other stakeholders informed by distributing information generated by the project (meeting agendas and documents, technical and occasional documents), information from other sources (courses, meeting, documents, jobs opportunities) and the i-bulletin of the project members main activities.

4. Regional coordination, cooperation and synergy

4.1 Cooperation and support to GFCM

FAO Mediterranean subregional projects, including CopeMed II, supports regularly the GFCM activities in close collaboration with national focal points of the countries participating in the project and the Commission' Secretariat by providing scientific contributions for discussion and by funding the participation. These efforts of CopeMed II (in FAO staff workload, funds and time, but also providing GFCM meeting with the countries participation, input from experts from the south Mediterranean and information and data provided by the countries and/or the project) represent a clear support to the countries but also a true support to the GFCM and the FWP.

CopeMed supported the GFCM and the countries during the reporting period in different regional activities, facilitating the regional participation of the countries and disseminating 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 by participating in the activities organized. The activities of the GFCM supported by CopeMed II and actions by CopeMed include:

- ✓ Thirty-seventh Session of the Commission. Participation and presentation of the document on Major activities of the FAO Regional Projects in 2012-2013 (Split, Croatia, 13-17 May 2013). The coordinator represented the project in the Commission and, with other FAO-Mediterranean project coordinators (AdriaMed, MedSudMed and EastMed) prepared and presented a paper on the activities and results of the Mediterranean projects.
- ✓ GFCM data collection subregions western, central and eastern - Frascati, Italy.
- ✓ Meeting between FIRF, FAO Regional Projects and GFCM (21 September 2012, Rome, Italy). The FAO FIRF projects had a meeting with GFCM in order to discuss the contribution of the Regional Projects to the GFCM Framework Programme (FWP) 2013-2018. The GFCM FWP has been approved at the 36th session of the Commission. A summary table was prepared with the main proposed actions and activities for the first and second year of the FWP, where the Regional Projects have respectively inserted their running or to be run activities. The meeting was an initiative from FIRF in order to interchange ideas, clarify outputs and identify priorities and procedural ways to achieve the expected outputs.
- ✓ Participation, in the GFCM Subregional Technical Workshop on Fisheries Multiannual Management Plans (Tunis, Tunisia. 7–10 October) for the Western, Central and Eastern Mediterranean and revision of the draft document on the Alborán sea small pelagic management plan.
- ✓ CopeMed staff participated at the GFCM Working Group on Common methodologies to carry out socio-economic analysis.
- ✓ Participation in the Working Group on Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean.
- ✓ Presentation of documents and participation in the four Sub Committees of the SAC-GFCM on Stocks Assessment (SCSA), Socio-Economy (SCSE); Statistics and Information (SCSI) and Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE) in Bar (Montenegro) from 2nd to 6th February 2014. During the first working group CopeMed presented two documents already mentioned.
- ✓ GFCM WG on small pelagic (Bar, Montenegro).
- ✓ GFCM WG on Demersal (Bar, Montenegro), were presented the assessment of the white shrimp (*P. longirostris*) of Alborán Sea (GSAs 01, 03) conducted by experts from the INRH (Morocco) and Spain (IEO) in the framework of the CopeMed demersal WG.
- ✓ GFCM Workshop on Artificial Reefs in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (Izmir, Turkey 27 September 2013) supporting experts from Libya and Tunisia.
- ✓ Supporting the organization of the Symposium, coordinating Thematic Session I, presenting a document to Thematic Session and participating as member of the scientific committee in Malta, (26 November - 1 December 2013).
- ✓ The project supported the participation of two experts (from Morocco and Algeria). The coordinator and the fishery officer participated in the SCs and presented two oral communications of activities carry out by CopeMed regarding selectivity issues (at SCMEE) and socio-economic indicators (at SCESS). The coordinator participated in some sessions of the SCSA.

Moreover the Project' staff has participated actively in the GFCM 2012 (May, Marrakech) presenting a joint document with the other FAO Med-Projects on achievements and main activities, reinforcing the collaboration with the participating countries and the Commission. This GFCM meeting was an opportunity for the Coordinator to have informal meeting with donors, delegates from the member

countries and to agree in organizing international meeting with the countries and the GFCM.

4.2 FAO internal coordination

During the intersessional period, the projects co-organized several Working Groups, Workshops and Training activities as already mentioned in different sub-chapters. This co-organization not only promotes the synergy and the best use of the limited human and financial resources, but also contributes to increase the linkages and connections among the fisheries researchers and managers of the whole Mediterranean. It is expected that the connections thus established, and the common language and methods shared, will also contribute to facilitating the reinforcement of the regional and sub-regional cooperation frameworks considered essential for sustainable fisheries management in the Mediterranean in the framework of the GFCM.

During the period CopeMed participated in the next meeting with the other FAO Projects and FAO FIRF Service:

- ✓ Coordination meeting FAO-FIRF projects and GFCM. Rome, FAO HQ, 11 June 2012.
- ✓ Different meeting and activities of the Project GEF_LME were carrying out in Morocco in collaboration with CopeMed, including the preparation of guidelines on data collection participated by the small scale fishers organizations in Cala Iris MPA (Morocco) and the participation of different meeting in the country. In order to engage stakeholders in the process of fishing management with MPA, two workshops were organized and held in Cala Iris (September 2012 and February 2014) to present the project and the results of the scoping survey. The project was well received by all, including fisher's and local authorities. The final recommendations approved by the workshop included the creation of a fisheries monitoring cell for the Park fisheries, including representatives from the fisher's associations and the administration, and the full involvement of the fishers and their associations in the regular monitoring of the fisheries.
- ✓ Meeting between FIRF, Sub regional projects and GFCM. Rome, 21 September 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the contribution of the FAO sub regional projects for the first and second year of the GFCM framework work plan 2013-2018.
- ✓ Participation of CopeMed in the Coordination Committee of the other FAO Projects.
- ✓ In the framework of FAO decentralization CopeMed is reinforcing collaboration with the subregional (SNE) and regional (RNE) FAO offices in the north African and near east countries by liaising periodically, by supporting joint initiatives on fisheries and sharing information on the activities and results of the Project. CopeMed II jointly with MedSudMed and the GFCM and the FAO-SNE Office for the region, supported the organization of the Maghrebian Network of Research Institutes.
- ✓ In September 2013 (Bizerte, Tunisia) CopeMed participated in an international meeting organized by FAO-SNE, FAO-FI, ATDPEA, WWF and other organization for the organization of the Network of Small Scale Fisheries organization of North Africa, and instrument conformed by local and national associations from the Maghreb region.

4.3 Coordination with the donors

CopeMed II has, in cooperation with FAO-FIRF service, reinforced the activities of coordination and contacts with the current donors of the project, the European Commission and the Spanish Government. It also explored new options for supporting its activities and consequently an extension of the project during 2014 was decided.

As mentioned, during a meeting in Rome (FAO HQ, 22 November 2013) FIR organized and presented to the EU, ITALY, GREECE AND SPAIN, the donors of the four Mediterranean projects, the progress and results achieved during the last years, the budgetary problems of the FAO projects and budgetary status and a Concept Note and its relation to existing FAO projects in the Mediterranean. This Concept Note provides the justification for, and an outline of, a joint Mediterranean-wide project to replace four ongoing FAO FIRF sub-regional projects in the Mediterranean region from 2015, with the aim of improving the current mechanism for implementation. A second meeting on 23 November was held with all the participating countries. FIR presented the achievements and main problems facing the projects and the countries agreed in the solution proposed by FAO. The agenda for the finalization of the Project document, the presentation to the participating countries and the fund raising needed for the sustainability during 4 year of the new project based on the traditional and new donors was adopted.

During the presentation it was underlined that the GFCM has benefited from the support of the four sub-regional projects as they have contributed to enhanced regional scientific cooperation and national capacity in line with GFCM priorities and strategies. As well as results at national and sub-regional levels, the projects have played an important role in providing technical support to the GFCM through:

- contributing to the discussion at sub-regional level of ‘issues’ highlighted by the GFCM subsidiary bodies (e.g. preparation of joint working documents; joint pilot studies; joint stock assessment);
- funding for the active participation of national scientists and managers and project staff in the GFCM sessions and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings; and
- Support for scientific cooperation and capacity building in participating countries in line with national needs in relation to the GFCM priorities and strategies.

The involvement of the four projects with the GFCM has worked both ways, serving to strengthen cooperation between the four projects, whilst also supporting coordination and support for GFCM activities at the sub-regional and regional level.

The annual work plans of the four projects are discussed and the relevance of their contribution to the work carried out by GFCM is pointed out during GFCM meetings. The four projects have played a central role in the development of a new culture of coordinated fishery management in the region involving at all stages participating countries.

The regional cooperation supported by the network of sub-regional projects has allowed the formulation of scientific recommendations and the definition of scientific criteria for the development of a better integrated management system of the exploited resources in the Mediterranean.

European Commission: Directorate general for maritime affairs and fisheries

- ✓ The annual Coordination meeting FAO-FIRF with DG Mare was held in Brussels, at the Commission headquarters (2 July 2013. Brussels, Belgium). Due to the situation of retard in approving the funds used by the EU to support the FAO projects, an

extension of the four current projects until end of April 2014 was adopted by the FAO and the EU Commission.

- ✓ Coordination meeting in Rome (FAO HQ, 9-10 January 2013). The meeting included the progress and results achieved during the reporting period (2012), the budgetary problems of the FAO projects in the Mediterranean and budgetary status of the ongoing EC funded projects in the Mediterranean and the agreement to implement the four projects as of 1st April 2013.
- ✓ Communications by email and telephone were maintained with the coordinator in DG Mare discussing various issues: status report on FAO's budget Year 5; presentation of the new "Grant Application"; EC Funds for 2014; request for extension of CopeMed Year 5 until March 2013. Also CopeMed maintained contacts with other units of DG Mare regard to the possibility to organize a meeting with Morocco and Spain for discussing management measures for the red seabream in the Strait of Gibraltar.

Spain: Secretaría General de Pesca

Communication with representatives of the government of Spain is permanent, in particular with the General Secretariat for Maritime Fisheries (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment). Thanks to additional funding secured by the Spanish donor in 2013 and the provision of funds for a part of 2014, the CopeMed II activities were extended to the implementation of the new FAO joint Mediterranean project in January 2015.

- ✓ The Coordinator maintained communication (telephone, email and letter) with representatives of the government of Spain, in particular with the General Secretariat of Maritime Fisheries (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment) and in a lesser degree with the AECID (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation) since the ArtFiMed project completion in July 2011. We should point out that thanks to additional funding secured by the Spanish donor in 2012 and ArtFiMed remnant fund, CopeMed II activities were extended until April 2013.
- ✓ Donor representatives have been informed by the FAO and the project of all activities undertaken and the problems faced in 2013, mainly financial.
- ✓ Communications with various units of the General Secretariat of Maritime Fisheries was maintained on:
 - The development of socio-economic data of the Alborán Sea fisheries,
 - Preparing a support letter for CopeMed to send to the FAO as agreed by the June between with DG Mare and donors,
 - The creation of " CopeMed regional networks " preparing priority activities relating to shared stocks and that could be selected for the application of management plans;
 - Organization of a first meeting of Directors General for Fisheries from of the Maghreb, the possibility of reserving funds for CopeMed (received);
 - Progress with Morocco and Spain in the red seabream assessment and the interest shown by the Spanish fishing sector (CEPESCA) and the possibility to organize a meeting between the two countries.
- ✓ Following the request of the Fisheries SG a coordination meeting was organized on February 4, 2013 in Madrid.
- ✓ Informal meeting was also maintained in the Agadir during the Halieutis as previously mentioned.

- ✓ The SG Pesca sent a letter in February 2013 to FAO supporting the continuity of the project, underlining the difficulties in contributing during 2013 as in previous years and the intention in continue supporting if the economic circumstances are improved.

COMMON ACTIVITIES AND OVERALL COORDINATION

All the FAO-led Fisheries Management Support projects in the Mediterranean are tightly coordinated and develop their activities in a joint way, among them and with the GFCM, whenever this can bring added benefits to the participating countries and the GFCM.

During the intersessional period, the projects co-organized several Working Groups, Workshops and Training Courses. This co-organization not only promotes the best use of limited human and financial resources, it also contributes to increase the linkages and connections among the fisheries researchers and managers of the whole Mediterranean. It is expected that the connections thus established, and the common language and methods shared, will also contribute to facilitating the reinforcement of the regional and sub-regional cooperation frameworks considered essential for sustainable fisheries management in the Mediterranean in the GFCM framework.

Coordination with the Projects' donors was also strengthened. Further to meetings held by each project, some joint discussion meetings were held with representatives of traditional donors, namely Greece, Italy, Spain and EU. In this context meeting with representatives of EU-DGMARE, all the FAO Regional Mediterranean Projects (AdriaMed, MedSudMed, EastMed and CopeMed II) and FIRF staff was held in Brussels, Belgium, on 2 July 2013.

A meeting to present the proposal for a single Mediterranean Programme with the FAO Regional Mediterranean Projects and representatives of all the Donors (Italy, Spain and Greece) was held in FAO-HQ (Rome, 17 July 2013).

Regarding the future development, FAO-FI Department and the FAO Mediterranean projects prepared a Concept Note on a joint Mediterranean-wide programme that shall be the natural evolution of the existing FAO Fishery Projects in the Mediterranean. The Concept Note provides the justification for, and an outline of, a single the Mediterranean programme to further consolidate and develop the work currently ongoing with the support of the four FAO FIRF sub-regional projects in the Mediterranean. The programme will capitalize the experience accrued by Project staff and participating institutions to achieve more coordinate and challenging results. It shall be operative starting from 2015. A coordination meeting was organized at the FAO headquarters (Rome, 22-23 November) with traditional donors (Spain, Italy, Greece and European Union) to discuss the most relevant issues of the concept note and of the proposed Programme. An informative meeting with the representatives at FAO of the countries participating in AdriaMed, CopeMed, EastMed and MedSudMed was organized. During the meeting a description of the programme, pros and cons, roadmap for its planning and implementation were presented and discussed.

The projects have also jointly supported several initiatives in the framework of the GFCM, aiming at increasing cooperation and linkages in fisheries management across the Mediterranean, as well as at sub-regional level.

In this view, the participation of more than 100 Mediterranean experts to more than 20 GFCM meetings (SAC, CAQ and institutional meetings) were ensured thank to the contribution of the Project.

The FAO projects organized or participated in the next coordination meeting with the GFCM

Secretariat:

- Preparatory meeting with the GFCM Secretariat on the workshop on management plan in the

“Subregional Technical Workshop on Fisheries Multiannual Management Plans for the Western, Central and Eastern Mediterranean”

- Meeting with the GFCM secretariat on the draft Concept Note for a single FAO Regional

Programme in the Mediterranean (FAO-HQs, Rome 05 September 2013)

- Under the coordination of the GFCM and the support of the Maltese fisheries administration, co-sponsored by the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, the FAO sub-regional projects AdriaMed, CopeMed II, MedSudMed and EastMed, CIHEAM, WWF and MedPAN, organized the First Regional Symposium on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (27-30 November 2013, Malta).

- In collaboration with the JRC (EU), the GFCM Secretariat and the other FAO Mediterranean projects AdriaMed facilitated the organization of a 5 days training course titled: "Improving the

Analysis of Fisheries Data: An Introduction to R and the Fisheries Library based on R (FLR)". The training was held on 04-08 November 2013 at the GFCM, Rome (Italy).

A training workshop on EAF was co-organized in June 2013 within the program of work of the FAO component of the project "Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem" by all the Mediterranean Projects. The aim of the workshop was to improve the understanding of EAF and EAA (Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture) and of the processes involved in the preparation and implementation of fisheries and aquaculture management plans by experts from the fisheries management and research.

The cooperation among Projects also resulted in the participation at the second symposium on Fishery-Dependent Information in Rome, Italy 3-6 March, 2014, an international conference for resource managers, scientists and the fishing sector on the collection and interpretation of information in the context of the ecosystem approach. Together with the other FAO sub-regional projects an oral presentation was made on the comparative analysis of fisheries socio-economic data collection in the Mediterranean: lessons learned and future prospects. Furthermore three scientific posters were presented at the conference one from Egypt, Lebanon and Turkey.

Also, the projects harmonized the information and appearance of the different websites, to present a unified image to the visitors, reinforcing the concept of harmonized projects.

To ensure a tighter coordination, all projects are represented in the Coordination Committee meetings of the other projects. This contributed to avoiding overlap in activities, and to the planning of joint activities. Also, the projects staff met all together twice yearly, once at FAO Headquarters and another at the GFCM Subcommittee meeting, to take stock of the development of the activities and problems faced by each of them, and to plan the joint or shared activities. This tight coordination and sharing of information and resources has already led to a significant increase in the number and importance of jointly-organized or shared activities, as is evident in this report. It also means that the total number of activities implemented has effectively increased, as the specific advantages (human or otherwise) of each project is put at the disposal of all the projects, and there was no duplication of efforts, reducing the wastage of resources.

In the framework of the FAO decentralization, and with the same objective of maximizing the support to the participating countries and the GFCM, the projects are

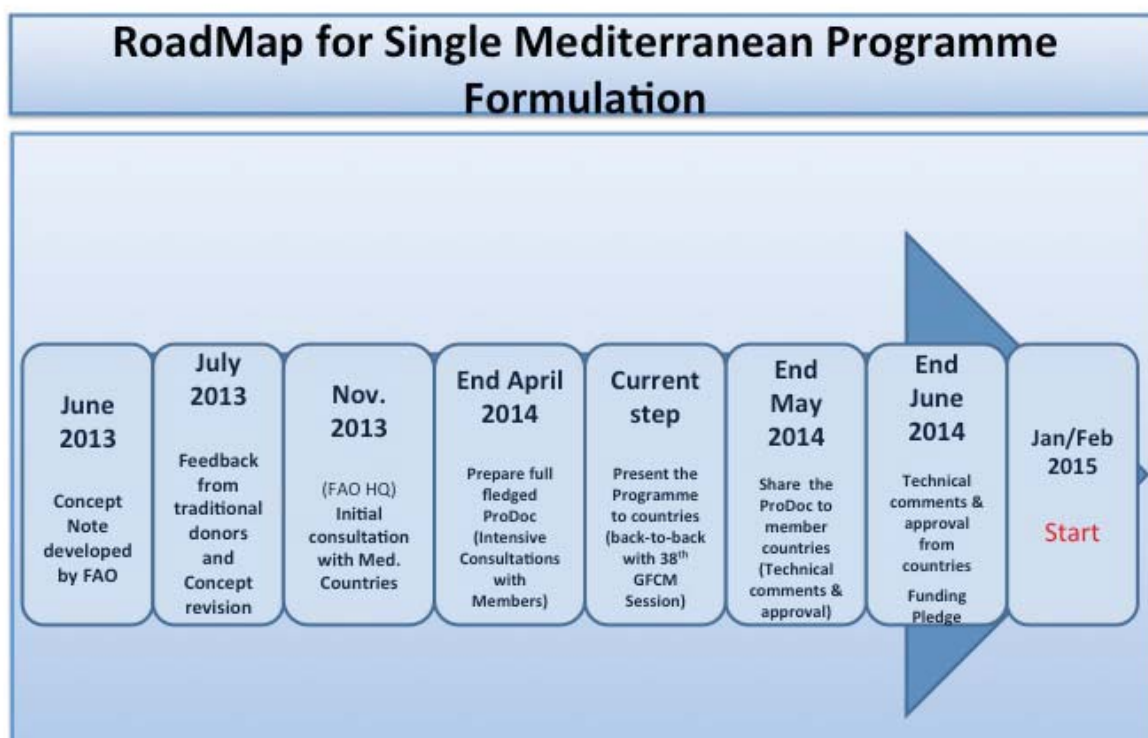
reinforcing the collaboration with the FAO regional and subregional offices in the region. Thus, the projects have regular communication and also co-organize activities with the Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, in Cairo, the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, in Budapest, as well as with the sub-regional offices in Ankara (Central Asia) and Tunis (North Africa). This tighter cooperation also increases the overall delivery of FAO for the benefit of the countries in the region and for the reinforcement of the GFCM as the Regional Fisheries Management Organization with responsibilities for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

5. Project communication

CopeMed contributed to keep fisheries administrations, main fisher's organizations and other stakeholders informed on fisheries and marine-related issues by distributing information generated by the project (meeting agendas and documents, technical and occasional documents) and results of the project, information from others sources (courses, meeting, documents, jobs opportunities), and the main activities of the project members. Since its publication, the Project's website is updated.

The FAO Mediterranean projects harmonized the information and appearance of the different websites, to present a unified image to the visitors. A general description of the Project is available, as well as information on the recent or forthcoming events organized by CopeMed and the Mediterranean Regional Projects. All the Technical and Occasional Documents produced are available on the Project web site as pdf files, www.faocopemed.org.

Annex 4: Roadmap for a single Mediterranean Programme





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