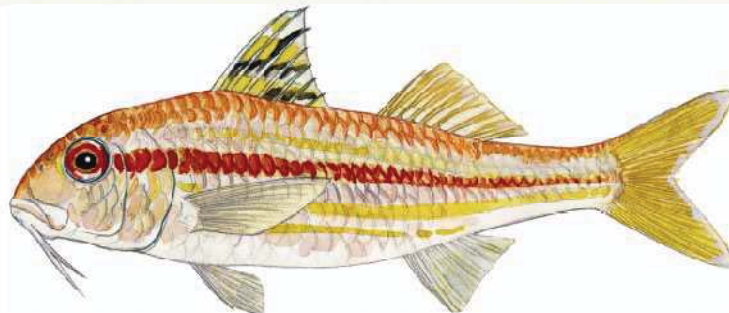
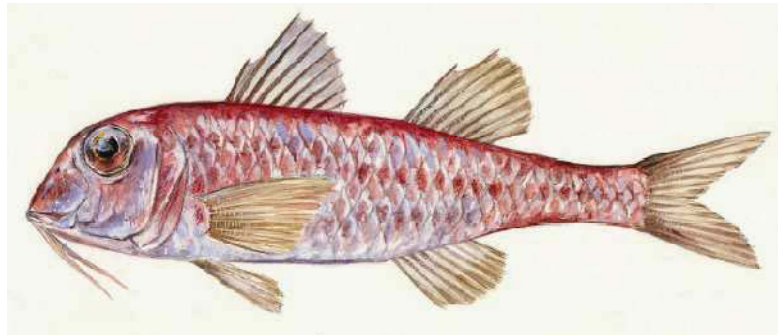


# REPORT OF THE EIGHT MEETING OF THE COPEMED II COORDINATION COMMITTEE

5-6 May 2015  
Malaga, Spain



Cover illustrations

Top: Red mullet, *Mullus barbatus* (® E. Dantoni, FAO)

Bottom: Striped red mullet, *Mullus surmuletus* (® J. Varela)

**CopeMed II Technical Documents N°38**  
GCP/INT/028/SPA; GCP/INT/006/EC

**REPORT OF THE EIGHT MEETING OF THE  
COPEMED II COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

**Malaga, Spain 5-6 May 2015**

**May 2015**

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<sup>o</sup> 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.

**Project CopeMed II (FAO-FIRF)**  
Subdelegación del Gobierno en Málaga  
Paseo de Sancha 64, Oficinas 305-307  
29071 Málaga  
España

Tel: (+34) 952 989299

Fax: (+34) 952 989252

e-mail: [copemed@fao.org](mailto:copemed@fao.org)

URL: [www.faocopemed.org](http://www.faocopemed.org)

This document is printed on  paper

## **CopeMed II (GCP/INT/028/SPA – GCP/INT/006/EC) Publications**

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:

**Project CopeMed II (FAO-FIRF)**  
**Subdelegación del Gobierno en Málaga**  
**Paseo de Sancha 64, Oficinas 305-307**  
**29071 Málaga (España)**  
[copemed@fao.org](mailto:copemed@fao.org)



For bibliographic purposes this document should be cited as follow:

CopeMed II. 2015. Report of the Eight Meeting of the CopeMed II Coordination Committee. Malaga, Spain 5-6 May 2015. CopeMed II Technical Documents N° 38 (GCP/INT/028/SPA - GCP/INT/006/EC). Málaga, 2015. 33pp.

## **Preparation of this document**

This document is the final version of the report of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Coordination Committee of the FAO-Project CopeMed II held at the Subdelegación del Gobierno, Malaga (Spain) the 5-6 May 2015 adopted by the participants' members. The finalisation of this CopeMed Technical Document was made by the IEO, the Spanish Institute of Oceanography responsible (under the Letter of Agreement PO 310944 signed in 2014 between the FAO and the IEO extended in January 2015) in collaboration with the participants and the FAO staff of CopeMed II in Malaga and Rome.

## **Acknowledgements**

FAO-CopeMed II acknowledges the participation and contributions of all national delegates, the indispensable contributions provided by the two donors Spain and the EU, the support provided by the Spanish government to maintain the CopeMed offices in Malaga and the involvement of IEO in the implementation of the project's activities, including the organization of the Coordination Committee and edition of this report.

CopeMed II. 2015. Report of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Coordination Committee of CopeMed II. Malaga (Spain), 5-6 May 2015. CopeMed II Technical Documents N° 38 (GCP/INT/028/SPA – GCP/INT/006/EC). Málaga, 2015. 33pp.

### **ABSTRACT**

The eighth meeting of the CopeMed II Coordination Committee was held in Malaga (Spain), 5-6 May 2015, kindly hosted by the Subdelegado del Gobierno de España en Málaga, Mr Jorge Hernández Mollar. The annual meeting was attended by representatives of the Spanish Donor, the Secretaria General de Pesca, representatives from the countries participating in the Project (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 and the IEO responsible under LoA between FAO-FI and IEO for implementing the CopeMed activities. The Committee reviewed the activities implemented during the inter-sessions period, discussed and adopted a proposal of priority activities for the next period of the project until end 2015. The country representatives recognized the important contributions of CopeMed II to the development of the national and regional capacity and particularly the advances in analysing data and produce assessment of shared stocks. The regional cooperation, coordination and the key role of the project as support to increasing scientific knowledge on fishery resources and ecosystems, strengthening national expertise and regional cooperation and the valuable support to the GFCM activities was underlined. Particular mention and support was done to the extension of the Project that can only be beneficial for each of the participating countries and the sub-region.

# INDEX

1. Opening of the meeting, election of the Chairperson and adoption of the Agenda.....	7
2. Report on the CopeMed Project's Progress .....	9
3. Proposals on national activities in the framework of the project.....	13
4. GFCM activities of relevance for CopeMed II.....	14
5. Priority activities for the next period of CopeMed II .....	15
6. Other matters.....	17
7. Adoption of the report.....	17
8. Date and place of the next coordination Committee.....	17
9. Closure .....	18
Annex 1: List of participants.....	19
Annex 2: Agenda .....	21
Annex 3: Report on the intersessional activities of the Project .....	22
Annex 4: Preliminary workplan of the SAC-GFCM .....	31



# Report of the eighth Meeting of the CopeMed II Coordination Committee

Malaga, Spain 4-5 May 2015

## 1. Opening of the meeting, election of the Chairperson and adoption of the Agenda

1. The Coordination Committee (CC) meeting was held in the Subdelegación del Gobierno building in Malaga, CopeMed offices. It was attended by representatives of the Spanish Donor, Secretaría General de Pesca, delegations from the participating countries of the Project (France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia), the Marine and Inland Fisheries Branch, the Coordinator of FAO AdriaMed, MedSudMed Projects, as well as the staff from CopeMed II Project. The EU representative (donor), the Executive Secretary of the GFCM (member) the Libyan and Algerian delegations excused its participation due to different reasons. The internal difficulties in Libya were reported by the national delegate as main problem for travelling to the CC.
2. New representatives were welcomed from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia as a natural process derived from internal changes in the responsibilities in the Administrations and Research Institutions representing the countries in the CC of CopeMed. The List of participants is included in Annex 1.
3. Mr. Juan A. Camiñas, former Coordinator of CopeMed II and current IEO (Spain) responsible for implementing the LoA FAO-IEO to achieve the CopeMed annual workplan. On behalf the Committee he expressed the gratitude to the Secretaría General de Pesca and the European Commission for continuing financing the Project and thanked the participating delegates for the efforts in implementing the CopeMed activities at national level. He finally thanked the IEO Director for giving him the responsibility to implementing the LoA with FAO for this 7<sup>th</sup> year of activities of CopeMed II, after his retirement as FAO project coordinator. He also thanked Malta's delegate for their willingness for organising the meeting but he informed that finally FAO Budget Holder (BH) decided to have the CC in Malaga to reduce the cost.
4. He recalled that since the inception of the second phase he coordinated, following the recommendations built up during the first phase of CopeMed and taking advantage of the achievement during such phase as acknowledge by all members, GFCM and FAO, CopeMed II has been 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 question of better definition of limits of certain shared exploited resources remains one of the great challenges to achieve long-term sustainable fisheries under the EAF (Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management) but it should not be an obstacle to progress in the joint management of shared resources, but an incentive to strengthen efforts and improve management. He informed the efforts done in organising a joint meeting of the CopeMed working groups on shared stocks of demersal and small pelagic resources and the important

collaboration with the GFCM Secretariat mainly in the organization of joint activities, the participation of delegates at SAC, its SCs and WGs.

5. Mr Camiñas informed that the professional staff of FAO-FI (Rome) Ms. Gabriella Bianchi is the Lead Technical Officer for CopeMed and Mr. Pedro de Barros is the Budget Holder. Both are in charge with the project responsibilities and Coordination, supported by Paolo De Donno (Rome) and Abla Kadiri (Málaga).
6. Close collaboration was maintained with the other Mediterranean projects particularly with MedSudMed, considering that the two projects share countries in the central south region. He underlined the difficulties by the two projects to support activities with Libya due to big communication problems and to provide travel authorizations to national experts and delegates. He finally mentioned that, considering the financial situation of many countries, the support during this year by Spain and DG Mare to CopeMed is especially acknowledged.
7. Mr Camiñas mentioned the constraints to maintain the activities of CopeMed without Project's technical staff on the field from March 2014 and the non involvement of such staff in coordinating Malaga's office and activities of CopeMed until the signature in August 2014 of a LoA by FAO-FIRF and IEO- Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad as services provider in support to the CopeMed II project, valid until December 2014 and now extended until the end of June 2015. The Director of IEO nominated Mr. Camiñas, former coordinator of CopeMed II and IEO staff in Malaga, for implementing the activities included in the LoA.
8. He mentioned that despite the difficulties, the countries in CopeMed continue being the same that at the beginning of the project, Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Malta, Italy, France and Spain, although new national delegate has been appointed by Algeria (new General Director of CNRDPA, Mr Rachid Annane), by Morocco (new Head of Department of Fisheries Resources at INRH, Mr Mohamed Malouli) and by Tunisia (new General Director of the INSTM, Mr Hechmi Missaoui).
9. The Spanish Donor underlined the efforts carried out by CopeMed in implementing the annual Workplan under special circumstances related to the staff. She underlined that although Spain is accomplishing important economic adjustments, they will continue supporting CopeMed considering the important role that this FAO Project is playing in the western and central part of the Mediterranean Sea.
10. Mr. Jorge Baro, Director Oceanographic centre of Malaga (IEO), Spanish delegate at the Coordination Committee of CopeMed was elected Chairperson of this 8th session of the Coordination Committee of CopeMed II. He welcomed the participants and underlined the new role of the IEO as service provider to FAO-Fisheries and Aquaculture Department to the implementation of the CopeMed II current year activities. He mentioned that from the signature of the agreement between FAO and IEO in 2014 the Institute is even more involved in the activities of the project supporting the staff of the project and the offices in Malaga. Mr. Baro also recalled the objective of the Committee in reviewing the activities done and agreed on a new workplan for the next period.

## 2. Report on the CopeMed Project's Progress

11. After adoption of the Agenda (Annex 2), Mr. Camiñas introduced item 2 based on the document FAO-CopeMed II CC08/2015/02 (Annex 3), in which the activities carried out by CopeMed II from May 2014- April 2015 were presented. He emphasized that all the activities carried out are in line with the Project objectives and the suggestions agreed during the 7th Meeting of the CopeMed II Coordination Committee (Malaga, 28-29 May 2014).
12. He summarized the main activities and outputs of the Project and the results achieved in relation to the Project Objectives. In relation to objective one, the improvement of national capacity in the field of fisheries statistics, a work travel to Tunisia (June 2014) was organized by CopeMed visiting different ports and areas where potential conflicts could rise between the artisanal and coastal fleets and the new aquaculture activity. The project prepared a technical document on the socio-economic interactions between marine fisheries and aquaculture. International and local consultants were contracted. The report was forwarded to the fisheries administration to support the Directorate General for Fisheries and Aquaculture for management purposes.
13. CopeMed-IEO staff and experts from Algeria (CNRDPA), Morocco (INRH) and Tunisia (INSTM) participating at the Data Collection Regulation Framework meeting (Madrid, Spain November 2014) collaborating in improving the draft document.
14. CopeMed –IEO staff participated in the GFCM meeting on the *Follow-Up Workshop on the Implementation of Management Measures in Selected Case Studies in the Mediterranean* (Rome, 2-3 February 2015). Although the Agenda includes a point on “Possible new case studies”; the small pelagic stocks in the Alboran Sea were discussed at the previous GFCM meeting (Tunis, 2013) as a possible new case to update data and information needed in each country and at subregional scale for joint sub-regional management, as there was no experts from Algeria and Morocco there was no discussion on this possibility in the plenary, mentioned by the Secretariat.
15. In relation to objective 2, “Strengthening fisheries research in the sub-region” CopeMed II participated in scientific-related activities and supported the participation of experts from Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Spain in different meetings. In coordination with the EU-MEDIAS project, CopeMed supported experts participating (Morocco and Algeria, declined at the last moment due to other obligations) at the 7th WS for standardization of acoustic methodologies for small pelagic direct assessment in the sub-region.
16. In collaboration with the IEO, CopeMed participated in a subregional WS on “The standardization of the lecture of otolith of sardine in the western Mediterranean”. Experts were supported with also the participation of a Moroccan expert.
17. The annual subregional CopeMed WG on demersal and on small pelagic was organized with the collaboration of INRH (Tangier, Morocco, October 15th 2014). Algerian, Moroccan and Spanish experts participated. The WG met analyzing and evaluating the state of knowledge (biology, statistics, ecology, socio-economy) and the progress realized within the CopeMed II framework on joint evaluation of the state of exploited stocks of demersal and small pelagic in the Alboran Sea (GSAs 01 , 02, 03 and 04); they also established priorities for research of priority species/fisheries and for new joint stock assessment; reviewed the state of research

on priority resources for demersal and small pelagic shared in the Alboran Sea. In particular regarding biological sampling, methodologies, standardization, joint research surveys at sea, joint analysis of fisheries resources and fisheries, research on the limits of stocks units and to review the recommendations of the ad hoc GFCM Working Group on the management of small pelagic species in the Alboran Sea. The WG prepared recommendations for the three participating research institutes, CNRDPA, INRH and IEO and recommended ensuring the continuity of the two Sub Group on joint demersal and small pelagic stocks assessment. The CopeMed TD N° 36 was finished and available for the CC.

18. CopeMed organized the third meeting of the WG on *Pagellus bogaraveo* shared stock in the Strait of Gibraltar area between Spain and Morocco. The WG conducted three different assessment models: the first one was a production model "Biodyn"; secondly an update of analytical assessment made in 2012 with the VIT, based on a length-cohort analysis (LCA); the third method used was CMSY, a new method for estimating MSY from catch data, resilience of the respective species and simple assumptions about relative stock sizes at the first and final year of the catch data time series. The overexploitation status of the stock was shown. Nevertheless to have a complete picture of the environmental and human-induced effects that could better explain the status of the stock and the fisheries situation, fishery related data used in the assessment should be completed with new information (life history, predators abundance, oceanographic conditions, etc., including socio-economic drivers. The CopeMed Technical Report N° 37 reported the results of the analyses carried out by the WG.
19. CopeMed supported the CNRDPA to finishing the report on selectivity action with 40 mm square and 50 mm diamond mesh size carried out in February 2013 and finished in 2014. CopeMed informed that a copy of the CNRDPA report provided by the Director of the Centre to the Committee is available as part of the documents distributed in the USB pen drive.
20. Concerning training and capacity building activities, CopeMed II in coordination with the GFCM Secretariat and the fisheries administration in Algeria supported the participation of an expert from the fisheries administration to the GFCM training course on Fisheries Control and Inspection held in Vigo (Spain 17-18 March 2015). Under the request of MedSudMed, CopeMed contacted the national delegates in Morocco and Algeria to facilitate the participation of experts from the two countries in the course coordinated by MedSudMed on "R" system but it was not possible.
21. Concerning objective 3, "Strengthening institutional capacity" CopeMed II participated in 7 scientific-related activities and financed the participation of 27 experts from Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Spain according to the requests made by the national delegates and the GFCM. The project contributed to keep fisheries administrations, main fisher's organizations and other stakeholders informed distributing fishery-related information
22. CopeMed in coordination with FAO-FI and the GFCM participated in a WS organized by UNEP, CBD and IUCN-Med on the discussion and selection of future EBSAs (Ecologically or Biologically Significant marine Areas) for the Mediterranean Sea (Malaga, Spain, 7-11 April 2014).
23. CopeMed and other FAO-FI and GFCM staff, participated in the International Master on Management and Sustainable Fisheries, coordinated by the University of Alicante (Spain) in April – May 2014. CopeMed organized the 7th meeting of the Coordination Committee (CC) that was held at the IEO Centre in Fuengirola

(Spain) on 28-29 May 2014 and the workplan for the next period was adopted. Mr Camiñas also participated with experts from Morocco (INRH, Fisheries Ministry, Universities) and Spain (Universities, Administrations, IEO, others) in the final meeting of the EU project POCTEFEX, a cooperative project between Andalucía and Morocco, to improve Alboran Sea governance (14-15 June, Almeria Spain).

24. In relation to Objective 4, “Strengthening regional coordination, cooperation and synergy” FAO and IEO maintained close coordination and reporting of activities related to the implementation of the CopeMed II workplan (through the signed LoA); prepared, edited and publish technical and informative documents (available at CopeMed Web page), reinforcing the cooperation with GFCM and Secretariat on the DCRF; Follow-Up Workshop on the Implementation of Management Measures in Selected Case Studies in the Mediterranean; SCESS; SCSA and supporting the participation of CopeMed and experts in different meetings.
25. In relation to the coordination with donors, CopeMed responsible maintained close contacts with the Secretaría de Pesca, Spain and FAO-FI for the direct contacts with EU-DG Mare. The coordination with the other FAO-FI Mediterranean projects, particularly with MedSudMed was maintained and supported EastMed on administrative issues when necessary. A Coordination meeting of the FAO Projects and FIRF was held in Rome HQ (February 2015) and joint documents were prepared to inform SAC and the next GFCM meeting.
26. 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 common image to the visitor. News, information and technical documents are available from the CopeMed web page.
27. Finally Mr. Camiñas underlined some gaps related to the current situation of CopeMed and particularly the non FAO staff on the field to support the project, the problems related to the non replacement of the two staff leaving the project one year ago and the urgent need in launching a FAO call for at least a new technical staff contract. He mentioned the difficulties to implement the activities adopted by the CC that are included in the FAO-IEO LoA, delays in the implementation of adopted activities by the CC from FAO staff in Rome. The LoA was not automatically extended in December 2014 however an amendment was signed for a continuation of the contract until June 2015. He also mentioned the uncertainties on the two options to continue: a new joint project or maintaining the current situation. Considering the last as the most possible option he underlined the need of FAO support on the field to the project. Finally it was raised and discussed on the future of CopeMed in relation to the sub-regionalisation of the GFCM activities.
28. The Committee thanked the project for the work done and stressed the quality and the number of important results and products achieved.
29. A discussion on the problems related to the age reading on small pelagic otholiths from the western sub-region was raised, commenting the coordinator of AdriaMed that in Adriatic they have the same problems of standardisation of lectures, although the project organized a WS during the current year. He supported the proposal of CopeMed to help in organising a WS on otholiths reading, as requested by SAC. The Coordination Committee supported this WS as a priority activity for the annual Workplan.



30. Regarding the current way of separating the small pelagic and demersal WG, the Italian delegate suggested not to separate the two working groups because sometimes there are matters of common interest (as the mentioned problems with age reading and other concerning methods) and experts from one expertise could help in solving problems from the other group.
31. Regarding *P. bogaraveo* stock shared by Spain and Morocco in the region of the Gibraltar Strait, the delegate of Morocco informed that the fleet in Tanger is exploiting this species and also fishing swordfish and other commercial species and that the blackspot seabream is not a target fishery as it is for Spain. He also mentioned that Morocco has lower catches of blackspot seabream than Spain. Delegate of Spain commented that although the size distribution of the landing is different in the two countries, there is a shared stock in overexploitation, so the working group of CopeMed on this stocks should continue working; he proposed to organize a new meeting between the two countries to continue assessing the status of the stocks when new data will be available.
32. The Donor (Secretaría General de Pesca representative) explained the interest of Spain to continue working together with Morocco through this CopeMed WG with the perspective to establish future management measures to the fisheries and the harmonization of the biological and fisheries data collection and analysis under the framework provided by the CopeMed WG. She also informed that the management of the resource is not a scientific issue but should be negotiated by EU and the countries involved in the fishery.
33. The delegate of Morocco informed that a meeting was held in Casablanca at the INRH HQ last March between the European Commission and the Institute to discuss status of the blackspot seabream stock. During the meeting, the extension of the stock to contiguous Atlantic waters of Spain and Portugal was raised and the intention of the two parties in organizing a meeting with the participation of Portugal and Spain.
34. Regarding the coordination difficulties between the project IEO-responsible and the FAO coordination in FIRF, the FAO representative informed that he took note of the comments and that he would highlight this issues to FAO HQ and look for possible solutions.
35. Concerning the future of CopeMed under a single FAO programme for the Mediterranean or the reinforcement of the current four FAO subregional projects, the FAO representative commented that based on the feedbacks received on the joint programme document and in order to accommodate all the requests by the countries, national donors and the EU a new scenario is being considered by FAO-FI. FAO is contemplating that each subregion needs specific activities. The original idea has been modified and slightly amended, by keeping the subregional projects under a common umbrella called the program. The concept note was revised and sent to EU, however further negotiations are needed. For the time being, it is more prudent to maintain and reinforce the subregional projects as they are running now with the possibility to recruit on a temporary basis, a consultant until the situation is better defined for the future activities.

36. The Spanish donor requested to FAO about the different options to continue supporting CopeMed in 2015 and the activities as Spanish and EU funds are available. She also requested on the different options contemplated by FAO for CopeMed future, considering the current LoA between FAO and the IEO will finish next July.
37. The FAO representative informed that three options are contemplated: i) extend the current LoA with IEO (but due to FAO rules and procedures cannot be extended over 18 months, that means at the end of 2015), ii) contract a new professional “P2/P3” based in Malaga (but the internal FAO recruitment procedures needs almost one year and the yearly gross cost for this position is approx. USD 150.000 for a P3) or, iii) contract a consultant for CopeMed.

### **3. Proposals on national activities in the framework of the project**

38. The Committee agrees in including in the report a summary of national priorities proposals, to illustrate particular issues in each country needing specific funding support.
39. The delegate of Italy reiterated the interest in reinforcing the cooperation for scientific advice on matters as standardisation of age reading, data collection and other matters and continues with the good coordination between MedSudMed and CopeMed.
40. The delegate of France recalled the intention of the delegation to convince the French ministry to participate as donor in CopeMed without any success; the interest in reinforcing the cooperation with Spain in the Gulf of Lion region and to take advantage of the cooperation between the two countries and lessons learned to improve the cooperation on fisheries research in the CopeMed subregion.
41. The delegate of Morocco proposed the standardization of the methods used by the CopeMed WGs for stock assessment of demersal and small pelagic resources between the three countries in the Alboran sea; improve the knowledge and application of methods for stock assessment of short living species of commercial interest; reinforce the cooperation with Spain concerning biological sampling and analysis for the black spot sea bream and requested the continuity of the subregional demersal and small pelagic WG of CopeMed in the region of the Alboran Sea and the participation of national experts to the GFCM meeting and WGs.
42. Of particular relevance to Malta within the framework of the project is the management and conservation measures related to the local artisanal fishery of dolphinfish, *Coryphaena hippurus*. Malta delegate stressed the importance for CopeMed II to pursue further work necessary for a full joint assessment of this shared stock. There is also need of specific workshops to addressing the collection and processing of biological information for this species for better quality data for use in assessments. Most of the activities on this species were carried out under the framework of CopeMed I Programme “CORY”. However, some of the conclusions and the results achieved by this project were considered as preliminary and in need of further cooperative investigation.

Additional work is therefore required for:

- The identification of stock unit/s in the Mediterranean sub-region.
  - The identification of possible spawning areas and nurseries.
  - Study on migratory patterns.
  - Better definition of some biological aspects like growth, sexual maturity and reproduction.
  - The impact of FADs associated fisheries on by-catch species and on the environment.
43. The delegate of Tunisia underlined the interest in continuing the assessment of *Coryphaena* and European eel; the organisation of the WG of CopeMed and MedSudMed between Algeria and Tunisia on shared stock of demersal and small pelagic species, the joint analysis of the results produced in the different national selectivity experiences using the 40 mm square mesh size and/or the 50 mm diamond. Concerning the analysis of short living and poor data species, he supports the organisation of training on methodologies to analyse these species particularly focus on cephalopods and elasmobranches.
44. The delegate of Spain mentioned that IEO will continue collaboration with CopeMed, reinforcing collaboration in the working groups. He stressed the importance in collecting information on discards species and methodologies including the southern countries fisheries and proposed the possibility to organize a WS by CopeMed. Concerning short lived species targeted by fisheries he recommended concentrate on some groups as cephalopods, of commercial interest in all countries.
45. After the proposals by the national delegates an interesting discussion was maintained. The species that should be included as short lived (demersal and pelagic), the existing information in the CopeMed and other Mediterranean countries, the available methods to assess this kind of stocks and the possibility to organize a regional workshop on this issue were some of the questions mentioned. Finally the CC supported the organisation between CopeMed and MedSudMed of a WS to prepare the SAC meeting on data-limited stocks of elasmobranches, an issue included in the SAC annual program.
46. The CC agreed that MedSudMed and CopeMed projects should prepare ToRs for the data-limited stocks of elasmobranches WS. The Italian delegate agreed to help in preparing the first draft of the ToRs. The CC also agreed that the WS should be organized back to back during the meeting of the CopeMed and MedSudMed joint demersal WGs to be convened if possible the first week of September, extending for a week in a place to be decided.

#### **4. GFCM activities of relevance for CopeMed II**

47. The Coordinator of AdriaMed and MedSudMed projects under the request of GFCM Secretariat, presented the Preliminary workplan of the SAC-GFCM for the period 2015-2016 (Annex 4). One of the issues discussed referred to the methodologies used by the AdriaMed WG on shared stocks and the different approaches after more than 20 years of joint works and how the lessons learned by the Adriatic experts on stocks assessment of shared stocks could be shared with experts from other subregions as the CopeMed.



48. Concerning the celebration in Algeria (March 2016) of the International Conference on SSF, the case studies already received by the GFCM were commented, corresponding to the different sub-regions and thematic. The Coordinator of AdriaMed and MedSudMed projects recommended to Tunisia and Morocco to send to GFCM as soon as possible the national proposals if any, because GFCM will close the reception soon.
49. The WG on small pelagic and demersal of SAC are scheduled in October 2015, then CopeMed should consider that the WG of the Alboran area and the eastern CopeMed region (stocks between Algeria and Tunisia in collaboration with MedSudMed) should be organized at least one month before (September) to have the time to prepare the stock assessment forms for the SAC WGs.

#### 5. Priority activities for the next period of CopeMed II

50. Based on the document FAO CopeMed II CC08/2015/03, Mr. Camiñas presented for discussion and adoption a proposal of activities for the next annual period of the project. It was underlined that the proposed work plan for the future period aims to implement the activities not achieved so far and consolidate the achievements of the past years continuing to provide technical assistance at national and subregional level. He underlined that the final Workplan will take into account the recommendations of the 8th Coordination Committee meeting and priorities expressed by the countries and according to the project's budget availability.
51. The CC agrees that the priorities to be implemented should be those included in the column of High priority. The other activities (medium priority) should be implemented according the availability of funds and specific requests by the countries to the project. The priority activities (High: already adopted in previous CC or periodical WGs and WS; Medium: activities under request by the countries or non cost activity) adopted by the CC are as follow:

Activities	High Priority	Medium Priority
Organize the Dialogue Meeting of National Fisheries Managers for the CopeMed Region	XX	
Organize a Subregional Workshop with MedSudMed to analyze and review methodologies and approaches for improving stocks boundaries in the western and central Mediterranean shared stocks of demersal and small pelagic species of commercial interest.	XX	
Support subregional and national actions aiming to prepare the program of the Regional Conference on SSF management in Algeria and participate at the Conference, in collaboration with the other FAO projects and the GFCM	XX	
Assist the countries under request to implement cooperative subregional or national surveys for harmonization fishery independent data collection by direct methods (surveys at sea) of small pelagic and demersal resources.		XX
Support the elaboration of subregional small pelagic and demersal resources' indicators based on national surveys and on the joint analysis of national scientific data at subregional level.		XX
Support the organization of the CopeMed subregional stocks assessment WG for demersal species in the Alborán sea (GSAs)	XX	

01, 02, 03 and 04 West): <i>P. longirostris</i> , <i>M. merluccius</i> and <i>Mullus spp.</i>		
Support the organization of the CopeMed joint demersal stocks assessment WG of the south-central area (GSA 04 East and GSA 12) in coordination with MedSudMed. <i>P. longirostris</i> , <i>M. merluccius</i> and <i>Mullus spp.</i>	<b>XX</b>	
Support the organization of the CopeMed stocks assessment WG for the small pelagic in the Alborán sea (GSAs 01, 02, 03 and 04 West): <i>Sardina pilchardus</i> and <i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i> stocks	<b>XX</b>	
Support the organization of the CopeMed joint small pelagic stocks assessment WG for the south-central area (GSA 04 East and GSA 12) in coordination with MedSudMed for <i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	<b>XX</b>	
Under request, support experts from non-EU countries in on-the-job- training and technical meeting on demersal and small pelagic evaluations by direct and indirect methods in collaboration with EU countries and projects.		<b>XX</b>
Organize a WS on training activities, including on-the job-training methodologies for sampling and evaluating discards in demersal and small pelagic fisheries, in collaboration with MedSudMed.	<b>XX</b>	
Organize and support a subregional workshop on ichthyoplankton standardization of analysis and methodologies. Improve networking on technical issues related to ichthyoplankton. (postponed from 2014)	<b>XX</b>	
Under request assist scientists and national fishery research institutions in on-the-job training on fishery statistics (data collection and analysis)		<b>XX</b>
Assist scientist and national research institutions in on-the-job training on direct methods for fishery data collection methodologies (marine surveys) for the assessment of the main shared small pelagic and demersal resources.		<b>XX</b>
Support the participation of experts from south countries in workshops/meeting on standard acoustic methodologies to evaluate small pelagic resources.	<b>XX</b>	
Organization of annual Coordination Committee meetings to assess the project progress, and formulate recommendations regarding requirements and priorities.	<b>XX</b>	
Participation of CopeMed in periodic meetings with other FAO regional projects to find synergies and optimize the resources.	<b>XX</b>	
Participation of CopeMed in annual meetings with the Donors to assess the project progress and to liaise with the Project FAO Lead Technical Unit FIRF.	<b>XX</b>	
Support the preparation of analysis and the dissemination of the results obtained by the different subregional WGs on shared stocks and technical issues.		<b>XX</b>
Promote scientific publications and sharing scientific results on marine species and its ecosystems, shared stocks, assessment methodologies, fishery related information and fisheries		<b>XX</b>

management proposals produced by scientist in the CopeMed sub-region.		
Support the GFCM Secretariat in organizing activities adopted by the Commission, including the scientific WGs and Sub Committees of the GFCM and supports the participation of countries.	<b>XX</b>	
Help the Institutes in preparing assessment of main priority shared stocks for revision during the SCSA Working Groups of demersal and small pelagic.	<b>XX</b>	
Co-organize with GEF MedSeaLME and MedSudMed projects a WS on the analysis of the results of selectivity surveys in Tunisia and Algeria using 40mm square mesh size and 50mm rhombic mesh size in comparison with results obtained in other CopeMed countries.	<b>XX</b>	
Collaborate with the other FAO projects to help in organising a regional or sub-regional WS on otholiths reading, requested by SAC.	<b>XX</b>	
Organized back to back during the meeting of the CopeMed and MedSudMed joint demersal WGs a WS on data-limited stocks of elasmobranches. PrepareToR	<b>XX</b>	

## 6. Other matters

52. The Committee proposed the review of the new SAC structure and functioning presented during the SAC meeting in March and discussed on possible effects of the proposal in the activities of the FAO sub-regional projects. It was underlined that this new structure could be positive for some aspects related with the SAC mandate but difficult to understand to others. The Committee observed the facilities that the new subregional structure could help when, for instance, in implementing subregional management plans or measures but less efficient in regional issues as stocks assessment.

53. The Committee will follow with interest the development of the SAC-GFCM proposal during next GFCM session and the possible effects and/or synergies with the FAO subregional projects, and recommend a review of the document prepared by GFCM.

## 7. Adoption of the report

54. The Committee adopted the report. CopeMed will finish and edit the document that will be prepared as a new CopeMed Technical Document.

## 8. Date and place of the next coordination Committee

55. Malta delegate, General Director of Fisheries, proposed to organize the next meeting of the CC in Malta. The Committee thanked the proposal and recommended CopeMed and FAO to contact the national delegate from Malta to agree on the date and place.

56. The chairperson, 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. They also thanked the Chairperson for the excellent management of the meeting and the final results.

57. 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 delegates and experts in all the activities to be carried out.

## **9. Closure**

58. The delegates thanked CopeMed for the organisation and to the chairperson for his management of the meeting. Finally the Chairperson declared the meeting closed.

## Annex 1: List of participants

### FRANCE

#### **Capucine MELLON**

Responsable de l'Unité Halieutique  
Méditerranée (HM)  
IFREMER  
Département Ressources Biologiques et  
Environnement (RBE)  
Directrice Adjointe de l'UMR 212  
Ecosystème Marin Exploité (EME)  
Avenue Jean Monnet  
BP 171 34203 Sete, France  
Tel: +33 4 99 57 32 00  
Fax: +33 4 99 57 32 95  
Email: [capucine.mellon@ifremer.fr](mailto:capucine.mellon@ifremer.fr)

### ITALY

#### **Francesco COLLOCA**

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche,  
Istituto per l'Ambiente Marino Costiero  
CNR-IAMC  
Via L. Vaccara, 61  
Mazara del Vallo, Italy  
Tel: +39 328 8876125  
Email: [francesco.colloca@iamc.cnr.it](mailto:francesco.colloca@iamc.cnr.it)

### MALTA

#### **Andreina FENECH FARRUGIA**

Director General  
Fisheries and Aquaculture Department  
Ghammieri, Ngiered Road  
Marsa, MRS 3303  
Malta  
Tel: +356 22921236  
Email: [andreina.fenech-farrugia@gov.mt](mailto:andreina.fenech-farrugia@gov.mt)

### MOROCCO

#### **Said BENCHOUCHA**

INRH - Centre Régional de Tanger  
BP 5268 Dradeb Tanger 90000  
Tel/Fax: +212 39325139  
Email: [bench2468@yahoo.fr](mailto:bench2468@yahoo.fr)

### SPAIN

#### **Jorge BARO**

Director  
Instituto Español de Oceanografía  
Puerto Pesquero s/n  
29640 Fuengirola, Málaga  
Tel: +34 952197124  
Fax: +34 952463808  
Email: [jorgebaro@ma.ieo.es](mailto:jorgebaro@ma.ieo.es)

#### **Juan Antonio CAMIÑAS**

Former CopeMed II Coordinator  
IEO CopeMed responsable  
Instituto Español de Oceanografía  
Puerto Pesquero s/n  
29640 Fuengirola, Málaga, Spain  
Tel: +34 952197124  
Fax: +34 952463808  
Email: [juanantonio.caminas@ma.ieo.es](mailto:juanantonio.caminas@ma.ieo.es)

### TUNISIA

#### **Othman JARBOUI**

Directeur de Recherche  
Directeur du Laboratoire Sciences Halieutique  
Institut National des Sciences et  
Technologies de la Mer  
BP 1035, 3018 Sfax  
Tel: + 216 4497117  
Fax: +216 4497989  
Email: [jarbouio@yahoo.fr](mailto:jarbouio@yahoo.fr)

### DONOR SPAIN

#### **Encarnación BENITO REVUELTA**

Jefa de Area  
SG Caladero Nacional, Aguas Comunitarias y  
Acuicultura  
DG Recursos Pesqueros y Acuicultura  
Secretaría General de Pesca  
Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación  
y Medio Ambiente  
C/ Velázquez 144  
Madrid 28071, Spain  
Tel: +34 913476161  
Fax: +34 913476046  
Email: [ebenitor@magrama.es](mailto:ebenitor@magrama.es)

## **FAO**

### **Paolo DEDONNO**

Project Operations Consultant  
Marine and Inland Fisheries Branch (FIRF)  
Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources  
Use and Conservation Division  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations (FAO)  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla,  
00153 Rome, Italy  
Tel: +39 06 570 54827  
Fax: +39 06 570 53020  
Email: [paolo.dedonno@fao.org](mailto:paolo.dedonno@fao.org)

### **Enrico ARNERI**

Coordinator Project AdriaMed and MedSudMed  
Marine and Inland Fisheries Branch (FIRF)  
Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources  
Use and Conservation Division  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations (FAO)  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla,  
00153 Rome (Italy)  
Tel: +39 0657056092  
Fax: +39 0657053188  
Email: [enrico.arneri@fao.org](mailto:enrico.arneri@fao.org)

### **Abla KADIRI**

Clerk Project CopeMed II  
Marine and Inland Fisheries Branch (FIRF)  
Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources  
Use and Conservation Division  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations (FAO)  
Subdelegación del Gobierno  
Paseo de Sancha 64, despacho 305  
29016 Málaga, Spain  
Tel: +31 952 98 92 52  
Fax: +34 952 98 92 52  
Email: [abla.kadiri@fao.org](mailto:abla.kadiri@fao.org)

## **Annex 2: Agenda**

**TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> 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 and results of the CopeMed II Working Groups, the training and the relationship and cooperation of CopeMed II at Mediterranean level.*

**Coffee break: 11:00**

**3. Proposals on national activities in the framework of the project**

*The national delegates are invited to present subregional priority and national activities needing the adoption of the Coordination Committee.*

**4. GFCM activities of relevance for CopeMed II**

*The scientific and technical activities foreseen in the FAO GFCM work plan for 2015 will be summarised. Discussion on how the activities in the framework of CopeMed are coordinate and will contribute to the activities of the GFCM during 2015 will be held.*

**Lunch time: 13:00-14:30**

**5. Priority activities for the next period of CopeMed II**

*A work plan of the Project until the end of 2015 will be outlined and discussed. Topics to be dealt with are those pertaining to the ongoing activities, the training, priority needs 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 Mediterranean projects, with the Donors, with the GFCM and proposals from the national delegates and other topics will be discussed. The Committee will be asked to provide orientation on the program presented.*

**Coffee break: 16:00**

**6. Other matters**

*Information on the future joint FAO Mediterranean project, especially regarding the set-up, roadmap and co-funding options will be present and share with the Committee.*

**WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> May, 11:30-13:30**

**7. Adoption of the report**

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



## **Annex 3: Report on the intersessional activities of the Project**

### **(May 2014 - April 2015)**

#### **Introduction**

This document summarizes the activities carried out by the Project CopeMed phase II from May 2014 (Malaga, Spain. 7<sup>th</sup> Coordination Committee meeting) to April 2015, 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 office in Málaga (Spain), started in February 2008 and is funded by DG Mare (UE) and the Spanish Government (Secretaría General de Pesca. Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente).

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 guiding the project.

At the beginning of 2014 CopeMed technical staff in Malaga office was drastically reduced due to the professional officer P3 contract reassignment with FAO in February and to the compulsory retirement of the coordinator Juan A. Camiñas, who works again in the IEO Malaga Centre since April 2014. The professional staffs of FAO-FI Gabriella Bianchi as Lead Technical Officer and Pedro de Barros as Budget Holder are charged with the project responsibilities and Coordination.

In these circumstances and considering FAO-FI interest in implementing the activities of the annual workplan adopted by the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Coordination Committee in May 2014 and to continue the support to the countries, FAO-FI contracted a part-time consultant until December 2014 (Mr. Bernardon) to help in technical aspects from home.

After discussions on options to maintain the direct support of the CopeMed project, the staff and Malaga office, FAO-FI signed a Letter of Agreement (LoA) for the period June-December 2014 with the Spanish Institute for Oceanography (IEO) as services provider in support of the CopeMed project. The Director of IEO entrusted Mr. Camiñas, former coordinator of the project and IEO staff in Malaga, the responsibility for implementing the activities included in the LoA. From September 2014 Mr. Camiñas is working part-time for CopeMed II project at the project offices in Malaga. In January 2015 the LoA was extended until the end of June 2015, including the mentioned IEO staff resources support.

Due to changes in national administrations related with CopeMed activities the delegates from Morocco and Tunisia were substituted.

Nevertheless the temporal staff constraints, CopeMed II conducted activities during the period May 2014 to April 2015 following proposals from the national delegates, in close coordination with FAO-FI responsible and according to the guidance provided by the Coordination Committee (CC) in May 2014. The work programme and recommendations of the 7<sup>th</sup> 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.**

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 implemented.

#### ***Technical support to countries on statistics and information related issues***

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.

- ✓ CopeMed supported national experts from research and fisheries institutes to participate in international meetings related to statistics, and in particular in demersal and small pelagic GFCM working groups held in Rome, Italy on 24-27 November 2014 (two Moroccans, one from Spain and one from Algeria). To prepare statistical data needed for analysis of shared stocks, CopeMed organized and financed a meeting of small pelagic and demersal working group in Tangier on 15 October 2014 (two Algerians and five Spanish funded).
- ✓ CopeMed represented by the Mr. Camiñas and the countries of the project were participating in a meeting in Madrid (Spain) on the GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF) under the Sub Committee on Statistics and Information (SAC-SCSI).
- ✓ CopeMed participated in the meeting on the *Follow-Up Workshop on the Implementation of Management Measures in Selected Case Studies in the Mediterranean* organized by the GFCM Secretariat at the Commission headquarters (Rome, 2-3 February 2015). As there were no participants from the Western Mediterranean countries except Spain and despite the Agenda includes a point on “Possible new case studies” and that the small pelagic stocks in the Alboran Sea has been discussed at the previous meeting of the GFCM (Tunis, 2013) as a possible new cases to update data and information needed in each country and at subregional scale for joint sub-regional management, there was not discussion in the plenary.

✓ In June 2014 CopeMed provided direct technical assistance in the implementation of the preparation of ToR and a visit to Tunisia for the analysis of Aquaculture and fisheries interactions in the country. CopeMed conducted a technical visit to the country and contracted consultants for the preparation of a report to the DGPA (Tunis).

## **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 organized and supported the subregional meetings on shared stocks of demersal and small pelagic and a meeting to update the status of the Blackspot seabream between Morocco and Spain in the Gibraltar Strait area.

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 GFCM Subcommittees WGs in Rome, on 24-27 November 2014.

CopeMed II participated in 7 scientific-related activities and financed the participation of 27 experts and consultants from Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Spain in different activities, in the framework of the annual programme and according to requests from the national delegates and the GFCM, in different activities organized by the GFCM and by CopeMed. During the current transitional phase, efforts were focus on supporting mainly Algeria and Moroccan experts with some contribution to experts and activities in/with Tunisia.

### ***2.1 Subregional research activities related with shared stocks***

After approval by the Coordination Committee and in collaboration with experts from the countries, CopeMed prepared the terms of reference and the agenda for a new meeting of the Working Group of demersal and small pelagic area of the Alboran Sea between Algeria, Morocco and Spain, held in Tangier (Morocco) in October 2014. During the working group, experts contributed to:

- ✓ Analyze and evaluate the state of knowledge (biology, statistics, ecology, socio-economic) and progress under the CopeMed II project on the joint assessment of the status of exploited stocks of demersal and small pelagic the Alboran Sea (GSA 01, 02, 03 and 04).
- ✓ Establish priorities for research priority / fish species and for joint evaluation
- ✓ Review the status of research on priority for demersales and small pelagic resources shared in the Alboran Sea
- ✓ Review the recommendations of the ad hoc Working Group of the GFCM on the management of small pelagic species in the Alboran Sea
- ✓ Prepare recommendations for the participating research institutes, the CopeMed Project and the GFCM and propose a calendar of national and subregional activities.

CopeMed convened the third meeting of the working group of *Pagellus bogaraveo* between Morocco and Spain to prepare the national fisheries data and proceed to a joint evaluation of voracious Strait of Gibraltar. The experts according to the two

research institutes, INRH and IEO, met on 12-14 November at INRH Tangier. Experts have updated the assessment conducted in 2012 with new data from the two countries. The WG conducted the assessment of the stock using three different models: the first was a production model "Biodyn"; secondly an update of analytical assessment made in 2012 with the VIT model, based on a length-cohort analysis (LCA); the third method used was CMSY, a new method for estimating MSY from catch data, resilience of the respective species, and simple assumptions about relative stock sizes at the first and final year of the catch data time series.

The overexploitation status of the stock was shown by two of the three methods. Nevertheless to have a complete picture of the environmental and human-induced effects that could better explain the status of the stock and the fisheries situation, the fishery-related data used in the assessment should be completed with new information (life history, predators' abundance, oceanographic conditions, etc., including socio-economic drivers).

During the WG on Small pelagic of the SAC-SCSA (Rome, 24-27 November 2014) where participants from Morocco and Algeria were supported by CopeMed, an assessment on Sardine in GSA03 was presented by INRH experts. The WG considered the analysis as preliminary, encouraged that this assessment be presented for validation next year, and suggested to consider the use of acoustic data as a tuning index. No assessment was presented from Algeria. CopeMed noted this recommendations for the next meeting of the subregional WG on small pelagic.

The IEO responsible for CopeMed II participated (14-15 June 2014, Almeria. Spain) with experts from Morocco and Andalucia (Spain) in the final meeting of the EU project POCTEFEX, a project with the participation of INRH and Moroccan Fisheries administration and Universities. Main objective of this project was to reinforce the N-S collaboration to the sustainability of the Alboran Sea and improving the governance. The Moroccan delegation was led by the INRH General Director. The results of the thematic areas were presented, including artisanal fisheries, bycatch of protected species in fisheries (sea turtles and mammals), marine protected areas, climatic changes, plans for joint management.

<http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/medioambiente/site/porta/web>.

## ***2.2 Support the standardisation of common methodologies***

The project organized, co-organized, participated, attended and facilitated the attendance of national experts during this semester in the following technical meetings to strengthen cooperation in fisheries research and management.

✓ CopeMed facilitated the participation of a Moroccan expert and an Algerian expert in a working group for inter-calibration otolith sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) in the western Mediterranean Sea (Murcia, Spain 16-18 September 2014). Being an opportunity for the two institutes currently working with the IEO on the evaluation of small pelagic species in the western Mediterranean, to standardize the methodology used in the reading of otoliths for the three countries (Algeria, Morocco and Spain).

✓ Preparation by CopeMed of documentation for the participation of an expert of the INRH (Morocco) and Algeria (CNRDPA) in the 8th EU- MEDIAS project annual meeting (Sète, France.24-27 March 2015).The Algerian declined the

invitation because activities at sea during the meeting and the Moroccan don't receive the invitation in time.

✓ CopeMed supported experts from Morocco (INRH) and Algeria (CNRDPA) in the Subcommittees of the SAC on Stocks Assessment (SCSA) and Economy and Social aspects of the Fisheries SCESS at the annual meeting (Rome, 4–5 February 2015).

The WG on Small pelagic of the SCSA (SAC) recognized the importance of strengthening scientific cooperation towards standardization of acoustic surveys in the Mediterranean. Such cooperation, that would involve both North African and European countries (especially those involved in MEDIAS) could be facilitated by the FAO regional projects (CopeMed II, MedSudMed and EastMed) in collaboration with SAC-GFCM activities.

In collaboration with CNRDPA (Algeria), the project provided the software for the analysis of data obtained during the experimental survey at sea using the 40 mm square mesh size bottom-trawl conducted in February-March 2013. Problems with the software application during 2014 retarded the finalisation of the analysis. Results of the evaluation have been recently received by CopeMed.

Mr Camiñas collaborated with FAO-FI in preparing a new assistance PNUD/FAO for Algeria to define the new fisheries and aquaculture strategy. Information provided to FAO related to CopeMed activities in Algeria was mainly linked with capacity building (training on stocks assessment, acoustic, etc.) of experts from the CNRDPA, the support of experts in preparing data and analysis to participate in CopeMed WGs and GFCM WGs on stocks assessment, the preparation of a technical document on socio economic indicators in the small pelagic fishery in Algeria, the preparation of basic biological and economic data for the implementation a management plan for small pelagic in the Alboran Sea in the framework of the GFCM and the sub regional management proposals prepared with Algeria, Morocco and Spain.

### **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.

The project CopeMed II funded the participation of an Algerian expert to a GFCM Fisheries Control and Inspection training course in Vigo, Spain on 17-18 March 2015.

Support to the organisation of the MedSudMed course on “R” system. Under the request of MedSudMed, CopeMed contacted the national delegates in Morocco and Algeria to facilitate the participation of experts from the two countries in the training course organized by MedSudMed and FI. After emails and calls by CopeMed to the two countries, the short time available to prepare the visas for the national experts was a constraint for the participation of the two countries.

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

As part of this objective, CopeMed II continued to work in 2014-15 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 financed the participation of 18 experts and consultants from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Spain in different scientific activities, in the framework of the annual programme and according to requests from the national delegates and the GFCM, in different activities organized by the GFCM and by the project (mainly on the assessment of shared stocks). After the retirement of the coordinator in 2014 main activities were prioritized in Morocco and Algeria, with minor activities in Tunisia and Libya. Nevertheless coordination with all countries through the Coordination Committee and general activities promoted by CopeMed was assured.

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 others 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 delegates 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 reinforced the contacts and discussion with the GFCM staff on several question related with the sub-region, the CopeMed members and the activities organized by the Commission for better coordination and collaboration. As a matter of fact, 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:

✓ The participation of CopeMed to the GFCM Workshop on the implementation of the DCRF in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea organized by the Spanish Fisheries administration in Madrid (Spain, 15-16 December 2014). Main achievements by the WS were: i) the DCRF document reviewed, ii) a table with suggestions for discussion by the next SAC meeting prepared and adopted by the WS, iii) a draft of Terms of Reference for the national delegate for the DC prepared and adopted by the WS. The participation of Juan A. Camiñas funded by CopeMed in the Follow-Up Workshop on the Implementation of Management Measures in Selected Case Studies in the Mediterranean organized by the GFCM Secretariat at the Commission headquarters in Rome (Italy. 2-3 February 2015). In relation to the



*Agenda point 5. Next steps in the FWP action towards the implementation of management plans, Proposals for new case studies*, the Secretariat requested the opinion of the western and eastern countries. CopeMed, following the Proposal for the western sub-region elaborated by the participants from Algeria, Morocco and Spain during the Subregional Technical Workshop on Fisheries Multiannual Management Plans for the Western, Central and Eastern Mediterranean (7–10 October 2013, Tunis, Tunisia) rise the case of the small pelagic of the Alboran Sea and the case of the Blackspot seabream from the Gibraltar Strait area. Nevertheless as the experts from the affected countries were not present the Secretariat takes note without discussion.

✓ The GFCM Working Group on small pelagic held in Rome allowed the presentation of the assessment of the sardine (*S. pilchardus*) in GSAs 01 and 03 Alboran Sea, conducted by experts from Algeria (CNRDPA) INRH (Morocco) and Spain (IEO) under CopeMed small pelagic WG.

✓ The GFCM Working Group demersal was held in parallel in Rome. It allowed the presentation of the evaluation on the white shrimp (*P. longirostris*) of GSAs 01, 03 and 04, Alboran Sea, conducted by Algeria (CNRDPA), Morocco (INRH) and Spain (IEO) under CopeMed demersal WG.

✓ In February 2015 national experts from the CopeMed member countries and the IEO responsible Juan A. Camiñas participated in the *Subcommittee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS)* and the *Subcommittee on Stocks Assessment (SCSA)* organized by the GFCM Secretariat at the Commission headquarters in Rome (Italy). CopeMed funded the participation of two experts from INRH (Morocco) each participating in one of the Subcommittees, and one expert from CNRDPA (Algeria) participating in the SCESS. The participant of INRH in the SCESS presented a case study on the data collection system in Morocco.

✓ Experts from Morocco and Algeria and Mr Camiñas participated also at the meeting of the SCSA. The SCSA was informed that efforts towards jointly assessing the stocks of the Alboran Sea are in progress according to the Moroccan expert within the project CopeMed but with some delay due to the difficulties faced by the regional project in the last year. The SCSA proposed also to continue organizing *ad hoc* working groups on small pelagic species involving Spain, Morocco and Algeria to jointly analyse the status of the shared stocks in the Alboran Sea, if possible with the support of CopeMed.

✓ The member countries of CopeMed and Mr Camiñas participated at the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee in Rome (FAO HQ, 24-27 March 2015).

#### **4.2 FAO internal coordination**

Coordination between the four regional FAO projects in the Mediterranean (AdriaMed, CopeMed, MedSudMed and EastMed) has been consolidated through the responsible in Rome Dr. Gabriella Bianchi and common activities are carried out to strengthen synergies in international areas and sub- regional. CopeMed II interacts with other regional projects in the Mediterranean FAO headquarters in Rome (AdriaMed and MedSudMed) and Athens (EastMed) and with regional and subregional offices of FAO for the Mediterranean in Cairo and Tunis respectively and the national offices in Algiers, Tunis and Rabat.

To ensure coordination, all projects are represented at the annual meetings of the Coordination Committee of the other projects. Coordination and exchange of information and human resources has enabled a significant increase in the number and importance of the activities organized jointly or shared.

The coordination between FAO-FI and IEO for the implementation of the CopeMed activities included in the LoA between the two parties was ensured by Mr. Camiñas and the FAO-FI responsible Ms Bianchi and Mr Barros. The Spanish delegate at the Committee of CopeMed Mr. Baro was responsible in forwarding to FAO the reports on the activities carry out by IEO in the framework of the LoA. A last coordination meeting between FAO and the IEO representative was organized during the meeting of the SCSA and SCESS of SAC\_GFCM (Rome 4-6 February 2015) to review the advances in the agreement and reinforce the collaboration and improving the results of CopeMed. A meeting with AdriaMed, MedSudMed, EastMed staff and FAO-Fi was maintained during the same days reinforcing coordination and synergies among the four FAO projects and with FI Department. Coordination between CopeMed office and Rome FAO is continuing and maintained by the FAO staff and the IEO expert involve in the project.

CopeMed continued collaborating with FAO HQ in the preparation of the joint regional project for the Mediterranean region. CopeMed experts from IEO revised of the GSAs covered by each FAO Mediterranean Project AdriaMed, CopeMed, MedSudMed and EastMed for preparing the new single project.

#### ***4.3 Coordination with the donors***

Under the Loa FAO-IEO for CopeMed, the charged staff has, in cooperation with FAO-FIRF service, maintained the activities of coordination and contacts with the current donors, the European Commission and the Spanish Government.

##### **European Commission: Directorate general for maritime affairs and fisheries**

The project drafted documents for FAO-FI to support the preparation of the Grant Application. After approval of the Grant Application by DG Mare (UE).

FAO received funds to carry the project activities from December 2014-June 2015.

##### **Spain: Secretaría General de Pesca. Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente**

Mr. Camiñas has maintained communication (personal, telephone, email and letter) with representatives of the government of Spain, in particular with the General Secretariat of Marine Fisheries (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment), the Permanent Representation to FAO and the Delegate of the Spanish Government in Málaga to inform them about the project's situation and success. Also CopeMed prepared the semester progress reports (June and December) to be sending by FAO to Spain.

FAO received the Spanish funds in December 2014 (90.000 €) to lead the project activities and funds for 2015 were approved but not yet received. Thanks to the interest of the Secretaria de Pesca and particularly the General Secretary and his staff in maintained CopeMed, the support of Spain to the project was maintained under a critical situation.

## **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.

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.

### **5. Project communication**

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.

CopeMed contributed to keep experts, research institutions, fisheries administrations, main fisher's organisations 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. All the Technical and Occasional Documents produced are available on the Project web site as pdf files, [www.faocopemed.org](http://www.faocopemed.org).



## **Annex 4: Preliminary workplan of the SAC-GFCM**



### **General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean**

#### **SAC preliminary work plan for 2015-2016 GFCM Secretariat**

##### **Activities related to Stock assessment**

- Revision of input data and benchmark assessment for sardine and anchovy in GSA17 and 18.
- Evaluation of the effectiveness and consequences of different harvest control rules (HCRs) for small pelagic Adriatic Sea small pelagic fisheries.
- Pilot plan of action for the assessment of European eel
- Continue investigations on methods for data limited stocks (DLS), in particular for elasmobranchs and red coral, as well as for stocks targeted by small-scale fisheries.

##### **Activities related to Statistics and information**

- Further development of the online platform for the DCRF data submission
- Phased implementation of the DCRF (July 2016 and November 2017 )
- Pilot study
  - To evaluate the performance of the submission tools
  - To assess the information flow with the identified national focal points for data collection
- Provide assistance to Members upon request by the countries and in coordination with the FAO regional projects.

##### **Activities related to Socioeconomics issues**

- Finalize guidelines on a common methodology for socioeconomic analysis
- Assess the socioeconomic impacts of potential management measures in selected fisheries, including small pelagic and demersal fisheries in the Adriatic Sea and demersal fisheries in the Strait of Sicily, in coordination with the FAO regional projects
- Assess the characteristics of recreational fisheries in the GFCM area

##### **Activities related to Marine Environment and Ecosystems**

- Carry out a research programme on red coral (surveys and pilot studies)
- Six pilot studies ACCOBAMS-GFCM on bycatch of vulnerable species in Western Mediterranean
  - Purse seine small pelagic species (Morocco)
  - Bluefin tuna artisanal fisheries in the Strait of Gibraltar (Morocco)
  - Swordfish and albacore pelagic longlines in southern Spain (Spain)
  - Bottom and surface longlines in the Gulf of Gabès (Tunisia)
  - Purse seine for small pelagic species in Kelibia (Tunisia)

- Gillnet fisheries in southern France and Balearic Islands (France and Spain)
- Update information on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (FAO database and publication)

### **The Regional Conference on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, (2016 Algeria)**

Panel 1 - Recent developments on sustainable small-scale fisheries towards blue growth (GFCM and FAO RPs)

Panel 2 - Improving the role of stakeholders in the context of management and co-management schemes (WWF)

Panel 3 - Improving the efficiency of MPAs as management tools for fisheries management and added values from integrating SSF (MedPAN)

Panel 4 - Enhancement of SSF value-chains (CIHEAM)

Panel 5 - Regionalizing the SSF FAO Guidelines: the case of the Mediterranean and Black Sea in the context of the GFCM (FAO Fisheries Department)

Final session, *Declaration of Algeria*

### **Expected deliverables**

- 1 background document per panel (including the outcomes of case studies)
- A consensual declaration to: **i)** call for better governance; **ii)** address the role of sustainable development of SSF in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea based on the basis of the blue growth initiative; **iii)** propose a roadmap to achieve it; **iv)** ensure proper follow up in the implementation of the FAO SSF Guidelines in the GFCM Area;
- Proceedings of the Regional Conference

### **Case studies**

#### **Case Studies under the GFCM-Regional Projects Panel**

- Algeria
- Adriatic Sea (AdriaMed)
- Artisanal fishery of Sea snails in Italy
- Gokova Bay in Turkey
- Strait of Sicily (MedSudMed)
- **More cases to be confirmed:** Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia expressed their intention to propose additional case studies

#### **Case Studies to be undertaken in other Panels**

- Algerian national SSF strategy (FAO Fisheries Department)
- The case of co-management (WWF);
- The case of small-scale fisheries managed in the proximity of MPAs (MedPAN);
- The case of value chains in local small-scale fisheries (CIHEAM);

### **List of meetings**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Place/Date</b>
Working Group on Stock Assessment of Demersal Species [5 days including sessions on data-limited stocks for red coral and elasmobranchs]	Rome, TBC October 2015
Working Group on Stock Assessment of Small Pelagic Species [5 days including sessions on benchmark assessment for small pelagics in Adriatic Sea]	Rome, TBC October 2015

EIFAAC/ICES/GFCM Working Group on Eels [8 days including one day back-to-back for the preparation of Mediterranean data]	Turkey, TBC November 2015
Sessions of the SAC Subcommittees / SRWGs [4 days]	Rome, TBC January/February 2016
Workshop on the use of simulation and forecast bioeconomic models for the assessment of management measures [3 days]. Possibly back-to-back with Subcommittees or SRWGs	Rome, TBC January/February 2016
Meeting of DCRF national focal points for data submission in the Mediterranean [3 days]	TBD February 2016
Regional Conference on Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea [4 days]	Algeria February/March 2016
Eighteenth session of the Scientific Advisory Committee [4 days]	TBD March 2016
Workshop on age reading of small pelagic species [3 days]	TBD
Workshop for estimating growth and maturity parameters of <i>Mullus barbatus</i> [3 days]	TBD
2 <sup>nd</sup> GFCM Working group on MPAs	June 2015 in Tunisia



Coordination to Support Fisheries Management in  
the Western and Central Mediterranean

[Copemed@fao.org](mailto:Copemed@fao.org)

[www.faocopemed.org](http://www.faocopemed.org)

[www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)



Offices of the Project  
Subdelegación del Gobierno en Málaga  
Paseo de Sancha 64, Oficinas 305-307  
29071 Málaga (España)  
Tel: (+34)952989299 Fax: (+34) 952989252