EU FP7 Project CREAM

Coordinating research in support to application of EAF (Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries) and management advice in the Mediterranean and Black Seas

Deliverable 3.4

Proposal of standards for a public website, EAF dashboard and GIS in support of the EAF

Start date of project: 01/05/2011   Duration: 36 months
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Proposal of standards for a public website, EAF dashboard and GIS in support of the EAF in the Mediterraneanand Black sea

The move towards EBFM backed by political

In 1975, only three years after the Stockholm Ministerial Conference that set up the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), 16 Mediterranean countries and the European Community adopted the [Mediterranean Action Plan](#) (MAP). The MAP was the first-ever plan adopted as a Regional Seas Programme under UNEP's umbrella.

In 1976 these Parties adopted the [Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution](#) ([Barcelona convention](#)). Seven [Protocols](#) addressing specific aspects of Mediterranean environmental conservation complete the MAP legal framework:

- Dumping Protocol (from ships and aircraft)
- Prevention and Emergency Protocol (pollution from ships and emergency situations)
- Land-based Sources and Activities Protocol
- Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity Protocol
- Offshore Protocol (pollution from exploration and exploitation)
- HazardousWastes Protocol
- Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)

More recently, in December 2013 ([COP 18 Istanbul](#)) the Mediterranean policy-makers commit to protect marine and coastal environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean. Among the agreements, the Contracting Parties adopted concrete targets and definitions of **Good Environmental Status to achieve the 11 ecological objectives** agreed upon for reaching a healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse for the benefit of present and future generations. Parties also agreed to put the question of rigorous data collection, information flows and knowledge exchange at the core of MAP's agenda for the next two years.

Measures for the protection and conservation of species, including Monk Seals, Marine Turtles, as well as the protection of habitats and specifically Corals in the Mediterranean Sea, were also among the decisions adopted by the Contracting Parties. They also resolved to raise the number and visibility of the Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) established under the Barcelona Convention and to develop, a coherent, representative and well-managed network of coastal and marine protected areas in the Mediterranean. In this context, they also agreed on ensuring sustainable funding for such initiatives.

The concept of Good Environmental status and its 11 ecological objectives

This concept was developed within the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive ([MSFD](#)) adopted in July 2008 and aims at achieving or maintaining a good environmental status by 2020 at the latest. It is the first legislative instrument in relation to the marine biodiversity policy in the European Union, as it contains the explicit regulatory objective that "biodiversity is maintained by 2020", as the cornerstone for achieving good environmental status.

More on the European Union &Regional Institutions' marine [websites](), from [building capacity]() to a [standard system]() with [relevant guidance]().The European Commission has issued a [guidance]() aiming to frame monitoring for MSFD before the establishment of the first monitoring programmes. An expert group was brought together and agreed on some minimum standards to be followed and concepts to be considered and, in particular, applying the already agreed recommendations in specific monitoring issues. The guidance is limited to marine monitoring for the MSFD and does not include other data collections for the purposes of the MSFD

The comparative approach across world marine ecosystems :IndiSeas

[Indiseas]() is a scientific program which evaluates the effects of fishing on the health status of marine ecosystems.A [panel of indicators]() is provided, characterizing the ecological and biodiversity status of exploited resources, their environment, and the human dimension of fisheries.

Several Mediterranean and Black Sea ecosystems are monitored and a [comparative tool]() is proposed

- [Adriatic Sea]() (North central)
- [Catalan Sea]() (Southern)
- [Gulf of Gabes]()
- [Gulf of Lions]()
- [Ionian Sea Archipelago]()
- [North Aegean Sea]()

The CREAM project and findings

The [project]() aimed at seeking the active collaboration of regional and international fisheries management organisms as external participants in the project, in order to identify the gaps (in terms of data, knowledge, training, coordination) which hamper at present the full application of the Ecosystem Approach in the management of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries. 6 [Working Packages]() contributed to the findings of the project, which ended by an International Dissemination Conference (IDC) on "Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in the Mediterranean and BlackSeas" organised in Barcelona, Spain, on 9-10 April 2014.

As a result of the discussion during the CREAM project, it was concluded that a coordinated scientific network to promote operational EAF initiatives, created by the scientific community following a bottom-up approach in the Mediterranean and Black Seas, was needed. The proposed network, named EMBASEAS (the network aiming at being an ambassador to promote EAF in the Mediterranean and Black Seas), should add value to the current situation. The scientific community has to build a roadmap of coordinated actions to develop a common strategy and advance towards the future, and the EMBASEAS network may be a good opportunity to achieve this.