



***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 4.1
Report of the kick-off meeting***

Start date of project: 01/05/2011

Duration: 36 months

Due date of deliverable: 30/06/2011

Lead partner for deliverable: Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas
WP leader: Jordi Leonart

European Commission DG RTD
7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development

Improving research in support to scientific advice to fisheries management in the Mediterranean
and Black Seas
Coordination and Support Action (CSA). EU Grant Agreement no.: 265648

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**

Minutes of WP4 kick-off meeting

25 May 2011 p.m.

Mexico Room, GFCM/FAO Headquarters, Rome

MINUTES

Participants: all project members + representatives of 5 regional organisms (FAO, GFCM, ICCAT, BSC and UNEP RAC/SPA). The meeting was chaired by J. Leonart. F. Maynou was appointed as rapporteur.

WP4 coordinator presents the work to be carried within this workpackage:

In addition to the representatives of FAO, GFCM, ICCAT, BSC and UNEP RAC/SPA, other potential regional organisms that might be interested in CREAM results are: CIESM, UNEP MAP and SGMED.

Revision of WP4 Tasks:

- Extensive consultation with existing regional organisms (state of the art in data collection, methodologies, etc.),
 - Monitoring progress of EAF application,
- Discuss the elements necessary for EAF implementation in Mediterranean and Black Sea. Establishing a network. Avoid duplications and overlap, enhance coordination.

Presentations by individual regional organisms of their activities in relation to EAF

(in annex 1 a short description of the activities carried out by External Advisory partners is presented)

GFCM (Abdellah Srour, presentation by Pilar Hernández):

“GFCM progress on the Ecosystem Approach To Fisheries”

- The GFCM has been working on EAF for a long time, motivated by concerns of ecosystem sustainability. The GFCM integrates all elements of EAF (ecosystem, fishery and socio-economic dimensions).
- The main objectives of GFCM are reviewed; geographical area, 24 member states, functioning, committees (SAC, CAQ, CoC, CAF). Particularly, activities of the Subcommittee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE) are relevant to CREAM. Two specific Transversal Workshops dealing with EAF, with definitions and recommendations have been carried out. It has published a document on the impact of different gears and mitigation measures (Studies and Reviews, n° 84)
- GFCM already collaborates with many other regional organizations
- The GFCM has taken decisions related to conservation of sensitive areas or species; technical measures to avoid by-catch of monk seals, turtles and birds.
- The GFCM is producing a statistical matrix on fisheries indicators under its Task 1 data submission scheme.
- The GFCM has issued recommendations to train stakeholders. CREAM WP5 leader identifies this point as a converging point with CREAM WP5. GFCM representative adds that FAO plans to make some courses in the near future (in the framework of GEF).

FAO (absent)

FAO has not joined the External Advisory Committee yet, because it needs the CA to be started to do that. It is foreseen FAO will be incorporated soon.

An invitation will be sent by the CREAM Coordinator to FAO in order to join the External Advisory Committee

ICCAT (Laurie Kell):

“International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas”

- ICCAT covers the entire Atlantic and Mediterranean. This regional organization deals not only with tuna-like species, but also with ca. 400 bycatch species for which there is very little information. 48 contracting partners. Huge diversity of interests and problems.
- Many assessments carried by national scientists, rather than the Secretariat
- According to the Convention of ICCAT, its basic objective is the exploitation of tuna fisheries at MSY
- A recent meeting on the “Future of ICCAT” (16-20 May 2011) questioned whether the ICCAT Convention should be redrawn to explicit incorporate an EAF. Discussions are ongoing.
- Tuna fisheries interact with sharks, sea turtles and sea birds and ICCAT is currently taking a lead in implementing appropriate mitigation measures

- ICCAT has a Subcommittee on Ecosystems which amongst other activities works towards an EAF: monitoring, research, modelling.
- With the scientific committee of ICCAT risk analysis and management is being actively pursued.
- ICCAT is building capacities, and working towards avoiding duplications and improving links with other tuna RFMOs.
- EAF is not necessarily a new framework; for ICCAT but may be more a matter of refocusing priorities.

BSC (Violin Raykov):

“Black sea regional programs and fishery management”

- The BSC representative points out to the specificity of Black Sea fisheries, with its particular assemblage of species
- The BSC coordinates efforts of coastal states (most not belonging to the EU)
- Institutional framework: it is based on the Convention that established the BSC, belongs to the GFCM, EU has a Black Sea subgroup of the STECF (similar to SGMED), Bucharest convention against pollution and conservation of biodiversity (but only 4 states ratified)
- Important synthetic reports are: The Black Sea State of the Environment (SOE 2008), the Transboundary Diagnostic Assessment (TDA 2008), Strategic Action Plan (SAP 1996, updated in 2009).
- Policy developments: The SAP calls for working towards the compatibility with Framework Directives and GES to ensure good water quality.
- Management, monitoring, programmes: fisheries management is fragmented not coordinated among countries, which use different measures and instruments. The fight against IUU is a priority.
- A project funded by FAO “Black sea fish” will enhance coordination and work in the context of EAF
- A project funded by the EU is strengthening regional capacity (coordinated by NIMRD, Romania)
- The main problems are the low level of the resource, the excessive fishing capacity and the loss of biodiversity. There are signs of improvement of environmental quality of BS ecosystem in the last 15 years, but many fish stocks remain depleted and invasive species are increasing.
- Future outlook: enhance coordination of scientific efforts, limit fishing capacity, mitigate effects of fishing on sensitive species, move towards and EAF.

GFCM representative explains that the GFCM is reinforcing activities in the Black Sea, whose members are becoming more active at GFCM meetings.

UNEP RAC/SPA (Atef Ouerghi):

“RAC / SPA of the UNEP”

- Areas of activity: Specially protected areas, species conservation (sensitive species), Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI)
- Assistance to countries in the subject of marine species protection
- The number of SPA(MI) has greatly increased in recent years (Natura 2000 sites). Imbalance of areas between north and south. Among countries also; most of special protected areas are in Spain and France.
- The UNEP RAC/SPA Programme is considering 13 new priority areas in the Mediterranean sea, including the deep sea (eg, Alboran sea, Balearic islands, Gulf of Lions, Adriatic sea).
- *In situ* protection of monk seals. Conservation of marine turtles, mitigation of fishing impacts. Action plan for the conservation of cetaceans. Special attention to harmful fishing gear (*thonaille*, long line *palangres*, driftnets)
- EAF, synergy with GFCM, formal agreement to collaborate with them on several issues.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Regional Fisheries Management Organisms (RFMOs) are aware of initiatives aiming at the application of EAF in the Mediterranean and are working to minimize duplications and overlap. The presentations made at this kick-off meeting are a good starting point to enhance cooperation and avoid overlap. CREAM may enhance the visibility of EAF initiatives by RFMOs and conservation agencies. CREAM will help identify information gaps, shortcomings and training needs of Regional Bodies.

ANNEX 1 Short description of partners of the External Advisory Committee

GFCM PROGRESS ON THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES

GFCM has over the years developed a pragmatic approach which takes into consideration the four dimension of sustainability: ecological, economic, social and institutional. Through the work carried out annually by the scientific subsidiary bodies, the Commission monitors fisheries resources and the fishing activities which exploit them as well as tracks sustainability indicators and establishes reference points.

During its 2010 13th Session, the progress made by the GFCM in implementing the EAF was acknowledged. In particular the work done in various aspects of fisheries, including on the biology, socio-economic, ecology as well as on interactions between fisheries and various environmental factors and phenomena (alien species, jellyfish, cetaceans, etc.). The regular involvement of different stakeholders in the SAC activities is also a substantial achievement in the framework of the EAF.

In this integrative context several activities have been organized by the GFCM and its subsidiary bodies. An increasing number of transversal (inter-subcommittees) workshops are being organized since 2005. During 2010-2011 the most relevant to be mentioned are: Alien Species, Red Coral, Selectivity Improvement and By-catch reduction, Status of elasmobranchs, Socio-economic impact of the implementation of 40 mm square mesh, Recreational fisheries, Algal and Jellyfish blooms, among others. The main outcomes of two specific workshops on EAF were a series of recommendations for research, in particular: focus on the identification of objectives and indicators and on the methodological considerations. A group of relevant documents, available at the GFCM website have been published, namely on the environmental and socio-economic impact of alien species, of jellyfish blooms and of the different gears.

In this framework GFCM has established a series of binding recommendations tackling all the steps of the management process from the data collection scheme, the Task 1, through which information on catches and effort is compiled, to the implementation of technical measures for the fishing operations. Namely, recommendations for the implementation of technical measures to avoid incidental catches of monk seals, sea birds and sea turtles, to limit the exploitation of red coral and to protect sensitive habitats have very recently been adopted. <http://151.1.154.86/GfcmWebSite/e-Compendium/info.html>

The development of feasibility studies for the application of the EAF in the Mediterranean and Black sea is the next step to be undertaken by the GFCM. In this regard, initiatives such as the development of the present CREAM project are very welcome. This project, together with other regional projects and initiatives offer an opportunity to closely collaborate with the partners institutions in the Mediterranean and Black sea. One of the main objectives of this collaboration could be to promote the design of dedicated case studies which may focus on and area/country to test the feasibility of implementing EAF including the development of a management plan for a given fishery. Capacity building to address the issues of EAF are more than crucial.

It is important to underline that also within the domain of aquaculture, the GFCM is carrying out four projects MedAquaMarket, SHoCMed, InDAM and LaMed-2 in support of the activities of the CAQ which has been conceived under the framework of the Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA).

ICCAT. International Commission Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), by Laurie Kell

The main management objective of ICCAT is to ensure maintenance of the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Convention area at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable catch and which will ensure the effective exploitation of these fishes in a manner consistent with this catch. Due to changes since the formation of ICCAT a working group on the Future of ICCAT met to review the ICCAT Convention focusing on various priority areas including how ecosystem considerations could be included in the convention. The Working Group agreed that the EAF was fundamental to ICCAT's objectives and noted that ICCAT had already taken a

number of steps to implement the ecosystem approach even though these it is not explicitly contained within the Convention.

For example with respect to bycatch the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) has conducted a Risk Assessment to identify populations at risk and the fisheries that are impacting them. Risk assessment is an important tool within ICCAT and is the formal process where risks are identified, assessed, prioritised and managed in order to ensure that management objectives are likely to be achieved. Thereby allowing sampling programmes and management to be better targeted and appropriate assessment methods and appropriate management advice to be developed.

The sub committee on ecosystems is currently leading the development of the ICCAT advice framework related to the EAF. This includes creating and maintaining an inventory of species caught by fleets targeting tuna and tuna-like species and improving information on interactions with non-target species for which no Species Group has been established (e.g., sea turtles and sea birds).

Researching is being conducted on characterising the volume, composition and disposition of non-target species that are caught incidentally in tuna and tuna-like fisheries within the Convention area. Investigate the impact that changes in fishing gears or fishing technology have on the catch of target and non-target species.

Modeling is being conducted in order to develop reference points and indicators that explicitly incorporate ecosystem considerations. As part of this work simulation, dynamic and statistical models focusing on mixed-fisheries, multi-species, bycatch and ecosystem issues are being developed.

ANNEX 2 Participants in the WP4 kick-off meeting

Bulgaria

Marina PANAYOTOVA

Department of Marine Biology and Ecology
Institute of Oceanology
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
"Parvy maj" street, 40
9000 Varna
Bulgaria
Tel.: +359 52370486
E-mail: mpanayotova@io-bas.bg

Croatia

Nedo VRGOC

Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries
Seatliste Ivana Mestrovica, 63
21000 Split
Croatia
Tel.: +385 21408051
E-mail: vrgoc@izor.hr

Cyprus

Giorgos BAYADAS

Department of Fisheries and Marine
Research
Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources
and Environment
Vithleem, 101
1416 Nicosia
Cyprus
Tel.: +357 22807815
E-mail: gpayiatas@dfmr.moa.gov.cy

Egypt

Abdel-Fattah EL-SAYED

Oceanography Department
Faculty of Sciences
Alexandria University
El Geish street, 22
21526 Alexandria
Egypt
Tel.: +20 34843172
E-mail: afmelsayed@gmail.com

France

Philippe CURY

UMR EME 212 IRD/UM2
Centre de Recherche Halieutique
Méditerranéenne et Tropicale
IRD - IFREMER & Université Montpellier II
Avenue Jean Monnet, BP 171
34203 Sète Cedex
France
Tel.: +33 499573234
E-mail: philippe.cury@ird.fr,
philippe.cury@ifremer.fr

Bastien MÉRIGOT

UMR EME 212 IRD/UM2
Centre de Recherche Halieutique
Méditerranéenne et Tropicale
IRD - IFREMER & Université Montpellier II
Avenue Jean Monnet, BP 171
34203 Sète Cedex
France
Tel.: +33 499573205
E-mail: bastien.merigot@univ-montp2.fr

Joël VIGNEAU

Laboratoire Ressources Halieutiques
Station de Port-en-Bessin
Institut Français de Recherche pour
l'Exploitation de la Mer
Avenue du G^{al} De Gaulle
14520 Port-en-Bessin
France
Tel.: +33 231515641
E-mail: joel.vigneau@ifremer.fr

Greece

Christos MARAVELIAS

Institute of Marine Biological Resources
Hellenic Centre for Marine Research
46.7 km Athens-Sounio Avenue
19013 Anavissos Attiki
Greece
Tel.: +30 2109856703
E-mail: cmaravel@ath.hcmr.gr

Italy

Germana GAROFALO

Instituto per l'Ambiente Marino Costiero
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche
Via Luigi Vaccara, 61
91026 Mazara del Vallo (TP)
Italy
Tel.: +39 0917829740
E-mail: germana.garofalo@cnr.it

Serena LÓPEZ

Dipartimento di Biologia Ambientale
Università degli Studi di Roma La Sapienza
Viale dell'Università, 32
00185 Roma
Italy
Tel.: +39 0649914773
E-mail: serej85@hotmail.it

Paolo SARTOR

Renewable Resources Laboratory
Consorzio per il Centro Interuniversitario di
Biologia Marina ed Ecologia Applicata "G.
Bacci"
Viale Nazario Sauro, 4
57128 Livorno
Italy
Tel.: +39 0586807287
E-mail: psartor@cibm.it

Lebanon

Michel BARICHE

Department of Biology
American University of Beirut
Bliss Street College Hall Ras
Beirut
Lebanon
Tel.: +961 1374374
E-mail: mb39@aub.edu.lb

Morocco

Said TALEB

Cooperation Division
Institut National de Recherche Halieutique
2, rue de Tiznit
20000 Casablanca
Morocco
Tel.: +212 522297329
E-mail: taleb@inrh.org.ma

Romania

Simion NICOLAEV

National Institute for Marine Research and
Development "Grigore Antipa"
Mamaia Bvd., 300
900581 Constanta
Romania
Tel.: +40 241543288
E-mail: nicolaev@alpha.rmri.ro

Russian Federation

Oleg LAPSHIN

Laboratory of Commercial Fisheries
Russian Federal Research Institute of
Fisheries and Oceanography
Verhnyaya Krasnoselskaya, 17
107140 Moscow
Russian Federation
Tel.: +7 4992649310
E-mail: lapshin@vniro.ru

Spain

Federico ÁLVAREZ

Centro Oceanográfico de Baleares
Instituto Español de Oceanografía
Apdo. 291
07080 Palma de Mallorca
Spain
Tel.: +34 971133723
E-mail: federico.alvarez@ba.ieo.es

Dunixi GABIÑA

Instituto Agronómico Mediterráneo de
Zaragoza / CIHEAM
Av. Montañana, 1005
50059 Zaragoza
Spain
Tel.: +34 976716000
E-mail: iamz@iamz.ciheam.org

Jordi LLEONART

Institut de Ciències del Mar
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones
Científicas
Passeig Marítim de la Barceloneta, 37-49
08003 Barcelona
Spain
Tel.: +34 932309500
E-mail: lleonart@icm.csic.es

Antonio LÓPEZ-FRANCOS

Instituto Agronómico Mediterráneo de
Zaragoza / CIHEAM
Av. Montañana, 1005
50059 Zaragoza
Spain
Tel.: +34 976716000
E-mail: iamz@iamz.ciheam.org

Francesc MAYNOU

Institut de Ciències del Mar
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones
Científicas
Passeig Marítim de la Barceloneta, 37-49
08003 Barcelona
Spain
Tel.: +34 932309559
E-mail: maynouf@icm.csic.es

Tunisia

Othman JARBOUI

Living Marine Resources Laboratory
Institut National des Sciences et
Technologies de la Mer
BP 1035
3018 Sfax
Tunisia
Tel.: +216 74497117
E-mail: othman.jarboui@instm.rnrt.tn

Turkey

Adnan TOKAÇ

Fisheries Faculty
Ege University
Su Ürünleri Fakültesi
35100 Bornova, İzmir
Turkey
Tel.: +90 2323747450
E-mail: adnan.tokac@ege.edu.tr

Ukraine

Borys TROTSENKO

Southern Scientific Research Institute of
Marine Fisheries and Oceanography
2, Sverdlov Street
Kerch 98300 AR Crimea
Ukraine
Tel.: +380 656161605
E-mail: island@crimea.com

BSC (Black Sea Commission)

Violin RAYKOV

Institute of Oceanology
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
"Parvy maj" street, 40
9000 Varna
Bulgaria
Tel.: +359 52624382
E-mail: vio_raykov@abv.bg

EC (European Commission)

Philippe MOGUEDET

DG Research (RTD)
European Commission
Unit E4 - Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries,
Aquaculture
SDME 08/93
1049 Brussels
Belgium
Tel.: +32 22986817
E-mail: philippe.moguedet@ec.europa.eu

**GFCM (General Fisheries Commission
for the Mediterranean)**

Pilar HERNÁNDEZ

GFCM-FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Roma
Italy
Tel.: +39 0657054617
E-mail: pilar.hernandez@fao.org

Abdellah SROUR

GFCM-FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Roma
Italy
Tel.: +39 0657055730
E-mail: abdellah.sroure@fao.org

**ICCAT (International Commission for the
Conservation of Atlantic Tunas)**

Laurence KELL

ICCAT Secretariat
Corazón de María, 8
28002 Madrid
Spain
Tel.: +34 914165600
E-mail: laurie.kell@iccat.int

**UNEP/MAP - RAC/SPA (United Nations
Environment Programme/Mediterranean
Action Plan - Regional Activity Centre
for Specially Protected Areas)**

Atef OUERGHI

Regional Activity Centre for Specially
Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)

UNEP/MAP

Boulevard du Leader Yasser Arafat

BP 337

1080 Tunis Cedex

Tunisia

Tel.: +216 71206649 / 485 / 765

E-mail: atef.ouerghi@rac-spa.org