



FOSTERING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF MARINE FISHERIES IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN SUBREGIONS THROUGH AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH

Fisheries management in the Mediterranean is complex for several reasons, including, among others, fishing overcapacity; different levels of information development, in particular for biological and socio-economic data that were neither readily available nor standardized; insufficient and weak legal aspects and measures for monitoring, surveillance and control activities; and inadequate institutional frameworks for subregional fisheries management. Against this background, Phase II of the CopeMed project (the first phase was implemented from 1996 to 2005) sought to strengthen science-based fisheries management through enhanced technical-scientific capacities, and the promotion of scientific cooperation among participating countries in the central and western Mediterranean subregions. The participation of all stakeholders in the fisheries management process was not yet sufficient. Therefore, the current project, representing the tenth year of the second phase, aimed to strengthen regional cooperation, in support to the sustainable management of fisheries, in particular in three target countries, Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia; as well as to consolidate and build on the achievements obtained so far.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project contributed to enhancing regionally balanced cooperation and coordination, by supporting the participation of the target countries in regional scientific working groups, particularly those related with shared stocks, and in working groups and statutory activities of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). Scientific knowledge on fishery resources and ecosystems was enhanced, and national expertise was strengthened through the provision of training opportunities on data collection and analysis and stock assessment methods; the development and dissemination of technical documents; and the contribution of national data, knowledge and ideas of national experts in the international sphere of the GFCM. A fisheries vulnerability assessment study was completed for the subregion, indicating priority risk factors and potential adaptation measures to climate change. Another important project achievement involved facilitating the engagement of fishers and other stakeholders in the management of small-scale fisheries, through the adoption of the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF).

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget

USD 554 051

Duration

January 2019 – September 2020

Resource Partner

European Union

Partners

Fisheries administrations and research institutes from the participating countries (Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia); General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) members

Beneficiaries

Fishery stakeholders (including fishers, fisheries industries, research institutes, Non-governmental Organizations [NGOs] and national fisheries authorities) in the countries bordering the Mediterranean basin, but more specifically in the Central and Western part, including Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia)

IMPACT

The project interventions contributed to enhancing the sustainable management of marine fisheries in the central and western Mediterranean subregions. It is expected that this will contribute to enabling marine fisheries to provide support to national economies, and to protect the livelihoods of those involved in the fisheries sector.

ACTIVITIES

- Pilot case studies on EAF developed in Algeria and Tunisia; and detailed work plan prepared for implementation of pilot study in Morocco.
- Continuation of pilot project in eastern part of Algeria supported, to complete two years of biological sampling and socio-economic surveys, covering all the identified fleet segments of two priority species, hake and sardine.
- Technical and financial assistance provided to Morocco to carry out biological sampling of blackspot seabream, to contribute to assessment of state of the stock and provide scientific advice.
- Subregional research activities related with shared stocks continued, comprising dolphinfish and blackspot seabream.
- Seven working groups and technical workshops held on stock assessment for priority demersal and small pelagic species.
- Six training activities organized, including the Third edition of Summer School in Quantitative Fisheries Stock Assessment, attended by 34 participants from 11 countries.
- Research programme launched to identify sardine, hake and blackspot seabream stocks and their spatial distribution in the Alboran Sea.
- Twelfth meeting of CopeMed II Coordination Committee held in November 2019, attended by representatives of Spanish General Secretariat of Fisheries and European Commission Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), participating countries, CopeMed II project staff, and fishery officers of AdriaMed and MedSudMed projects.
- 14 technical reports produced and published.



Project Title

Copemed Year 10 – Coordination to support fisheries management in the western and central Mediterranean

Project Code

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