



iMarine¹ (www.i-marine.eu) establishes an open data infrastructure to provide the necessary support for concrete implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fishery, to help define corrective actions, alleviate pressure from endangered ecosystems, assist policy makers to foster a sustainable

exploitation of marine ecosystems and safeguard our oceans. *“The iMarine data infrastructure will foster “innovation” by providing an open platform and a variety of services that are designed to become an integral part of the organized procedures of a wide community of practitioners addressing the challenges of fishery management and the conservation of our marine resources”.* **Donatella Castelli, ISTI-CNR & iMarine Project Director**

The road to iMarine iMarine’s origins are in the D4Science² project, which developed capacities for data interoperability among different research infrastructures. The project delivered an open-source technology capable of operating data e-Infrastructures in a federated virtual environment. The next obstacle was to share data among different partners, and this is the engine behind iMarine. *“The idea was to give stronger capacity to drive the directions of data infrastructures development to an identified Community of Practice”* – explains **Marc Taconet, FAO & iMarine Board Chair**– *“we chose the marine science field community, to support both the Ecosystem Approach to Fishery management and the conservation of marine resources”.*

One board, one goal Two sub-communities are behind the iMarine Community of Practice: on one hand people working in biodiversity and on the other hand the community of people dealing with fishery, such as oceans’ observatories. They have one common final goal: the sustainable exploitation of our living resources and the preservation of future generations. For this purpose an iMarine Board has been set-up, composed of representatives of international fishery organisations, as an interface between the community of practice supporting the Ecosystem Approach, and the technology developers, i.e. IT specialists well aware of users’ requirements.

iMarine sets sail



The iMarine project was officially launched on 16 November 2011 in Pisa, where the iMarine board met for the first time. *“That was the first time that we brought together such a rich set of high level experts with different expertise. The discussion was very rich and continued in a fruitful brainstorming that we are going to organise in collaborative remote discussions from now on. Clear directions have already been identified in terms of interoperability standards. We are very hopeful that this board will help reach our goals”.* **Marc Taconet, FAO & iMarine Board Chair**

Navigate the iMarine channel @ www.i-marine.eu

The iMarine Consortium is composed of ERCIM (Coordinator), CNR-ISTI (Scientific Coordinator), CERN, CRIA, E-IIS, FAO, FIN, FORTH, IRD, NKUA, Terradue, Trust-IT and UNESCO with community practitioners ICES, EC (Eurostat / DG MARE), GENESI-DEC, MAAP/DPMA, NEAFC, PESI/EU, SP2000, VLIZ/EMODNET.

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¹ (Data e-Infrastructure Initiative for Fisheries Management and Conservation of Marine Living Resources)

² www.d4science.eu