



SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION TO SUPPORT
RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES IN THE ADRIATIC SEA

MiPAF

Food and
Agriculture
Organization
of the
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Italian Ministry
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and
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Policies

AdriaMed

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Adriatic Fishery Associations - First AdriaMed Meeting
Split, Croatia 17th – 18th July 2001

Shoqatat e Peshkimit ne Adriatik - Takimi i Pare i AdriaMed-it
Split, Kroaci 17 – 18 Korrik 2001

Jadranske ribarske udruge - Prvi sastanak AdriaMed-a
Split, Hrvatska 17. – 18. sranj 2001

Associazioni della Pesca in Adriatico - Primo Meeting di AdriaMed
Spalato, Croazia 17 – 18 luglio 2001

Jadranska ribiška združenja - Prvo srečanje v okviru AdriaMed-a
Split, Hrvaška, 17. in 18. julij 2001

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Preface

The Regional Project “Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea” (AdriaMed) is executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and funded by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Policies (MiPAF). AdriaMed was conceived to contribute to the promotion of cooperative fishery management between the participating countries (Republics of Albania, Croatia, Italy and Slovenia), in line with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries adopted by the UN-FAO. Particular attention is given to encouraging and sustaining a smooth process of international collaboration between the Adriatic Sea coastal countries in fishery management, planning and implementation. Consideration is also given to strengthening technical coordination between the national fishery research institutes and administrations, the fishery organizations and the other relevant stakeholders of the Adriatic countries.

Hyrje

Projekti Rajonal “Kooperimi Shkencor per te mbeshtetur Peshkimin e Pergjegjeshem ne Detin Adriatik” (AdriaMed) zbatohet nga Organizata e Ushqimit dhe e Bujqesise e Kombeve te Bashkuara (FAO) dhe eshte themeluar nga Ministria e Politikave Bujqesore dhe Pyjore te Italise (MiPAF). AdriaMed-i mendoj te kontribuojte ne menaxhimin e perbashket te peshkimit midis vendeve pjesemarrese (Republikat e Shqiperise, Italise, Kroacise dhe Sllovenise) ne perputhje me Kodin e Drejtimit per nje Peshkim te Pergjegjeshem te pranuar nga OKB-FAO. Vemendje e vecante i eshte dhene perkrahjes dhe mbeshtetjes te nje procesi bashkepunimi nderkombetar ndermjet vendeve te detit Adriatik ne menaxhimin e peshkimit, ne planifikimin dhe zbatimin e tij. Me rendesi eshte konsideruar gjithashtu koordinimi teknik ndermjet instituteve kerkimore dhe administratave kombetare te peshkimit, organizatave te peshkimit dhe te interesuarve te tjere te rendesishem te vendeve te Adriatikut.

Uvod

Regionalni projekt *Znanstvena suradnja za podršku odgovornom ribarstvu u Jadranskom moru* (AdriaMed) provodi Food and Agriculture Organization Ujedinjenih naroda (FAO) a financira Ministarstvo Poljoprivrede i šumarstva Republike Italije (MiPAF). AdriaMed je zasnovan kako bi pomogao promociji zajedničkog upravljanja ribarstvom zemalja-članica (Republike Albanija, Hrvatska, Italija i Slovenija) u skladu s Kodeksom Odgovornog Ribarstva koji je usvojio UN-FAO. Posebna se pažnja poklanja poticanju i održavanju procesa međunarodne suradnje obalnih država Jadranskog bazena na područjima upravljanja, planiranja i provođenja ribarstvene prakse. Pažnja se posvećuje i jačanju tehničke kooperacije nacionalnih instituta za ribarstvo i odgovarajuće administracije, ribarskih udruga i drugih relevantnih sudionika u ribarstvu zemalja Jadranskog bazena.

Prefazione

Il Progetto Regionale “Cooperazione Scientifica a Supporto della Pesca Responsabile nel Mare Adriatico” (AdriaMed) è realizzato dalla Organizzazione delle Nazioni Unite per l'Agricoltura e l'Alimentazione (FAO) e finanziato dal Ministero Italiano delle Politiche Agricole e Forestali (MiPAF). Obiettivo del Progetto AdriaMed è quello di contribuire alla promozione della gestione cooperativa della pesca tra le nazioni partecipanti (Albania, Croazia, Italia e Slovenia), in linea con il Codice di Condotta per la Pesca Responsabile

adottato dalle Nazioni Unite-FAO. Particolare attenzione viene data dal Progetto AdriaMed nell'incoraggiare e sostenere il processo lineare di collaborazione internazionale tra gli Stati costieri del Mare Adriatico, in particolare riguardo alle attività di gestione, pianificazione e implementazione della pesca, nonché il potenziamento del coordinamento tecnico tra Istituti nazionali di ricerca sulla pesca, le Amministrazioni, le Organizzazioni della pesca e gli altri rilevanti interlocutori del settore degli Stati adriatici.

Predgovor

Regionalni projekt "Znanstveno sodelovanje za podporo odgovornemu ribištvu v Jadranskem morju" (AdriaMed) izvršuje Organizacija Združenih narodov za prehrano in kmetijstvo (FAO) in ga financira italijansko Ministrstvo za kmetijsko in gozdarsko politiko (MiPAF). AdriaMed predstavlja prispevek k pospeševanju skupnega upravljanja z ribištvom med sodelujočimi državami (R. Albanija, R. Hrvaška, R. Italija in R. Slovenija) v smislu Kodeksa odgovornega ribištva, ki so ga sprejeli ZN-FAO. Posebna pozornost je posvečena vzpodbujanju in vzdrževanju enakomernih procesov mednarodnega sodelovanja med državami ob obalah Jadranskega morja pri upravljanju z ribištvom, načrtovanju in izvrševanju. Pozornost je posvečena krepitvi tehnične koordinacije med nacionalnimi ribiškimi raziskovalnimi ustanovami in upravo, ribiškimi organizacijami in ostalimi pristojnimi nepristranskimi telesi jadranskih držav.

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GCP/RER/010/ITA– Publications/ Publikime/ Publikacije/ Pubblicazioni/ Publikacije

The AdriaMed Project publications are issued as a series of Technical Documents (GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-00) and Occasional Papers (GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-00) related to meetings, missions and research organized by or conducted within the framework of the Project. Occasionally, relevant documents may be translated into national languages as AdriaMed Translations (GCP/RER/010/ITA/AT-00). Comments on this document would be welcomed and should be sent to the Project headquarters:

Publikimet e Projektit AdriaMed kane dale si nje seri e Technical Documents (GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-00) dhe e Occasional Papers (GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-00) qe i referohen takimeve, misioneve dhe kerkimeve te organizuara ose te drejtuara nga struktura e Projektit. Me kete rast, dokumentat perkates mund te perkthehen ne gjuhete kombetare si perkthime te AdriaMed-it (AdriaMed Translations, GCP/RER/010/ITA/AT-00). Komentet mbi kete dokument jane te mirepritura dhe duhet te dergohen ne seline qendrore te Projektit:

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Le pubblicazioni del Progetto AdriaMed sono redatte come Technical Documents (GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-00) e Occasional Papers (GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-00) e riguardano riunioni, missioni e ricerche organizzate o condotte nell'ambito del Progetto. Occasionalmente, alcuni documenti possono essere tradotti nelle lingue nazionali come AdriaMed Translations (GCP/RER/010/ITA/AT-00). Sono graditi commenti a questo documento, che andranno inviati alla sede centrale del Progetto:

Publikacije projekta AdriaMed so iz serije izdaj Technical Documents (GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-00) in Occasional Papers (GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-00), ki se nanašajo na sestanke, misije in raziskave organizirane ali vodene znotraj okvirov projekta. Občasno so pomembni dokumenti prevedeni v nacionalne jezike kot prevodi AdriaMed (AdriaMed Translations, GCP/RER/010/ITA/AT-00). Komentari na ta dokument so dobrodošli in morajo biti poslani na sedež projekta:

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Jadranske ribarske udruge – Prvi sastanak AdriaMed-a.

Associazioni della Pesca in Adriatico – Primo Meeting di AdriaMed.

Jadranska ribiška združenja – Prvo srečanje v okviru AdriaMed-a.

FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-06. *AdriaMed Technical Documents*, 6: 168 pp.

Preparation of this document

This document is the final version of the report of the AdriaMed Meeting on Adriatic Fishery Associations, organised by the FAO-AdriaMed Project (*Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea*) in Split, 17th–18th July 2001.

Pergatitja e ketij dokumenti

Ky dokument eshte versioni final i raportit te Takimit te AdriaMed me Shoqatat e Peshkimit ne Adriatik, i organizuar nga FAO-Projekti AdriaMed (*Kooperimi Shkencor ne mbeshtetje te Peshkimit te Pergjegjeshem ne Detin Adriatik*) ne Split, 17-18 Korrik 2001.

Priprema dokumenta

Ovaj je dokument završna verzija izvješća s AdriaMed sastanka s temom *Jadranske ribarske udruge*, koji je organizirao FAO-AdriaMed Projekt (*Znanstvena suradnja za podršku odgovornom ribarstvu u Jadranskom moru*) u Splitu, 17.–18. srpanj 2001.

Preparazione di questo documento

Questo documento è la versione finale del Rapporto del Meeting AdriaMed sulle Associazioni della Pesca dell'Adriatico, organizzato dal Progetto FAO-AdriaMed (*Cooperazione Scientifica a Supporto della Pesca Responsabile nel Mare Adriatico*) a Spalato, 17–18 luglio 2001.

Priprava tega dokumenta

Ta dokument je končna verzija poročila s sestanka AdriaMed-a o jadranskih ribiških združenjih, ki ga je organiziral projekt FAO-AdriaMed (*Znanstveno sodelovanje za podporo odgovornemu ribištvu v Jadranskem morju*) v Splitu, 17. in 18. julij 2001.

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The assistance provided by the Croatian Chamber of Crafts and Trades, particularly by Ms Nada Brezec, for the organization of the Meeting is gratefully acknowledged.

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Na pomoći pruženoj u organizaciji sastanka srdačno se zahvaljujemo Hrvatskoj obrtničkoj komori, a posebno gospođi Nadi Brezec.

Si ringrazia la Camera dell'Artigianato e del Commercio della Croazia, e in particolare la Sig.ra Nada Brezec, per l'aiuto nell'organizzazione del Meeting.

Najlepše se zahvaljujemo za pomoč, ki jo je nudila hrvaška Zbornica za obrt in trgovino, še posebej ga. Nada Brezec pri organizaciji sestanka.

AdriaMed.

Adriatic Fishery Associations – First AdriaMed Meeting. Split, 17-18 July 2001.

Shoqatat e Peshkimit ne Adriatik-Takimi i Pare i AdriaMed-it. Split, 17–18 Korrik 2001.

Jadranske ribarske udruge – Prvi sastanak AdriaMed-a. Split, 17.–18. spranj 2001.

Associazioni della Pesca in Adriatico – Primo Meeting di AdriaMed. Spalato, 17 – 18 luglio 2001.

Jadranska ribiška združenja – Prvo srečanje v okviru AdriaMed-a. Split, 17. in 18. julij 2001.

AdriaMed Technical Documents. No.6. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-06, Termoli, 2002: 168 pp.

ABSTRACT

The first AdriaMed Meeting on the Adriatic Sea Fishery Associations was held in Split, Croatia on the 17th – 18th July 2001. The meeting was attended by 29 participants from Albania, Croatia, Italy and Slovenia. The main objective of the meeting was to gain knowledge of the organizational system of the fishery sector at Adriatic level; to discuss the fishery associations' priorities at basin level; to identify and propose topics of cooperation; to support the establishment of a network of fishery associations of the Adriatic Sea as a permanent Working Group. A brief presentation of the FAO AdriaMed Project was given to the participants and recent developments of the main activities were illustrated. An overview of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries was presented: the background and historical development of the Code, its nature and objectives and selected features of its content were highlighted. The representatives of the fisheries associations of the Adriatic Sea expressed strong support for the provision of the Code, noting among other points the important role to be played by resource users in order to achieve responsible fisheries. The need to develop every aspect of fisheries cooperation at Adriatic Sea basin level was strongly advocated. A brief overview of the fishery sectors in each participating country was given. A memorandum on common and priority topics highlighted during the meeting was issued.

PERMBLEDHJE E SHKURTER

Takimi i Pare AdriaMed me Shoqatat e Peshkimit te Detit Adriatik u mbajt ne Split, Kroaci ne 17-18 Korrik 2001. Takimi u ndoq nga 29 pjesemarres nga Shqiperia, Italia, Kroacia dhe Sllovenia. Objektivi kryesor i takimit ishte marrja e njohurive mbi sistemin e organizimit te sektorit te peshkimit ne vendet e Adriatikut; diskutimi i prioriteteve te shoqatave te peshkimit per kete pellg; identifikimi dhe propozimi i temave te kooperimit; mbeshtetja per krijimin e nje rrjeti te shoqatave te peshkimit te Detit Adriatik si nje Grup Pune i perhershem. Pjesemarresve ju be nje paraqitje e shkurter e Projektit FAO AdriaMed dhe u ilustruan zhvillimet e fundit te veprimtarive kryesore. U paraqit nje veshtrim mbi Kodin e Drejtimit per nje Peshkim te Pergjegjeshem: u nenvizuan prejardhja dhe zhvillimi historik i Kodit, natyra e tij, objektivat dhe vecorite kryesore te permbajtjes se tij. Perfaqesuesit e shoqatave te peshkimit te Detit Adriatik shprehen mbeshtetje te forte per zbatimin e Kodit, duke theksuar nder te tjera rolin e rendesishem qe duhet te luajne perdoruesit e burimeve ne menyre qe te arrihet nje peshkim i pergjegjshem. U mbrojt me force nevoja per te zhvilluar cdo aspekt te kooperimit te peshkimit ne nivelin e pellgut te Detit Adriatik. Nga cdo vend pjesemarres u dha nje veshtrim i shkurter i sektoreve te peshkimit. Gjate takimit u arrit ne nje memorandum mbi ceshtjet e perbashketa prioritare qe u vune ne dukje.

SAŽETAK

Prvi sastanak AdriaMed-a o Jadranskim ribarskim udrugama održan je u Splitu, Hrvatska, od 17. – 18. srpnja 2001. Sastanku je prisustvovalo 29 sudionika iz Albanije, Hrvatske, Italije i Slovenije. Cilj sastanka bilo je stjecanje znanja o sustavu organizacije ribarstvenog sektora na razini cijelog Jadrana; diskusija o prioritetima udruga na razini cijelog bazena; identificiranje i predlaganje načina suradnje; podrška stvaranju mreže Jadranskih ribarskih udruga kao stalne Radne skupine. Sudionicima je ukratko predstavljen FAO AdriaMed Projekt, nakon čega su im izloženi dosadašnji rezultati osnovnih aktivnosti. Izložen je i pregled Kodeksa Odgovornog Ribarstva: pozadina i povijesni razvoj Kodeksa, posebno su naglašeni njegova priroda i ciljevi, te određene posebno značajne stavke. Predstavnici su izrazili čvrstu podršku stvaranju Kodeksa, primjećujući između ostalog važnu ulogu u postizanju odgovornog ribarstva koju će imati sami korisnici. Posebno je zagovarana potreba razvoja svih aspekata ribarstvene suradnje na Jadranu. Kratko je predstavljeno stanje ribarstvenog sektora u svakoj pojedinoj zemlji-sudionici. Sastavljen je memorandum koji navodi zajedničke i prioritetne teme i interese navedene tijekom sastanka.

RIASSUNTO

Il primo Meeting di AdriaMed sulle Associazioni della Pesca in Adriatico si è tenuto a Spalato in Croazia il 17 e 18 luglio 2001. All'incontro sono intervenuti 29 partecipanti provenienti da Albania, Croazia, Italia e Slovenia. Gli obiettivi dell'incontro sono stati: acquisire informazioni sul sistema organizzativo della pesca in Adriatico; discutere le priorità delle associazioni della pesca a livello di bacino; identificare e proporre tematiche di cooperazione; sostenere la realizzazione di una rete di Associazioni della pesca in Adriatico come Gruppo di Lavoro permanente. Dopo una breve descrizione del Progetto AdriaMed e dei recenti sviluppi delle sue principali attività, è stato presentato il Codice di Condotta per la Pesca Responsabile, illustrandone l'origine, l'evoluzione storica, la natura, gli obiettivi, ed evidenziandone alcune importanti caratteristiche. I rappresentanti delle Associazioni della pesca nel Mare Adriatico hanno espresso un forte sostegno alle indicazioni del Codice e hanno sottolineato, tra gli altri punti, l'importanza del ruolo che gli utilizzatori della risorsa devono assumere per conseguire una pesca responsabile. Le Associazioni hanno, inoltre, decisamente appoggiato la necessità di sviluppare ogni aspetto della cooperazione nell'ambito della pesca in tutto il bacino Adriatico. Infine, è stata presentata una breve panoramica dei settori della pesca in ciascun Paese partecipante, ed è stato preparato un Memorandum sulle comuni questioni prioritarie emerse durante il Meeting.

IZVLEČEK

Prvo srečanje AdriaMed-a o jadranskih ribiških združenjih je bilo v Splitu (Hrvaška) od 17. do 18. julija 2001. Sestanka se je udeležilo 29 udeležencev iz Albanije, Hrvaške, Italije in Slovenije. Glavni namen srečanja je bil pridobiti znanje o organizacijskem sistemu ribiškega sektorja na nivoju Jadrana, razpravljati o prednostnih nalogah ribiških združenj na nivoju bazena, prepoznati in predlagati teme za sodelovanje, podpreti ustanovitev mreže ribiških združenj ob Jadranskem morju kot stalne delovne skupine. Udeležencem je bil na kratko predstavljen projekt FAO AdriaMed in ilustriran sedanji potek glavnih aktivnosti. Predstavljen je bil Kodeks odgovornega ribištva: ozadje in zgodovinski razvoj Kodeksa, njegova narava in namen ter poudarjene nekatere značilnosti iz vsebine. Predstavniki ribiških združenj ob Jadranskem morju so izrazili močno podporo ukrepom Kodeksa, poudarili so pomembno vlogo, ki jo ima uporaba virov za dosego odgovornega ribištva. Zagovarjali so močno potrebo po razvoju vseh vidikov ribiškega sodelovanja v jadranskem bazenu. Podali so kratek pregled ribiških sektorjev v vseh sodelujočih državah. Izšel je memorandum o skupnih in glavnih poglavjih, o katerih so razpravljali na sestanku.

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Adriatic Fishery Associations – First AdriaMed Meeting

Split 17th – 18th July 2001

Greetings from the local authorities (Agenda item n. 1)

1. The first AdriaMed meeting of the Adriatic Fishery Associations was held on 17th –18th July 2001 at the Split Hotel in Split, Croatia.
2. The meeting was attended by thirty-two participants from Albania, Croatia, Italy and Slovenia. The staff of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) constituted the Secretariat. The list of participants is given in Annex A of this report.
3. The meeting was opened by Mr Andro Kumarić the President of the Regional Chamber of Crafts and Trades who welcomed the participants to Split and thanked FAO-AdriaMed for the organization of such a meeting. This points out the importance of cooperation in the Adriatic Region. A brief welcome was then given by Mr Kajo Bočkaj, the Assistant Mayor of Split, who expressed his hopes for favourable a outcome from the meeting.
4. Mr Ivan Katavić, the Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Croatia thanked the AdriaMed Project for having chosen the city of Split for the meeting. The fundamental role of economic and scientific regional cooperation was emphasised. The present problems in the fishing industries were underlined and the importance of the AdriaMed activities, particularly those focusing on the small pelagic fishery resources of the Eastern Adriatic was recognised. Furthermore, Croatia's close ties with the Adriatic Sea as an historical tradition and the Croatians' contribution to the development and advancement of fishery were highlighted. The text of the Assistant Minister's speech is given in Annex B.
5. Mr Marcello Apicella, the Italian Consul, thanked the FAO and the local authorities for the invitation. It was recalled that fishing activities often caused problems in the past. The Consul highlighted the importance of cooperation at basin level and how this is particularly relevant for the Adriatic Sea. The originality of the meeting and of the discussions to follow were also highlighted and his hopes for a good outcome were expressed.

Opening of the Meeting and election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson (Agenda item n. 2)

6. The AdriaMed Coordinator thanked all the participants and regional fisheries associations for their presence. The President of the Regional Chamber of Crafts and Trades was nominated as Chair, with Mr Aleksander Flloko from the Professional Fishery Association of Albania as Co-chair.

Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Meeting (Agenda item n. 3)

7. The agenda proposed by the Secretariat was adopted with no changes (Annex C). The issue of the languages used in the meeting was raised by the Secretariat and it was agreed on the necessity of interpreting between Italian and Croatian as required. An English translation was not possible for technical reasons.

Objectives of the Meeting (Agenda item n. 4)

8. The Secretariat introduced the objectives of the meeting. The participatory approach of AdriaMed was underlined. The participants were encouraged to divulge any information available to them on the issues raised during the meeting in order to favour a positive outcome. The main aims of the AdriaMed Project were outlined and the importance of the socio-economic aspects related to fisheries in the Adriatic Sea region was emphasised.
9. In his introduction the Project Coordinator explained the reasons for holding this meeting. He stressed how this meeting is considered follow-up to the AdriaMed Project's mandate. In the presence of shared fishery resources, cooperation is recommended and this cooperation cannot just involve scientists. It is only possible to achieve programmes and activities focusing on the effective management and conservation of fish stocks with the involvement of all the fishery stakeholders. In this framework an important role must be played by the fisheries associations, as they are representatives of the world of production.
10. During the opening of the 1st Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) it was recalled that *“for any fisheries management to be sustainable it should take into consideration the social dimension of the fishing community. A purely scientific approach to fisheries management did not have any chance of success unless it was accepted by all stakeholders...”*. The importance of the social dimension of the fishery management has been frequently discussed in the recent working groups and meeting of the SAC Sub-Committee on Economics and Social Sciences.
11. In conformity with the Project's mandate and the above considerations, AdriaMed has called this meeting seventeen months after the Project started in order to involve the fishery production sector. This has only been possible through the participatory approach of the Project's activities. The realisation of an Adriatic network of the fishery associations could be an important step toward their participation in the Project's activities. It can provide a contribution such as a pilot plan not only for the Adriatic basin, but also for the whole Mediterranean. The outcome of this meeting should not only be a presentation of the results of AdriaMed's activities, it is hoped that the meeting is also a moment for the discussion of common priority matters.

12. The expectations of the meeting are: to gain knowledge at Adriatic basin level of the organizational system of the fisheries; to discuss together the fishery management priorities; to identify and propose topics of cooperation; to support the establishment of a network of fishery associations of the Adriatic Sea as a permanent Working Group (such as those established by AdriaMed for the shared fishery resources and the fishery socio-economic aspects).

A brief presentation of the AdriaMed Project and information to the participants on recent developments of the main activities (Agenda item n. 5)

13. The management of fish stocks (transboundary fish stocks, straddling fish stocks, highly migratory fish stocks and high seas fish stocks) exploited by two or more states requires cooperation in order to guarantee an effective conservation and to avoid overexploitation. This is the recommendation given in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (henceforth referred to as the Code) with regard to fisheries research and management, adopted by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 1995.

14. The Adriatic may be considered a semi-enclosed basin within the Mediterranean Sea which itself constitutes a larger semi-enclosed sea. Six countries, whose coastline development differs greatly, border the Adriatic Sea. The stocks of most of the main commercial species are shared by the coastal countries. The Project “Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea”, AdriaMed, was conceived to foster and promote international scientific cooperation for fishery research and management in coherence with the Code. AdriaMed is a Trust Fund Regional Project financed by Italy through the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Policies and executed by the FAO. The Adriatic countries participating in the Project are the Republics of Albania, Croatia, Italy and Slovenia.

15. The overall objectives of AdriaMed are: the development and sharing of a common pool of knowledge to encourage and sustain the process of international collaboration between the coastal countries on issues related to fishery management planning and implementation; to strengthen technical coordination among the national fishery research institutes, administrations and resource users; to establish a network between relevant fisheries-related institutions involved in the management of Adriatic fisheries. The full participation of the national fisheries administrations, research structures, fishing industry and fishery associations is a fundamental requirement for the achievement of the Project’s objectives. AdriaMed’s activities are based on a participatory approach which involves all the above-mentioned parties.

16. Regional projects (*i.e.* projects whose area of coverage includes more than one country) must have a complex framework. Consequently, and in order to ensure the correct, well coordinated and balanced project implementation, the institutional arrangements are of critical relevance. Properly established institutional arrangements can guarantee an important part of the Project’s effectiveness. AdriaMed has two such tools at its disposal:

the Coordination Committee and the National Focal Points. The principal activities finalised by the AdriaMed Project are implemented through the Coordination Committee which was established to evaluate, direct the Project and approve its work programme. The Coordination Committee is composed of the representatives of the Republics of Albania, Croatia, Italy and Slovenia. Representatives of the European Commission, the FAO and the GFCM are also members of the Committee. National Focal Points were nominated to act as a direct link between their countries and the Project. Furthermore, they advise and support the Project at national level, in particular they coordinate specific Project Components and provide support in gathering information and collecting data. They thus ensure an effective flow of communication to and from the national scientific counterparts.

17. The implementation strategy of AdriaMed is based primarily on the identification of the priority topics concerning the main areas of action also defined as Project Components. These represent the technical framework for the scientific cooperation. Priority issues are identified together with the experts from the region who constitute the Working Groups or in *ad hoc* meetings. During these meetings the Project's activities are discussed (research, training activities, scientific publications, technical assistance). The AdriaMed Project Components aim at encompassing some of the principal aspects of the Adriatic marine capture fisheries, particularly those which are based on shared stocks. Therefore, issues such as those related to fish and fishery biology, fishing fleets, fishery socio-economics and resource users, must be considered and dealt with at regional level. The Project Components may be seen as falling into two major categories: the Inventory and the Specific Advisory Services. The first focuses on reviewing and assessing the existing scientific information on the fishery sector at Adriatic basin level. The second one consists of supporting specific activities in the fishery sector. The activities of this category also aim at providing advice and assistance to the countries through specific interventions (*e.g.* a national fishery statistics system).

18. The AdriaMed Working Groups represent the starting point in the creation of a regional scientific network and are also an initial step towards the sharing of scientific knowledge on fisheries at basin level. The Working Groups are composed of experts from the Adriatic area and are also open to other experts from outside the region. Most of the activities identified and planned together with the AdriaMed Working Groups are currently being implemented. These cooperative research programmes are the follow-up to the priorities identified where shared fishery resources are concerned. Among others, it may be worth noting the following activities: the establishment of a data collection and biological sampling network on small pelagics; the identification of population units in shared stocks of seven species by genetic structure analysis; a bottom trawl survey in the Eastern Adriatic (autumn 2001); a regional training course on basic fish population dynamics and stock assessment; a review of the existing knowledge and identification of management options for the Pomo/Jabuka critical habitat; an assessment of the knowledge on fishery socio-economics around the Adriatic and preliminary formulation of a joint work plan.

19. All the activities mentioned are based on cooperative work as they are executed at Adriatic basin level and involve national research institutions from Albania, Croatia, Italy and Slovenia. Most of the AdriaMed research activities are carried out with the aim of strengthening the national scientific capacity, standardising and harmonising the scientific methodologies during on-the-job training sessions. As an FAO Regional Project, AdriaMed also plays the role of a pilot project for the Mediterranean area. Some topics discussed during the Working Groups and papers prepared represent a scientific contribution at Mediterranean level. The AdriaMed Working Groups formulated scientific proposals focusing on areas that are recognised by the experts as requiring attention. Among the many, for instance, the identification and formulation of main shared stocks in the Adriatic Sea is worth mentioning, as listed in Annex D, and the proposed Geographical Management Units of the Adriatic Sea as shown in Annex E. The proceedings and outcome of this work are reported in the AdriaMed publication series (the list of AdriaMed Technical Documents and Occasional Papers issued so far is given at the end of the present document).
20. The links between the Project and the participating institutions make up the AdriaMed network. The latter facilitates the development of scientific cooperation (research institutes and administrative bodies) and includes a communication and information system (web pages, publications, fishery information system). Moreover, the network is also represented by the areas of cooperation established between the Project and the GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee, the GFCM Committee on Aquaculture, and the UNEP MAP Strategic Action Plan for the conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO Project). In order to improve the information at regional level on Adriatic topics and activities, a website has been developed (<http://www.faoadriamed.org>) and is continuously updated, it is considered a principal vehicle for disseminating information. This is also achieved through the releasing of a series of publications such as Technical Documents, Translations, and Occasional Papers related to meetings, missions and research organized by or conducted within the framework of the Project.
21. Nearly sixteen months after the First Coordination Committee, in which the Project framework and work plan was outlined, general comments can be made pertaining to the methodological aspects and the relative results. The outcome of the Working Groups contributes to characterising the Project as a pilot experience not only at the Adriatic level but also at Mediterranean level. Apart from supporting specific actions of technical assistance within the participating countries (support to the national fishery statistics systems, training etc.), the Project is gradually assuming a catalytic role of fostering cooperative fishery research at the regional level. This contributes to establishing a relationship between the different areas (research, administration and production), indeed many activities that are linked to the components of the Project are coordinated not only with the scientific institutions but also with the national fishery administrations.
22. It may be worth noting that as a result of the cooperative framework established by the Project through its participants, several events are either being planned or are taking place for the first time in the Adriatic region. For instance, these are: a standardised approach to

assess the genetic stock unity of some shared stocks; a regional port sampling network for small pelagic fisheries; pilot joint echo-survey combined with environmental data collection covering the whole Northern Adriatic Sea (*i.e.* Croatia, Italy and Slovenia); a regionally concerted work plan on the socio-economic aspects of Adriatic fisheries; a regional forum of the fishery resource users of the Adriatic Sea.

23. It was remarked that, in full coherence with the Code and the AdriaMed mandate, the current meeting falls within the Project's challenging vision where importance is given to the attempt to bring closer both the scientific knowledge (scientists' knowledge) and the applied knowledge (fishers' knowledge). This would provide the basis for improved, responsible management and the conservation of fishery resources. Ambitious as it may seem, AdriaMed can be a suitable pilot opportunity to attempt a more comprehensive move towards cooperative fishery research and management.

An appreciation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries by Adriatic resource users (Agenda item n. 6)

24. This Agenda item was introduced by a representative of the Fishery Policy and Planning Division, FAO Fisheries Department. The presentation mainly focused on: the background and historical development of the Code, its nature and objectives and selected highlights of its content. A comprehensive outline is given in Annex F. The expectations concerning the stakeholders' participation in promoting cooperation for the responsible management of shared resources was also stressed. The most significant excerpts from the aforementioned Code which refer specifically to the fishers and fishing industry's role for the Code implementation are reported below.
25. It was commented that the first six of the twelve Articles of the Code are general in nature, while the second set of Articles contains the specifics of the Code. Article 4 of the Code concerns its implementation, monitoring and updating. *Inter alia*, it notes that all members and non-members of the FAO, the fishery entities and the relevant sub-regional, regional and global organisations, whether governmental or non-governmental, and all those concerned with the conservation, management and utilisation of fishery resources and trade in fishery products should collaborate in the fulfilment and implementation of the objectives and principles contained in the Code. In practice, this will be most effectively achieved when governments, in close consultation with industries and other groups concerned, are able to incorporate standards of the Code into national fishery policies and legislation. In addition, governments should encourage fishing communities and industry to develop codes of good practice that are consistent with, and support, the purpose of the Code.
26. The general principles of the Code are contained in Article 6 that starts from the central tenet that "States and users of living aquatic resources should conserve aquatic ecosystems". They include among others: the fostering of responsible fisheries through the education and training of fishers and their involvement in the policy formulation and establishment, as well as the implementation of the Code itself; the need to provide safe,

healthy and fair working conditions for fish workers; the promotion of transparent decisions through information, consultation and eventually co-management; the protection of fish workers' rights, as well as those involved in subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisheries, to secure a fair livelihood.

27. The importance of countries cooperating with one another in all aspects of fisheries is particularly emphasised under Articles 7 to 12. It is stressed that management measures taken by one country should be compatible with similar measures adopted by other countries particularly when they fish the same stocks. Lastly, from Article 7.1.6 it can be inferred that in many situations (particularly at local, national and sub-regional levels), it will be necessary to rely on various collaborative arrangements or mechanisms. These formally recognise the sharing of fisheries management responsibility and accountability between fisheries management authorities and institutions, either public (such as local level government) or private (such as fishers' associations) as an alternative to locating the entire set of responsibilities within government structures only. This may entail building proven capacity for self-governance, self-regulation and active participation of the parties concerned.
28. In the discussion which follows the presentation, the representatives of the fisheries associations of the Adriatic Sea commended the FAO in its effort to promote the implementation of the Code. They expressed strong support to the provision of the Code, noting among other points the important role expected from resource users in achieving responsible fisheries. The need to develop every aspect of fisheries cooperation at Adriatic Sea basin level was strongly advocated.
29. The representative of the Croatian Association of Fisheries, Agriculture and Aquaculture stressed the importance of fishers as a central point for fishery management and in turn responsible fishing. These common and fundamental principles should be accepted in all countries and by all fishers. Science and administration could help, but it is critical that fishers could organise themselves in associations. The Italian system of fishery associations was brought forward as a positive example to be taken into consideration by the Croatian fishers. Croatia must make an effort to improve the associative and cooperative system of the fishing sector. The Chamber of Commerce could provide support.
30. Furthermore, it was observed that the effective implementation of the concepts of Responsible Fisheries very much depends also on the level of awareness among the resource users which is strictly linked to the level of organisation of the fishers. This aspect, which concerns involving and informing fishers on Responsible Fisheries, is important and the opportunity provided by AdriaMed is particularly helpful for this purpose. The necessity of the link between scientific and applied knowledge, as highlighted by the Secretariat, was fully acknowledged.
31. It was noted that AdriaMed has supported and widely disseminated the Code's translations into the Albanian and Croatian languages (the Italian and Slovenian versions were already available).

32. The Federcoopesca representative stated that the principles of the Code are accepted but there is the need to clarify the extent of their applicability and suitability to the reality of the fishing sector. The real challenge is to find the means to put together research, administration and the productive sector. The question concerning the cooperation between the scientific research and the productive sector is an issue which is met very often. Therefore, the relevance given in the AdriaMed presentation by the Project staff on the necessity to better integrate and combine the applied knowledge of the fishers and the scientific knowledge was positively appreciated. It was further commented that at the junction between practical and research activity, it is possible to locate the main point, namely the test-bed that decrees the success or failure of any form of management. On behalf of Federcoopesca, hopes were expressed that the cooperation between research and professional environment of the sea workers improves on a daily basis thus providing an opportunity for concrete development to the fishers.
33. The representative of the Professional Fishery Association of Albania, on behalf of the other national associations attending the meeting, asserted that the principles of the Code will always be supported by the Albanian fishers. Since the early nineties, Albania has supported the formulation of those key principles, which are included in the Code in various international fora, such as at two diplomatic conferences in the nineties through participation in both conferences at a ministerial level: December 1994 in Crete and November 1996 in Venice. The problem now is how to implement the Code's recommendations in the proper way.
34. Reference was made to Article 5 of the Code that gives special consideration for developing countries. Assistance has been provided by the FAO on the formulation of the Law on Fisheries and on Aquaculture in Albania (1995) that bases itself on the preservation of the fishery resources. An important event took place in 1996 when even Albania as part of the eastern Adriatic countries finally participated in the European Union (EU)-financed MEDITS (Mediterranean International Trawl Survey) programme to evaluate the demersal resources. Thanks to the AdriaMed Project that has provided assistance, sponsorship and technical help, the Code is finally translated in Albanian and has thus been widely distributed to the fishing community. In conclusion, it is most important to implement the Code in Albania. The Code is already taken into consideration in the national fishery legislation. The size of the fishing fleet is proof of this. In recent years, the Albanian fishing fleet did not increase because Albania intended to proceed with a gradual and precautionary approach. A legislative amendment is currently being considered in Albania to introduce comanagement as well as a system of self-management for harbours. It is believed that these last two points will create better conditions to implement the Code more effectively.
35. According to the representative of the General Association of Italian Fishery Cooperatives (AGCI Pesca) the Code has been a driving force, which in Italy is being considered at the levels of research, administrations and fishery associations. It was underlined that the Code puts emphasis on the behaviour of the productive sector in terms of fishers' awareness and involvement in its implementation and not only on restrictions

and control. The same fishing technique may or may not be disruptive, it depends on how it is used. It was further observed that much depends on the fisheries associations' move and effort if fisheries are to be responsible or not. As a step in this direction, the Meeting was informed that in Italy the fishery associations have become promoters of the diffusion of the Code among their associates.

36. Italian fishery associations have been requesting more space in the co-management process, particularly for community decisions (through consortia) as well as for small-scale coastal fisheries. These are examples of implementing the concepts of responsible fisheries. The Code was a central element of the National Conference on Fisheries in 1999 in Rome. The AGCI Pesca is preparing a kit for fishers consisting of the Code, a video and small manuals for each craft. As soon as it will be finalised, it will be widely diffused. The need to complete the efforts of producers with mechanisms for harmonisation was underlined. It is necessary to implement a permanent forum of discussion through an international conference, where the problem of the harmonisation of legislation is highlighted. This is important not only for the Adriatic area but also for the Mediterranean and outside of this area. The countries must be asked to respect common rules to permit the use and the development of responsible fisheries. This is the basis to strengthen the fishery economy. Clearer criteria in the Mediterranean, notably to contrast illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing must be adopted. Lastly, AdriaMed was asked to support the initiative of developing bilateral and multilateral programmes to strengthen the fishery association system.

A brief overview of the fishery sectors in each participating country from the fishery stakeholders' point of view (Agenda item n. 7)

37. The Assistant Minister of the Croatian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry gave an overview of the specific problems in Croatia. The fisheries in Croatia, composed of fresh water, marine and aquaculture, are facing productive, socio-economic and ecological problems. Many circumstances may have caused this condition: war or structural changes of countries in transition, changes in management and market. Because Croatia has not been able to progress within the last ten years as it had wanted to, inappropriate fishing resulted. Too much increase of the fishing effort lead to overexploitation and at the same time a decrease of the fish resources. In Croatian channels and in the inner sea, where bottom trawl fishing is carried out, fishing pressure is not decreasing even today. Therefore, juvenile fish are in great danger as shown by the small size fish in the catch. Croatia must think about this problem and react quite restrictively regarding fishing in channels and in the inner sea. It should gradually direct it to the open sea of the Adriatic.
38. It was mentioned that there has been a decrease of pilchards in the first half of the year, and this has much affected the sardine industry. It is difficult to cope with the decrease of some species because of the economic situation in the country, the competition and the unbalanced position of fish products on the European market. Further, because aquaculture development has been notably neglected due to the unfavourable macroeconomic environment, it has not achieved the expected results as Greece or

Turkey. However, the natural geo-morphological, ecological and human potentials of Croatia are indicators that the country will develop in fish and shellfish aquaculture. In recent times the Croatian fishery has been farming large pelagic fish (*i.e.* tuna), an activity that has been developing dynamically for the past five years. This movement is a result of external investments originating from the growth of the Japanese “sushi and sashimi” market. This activity, however, is expected to stagnate for it must follow the strict limitations of juvenile fishing as a basic element for further breeding. Aside from economical reasons, the most important reason for the development of aquaculture will be its harmony with the natural environment and the co-ordination of activities in coastal and insular areas, as well as the highest level of environmental standards.

39. The strategic programme worked out under the Croatian Government Strategy Development through the 21st Century is based on controlled fishery to ensure a long catch period. This programme is a responsible and rational approach to the exploitation of the living resources in the sea. With reference to marine capture fishery, this programme will be implemented through the fishing fleet renewal, the development of infrastructures and the support and strengthening of fishery associations in conformity with European standards. The realisation of this programme is based and depends on the assumption that fishery resources will be strengthened through permanent control and monitoring. The FAO AdriaMed Project could play an important role to promote bilateral and multilateral research and monitoring programmes and offer its contribution to the fishery industries of the Adriatic Sea.
40. Moreover, the Croatian representative added that further scientific efforts are desirable for deeper understanding of biotic and non-biotic factors in the ecosystem, the relationship between predator and prey, and finally the inter- and intra-species relations with particular reference to small pelagic species (sardine, anchovy, sprat, etc). The understanding and interpreting of the species’ behaviour, as well as the effect of fisheries against biotic resources and the final consequences produced against management must all be considered. Human activities in an attractive coastal area and their effect on the state of natural bio-resources must be examined as well.
41. The AdriaMed Project was congratulated for its place and role. The research efforts of the Republic of Italy and its constant monitoring of small pelagic fish along the western sector of the Adriatic Sea since 1976 are also highly appreciated. It was recognised that current fishery resource appraisals can be limited in terms of space and time. It is believed, however, that these assessments will be more accurate after having introduced parallel monitoring of both demersal and particularly small pelagic stock in the eastern Adriatic thus covering the whole area. These worthy initiatives of the AdriaMed Project are very much supported.
42. It would be desirable that AdriaMed, in cooperation with the International Committee for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT), assist in promoting better knowledge of large pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea. Lastly, it was concluded that the proceedings of this Meeting should be made widely known to the resource users’ community.

43. It was observed by the Croatian Association of Fisheries that there is a decrease in the availability of small pelagic resources and an increase in the number of fishers partly as a consequence of land-based unemployment. Fishers capture an average of twenty-four tonnes of fish per year, a decreasing quantity with respect to that before the war. After the small-scale artisanal fishing, bottom trawl fishing is the most common activity. The following observations were made: the fleet is deteriorating, there is a lack of infrastructures, no capital is available to be invested in the fishing sector and furthermore, the fish market has a rather informal structure.
44. It was remarked that a general decrease of demersal resources and an increase of non-professional fishers targeting them is taking place. Tuna fishing is also causing difficulties, for the specimens caught are juvenile and the legal size is not respected. The lack of monitoring does not ensure the enforcement of fishery regulations, moreover fishing in international waters is also inadequately monitored. The Croatian fish processing industry has been regressing mainly due to the lack of pilchards which has resulted in the closing of some plants. It was also observed that the role of fishery associations is unsatisfactorily contemplated in the current national fishery legislation. Among others, some solutions to assist the fishing sector could be to provide tax free fuel and investment support initiatives. The importance of being in line with the standards of the European Commission (EC) was emphasised. Lastly, the opportunity given by AdriaMed to the fishers to express their opinion was underlined. This will promote their support to the Project also in consideration of the benefit AdriaMed may bring to resource users.
45. The representatives of the Italian fishery cooperatives informed the participants on the Italian situation of the fishery sector. The Italian fishery associations are well established. Most (80%) of this system is organised into four associations (Legapesca, AGCI-Pesca, Federcoopescas and UNCI Pesca) and the associations of shipbuilders and ship owners should be added (Federpesca). An historical overview of the EU policies on the fishery sector was illustrated together with the policy change because of the size of the fishing fleet considered excessive in comparison to the resources. Reference to the Multi-annual Guidance Plans was made. These are plans which each participating EU country has to adjust. Each member state must comply with these plans and a fleet reduction is established for each. The participants were informed that the Italian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Policies had recently reported to the fishery associations that Italy has just achieved the fixed objectives for December 2001, a couple of months before the deadline. The Italian fishery association policy was summarised. Over the last years, the Italian fishery association policy was based on the regulation of fishing effort, the environmental protection, the creation of marine parks, the control policies on the quality of fishing products and the realisation of a marketing system of these labelled products managed by the fishers.
46. Reference was then made to the European Commission's Green Paper on the Future of the Common Fisheries Policy and to the regulation 1626/94. This regulation, which exclusively concerns the Mediterranean, regulates the minimum size of certain species, the technical characteristics of fishing gear and prohibits the use of some of them. Some

fishing gear makes an exception to the regulation and the EC has been asked to maintain the derogation. The Italian fishery policy is presently trying to promote management measures that limit the fishing effort and the closed season is part of such measures. The closed season consists of the interruption of two fishing activities, mid-water pair trawling and bottom trawling for a period of thirty consecutive days during the year, thus reducing the fishing days of the Italian fleet. The closed season is mandatory for the Italian fishing fleet of the Adriatic Sea. The policy of closed seasons is considered to function relatively well. The catch quota set by ICCAT for tuna is questioned as too low (10000-12000 tonnes of possible harvest against 5000 tonnes of quota allocated). For the renewal of the fleet, the rate for the construction of a new fishing vessel today is imposed by the EC at 130%. Therefore, to build a fishing vessel of 100 tonnes, it is necessary to demolish one of 130 tonnes.

47. As for the small pelagics fishery there is the problem in the number of boats coming from the South of Italy (Sicily or Apulia) that come to fish in the Central Adriatic. The problem is of commercial nature mainly for the aspects dealing with the logistics of boats, *i.e.* the harbours in which products are landed and the place in which they are sold as this affects the local markets. For small-scale coastal fishing the crises are only local and linked with pollution problems, algal blooms and mucilage occurrence. Bivalve mollusc fisheries are under stress because of an unexpected high mortality affecting the stocks. Lastly, the need to simplify the administrative procedures, the fishery legislation and more generally the bureaucracy, which is one of the main enemies of fishers, was mentioned.
48. The representative of the Albanian National Industrial Fishery Producers' Associations informed the participants that there has been a new association for one year. Presently, there is a total production from marine capture fisheries of about 10 000 tonnes per year, 40% of which are pelagics. He also outlined the status of the Albanian fishing fleet. Over the past ten years, the fishing fleet has doubled. The vessels (90% trawlers) have been bought in Italy and Greece to fish demersal species, which is what the market has requested. Iron fishing vessels built in Durrës and equipped with old engines from the former East Germany are disappearing. Ex-Italian vessels of size from 10 to 24 m (overall length) with good engines are more efficient and able to carry out fishing operations at 100-150 m in bottom depth. It would be useful if AdriaMed's statistical work on the Albanian fleet could also assist in identifying the possible size and proper categorisation of the fleet.
49. The Albanian participants wished to remark that in the last ten years the national fishing fleet has developed only on the basis of private initiatives and without any public support from either the State or international donors or institutions. Currently, the fleet is composed of old vessels, formerly state-owned vessels and second-hand vessels purchased from Italy and Greece. As a result, the safety-at-sea conditions are extremely critical for most of the fishing fleet. Another important consequence negatively affecting the resources is that the fleet is forced to fish in shallow coastal waters. Therefore, in order to improve the crews' safety at sea and the general working conditions, the renewal of the fishing fleet is emphasised as a high priority for Albania.

50. Among the many priority issues for the Albanian fishing sector, some could be indicated as follows: there is, as mentioned above, a need for fleet restructuring, and concerning the iron-decked vessels, the structuring plan should be well thought out through cooperative schemes (this will also help to reduce fishing pressure in shallow waters); better control of entry in the fishery, in terms of the number of vessels; a scheme should be established to subsidise fishing assets; subsidised items (*e.g.* fuel) should be harmonised among Adriatic countries. Moreover, it was emphasised that fishery management must be coordinated among countries otherwise management measures are ineffective. The AdriaMed Project needs to help in the transfer of technology through cooperation. The Project was also called to assist the purse seine fishery for small pelagics which has currently collapsed, and to support through specific action, small-scale artisanal and selective fishery.
51. The representative of Slovenian fishers informed the Meeting that there are only 130 fishers in the country for about 2500 tonnes of total production per year. One of the fishery management measures adopted by Slovenia is the closed fishing season. It is only since last year that a federation of all fishers exists. Nobody wants to become a fisher in Slovenia because the return is too low and there is a lack of young fishers and investment. Consequently, the number of fishers is decreasing and support from the state, through proper investment policy, is being sought to avoid the disappearance of this category. The support from AdriaMed is also expected to facilitate the change of attitude of the state and the resource users towards each other. In addition, expectations also stem from the foreseen joining of the EU.
52. The institutional aspects of the Fisheries Associations were discussed. The representative of the Association of Fisheries, Agriculture and Aquaculture (Croatian Chamber of Crafts and Trades) stated that the Croatian association includes representatives from coastal areas, particularly representing the small-scale fishery sector. The association is linked to the system of counties through seven county chambers. There are also associations of an inferior level as well as for recreational fisheries. As a usual procedure, the associations' views and conclusions of the meetings are sent to the relevant authorities at the Ministry. The overall objective is the betterment of the fishers' situation. It was reiterated that one of the main problems is the cost of fuel, a problem also shared by the Albanian colleagues. Recently, the associations lobbied the Government to subsidise fuel further.
53. The representatives of the Italian fishery cooperatives outlined the institutional aspects of the Italian fisheries association to the participants. The Italian fishery association is composed of about 1200 cooperatives specialised in fishing trade, services, technical assistance and research. Each association is structured through a network of peripheral offices aside from the main one. By means of this network, the state assigns a particular mandate of delegation, protection and promotion to the association. In Italy law 41/82 regulating fishery and aquaculture recognises this role of the associations and cooperatives.
54. All four associations have the same objectives, the differences lying mainly in cultural values. Since recent years, attempts have been made to federalise the associations. Based

on the law 41/82, associations participate in the committee on management, the scientific committee or the coordination of applied scientific research and the financial committee. The representatives of the cooperative associations are present in these committees. The associations have the mandate to promote management consortia such as those dealing with the exploitation of bivalve molluscs and with small-scale fisheries. The latter need to be promoted by the national associations, which act as guarantors for them.

55. The Italian associations also consist of unitary consortia to access financial credit schemes and EU subsidies and to benefit from applied research. In Bruxelles at the EC Headquarters, the associations are represented by the European associations EUROPECHE for fishery entrepreneurs, and COGECA for fishery cooperatives. These two associations are international federations of associations at EU level that are involved in various decision-making processes on a consultative basis. In conclusion, the Italian fishery associations have an institutional role which is *de facto* acknowledged, to some extent similar to the Spanish Cofradías and French Proud'hommies. Italian associations are requesting more delegating power such as that the Cofradías have, in terms of licence allocation or investment monitoring. Hence, it was concluded that although apparently very advanced, the Italian associations still have a very long to go way before achieving their objectives.
56. In Slovenia, there no organisation exists at national level, only one at regional level and small-scale fishery associations work on a volunteer basis. Presently, the association is part of the chamber of artisans. A commission that deals with fishery issues has been established which, in principle, should allow contact with the government authorities. There is only one expert responsible for the monitoring of the fishery resources. Non-professional fishers are still allowed and there are no schemes to control them. It is hoped that the chamber will foster contact with the relevant authorities so that problems may be solved.
57. The Albanian association representatives stated that there are two fishery associations at national level: Albania's professional fishers' associations established in 1997 and Albania's ship owners' associations created in 2000, involving traders, fishers and ship owners. It was commented that it is difficult to develop associations in view of past experience of socialist cooperatives. At the beginning of the nineties, the economical system was allowed to be changed. Finally, it became possible to create, even before the associations were established, relations at an official level with nearly all the relevant associations in Italy: AGCI Pesca, Legapesca, Federcoopescas, Federpesca. With AGCI Pesca there have been always good relations and with Legapesca a protocol of understanding between the two associations was established in 1998. In the federation of industrial producers, the entrepreneurs are members as well as fishers and traders. At present, the two associations include all the fishery sector in Albania. They cover both marine, lagoon, and inland fisheries. Individual fishers, those owning small cooperatives from the internal waters, particularly from three big, natural lakes that Albania shares with Montenegro and Macedonia, are also represented.

58. It was stated that it is now essential to consolidate the associations, institutionalise their role and then develop them. Currently, in Albania whether or not to amend the national law on fishery and aquaculture so to institutionalise the role of the associations is being discussed. It was also emphasised that the Albanian participants considered this meeting remarkably important for this is the very first initiative of this kind at the level of the whole Adriatic Sea involving the fishery associations of the coastal countries. It is hoped that a network of fishery associations will be established because only in this way can participation, collaboration and reinforcement of the Albanian associations be possible.
59. Following the above, the Chairman concluded that AdriaMed should be encouraged to continue to make an effort in promoting cooperation among associations.

Resource users' opinions of the current exploitation dynamics of the Adriatic Sea fishery resources (Agenda item n. 8)

60. The AdriaMed Project's focal point for Croatia expressed satisfaction for the meeting and underlined the importance of the meeting of producers at regional level. It was further commented that the fishers have a limited delegation. The attempt towards the joint assessment of resources, as pursued by the countries participating in the AdriaMed Project, was also emphasised. Concerning the social and economic aspects of the fishing sector it was observed that national statistics related to the current situation are not very satisfactory. It was also commented that useful data on the activity of the trawl fishery have been collected. Many more problems persist, *e.g.* gear selectivity and the need for harmonising technical measures.
61. It was underlined that fishing in the Adriatic Sea is largely based on common resources of which 13 species have been identified and agreed upon by the regional fishery scientists as constituting the main shared stocks (see Annex D). Another important point would be to have common closed fishing seasons for these shared stocks. More generally, it should be possible with the help of relevant agencies to monitor the exploitation better, using for example satellites for monitoring, control and surveillance. Among the issues related to the fishery resources, two were highlighted as of particular relevance: the need to identify management options for the important Pomo/Jabuka Pit, and the situation, particularly in the Eastern Adriatic, of the small pelagic fishery.
62. According to the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries of Split (Croatia) the biomass of small pelagics, particularly of sardine, has been declining. In this case several aspects must be considered. It is believed that this could be linked to a decrease in zooplankton which is part of the food of the pelagic resources. The importance of sardine fishery for Croatia was further commented by the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry who observed that there is a need for 300000 tonnes of small pelagics per year, half of which is required for tuna farming. The representative of Laboratory of Marine Biology and Fishery of Fano (Italy) added that over the last seventy/eighty years, the fishing history of small pelagics in the Adriatic has always shown high fluctuations of these species. A common trend regarding the alternation of the anchovy and sardine

population is an increase in the population of anchovies which indicates a decrease in the population of sardines. This fluctuation is the case not only for small pelagics but for other species as well.

63. The current situation of small pelagics in the Adriatic was discussed. A little over ten years ago, the anchovy population diminished greatly. This brought about a low population of anchovy in the Adriatic and thus a rise in cost. This crisis was not a result of fishing but was linked rather to ecological or environmental factors which caused a reduction of anchovy with the absence of two age groups. Therefore, this produced a serious crisis. The anchovy population remained years at quite a low abundance level for several and gradually recovered. Over the last three years, this recovery has accelerated. Today there is great abundance of anchovy, probably a greater abundance than the average quantity of the last thirty years. It can be found in fairly good quantities nearly anywhere. In general, the stock is composed of individuals whose size is not very large. Large-sized ones can be found only in the central part of the Adriatic or very far off the coast. Anchovy occurrence is remarkable, however, along coastal areas of Italy. Schools can be located with the echo-sounder and the nets lowered where desired and they will certainly fill up with medium-sized anchovy.
64. Sardines, on the other hand, were quite abundant about ten years ago. Sardines, having a commercial value that is notably inferior, at least in Italy, with respect to anchovy, are not of prime interest to the Italian fishers. Their interest lay primarily in anchovy. Sardines were only caught if there were sales contracts with France or Spain. They were then caught to be sold to industries abroad. Sardine stock was reported to have had a negative fluctuation, *i.e.* over the past years as the anchovy increased, the sardines tended to diminish. This observation does not indicate that they have disappeared, for the year 2001 the existence of reasonable quantities of sardines has been demonstrated along the Italian coast. These medium-sized sardines are not fished by anyone for there is no interest in catching them. In general, there has been a notably greater abundance of juvenile sardines in Apulia with respect to previous years. While there are some fishing areas of the Northern and Central Adriatic that lacked sardines, larger amounts can be found in the south. The fishing of sardines in the Adriatic should not be questioned as a particularly worrying situation caused by an on-going strong stock decrease. These fish are relatively mobile and show a migratory pattern. If they are not present in certain areas today, it is because they have moved even if they are less abundant than they were five years ago.
65. Reference was then made to a technical meeting of the AdriaMed working group on small pelagics held in Split (October 2000), in which it was observed that the quantity of the sardines fished with respect to the biomass which there could have been, was not such as to threaten the resource. The fundamental problem is that the fluctuation of the small pelagics does not depend on human activity or on fishing but rather on ecological factors present. Presently, sardines can be found more in the south, below the Gargano region, outside those areas that are perhaps usually accessible to fishers from the northern and mid-Adriatic. A cooperative relationship between Italian and Croatian fishers had been considered so as to verify the location of sardines, their size and the quantity of the catch.

The IOF representative, however, renewed her concern about the scarcity of sardine stock in the local fishing grounds.

Identification and discussion of common and priority issues around the Adriatic basin which can be conducted within the AdriaMed Project framework (Agenda item n.9)

66. The topics dealt with were summarised. The discussion focused on the issues previously raised by the fishery association representatives. The need of training for crew, motor mechanics, captains and master fishers in Albania was underlined. The establishment of an Adriatic fishery associations network was considered as an important step to be achieved.
67. The need for coordinated fishery management was reiterated by the AGCI Pesca representative. There should be a consideration for unique and harmonised management measures. There is need to promote a system of coordinating management policy at basin level. In the long term, there may be a need for an institutional (sub-regional) body. The Mediterranean regional institution is the GFCM. It is regarded as necessary to be represented in the GFCM at least as an observer. At the present time, the GFCM does not foresee the participation from national organisations. It is hoped that this Adriatic network could be a starting point for representation and the opportunity created by AdriaMed could serve as the regional context through which such instances might be brought forward.
68. All the participants of the meeting agreed on the necessity to have detailed base-knowledge available on the current fishery associations system and its functioning around the whole Adriatic region. Therefore AdriaMed was requested to consider the preparation of a review document which explains the role and function of the associations that should be used to promote institutional building in other countries.
69. Furthermore, a technical document to be used as a reference guide dealing with the technical management measures adopted by the various Adriatic countries would be useful. This would facilitate the understanding of which elements to harmonise.
70. An Adriatic fishery association network should contribute to encourage all governments to take measures against problems of pollution, such as the risk from hydrocarbon. For instance, measures could be taken to increase the security of transport of petrol or of harmful substances in the sea. Lastly, the need to dispose of common fishery management plans for migratory and shared stocks was observed.

Synthesis of the items discussed (Agenda item n. 10)

71. A Meeting Memorandum summarising the main subjects highlighted during the meeting was discussed and agreed upon by the participants. It is given in Annex G of this report.

Regional network of Adriatic resource users and their representatives (Agenda item n. 11)

72. It was concurred by the participants of the meeting that arrangements should be made in order to establish a network of the fishery associations of the Adriatic Sea. In order to ensure the initial flow of information within the network components as well as between the network and AdriaMed it was suggested that the existing national focal points of the Project should assist in facilitating the communication system.
73. It was proposed that one to two representatives from the fishery associations of each country should act as contact persons. The associations of the countries participating in AdriaMed will indicate the national contact persons.

Other matters (Agenda item n.12)

74. The participants were informed by the Secretariat that the final draft of the agreed Meeting Memorandum will be sent to each participant. A period of ten to fifteen days will be allotted to commentary. It will then be finalised, published and more widely distributed.
75. The FAO AdriaMed Project was thanked for organising the first encounter of this type. On behalf of all the participants, the Chairman regarded this reunion as an historical meeting where the majority of the Adriatic Sea countries were gathered. It was agreed that within one year, another meeting of this type would be held to review the progress achieved on the topics highlighted during the proceedings of this meeting. The attendance throughout the duration of the meeting, of the host country representative, the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, was acknowledged and appreciated by all the participants.

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Annex B: The speech of the Croatian Assistant Minister

Ladies and Gentlemen, guests of honour, dear colleagues and friends gathered together in the FAO AdriaMed Project!

It is a great honour and joy to greet all of you in the name of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Directorate of Fisheries. I wish you all a pleasant and productive stay in Split. Let me say something about the Croatian Sea and the present status of Croatian fisheries. I hope this will be my contribution to understand and communicate better, with mutual efforts, in a goal of appropriate utilisation of biological resources in the entire Adriatic Sea.

From the ancient times, the Republic of Croatia has been closely related to the Adriatic Sea which defined it as part of the European as well as the Mediterranean cultural environment. The sea is a treasure for each maritime country. It is a “granary” for coastal and insular inhabitants, saving and strengthening them in the years of crises, wars and other difficult times, which often occurred in this area. During hundreds of years, the inhabitants associated their destiny and survival with fish capture. Their fishery became and remains their way of life and particular way of thinking, a way not always understood by the local Government.

It is known to all that Croatians have made a large contribution to the development and advancing of fishery (Puratic and other innovations). We have been among the pioneers while introducing intensive fish farming in the Mediterranean since the seventies of last century. That is how the fishermen’s dream has become reality. They have got at least a theoretical alternative not to expose themselves to dangerous deep seas as their ancestors had done. Controlled breeding as an alternative or substitution of fish capture is occurring during a time of reducing bio-resources while supplementing and producing the renewal of natural stocks.

The present situation of Croatian fishery

Croatian fisheries, in both fresh and seawater, including aquaculture are confronted with numerous problems like production itself, socio-economic and ecological aspects. The cause for this condition can be connected with different circumstances: war or structural changes of countries in transition, and completely new ways of management and marketing.

During the last ten years, the Republic of Croatia has not been able to progress as was expected. The increase in fishing effort resulted in over-exploitation and, at the same time, a decreasing of demersal resources in particular. The migratory species renewal is especially jeopardised. In channels and the Inner Sea, where fishing gear is used, fish capture has been intensified, so, the juvenile fish are in great danger. Croatia is forced to think about it and to react very restrictively against fishery in channels and the Inner Sea and gradually to direct it to the open sea of the Adriatic.

The drastic decrease of pilchards was noticed in the first half of the year, and the processing industry was faced with huge problems. The decrease in fishery productivity of some species is more difficult to deal with due to the burden of the economic situation in the country, the competition, and the uneven position of fish products on the European market.

At the same time, aquaculture development was almost ignored, probably because of its unfavourable macroeconomic environment, without investing in it. So, Croatian aquaculture did not achieve expected affirmation, as that of Greece or Turkey did. Fortunately, we believe our natural geo-morphological, ecological and human potentials guarantee that Croatia will be able to progress in both fish and shellfish breeding. One of the brighter sides of Croatian fishery in recent times is the cage fattening of large pelagic fish – five-year long activities with tuna that are in full swing. This movement is a direct consequence of external investments following the growth of the Japanese “sushi and sashimi” market, although it is expected that stagnation of it may occur because of the strict limitations of juvenile tuna fishing. The most important significance in the development of aquaculture, besides economical reasons, will be its harmony with the natural environment and the co-ordination of activities in coastal and insular areas, as well as the highest level of ecological standards.

How to go further?

Strategic program worked out under The Government Strategy Development through 21st Century is based on controlled fishery to ensure long catch period, which means a responsible and rational approach to utilisation of the living treasure in the sea. As part of primary production, it will be stimulated through the renewal of fishing boats, infrastructure development, and encouragement of fishery associations, all measures in keeping with European standards. The realisation of the Project depends on the assumption that bio-resources will be strengthened through the permanent control and monitoring. The FAO AdriaMed Project is expected to be stimulating for bilateral and multilateral researching and monitoring programs and give its contribution to fishery industries of Adriatic Sea.

We are aware that further scientific efforts for deeper understanding of biotic and non-biotic factors in ecosystems are very important, including relationships of predator-prey, and, finally, inter and intra-species relations in the frame of small pelagic species (sardine, anchovy, sprat etc.). The increased understanding and interpretation of species' behaviour, as well as the effect of inappropriate fisheries upon biotic treasures, will finally have an effect upon fishery management options. Human activities in an attractive coastal area and their effect on the state of natural bio-resources renewal must be considered as well.

Place and role of the AdriaMed Project

Finally, with all our respect, we congratulate the place and role of the FAO-AdriaMed Project and research efforts of the Republic of Italy and their constant monitoring of small pelagic fish from the west coast to the continental line of the Adriatic Sea since 1976.

We are aware that their evaluations can be limited, especially in estimations of resource distribution, in terms of space and time fluctuations and of reproductive potential of defined

species population. We believe that these estimations and evaluations will be more accurate after parallel monitoring is introduced in the eastern Adriatic; so, we support this worthy initiative of the AdriaMed Project.

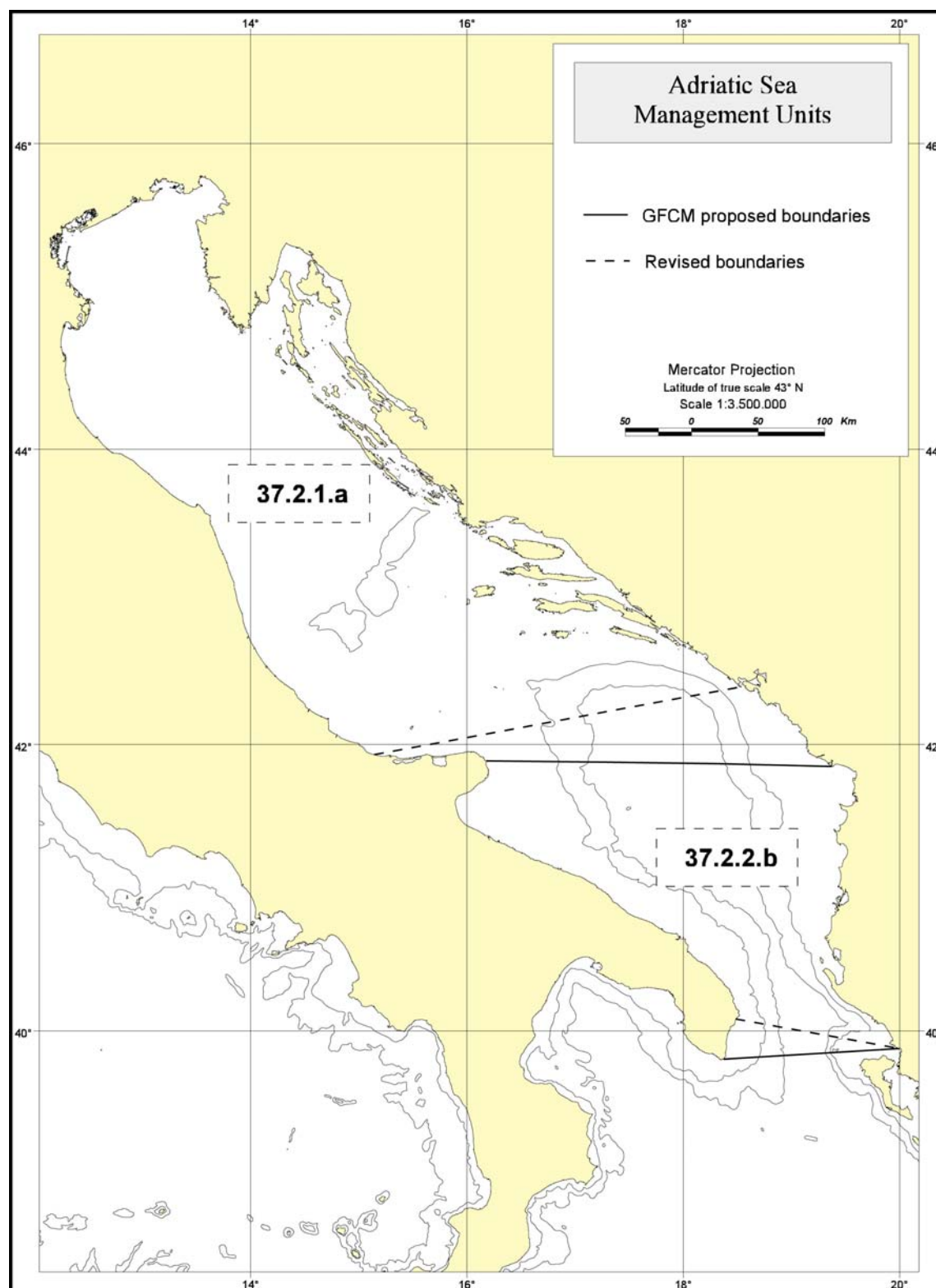
In addition, our urgent interest is to complete all necessary scientific studies which may increase our understanding of sudden and unexpected unusual changes of small pelagic fish stock, specially pilchard. We pointed out our interest for the future programmes that include causes for the decreasing population in the Adriatic Sea. We believe, that AdriaMed, in co-operation with the International Commission for Protection Atlantic Bluefin Tunas will do the best for better knowledge of natural stocks of these species in the Adriatic Sea. I wish that all countries directly involved will accept and develop research efforts in a direction of ecologically and socio-economically productive strategy of fishery management. I want the results of this Meeting to be of benefit to all of us, especially for fishermen and their families who are in close relation with the sea. When achieved, the goals of the AdriaMed Project will make a great contribution for the market and for consumers.

Dr.sc. Ivan Katavić, Assistant Minister
Directorate of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Annex C: Agenda

1. Greetings from the local authorities
2. Opening of the Meeting and election of the Chair and Co Chair
3. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Meeting
4. Objectives of the Meeting
5. A brief presentation of the AdriaMed Project and information to the participants on recent developments of the main activities
6. An appreciation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries by Adriatic resource users
7. A brief overview of the fishery sectors in each participating country from the fishery stakeholders' point of view
8. Resource users' opinions of the current exploitation dynamics of the Adriatic Sea fishery resources
9. Identification and discussion of common and priority issues around the Adriatic basin which can be conducted within the AdriaMed Project framework
10. Synthesis of the items discussed
11. Regional network of Adriatic resource users and their representatives
12. Other matters

Annex D: The Geographical Management Units of the Adriatic Sea



Map showing the boundaries of Adriatic Sea Management Unit 37.2.1.a and 37.2.2.b as originally indicated by the GFCM (solid line) and with the presently proposed revision (dotted line). (Source: AdriaMed. 2001. The geographical management units of the Adriatic Sea. Paper presented at the GFCM-SAC Working Group on Management Units, Alicante, 23rd 25th January 2001, GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-02. Also available from the Internet at <http://www.faoadriamed.org/pdf/OP-02.pdf>)

Annex E: Priority species whose stocks are shared in the Adriatic Sea

Relevant common species whose stocks are shared by at least two Adriatic countries (from AdriaMed Technical Document No. 02 and 03; also available from the Internet at http://www.faoadriamed.org/html/av_documents.asp)

- : common occurrence;
- : scarce;
- blank: negligible;

Species	Area of Occurrence		
	Northern Adriatic	Central Adriatic	Southern Adriatic
Geographical Management Unit	37.2.1.a		37.2.2.b
<i>Eledone cirrhosa</i>		●	●
<i>Eledone moschata</i>	●	●	○
<i>Loligo vulgaris</i>	●	●	●
<i>Lophius budegassa</i>	○	●	●
<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>		○	●
<i>Merlangus merlangus</i>	●	●	
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	●	●	●
<i>Mullus barbatus</i>	●	●	●
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	●	●	●
<i>Pagellus erythrinus</i>	●	●	●
<i>Parapeneus longirostris</i>		○	●
<i>Sepia officinalis</i>	●	●	●
<i>Solea vulgaris</i>	●	●	○

Species	Area of Occurrence		
	Northern Adriatic	Central Adriatic	Southern Adriatic
Geographical Management Unit	37.2.1.a		37.2.2.b
<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	●	●	●
<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	●	●	●
<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	●	○	
<i>Scomber scomber</i>	●	●	●

Annex F: Background and historical development of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

Background and historical development of the Code

Until the end of the Second World War, the general assumption was that fisheries resources were unlimited. Freedom of sea harvesting was the prominent rule. Massive investments in modern fishing fleets and development of sophisticated processing factories characterised the following three decades. While the socio-economic importance of fishery was slowly acknowledged, the international community entered into various rounds of negotiations to regulate access to resources. This finally led to the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in 1982. Concurrently, Government officials and fishery scientists from around the world admitted that it was not possible for fishing activities to expand without limits. At the end of the 80's clear signs of over-exploitation of important fish stocks, modification of ecosystems, significant economic losses, and international conflicts on management and fish trade threatened the long-term sustainability of fisheries. The fact that aquatic resources, though renewable, were finite and needed to be properly managed became a topic of global focus. It was increasingly recognised that fishery was becoming a market-driven sector of the food industry with demand growing faster than supply

Hence, FAO member States called for the development of new concepts recognising resource management needs. In 1992, an International Conference on responsible fishing was organised in Cancun, Mexico. Its results were brought the same year to the attention of the UNCED Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which supported the preparation of a Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The development of the Code was carried out by FAO in consultation and collaboration with relevant United Nations Agencies, inter-governmental organisations, non-governmental organisations and the fishing industry. The Code was adopted by the FAO Conference in October 1995. The Code is therefore a result of effort and a global consensus by many different groups on a wide range of issues.

In addition to the five FAO official languages, some governments, industry and other organisations have made unofficial translations of the Code into other languages, including Albanian, Croatian, Italian and Slovenian. The first six of the twelve Articles of the Code are general in nature, while the second set of Articles contains the specifics of the Code.

Nature, objectives and implementation

The nature and scope of the Code is described in its Article 1. The Code, which consists of a collection of principles, goals and standards for action, is voluntary and is global in scope. Because the Code is not mandatory (although some parts of it which refer to marine capture fisheries are based on relevant rules of international law), it is necessary to ensure that Governments, in cooperation with their industries and fishing communities, commit themselves to taking the relevant practical measures to implement the Code.

The objectives of the Code are dealt with in Article 2 which can be paraphrased as being to:

- establish principles for responsible fishery activities, taking into account all relevant biological, technological, economic, social, environmental and commercial aspects;
- establish principles and criteria for the elaboration of national policies for fisheries exploitation;
- serve as an instrument of reference to assist States to establish or improve the legal and institutional framework for responsible fisheries exploitation and in the formulation and implementation of appropriate measures;
- provide guidance which may be used where appropriate in the formulation and implementation of international agreements and other legal instruments, both binding and voluntary;
- facilitate and promote technical, financial and other co-operation in conservation of fish resources, management and development;
- promote the contribution of fish to food security and food quality, giving priority to the nutritional needs of local communities;
- promote the protection of living aquatic resources and their environments in coastal areas;
- promote the trade of fish and fishery products in conformity with relevant international rules and avoid the use of measures that constitute hidden barriers to such trade;
- promote research on fisheries, as well as on associated ecosystems and relevant environmental factors; and
- provide standards of conduct for all persons involved in the fisheries sector.

Article 3 concerns the relationships of the Code with other instruments and states that the Code is to be interpreted and applied in conformity with the relevant rules of international law. Article 4 of the Code concerns the implementation, monitoring and updating of the Code. *Inter alia*, it notes that all members and non-members of FAO, fishery entities and relevant sub-regional, regional and global organisations, whether governmental or non-governmental, and all persons concerned with the conservation, management and utilisation of fisheries resources and trade in fishery products should collaborate in the fulfilment and implementation of the objectives and principles contained in the Code.

It is not however explained exactly how fishers, industry and governments should take the necessary practical steps to do so. In practice, this will be most effectively achieved when governments, in close consultation with industry and other groups concerned, are able to incorporate standards of the Code into national fishery policies and legislation. In addition, governments should encourage fishing communities and industry to develop codes of good practice (or good behaviour) that are consistent with, and support, the purpose of the Code. FAO's role is to technically support activities undertaken for the application of the Code as well as monitor its effects on fisheries. In this respect, FAO is being requested to develop detailed guidelines¹ on a range of different topics. The purpose of these guidelines is to give

1. Technical guidelines already published cover: Fishing operations; Precautionary approach to capture fisheries and species introductions; Integration of fisheries into coastal management; Fisheries management; Aquaculture development; Inland fisheries; Responsible fish utilisation; and Indicators for sustainable development.

practical and technical advice to fishers, industry and fishery managers as to the steps that might be taken to ensure that the Code is implemented as it was intended. For issues of global concern requesting immediate action, FAO may also be required to promote the formulation of International Plans of Action (IPOAs). Hence, IPOAs have been adopted by FAO Members, in 1999, respectively: on the Management of fishing capacity; for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, and for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in longline fisheries. An IPOA to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU) was further adopted in 2001.

As the development of responsible fisheries policies requires finance, skills and experience that may not always be available in all countries, particularly developing countries, the special requirements of developing countries are therefore acknowledged under Article 5. The Code encourages international organisations such as FAO to assist these countries develop their national capacities in order to improve their ability to develop and manage sustainable fisheries.

The general principles of the Code are contained in Article 6 and may be summarised as follows:

- conserving living aquatic resources;
- conducting relevant research and collecting appropriate data;
- applying the precautionary approach;
- maintaining the nutritional value, quality and safety of fishery products during harvesting, processing and distribution, reducing wastes and minimising negative impacts on the environment;
- protecting (and rehabilitating where necessary) ecosystems such as wetlands, mangroves, reefs, lagoons, nursery and spawning areas;
- taking into account the multiple uses of coastal zones and integrating fisheries into coastal area management, planning and development;
- conducting international trade in fishery products in accordance with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement and other relevant international agreements;
- resolving disputes in a timely, peaceful and co-operative manner;
- promoting awareness of responsible fisheries through the education and training of fishers and involving them in the policy formulation and implementation process, as well as the implementation of the Code itself;
- providing safe, healthy and fair working conditions for fish workers;
- promoting transparent decisions through information, consultation and eventually co-management;
- protecting the rights of fish workers, as well as those involved in subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisheries, to a secure and just livelihood; and
- ensuring that resources are used responsibly and that adverse impacts on the environment are minimised, in order that fisheries provide a means to promote diversification of income and diet.

The specifics of the Code

The specifics of the Code are contained in Articles 7 to 12, covering respectively the following topics: fisheries management; fishing operations; aquaculture development; integration of fisheries into coastal area management; post-harvest practices and trade; and fisheries research. These articles describe how fisheries should be managed responsibly, how fishing operations as well as the development of aquaculture should be conducted. They also address, the linking of fisheries with other coastal zone activities, and the processing and selling of the catch.

The importance of countries cooperating with one another in all aspects of fisheries is particularly emphasised under each of these articles. Where cooperation among countries in fishery conservation and management is unavoidable because fishery resources are shared among countries, the Code calls for new regional fishery organizations to be established or for existing organizations to be strengthened. It is further stressed that management measures taken by one country should be compatible with similar measures adopted by other countries particularly when they fish the same stocks. Moreover, cooperation through regional institutions should reduce the likelihood of countries becoming involved in fisheries disputes. But when disputes do arise, every effort should be made to settle them as quickly as possible and in a peaceful manner.

Collaboration in fisheries management should however encompass all parties concerned. Indeed, responsible fisheries management implies attempting to accommodate the interests of a wide range of parties who often represent competing, or even conflicting interests. It also implies the recognition that the efficiency and potential for implementation of management measures are often highly dependent on the support gained from the interested parties.

Drawing upon article 7.1.6 of the Code, it is recognised that in many situations (particularly at local, national and sub-regional levels), it will be necessary to rely on various collaborative arrangements or mechanisms which formally recognise the sharing of fisheries management responsibility and accountability between a fisheries management authority and institutions either public (such as local level government) or private (such as fishers associations) as an alternative to locating the entire set of responsibilities within line government structures only. This may entail building proven capacity for self-governance, self-regulation and active participation at the level of the interested parties concerned. In the context of international (or regional) fisheries, the Technical Guidelines (Fisheries Management) to the Code further suggest that it may be in the interests of responsible fisheries that industry advisors formally attend meetings of fisheries Organizations or arrangements.

However, within the fisheries management planning process, care must be taken to evaluate case by case which type of partnership arrangement is likely to yield the desired long-term returns. This decision should be based on criteria such as the potential for: greater reliability and accuracy of data and information; more suitable and effective regulations; enhanced acceptability of and compliance with management measures; reduced enforcement costs; reduced conflicts; and strengthened commitment by interested parties.

More generally, throughout the Code, countries are invited to ensure that their policies and fishing operations be designed with a view to achieving long-term sustainable use of fish resources, as a means of assuring resource conservation, continued food supplies and alleviating poverty in fishing communities. When developing fisheries policies, it is important to consider a number of issues; these include, among other things, assessing the costs and benefits of fishing and its likely environmental and social impacts. It also requires establishing a sound scientific basis upon which decisions are being taken. Therefore, countries should make research facilities available, join together in international research for shared stocks. Fishing and supporting scientific information should be provided to regional fishery organisations and outputs should be made available to all interested parties, in a transparent manner. In the absence of adequate scientific information, countries should act more cautiously in setting fishing limits.

The Code also insists on the need to conduct fishing and fish processing in ways that minimise negative impacts on the environment, reduce waste, and preserve the quality of fish caught. This implies, among other things, ensuring that only authorised fishing vessels operate in their waters and that detailed records of the vessels that fish beyond a country's own waters be monitored, including that these vessels are issued with appropriate certificates and are allowed to fish in international waters. It further implies that harbours and landing places be safe havens, have facilities for servicing vessels, vendors and fish buyers, and that methods of processing, transporting and storing fish be environmentally sound. Post-harvest losses and waste after fish is caught should be minimal; by-catch should be utilised as much as possible. Where possible, the production of higher-valued or processed products should be encouraged because such products usually bring higher prices for the fishers.

Finally, it is advocated that Trade laws governing fish and fish products should be simple, clear, and consistent with international rules. Fishers, environmental organisations and consumer groups should be consulted as countries periodically formulate and review their trade laws and regulations. Moreover, trade in fish and fish products should not undermine the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries.

Annex G: Memorandum on common and priority topics

Memorandum on common and priority topics highlighted during the discussion of the Meeting

The representatives of the fisheries associations of the Adriatic Sea recognized the high relevance of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and strongly supported all efforts towards its implementation, also underlying the role of the fishery resource users as stipulated in the Code.

The Meeting agreed that all efforts have to be made towards the coherence of the fishery management strategies and measures, as well as environmental policies, adopted at basin level.

After having outlined the organizational structure of each country's fisheries associations, functioning and role, and underlining that the national authorities should coordinate fisheries management policies, it was also regarded as necessary for the representative of the associations to establish appropriate mechanisms to develop common positions through cooperation. One of the expected outcome of such cooperation would be the reinforcement of the capacity of each individual association.

The participants at the Meeting considered the establishment of a regional network of the Adriatic Sea fishery associations as a priority step. The regional network could foster and strengthen the presence of fisheries resource users in relevant international fora, notably the GFCM. As a result, the AdriaMed Project was called upon to support the establishment of such a network and its activities. The possibilities of organizing a meeting of the network at least once a year was also considered.

The Meeting thus identified the following as initial activities to be taken into consideration:

- A document describing the characteristics, nature and scope of national fishery associations of the Adriatic Sea.
- A document reviewing the technical measures of the existing national fishery management and taking into account pertinent EU regulations so as to assess the area for harmonization.

Promoting cooperative pilot interventions in such fields as:

- optimising the exploitation of small pelagic resources.
- artisanal fishery, through specific actions such as those foreseen for the critical area of the Pomo/Jabuka Pit and selected sites in Albania, by assessing the techno-economic suitability of selective fishing methods.

The execution of training and seminars on:

- the organizational systems in support of co-management
- the organization of fishing enterprise/companies and associations (cooperatives, *e.g.* fish market network)
- safety at sea

- crew training (the captain, motor mechanic, etc)

The Project was requested to consider the ways of implementing these activities. The fishery associations of the Adriatic Sea will be informed of the relevant progress through the network.

List of AdriaMed Publications

A. Technical Documents

Massa, F., Mannini, P. (eds). 2000. Report of the First Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-01: 64 pp.

AdriaMed. 2000. Priority Topics Related to Shared Demersal Fishery Resources of the Adriatic Sea. Report of the First Meeting of the AdriaMed Working Group on Shared Demersal Resources. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-02: 21 pp.

Mannini, P., Massa, F., and Milone, N. (eds). 2001. Priority Topics Related to Small Pelagic Fishery Resources of the Adriatic Sea. Report of the First Meeting of the AdriaMed Working Group on Small Pelagic Resources. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-03. *AdriaMed Technical Documents*, 3: 92 pp.

AdriaMed. 2001. Report of the Second Meeting of the AdriaMed Coordination Committee. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-04. *AdriaMed Technical Documents*, 4: 41 pp.

AdriaMed. 2001. Socio-economic aspects of the Adriatic Sea fisheries. Report of AdriaMed Meeting on Socio-Economic Aspects of the Adriatic Sea Fishery Sector. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-05. *AdriaMed Technical Documents*, 5: 54 pp.

AdriaMed. 2002. Adriatic Fishery Associations – First AdriaMed Meeting. Shoqatat e Peshkimit ne Adriatik-Takimi i Pare i AdriaMed-it. Jadranske ribarske udruge – Prvi sastanak AdriaMed-a. Associazioni della Pesca in Adriatico – Primo Meeting di AdriaMed. Jadranska ribiška združenja – Prvo srečanje v okviru AdriaMed-a. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/TD-06. *AdriaMed Technical Documents*, 6: 168 pp.

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B. AdriaMed Translations

AdriaMed (Botim.). 2000. Përkthim në shqip i Kodit të FAO-s të Drejtimit për një Peshkim të Përgjegjshëm. GCP/RER/010/ITA/AT-01 40f. (Albanian Translation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, 1995).

AdriaMed (Izdavac). 2000. Hrvatski prijevod FAO Kodeks Odgovornog Ribarstva. GCP/RER/010/ITA/AT-02 38str. (Croatian Translation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, 1995).

C. AdriaMed Occasional Papers

AdriaMed. 2000. AdriaMed seminar on the preparation of the AdriaFISH project component (Adriatic Fishery Information System). FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-01: 12 pp.

AdriaMed. 2001. The geographical management units of the Adriatic Sea. Paper presented at the GFCM-SAC Working Group on Management Units (Alicante, 23rd-25th January 2001). FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-02: 12 pp.

Ungaro, N., Vrgoč, N., and Mannini, P. 2001. The biology and stock assessment of *Merluccius merluccius* (L.) in the Adriatic Sea: an historical review by geographical management units. Paper presented at the GFCM-SAC Working Group on Demersal Species (Tunis, 13th -16th March 2001). FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-03: 15 pp.

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Cingolani, N., and Santojanni, A. 2002. Manual of the Recorder. AdriaMed Training Course on Data Collection and Biological Sampling System on Small Pelagics. FAO-MiPAF Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. GCP/RER/010/ITA/OP-06. *AdriaMed Occasional Papers*, 6: 40 pp.