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***Minutes of the MAREMED Seminar  
on Fisheries  
Tuesday 17 January 2012 AJACCIO***

Attendees:

**Giuseppe SCIACCA** Senior Policy Officer, Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR)

**Laura GAGLIARDINI** Attività ittiche e fauna istico-venatorie, Marche Region

**Uriano MECONI** Integrated maritime policy cohesion policy, Marche Region

**Roberto DONEDDU** Dirigente assessorato agricoltura e riforma agropastorale, Sardinia Region

**Monica ANDREOU** European Projects Department, Larnaca District Development Agency, Cyprus

**Francesco IACOMETI** Integrated Maritime Policy & Cohesion Policy, Tuscany Region

**Tsoukala AIKATERINI** Environment & Planning Department, Crete Region

**Daphnée VOLTIRAKI** Environment & Planning Department, Crete Region

**Corine LOCHET** service mer, PACA Region (Project Leader)

**Laurent ESCAFFRE** service mer, PACA Region

**Rémi BELLIA** Association Marco Polo, Echanger autrement, PACA Region

**Sylvia AGOSTINI** Université de Corse

**Mathieu DAUSSET** Préfecture de Corse

**Philippe PERONNE** Directeur mer et littoral

**Gérard ROMITI** Président du Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Elevages Marins de Corse

**Jessica DIJOUX** Directrice du Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Elevages Marins de Corse

**Coralie DUCHAUD** Secrétaire du Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Elevages Marins de Corse

**Antoine FERACCI** Vice-président de l'Office de l'Environnement de la Corse

**Jean-Noël LIVRELLI** Responsable du département soutien aux activités de pêche et d'aquaculture et gestion de la ressource halieutique, Office de l'Environnement de la Corse

**Jean-Paul FAUX** Responsable adjoint du département soutien aux activités de pêche et d'aquaculture et gestion de la ressource halieutique, Office de l'Environnement de la Corse

**Marie-Catherine SANTONI** Responsable d'unité du département parc marin international des Bouches de Bonifacio, Office de l'Environnement de la Corse

**Annie SUSINI** Assistante du département programmes communautaires, Office de l'Environnement de la Corse

**Thomas LANIESSE** Apprenti du département soutien aux activités de pêche et d'aquaculture et gestion de la ressource halieutique Office de l'Environnement de la Corse

**Alexandra NARDINI** Assistante du département soutien aux activités de pêche et d'aquaculture et gestion de la ressource halieutique, Office de l'Environnement de la Corse

Ms **Corine Lochet** gave a brief presentation of the MAREMED project. This project brings together thirteen regions from five countries in addition to the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) and focuses on six themes (governance, integrated coastal zone management (ICZM), adaptation to climate change, data management, pollution and fisheries). For each of these themes, she outlined the strategy and listed the pilot actions. For fisheries, these are:

- Management plans for fisheries areas;
- Partnership with CPMR to promote the vision of Mediterranean Regions with regard to the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP);
- Highlighting the existing link between fisheries related issues and ICZM (planned seminar);
- The desire to produce a methodological guide to implementing management plans in fisheries areas;
- Creation of a database on protected fisheries areas;
- Diversification of fishing activities including in particular *pescatourism* and the project to set up a Mediterranean-wide booking centre.

Ms **Laura Gagliardini** outlined the state of play of the MAREMED fisheries working group. Firstly, she recalled the objectives of the questionnaire on the diagnosis of the fishing sector (which consisted in determining how maritime policy is being applied in the regions and in providing the Commission with information in order to adapt the CFP to the characteristics of the Mediterranean fleet). A detailed presentation of the results for each Region provided facts and figures on the number/size of vessels, fishing areas, protected areas, the volume of catches, management plans, and progress of Axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund, etc.

The main findings showed that geographic maps with data from each region allowed for a better visualisation and enhanced image of the fishing sector in MAREMED Regions. Few "guidelines" can be drawn from the management plans; regarding ICZM only four regions have a good level of consultation, and few studies and experiments exist (only one currently in effect); the implementation of Axis 4 was still in progress so it was difficult to estimate its impact.

Mr **Uriano Meconi** gave details of a pilot action for regional management plans led by the MAREMED fisheries working group. After recalling the characteristics of the Mediterranean Sea, he demonstrated the importance of management plans in conserving viable fish stocks (Regulation EC No 2371/2002). In addition, management plans involve fishermen, are part of the "bottom-up" strategy, allow self-regulation, are adapted to specific local circumstances and place emphasis on territorial governance (fishermen, local authorities, researchers, etc.).

To illustrate his point, he gave the example of a management plan implemented in his Region that has contributed significantly to repopulating a bivalve mollusc.

Emphasis was placed on technical measures in the plans, in particular limiting the fishing effort (techniques used; nets/mesh sizes), temporary laying-up, quotas on fishing licenses, and the creation of protected marine areas with a ban on fishing in the most sensitive areas.

In light of the replies given by MAREMED regions to the questionnaire with regard to management plans, he stressed that these plans concern the national level, that they are applied in territorial waters and concern one system of fishing. Controls are carried out by the relevant local authorities and satellite systems.

Finally, he proposed that this pilot project should be implemented in two phases:

Phase 1: development and integration of data (target species and maximum sustainable yield by species), more specific questions to the MAREMED partners on their regional plans and ex ante, on-going and ex post evaluation of the impacts of these plans.

Phase 2: preliminary study of existing plans in the Mediterranean and exchanges of experience between MAREMED partners involving both local actors and researchers. This would be followed by

the development of guidelines for the establishment of a management plan applicable in the Mediterranean.

To carry out this pilot action, he proposed a calendar from January to June 2012.

Mr. **Giuseppe Sciacca** presented the draft MAREMED policy position on the new structural fund for fisheries 2014/2020 known as the European Fisheries and Maritime Fund (EMFF). It has a total budget of €6.567 billion (including €5.52 billion in shared management for the sustainable development of fisheries, aquaculture, fisheries dependent areas, data control and collection; and €1.047 billion in direct management for Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Marine Spatial Planning, etc.). It was pointed out that a significant portion of funding is earmarked for data collection and controls (€835 million or 15.13% of the shared management budget).

The EMFF proposes a common strategic framework for the various structural funds (to simplify administration and reduce associated costs), national operational programmes, a focus on employment, territorial cohesion, innovation, competitiveness, scientific knowledge for aquaculture and fisheries as well as data collection and controls.

However, a number of negative aspects regarding this document have been highlighted, in that it does not fully meet the needs of Mediterranean specificities in terms of small-scale coastal fishing. For example, it encourages diversification without helping young people to set up in the business. It focuses on innovation, but this will not be sufficient for a balanced and integrated development of fishing areas. For this, there is a need to modernise vessels: firstly, in order to maintain the economic viability of businesses as well as safety standards, and secondly, to reduce the impact on fish stocks and the marine environment.

Regarding governance, the MAREMED partners regret the non-existent role of the Regions in implementing the EMFF (no consultation as to their needs and local policies, no contribution towards drawing up and delivering operational programmes).

To conclude, Mr **Giuseppe Sciacca** listed the different Articles of the EMFF on which MAREMED regions have expressed their disapproval. These include:

- Art. 13, no aid for decommissioning of fleets, temporary cessation of activities, transfer of ownership, modernisation and construction of vessels and experimental fishing.
- Art. 32 which proposes that fishermen convert entirely to another activity.
- Art. 33 which fails to meet the expectations of the sector in terms of health and safety on board.
- Art. 34 insofar as transferable fishing concessions are difficult to apply in the Mediterranean.
- Art. 35, 36 and 37 which are certainly interesting but do show some limitations, mainly the fact that support will only be granted once during the 5-year programming period for the same type of equipment.
- Art. 39 announcing the cessation of aid for the replacement or modernisation of engines.
- Art. 40 on the discards ban and the obligation to land all catches, which will be very difficult to apply in the Mediterranean.
- Art. 43 to 57 on aquaculture, which has been given a reasonably substantial budget with emphasis on offshore and non-food farms. It is nevertheless regretted that measures concerning public health and insurance for farms do not fall within a broader framework covering pollution and adaptation to climate change.
- Art. 58 to 67 concerning the sustainable development of fisheries dependent areas, in that the Regions are involved neither in developing nor implementing this. Support for diversification is appreciated, though pescatourism activity remains difficult to implement due to very restrictive regulations.
- Art. 68 to 72, notably inappropriate storage aid and a lack of measures to address market changes arising from the maximum sustainable yield model (MSY).

In turn, Mr **Roberto Doneddu** expressed his views regarding the needs of island fishing and the EMFF, emphasising in particular the fact that funding for fisheries dependent areas would be high. This type of action is not implemented in the same way depending on the region, because there are significant disparities in terms of the actors in each country. There is no real common denominator to all Local Actor Groups (LAG). In addition, management of this financial instrument leads to substantial administrative burden. Moreover, a significant amount is allocated to innovation and science. He emphasised the importance of the long-term vision, which is not only dependent on a budget but more on the intelligence of actors who need to fit into a competitive environment to manage their specific characteristics. Finally, he highlighted the challenges of the Maritime Strategic Planning for the development of island economies.

Finally Mr **Rémi Bellia**, Ms **Alexandra Nardini** and Mr **Uriano Meconi** presented a report on pescatourism and "*Ittiturismo*" in their respective regions, namely Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Corsica and Marche. Generally speaking, there appear to be regulatory difficulties, particularly with regard to the safety of vessels and passengers.

**In conclusion, it is important to note that the comments raised by Mr Giuseppe Sciacca on the European Fisheries and Maritime Fund (EMFF) were broadly approved by all participants during the debates.**

**Indeed, the objective of the seminar was to discuss issues related to this new programming period 2014/2020 for fisheries and to voice the concerns of our Mediterranean fisheries that characterise us and are so unique.**

**The timing of the seminar was perfect in relation to the European agenda, since a meeting organised jointly by the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions and MAREMED was to take place on 1st February 2012 in Brussels. This meeting would provide an opportunity to put forward within the European Parliament the conclusions of the present working session in relation to the proposed EMFF regulation.**

With all the items on the agenda having been discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45p.m.