



Logo MarInA-Med



SAVE THE DATE

CAPITALISATION SEMINAR #1

DATE: 29th 30th October 2014
Venue: Termoli (IT)

What Future for Fisheries in the Adriatic-Ionian Basin?

Dear Colleagues,

Over the last twenty years, the lack of statistical data, the persistence of illegal fishing practices, the increase in marine pollution phenomena as well as overfishing represented, and still represent, the main obstacles to the sustainable exploitation of fish stocks in the Adriatic-Ionian basin.

Aiming to reverse the current trend in marine resources degradation, the new European Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) has aimed to provide concrete answers to these threats by promoting more sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture sectors. The CFP entered into force on 1 January 2014, and is the result of five years of heavy discussions and negotiations between the European Commission, the Member States, the European Parliament, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and representatives of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. Consequently, the forthcoming months are of paramount importance in order to assess if - and the extent to which - the CFP will be able to achieve its goals of sustainability from an economic, social, and environmental point of view.

The Adriatic-Ionian basin is a maritime zone of strategic importance for the assessment of the "socio-economic and environmental impacts" of the Common Fisheries Policy. Indeed, a wide range of capture activities exist in the Adriatic-Ionian basin. Fishing is multi-specific and is characterised by activities that involve the use of various tools, including small-scale artisanal fisheries, demersal trawling and pelagic fishing at mid-height, as well as recreational fishing.

Furthermore, for most of the States and the Regions bordering the Adriatic-Ionian basin, fishing and aquaculture represent two strategic economic sectors ensuring economic recovery and new jobs at territorial levels. With regard to this last point, it is worth underlining that fisheries and aquaculture are covered by the main thematic pillars of the Adriatic-Ionian macro-regional action plan, recently published by the European Commission.

In such a context, the seminar *"What Future for Fisheries in the Adriatic-Ionian Basin?"* aims at creating



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an informal platform bringing together the key stakeholders in charge of shaping, financing, and implementing fisheries and aquaculture policies across the Adriatic-Ionian basin. This informal platform represents the first step of a technical and political follow-up of the CFP. It also should lead to the setting-up of a win-win approach built on a concrete dialogue addressing the European Commission (DG MARE and DG ENVIRONMENT), the European Parliament (PECH Committee), Regional and national governments, representatives of the fisheries sector, NGOs, scientists, as well as members of territorial cooperation projects dealing with fishing, aquaculture and environmental issues.

During the seminar debates on the content of the CFP, participants will take turns presenting examples of best practice (e.g. sustainable fishing practices, tourism activities related to fishing, co-management of marine protected areas, etc.) In addition, an interactive session will be developed by representatives of the MED-IAMER project with the aim to validate the methodology behind the exercise of analysing the environmental status of the waters of the Adriatic-Ionian Basin.

Finally, aiming to enhance the development of an integrated Maritime Policy in the Adriatic-Ionian basin, the seminar will cover the theme of EU cross-border and transnational cooperation. In this context, dialogue with non-EU Member States will be ensured through the participation of the members of the Fisheries Committee of the Euro-Adriatic-Ionian Region.

The seminar "*What Future for Fisheries in the Adriatic-Ionian Basin?*" will be organised with the financial support of the European Commission in the framework of the projects COM & CAP MARINA-MED (MED programme 2007-2013) and ADRIGOV (IPA programme 2007-2013).



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