

IS THERE A NEED FOR A MEDITERRANEAN INTEREST GROUP?

Jean Collins
FAO Fisheries Library
Bibliothèque des Pêches de la FAO

For following reasons:

The main living aquatic resources of the majority of North African countries are those of the Mediterranean Sea. When they look at fisheries - the North African countries don't look South to the desert and sub-Saharan Africa, they look North;

Regional fisheries / aquatic sciences bodies e.g., COPEMED, GFCM, CIESM, etc. involve several Mediterranean countries so there are ties between the scientists and institutions of these countries - it makes sense that the libraries should also collaborate.

Maybe we should think more of ecosystems than geopolitical borders, and the Mediterranean is an important ecosystem.

UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan <www.unepmap.org/>

The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) strives to protect the environment and to foster development in the Mediterranean Basin. It was adopted in Barcelona, Spain in 1975 by 16 Mediterranean States and the EC, under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Its legal framework comprises the Barcelona Convention adopted in 1976 and revised in 1995, and six Protocols covering specific aspects of environmental protection.

Since its adoption by all Mediterranean states and the EC, the Action Plan has served as the basis for the development of a comprehensive, environment and development programme in the region involving the Mediterranean coastal states, specialized organizations of the United Nations system, Intergovernmental and Non-governmental Programmes and Organizations. MAP covers coastal zone management, pollution assessment and control, protection of ecosystems and preservation of bio-diversity. In 1995, it was revised to become more action-oriented and an instrument for sustainable development in the region.

The Member States of CIESM <www.ciesm.org/>

CIESM (Commission Internationale pour l'Exploration Scientifique de la mer Méditerranée)

Launched in 1910, CIESM (International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea) is one of the oldest and most enduring scientific intergovernmental organisations in the world. The Commission is currently funded by 22

Member States which support the work of a large scientific network - some 500 institutes and over 2500 researchers - united by a commitment to promote marine science for the lasting protection of the Mediterranean Sea and for the well-being of its coastal populations.

Illustrated CIESM Guide of Marine Research Institutes : discover 79 stations in 21 countries around the Mediterranean and Black seas.

<www.ciesm.org/resources/marin.html>

COPEMED <www.ua.es/copemed/en/index.htm>

The objectives of FAO **COPEMED** Project are the advice, technical support and establishment of cooperation networks to facilitate coordination to support fisheries management in the Mediterranean

COPEMED area covers the Western and Central sub-regions of the Mediterranean. Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Malta, Italy, France and Spain have adhered to the Project

La zone d'intervention de **COPEMED** couvre les sous-régions Occidentale et Centrale de la Méditerranée. Le Maroc, l'Algérie, la Tunisie, la Libye, Malte, l'Italie, la France et l'Espagne y ont adhéré.

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

<www.fao.org/fi/body/rfb/GFCM/gfcm_home.htm>

Established: 1949 - International agreement under aegis of FAO (Article XIV of FAO Constitution), amended in 1997

Headquarters: Rome (Italy)

Membership: Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Community, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Romania, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Yugoslavia

Area of competence: Mediterranean, Black Sea and connecting waters

Main functions: To promote the development, conservation and management of living marine resources; to formulate and recommend conservation measures; to encourage training cooperative projects.

Commission générale des pêches pour la Méditerranée (CGPM) (anciennement Conseil général des pêches pour la Méditerranée)

Création: 1949 - Accord international sous l'égide de la FAO (article XIV de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO), modifié en 1997

Siège: Rome (Italie)

Composition: Albanie, Algérie, Bulgarie, Croatie, Chypre, Égypte, Espagne, Communauté européenne, France, Grèce, Israël, Italie, Japon (depuis avril 1997), Liban, Libye, Malte, Monaco, Maroc, Roumanie, Syrie, Tunisie, Turquie, Yougoslavie

Zone de compétence: Méditerranée, mer Noire et eaux les reliant

Fonctions principales: Favoriser le développement, la conservation et la gestion des ressources marines vivantes; formuler et recommander des mesures de conservation; favoriser les projets coopératifs de formation.

Note:

The planned Mediterranean Special Interest Group Discussion Session did not take place due to attendance and logistical problems, but during the course of the Conference the Discussion Chair, Jean Collins, did have informal discussions with various participants from Mediterranean and other North African countries, who generally showed enthusiasm for taking the concept forward. Discussions will therefore continue via email during the coming months. Background information relating to this initiative can be obtained from Jean Collins: jean.collins@fao.org.

