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## BOOK of ABSTRACTS

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## USING DECISION SUPPORT TOOLS FOR ECOSYSTEM-BASED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

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**ABSTRACT:** The Decision Support Framework (DSF) is a pragmatic planning process for moving towards an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management developed within the FP7 project Mare Frame (“Co-creating Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management Solutions”). Mare Frame covers seven case studies, one of which is focused on the Black Sea turbot. Turbot (*Psetta maxima maeotica* Pallas, 1814) is a highly valuable commercial species for the Black Sea fisheries, which has been subjected to severe decline in recent decades. The main reason for the decline appears to be overfishing, in particular due to Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, but the stock development has also been adversely affected by environmental change (including eutrophication and invasive species). Recent assessments of the turbot stock have been based on different assumptions about stock structure, but reach similar conclusions, namely that the stock is subjected to highly unsustainable fishing pressure and is in need of a recovery plan. The case study is based on the assumption that the western stock of turbot can be regarded separate stock, fished by Ukraine, Bulgaria and Romania (Shlyakhov, 2014). The turbot case study associates itself with the ongoing General Fisheries Commission for The Mediterranean (GFCM) initiative to develop a management plan common for the Black Sea stocks. The operational objectives for the case study are therefore obtained from this initiative, aiming to counteract direct and indirect overfishing in order to ensure the sustainable economic viability of fisheries. Stakeholders are cooperating with Mareframe researchers to propose a management plan. The process includes the following steps: 1) Identify management problem(s); 2) Identify objectives and indicators;