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ABSTRACT BOOK



Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Solutions for European Fish Stocks

M. Golumbeanu, T. Zaharia, G. Radu, V. Maximov, M. Nenciu

NIRDEP - National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa", 300 Mamaia Blvd., RO-90058, Constanta, Romania

Abstract: A new EC-funded research and technological development project was launched in 2014, which aims at removing the barriers preventing a more widespread use of the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management: "Co-creating Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management Solutions" (acronym: MareFrame).

The main objective of MareFrame is to significantly increase the use of ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management (EAFM) when providing advice relating to European fish stocks. This can be achieved through the development of new tools and technologies, development and extension of ecosystem models and assessment methods, and development of a decision support framework that can highlight alternatives and consequences; all in close collaboration with the stakeholders in the co-creation processes.

The project addresses important issues within the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the Habitat Directive (HD).

MareFrame contributes to the EAFM by developing options for supporting and maintaining a balanced marine community, incorporating the socio-economic components. The project will also develop innovative visualisation tools, using 3D gaming technology, and develop innovative learning simulations to communicate scientific results and management scenarios and raise public awareness towards the conservation of biodiversity.

The Project Coordinator and Administrative Manager of MareFrame is Matis ofn., a public commercial food research company from Iceland engaged in food research, innovation and safety to increase the value of food through research, development, dissemination of knowledge and consultancy. The consortium comprises 30 partners and includes established RTD organisations with expertise in fishery science, including ecosystem modelling, model testing and assessment expertise, economics and social science and experienced leadership from 14 countries (Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Poland, United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, Romania, Norway, Iceland, South Africa, Australia, Canada & New Zealand).

Keywords: ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, ecosystem models, assessment methods, innovative visualisation tools, conservation of biodiversity