

MEETING REPORT

**EnviEFH 1st Participant Working Meeting
 Iraklion Crete, Greece, March 13 -15, 2006**

Working Meeting Agenda

15-20' Coffee Discussions: 11:00 and 16:00 – Lunch Breaks: 13:00-15:00 – Dinners: 20:30

Monday March 13

Project Presentation	9:30..	Intro to the project, presentation of each site with initial reference on data/methods/species that are planned to be mapped
Study Sites		
Data/Methods	..13:00	
Deliverables	15:00..	Intro to deliverables, assembly of material for D1-D4 draft reports, presentation of D5-D6
Finalization of D1-D4		
Discussion on D5-D6	..18:00	

Tuesday March 14

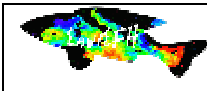
Demersals	9:30..	Detailed discussion on which species, which life stages and how will they be mapped for each study site (also, inclusion of existing data/maps, works already completed, etc). -Already prepared EFH maps to be presented-
Small Pelagics		
Large Pelagics		
Crustaceans		
Cephalopods	..13:00	
EFH Maps	15:00..	Finalization of the number of maps that will be produced per species/site, map format. Intro to EnviEFH tool, national stakeholder input
EnviEFH Tool		
Stakeholder Meetings	..18:00	

Wednesday March 15

Dissemination	9:30..	Discussion on dissemination material, exchange of data (fisheries/environmental), organisation of project's e-mail list. We could use the rest of the day if the 2.5 days are not enough.
Meeting Synthesis		
Next Meeting	..13:00	

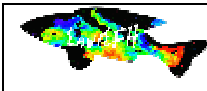
Visits:

*Thalassocosmos Aquarium (very new!)
 Knossos (very old!) and Archaeological Museum*



Meeting Participant List

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Meeting Minutes

The kick-off meeting of EnviEFH was organized in Iraklion Crete, Greece during March 13-15, 2006. A total number of 20 scientists and students participated from the EnviEFH consortium and DG-FISH. The overall objectives of the meeting were: a) to present the environmental approach to essential fish habitat (EFH) designation and discuss/agree to common EFH mapping methodologies, b) to discuss/finalize a number of deliverables, and c) to discuss the stakeholder approach and dissemination products (Fig. 1).

During the first day of the meeting, the overall presentation of EnviEFH project was carried out by V. Valavanis (HCMR-Greece, Project coordinator) in order to disseminate the specific objectives of the project to meeting participants, summarize the work carried out by the EnviEFH consortium during the first 3 months of the project and present the Hellenic study sites. The following 2 presentations were carried out by P. Sanchez and P. Martin (CSIC/ICM, Spain) who disseminated the available biological data and presented the Spanish site. Similarly, the following 2 presentations were carried out by R. Crechriou (CNRS/EPHE, France) and P. Bonhomme (GIS Posidonie, France) who disseminated the available biological data and presented the French sites. The set of the above presentations provided a clear picture of the variety among study sites (coastal, continental shelves and offshore), the addressed species and their life stages as well as the associated datasets. Discussions included the finalization of D1 (EnviEFH website), D2 (EnviEFH Project Leaflet) and D03 (Inventory of relevant data sources) where a comprehensive table of species, life stages and associated data for each study site was assembled and completed. Specifically on the Hellenic study sites, it was mentioned that EFH maps will be produced for each study site separately as well as the Hellenic Seas as a whole, depending on the data spatial extent for some species.

The following 2 presentations were carried out by the EnviEFH Scientific EC Officer S.-R. Palmason (DG FISH) and the EnviEFH Financing EC Officer J.-P. Mauriz (DG FISH), who disseminated to the consortium the detailed EC approach to Scientific Support to Policies and their financial requirements. EC Officers provided a clear picture of EC's Specific Support Actions and their financial management that will greatly help and direct EnviEFH work throughout the duration of the project. Discussions included the identification of differences between previous FP and FP6-SSP in the organization of scientific, management and financing regimes.

During the second day of the meeting, 2 presentations were carried out by C.-Y. Politou (HCMR, Greece) and A. Siapatis (HCMR, Greece) who disseminated the biological data and associated maps for a number of species and life stages in the Hellenic study sites. A following presentation by A. Kapantagakis (HCMR, Greece) disseminated the Hellenic fisheries data collection system that will be used towards the stakeholder approach. Another 2 presentations by G. Pierce and J. Wang (UNIABDN, UK) disseminated methodologies and data requirements for the mapping of spawning grounds and ocean processes. Discussions included the finalization of common methodologies for species- and life stage-specific EFH mapping. The consortium agreed to exchange spatial attributes of surveyed biological data as well as corresponding environmental data for all study sites. The consortium underlined that

	HCMR/IMBR<->CSIC/ICM<->CNRS/EPHE<->UNIABDN<->GIS Posidonie<->Highland Statistics
	GR SP FR UK FR UK

within this unique approach, a wide data exploration among study sites will be ensured while allowing important comparisons of habitats occupied by the same species in distant study sites within Mediterranean. The following discussion included the architecture of the EFH Tool (D8), which will be a user-friendly GIS application to a variety of users. The consortium underlined the variety of user needs and decided to develop a 3-fold approach towards the implementation of the EFH Tool. The 3-fold approach includes the development of an ESRI ArcView-based tool (J. Wang, UNIABDN), a Map Objects-based tool (J. Dokos, HCMR-Greece) and a web-based tool (Y. Cosmopoulou, HCMR-Greece). These set of tools will feature similar capabilities and will include several environmental data and several EFH environmental descriptors and provide the ability to users to create EFH maps through web-based and stand-alone applications. HCMR plans to link these tools to other developed fisheries management-aid tools through HCMR's database development and support personnel headed by S. Kavadas (HCMR, Greece). The meeting work was concluded with a discussion on the D4 (final dissemination plan) as well as on the stakeholders approach at national level. Fishermen organizations will be approached through a variety of methods including workshop meetings, questionnaires and established fisheries sampling networks. The aim of the stakeholders approach is to assemble and use as much of local knowledge as possible concerning sensitive species habitats and any known changes to these habitats. The consortium will show to fishermen draft EFH and ocean processes maps in order to follow a give-and-take approach. Finally, the consortium will use a variety of dissemination means including joined scientific publications in related scientific journals in the form of special issues as well as the development of a short 15' documentary movie entitled 'The Geography of the Sea and the Geography of Fish'.

The Director of HCMR's Institute of Marine Biological Resources, Dr. C. Papaconstantinou will present initial results for anchovy EFH mapping in North Aegean Sea to the 136th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society (Sep. 10-14, Lake Placid, NY, USA) (Giannoulaki *et al.* 2006).

The overall outcome of the meeting was highly productive. All participants contributed to the project in a highly positive atmosphere that created the appropriate ground for collaborative work. As needs arise, the consortium agreed to future short meetings among small teams dealing with similar tasks. Finally, the EnviEFH consortium attended an organised visit to Knossos and the Iraklion Archaeological Museum during the third day of the meeting (Fig. 2).

Reference:

Giannoulaki M, Machias A, Valavanis V, Somarakis S, Papaconstantinou C (2006). Estimating the potential habitat of the European anchovy in the Eastern Mediterranean basin using GIS. Proceedings of the 136th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society: Fish in the Balance, Sep. 10-14, 2006, Lake Placid, NY.

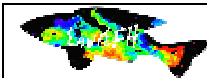


Fig. 1. Presentation and discussions among EnviEFH Consortium during the project's kick-off meeting in Iraklion Crete, Greece (March 13-15, 2006).
[Photos kindly provided by Dr Graham Pierce]



Fig. 2. The EnviEFH Consortium attending an organised visit to the archaeological site in Knossos.
[Photo kindly provided by Dr Graham Pierce]