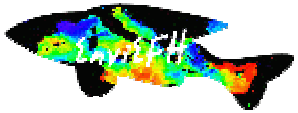
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME, PRIORITY 8.1, Policy-oriented research – Scientific Support to Policies – SSP4 – DG FISH & MARITIME AFFAIRS

Project Acronym: **EnviEFH** Project full title: **Environmental Approach to Essential Fish Habitat Designation** Contract no.: **022466** Duration: **24 months**



Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) means those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity:

- **Waters** include aquatic areas and their associated physical, chemical, and biological properties that are used by fish
- **Substrate** includes sediment, hard bottom, structures underlying the waters, and associated biological communities
- **Necessary** means the habitat required to support a sustainable fishery and the managed species' contribution to a healthy ecosystem
- **Spawning, Breeding, Feeding, or Growth to Maturity** covers a species' life cycle

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EnviEFH Objectives and Approach

- To collate and use existing environmental and biological data in order to develop the basis for an Essential Fish Habitat Designation Tool that will facilitate the spatial component of fisheries management
- To identify and map the spatiotemporal distribution of ocean production processes that affect species distribution and create favouring habitats throughout the various stages of species life cycles
- To introduce species life history information to the description of environment-species interactions in order to identify spawning, nursery and feeding aggregation regions as well as over-exploited areas and alternative fishing grounds
- To validate and disseminate project research results to fisheries managers and scientists as well as to coastal fishing communities through the Internet, hardcopy habitat maps and stakeholder workshops

The on-going reformatting of the **Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)** for sustainable fisheries offers the best possible prospect of securing the future of the European fisheries sector for the benefit of all concerned:

- **The Fishing Sector and the Coastal Communities**
- **The Fish Stocks**
- **The Marine Environment**
- **The Consumers**

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SSP Priority objectives

EnviEFH objectives are related to SSP Priority objectives and the CFP in 3 main ways:

- ✓ Use new concepts in fisheries management (those based on the ecosystem approach) by introducing the spatiotemporal mapping of Essential Fish Habitats (EFH) as a process that is based on the identification of certain EFH environmental characteristics that are preferred by species (species-specific environmental habitat descriptors)
- ✓ Make extensive use of new scientific developments (use of Remote Sensing and GIS technologies and new advanced methodologies in EFH mapping)
- ✓ Enhance technical measures (like measures to map and designate essential fish habitats and identify overfished areas and alternative underfished fishing grounds)

LIST OF WORKPACKAGES

LIST OF WORKPACHAGES
WP1: COORDINATION
WP2: COLLATE EXISTING DATA
T2.1: Assemble benthic habitat maps and satellite data
T2.2: Assemble fisheries production data
T2.3: Assemble species life history data
T2.4: Develop a GIS database
WP3: MAP OCEAN PROCESSES
T3.1: Map productive upwelling
T3.2: Map productive thermal fronts
T3.3: Map marine productivity hotspots
WP4: MAP ESSENTIAL FISH HABITATS
T4.1: Identify species-environment interactions
T4.2: Map spawning/nursery grounds
T4.3: Map feeding aggregation areas
WP5: DEVELOP AN EFH DESIGNATION TOOL
T5.1: Identify overfished areas
T5.2: Identify alternative fishing grounds
T5.3: Develop the EFH Designation Tool
WP6: DISSEMINATE OUTPUTS
T6.1: Establish an Internet node
T6.2: Disseminate hardcopy maps
T6.3: Produce scientific publications

LIST OF DELIVERABLES

Del. no.	Deliverable name	WP no.
D1	Dedicated Internet node (version 1)	6
D2	Project Presentation Leaflet	1
D3	Inventory of relevant data sources	2
D4	Final Plan for using and disseminating knowledge	1
D5	GIS oceanographic and fisheries database for the Mediterranean Sea (version 1)	2
D6	Time series maps of upwelling, thermal fronts and marine productivity hotspots (draft)	3
D7	Time series of Essential Fish Habitats maps (draft)	4
D8	EFH Designation Tool (version 1)	5
D9	Year1 Project Report	1
D10	GIS oceanographic and fisheries database for the Mediterranean Sea (final version)	2
D11	Time series maps of upwelling, thermal fronts and marine productivity hotspots (final)	3
D12	Time series of Essential Fish Habitats maps (final)	4
D13	EFH Designation Tool (final version)	5
D14	Dedicated Internet node (final version)	6
D15	Report on Stakeholder-Validation National Workshops	1
D16	Final Project Report	1

EnviEFH Consortium

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FP6-2004-SSP-4-022466-EnviEFH (December 1, 2005-November 30, 2007), EC Contribution: €535,873.00 (Total Budget: €937,508.00)