



Our three-year project kicked off in May 2009. This is our first Newsletter. It presents our aims, our work plan, our research team, relevant policy context and some of our work so far.

## DEEPFISHMAN - Management and Monitoring of deep-sea Fisheries and Stocks

A research project funded by the European Union FP7



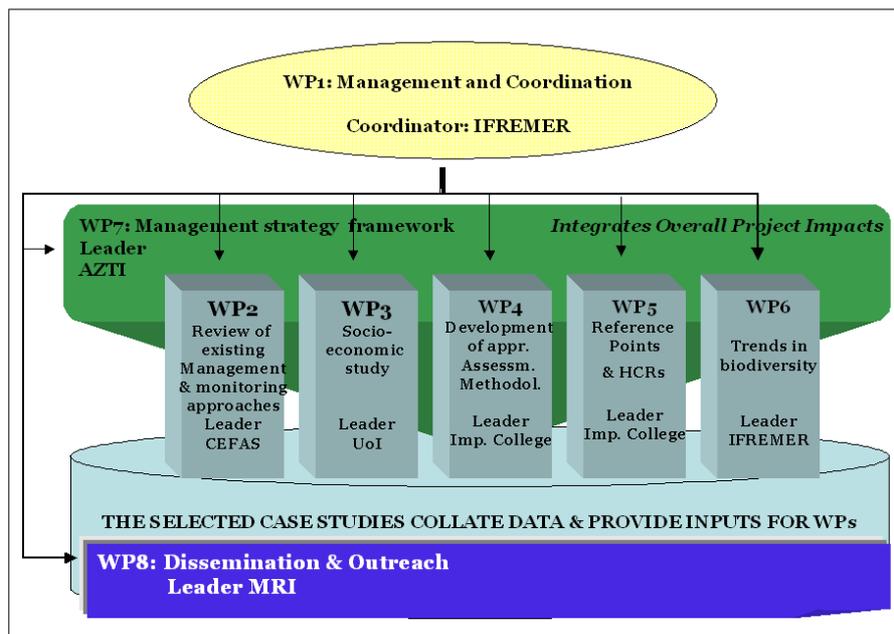
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Newsletter 1 - March 2010

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The EU project DEEPFISHMAN will develop a short- and long-term monitoring and management framework for deepwater fisheries in the NE Atlantic. This work will be developed by examining a range of case studies selected to reflect the diverse characteristics of the different types of deepwater fishery. The project outputs will aim to provide robust guidelines for deepwater fisheries management suitable for adoption within the Common Fishery policy. Contribution from stakeholders is essential for integration of stakeholder views in the project.

The project is organised as follows:



## Activities update

### Stakeholder Workshop in Brussels

In June 2009, the project first Stakeholder Workshop held in Brussels, identified various stakeholders organised in the following categories:

Geographic level → Stakeholder types	International and European	National	Local
Public	UN, RFMO*s, OSPAR, European institutions*, RAC*s, scientists*, MCS experts, monitoring agents	National government and administrative services*, experts and scientists*, enforcement agencies	Local government and administrative services, including at 1 <sup>st</sup> point of sale, harbour and training
Private / businesses	Fishing industry: catching, big buyers/ sellers, fish transport, processors, education & training, Banks		Local fish markets (1 <sup>st</sup> sale), restaurants, Crewmen Unions, Harbour services, shipyard, Consumers
	Producer Organisations, fishmongers, gear manufacturers and suppliers, other seabed users (mining, oil&gas, offshore renewables, cable layers, aggregate dredging, marine and MCS experts, fisheries scientists, certifiers)		
Associations / Groups / NGOs	Fishing industry Associations (catching*, buyers, processors)* and POs*		
	Environmental NGOs		Crewmen, Consumers
Individuals		Citizens	

\* stakeholders present at Workshop

**Table 1: DEEPFISHMAN stakeholders at international, national and local levels**

For full Workshop Report see

[http://www.ifremer.fr/deepfishman/content/download/52670/384898/file/DEEPFISHMAN\\_227390\\_Deliverable\\_D8.6.pdf](http://www.ifremer.fr/deepfishman/content/download/52670/384898/file/DEEPFISHMAN_227390_Deliverable_D8.6.pdf)

In the view of campaigns for consumer boycotts and deep-sea fishing bans in 2009 in France and Spain, DEEPFISHMAN partners are very keen for the fishing industry, chain of custody partners and Environmental NGOs to register their interests and collaborate to design future sustainable use and management regimes

### Workshop with stakeholders in Lisbon

The Workshop held at IPIMAR, in Lisbon on 4 December 2009, brought together DEEPFISHMAN partners, local scientists, fishermen and their representatives, environmental NGOs and fisheries managers (NAFO and National and regional administrations).

A report of the meeting is available on our website:

[http://deepfishman.hafro.is/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=stakeholder\\_workshop\\_04\\_12\\_09.pdf](http://deepfishman.hafro.is/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=stakeholder_workshop_04_12_09.pdf)

## Partners News

### IEO – Spain



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The artisanal red seabream fishery developed in the Strait of Gibraltar area (ICES IXa south) in the early 1980s. It uses a mechanized hook line baited with sardine gear locally called “voracera”. Fishing takes advantage of tidal currents over depths between 300 and 700m.

The Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO) began the study and the fishery monitoring following the request from the Fishermen Corporations after a clear decrease of the landings since 1997.

### NatMIRC – Namibia

The orange roughy in Namibia is currently closed, however a cruise is planned in 2010 and the closure will be reviewed.



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### Project Case Study and Review meeting in Lisbon 30/11 - 3/12/2009

Case Study Reports are now nearing completion and a compilation reports will be available in May. Please check on our website.

DEEPFISHMAN Case Studies are :

- CS1a Namibian orange roughy
- CS1b Orange roughy in VI-VII
- CS1c Blue ling in Vb, VI, VII and XIIb
- CS2 French mixed demersal trawl fishery in Vb, VI and VII
- CS3a Red seabream in Strait of Gibraltar
- CS3b Red seabream in eastern Mediterranean
- CS3c Black scabbardfish in IX
- CS4 Redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) in NE Atlantic
- CS5 Greenland halibut in NAFO Sub-area 2 and Division 3 KLMNO



A number of review reports are now nearing completion under WP2 "Review of existing management and monitoring approaches" of DEEPFISHMAN, check our websites.

## Project publications

[http://wwz.ifremer.fr/deepfishman/reports\\_and\\_deliverables/publications](http://wwz.ifremer.fr/deepfishman/reports_and_deliverables/publications)  
[ICES CM2009L\\_lorance et al 270809](#) (773.05 kB)  
[poster\\_CM2009\\_L12](#) (821.62 kB)

This poster and communication were presented at ICES Annual Science conference, Berlin, 21-25 Sept. 2009. Haul-by haul data provided by the fishing industry were used to estimate blue ling abundance indices.

See the poster of the project  
[poster\\_CM2009\\_N22](#) (1.21 MB)

More publications are in preparation.

## Management and policy developments

### Europe

Deep sea fisheries in European waters target in priority species such as the roundnose grenadier (*Coryphaenoides rupestris*), orange roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*), black scabbardfish (*Aphanopus carbo*), blue ling (*Molva dypterygia*) deep water sharks such as the leafscale gulper shark (*Centrophorus squamosus*) and Portuguese dogfish (*Centroscymnus coelolepis*).

ICES provides advice on deep species every two years while WGDEEP, the Working Group on the Biology and Assessment of Deep Sea Fisheries Resources, and WGDEC, the Working Group on Deep Water Ecosystems, are held each year in March-April. The 2009 reports and Advisory Committee (ACOM) resolutions can be found at <http://www.ices.dk>.

Deep species **fisheries TACs** were set in 2008 for **2009 and 2010**. In the absence of new fisheries assessments for deep-sea species, a small number of revisions were made at the December 2009 Council of the European Union meeting. New ICES advice will be issued in 2010 and DEEPFISHMAN is contributing through (i) development of abundance indices based on French tally-book data and (ii) development and trialling of a new Stock Reduction assessment program in 2010 (see ICES CM2009 Lorance *et al* from [http://wwz.ifremer.fr/deepfishman/reports\\_and\\_deliverables/publications](http://wwz.ifremer.fr/deepfishman/reports_and_deliverables/publications)).

Details, excluding stocks managed jointly with Norway or the Faroe Islands, for which negotiations will resume in January, are given in:

[http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press\\_corner/press\\_releases/2009/com09\\_79\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press_corner/press_releases/2009/com09_79_en.pdf)

France

### “Grenelle de la Mer” and Deep-sea fishing Task Force

In the context of a nation-wide consultation exercise to develop an integrated policy for a sustainable marine and coastal development (the “Grenelle de la Mer”), the French Minister Bruno Le Maire, set up a task force to establish an environmental, social and economic assessment of the French deep-sea fisheries by the end of January 2010.

The task force led by Philippe Boënnec, MP, brings together environmental NGOs, scientists and fishermen and aims to integrate sustainable use and deep-sea fisheries, relying on close partnerships between scientists and the fishing industry. See <http://agriculture.gouv.fr/sections/presse5022/questions-reponses/peche-question-au>

In this context, the [DEEPFISHMAN](#) project has been contributing to fisheries management advice for blue ling (Case Study 1c) through a collaboration between Ifremer, the producer organisation PROMA/PMA and fishing company EURONOR, sharing and analysing detailed information to inform fisheries and stock assessments (see ICES communication).

[ICES CM2009L\\_lorance et al 270809](#)

### UK

#### Offshore Marine Protected Areas - MPA – initiative

The **JNCC** – Joint Nature Conservation Committee, the **UK** government agency responsible for nature conservation in offshore waters, commissioned a survey of two areas for UK [offshore Special Areas of Conservation \(SACs\)](#) on the [Anton Dohrn Seamount](#) located 155km west of the St Kilda archipelago, and the [East Rockall Bank](#) located 260km west of the St Kilda archipelago. The surveys took place between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of July 2009, preliminary interpretation of the data suggest that several sites at both locations may fit the definition of Annex I reef under the [EC Habitats Directive](#). Once reporting is completed (end March 2010), the sites will undergo assessment for possible consideration as SACs.

For details and a copy of the JNCC Offshore Natura Survey Report, see <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-5026>



## News from related FP7 projects

The **DEEPFISH** project applying an ecosystem approach to the sustainable management of deep-water fisheries in the Rockall Trough (ICES Division VIa) released its final reports in English, Spanish and French versions in 2009.

<http://www.sams.ac.uk/research/departments/ecology/fature-story/deepfish-project-reveals-the-complex-fisheries-interactions-in-a-large-multinational-deepwater-fishery>

Several institutes partner in DEEPFISHMAN are also involved in **CoralFISH**, a project initiated in June 2008, which aims to support the implementation of an ecosystem-based management approach in the deep-sea by studying the interaction between cold-water coral habitat, fish and fisheries. Download **CoralFISH** first Newsletter from: <http://eu-fp7-coralfish.net/> and check the latest results from the deep-sea research cruise BobGeo from:

<http://wwz.ifremer.fr/institut/actualites/communiqués/2009/bobgeo>

## Other News

### OSPAR Commission

The 2003 OSPAR Ministerial Meeting in Bremen adopted [Recommendation 2003/3 on a network of marine protected areas](#) aimed at establishing an ecologically coherent network of well-managed MPAs in the North-East Atlantic by 2010. Information on the national sites that form part of the OSPAR network, and on the proposed OSPAR MPA for the Charlie Gibbs Fracture Zone on the Mid Atlantic Ridge can be found at <http://www.ospar.org>

### NEAFC – Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission

In a postal vote NEAFC adopted measures that close more than 330,000 square kilometres to bottom fisheries on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The 28th Annual Meeting, held in London 17-18 Nov 2009, agreed to consider the feasibility of organising a workshop, in collaboration with NAFO and OSPAR, in the first half of 2010 to review respective progress on ecosystem-based area management in international waters in the North Atlantic, with a particular emphasis on defining management objectives. Details can be found in the Press Release on <http://www.neafc.org/>

### NAFO - Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization

Following the adoption of amended recovery plan measures by the European Parliament, COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1197/2009 of 30 November 2009 “amending Regulation (EC) No 2115/2005 establishing a recovery plan for Greenland halibut in the framework of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation” imposes stricter reporting rules for

vessels fishing for Greenland halibut in NAFO areas (see <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/>) applicable immediately.

TACs in NAFO areas for 2010, including the Greenland Halibut in Subarea 2 and NAFO Divisions 3KLMNO (DEEPFISHMAN case study 5), were agreed at the NAFO 2009 Annual Meeting. Background information and the quota table are available from <http://www.nafo.int/about/frames/media.html>

### SPRFMO - South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

Finally, fisheries in a major area of deep-sea waters are coming under management: The **South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)** members unanimously adopted the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fishery Resources of the South Pacific Ocean (including extensive deepwater areas) in Auckland, New Zealand on 14 November 2009. The Convention, and latest Deep-water sub-group documents can be found at: <http://www.southpacificrfmo.org/eighth-swq-meeting/>



## Forthcoming DEEPFISHMAN and related activities

- A half-day stakeholder meeting will be organised in September 2010, in Nantes to inform stakeholders about the progress of the project.
- Another stakeholder Workshop will be organised April 2011, one year before the project end. The plan is to present a draft monitoring and management framework, and discuss and integrate stakeholders views.
- In 2010-11, many **DEEPFISHMAN** partners will be involved in **expert meetings** organised by **ICES** regarding deep-sea species and their ecosystems. For specific information, see "Advisory Committee EG ToR's" on <http://www.ices.dk/iceswork/recs/2009recs.asp>.

Date	Title	Subjects	ICES Contacts
Feb-2010	Benchmark Workshop on Deep Water Species (WKDEEP) to evaluate the appropriateness of data and methods to determine stock status and investigate methods for short term outlook taking agreed or proposed management plans into account for a number of stocks	Roundnose grenadier in Division Vb and Sub-areas VI and VII; Greater Silver smelt in all areas; Tusk in Division Va; Red (blackspot) seabream in Sub-area X; Deep-water squaliform sharks in all areas; Greater forkbeard	Tom Blasdale and Phil Large (UK)
Mar-2010	ICES-NAFO Working Group on Deepwater Ecology [WGDEC]	Update Coldwater coral and sponge distribution maps; Review the science used in assessing vulnerable marine ecosystems and the "Encounter Clause"; Advise on Monitoring methodologies for ocean acidification (OSPAR request 2010/2); Advise on Impacts of human activities on cold water corals and sponge aggregations (OSPAR request 2010/5); Comment and make proposals for improvements on draft of a Best Practice Manual for scientific surveys in areas closed to fishing (NEAFC Request).	Chair Robert J. Brock (USA)
Apr-2010	Working Group on the Biology and Assessment of Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources [WGDEEP]	Update information and carry out stock assessment for deep-water fish stock in the ICES Area. Impacts of human activities on cold water corals and sponge aggregations	Chair Tom Blasdale (UK)
Apr-2010	Arctic Fisheries Working Group [AFWG]	Greenland halibut in ICES Sub-areas I & II; Red fish ( <i>Sebastes mentella</i> ) Subareas I and II;	Chair Bjarte Bogstad (Norway)
Jun-2010	Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes [WGEF]	Update the description of elasmobranch fisheries for (inter alia) deepwater species in the ICES area and compile landings, effort and discard statistics by ICES Subarea and Division	Chair Graham Johnston (Ireland)
May-2010	Workshop on Sexual Maturity Staging of Redfish and Greenland Halibut [WKMSREGH]	Redfish and Greenland Halibut	Chairs: Fran Saborido-Rey* (Spain) and Agnes Gundersen (Norway)
June 2010	NAFO Scientific Council	Greenland halibut in NAFO Regulatory Area	Chair Ricardo Alpoim (EU)
Feb-2011	Workshop on Age Reading of Greenland Halibut [WKARGH]	Greenland Halibut	Chair: Ole Thomas Albert (Norway)

Please fill in the questionnaire at <http://deepfishman.hafro.is/doku.php> for DEEPFISHMAN to make contact with as many stakeholders as possible to distribute this Newsletter by e-mail and inform you of future meetings and project activities.

