



# Second Natura 2000 seminar for the Baltic, Atlantic, Macaronesian, Mediterranean & Black Sea marine biogeographical regions

Palma, Mallorca, Spain  
13 – 15 November 2018



Photo: Aphrodite's birthplace, Cyprus (Paul Goriup, NatureBureau)

# SEMINAR REPORT

**Consortium Information:**

Wageningen Environmental Research, Wageningen Marine Research, Wageningen UR

**In cooperation with:**

NatureBureau Ltd.

Regional Environmental Centre

Estonian University of Life Sciences

Terraecogest

Mãe d'água

**Prepared by:** NatureBureau Ltd and WUR

**Authors:** Paul Goriup, Theo van der Sluis, Sara Estlander, Martin Kennedy, Iris Hendriks, Marije Siemensma

**Contributors:** Sophie Ouzet, Vedran Nikolic and Fotios Papoulias (European Commission)

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[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/knowledge\\_exchange/28\\_document\\_library\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/knowledge_exchange/28_document_library_en.htm)

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## 1 Introduction

The Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process was launched by the European Commission in 2011 to assist Member States in managing Natura 2000 as a coherent ecological network. The Process provides a practical means to exchange the information, experience and knowledge required to identify and define common solutions and develop cooperative actions, which can be delivered to ensure progress towards the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy<sup>1</sup> targets (in particular Targets 1 & 2).

As the responsibility for the implementation of Natura 2000 and ensuring progress towards the EU's Biodiversity Strategy targets lies with Member States, they are key actors in the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process. The Process also provides an opportunity to mobilise expert networks and inputs from other key stakeholders, including NGOs. This is important in order to tap into the direct experience of Natura 2000 practitioners, expert stakeholders and Member States' representatives with specific responsibilities for implementation of Natura 2000. This underlines the strategic and operational importance of the Process, the integrated inputs required from diverse actors and the opportunities available to develop concrete collaborative actions for future implementation.

As a long-term, continuing process, since the first Marine Natura 2000 Biogeographical Seminar in St Malo, France in 2015<sup>2</sup>, the strategic orientations of the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process have been further developed. The Fitness Check evaluation of the EU Nature Directives has revealed that the effectiveness of the Directives has been constrained by, among other factors, the lack of and insufficient targeting of funding, limited stakeholder awareness and cooperation, and gaps in knowledge. It has also highlighted the need to put in place effective conservation systems, enabling delivering the Directives' objectives, having full regard to the socio-economic context in which they operate.

As part of the follow-up to the Fitness Check evaluation the Commission has proposed to refocus the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process, for the latter to better contribute to the establishment of coherent, effective and efficient conservation systems throughout the EU. The Process should in particular deliver improved coherence in conservation status evaluation and setting conservation objectives and priorities. It should promote the identification of best practices in conservation management, in seizing funding opportunities, in dealing with communication and stakeholder involvement and in improving governance of the Natura 2000 network in order to optimise conservation results at biogeographical level. The Process should deliver strengthened cooperation and sharing of experience on common challenges, including those related to the specific socio-economic context and to cross-border issues and agree biogeographical-level roadmaps for cooperative action.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/strategy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/strategy/index_en.htm)

<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/documents/marine\\_biogeographical\\_kick\\_off\\_seminar\\_report\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/documents/marine_biogeographical_kick_off_seminar_report_en.pdf)

## 1.1 Context of the seminar

The second marine Natura 2000 seminar took place in Palma, Mallorca, Spain from 13 – 15 November 2018 (Annex 1) and was attended by 94 participants from all EU maritime Member States (Annex 2).

Preparations for the seminar started after the annual meeting of the Marine Expert Group in late 2017. It sought to build on and further develop the outcomes of the first seminar, especially to develop a shared vision of the state of play, clarify the strengths and needs of the marine Natura 2000 network (such as gaps in implementation, lack of resources or knowledge) and jointly identify and define possible solutions that could be implemented to make the most out of these strengths and remedy shortcomings.

Additional impetus for the seminar was provided shortly before it commenced when the EEA announced that the EU as a whole had achieved the Aichi Target 11 of the CBD for the marine environment in terms of area coverage (*“By 2020 [...] 10 % of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider [...] seascape”*). By the end of 2016, 10.8 % of the surface of Europe's seas had been designated as MPAs<sup>3</sup>. Marine Natura 2000 network makes the greatest contribution to this achievement, currently covering 532,417 km<sup>2</sup> or 9.2 % of Europe's seas (up to May 2018).

Ensuring the effective and coordinated management of marine Natura 2000 sites is therefore of utmost importance to fully achieve the European and international targets for marine conservation and to make a significant contribution to maintaining and restoring the health of seas globally.

The seminar was jointly hosted in Mallorca by the Fundacion Biodiversidad of the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition, and the Government of the Balearic Islands. Moreover, the seminar was held in conjunction with a conference on “MPAs and Small Scale Fisheries” organised by MedPAN. Thus, there was a joint opening plenary session featuring welcome addresses from the local hosts, MedPAN and the European Commission, as well as a series of presentations on current marine conservation work in the Balearic Islands. The colocation of meetings also permitted an exchange of participants and speakers between the meetings.

## 1.2 Themes of the seminar

The seminar addressed its aims through three themes that focused on strengthening regional cooperation to address the common challenges in the conservation and management of Natura 2000 sites as a coherent network and thus towards reaching the aims of the Birds and Habitats

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/marine-protected-areas/at\\_download/file](https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/marine-protected-areas/at_download/file)

Directives and the EU Biodiversity strategy. This is also one of the actions of the Action plan for nature, people and the economy<sup>4</sup>, aiming to significantly improve the implementation of the directives.

### **Theme 1: Setting conservation objectives at site, national and regional levels**

This theme explored the experience to date of setting conservation objectives at different scales (i.e. from site level to the regional level) in order to better facilitate the development and implementation of appropriate conservation measures. It covered practical examples of the establishment of conservation objectives, including best practices and challenges with reference to the legal obligations set out in the *Commission note on conservation objectives*<sup>5</sup>.

### **Theme 2: Setting favourable reference values (FRVs)**

Favourable reference values (FRV) are key baseline parameters to determine whether favourable conservation status (FCS) is being achieved. The seminar highlighted the necessity of opportunities for enhanced regional cooperation in defining FRVs and using them to help set conservation objectives at regional scales as well as developing and implementing conservation measures with a focus on selected habitats and species.

### **Theme 3: Developing conservation measures to achieve the conservation objectives**

The focus of this theme was the role of risk assessment frameworks in establishing conservation measures that address the most significant pressures affecting Natura 2000 habitats and species. The *Commission note on establishing conservation measures*<sup>6</sup> provided a useful reference for the theme, as well as documents prepared by The N2K Group and reviewed by the Marine Expert Group, including on fisheries management in Natura 2000 sites<sup>7</sup>.

## **1.3 Seminar work plan**

The seminar was organised in four main sessions, each progressing more deeply into the subject matter:

**Session 1:** a general introduction to each of the three themes of the seminar by keynote speakers, which underpinned discussions in the following two sessions.

**Session 2:** overview of the implementation of the Natura 2000 network in marine biogeographical regions in relation to the three themes. The session comprised three parallel working groups on the European marine biogeographical regions: (1) Baltic Sea, (2) Atlantic and Macaronesia, and (3) Mediterranean and Black Sea. In each workshop, a lead speaker

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<sup>4</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/fitness\\_check/action\\_plan/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/fitness_check/action_plan/index_en.htm)

<sup>5</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/commission\\_note/commission\\_note2\\_EN.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/commission_note/commission_note2_EN.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/commission\\_note/comNote%20conservation%20measures\\_EN.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/commission_note/comNote%20conservation%20measures_EN.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/marine/docs/Review%20of%20fisheries%20management%20measures%20in%20Natura%202000%20sites.pdf>

presented a general overview of the current status of implementation of Natura 2000 network in the marine regions in the context of the seminar themes. This was followed by a facilitated discussion and the preparation of some key conclusions that were presented in Session 4.

**Session 3:** Regional working groups on habitats and species occupied one whole day, with six working groups organised by region, habitats and species:

Region	Working Groups
Baltic Sea	1a Habitats
	1b Species
Atlantic & Macaronesia	2a Habitats
	2b Species
Mediterranean & Black Sea	3a Habitats
	3b Species

Speakers presented an overview of the current status of each selected habitat or species with a focus on the state of play with setting their FRVs and conservation objectives and measures for Natura 2000 sites. The working groups then proceeded to facilitated discussions to identify opportunities for better coordination at the regional level and priority areas for future work.

**Session 4:** Closing plenary to review the conclusions of the regional working groups, and a summary of the key points presented by Vedran Nikolic of DG Environment.

## 1.4 Field trip to Cabrera National Park

Participants travelled to the Cabrera Archipelago Maritime-Terrestrial National Park in the company of local park officials and researchers. During the excursion, participants were informed about the historical land use and current protection and monitoring measures. They saw extensive beds of *Posidonia* (with demarcated mooring stations to prevent damage from anchors), a blue-watered sea cave and various seabirds such as European shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* and both species of shearwaters *Puffinus mauretanicus* and *Puffinus yelkouan*.

In the afternoon, participants visited the impressive Cabrera Visitor Centre and Aquarium in Colònia San Jordi, where Prof. Callum Roberts (York University, UK), gave a thought-provoking presentation on the management and restoration of marine habitats and ecosystem services.

## 1.5 Knowledge market

During the evening of 14 November, a knowledge market was set up to allow participants to display information and discuss current activities on marine conservation in Europe. There were 14 exhibits and about 50 participants came to the event.

## 2 Session 1: Keynote presentations on seminar themes

The overall objective of Session 1 was to provide an overview of the three seminar themes on a strategic level, focusing on the current situation and existing working solutions. The session was held in plenary, chaired by Sophie Ouzet of DG Environment, and the following presentations were made:

- The Natura 2000 biogeographical process: state of play in the marine biogeographical regions. Sophie Ouzet, DG Environment, European Commission
- Setting conservation objectives at site, national and regional levels. Vincent Toison, Agence Française pour la biodiversité
- Setting favourable reference values (FRVs). Susan Gubbay, UK
- Developing conservation measures to achieve the conservation objectives. Jochen Krause, German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

Unfortunately, an over-run of the Opening Plenary meant that discussion of the presentations was severely curtailed.

### 2.1 The Natura 2000 biogeographical process: state of play in the marine biogeographical regions

Sophie Ouzet opened the session and gave a presentation that put the seminar and its sessions in the context of wider EU biodiversity policies. In particular, the Regulatory Fitness Check of the Nature Directives reported in 2016 that although the directives are fit for purpose, substantial improvements in their implementation are needed to ensure that they deliver their full potential. In April 2017, the EC adopted a comprehensive Action Plan for nature, people and the economy, to be carried out from 2017 to 2019. The Action Plan has four priority areas:

- A. Improving guidance and knowledge and ensuring better coherence with broader socio-economic objectives
- B. Building political ownership and strengthening compliance
- C. Strengthening investment in Natura 2000 and improving synergies with EU funding instruments
- D. Better communication and outreach, engaging citizens, stakeholders and communities

The Natura 200 biogeographical process falls within Action 6 of Priority B: Bring together public authorities and stakeholders from different Member States at the biogeographical region level to address common challenges, including on cross-border issues.

The first marine seminar was held in 2015, before the Action Plan was formulated. However, since then three events were organised:

- Session on integrating Natura 2000 objectives in MPA management at the Mediterranean MPA Forum (November 2016, Morocco)
- Workshop on fisheries management measures in Natura 2000 sites in the Mediterranean Sea (October 2017, Croatia)
- HELCOM / Natura 2000 management workshop (September 2018, Sweden)

With the holding of the second marine seminar, and by pursuing its conclusions through a roadmap of initiatives and activities, in combination with seminars for other biogeographical regions, the pace of implementing Action 6 is accelerating.

## **2.2 Setting conservation objectives**

In his presentation, Vincent Toison showed how France sets conservation priorities using a scoring system to produce an index based on conservation status and representativity for species. He then explained how the index, applied to the Velvet Scoter, Black-legged Kittiwake and Yelkouan and Balearic Shearwaters, could be used to set conservation objectives at different scales. At the site level, specific interventions were identified (e.g. eradicating rats from islands or eliminating light pollution), at the national level species action plans were drafted, and at regional level objectives were established in relation to the MSFD process (environmental targets art.10).

## **2.3 Setting favourable reference values**

Susan Gubbay noted that FRVs are key reference levels to define when favourable conservation status (FCS) is being achieved for individual species and habitats. They are needed for: range of habitat types and species, area of habitat types and population sizes of species. According to the guidance on reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, FRVs:

- FRVs must be at least the value (range, surface area, population size) when the Habitats Directive came into force,
- FRVs should be based purely on scientific grounds,
- FRVs are not targets.

She indicated that reference values can be difficult to establish as data availability, even two decades ago, was patchy and historical series very rare. This contrasted with data on species and habitats that are becoming increasingly available through remote sensing technologies. The presentation concluded with some examples of how FRVs could be calculated for habitats and highly mobile species.

## **2.4 Developing conservation measures to achieve the conservation objectives**

Jochen Krause and co-authors gave a detailed presentation on the four-step process used by the German government to identify appropriate conservation measures based on the status of habitats and features and the conservation objectives for them. Each of these steps has clear definitions and a decision-making scheme in order to ensure a consistent approach in determining appropriate measures according to need and priority. The four steps are:

- Inventory of conservation features
- Identification of deficiencies
- Analysis of causes of deficiencies
- Derivation of measures

## 3 Session 2: Biogeographic groups: topic introductions

The regional thematic sessions sought to evaluate the state of play in the marine biogeographical regions in relation to the seminar themes, with particular regard for:

- setting conservation objectives for marine Natura 2000 sites in the regional seas and the ways these were set for the selected habitats/species at various levels, from biogeographic region level down to site-level and if possible, providing some examples of the processes put in place to do this work;
- analysing the work done so far on setting favourable reference values at the national and regional levels;
- identifying the best practices and most effective approaches for establishing the link between site-level objectives and the regional/national-level objectives, including relationships between these objectives and the favourable reference values;
- setting conservation measures, highlighting any strategic approaches (e.g. using risk assessments) and useful sources of information about pressures on the regional level; and
- identifying weaknesses, gaps and needs in terms of setting conservation objectives, FRVs and conservation measures.

After an introductory presentation from a lead speaker, participants divided into small groups to discuss their experiences with the following topics:

- The issue of establishing the link between site-level objectives and FRVs on the one hand and national/regional objectives and FRVs on the other;
- Strategic approaches (e.g. risk assessments) and sources of information about pressures for developing conservation measures;
- Cooperation on the three themes with other Member States in the same biogeographical region;
- Cooperation tools to coordinate between authorities, managers, scientists etc. stakeholders.

### 3.1 Baltic Sea

Chair: Andrzej Ginalski, General Directorate for Environmental Protection, Poland

Facilitator: Sara Estlander

#### 3.1.1 Introduction to the region

A case study to introduce the Baltic region was provided in the keynote presentation by Johnny Berglund (Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management / County Administrative Board of Västerbotten). Johnny Berglund spoke on the Swedish approach to developing a framework for adaptive management of MPAs. The framework strives for a more holistic approach for marine conservation, using *Open Standards for Conservation* as a tool. In addition to overlapping legislation, there are mapping gaps and database conflicts that contribute to the challenges. The presentation highlighted that much remains to be done before the desired conservation status is reached, but also points at the importance of cross-border cooperation, both between countries and between directives, and the opportunity of joining forces with marine spatial planners. Management workshops were mentioned as an important tool.

### **3.1.2 Discussions in the regional working group**

#### *Favourable reference values and their link to conservation objectives*

The most challenging and complicated theme during this session was about the favourable reference values, especially in the light of setting conservation objectives on different levels. FRVs appeared to be quite theoretical to most participants, maybe even a bit abstract. Also, FRVs and conservation objectives, though directly linked, do not mean the same and are sometimes confused with each other.

Because of the lack of practical experience in applying the concept of FRVs, the group suggested carrying out an exercise: trying to set the FRVs on different levels for a selected habitat or species, thus transferring the theoretical discussion onto a more practical level and allowing participants to understand it more clearly.

The group found that so far, the linkage of FRVs between national and local level is rather low in the Baltic States. Conservation objectives and FRVs are mostly set on the national level. FRVs are also set on a local level that is wider than individual sites, and they are not used on individual site level. FRVs are set not in cooperation between Member States. Germany and Poland are developing methods for linking objectives and FRVs between site/national/regional levels.

#### *Developing conservation measures*

The joint recommendations under Article 11 of the Common Fisheries Policy were highlighted as challenging measures that require close cooperation between Member States. Preparing and adopting these recommendations may be a time-consuming and complicated process, but nevertheless stimulates cooperation and ensures that the interests of all affected countries are safeguarded within an MPA.

#### *Cooperation*

Another issue extensively discussed was cooperation – again, on different levels: between Member States, between stakeholders, between MPA managers etc. It has been raised many times that HELCOM and other conventions serve as excellent regional platforms for cooperation, but the group decided to emphasise it again, as this is of exceptional importance within the Baltic Sea basin. HELCOM recommendations on MPAs, protection of species and habitats, reduction of nutrient inputs, and maritime safety, as well as the HELCOM database service, were mentioned as providing a framework for cooperation.

At the same time, cooperation is usually bilateral and heavily dependent on administration systems in the countries, but also on existing historical or political sub-regions – the examples could be the Gulf of Bothnia or long-established cooperation between Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

The group also identified some gaps in this context, for instance weaker cooperation with the Russian Federation as a non-EU country. However, the fact that Russia is a HELCOM Contracting Party makes the situation easier.

A recent, excellent example of good cooperation in practice was the workshop for the Baltic MPA managers that took place in Sweden in September 2018. During the following HELCOM State & Conservation Group meeting, it was decided that there is a need to keep the momentum from that workshop, and to continue the work by considering further common actions for MPA managers.

One overall observation was that the interpretation of habitats is generally not harmonised between countries. The habitats' definitions are often dependent on national experts' opinions and thus may differ significantly. A common interpretation, worked out on the EU level, would greatly contribute to more efficient protection of the habitats.

#### *Additional notes*

- Deficiency of knowledge and data of the marine environment is obvious but we should keep in mind the opportunities – new techniques and technologies have been developing rapidly like e.g. drones or advanced remote sensing. They become increasingly cheaper and more available.
- There are difficulties in transferring science into the real life, i.e. into the management of sites. However, the role of public administration responsible for nature conservation includes ensuring that management plans remain both ambitious and feasible, without politics influencing the plans' content too much. At the same time, shortcomings in knowledge cannot be an excuse not to take measures. In fact, full knowledge of the environment will never be achieved, so action is needed now.
- Within the Baltic States in general, strategic approaches (such as risk assessment) have rarely been used for developing conservation objectives or measures and setting the reference values. The work is done mostly by expert opinion.
- More use should be made of what has been done on land. Naturally, the designation and management of terrestrial sites are much more advanced, and even though marine environment has its own specifics, the overall goals and the ways to achieve the goals remain largely the same.

## **3.2 Atlantic & Macaronesia**

Chair: Jean-Luc Solandt, Marine Conservation Society, UK

Facilitator: Theo van der Sluis

### **3.2.1 Introduction to the region**

Paulo Oliveira, from the Institute for Forestry and Nature Conservation, Madeira, Portugal, set the scene for the regional conditions with a keynote presentation on the Macaronesian region covering protected habitats and species as well as the current status of marine Natura 2000 sites. He concluded with three remarks, and one question:

- Natura 2000 at sea needs deep revision;
- Relevant areas of the near shore and coastal sea are protected;

- Offshore areas need more attention and funding;
- Does Natura 2000 protect European marine biodiversity against the challenges of the opportunities of blue growth?

Unfortunately, the speaker for the Atlantic region was unable to attend for unforeseen reasons.

### **3.2.2 Discussions in the regional working group**

#### *Favourable reference values and their link to conservation objectives*

Regarding defining site-level objectives and using favourable reference values, and then transposing management measures from a national policy level to regional application, participants indicated that nation states have not used pre-industrial conditions or quality of the marine environment and habitats as a baseline for establishing FRVs. This is largely because such baselines are frequently absent from the scientific literature, although there are indications of habitat condition from northern Europe (e.g. OSPAR condition assessment<sup>8</sup>). They've tended towards assessing the 'area' and 'range', NOT the 'quality' of features (Annex 1 features are all physical, and need biological information with which to make scientific conservation objectives, and to understand the implications of management).

There is limited information on associated mobile species of Annex 1 habitats (e.g. fish), and habitats of Annex II species, as these are more difficult to ascertain in condition from anything other than the past 20 years, way past the date that industrial activities had already affected marine environments. Some national policy decisions can and have been translated to action, usually via established tools (e.g. generic risk assessments). This is particularly based on where Member States have seen clear evidence of impact between an activity (e.g. bottom trawling) and quality/condition of features (e.g. maerl reduced in size, living cover and associated biodiversity; reefs reduced in benthic species diversity and biomass of living fauna; rich sands and gravels, and associated biogenic reefs being reduced in diversity, biomass, and surface heterogeneity; seagrass beds being trawled up).

#### *Developing conservation measures*

Measures to restrict trawling, mining and dredging will reduce or eliminate abrasion, bycatch and siltation. As such, Member States can be (but rarely are) systemic in applying necessary measures at all sites that host the most vulnerable seabed features at one point in time – rather than applying measures to each site once at a time when evidence is gathered on a case-by-case basis. This is particularly necessary to meet the obligations under Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive. However, habitats and species that are already vastly changed e.g. quality of sandbanks (with poor/diminished fish species assemblages) are less well described and lack significant FRVs (back to pre-industrial levels), and therefore 'concrete' actions. (e.g. Danish seining being permitted in offshore sandbank sites by UK that will not allow colonisation of

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<sup>8</sup> <https://oap.ospar.org/en/ospar-assessments/intermediate-assessment-2017/biodiversity-status/habitats/extent-physical-damage-predominant-and-special-habitats/>

vulnerable seabed species, nor allow a recovery of larger fish). Not much is done on prevention (e.g. Ireland) where the state of habitats is currently considered vulnerable. This needs priority action (e.g. seagrass, coralligenous habitats, kelp forests, mussel, worm, fan mussel reefs). Where these are known, MS should share information and resources especially for mobile species where this is possible from the literature, and where there are useful indicator papers of where species/habitats may occur (e.g. mobile species may be more prevalent in areas of upwellings or vertical and horizontal fronts – in such an instance, the physical location of these is a useful surrogate for where the animals may be in larger densities).

Peer-reviewed literature of habitats being damaged by different activities can guide pro-active conservation objectives and management (e.g. through the development of ‘risk matrices’<sup>9</sup>). For example, there is plenty of literature on the effects of bottom towed gears on stable muds, reefs, biogenic reefs and maerl. This can be used as a proxy for setting Conservation Objectives and measures where these habitats occur, and to ban bottom towed industrial and fishing activities where these occur. Strategic Environment Assessments can be used for mobile species to describe population range, and seasonal concentration of populations. Recreational activities can be problematic but can be managed with investment and education (e.g. the Balearic Islands seagrass). Lots of Risk Assessments now exist, and broadly align. Where Member States lack confidence, the EU should lead on a generic applied Risk Assessment.

### *Cooperation*

Some efforts for cooperation have occurred in a positive manner via processes that have included several Member States with a joint goal – e.g. efforts to protect the Dogger Bank SAC from trawling. But the law wasn’t clearly understood at the beginning, and the process failed to deliver results because of political interventions. In such situations (e.g. offshore sites), the Commission needs to take a lead in adopting the designating states measure(s) as appropriate if there is some disagreement, unless it has material evidence to decline that evidence. There is something of an issue with inshore sites, and a difference in approach because of the different culture and starting points of different Member States, how they understand and apply laws, and how they understand the role of Marine Protected Areas relative to ongoing commercial activities. Here, there is quite considerable divergence in application of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive in Northern European states compared to southern ones. The latter tend to be less informed of the legal obligations, and case law (e.g. Wadden Sea ruling of 2003 regarding fishing as a plan or project). But we could learn to be more efficient where similar habitats/species and fishing methods/industrial threats occur, and where impacts are obvious. (e.g. trawling over reefs).

Cooperation tools can be good governance structures (e.g. regional fisheries-conservation groups) that cover a section of coast but should be well versed in the law. These can then get members (fishers, boaters/sea users) to vote on measures and regional and site-level Risk

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<sup>9</sup>[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/documents/Annex%202020Scoping%20paper%20on%20fisheries%20management%20measures%20in%20Natura%202000%20sites%20\(MEG%20document\).pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/documents/Annex%202020Scoping%20paper%20on%20fisheries%20management%20measures%20in%20Natura%202000%20sites%20(MEG%20document).pdf)

Assessments using scientific knowledge of cause-effect of gears in different features to ascribe measures before the damage occurs (or even if it is ongoing) in order to prevent deterioration (under Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive). This is not an 'option', but a legal necessity. Member States can then allow the experts (the regional fisheries-conservation group staff) to provide details of a process for creating local byelaws to ban industrial activity and fishing in areas of maerl, seagrass, biogenic and rocky reefs – on a systemic basis (i.e. over a number of mapped sites). Both the capacity building side, and legal understanding of the sea must be communicated alongside the needs of sea users at the same time. Doing regulation without the adequate explanation of the reasons why to local stakeholders is more likely to cause a lack of acceptance of measures. But, on the other hand, the law is clear – if there is a possibility of damage, then that activity must be prevented until such time that it proves it is not damaging.

### 3.3 Mediterranean & Black Sea

Chair: Valeria Abaza, National Institute for Marine Research and Development, Romania

Facilitator: Paul Goriup

#### 3.3.1 Introduction to the region

Simonetta Fraschetti (University of Salento, Italy) gave a broad introduction to the current status of protected habitats and species, and the MPA networks in both the Mediterranean and Black Sea waters of the EU, with a reference to the links with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. While there had been some quite good progress in terms of legislation, site and species protection, recognition of MPA networks and international collaboration, nevertheless Simonetta Fraschetti showed that the ecological status of both seas remains quite poor. There are serious challenges from:

- Lack of shared vision that limits transboundary collaboration;
- Lack of systematic planning;
- Lack of coherent ecological networks;
- Hotspots of conflicts;
- The need for good data;
- The need for effective and adaptive management;
- The need of MPA networks in the framework of MSP.

Furthermore, knowledge of species and habitat distributions in the marine environment is still too low and fragmentary:

- The better known habitats are only benthic;
- No pelagic habitats are considered;
- Habitats are NOT ecosystems.

Consequently, the approach of the Nature Directives does not satisfy the MSFD in terms of GES definition:

- species are not representative of the whole range of biodiversity (as required by Descriptor 1 of GES) and are limited to charismatic and/or commercially important species;

- it focuses on patterns and not on processes, being mostly representative of the single MPA approach and not of the network approach.

Applying the principles of the Habitats Directive to re-enforce the MSFD implementation is a starting point but the approach must be improved and upgraded so as to satisfy the requirements of GES. However, MSFD monitoring could close the gap in future.

### **3.3.2 Discussions in the regional working group**

#### *Favourable reference values and their link to conservation objectives*

Most participants agreed that this concept is very specific and cannot be taken in a general way. Therefore, it is a matter for specialists to deal with and more focused research is needed, properly funded (not only from EU but also from national governments), to ensure that high quality data are available for establishing favourable reference values. However, it is important to note that favourable reference values do not reflect ecosystem complexity.

Most of the participants stated that they did have a good understanding of the concept of conservation objectives. Some thought the discussion time available in the seminar was too little to explore fully the linkage between favourable reference values, conservation objectives and conservation measures.

#### *Developing conservation measures*

Almost all participants thought conservation measures were a necessity, but many felt that applying them is often contentious. Accordingly, a multidisciplinary approach is needed to make measures effective.

The current situation in the two marine regions, based on the thorough analysis presented by Simonetta Fraschetti, is far from perfect, or even good. It is clear that moving from protected area designation to effective conservation is a long and hard process and requires significant and urgent efforts. When taking conservation measures, the analysis of human activities and related pressures must be very carefully considered.

It is also clear that the linkage for conservation between site levels and national/regional levels are not in place yet. Most conservation objectives are established at site level, and much less at regional level. However, there are some initiatives in the progress such as defining regional objectives for Natura 2000 sites in the Black Sea, a tool for defining favourable reference values at the site level in the Mediterranean, and a case study on the conservation of bottlenose dolphins in France at site/national/regional levels.

#### *Cooperation*

Coordination and cooperation between countries in the same Biogeographical region is necessary. Many existing channels were identified, mostly using existing scientific networks in both regions together with the Regional Seas Conventions as well as the Common Fisheries Policy. Potential cooperation tools include:

- Facilitated stakeholder meetings
- Working groups of Regional Seas Conventions
- Co-management of marine protected areas
- LIFE projects
- Training workshops
- Bottom-up consultations

## 4 Session 3: Biogeographic habitat and species working groups

The main aims of this multi-stream workshop session were to:

- assess the main challenges and share best practice in developing conservation objectives for the selected habitats and species, enhancing the coordination in setting conservation objectives at a regional scale,
- review the possibility for setting favourable reference values for selected habitats and species on the regional scale and identify priorities for future work,
- develop the application of risk assessments in order to design and prioritise appropriate conservation measures, while coordinating at a regional scale,
- for the above, specify the appropriate tools for follow-up actions and events to develop enhanced cooperation across the biogeographical regions in association with relevant instruments (EU policies and directives, regional sea conventions, other multilateral agreements).

Speakers presented an overview of the current status of each habitat and species to be discussed, with a focus on the state of play with setting their FRVs and conservation objectives and measures for Natura 2000 sites. The working groups were then invited to discuss the different approaches applied and identify opportunities for better coordination at the regional level and priority areas for future work. Links with the relevant work done under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) were also explored.

### 4.1 Baltic Sea: HABITATS

Chair: Susan Gubbay, UK

Facilitator: Sara Estlander

Presentations:

- Submerged rooted plant communities on Baltic infralittoral sand (1110 + 1160). Suvi Kiviluoto, Finnish Environment Institute
- MPA management in Denmark. Anna-Grethe Underlien Pedersen, Danish Environmental Protection Agency

The presentation by Suvi Kiviluoto highlighted the complexity of nature, including the difficulties of interpreting habitat descriptions from the EU Interpretation Manual for highly variable conditions in Finnish coastal waters. In the case of sandbanks, for example, there are more than ten species, all with more or less specific environmental niches, that can be used to characterise this habitat type. The presentation also showcased the results of the data-rich VELMU project, which was used to provide underpinning information about existing marine Natura 2000 sites and Marine Protected Areas. The results of this project were being used to examine how MPAs are located in relation to values and pressures among other things. In the future the data could also be used to reassess and adjust zoning in Natura 2000 sites, and support the ecosystem approach to Maritime Spatial Planning.

#### 4.1.1 Discussions in the working group

Participants first discussed and listed challenges related to the three seminar themes. After this, the group prioritised the identified challenges based on urgency and relevance for regional cooperation, and based on the prioritisation, selected five challenges to be further discussed during the second half of the session. The selected challenges are marked with an asterisk (\*) in the list below.

##### Challenges related to setting conservation objectives

- Lack of data: on species and habitats, on elements of structure and function of habitats, on ecosystem services, and on pressures.
- \*Adequately describing habitat quality and function
- \*Different approaches to defining habitat types across Member States as well as across the Baltic
- Lack of detailed guidelines for setting conservation objectives.
- Complexity of overlapping legislation (e.g. MSFD, WFD). A more holistic approach is needed, and more cooperation.
- Regional differences in dealing with shared pressures. Common, long-term commitments needed.
- Contradicting interests of requirements of nature directives with political and economic interests.
- How to take into account the inevitable environmental changes (e.g. climate change, land uplift...).

##### Challenges related to setting favourable reference values

- \*No clear agreed methodologies for setting FRVs.
- Keeping FRVs strongly linked to science, rather than political/administrative considerations.
- Insufficient resources (both human and financial) and limited experience for informed political discussion.
- Unclear how much feasibility should be taken into account in setting FRVs (e.g. areas already seriously compromised by eutrophication or fisheries).
- Unclear how often / when to revise FRVs in light of new data, techniques, and models.
- Unclear what timescales to use to determine historical reference values.
- Historical reference values can lose relevance in a changing environment (i.e. climate change).
- Not clear whether/when regional perspectives should be considered in setting national FRVs.
- Changing environmental (spatial) gradients across region and across the Baltic Sea.

##### Challenges related to developing conservation measures

- Political, economical, and public pressures intervene in scientific decisions for measures.
- Lack of experience of “good” measures. Need for scientific evidence and for experiences with implementation process.
- \*Lack of knowledge about the impacts from pressures and threats. Are there thresholds?
- \*How to set conservation measures in a changing environment and cope with invasive and highly mobile species?

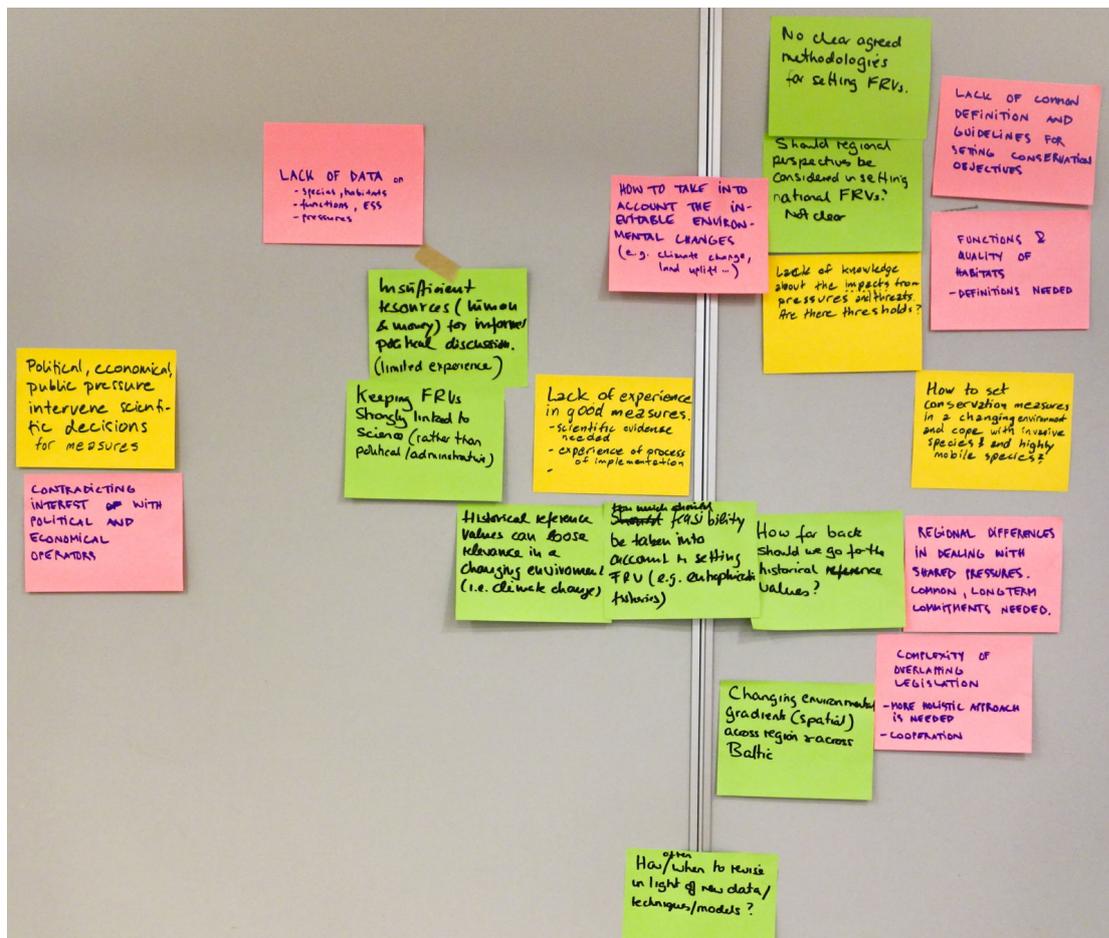


Figure 1. Baltic Sea habitat challenges prioritised according to urgency and relevance for regional cooperation. The higher up the note, the more urgent, and the further to the right, the more relevant for regional cooperation.

#### 4.1.2 Opportunities for cooperative work and follow-up

Focusing on the five selected challenges, the group proposed concrete steps, in some cases adding timeframes to create a draft roadmap for addressing the challenge. The steps that participants saw as most crucial are marked with an asterisk (\*) in the list below.

*What can be done to include the quality and functions of habitats when setting conservation objectives?*

- \*Next 12 months: EU seminar or call for project to share regional knowledge to describe/discuss/define attributes and indicators of quality and functions of habitats and the ecosystem services they provide. All Member States participating but also all Baltic States if possible. Report to the next marine biogeographical meeting.
- \*Compile a catalogue of examples of conservation objectives for habitats and species in the Baltic, including those relating to habitat quality. (Baltic Member States)
- Next 12 months: Establish a database of personal and organisation contacts on certain habitats, to increase potential for dialogue between stakeholders. (Coordinated by the European Commission)
- Next 12 months: EU call for project to elaborate how structure and function of habitats can be best incorporated into conservation objectives. (Baltic Member States)

*What can be done to take into account the range of Baltic marine habitat definitions when setting conservation objectives?*

- \*Next 12 months: Member states develop translation matrix between Annex I habitat types and hub level 5–6 units.
- \*Next 12–24 months: HELCOM project to refine Annex I habitat definitions using hub level 5–6 unit information, and identifying sub-region variations in habitat features.
- \*Next 24 months: Legal process.
  - The European Commission creates a framework for Member States to agree on common goals at the Baltic scale.
  - Biogeographical process facilitates the framework transfer to Member State level.
  - Member States make long-term commitments on conservation objectives for Baltic Sea habitat types under HELCOM coordination.

*What can be done to improve methodologies for setting FRVs?*

- \*Next 12 months: EU call for proposals for e.g. workshops, research papers, site-based studies (including cross-border) that aim to clarify what FRVs mean and find ways to define them under the existing range of conditions/data. Feedback to next biogeographical seminar.
- Next 12–24 months: EU and Member States to communicate meaning, importance and approach to working with FRVs more widely to the local level.
- \*On-going: EU to review consistency, identify and communicate mismatches, and encourage joint work on FRVs.

*What can be done to set conservation measures in a changing environment, and cope with invasive species and highly mobile species?*

- \*Next 12–24 months: Develop/include measures over different time-scales. Note regional (Baltic Sea) differences in time-scales, e.g. land-uplift, and examine the same issue in other management plan processes (EU to coordinate, MSs to implement)
- \*Next 12–24 months: HELCOM workshop to share experience of setting conservation measures in Member States. Discuss and elaborate on Member States' positions.
- Next 2–5 years: EU/MS project to gather further information on the threats, including alien species, on global scale as well as Baltic scale, and to learn and apply best practices as conservation measures. Use MSFD datasets and review articles; compile and compare methods and measures for features used by Member States for MSFD monitoring.
- \*On-going, 5+ years: Foresee and accept certain changes in planning of conservation measures, and apply adaptive management. (Member States / MPA managers)
- Proposed actions for biogeographical process:
  1. Ask Member States to nominate delegations and/or responsible contacts
  2. Do regular follow-up
  3. Arrange yearly small-scale/regional meetings

*What can be done to improve our knowledge and set thresholds on impacts from pressures when developing conservation measures?*

- Collect experiences and examples from other Member States. (universities, MPA managers)
- \*Define the sensitive habitats/areas. Make management plans in a process which includes stakeholders. (MPA managers)
- Define and agree upon threshold values. (e.g. HELCOM, MPA managers, Member States, researchers)
- \*Continue research on impacts of different/possible pressures on habitats and species. (Member States, universities)
- \*Next 5 years: HELCOM/biogeographical seminar or working group.
- Next 6 years: Set, review, refine conservation measures.

## 4.2 Baltic Sea: SPECIES

Chair: Ida Carlén, Coalition Clean Baltic, Sweden

Facilitator: Marije Siemensma

Presentations:

- Harbour Porpoise, Ida Carlén, Coalition Clean Baltic, Sweden
- Velvet Scoter, Julius Morkunas, Birdlife Lithuania

The Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) and the Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) were selected to provide focus and act as Baltic Sea species case studies.

The Harbour porpoise is the only cetacean resident in the Baltic Sea, it preys on small fish using echolocation. The SAMBAH project provided new knowledge on the population's distribution and abundance. The main conclusion was that there were not many animals left. To illustrate this a simple calculation was made. The abundance in summer is estimated ~ 500 (80-1091), meaning ~ 220 females. Assuming 50% of them are reproductive (~110 females) of which 20% are not fertile due to contaminant loads, then there are only 88 reproductive females. Each individual is therefore very important and other mortality and disturbance should be minimised. Current threats, within and outside MPAs, are environmental contaminants leading to reproductive failure, bycatch in gillnets leading to mortality and underwater noise causing disturbance.

The Velvet Scoter is a diving sea duck that mostly nests inland near fresh water, widely scattered across relatively undisturbed northern breeding grounds as far north as the Russian Arctic, with a smaller proportion of birds nesting further south in Fennoscandia and Estonia. They migrate south-southwest, where they aggregate in high densities for wintering in marine waters, primarily in the Baltic Sea (holding c. 93% of the global population), preferring to use sandy sea habitats for wintering. A comprehensive census in 2007–2009 revealed a dramatic decline in the abundance of wintering Velvet Scoters in the Baltic Sea by about 60% or 3.6% per year which led to an updated estimate of 450,000–500,000 individuals in the entire Western Siberia & Northern Europe/NW Europe biogeographic population. The population decline of the Velvet Scoter was most likely brought about by a combination of reduced survival and reduced reproductive output. However, the exact contribution of these two factors to the observed decline is lacking, therefore, it is difficult to accurately prioritise actions necessary to revert the declining trend. Key threats are: bycatch in coastal gill net fisheries of wintering birds, oil pollutions, hunting, predation by non-native species, effect of windfarms and other developments and climate change.

After the two presentations on the Baltic species Harbour Porpoise and Velvet Scoter the group felt that there were enough facts to start acting. The porpoise population is 1% of what it should be, hence act now. The group felt deep regret for the situation with the porpoise in the Baltic. Regarding the Velvet Scoter there was some optimism regarding the cooperation in the

Baltic region. Hunting scoters should be stopped and for both species joint collaboration is needed to reach conservation objectives.

#### 4.2.1 Discussions in the working group

Participants first discussed and listed the challenges related to the three seminar themes. They then prioritised them on urgency and relevance for regional cooperation (Figure 2). From that prioritisation the group selected five challenges to be further discussed during the second part of the session. The group clustered some of the challenges resulting in five challenges. The selected challenges that were clustered together are numbered in the list below.

##### *Challenges related to setting conservation objectives*

- Mobility of species makes it challenging to set and achieve objectives in stationary MPAs
- Climate change makes it more difficult
- Money (clustered for challenge 4)
- Frequent political changes slow down the process
- How to set objectives on regional level and breaking down to national and site level (clustered for challenge 1)
- Adapt the way of communication with stakeholders (clear, simple, convincing) (clustered for challenge 3)
- Related to Harbour Porpoise, there is not enough information to set objectives: used by decision makers to justify status quo; (clustered for challenge 2)
- Lack of precautionary approach

##### *Challenges related to setting favourable reference values*

- Interpret and develop a common understanding of what a favourable range is

### **Unfragmented range of presence in all the range**

- Lack of information (including historical) to define the baseline: (clustered for challenge 5)

### **How to gather them?**

### **What existing projects can help?**

### **What modelling tools?**

- Efficient communication towards public, private, political sectors requires absolute values (International partners) (clustered for challenge 3)
- Funding challenge: (clustered for challenge 5)

### **Expensive to collect homogenous data and set harmonised methods (free sharing data was mentioned)**

### **How to use existing policy funding instruments**

- A need to develop regional approaches (migratory species, international range)

### **International cooperation necessary (clustered for challenge 1)**



#### 4.2.2 Opportunities for cooperative work and follow-up

Based on the prioritisation and the clustering, five questions were addressed by the group in order to come up with solutions (as concrete as possible) for these five selected challenges. A final individual vote was asked from the participants on the solutions.

*How can we set conservation objectives on a regional level using data at this level, to then break down to national and site levels?*

- Relevant WG(s) to develop regional conservation objectives
- Using existing action (regional/ EU) plans as a starting point
- Avoid general terms in setting objectives

*How can we get from arguing that there is not enough knowledge to actually implementing existing measures or developing new measures?*

- Communicate the targets & measures. The group felt that it is time to really act and discussed a kind of *declaration*. Several entities should be targeted by the communication, from policymakers to fishermen. Develop a public campaign with clear messages and a regional perspective.
- Show the benefits (e.g. economic) and funding opportunities and use existing examples from other parties with the backing from independent research and experts (considered important).

*How can we involve stakeholders in developing measures, taking into account conflicts of interest, and communicate these measures to the public, politicians and stakeholders?*

- Implement legislation on stakeholder involvement to make them feel involved
- Managers for sites important for communication to be able to work they need support from authorities
- Focus on positive effects of measures (profits; other incentives)
- Concrete objectives needed for communication
- Consider creating a reference group for site, including stakeholders
- Use spatial planning process for involvement

*How can we find funding for developing, implementing and monitoring of effectiveness of measures?*

- Include all funding needs in the Priority Action Frameworks (PAFs); EMFF
- Get in touch to private foundations/companies to get funding for the projects
- Collect good practice of compensation measurements from offshore renewables
- Specific target fundraising. Example: concerts (Harbour Porpoises Rock)
- LIFE funding
- INTERREG Peer to Peer instrument (capacity building)

*How can we gather and use data and tools/methods to set FRVs?*

- Relevant WG(s) to develop regional FRVs using relevant tools/methods
- Regional project(s) to develop regional FRVs (also possible to break down to lower levels)
- Make sure data are freely available.

*The solutions **most voted** by the participants of session 3 were:*

- For relevant existing WGs to develop FRVs and regional conservation objectives
- To make use of existing action (regional/EU) plans as a starting point

- To communicate the targets & measures and to show the benefits (eg. economical) and funding opportunities and use existing examples from other parties. With the backing from independent research and experts (considered important). Concrete objectives are needed for communication
- To make a declaration from the N2000 seminar (actor?) that it is time to act now was mentioned.
- To implement legislation on stakeholder involvement to make them feel involved and that managers for sites are important for communication. To be able to do their work properly they need support and recognition from authorities.
- To focus on positive effects of measures (profits; other incentives)
- To consider creating a reference group for sites, including stakeholders
- To include all funding needs in the Priority Action Frameworks (PAFs); EMFF, LIFE

### 4.3 Atlantic & Macaronesia: HABITATS

Chair: Jean-Luc Solandt, Marine Conservation Society, UK

Facilitator: Theo van der Sluis

#### Presentations

- Mussel beds in the Atlantic littoral zone (1140, 1170 + 1160). Norbert Dankers, Netherlands
- Seagrass beds on Atlantic infralittoral sand (1110 + 1160). Ricardo Haroun, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain
- LIFE Marha project. Thibaut de Bettignies, National Museum of Natural History, France

Norbert Dankers gave a presentation on Mussel beds in the Atlantic littoral zone. It highlighted the importance of the habitat as a basis for the ecosystem, as well as the temporal dynamics of mussel banks over long periods of time. He summarised the research that has been done over the past 30 years in the Wadden Sea, and how the area came to be designated as a transboundary protected area.

Ricardo Haroun talked about the key species in Atlantic seagrass beds, which differ depending on the location, and described the threats and pressures they face which had resulted in the disappearance of the habitat in many places. Protection is still not good, and the importance of the habitat is not sufficiently understood.

Eric Tromeur spoke about the LIFE Marha project. This project aimed at achieving a favourable conservation status for marine habitats. It focused on a large number of actions, from capacity building, training on awareness raising, and stimulating transboundary cooperation.

#### 4.3.1 Discussion in the working group

As a reflection on the presentations, the participants focused on the challenges the habitats faced with regard to:

- setting conservation objectives,
- setting favourable reference values, and
- developing conservation measures.

Based on all listed challenges, the participants were asked to prioritise the most pressing challenges, based on majority voting. The identified priority issues and challenges were:

- Socio-economic considerations result in low-level ambition, so that proportionality prevails over precaution.
- Setting FRVs is hard, but should not block conservation measures (precautionary approach)
- Awareness of impact (of various sectors) on the habitats can be limited
- How far do we need to go for setting FRVs (do we need data from pre-industrial fishing)?

The challenges listed by the participants were then re-grouped in the following themes:

#### *Integrated management*

- How to deal with conflicts between sectors like fishing or coastal defence?
- There are conflicts between physical development and conservation. How to solve this?
- How to deal with possible compensation? IROPI?
- Cumulative impacts are not well understood.
- The interaction between regulatory levels is weak or insufficient, requiring better coordination
- How can we take the right measures where knowledge is sometimes lacking, and making enforcement effective?
- Enforcement requires sufficient technical means, but also resources, and should be accepted by stakeholders

#### *Challenges related to FRVs*

- Data are not easily comparable in some instances (e.g. sandbanks and fishing)
- Administrative divisions lead to lack of communication and knowledge gaps
- How is site integrity reflected in FRVs?
- Unidentified pressures, e.g. climate change
- When you need to set values, authorities get cold feet
- Uncertainty leads to lack of political will
- The conceptual framework is unfamiliar for authorities
- There is a lack of correspondence between scientific research and correct legislative requirements under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.
- Commercial fish are not being evaluated for setting FRVs of marine habitats
- Difference between FRVs and conservation objectives is not understood
- Stopping all activities may not result in a required outcome
- Scientists are not sharing all information, results in lack of dissemination
- Translating site-level information to regional FRVs is complex
- There are cumulative impacts (pressures) – we need a pristine parallel, which doesn't exist

#### *Participation and Awareness raising*

- More resources should be available, based on needs
- Community acceptance at site level
- FRV data is needed on sedimentary communities
- Planning stage/Authority buy-in
- Politicisation of conservation objectives and scientific information (ignoring the precautionary principle in Article 6)
- Raise awareness with the general public, in order to put pressure on politicians
- Capacity building: develop ecology courses for fishermen, which are mandatory.

### 4.3.2 Opportunities for cooperative work and follow-up

Based on the challenges, five particular themes were selected by the participants for discussion and elaboration.

*How can we come to integrated planning, and find a balance between socio-economic activities and environmental conditions?*

What	Who
Allow and commit to long-term management groups using informed sea-user groups (this is starting point)	Local groups Local authorities Government
Demonstrate socio-economic (e.g. ecosystem services) of environmental recovery, when possible (integral part of above)	Governments Scientists
Complying with the Directive properly allows an account of socio-economic interests without damaging nature	Governments/ Commission
After a law is implemented to prevent damaging activity, mitigate economic effects, using EMFF for transition with stakeholders	

*How can we set FRVs without blocking conservation measures?*

What		Who	Comment
<b>Only activities that do not affect a site are allowed</b>	1. Impact Assessment 2. Prohibit activity that fail the Article 6(3) test	Authorities: Obligatory EIA Regulatory action	General obligatory EIA
<b>Generic risk assessment is basis for protection</b>	3. European N2K report: Apply existing Risk Assessment measures at maritime BG-level	EC MS, Env/Fish/Other sectors	(Marine) Regional cooperation between MS
<b>Measures and information of the monitoring results</b>	4. Monitoring schemes 5. Results of applied research 6. New measures necessary & possible 7. Consultation	Research institutes Funding authorities	Revision of monitoring schemes Resources Communication+ citizens + sectors

*How can we decide on the timeframe for FRVs?*

Historical data to define FRVs is mostly lacking. Modelling is based on current data and ambitions are thus based on a degraded state, and is thus not very suitable to go by. These points require a sense of ownership or 'buy-in' from relevant sectors/society

What	Who
------	-----

Use historic data that accurately reflect true baseline conditions	Scientific community
Where historic data are absent, use modelling Scenarios and comparative studies should be validated/calibrated using MPA and/or current monitoring data	Scientific community

*How can we raise the awareness of the impact of sectors on habitats?*

Work with all stakeholders to build a coalition and develop a joint agenda with all parties. It is important to start involving citizens from the start in conservation projects and encourage sectors to have a vested interest in the success of a site.

Communication is a continuous process and should be targeted towards different groups (e.g. broader public, users of MPAs, sectors affected, etc.). Use of visual examples can be very helpful to demonstrate negative and positive impacts in the area of interest. Involve professionals in risk assessment procedures. Disseminate also good-practice examples, directed at community, authorities, sectors and NGOs. But people must understand that the law is strict. Protection measures are necessary where the scientific literature shows cause (i.e. a human activity) and an affect (reduced species numbers; biomass; size) in the past from similar habitats. Then action MUST be undertaken.

What	Who
Capacity building (education, workshops); involve professionals in scientific studies	Scientists
Involvement in setting conservation objectives and measures	Local authorities
Collaborative risk assessments	Local authorities

*Where to focus on for setting conservation objectives: on processes or results?*

**Understand favourable conditions for your habitat:** How do we define processes and results? Ecological processes are e.g. turbidity, hydro-dynamics, etc. Results are: state variables. In fact, results are the quantified goals. It is important to consider both processes and results (outcomes). For example, the result aimed for may be more seagrass established, this requires a proper understanding of this habitat type and its site conditions: clear water, nutrients, low management impacts (anchors, trawling), freshwater input, tides etc. A management regime is required which ensures that these conditions mentioned are met.

**Allow the sea to recover:** Considering the processes, it is important to think in terms of the physical conditions necessary to support natural biological systems, their growth, change and population fluctuations over time. At present we often only consider just the ‘physical Annex 1 habitat’, rather than the biology associated with the sand (for protection). For example, currently there is an EU derogation for ‘light’ trawling over Croatian seagrass beds that does not dig into the sediment. But the fish and molluscs associated with the seagrass will be caught. Thus the ‘seagrass’ may remain healthy, but the species living in it not so. Article 6(3) and ‘site

integrity' requires the species associated with the habitats to be at favourable conservation status. That cannot be so if they are targeted for extraction. For example, continued trawling in the Waddensea (Netherlands) and The Wash (in England) will not allow mussel beds to accrue. Trawling in sandbanks won't enable the colonisation and growth of *Sabellaria* worm reef or oyster beds. Thus, the conditions for recovery aren't being met for achieving the potential recovery for a more natural state, and then that 'state' and the associated range of a vulnerable species to be allowed to grow. This is why matching FRVs to areas that have never been trawled over, or are unavailable to trawls, or where long-term scientific closures to trawls, are so important for setting adequate COs.

**Reduce the workload:** Vulnerable sub-features of sites (such as seagrass and maerl beds) may be found in several Annex 1 habitats such as sandbanks, shallow inlets and bays, mudflats and estuaries. They also have associated biodiversity that must be at a favourable condition (e.g. fish, invertebrates, crabs, lobsters, plants and even plankton). These will all be affected by environmental conditions and human activities. Only if we consider the condition of biological parts of Annex 1 features, can we realise and enable the recovery of habitats.

**Manage the human activity, not the habitat(s):** If human pressures can be decreased or mitigated, a system may recover. The processes need to be addressed at the biogeographical level, whether by the Member State or by the European Commission – who have quite clearly stated that the law must be applied. At site level and biogeographical level it should be taken into account that results depend on the processes taking place. This requires involvement of authorities at regional and national levels. The adoption of a 'process-based' formalised approach (e.g. such as that carried out by UK government and its regional conservation and fisheries regulators). This would potentially reduce the burden of monitoring and assessment, which also improves the end results (role for scientists, authorities and governments).

The following event was recommended for inclusion in the roadmap:

- Carry out a workshop in a country to discuss a single habitat and/or site where there was a problem with implementing measures e.g. Lyme Bay or Falmouth, England, asking what activities used to take place.
- Show the science of how that activity has in the past, somewhere in that habitat, in that eco-region, affected that habitat.
- Show how the law applies to this information to create a systemic preventative management measure.
- Show the audience the process by which the activity was stopped in that country/region.
- What information was used?
- What body was given the authority to impose management?
- How was this supported and communicated?
- Where are there examples of change in the ecological community from such measures?

## 4.4 Atlantic & Macaronesia: SPECIES

Chair: David Lyons, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ireland

Facilitator: Martin Kennedy

Presentations:

- Areas of importance for the bottlenose dolphin in the coastal waters of Madeira, Luis Freitas, Cetaceosmadeira II, Portugal (presented by Paulo Oliveira)
- The Black-legged kittiwake, Tone Kristin Reiertsen, Norway.

The LIFE Project CETACEOSMADEIRA II was carried out between 2009 and 2013 to identify the areas of importance for the bottlenose dolphin in the coastal waters of Madeira, with the aim of establishing adequate marine Natura 2000 sites for the species. Extensive boat surveys were made and some 80 000 photographs processed to identify individual animals. Analysis of the results suggested that some 360 to 600 dolphins used the Madeiran waters, of which 180 are resident. Bottlenose dolphins are targeted by whale-watching tours because of its year around presence, abundance and coastal distribution. As a result of the project, an SCI of about 6350 km<sup>2</sup> has been designated.

The black-legged kittiwake is a highly threatened seabird in the North Atlantic which has recently suffered steep declines (e.g. around 95% in the Shetlands). It is a long-lived (average 28 years) cliff-nesting species that feeds on schooling fish and crustaceans. Mortality is mainly affected by conditions in non-breeding areas, especially the Newfoundland-Labrador Shelf and offshore areas, east to the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, and the North Sea and Celtic-Biscay Shelf. Among various threats, ocean warming that affects its food supply is one of the most significant, accounting for 50% of its decline. There is an urgent need for large-scale studies linking distributions with demography and threats in order to devise appropriate conservation measures.

### 4.4.1 Discussions in the working group

*Setting conservation objectives*

- It is challenging to set objectives that meet all uses. For instance setting objectives that are both aspirational for the site and suitable for use in appropriate assessments can be difficult.
- There is a lack of clarity and transparency within the process to set conservation objectives.
- How do we set objectives that take into account climate change?
- How do we address industry impacts in conservation objectives? There seems to be a mismatch between site level objectives and impacts.
- It can be difficult to access data held by others which can be used to set effective conservation objectives. In addition there is often a lack of data.
- How do we prioritise / account for the key pressures that affect each site when setting conservation objectives?
- Targets are often based on the designations rather than management. This is often a communication challenge as opposed to a legal problem.
- It is easy to identify threats; however it is a challenge to identify the level of impacts.

### *Setting favourable reference values*

- Setting FRVs can be time-consuming, especially when data is lacking. Is this the best use of time?
- There is a lack of clarity with setting FRVs within an ecosystem-based approach.
- There is a lack of scientific process to define FRVs.
- Overall there is confusion about the actual uses of FRVs and the benefits of having them set.

### *Designing conservation measures*

- Appropriate baselines must be set in order to design effective conservation measures.
- Conservation measures are diluted as conservation objectives are forgotten in politics.
- It is difficult to design conservation measures when government departments are not working together towards common aims.
- Regulation is the biggest challenge when going up against powerful lobbies such as fisheries.
- Both commercial and recreational fishing should be considered when designing conservation measures.
- Setting conservation measures for highly mobile species is challenging. In addition site scale interventions alone are inappropriate for these species.
- Member States can develop contradicting measures which affect other Member States; however the economic benefits outweigh the joint responsibility of changing these measures.
- There can be frustration when too many measures are implemented. It is better to have fewer but key measures that are well implemented.
- Measures should be relevant to all sectors; individually and cumulatively.
- There should be a greater focus on impacts which can be managed e.g. fisheries, bycatch, tourism, disturbance.

## **4.4.2 Opportunities for cooperative work and follow-up**

### *Favourable reference values and their link to conservation objectives*

- Timelines should be established by the European Commission for the creation of FRVs by Member States. This will ensure that all Member States use this tool.
- Further guidance should be provided by the European Commission on how to set FRVs effectively. This will help alleviate ambiguity and reduce the confusion surrounding FRVs.
- We should consider waiting for more data to be collected before setting FRVs to ensure they are effective. At present we may be rushing to set FRVs which will reduce their effectiveness.

### *Developing conservation measures*

- Various tools are needed when looking to prioritise and address pressures and impacts. These tools include adaptive management strategies, matrices and action plans. The basis of these tools should incorporate experience from Member States who have implemented similar programs previously (for instance, the matrices used in the UK to assess pressures and impacts on various marine species). This should be implemented by individual Member States with support and guidance developed by the European Commission.
- Member states often heavily prioritise economic growth versus environmental sustainability, making it difficult to set effective objectives which will be seriously considered by Member States.
- There was a consensus that effective management strategies and techniques exist and are used by Member States currently, however this information is poorly communicated between Member States.

### *Cooperation*

- Expert workshops should continue to ensure that knowledge sharing can occur on a regular basis. These workshops may be organised and supported by the European Commission, Member States, local organisations, etc.

- There is still some low hanging fruit which Member States should be addressing which requires little cooperation.
- More funding should be available in order to successfully address each of the themes discussed in the workshop.

## 4.5 Mediterranean & Black Sea: HABITATS

Chair: Maria Salomidi, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Greece

Facilitator: Iris Hendriks

Presentations:

- Photophilic communities with canopy-forming algae in Mediterranean infralittoral and upper circalittoral rock (1160 + 1170) and *Posidonia* meadows (1120), Monica Montefalcone, University of Genoa, Italy
- Trends in *Posidonia* meadows distribution & status along the Corsican Coast: an example, Christine Pergent-Martini & Ecosystem Team (presented by Thibaut de Bettignies)
- Seagrass meadows in Pontic lower infralittoral sands (1110, 1160), Dragos Micu, Romanian Water Authority

Canopy-forming algae develop forests in the infralittoral and upper circalittoral zones. They are mostly represented by the genera *Cystoseira* and *Sargassum*. The habitat was common and widespread in the Mediterranean but has been declining rapidly with estimated regression of 77% during the last 50 years. There is evidence of both regime and phase shifts in progress, with five species that have newly appeared or become commoner: *Caulerpa cylindracea*, *Axinella verrucosa*, *Eunicella verrucosa*, *Salmacina dysteri*, and *Fron dipora verrucosa*.

*Posidonia oceanica* meadows have also experienced large reductions of around 56% in the western Mediterranean, as well as invasion (and substitution) by *Caulerpa taxifolia* and *C. cylindracea*. They have a very low recovery potential therefore stopping further deterioration should be a primary and urgent objective.

Both habitats are impacted by human infrastructure development (harbours and ports), trawling, pollution, and warming trends (which are predicted to lead to the functional extinction of *Posidonia* by the middle of this century even under a relatively mild greenhouse-gas emissions scenario).

In the Black Sea, seagrass meadows are formed by *Zostera marina* and *Zostera noltei* in marine environments, mixed with *Ruppia maritima*, *R. cirrhosa* and *Zanichellia pedicellata* in brackish waters. The habitat occurs on infralittoral sands between 1 and 11 m in sheltered areas, on fine sands (100-200µm) with a silt content of 5 - 10%. Between 1970 to 1999 there was a generalized eutrophication of the Black Sea leading to the near collapse of meadows in Romania (95% loss), Bulgaria and Crimea (80% loss). Since 2000 the habitat has slowly recovered where still present but it cannot regain its former area of occurrence and has not yet regained its past depth range. The main impacts on the habitat are extreme temperatures, extreme weather (storms, tsunamis, ice scour), eutrophic epiphytes (*Cladophora*, *Ulva*,

*Ceramium*), reduced water quality (turbidity, eutrophication), pollution and litter, and urban development.

#### **4.5.1 Discussions in the working group**

##### *Setting conservation objectives*

- Need to immediately eliminate/mitigate pressures of which we are well-aware (i.e. habitat degradation like anchoring/trawling) and focus on active restoration.
- Take into account the negative trends (habitat area decline) when setting or updating conservation objectives.
- There is a lack of data for the Eastern (especially no-EU) Mediterranean that needs to be solved, we need a joined initiative including these areas.
- There are challenges in reconciling the interests of certain blue economy sectors and legal obligations under the nature directives
- A more ecosystem-based approach (using ecosystem-based indices) is needed to set conservation objectives; similar existing methodologies within WFD, MSFD and MSP should be explored/adopted in this process.

##### *Setting favourable reference values*

- We need to address sliding baselines.

##### *Designing conservation measures*

- In order to get to the right conservation measures, we need more precise conservation objectives.
- However, deterioration of protected features in sites needs to be prevented as a priority (in line with Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive).
- There is a need to study and mitigate the impacts of invasive species (especially in the Eastern Mediterranean) on a EU level.
- Successful MPAs can serve as management examples to be replicated; We should not be apologetic for the need to protect areas.
- Terrestrial-marine coupling approaches should be adopted.
- An intermediate figure to translate between Science/Management/Policy and end users is needed.
- The public needs to be informed and get involved, i.e. with citizen science projects or educational MPAs.
- How can we solve problems due to global stressors (i.e. warming, OA) with local management actions? Through argumentation of socio-economic benefits of N2K sites, i.e. engineering species mitigate climate change (coastal protection).
- Managers should engage, and we need to enforce management / protection of sites (no paper reserves).
- Priority habitat types (e.g. seagrass beds) should be included in maritime charts.
- Sustainable alternatives should be proposed instead of simply prohibiting something.

#### **4.5.2 Opportunities for cooperative work and follow-up**

##### *Favourable reference values and their link to conservation objectives*

- Functioning, structure and typical species could be addressed in conservation objectives through the allocation of funding to fill knowledge gaps (long-term monitoring, basic and applied research, including site level).

- Shifting baselines could be taken into account when FRVs are set based on a common methodology by National/Regional expert groups (Scientists, stakeholders, etc) incorporating historical data and local knowledge where available.
- Enhance basic research in the investigation of shifting baselines in FRVs; engage novel techniques to this purpose (e.g. modelling)

#### *Developing conservation measures*

- Information can be translated into effective conservation measures by a capable management body with enough capacity. Strong collaborations and data exchange between scientists and decision makers / managers are crucial.
- The impact of climate change/invasive species can be accounted for when setting conservation measures through the increase in ecosystem resilience by the creation of well-enforced, well-connected MPAs and integrated management at an international level.
- Successful MPA paradigms can serve in setting meaningful conservation objectives (and indicators to assess them), as well as effective conservation measures.
- Simplification of administrative procedures can shorten the time between identification of pressures and action.
- Early warning systems for invasive species can help prevent or mitigate dispersion.
- Prevent dispersion of invasive species at its source the (e.g. by salt barriers at the Suez Canal; control fish farming; increase public awareness through pet-shops).
- Focus on restoration after mass mortalities (impact climate change).
- Top-down actions EU -> national governments -> regions to set conservation measures.
- Introduce new legislative measures where horizontal pressures are known to compromise conservation targets.

#### *Cooperation*

- The support of stakeholders for immediate action when impact is evident can be gained through the creation and maintenance of participatory spaces (with scientists, managers, NGOs etc) that aid in the decision-making process.
- Knowledge of good and bad examples in understanding ecosystem structure and function can help assess applicability for each region; we need to facilitate collaborations in collecting and sharing such information among scientists and across regions (both terrestrial and marine), at a European but also an international level.
- Help local communities adapt to a changing sea (e.g. market and promote invasive species consumption when safe).
- Improve access to (scientific) information for managers / stakeholders.
- Promote communication through mass media, social networks, citizen science to assure information gets to the public; increase ocean literacy at all levels.
- Always engage and inform stakeholders and local communities at early stages of management processes.

## **4.6 Mediterranean & Black Sea: SPECIES**

Chair: Leonardo Tunesi, Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research

Facilitator: Paul Goriup

Presentations:

- Bottlenose Dolphin, Simone Panigada, Tethys Research Institute, Italy
- Balearic & Yelkouan Shearwaters, Pep Arcos, SEO/BirdLife Spain & Martin Austad, BirdLife Malta

The Mediterranean sub-population of Bottlenose Dolphin is listed as vulnerable, isolated from the Atlantic and Black sea ones. Trends, distribution, behaviour and genetic data suggest the existence of more than one sub-population, suggesting a complex Mediterranean population structure. There is no overall estimate of the population though it is estimated to be in the low 10,000s. They appear to be very common in the northern portion of the Adriatic Sea, in the Strait of Sicily, in the Aegean and along the coast, with some sighting more offshore. Information on the distribution and abundance in the Eastern and Southern part of the Mediterranean basin is scarce. The Black Sea sub-population is Endangered, existing as an isolated population of not less than several 1000s of animals. There were large harvests before a ban on small cetacean hunting was declared in Turkey in 1983. There are indications of some recent intentional killing and harassment in Ukraine, and incidental mortality in bottom-set gillnets (some 100s per year).

Both species of shearwater are pelagic, flying long distances for foraging on small pelagic fish, plankton and fishing discards in both the breeding and winter seasons. The Balearic Shearwater is classed as Critically Endangered, having a population of about 20,000 birds which appears to be declining at a rate of about 14% per year. Low adult survival is the main cause of the decline. The Yelkouan Shearwater is classed as Vulnerable, with a population estimated at 46,000-92,000 individuals which is also decreasing, but at a slower rate than for the Balearic Shearwater.

#### **4.6.1 Discussions in the working group**

##### *Setting conservation objectives*

- Define realistic and measurable objectives
- Address complex and multiple threats
- Define realistic and measurable objectives, finding a good balance between realistic and ambitious
- Prioritisation of threats and objectives
- Fill knowledge gaps
- Implement long term monitoring and adaptive management

##### *Setting favourable reference values*

- Lack of historical data and when the baseline should be fixed
- Consider regional and local scales for setting favourable reference values
- Difficult to describe the complexity of ecosystems
- Getting adequate and good quality knowledge over the long term

##### *Designing conservation measures*

- Lack of collaboration on various levels
- Lack of standardized methodology for monitoring
- Conservation measures clearly linked and directly face threats and pressures
- Evaluate and adapt measures
- Secure funding for long-term implementation of conservation measures
- Integrated approach at biogeographical level
- Low involvement of stakeholder and non-EU countries
- Increase collaboration between stakeholders and sectors

- Encourage bottom up approaches
- Promote collaboration inside biogeographical regions
- No regulation in international waters
- Lack of control and enforcement

#### **4.6.2 Opportunities for cooperative work and follow-up**

##### *Favourable reference values and their link to conservation objectives*

- Create thematic technical groups to agree on FRVs and to focus funding
- Allocate dedicated funds for long-term monitoring
- Encourage private sector and stakeholder involvement in funding and data collection

##### *Developing conservation measures*

- Obtain revenue from environmental taxes on tourism, oil and gas, energy, etc.
- Encourage links between MSFD and Natura 2000 surveillance programmes
- Use new technologies to collect data
- Define standardized approaches in design of management measures taking consideration of long-term monitoring activities
- Useful to support adaptive management

##### *Cooperation*

- Promote and increase EU leadership with neighbouring countries in international fora (regional conventions)
- Promote bilateral cooperation with neighbouring countries e.g. Spain and Morocco
- Promote transboundary projects and funding (e.g. Interreg, EMFF) for conservation such as transboundary MPAs
- Increased use of networks such as MedPAN to increase exchanges between EU and with non EU countries
- Adopt species action plans at EU level and ensure implementation
- Undertake joint projects between DG MARE and Environment
- Involve stakeholders to tailor the management measures from the beginning
- Explore inclusive and participative governance models
- Knowledge exchange via common platform

## 5 Session 4: Concluding plenary

Chair: Paul Goriup, Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process Consortium

Facilitator: Sara Estlander

### Presentation

- The LIFE programme and support for marine Natura 2000 sites, Mascha Stroobant, NEEMO EEIG, Belgium

The LIFE 2014-2020 sub-programme for the Environment has three strands: Nature & Biodiversity, Environment & Resource Efficiency, and Environmental Governance & Information. Overall, the Environment sub-programme has funding of €2.6 billion, of which 55% is allocated for the Nature & Biodiversity strand. Since the inception of the LIFE programme, it has funded 262 marine nature Projects, 45% of them on MPAs.

### Panel discussion

The presentation was followed by a panel discussion with the three chairs of the regional sessions (Andrzej Ginalski, Jean-Luc Soldant and Valeria Abaza), chaired by Fotios Papoulias, DG Environment. The chairs presented the results of the discussions from their workshops (see section 3).

### Workshop Findings

The participants then had some time to tour displays set up by the biogeographic habitat and species working groups to share and discuss each others' findings (see section 4).

### Conclusions

A presentation summarising the most "eyecatching" suggestions and conclusions was given by Vedran Nikolic, DG Environment, European Commission. In the presentation, he set out some key challenges and potential solutions.

#### *Setting Conservation Objectives*

Challenge	Solution
How to properly address structure and function and typical species in CO for habitats?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More guidelines /examples/exchanges</li> <li>- More funding to fill knowledge gaps (reflect these needs in PAFs!) + EU call for projects? -Use ecosystem-based indices for monitoring progress towards objectives (MSFD, WFD)</li> </ul>
Setting conservation objectives at regional level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Under species action plans, other international instruments (RSC, agreements) or new framework?</li> <li>- Refine Annex I habitat type definitions</li> </ul>
Help regions/MS that are lagging behind	Focused guidance, assistance, exchange and funding

#### *Setting favourable reference values*

Challenge	Solution
<p>How to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- pool together the scientific data</li> <li>- improve understanding of and methods to set FRVs on the regional level, including addressing shifting baselines</li> <li>- address funding needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use existing (or form new?) national/regional expert groups and/or organise workshops to agree on common methodologies and review consistency and coherence of FRVs among MS</li> <li>- Make scientific data freely available (MS, projects, EMODNet-Biology/impacts)</li> <li>- Reflect financing needs in PAFs</li> </ul>

### Setting Conservation Measures

Challenge	Solution
<p>How to translate information/science into effective conservation measures?</p>	<p>Good management bodies/schemes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- learn from best practices and set priorities for measures,</li> <li>- facilitate knowledge exchange (sci. authorities or EU projects), promote ocean literacy,...</li> </ul>
<p>How can we account for the impact of climate change and IAS when setting CM?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adaptive management to increase ambition (reserves?) to improve resilience of habitats and mitigate impacts of climate change and IAS</li> <li>- More prevention and early warning</li> <li>- Coordination and action at EU level</li> <li>- Share experiences (Natura 2000 biogeographical process?)</li> </ul>
<p>How to gain the support of stakeholders and take urgent action when impact is evident? ("Looking for perfection prevents action")</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Urgent and immediate action on pressures that evidently cause deterioration/destruction (legal obligation, Art. 6(2) HD)</li> <li>- Apply risk assessments to highlight the negative effect of pressures and define the necessary measures</li> <li>- Managers act towards stakeholders/politicians (responsibility!) with a clear message to take urgent action now</li> <li>- Try to agree/explain/show benefits, otherwise top-down approach (act now) -Continue to work to improve CO/FRVs, to involve stakeholders</li> </ul>

### Closure

Finally, a well-received morale-boosting closing address was given by Ignacio Torres, INTEMARES Director, on behalf of the host organisations.

## ANNEX 1

### Programme of the Seminar

#### Monday 12 November 2018

Arrival of participants

19.30 MedPAN social gathering

MedPAN kindly invited all the participants of the marine Natura 2000 seminar to join the traditional social gathering on the occasion of MedPAN workshop. Participants were requested to bring a speciality from their region to eat or to drink, to be shared with others.

#### Tuesday 13 November 2018

Time	Session, topics and speakers
8:00 – 08.45	Registration of participants
	Joint Opening Session with MedPAN
9:00 – 11:30 (coffee break 10.45 – 11.15)	<p>Official welcome &amp; introduction, hosted by Puri Canals, MedPAN President</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sonia Castañeda, Director of the Biodiversity Foundation, Ministry for the Ecological Transition</li> <li>- Fotios Papoulias, DG Environment, European Commission</li> <li>• Presentation of the LIFE IP INTEMARES project</li> <li>- Ignacio Torres, Biodiversity Foundation</li> <li>• Government of the Balearic Islands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New legislation for conservation of posidonia seabed in the Balearic Islands. <i>Miquel Mir, General Director of Protected Areas and Biodiversity</i></li> <li>- Information, awareness and control campaigns of nautical activity on Balearic's posidonia seagrass 2017/18. <i>Marcial Bardolet Richter, Director of the Project</i></li> <li>- Results of the international workshop on by-catch of <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> and other marine birds. <i>Joan Mayol Serra, Chief Officer of Balearic Wildlife Service.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• MedPAN Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Marine Protected Areas and Small Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean. <i>Jean-Michel Culioli, Scientific Director of Bonifacio Strait Natural Reserve / OEC, France.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• European Commission Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- European cooperation for effective management of marine Natura 2000 network. <i>Vedran Nikolic, DG Environment, European Commission</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Session I, Plenary: Keynote Presentations on Seminar Themes
12:15 – 13:30	<p>Chair: Sophie Ouzet, DG Environment, European Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Natura 2000 biogeographical process: state of play in the marine</li> </ul>

Time	Session, topics and speakers
	<p>biogeographical regions</p> <p><b>Theme 1:</b> Setting conservation objectives at site, national and regional levels. <i>Vincent Toison, Agence Française pour la biodiversité</i></p> <p><b>Theme 2:</b> Setting favourable reference values (FRVs). <i>Susan Gubbay, Marine Expert Group, UK</i></p> <p><b>Theme 3:</b> Developing conservation measures to achieve the conservation objectives. Jochen Krause, German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Workshop information and organisation: <i>Sara Estlander, Lead Facilitator</i></li> </ul>
13.30 – 14.30	Lunch in hotel
	Session 2, Biogeographic Groups: Topic Introductions
15.00 – 18.30 [Coffee break at 16.30]	<p>1 Baltic Sea</p> <p>Chair: Andrzej Ginalski, General Directorate for Environmental Protection, Poland</p> <p>Keynote presentation. Johnny Berglund, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management</p> <p>2 Atlantic &amp; Macaronesia</p> <p>Chair: Jean-Luc Solandt, Marine Conservation Society, UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keynote presentation on the Atlantic region. Laura Cornick, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, UK</li> <li>- Keynote presentation on the Macaronesian region. Paulo Oliveira, Institute for Forestry and Nature Conservation, Madeira, Portugal</li> </ul> <p>3 Mediterranean &amp; Black Sea</p> <p>Chair: Valeria Abaza, National Institute for Marine Research and Development, Romania</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keynote presentation. Simonetta Frascchetti, University of Salento, Italy</li> </ul>
19.30	Gala dinner

### Wednesday 14 November 2018

Time	Session, topics and speakers
08.15 depart	<p>Field trip to Cabrera National Park</p> <p>Bring warm, wind/rain proof clothing, walking shoes</p> <p>Picnic lunch to be provided</p>
15.00	<p>Plenary lecture in Les Salinas visitor centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Callum Roberts, University of York, UK</li> </ul>

18.15	Return to hotel
19.00 – 21.00	Knowledge Market
20.00 (up to 21.30)	Dinner in hotel
21.30	MedPAN cinema evening – MPA videos

### Thursday 15 November 2018

Time	Session, topics and speakers
	Session 3: Biogeographic habitat and species working groups
9:00 – 13:00 [Coffee break at 10.30]	<p>1a Baltic Sea: HABITATS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair: Susan Gubbay, Marine Expert Group, UK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Submerged rooted plant communities on Baltic infralittoral sand (1110 + 1160). <i>Suvi Kiviluoto, Finnish Environment Institute</i></li> <li>- MPA management in Denmark. Anna-Grethe Underlien Pedersen, Danish Environmental <i>Protection Agency</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>1b Baltic Sea: SPECIES</p> <p>Chair: Ida Carlén, Coalition Clean Baltic, Sweden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Harbour Porpoise. <i>Ida Carlén</i></li> <li>- Velvet Scoter. Julius Morkunas, Birdlife Lithuania</li> </ul> <p>2a Atlantic &amp; Macaronesia: HABITATS</p> <p>Chair: Jean-Luc Solandt, Marine Conservation Society, UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mussel beds in the Atlantic littoral zone (1140, 1170 + 1160). <i>Norbert Dankers, Netherlands</i></li> <li>- Seagrass beds on Atlantic infralittoral sand (1110 + 1160). Ricardo Haroun, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain</li> <li>- LIFE Marha project. Thibaut de Bettignies, National Museum of Natural History, France</li> </ul> <p>2b Atlantic &amp; Macaronesia: SPECIES</p> <p>Chair: David Lyons, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bottlenose Dolphin. Luis Freitas (presented by Paulo Oliveira, Institute for Forestry and Nature Conservation, Madeira, Portugal)</li> <li>- Black-legged Kittiwake. Tone Reiertsen, Norwegian Institute for Nature Research</li> </ul> <p>3a Mediterranean &amp; Black Sea: HABITATS</p> <p>Chair: Maria Salomidi, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Greece</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Photophilic communities with canopy-forming algae in Mediterranean infralittoral and upper circalittoral rock (1160 + 1170) and <i>Posidonia</i> meadows (1120). <i>Monica Montefalcone, University of Genoa, Italy</i></li> <li>- Seagrass meadows in Pontic lower infralittoral sands (1110, 1160).</li> </ul>

Time	Session, topics and speakers
	<p><i>Dragos Micu, Romanian Water Authority</i>                      3b Mediterranean &amp; Black Sea: SPECIES                      Chair: Leonardo Tunesi, Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bottlenose Dolphin. Simone Panigada, Tethys Research Institute, Italy</li> <li>- Balearic &amp; Yelkouan Shearwaters. Pep Arcos, SEO/BirdLife Spain &amp; Martin Austad, BirdLife Malta</li> </ul>
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch in hotel
14.30 – 16.30	Working Groups continue
16.30 – 17.00	Coffee break
	Session 4, Plenary: Summing up and closure
17.00 – 19.00	<p>Chair: Paul Goriup, Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process Consortium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The LIFE programme and support for marine Natura 2000 sites. <i>Mascha Stroobant, NEEMO EEIG</i></li> <li>- Findings from working group chairs. Convenor: Sara Estlander, Lead Facilitator</li> </ul>
19.00 – 19.30	<p>Seminar Conclusions and Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vedran Nikolic, DG Environment, European Commission</li> <li>- Ignacio Torres, INTEMARES Director</li> </ul>
19.30	Dinner in hotel

## ANNEX 2

### List of Participants

#### By Name

Name	Organisation	Country
Abaza, Valeria	National Institute for Marine Research and Development	Romania
Alonso Rodríguez, Jorge	Ministry for Ecological Transition	Spain
Anuškevičius, Džiugas	Ministry of Environment	Lithuania
Arcos, Pep	SEO/BirdLife	Spain
Aronsson, Mora	ETC/BD	Sweden
Arponen, Heidi	Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife Finland	Finland
Austad, Martin	BirdLife Malta	Malta
Belasova, Inga	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	Latvia
Belin, Alice	Seas At Risk	Belgium
Berglund, Johnny	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management / County Administrative Board of Vasterbotten	Sweden
Berrio, Carmen	Biodiversity Foundation	Spain
Boye, Anja Gadgaard	Ministry of foreign affairs	Denmark
Busatta, Stefania	Veneto Region	Italy
Ćaćić, Tatjana	Croatian agency for the Environment and Nature Protection	Croatia
Camilleri, Sarah	Environment and Resources Authority	Malta
Campos, Bruna Diana de Almeida	BirdLife Europe	Belgium
Canals, Purificacio	MedPAN	Spain
Carlen, Ida	Coalition Clean Baltic	Sweden
Carreras, Marta	Oceana Europe	Spain
Castañeda, Sonia	Biodiversity Foundation	Spain
Cornick, Laura	Joint Nature Conservation Committee	UK
Čuković, Tamara	Croatian Agency for Environment and Nature	Croatia
Dankers, Norbert	Independent Expert	Netherlands
Daunys, Darius	Marine Research Institute, Klaipeda University	Lithuania
De Bettignies, Thibaut	Muséum national d'histoire naturelle	France
De franco, Francesco	Consortium of Management of Torre Guaceto	Italy
Deudero, Salud	Spanish Institute of Oceanology	Spain
Dolman, Sarah	Whale and Dolphin Conservation	UK
Doneva, Asya	Ministry of Environment and Water	Bulgaria
Drechsler, Axel	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	Germany
Dubsky, Karin	Coastwatch	Ireland
Esparza, Oscar	WWF Spain	Spain

Name	Organisation	Country
Estlander, Sara	Lead Facilitator	Finland
Florit Garcia, Alicia	Department of Natural Environment, Balearic Government	Spain
Franzosini, Carlo	SHORELINE	Italy
Fraschetti, Simona	University of Salento - Conisma	Italy
García-Bellido Capdevila, Elvira	Ministry for Ecological Transition	Spain
Gauthier, Laureline	French Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture	France
Gavilan, Laura-Patricia	Muséum national d'histoire naturelle	France
Ginalski, Andrzej	General Directorate for Environmental Protection	Poland
González, Victoria	Fundación Biodiversidad	Spain
Goriup, Paul	NatureBureau	UK
Gubbay, Susan	Marine Expert Group	UK
Gutierrez, Victor	Fundación Biodiversidad	Spain
Hadjichristophorou, Myroula	Cyprus Wildlife Society	Cyprus
Haroun, Ricardo	Research Institute ECOAQUA, Univ. of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	Spain
Hendriks, Iris	Facilitator	Spain
Himes-Cornell, Amber	FAO / Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Resources Division	Italy
Ijlstra, Ton	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	Netherlands
Ivanov, Nikolay	Executive agency for fisheries and aquaculture	Bulgaria
Kapelj, Sven	Association Biom	Croatia
Kennedy, Martin	NatureBureau	UK
Kiviluoto, Suvi	Finnish Environment Institute	Finland
Koehler, Lydia	Environment & Resources Authority	Malta
Krause, Jochen	Federal Agency for Nature Conservation	Germany
Labach, Helene	GIS3M	France
Leahy, Yvonne	NPWS, Dept of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	Ireland
Lujan, Tatiana	ClientEarth	UK
Lyons, David	Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	Ireland
Markou, Melina	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR) – Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment	Cyprus
Markovic, Laurent	European Commission - DG MARE	EC
Martin, Georg	Estonian Marine Institute, University of Tartu	Estonia
Matamalas, Neus	Department of Natural Environment, Balearic Government	Spain
McLaverty, Ciaran	DTU Aqua, Technical University of Denmark	Denmark
McLeod, Michael	Scottish Government	UK
Michaelides, Savvas	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	Cyprus
Micu, Dragoş	Romanian Water Authority	Romania
Miguel, Elisa	Department of Natural Environment, Balearic Government	Spain

Name	Organisation	Country
Montefalcone, Monica	DISTAV, University of Genoa	Italy
Moreno Colera, Helena	Ministry of Ecological Transition	Spain
Moreno, Jorge	Department of Natural Environment, Balearic Government	Spain
Morkunas, Julius	Birdlife Lithuania (Lithuanian ornithological society)	Lithuania
Nikolic, Vedran	European Commission, DG Environment	EC
Oliveira, Paulo	Institute for Forestry and Nature Conservation	Portugal
Olivier, Wendy	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	Netherlands
Olsen, Jeppe	DTU Aqua	Denmark
Ouzet, Sophie	European Commission - DG ENV	EC
Ozolina, Ivita	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	Latvia
Panayotova, Marina	Institute of Oceanology-BAS	Bulgaria
Panigada, Simone	Tethys Research Institute	Italy
Papoulias, Fotios	European Commission - DG ENV	EC
Paravas, Vangelis	iSea Environmental Organisation for the Preservation of the Aquatic Environment	Greece
Pašukonis, Jonas	State Service for Protected Areas, Ministry of Environment	Lithuania
Paulomäki, Hanna	Oceana Europe	Finland
Pawliczka vel Pawlik, Iwona	University Of Gdańsk	Poland
Pergent Martini, Christine	University of Corsica	France
Pesu, Nunu	Ministry of the Environment	Finland
Portolou, Danae	Hellenic Ornithological Society / Birdlife Greece	Greece
Reiertsen, Tone	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research	Norway
Roberts, Callum	University of York	UK
Rodić, Petra	Croatian Agency for Environment and Nature	Croatia
Ruis, Juan Manuel	Spanish Institute of Oceanology	Spain
Salomidi, Maria	Institute of Oceanography, Hellenic Centre Marine research	Greece
Santini, Elena	Lazio Region Administration	Italy
Siemensma, Marije	Facilitator	Netherlands
Smaranda, Samad John	Ministry of Environment	Romania
Soirinsuo, Anna	WWF	Finland
Solandt, Jean-Luc	Marine Conservation Society	UK
Sourbes, Laurent	Zakynthos National Marine Park	Greece
Starman, Marko	Landscape park Debeli Rtič	Slovenia
Strake, Solvita	Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology	Latvia
Stroobant, Mascha	NEEMO/Timesis	Belgium
Teaca, Adrian	NIRD GeoEcoMar	Romania
Tilders, Ilke	Foundations of Success	Netherlands
Tingström, Lena	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	Sweden
Toison, Vincent	L'Agence française pour la biodiversité	France
Torres, Ruis- Huerta,	Fundación Biodiversidad	Spain

Name	Organisation	Country
Ignacio		
Tromeur, Eric	Ministry of Environment	France
Tryfon, Eleni	European Environment Agency	EEA
Tunesi, Leonardo	Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research	Italy
Underlien Pedersen, Anna-Grethe	Danish Environmental Protection Agency	Denmark
Vallarola, Fabio	MPA of Torre del Cerrano / ADRIAPAN	Italy
van der Sluis, Theo	Wageningen University	Netherlands
Vareltzidou, Stella	Axios - Loudias - Aliakmonas Management Authority	Greece
Vignes, Pierre	MedPAN	France
Visser, Pim	European Association of Producers Organisations	Netherlands
Vonk, Sjaak	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	Netherlands
Zakrzewska, Monika	Maritime Office in Gdynia	Poland
Zapata, Javier	Organismo Autónomo Parques Nacionales	Spain
Zazu, Mariana	AON Society for Biodiversity Research and Environmental Engineering	Romania

## By Country

Name	Organisation	Country
Belin, Alice	Seas At Risk	Belgium
Campos, Bruna Diana de Almeida	BirdLife Europe	Belgium
Stroobant, Mascha	NEEMO/Timesis	Belgium
Doneva, Asya	Ministry of Environment and Water	Bulgaria
Ivanov, Nikolay	Executive agency for fisheries and aquaculture	Bulgaria
Panayotova, Marina	Institute of Oceanology-BAS	Bulgaria
Ćačić, Tatjana	Croatian agency for the Environment and Nature Protection	Croatia
Čuković, Tamara	Croatian Agency for Environment and Nature	Croatia
Kapelj, Sven	Association Biom	Croatia
Rodić, Petra	Croatian Agency for Environment and Nature	Croatia
Hadjichristophorou, Myroula	Cyprus Wildlife Society	Cyprus
Markou, Melina	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR) – Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment	Cyprus
Michaelides, Savvas	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	Cyprus
Boye, Anja Gadgaard	Ministry of foreign affairs	Denmark
McLavery, Ciaran	DTU Aqua, Technical University of Denmark	Denmark
Olsen, Jeppe	DTU Aqua	Denmark
Underlien Pedersen, Anna-Grethe	Danish Environmental Protection Agency	Denmark

Name	Organisation	Country
Markovic, Laurent	European Commission - DG MARE	EC
Nikolic, Vedran	European Commission, DG Environment	EC
Ouzet, Sophie	European Commission - DG ENV	EC
Papoulias, Fotios	European Commission - DG ENV	EC
Tryfon, Eleni	European Environment Agency	EEA
Martin, Georg	Estonian Marine Institute, University of Tartu	Estonia
Arponen, Heidi	Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife Finland	Finland
Estlander, Sara	Lead Facilitator	Finland
Kiviluoto, Suvi	Finnish Environment Institute	Finland
Paulomäki, Hanna	Oceana Europe	Finland
Pesu, Nunu	Ministry of the Environment	Finland
Soirinsuo, Anna	WWF	Finland
De Bettignies, Thibaut	Muséum national d'histoire naturelle	France
Gauthier, Laureline	French Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture	France
Gavilan, Laura-Patricia	Muséum national d'histoire naturelle	France
Labach, Helene	GIS3M	France
Pergent Martini, Christine	University of Corsica	France
Toison, Vincent	L'Agence française pour la biodiversité	France
Tromeur, Eric	Ministry of Environment	France
Vignes, Pierre	MedPAN	France
Drechsler, Axel	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	Germany
Krause, Jochen	Federal Agency for Nature Conservation	Germany
Paravas, Vangelis	iSea Environmental Organisation for the Preservation of the Aquatic Environment	Greece
Portolou, Danae	Hellenic Ornithological Society / Birdlife Greece	Greece
Salomidi, Maria	Institute of Oceanography, Hellenic Centre Marine research	Greece
Sourbes, Laurent	Zakynthos National Marine Park	Greece
Vareltzidou, Stella	Axios - Loudias - Aliakmonas Management Authority	Greece
Dubsky, Karin	Coastwatch	Ireland
Leahy, Yvonne	NPWS, Dept of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	Ireland
Lyons, David	Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	Ireland
Busatta, Stefania	Veneto Region	Italy
De franco, Francesco	Consortium of Management of Torre Guaceto	Italy
Franzosini, Carlo	SHORELINE	Italy
Fraschetti, Simona	University of Salento - Conisma	Italy
Himes-Cornell, Amber	FAO / Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Resources Division	Italy
Montefalcone, Monica	DISTAV, University of Genoa	Italy
Panigada, Simone	Tethys Research Institute	Italy
Santini, Elena	Lazio Region Administration	Italy
Tunesi, Leonardo	Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research	Italy
Vallarola, Fabio	MPA of Torre del Cerrano / ADRIAPAN	Italy

Name	Organisation	Country
Belasova, Inga	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	Latvia
Ozolina, Ivita	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	Latvia
Strake, Solvita	Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology	Latvia
Anuškevičius, Džiugas	Ministry of Environment	Lithuania
Daunys, Darius	Marine Research Institute, Klaipeda University	Lithuania
Morkunas, Julius	Birdlife Lithuania (Lithuanian ornithological society)	Lithuania
Pašukonis, Jonas	State Service for Protected Areas, Ministry of Environment	Lithuania
Austad, Martin	BirdLife Malta	Malta
Camilleri, Sarah	Environment and Resources Authority	Malta
Koehler, Lydia	Environment & Resources Authority	Malta
Dankers, Norbert	Independent Expert	Netherlands
Ijlstra, Ton	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	Netherlands
Olivier, Wendy	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	Netherlands
Siemensma, Marije	Facilitator	Netherlands
Tilders, Ilke	Foundations of Success	Netherlands
van der Sluis, Theo	Wageningen University	Netherlands
Visser, Pim	European Association of Producers Organisations	Netherlands
Vonk, Sjaak	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	Netherlands
Reiertsen, Tone	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research	Norway
Ginalski, Andrzej	General Directorate for Environmental Protection	Poland
Pawliczka vel Pawlik, Iwona	University Of Gdańsk	Poland
Zakrzewska, Monika	Maritime Office in Gdynia	Poland
Oliveira, Paulo	Institute for Forestry and Nature Conservation	Portugal
Abaza, Valeria	National Institute for Marine Research and Development	Romania
Micu, Dragoş	Romanian Water Authority	Romania
Smaranda, Samad John	Ministry of Environment	Romania
Teaca, Adrian	NIRD GeoEcoMar	Romania
Zazu, Mariana	AON Society for Biodiversity Research and Environmental Engineering	Romania
Starman, Marko	Landscape park Debeli Rtič	Slovenia
Alonso Rodríguez, Jorge	Ministry for Ecological Transition	Spain
Arcos, Pep	SEO/BirdLife	Spain
Berrio, Carmen	Biodiversity Foundation	Spain
Canals, Purificacio	MedPAN	Spain
Carreras, Marta	Oceana Europe	Spain
Castañeda, Sonia	Biodiversity Foundation	Spain
Deudero, Salud	Spanish Institute of Oceanology	Spain
Esparza, Oscar	WWF Spain	Spain
Florit Garcia, Alicia	Department of Natural Environment, Balearic Government	Spain
García-Bellido Capdevila,	Ministry for Ecological Transition	Spain

Name	Organisation	Country
Elvira		
González, Victoria	Fundación Biodiversidad	Spain
Gutierrez, Victor	Fundación Biodiversidad	Spain
Haroun, Ricardo	Research Institute ECOAQUA, Univ. of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	Spain
Hendriks, Iris	Facilitator	Spain
Matamalas, Neus	Department of Natural Environment, Balearic Government	Spain
Miguel, Elisa	Department of Natural Environment, Balearic Government	Spain
Moreno Colera, Helena	Ministry of Ecological Transition	Spain
Moreno, Jorge	Department of Natural Environment, Balearic Government	Spain
Ruis, Juan Manuel	Spanish Institute of Oceanology	Spain
Torres, Ruis- Huerta, Ignacio	Fundación Biodiversidad	Spain
Zapata, Javier	Organismo Autónomo Parques Nacionales	Spain
Aronsson, Mora	ETC/BD	Sweden
Berglund, Johnny	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management / County Administrative Board of Vasterbotten	Sweden
Carlen, Ida	Coalition Clean Baltic	Sweden
Tingström, Lena	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	Sweden
Cornick, Laura	Joint Nature Conservation Committee	UK
Dolman, Sarah	Whale and Dolphin Conservation	UK
Goriup, Paul	NatureBureau	UK
Gubbay, Susan	Marine Expert Group	UK
Kennedy, Martin	NatureBureau	UK
Lujan, Tatiana	ClientEarth	UK
McLeod, Michael	Scottish Government	UK
Roberts, Callum	University of York	UK
Solandt, Jean-Luc	Marine Conservation Society	UK

## ANNEX 3

### Evaluation of the Seminar by the Participants

1. How would you rate (on a scale of 1-10) the overall organisation of the seminar?	Total
3	1
4	1
5	1
6	6
7	4
8	18
9	10
10	11
Average (n = 52)	8.7

2. How would you rate (on a scale of 1-10) the opening plenary session?	Total
3	1
4	1
5	2
6	6
7	13
8	5
9	14
10	10
Average (n = 52)	7.8

3. How would you rate (on a scale of 1-10) the group sessions?	Total
3	1
4	3
5	4
6	3
7	8
8	11
9	10
10	12
Average (n = 52)	7.8

<b>4. How would you rate (on a scale of 1-10) the knowledge market?</b>	<b>Total</b>
3	2
4	2
5	3
6	7
7	11
8	11
9	4
10	4
<b>Average (n = 44)</b>	<b>7.8</b>

<b>5. How would you rate (on a scale of 1-10) the excursion?</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	1
2	1
5	1
6	3
7	9
8	11
9	7
10	13
<b>Average (n = 46)</b>	<b>8.0</b>

<b>6. How would you rate (on a scale of 1-10) the concluding plenary?</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	1
2	1
3	3
4	2
5	2
6	6
7	12
8	9
9	9
10	9
<b>Average (n = 51)</b>	<b>7.5</b>

<b>7. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: during the seminar, I gained access to new and useful ideas which I will use for future work</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	1
4	4
5	2
6	3
7	16
8	11
9	7
10	8
<b>Average (n = 52)</b>	<b>7.5</b>

<b>8. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: I expect to make follow-up contacts with people I have met during the seminar</b>	<b>Total</b>
4	1
5	4
6	4
7	12
8	16
9	9
10	6
<b>Average (n = 52)</b>	<b>7.7</b>

<b>9. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: I would be interested in initiating follow-up actions under the Natura 2000 biogeographical process</b>	<b>Total</b>
2	1
4	3
5	2
6	7
7	9
8	8
9	14
10	8
<b>Average (n = 52)</b>	<b>7.7</b>

10. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: The knowledge market generated new ideas or contacts	Total
1	1
2	1
3	2
4	5
5	7
6	8
7	12
8	3
9	2
10	3
<b>Average (n = 44)</b>	6.1

11. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: The final conclusions and discussions reflected the work of previous days	Total
2	1
3	2
4	2
5	3
6	10
7	10
8	8
9	7
10	8
<b>Average (n = 52)</b>	7.2

### Indicate one thing you consider as a success:

#### Structure

- The overall organisation
- The global organisation
- The market
- Very good presentations overall
- The seminar had some inspiring subjects and discussion
- A comprehensive overview of the state and progress in the field, the main challenges and sources of good practice information
- The overall organization
- The excursion
- The workshop was interesting and interactive designed
- Overall organisation with different countries
- Wonderful hosting
- Interesting plenary presentations

### **Session work**

- The working group and interactions, esp. on Thursday
- Breaking into small working is small groups
- The excursion and break out groups
- Presentations during first day morning and wrap-up of conclusions from working groups
- Discussions in relatively small groups on specific issue
- The subgroups in the group sessions, exchanging knowledge in smaller setting
- Interactive working sessions
- Exchange of information and flow of talks among the participants in the group sessions
- Collaborative working
- Very efficient group work
- Everyone had to be active
- Facilitation
- Facilitation in the group sessions
- Participative
- The Thursday group session on Baltic species came to some good conclusions I think
- Group sessions were nicely organised and focused.
- MED-Habitat groups session on Thursday 15.
- The group session Thursday
- Group session activities
- Group sessions, plenary opening and concluding sessions
- The group work on finding solutions for common problems
- The group sessions were successful and useful to change ideas, but someone from the EC should have been present for all sessions to get direct feedback on issues discussed
- Participatory approach

### **Participation and exchange**

- Comparison with other Member States
- Involvement on behalf of all regional seas
- Bringing together Natura 2000 managers from Europe was definitely a success
- Hearing how other member states are tackling what are common issues
- Networking
- Active participating of representatives from all MS
- Group session was good networking and gave knowledge about other MS
- Representation and experts involved
- A large number of participants from different organizations and a well-chosen themes for the seminar
- There was a nice mix of people with different backgrounds.
- Direct contact and interesting discussions of the regional issues with people from neighbouring countries
- The opportunity to share experience and challenges
- The fact that most MS have still a long way to set and use FRVs, which will help in increasing collaboration

### **Outcomes**

- Putting closer focus on particular habitats and species rather than the usual generic approach
- Raising of true problems regarding present situation of certain habitats in Med and Black Sea
- Defining challenges and possible solutions on setting conservation measures, objectives and FRV
- Prioritization of future activities, important for the implementation of Natura 2000

- The shared observation of the need to improve management and reinforce exchanges and collaboration

## Indicate one thing you would suggest to improve:

### **Structure**

- Everything was OK
- more time to discuss during plenary and group sessions
- The opening plenary lacked focus to set the agenda and frame of thought for the rest of the seminar. The plenary set up wasn't ideal either. Slanting seating would have been much better.
- Knowledge Market
- The knowledge market should be integrated better
- Everything was very useful and great, maybe in some cases more detailed discussions on applied solutions would be helpful.
- Post photos of the seminar on the seminar's site. Take a group photo.
- Please improve the knowledge market.. I understand it is not a conference like EGU, but it would be very interesting to improve it a little more..
- The materials for the seminar were sent out too late and so we didn't have enough time to read them carefully. This led to the situation that some participants were not very familiar with the subjects discussed, especially with FRVs and this their input was not extensive.
- In the future, it should be specified in agenda which presentations will be done in non-English
- Language
- General organisation and information flow
- Overall organisation seemed confused.
- Days were very long and demanding
- Excursion, and closing session
- Choose more strategic themes, don't fill up the programme so much, don't let speakers talk so long and unstructured (in the opening and the closing sessions)
- Seminars need to be more specific i.e. focus on selected habitat types and species.
- Excursion: boat ride was nice, but walk on the island was too short and not guided

### **Working sessions**

- The facilitation did not lead to a good exchange of ideas and visions, it was too mechanical
- Make the plenary shorter and more succinct
- Sessions with answering questions on flipovers and with stickers can be more focussed
- Simple group discussions would have been more efficient than the quite artificial facilitation process
- The final plenary was so noisy that it spoiled hearing the feedback
- The assertiveness of the group sessions
- To focus the presentations in the groups
- Sessions on regional seas (not divided into species/habitats) did not feel like they came to concrete results
- Group work - more time for discussions, less for following procedures and schemes implemented for work
- Group work session on day 3 was too turbocharged with content
- More time to develop the concluding plenary based on the conclusions from the working groups.
- More focused discussions on the issues with presentation of actual good examples
- More time available for single presentation
- Time limitations

- Better structuring of the group sessions (more time to evinced more precise output instead of general statements)
- Concluding plenary was a bit difficult to follow but of course there was no time to prepare proper presentations.
- Greater concreteness facing real critical cases (SCI, fishing activities, maritime traffic, ..)
- The facilitators were too intrusive in the debates. they forced us to move towards written conclusions (many) but this hindered discussions between members of the groups who could have given less numerous but more focused conclusions.
- The group sessions lacked focus, were low drive and not very useful for me
- Interesting work dynamics, but difficult to relate to goals
- The group session: greater concreteness and possible solutions to real problems

### ***Participation and exchange***

- Better formulation of conclusions and overall output
- More examples for successful cases of implementation of Natura 2000
- Induce participants to give more practical examples of application conservation measures, objectives and FRV
- More integration with habitat and species
- Raise more specific topics
- More presentations would be helpful for common agreement of topic
- More information from EU about how EU think a way to reach the goal
- Focus more on concrete cases and management problems proposed by the participants

### ***Outcomes***

- Written summary of the main outcomes at the end of the seminar
- A Mid-term / long-term view of the benefits or potential uses from the outputs of the Seminar
- The main expectation, to collect information, learn good practices and transfer/replicate methodologies on FRVs, Conservation Objectives and measures was not achieved. The group sessions, especially the one for Mediterranean and Black Sea Species was vague, without any guidance to the participants, somehow hasty to produce results and notes that compared to what was discussed in other group sessions seemed irrelevant and far from the themes of the Seminar. I do not feel that I have gained anything from the group session I attended, alas I would say that I feel much more confused on the goals and objectives that have to be set both on national and regional scales in order to establish FRVs and COs for highly mobile species.

## **What did you appreciate or dislike in the knowledge market as a presenter? Could you make suggestions for improvement of this type of sessions?**

- A little late timing after the excursion. Many people were tired, including me.
- I appreciated that people actually came despite the late hour and tiredness after the field trip. Suggestions would be to have a nicer room and to not put it so late after a long day.
- I appreciated the interest of the participants regarding the project I presented. Congratulations to the organizers for their effort! It was very useful. It's great to meet people who have the same concerns! Thanks for the invitation and for the collaboration!
- I like the informal way of the knowledge market, although I think that an allocated time presentation for each presenter would have enhance his/her dissemination message among participants
- No any further suggestions at this moment, everything was good
- Timing of the Knowledge Market was really bad.
- Too short planned after the field trip

## Atlantic and Macaronesian Regional Workshop

12. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of the presentations	Total
2	1
5	3
6	1
8	7
9	3
10	1
<b>Average (n = 16)</b>	7.3

13. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of facilitation	Total
2	1
3	1
4	
5	4
7	3
8	1
9	4
10	2
<b>Average (n = 16)</b>	6.9

14. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of networking opportunities	Total
2	1
6	1
7	4
8	6
9	1
10	3
<b>Average (n = 16)</b>	7.7

### Comments

- Facilitation was too much taking away opportunities for discussion; the system followed did not help; presentations were very good and interesting
- I was the chair. It felt a little disorganised to be involved in the meeting only the day before - so no opportunity to help plan the day or the timings. The facilitators weren't experts in the technical issues, and getting the most out of delegates, therefore an opportunity was missed.
- This day was too general (for a second Marine Seminar). I would have moved the discussions/session of Thursday to Tuesday afternoon (shorter version).
- Interesting talks specific enough to indicate the problems and looking at the future with solutions. Good introduction to the sessions of Thursday. Also very interesting and to the point was the talk by Callum Roberts on Wednesday
- The programme was too tight, with three minutes for this and three minutes for that.
- I don't think that the presence of lobbies (registered in the EU Transparency Register) was useful. They were just here to promote their agenda, without much consideration for the work done in Member States.
- Room was too small, too hot!

- Too much time spent doing things for a couple of minutes. People were just starting to open up when we would be told to do something else instead
- I was the only person presenting that is why I cannot rate myself
- Presentations were not specifically on the points being discussed in detail.
- During the discussions concrete proposals were made (request to ICES on Natura topics for the CFP; call for projects for a habitat/species sensitivity matrix of the Directive or on international action plans for certain species; possibility of positioning conservation objectives on the most decisive pressure levels...) these proposals were lost in generalist conclusions imposed by the facilitator synthesis process

## Baltic Regional Workshop

15. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of the presentations	Total
5	1
8	4
9	4
10	2
Average (n = 11)	8.5

16. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of facilitation	Total
6	1
7	1
8	3
9	3
10	3
Average (n = 11)	8.5

17. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of networking opportunities	Total
7	1
8	2
9	6
10	2
Average (n = 11)	8.8

### Comments

- Would like to more discussions related with common understanding of FCV and biotope definitions in each MS
- I'm not sure how but trying to get more concrete outcomes would have been nice.
- Unfortunately during the Baltic Tuesday session there was no general introductory presentation that could be more appropriate than the presented Swedish approach.
- I liked the facilitation of the group's work.
- The scheme for group work was to engaged in fulfilling the tasks to let the topic discussion go openly

## Mediterranean and Black Sea Regional Workshop

18. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of the presentations	Total
4	1
6	1
7	7
8	9
9	3
10	2
<b>Average (n = 23)</b>	<b>7.7</b>

19. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of facilitation	Total
3	1
4	1
7	4
8	9
9	4
10	4
<b>Average (n = 23)</b>	<b>7.9</b>

20. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of networking opportunities	Total
5	1
6	3
7	5
8	6
9	3
10	5
<b>Average (n = 23)</b>	<b>8.0</b>

### Comments

- - not enough time allowed for discussing the presentation which brought up important matters (obvious failure of European conservation efforts)
- the central presentation made use of outdated N2K reporting data (as also was the case for the habitat type factsheets provided as background material for the seminar)
- group activities were interesting, but the time limitations and the large number of participants were a setback
- Almost lack of information regarding Black Sea
- Greater concreteness and possible solutions to real problems (e.g. conservation measures in the presence of fishing activities)
- I missed a proper feedback from the discussion groups (interesting exchange of ideas, but missed putting them together)
- I think it is important to share with other participants the concrete problems linked to Natura 2000 management process. It could give you a different point of view useful to solve problems.
- Need of presentation of actual good examples on the pending issues

## Atlantic and Macaronesian – Habitats Workshop

<b>21. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: Thanks to the workshop(s) my understanding of Conservation Objectives has improved</b>	<b>Total</b>
3	1
5	3
6	1
7	2
9	2
10	1
<b>Average (n = 10)</b>	

<b>22. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: Thanks to the workshop(s) my understanding of Favourable Reference Values has improved</b>	<b>Total</b>
3	1
4	1
5	2
7	1
8	4
9	1
<b>Average (n = 10)</b>	6.5

<b>23. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: Thanks to the workshop(s) my understanding of effective measures for particular habitats or species has improved</b>	<b>Total</b>
2	1
4	1
5	1
6	1
7	2
8	1
9	2
<b>Average (n = 10)</b>	6.2

<b>24. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of the presentations</b>	<b>Total</b>
6	1
7	2
8	4
9	2
10	2
<b>Average (n = 11)</b>	8.2

25. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of facilitation	Total
3	2
7	4
8	1
9	2
10	2
Average (n = 11)	7.3

26. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of networking opportunities	Total
6	3
7	3
8	4
10	1
Average (n = 11)	7.4

### Comments

- This was a better day. However, detailed discussions over specific habitats in specific countries would have been better, with delegates bringing their 'problem' issue to the table more readily.
- Too general for a second seminar. I would have focused on selected habitat and species, exchanging measures put in place by different MS. I would have not spent so much time on FRV since it is a complex concept and most managers (working directly on MPA) have not heard of it.
- Three very different presentations, but together giving good insight into the problem of setting conservation goals and FRV's and going about with measures to monitor and develop protection measures
- Again, I was disturbed by the presence of lobbies (registered in the EU Transparency Register). They were just here to promote their agenda, without much consideration for the work done in Member States.
- Too complex facilitation, changing groups took time and it was tiresome; day was too long.

### Atlantic and Macaronesian – Species Workshop

27. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: Thanks to the workshop(s) my understanding of Conservation Objectives has improved	Total
5	3
7	1
8	1
Average (n = 5)	6.0

28. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: Thanks to the workshop(s) my understanding of Favourable Reference Values has improved	Total
4	1
5	3
7	1
Average (n = 5)	5.2

<b>29. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: Thanks to the workshop(s) my understanding of effective measures for particular habitats or species has improved</b>	<b>Total</b>
5	4
7	1
<b>Average (n = 5)</b>	5.4

<b>30. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of the presentations</b>	<b>Total</b>
4	1
6	1
8	1
9	1
10	1
<b>Average (n = 5)</b>	7.2

<b>31. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of facilitation</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	1
5	1
7	1
8	1
10	1
<b>Average (n = 5)</b>	6.2

<b>32. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of networking opportunities</b>	<b>Total</b>
5	2
7	1
8	1
10	1
<b>Average (n = 5)</b>	7.0

### **Comments**

- The presentation on black-legged kittiwakes was excellent!
- Same answer: during the discussions concrete proposals were made (request to ICES on Natura topics for the CFP; call for projects for a habitat/species sensitivity matrix of the Directive or on international action plans for certain species; possibility of positioning conservation objectives on the most decisive pressure levels...) these proposals were lost in generalist conclusions imposed by the facilitator synthesis process

## Baltic – Habitats Workshop

<b>33. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: Thanks to the workshop(s) my understanding of Conservation Objectives has improved</b>	<b>Total</b>
5	3
10	3
<b>Average (n = 6)</b>	<b>7.5</b>

<b>34. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: Thanks to the workshop(s) my understanding of Favourable Reference Values has improved</b>	<b>Total</b>
7	3
8	1
10	2
<b>Average (n = 6)</b>	<b>8.2</b>

<b>35. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: Thanks to the workshop(s) my understanding of effective measures for particular habitats or species has improved</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	1
3	1
5	1
7	1
10	2
<b>Average (n = 6)</b>	<b>6.0</b>

<b>36. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of the presentations</b>	<b>Total</b>
7	1
8	2
9	2
10	1
<b>Average (n = 6)</b>	<b>8.5</b>

<b>37. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of facilitation</b>	<b>Total</b>
8	1
9	2
10	3
<b>Average (n = 6)</b>	<b>9.3</b>

<b>38. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of networking opportunities</b>	<b>Total</b>
5	
6	
7	
8	2
9	1
10	3
<b>Average (n = 6)</b>	9.2

### Comments

- The creative part, finding solutions to issues, was so late in the afternoon that most people were exhausted. Including me.
- Would like to more discussions related with common understanding of FCV and biotope definitions in each MS
- The questions were not best possible for someone who is not a manager/officer at national level.

### Baltic – Species Workshop

<b>39. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: Thanks to the workshop(s) my understanding of Conservation Objectives has improved</b>	<b>Total</b>
3	1
7	2
8	1
9	9
<b>Average (n = 6)</b>	7.1

<b>40. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: Thanks to the workshop(s) my understanding of Favourable Reference Values has improved</b>	<b>Total</b>
5	1
6	1
9	4
<b>Average (n = 6)</b>	7.8

<b>41. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: Thanks to the workshop(s) my understanding of effective measures for particular habitats or species has improved</b>	<b>Total</b>
4	1
6	1
7	2
9	1
10	1
<b>Average (n = 6)</b>	7.2

42. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of the presentations	Total
8	3
9	1
10	2
Average (n = 6)	8.8

43. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of facilitation	Total
6	1
7	1
8	1
9	2
10	1
Average (n = 6)	8.2

44. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of networking opportunities	Total
6	1
8	1
9	3
10	1
Average (n = 6)	8.5

### Comments

- I liked the facilitation of the group's work.
- The group work was rather to list the problems with conservation then to find out how to solve them
- We never had time to go into the measures and actions part much, however time was fairly effectively spent. It was just too little, would have needed an extra session.

## Mediterranean and Black Sea – Habitats Workshop

45. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: Thanks to the workshop(s) my understanding of Conservation Objectives has improved	Total
6	2
7	2
8	2
9	2
10	2
Average (n = 10)	8.0

<b>46. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: Thanks to the workshop(s) my understanding of Favourable Reference Values has improved</b>	<b>Total</b>
5	1
6	2
7	1
8	1
9	3
10	2
<b>Average (n = 10)</b>	<b>7.9</b>

<b>47. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: Thanks to the workshop(s) my understanding of effective measures for particular habitats or species has improved</b>	<b>Total</b>
4	1
5	1
6	2
7	1
8	2
9	2
10	1
<b>Average (n = 10)</b>	<b>7.2</b>

<b>48. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of the presentations</b>	<b>Total</b>
4	
6	
7	1
8	4
9	3
10	2
<b>Average (n = 10)</b>	<b>8.6</b>

<b>49. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of facilitation</b>	<b>Total</b>
7	1
8	3
9	2
10	4
<b>Average (n = 10)</b>	<b>8.9</b>

<b>50. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of networking opportunities</b>	<b>Total</b>
7	3
9	6
10	1
<b>Average (n = 10)</b>	

## Comments

- The method used during the workshop was excellent. Congratulations!
- - no time allowed for discussing the presentations
  - presentations too generic on FRVs, at least with respect to my personal expectations - presentations lacked mentions on conservation measures (i.e. specific successful cases, best practices etc)
  - sessions suffered again from serious time constraints
  - the demand to prioritize between many important urgent issues (which may indeed vary significantly between MS) left much of them eventually unaddressed
  - addressing Mediterranean and Black Sea habitats at the same time does not seem functional for several reasons (different communities/habitat subtypes/FRVs, different stages of implementation, different pressures).

## Mediterranean and Black Sea – Species Workshop

51. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: Thanks to the workshop(s) my understanding of Conservation Objectives has improved	Total
1	1
4	1
6	5
7	4
8	1
10	10
<b>Average (n = 13)</b>	6.2

52. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: Thanks to the workshop(s) my understanding of Favourable Reference Values has improved	Total
1	1
3	1
4	2
5	1
6	2
7	2
8	3
10	1
<b>Average (n = 13)</b>	5.9

<b>53. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the statement: Thanks to the workshop(s) my understanding of effective measures for particular habitats or species has improved</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>1</b>	1
<b>4</b>	1
<b>6</b>	6
<b>7</b>	3
<b>8</b>	1
<b>10</b>	1
<b>Average (n = 13)</b>	6.2

<b>54. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of the presentations</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>7</b>	5
<b>8</b>	4
<b>9</b>	2
<b>10</b>	2
<b>Average (n = 13)</b>	8.1

<b>55. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of facilitation</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>1</b>	1
<b>4</b>	1
<b>6</b>	1
<b>7</b>	2
<b>8</b>	8
<b>9</b>	5
<b>10</b>	2
<b>Average (n = 13)</b>	7.6

<b>56. Please rate (on a scale of 1-10) the quality of networking opportunities</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>5</b>	1
<b>6</b>	3
<b>7</b>	2
<b>8</b>	2
<b>9</b>	3
<b>10</b>	2
<b>Average (n = 13)</b>	7.7

### **Comments**

- The session was very vague and not helpful for the scopes and themes of the Seminar. The results as presented to the plenary seemed (at least to me) irrelevant to the themes, fragmented and hasty. No guidance was provided, no good practices or applied methodologies to be transferred/replicated were presented neither explored and the EU Commission did not participate at this session to provide some guidance and help to steer the results of the session to something that can be practically used by the participants and the MS in order to set FRVs .

- My perception was that there are too many different views/perceptions of the concepts discussed, and there was relatively little effort to really come out with consensus. Also missed communication between different groups, as the final session was too short to discuss all doubts properly.
- More solution to the real problem

***Comments and/or suggestions on the opening plenary:***

- A bit shorter, perhaps?
- As an English speaker I was very disappointed that me and the others were singled out abruptly as a minority
- Bit general
- Bit general, and long
- English should be main language for opening talks
- Even if presentations are in other language would be nice if discussion further will go in English
- Excellent discussion
- I would suggest to start group work from defining the problems by participants or let them present the problematic issues before the meeting
- Inspiring talks on seagrass conservation from the Balaerics. Showed what can be done with financial contributions from local government that meet the conservation need. A lot more is needed like this throughout the EU
- It was unexpected that some of the presentations were not in English - and some participants missed part of presentations because they had to go looking for headphones.
- Less speakers, less talking, more visualization, shorter introduction
- Some unnecessary talks, missed a more direct introduction to the aims of the seminar
- The joint opening with MedPAN did not offer new perspectives
- The plenary combined with MedPAN was a good idea. The one on N2K might have been a bit more devoted to the aim of the meeting (the three objectives) with examples of what has been done on this in the last years/decades

***Recommendations and / or suggestions on possible follow ups for one / some of the biogeographical regions:***

- More focused approaches on conservation measures needed, especially for species and habitats that we have clearly seen collapsing, we need specific examples of successful conservation approaches and help to implement them across regions.
- Annual regional meetings with same people would be beneficial in creating cooperation.
- Assessment of how each Member State is doing with the management requirements.
- Continue with facilitation, adds value.  
In general well organised, good food etc.
- During the discussions in the Working Group, it was concluded that it would be very useful to organize a follow-up workshop to specify the definitions and specific subtypes of marine natural habitat types in Annex 1 to the HD, taking into account the results of the work done for the European Red List of Habitats.
- Exploring/ celebrating actual achievements instead of theoretical things.
- For North Sea (and maybe other areas) a workshop with all previous and running attempts of habitat and ecotope mapping, linking these with setting FRV's and conservation goals, and conservation methods.  
MESH, MESMA, DISCLOSE, Wadden Sea habitat mapping (Ecologische atlas Alterra/Imares) etc.
- Get down to specific habitat and species for a particular region. How we found a useful discussion was around the issue of mussel beds in the Wadden Sea because we had a presentation about it.

We needed more detail at this level - it DID however help our setting of specific conservation objectives - including adopting the right conditions for habitat growth and expansion.

- I think that there is really a need to to organize a high level meeting in the Macaronesian region to raise the profile and added value of the Natura 2000 Network for the local economies as well as for the overall conservation targets.
- More focused workshops on selected species and/or habitats, examples/demonstrations of elaboration/implementation of best management plans.
- Please focus on tension between fishery and nature and solutions memberstates have find  
Please focus on the tension between static N2000 versa dynamic nature.
- Request from the CE to ICES on Natura topics for the CFP: how to take into account the trophic needs of top predators in determining quotas for small pelagic fish; which species and fleets should be monitored as a priority with regard to by-catch; Can cases of interactions incompatible with maintaining the favourable conservation status be identified (e. g. maerl beds and dredges)?
- Call for projects for : a habitat/species of the Directive sensitivity matrix; international action plans for certain species (e. g. porpoise, balearic shearwater).
- Possibility of positioning conservation objectives on the most decisive pressure levels, link with the MSFD process.
- Provide more binding rules to impose joint implementation of conservation status assessments under the MSFD, HD and BD.  
Link the timelines of these directives.
- The EC should give more direct support on the ground. It was clear that several site managers struggle with understanding and applying concepts like FRVs and conservation measures. More focussed technical support from EC experts could help with this, not only in written reports but visits to the MS.
- The materials for the seminar should be sent out much earlier, at least a month before the seminar so the participants have enough time to study them and discuss with colleagues, if necessary. This would lead to a much more substantial input of many people attending the seminar.
- The Mediterranean and Black Sea - Species session was not helpful at all. I would suggest to be reorganised more concrete objectives that will result in the understanding of the themes set in the seminar.
- The road map should provide the ideas.  
Definitely, exchange of experiences will continue
- The seminar was announced to be aimed at finding cooperative opportunities, but these were hardly stimulated through the programme. My suggestion is to develop a number of action points and let them be adopted by participants MS or stakeholders.
- There should be a regular follow-up in between seminars on the progress of identified points.
- To be involved and contacted by colleagues and by you to joint a team for European projects proposals.
- We need to be kept up dated (in real time) on the next steps of this process.
- Workshops need to land on real management of habitat and species, otherwise, why to split on marine regions?
- Doubting how useful is to discuss about 'Reference Values'.
- I've liked the lecture by Prof. Roberts, but it was not the moment. I would have rather listened to the management measures put in place in Cabrera MPA since we were already 'in situ'. However, I'd like to point that this lecture was controversial since he directly proposes to ban fishing on MPA, which is not compatible with Natura 2000 values!

***Any other specific recommendations or comments to improve the seminar:***

- Excellent seminar, better than previous!
- Well organised, better than previous seminars!

- I think basing the event within a hotel complex as done was a big step forward from St Malo
- The party in Aquarium finished at midnight sharp - way too early as for Spain! Anyway, it would be good to let people know that there will be a party - most of us were not prepared and left quite early to the hotels.
- In the future, it would be good to get information about the exact location of the event earlier, as some participants booked other hotels.
- Greater union between the scientific component and the management component.
- To give a bit better opportunity to exchange experience and ideas across regions
- Participatory approach was a nice surprise but requires a bit more work to make it really useful in this type of a seminar. As said earlier, the last bit was too much. The concluding plenary should have been the chairs reports to all, not the rotation.
- Much was preaching for ones own Parish. I missed stakeholders like fishermen, dredgers, recreation (companies and people (yachtsmen, beach visitors etc), military, coastal community representatives.
- The end of the discussion sessions became messy with too many questions, flipovers and stickers. We made up questions, but (partly because English not being native language) some questions were interpreted differently. for example I answered one as: How to investigate impacts of stakeholders (with a matrix). while others said that stakeholders should be present in discussions on management issues.
- The facilitation process did not help the emergence of clear ideas. Simple group discussions around a table would have been more efficient.
- Shorten the beginning of day 1 and get people into breakout groups quicker, meaning that day 3 would be quicker, with a plenary before 6pm.
- Make the programme less full.
- Slightly lighter timetable and more time off would help in keeping people active throughout all panels.