

# **FAIRSEA (ID 10046951)**

# "Fisheries in the AdriatIc Region - a Shared Ecosystem Approach"

# D3.3.3 Technical events for policy makers

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# Deliverable 3.3.3 D3.3.3 Technical events for policy makers

FAIRSEA - Fisheries in the Adriatic Region - a shared Ecosystem Approach

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# Acronyms used

**CFP** Common Fisheries Policy

**EAF** Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

**EAFM** Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management

**FAIRSEA** Fisheries in the Adrlatic Region – a Shared Ecosystem Approach

IP Integrated Platform

**LP** Lead Partner

**PP** Project Partner

WP Work packages



# Introduction and scope of the activity

The central focus of FAIRSEA is the fisheries sector that is an important economic activity in the Adriatic Sea, because of its strong role in regional economies for employment and for the many activities associated with fisheries. In the Adriatic and Ionian region there is a clear need for integrated management of fisheries, especially concerning innovative mechanisms for sustainable growth and protection of Adriatic ecosystem. Furthermore, there is a territorial "need to enhance the cooperation among scientific experts on marine renewable resources, representatives of producers and entities such as NGOs, national and local authorities that are involved in the management of fisheries in the basin. Overall there is a great need to introduce innovation in the field of fisheries management for a better use of evident potentials for blue growth in the area.

FAIRSEA tackles these challenges by developing an integrated platform for a quantitative ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) that goes across territorial boundaries and across several disciplines by integrating biological/ecological processes and fisheries bio-economic dynamics. To do so, the project moves beyond single species assessment to reduce environmental vulnerabilities and safeguard optimal exploitation thus it provides basis for promoting an efficient exploitation of fisheries resources.

Capacity building events such as the Advanced schools on quantitative methods for EAF application (Activity 3.3.1. and 3.3.2) allow to increase the potential for having high-skilled human resources in the fisheries sector to strengthen development patterns in the area, support "brain circulation" amongst research institutes/academies and companies as a condition for developing cooperation in the field of blue technologies and fisheries management. International stakeholder meetings (such as those conducted in Activity 5.1.1, 5.1.2 and 5.1.3) favour capitalising on previous technical results and developments, and allow to set an innovative mechanism that results in a participated, integrated, shared and quantitative ecosystem approach to fisheries that connects and enhances territorial skills and capabilities.

However, it is also necessary an intermediate level of interaction that allows technical discussions among bodies participating in any phase and at different levels during the fisheries policy development

In doing this, the FAIRSEA project tackles also the challenges of favouring collective participation of institutional, scientific, technical, policy makers and stakeholder partners in the conceptualization, application and analysis as a way to cross-contaminate across disciplines, across boundaries and across technical, institutional and stakeholder levels to foster innovation.





Figure 1. Scheme of the aims of FAIRSEA through the Integrated platform

The FAIRSEA approach results in an operational decision support integrated tool useful for developing harmonised recommendations and for supporting the policymakers to make new policies and laws based on solid scientific shared evidence that comes from a range of marine disciplines integrated across boundaries. The integration of transnational data and ecological processes through the integrated platform (IP) result in the development of common standards and best practices for the region, possibly exported in other areas of the Mediterranean Sea.

To be effective it is fundamental to share these efforts and develop these aims in accordance with policy makers at different levels including local dimension. Therefore in WP3 a set of technical meetings were developed.as "Technical events for policy makers".



# The planning of Technical events for policy makers

Eight (8) technical events for policy makers were developed in the context of WP3, the "Activity 3.3: Enhancing technical capabilities on EAF". These events were organized by the FAIRSEA partnership in 8 different areas of the CBC programme area using efforts of local partners, inviting local policy makers.

#### Target groups and participants

Events will be organised for policy makers and other experts in 8 different locations targeting:

- regional administrations
- local technical agencies
- fisheries cooperatives
- FLAGs representatives
- Local experts

#### General content of technical events

In each meeting, it is foreseen the participation of local administrators and policy makers for discussing, transferring, exemplify and analyse the concepts and tools for EAF in the area. The encounters of local policy makers result in a training on general concepts, EAF opportunities and challenges were shared also using the tools under development in WP4 of FAIRSEA. Main topics used in the events are the EAF concepts, the approach used in FAIRSEA and the Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management tools developed. The stakeholders were be asked to provide input to model use in form of scenarios (in terms of policy or management options) developed and evaluated using simulations. The aim was not to reach consensus around one or more preferred scenarios, but to discuss the potential of direct and indirect implications.

The content of the events were modified according to the degree of development of the project thus included:

- Generalities on the Ecosystem Approach to fisheries;
- Example of application in the Adriatic Sea of EAF;
- Data needs for the EAF, need for sharing and integrating information;
- Description of the FAIRSEA Integrated Platform;
- Draft of scenario analysis performed in FAIRSEA;



#### Events in 8 different regions of the CBC programme area

Events were organized in 8 different areas of the CBC programme area in order to share at best the developments. Events were shared in 4 Italian regions (Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Marche and Puglia) and 4 Croatian regions (Istarska županija, Zadarska županija, Splitsko-dalmatinska županija, Dubrovačko-neretvanska županija) in the course of the 2 years of the FAIRSEA project.

The events were thus held as in the following table.

	Location	region	dates	Organizer	Participants
					(PPs of FAIRSEA)
1	Zadar	Zadarska županija	28/11/2019	PP02-MPS	17 (2)
2	Mali Ston	Dubrovačko- neretvanska županija	18-19/5/2020	PP07-RERA SD.	38 (4)
3	Komiža, island Vis	Splitsko- dalmatinska županija	27/10/2020	PP07-RERA SD.	20 (4)
4	Ancona (online)	Marche	28/5/2021	PP04-ASSAM	10 (3)
5	Valgrande di Bibione	Veneto	01/6/2021	PP09-VEGAL	38 (4)
6	Trieste	Friuli Venezia Giulia	18/6/ 2021	LP-OGS	16 (1)
7	Tar-Porec	Istarska županija	28/6/2021	PP02-MPS	15 (2)
8	Bari	Puglia	22/7/2021	PP06-CONISMA. PP05- COISPA	39 (12)

In the following brief reporting of each event.



## 1- Zadar, 28 November 2019

The event was organized by PP02 MPS at the Croatian Chamber of Economy - County Chamber of Zadar (Hrvatska gospodarska komora - Županijska komora Zadar). The event was participated by 15 external people plus 2 members of the project PP02-MPS and LP-OGS.



Figure 1.1 Agenda and advertising material for the 1<sup>st</sup> technical meeting held in Zadar on 28 November 2019.



The event was participated by experts pertaining to the following working groups.

Target group	Number of participants
Local, regional and national public authorities	12
Regional and local development agencies, chambers of commerce and other business support organizations	1
SMEs	
Universities, technology transfer institutions, research institutions	4

#### [omissis]

Figure 1.2 Participant list of the Technical Meeting in Zadar on 28/11/2019





Figure 1.3 Photo of the Technical Meeting in Zadar on 28/11/2019





Figure 1.4 Gadgets and material given at the Technical Meeting in Zadar on 28/11/2019

A presentation to exemplify the EAF was given by I. Celic (OGS). The discussion was driven on the importance of representing discards of fisheries in the quantitative approaches but also on the reliability of data used. Discussion was made on the opportunity of a comprehensive approach for analyzing effects of CFP regulations such as landing obligation. Furthermore a discussion with experts from University of Zadar was based on the need of the multispecies approaches proposed in FAIRSEA as the solely way to account for all impacts generated by fisheries (beyond impacts on target species).



#### 2- Mali Ston, 18-19 May 2020

The Technical event was organized in parallel with the Infodays of FAIRSEA project in Mali Ston on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2020. Public institution RERA D.D. together with the Association "Stonski školjkari" and the University of Dubrovnik organized the event. During the event professor dr.sc. Ivan Katavić gave the presentation including these the four topics (Figure 1.1):

- Fisheries Management Regulations in the Adriatic Sea
- Stakeholders in the decision making process
- Fisheries management based on the ecosystem approach
- Decision support systems in fisheries

The participants of the meeting were representatives of regional, local and national decision makers, associations, universities, research Institutes and operators from the aquaculture sectors.

The external expert Ivan Katavić Phd produced also an educative brochure describing the EAF. At the meeting participated 19 people belonging to the following target groups.



Figure 2.3 Brochure developed and used for the technical meeting



Target group	Number of participants
Local, regional and national public authorities	3
Regional and local development agencies, chambers of commerce and other business support organizations	3
SMEs	10
Universities, technology transfer institutions, research institutions	1
NGOs, associations, innovation agencies, business incubators, cluster management bodies and networks	2

#### [omissis]









Figure 2.5 Photos of the event organized in Mali Ston

The Ecosystem approach to fisheries was presented on its basis as well as the participatory approach that could enable EAF to be applicative.

In particular the Prof. Ivan Katavić shed light on how inputs from stakeholders and their scores assigned by them to indicators can be used to weight the results and obtain participated EAF applications. Examples were given from aquaculture and from small scale fisheries and discussion was mainly concerning transferability of the approach to wide scale Adriatic fisheries.



# 3 Komiža, island Vis, 27 October 2020

The Capacity building event on the Ecosystem approach to fisheries was organized in Komiža, island Vis by RERA SD. and Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries. Ivan Katavić, Phd gave the presentation related to the Ecosystem approach in fisheries. Main target groups were fisherman, local and regional public authorities, journalists and representatives from scientific community. At the meeting participated 20 people of the following target groups:

Target group	Number of participants
Local, regional and national public authorities	5
Regional and local development agencies, chambers of commerce and other business support organizations	5
SMEs	3
Universities, technology transfer institutions, research institutions	7
NGOs, associations, innovation agencies, business incubators, cluster management bodies and networks	

[omissis]

Figure 3.1 Participant's list of the vent organized in Komiža





Figure 3.2 Photo from the technical meeting organized in Komiža

The meeting was an occasion for presenting the project structure and the importance of participatory approaches. The main aims of the project for a multispecies approach, a representation of fisheries including discards was discussed.

The technical meeting was conceived as giving first presentation of integrated platform draft versions with discussion on the layers represented and their importance for fisheries sector.



# 4 Ancona, 28 May 2021

The event was organized by PP-04 ASSAM in coordination with the PP03-CNR, PP05-COISPA and LP-OGS and held online with the platform zoom because of the pandemic restrictions. At the event participated 10 people belonging to the following groups:

Target group	Number of participants
Local, regional and national public authorities	1
Regional and local development agencies, chambers of commerce and other business support organizations	4
SMEs	2
Universities, technology transfer institutions, research institutions	2
NGOs, associations, innovation agencies, business incubators, cluster management bodies and networks	1
Education and training organisations as well as social partners and labor-market institutions	





Figure 4.1 Invitation to the technical meeting organized for Marche region in Ancona

The presentations given at the meeting were focused on i) describing and introducing to the project structure, ii) describing the platform integrated in FAIRSEA and some demonstrative layers; iii) presenting the multispecies food web tool as an approach for integrating several data, iv) the three pilot studies developed under the activity 5.2 of FAIRSEA.

Special emphasis was given in presenting the integrated platform developed and showing some layers and some potential usefulness. Discussion following the presentation regarded on the need to extend some of the analyses carried out in FAIRSEA (e.g. the pilot study on recreational fisheries) to the whole Adriatic. Furthermore some of the scenarios to be implemented with the platform and the models developed (e.g., scenarios on fisheries ban) were discussed by the audience as relevant for the sector.



# 5 Valgrande di Bibione, 1 June 2021

The event was organized by PP09-VEGAL on open air because of the COVID-19 restrictions at the fishfarm of Valgrande di Bibione on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021. Presentations were given by Alberto Caccin (external expert) and Simone Libralato (LP-OGS) and were followed by an active interaction. The meeting was participated by 29 people.



Figure 5.1 Invitation and agenda of the technical meeting organized in Valgrande di Bibione on 1st June 2021.



Target group	Number of participants
General public	1
Local, regional and national public authorities	6
Regional and local development agencies, chambers of commerce and other business support organizations	0
SMEs	11
Universities, technology transfer institutions, research institutions	2
NGOs, associations, innovation agencies, business incubators, cluster management bodies and networks	9
Education and training organisations as well as social partners and labor-market institutions	0

#### [omissis]

Figure 5.2.List of participants to technical meeting organized in Valgrande di Bibione on 1st June 2021.





Figure 5.3.Photos of the technical meeting organized in Valgrande di Bibione on 1st June 2021.



The meeting consisted in three parts. In the first part A. Caccin was invited to present the contribution on behalf of the local organizer in terms of data gathered for the pilot study on the Veneto region, regarding interaction of small scale fisheries, clam fishery and recreational fishery. In the second part of the meeting a synthesis of the project and aims were presented and finally in a third part the ecosystem model ECOSPACE was presented as a tool integrating several oceanographic information, fisheries details and multispecies interactions. In this tool the information regarding the coastal venetian fisheries (including recreational) were represented and analysis of competition among fisheries was discussed.

The very participated discussion that followed was guided by a series of questions and discussion among the policy makers and stakeholders present to the meeting and the representatives of the project. Main points of discussion were:

- the capability of the platform and the model to include dredging and bivalve fishing in the analyses;
- the spatial resolution used and its limitation for representing some coastal and fine scale dynamics;
- data regarding recreational fisheries were seriously discussed in their reliability, on the basis of direct experience of participants;
- the benefits of using an ecosystem approach in terms of representing ecological, social and economic feedbacks on policies (the example of landing obligation was discussed);

The participants were cautiously positive on the developed approach for its complexity, its multifaced representation of the sector with inevitable assumptions. The accuracy of the models developed and the potential for their continuous improvement was anyway highlighted.



# 6 Trieste, 18 June 2021

The 6<sup>th</sup> Technical meeting was held at Scuderie della Riserva Marina di Miramare, in Trieste. The event was organized by LP-OGS, as a joint collaboration between projects FAIRSEA and TRETAMARA. At the event participated 16 people.



Figure 6.1. Invitation and agenda of the 6<sup>th</sup> technical meeting organized in Trieste on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021.



Target group	Number of participants
General public	9
Local, regional and national public authorities	1
Regional and local development agencies, chambers of commerce and other business support organizations	1
SMEs	1
Universities, technology transfer institutions, research institutions	0
NGOs, associations, innovation agencies, business incubators, cluster management bodies and networks	4
Education and training organisations as well as social partners and labor-market institutions	0

#### [omissis]

Figure 6.2. Participant list of the 6<sup>th</sup> technical meeting held in Trieste on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

#### Discussion

Presentation was given by the LP-OGS on the structure of the project, on the integrated platform and on the spatially explicit ecosystem model developed. A demonstrative session was given for the audience to grasp the complexity of the approach developed and its potential.

Discussion that followed regarded the request of the policy makers to be involved in the planning and in the development of scenarios. Furthermore, the discussion was directed toward the accuracy not only of the model but also on the data used. In particular emerged from the discussion the need to consider large uncertainty on some fisheries-dependent data as there is a high and dynamically changing over time fraction of IUU according to the participants. It was suggested to overcome the issue by developing a series of scenario analysis with different levels of perceived IUU to be added on official data (used to develop the FAIRSEA tools) in order to consider the effects of IUU on policies .



# 7 Tar-Porec, 28 June 2021

The event was organized in Tar (Porec) with the presence of 15 people among representatives of Chamber of commerce, city and county authorities, University, fishermen association, Ministry + inspection, opinionmakers and fishermen. The presentations were given by Danijela Miokovic (PP02-MPS) and Simone Libralato (LP-OGS).



Figure 7.1. Agenda and invitation to the technical meeting held in Tar on 28th June 2021



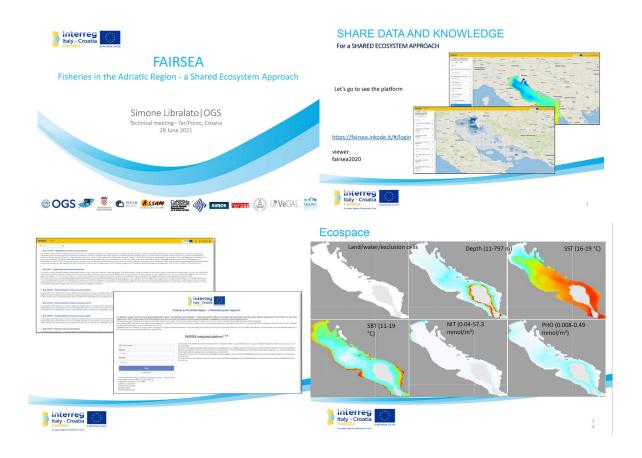


Figure 7.2. Some of the slides presented at the technical meeting held in Tar on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021.





Figure 7.3. Photo of the technical meeting held in Tar on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Target group	Number of participants
General public	
Local, regional and national public authorities	2
Regional and local development agencies, chambers of commerce and other business support organizations	2
SMEs	4
Universities, technology transfer institutions, research institutions	1
NGOs, associations, innovation agencies, business incubators, cluster management bodies and networks	2
Education and training organisations as well as social partners and labor-market institutions	

Presentation of project partners (PP01-MPS and LP-OGS) were devoted to describe aims and structure of the project, structure of the integrated platform and briefly the development of the multispecies spatially explicit ecosystem model. The participants discussed on the capabilities of the platform to capture local fisheries issues and structure. In particular the local policy makers highlighted the potential for the platform to be useful for large scale analysis but the difficulties for its application at local scale applications, because of data, of spatial resolution and because



of need to include local socio-economic pathways. Main points for the future remains the need to continue the development and upgrade of the platform.

### 8 Bari, 22 July 2021

The 8<sup>th</sup> event was organized at UNiversitá degli studi di Bari by PP06-CONISMA and PP05-COISPA, in the mixed mode (online and in presence). The events resulted in the presentation of the three modelling approaches used in FAIRSEA, SMART, BEMTOOL and ECOSPACE for applying the EAF. The event was followed by 18 people in presence and 21 online.



Figure 8.1. Agenda and invitation of the 8<sup>th</sup> technical meeting held in Bari on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021.



Target group	Number of participants
General public	
Local, regional and national public authorities	
Regional and local development agencies, chambers of commerce and other business support organizations	4
SMEs	3
Universities, technology transfer institutions, research institutions	27
NGOs, associations, innovation agencies, business incubators, cluster management bodies and networks	
Education and training organisations as well as social partners and labor-market institutions	

#### [omissis]

Figure 8.2. Participant list (presence and online) of the 8<sup>th</sup> technical meeting held in Bari on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021.

#### Discussion

The meeting was a further occasion for presenting the structure of the project, the platform and some of the tools developed including the modelling approaches implemented in FAIRSEA. Main points emerged form the discussion regarded the usefulness of the complex approach for tackling complex issue but also the importance of relevant habitats for the spatial approaches developed and the need to further consider essential habitats and relevant sub-systems.





Figure 8.3. Some photos of the 8<sup>th</sup> technical meeting held in Bari on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021.



#### Concluding remarks

The technical meetings were successfully organized in 8 different regions of the CBC programme area. Main discussions on the meetings regarded several point and some are reported below (non exhaustive list):

- Quality of the data for a true EAF;
- Economic information often missing from the analysis;
- Need to disentangle the role of other factors other than fisheries;
- Need to better understand how fisheries association can use the platform;
- Future directions might include effects of pollution;
- Efficacy of analyses at the level of Adriatic for local user is questionable;
- More scenarios might be applied including representation of all the biologically protected areas;
- Analyses need to include adaptations of the sector;
- One of the main issues in fisheries now is the lack on new generations into this job: need to become more attractive;
- Suffering of the fisheries sector might be overcome with concrete solutions such as insurance and subsidies;

Overall the events saw the participation of more than 150 people external to the FAIRSEA project in 8 events. These experts were acquainted on the EAF approach developed in FAIRSEA with relevant feedbacks and discussion during the meetings, afterwards and in some occasions still continuing.