



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION  
FOR  
THE MEDITERRANEAN



SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

## 2nd Transversal Workshop on Red Coral

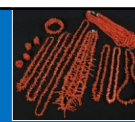
Ajaccio (Corsica), France, 5-7 October 2011



### Participation

39 participants from Morocco, Tunisia, France, Italy and Spain  
Representatives of FAO and GFCM Secretariat  
11 contributions



Attendance of fishery stakeholders: scientists, fishermen associations, private companies, management institutions and conservation organizations



### Terms of Reference

- Review of the distribution (past and current) and **present status** of red coral banks across the Mediterranean region.
- Inventory on the **existing and new data of deep red coral banks** on biology, ecology, oceanography, genetics and fisheries.
- Evaluation of measures and strategies for planning **local and regional management** and conservation plans





## General conclusions of the Workshop

### On scientific studies

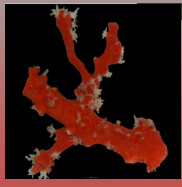
- The **utility of ROV** for prospection, sampling and evaluation of deep coral banks as well as for a better selection of sites **has been proved** (Tyrrhenian and Sardinian cases).
- New genetic markers showed local adaptation of populations and variability in responses to stress evidences of the occurrence of **a boundary in population structure** across a depth **of about 50m**.
- **Genetic** variability follows a **depth cline**.
- Mesophotic populations are **structured at a regional level** (Tyrrhenian and Sardinian Seas).
- Moroccan and Algerian populations are **genetically differentiated** (preliminary data).



60 m



300 m



800 m

## General conclusions of the Workshop

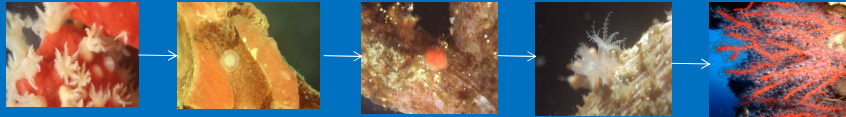
### On data reporting systems by FAO and GFCM

- FAO would like to progressively incorporate in its database as much as possible **data from official national sources**. Currently, they are mostly provided by an industry source.
- The **GFCM database for red coral** is an important step forward and represents a useful instrument to comply with the data requirements of Recommendation 35/2011/2.
- Coral harvesting is a fishery activity in all respects, and hence that **socio economic analysis** is a priority in the context of coral sustainable utilization.

## Recommendations

### To GFCM-SAC

- FAO and GFCM should find an arrangement to avoid that countries have to report to both organisations.
- The database tool has to indicate clearly what fields are compulsory (harvest, effort, depth management schemes in force), and which are optional (biological parameters only available through research projects).
- The Workshop recommends that the Sub-Committee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS) should start analyzing the socio economic components of the red coral activities.




## Recommendations to National Scientific Institutions


### Priority lines of research

- Habitat loss and stock conservation and restoration.
- Efficiency and impact of the use of ROV in surveys and harvesting.
- Demography and natural mortality.
- Genetic connectivity and structuring.





### Management recommendations



- A **minimum size of 7 mm** of diameter measured within one centimeter from the base of the colony is recommended (5% of tolerance in weight for undersized pieces).
- Establish a **quota system** in local harvesting management units based on number of licenses issued, preferably under a seasonal quota or total allowable catch (TAC) (point 7 of Rec./35/2011/2).
- To progress on the setting up of an **Adaptive Regional Management Plan** on Red Coral (Appendix E of the report as Table of contents for it).

