

Parallel session 5

Management of marine environment and resources

Most important issues to focus on:

- Biodiversity (variability at different scales..), habitat studies for GES assessment, habitat mapping
- Hotspots -natural and anthropogenic (incl. sea-based) pressures; aquaculture positive impact
- Time series, ecological and socio-economic indicators , integrated monitoring capabilities, scenarios; SRA - new knowledge, K-based policy-making, new research topics to support economy and innovation

Main challenges to be addressed:

- Data Gaps, reliability and fragmentation; especially for the GES descriptors/MSFD, nb. WISE-Marine, EMODnet + INSPIRE
- Shortage and availability of expertise; training in new technologies and multi-disciplinary topics is crucial
- More in-depth coordination for ecosystem approach and integrated maritime policy; regional ownership and cooperation for achieving GES; Mechanisms within which to cooperate

Priorities for action – key next steps:

- Integrated monitoring and reporting systems (incl. biological elements, pressures/impacts of pollution from land and sea-based activities) for coasts and seas for the Mediterranean Partner Countries by the Regional Bodies/Programmes; ecosystem inventory of services and their value
- Socio-economic issues as research subject
- Enhanced network of governance with users and all countries to exchange data and processes of investigation; identify Mediterranean partner country priorities