

CIESM Congress Session : Rocky shore ecology

Moderator : Louise Firth, Plymouth University, UK

Moderator's Synthesis

The introduction presented the importance of baseline data, historical data and sustained observations to inform and address current conservation challenges, with pointed questions such as:

- Are baseline and historical data available (and accessible) in the countries represented?
- Could these data be collated/managed by networks?
- Could data collection be sustained through participatory science projects?
- Are there any barriers to overcome?

It appeared from the general discussion that few countries featured in the session (e.g. Egypt, Tunisia, Turkey, Italy, Cyprus), disposed of a national monitoring system and database on marine biodiversity, as opposed to the UK where researchers have an excellent national database available for submitting and accessing data (National Biodiversity Network, www.nbn.org).

The presentation by Salud Deudero included a proposal to initiate a CIESM monitoring programme of key species in rocky areas. The discussion in our group provided evidence that such a programme is necessary and would be highly beneficial.

The remainder of our discussion circled around the idea of participatory ('citizen') science which is currently experimented in a number of projects in most countries. The sentiment was that these presented potential but also problems if data were collected for scientific purposes, due to recurrent identification problems.

