

CIESM Congress Session : Assessing fish populations
Moderator : Konstantinos Stergiou, HCMR and Aristotle Univ. Greece

Moderator's Synthesis

Six communications were presented in this session. It was noted initially that only one of these six presentations (i.e. population dynamics of hake in NW Mediterranean) was based on long time series, bringing up for discussion the issue of the availability of long time series in the Mediterranean and raised the question of whether or not the situation has changed from that described in the CIESM workshop on time series (CIESM Workshop Monograph 22; 2003). Several participants noted that the availability of biological and, especially, of fish and fisheries-related time series in the Mediterranean is still relatively low, in particular for the southern sector and for Turkish waters. The situation has changed in the northern Mediterranean mainly because of the EU Data Collection Regulation and Framework (DCR and DCF) initiatives, in the years following the CIESM workshop. In spite of that, time series availability remains a problem for Greek waters where there is a gap in the collected DCF data for 2008-2013, mainly because of bureaucratic/administrative constraints.

It was also noted that only one out of the six presentations tested an ecological hypothesis (i.e. the bigger-deeper hypothesis). This brings the question of whether or not marine fisheries and ecology studies in the Mediterranean Sea have generally progressed from the descriptive to the hypothesis-testing stage. This was followed by discussions on the factors related to the bigger-deeper hypothesis (e.g. in deep waters fish benefit from higher lifespan and lower metabolism because of lower temperatures). In addition, several participants discussed the relation between exotic species and temperature (notably for *Upeneus*).

