

MERMAID - Marine Environmental targets linked to Regional Management schemes based on Indicators Developed for the Mediterranean

**Summary**

The aim of MERMAID project is to provide additional scientific understanding for assessing GES in a coherent and holistic manner by a state of the art methodology that will be developed and applied in three study areas of the Mediterranean Sea (the Gulf of Lions, Saronikos gulf and Cilician basin); set targets for the achievement of GES; and proceed with linking management measures designed for these areas to the targets. Five MSFD descriptors for ‘Good Environmental Status’ (GES) were selected to be the main focus of this study related to fisheries (D3), hydrology (D7), chemical pollution of the environment (D8) and biota (D9) and marine litter (D10). These descriptors are selected based on the existing knowledge related to the main pressures exerted on the ecosystem of the study areas, on the direct societal impact of these pressures, as well as on already identified data/knowledge gaps that need further scientific support that MERMAID aims to provide.

The project will mainly contribute to advances in the field of environmental protection, providing new knowledge for MSFD indicators, for which data and information are limited in the Mediterranean basin. At the same time the proposed sustainable coordinated research efforts will be made with special attention to locate, fill knowledge gaps and increase the knowledge base, especially with regards to processes and pressures that are relevant to the selected MSFD descriptors. It will also ensure that several steps are taken to propose management strategies and create an impact on policy-makers, from national to international levels, linking these targets with management measures that will provide guidance on how ecosystem considerations can be included in managing human activities of key importance under the MSFD and the MAP perspectives. Finally, MERMAID will reinforce international cooperation and interactions between scientists by providing a framework for knowledge and will strengthen cooperation in the science area particularly through transferring methodologies and promotion of the assessment procedure to a non-EU country.