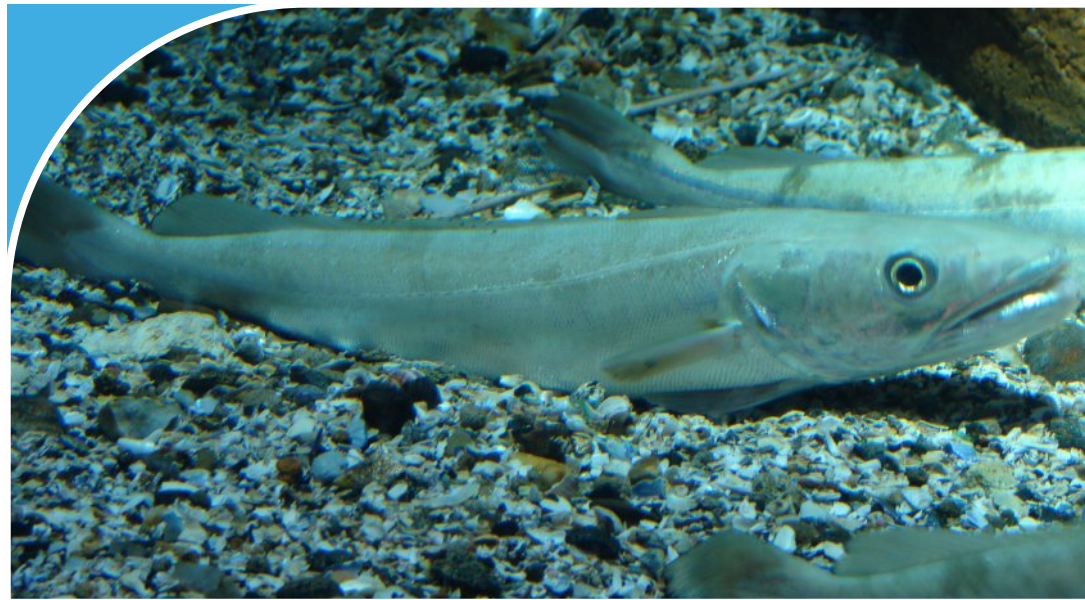


Marine protected Areas
Network Towards
Sustainable fisheries
in the Central Mediterranean



MANTIS is a project funded by the European Commission
– DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE)



Italian National Research Council- Institute for coastal marine environment, (CNR-IAMAC)

The National Interuniversity Consortium For Marine Sciences, (ConNISMa)

World Wildlife Fund Italy (WWF Italy)

Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (IOF)

National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics (OGS)

Nisea - Fisheries and Aquaculture Economic Research (NISEA)

Oceana

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture within the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change (DFA/MSDEC)



Marine protected Areas Network Towards Sustainable fisheries in the Central Mediterranean

Three year project funded by the European Commission – DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE)

Total budget of the project is € 700.000,00

The project coordinator is Italian National Research Council - Institute for coastal marine environment (CNR-IAMC)





Project background

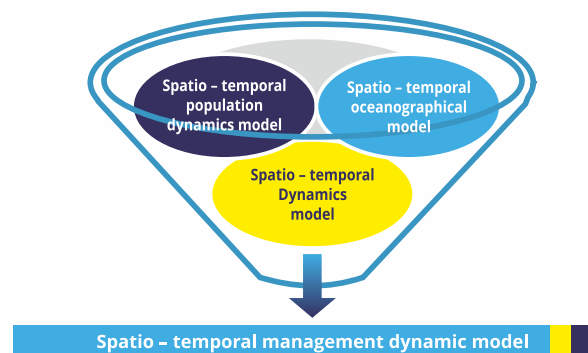
Demersal fisheries in the Mediterranean are known to be affected by high overfishing and poor exploitation patterns with high juvenile fishing mortality and high production of discards (Colloca et al., 2013; Vasilakopoulos et al., 2014). In this perspective, the new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), promotes the establishment of fish stock recovery areas while taking due account of existing conservation areas and continuing to give additional protection to existing biologically sensitive areas. Within this framework the CFP and the multi-annual management plans under its legislation should be oriented towards promoting the establishment of new biologically sensitive protected areas, including **nursery and spawning grounds of exploited stocks**, in which all or certain fishing activities are temporarily or permanently banned or restricted in order to improve the exploitation and conservation of living aquatic resources and marine ecosystems as to achieve the overall objective of the CFP. In terms of spatial based management **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) or Marine Managed Areas (MMAs) are tools and measures to achieve conservation of marine biodiversity.**

The main objectives of MANTIS are:

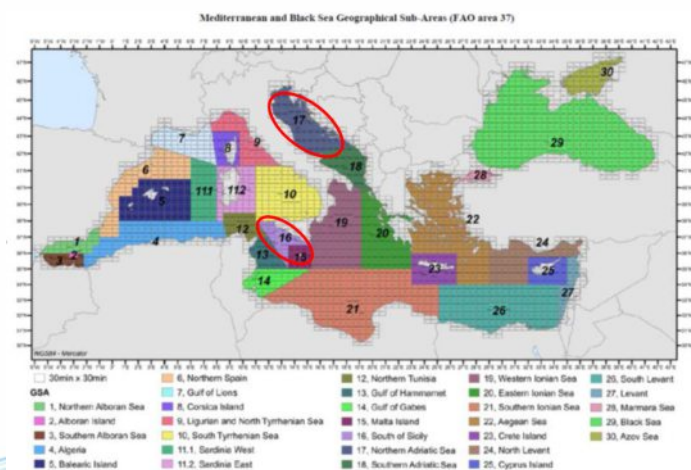
- To review and integrate the knowledge produced in previous national and EU funded project on space time dynamics of exploited living resources and on Ecosystem Approach to Fishery in the Central Mediterranean, with a focus on to the Strait of Sicily and the Adriatic Sea;
- To review information on the location of the existing MMAs in the Mediterranean which could affect the dynamics of Central Mediterranean stocks considered in the project, on the basis of the putative stock boundaries identified in the STOCKMED project (Fiorentino et al., 2014);
- To study the connectivity among the Essential Fish Habitats (EFH) of the project target species, including those located inside or outside existing MMAs;
- To investigate how a network of MMAs can contribute towards improving sustainable fisheries in the Central Mediterranean, whilst promoting ecosystem services such as reservoirs of biodiversity and functioning food webs



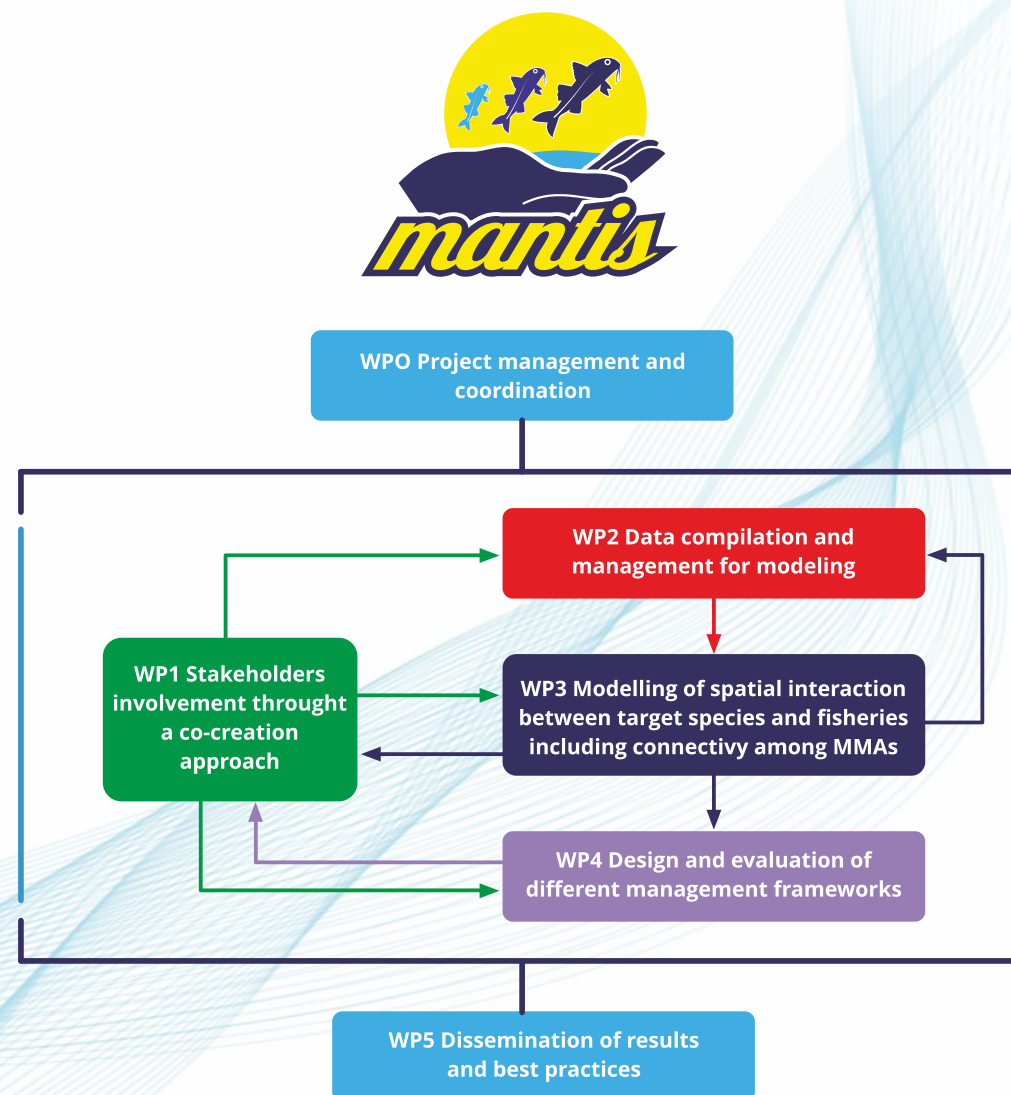
MANTIS is being developed through a combination of modeling approaches to assess management scenarios according to a spatial-based approach to fisheries management, in which the displacement of fishing effort in different fishing grounds is regulated by creating a coherent network of **Marine Managed Areas (MMA)**.



The action will be developed in two case studies:
Central-Northern Adriatic (primarily identified as GSA 17)
and The Northern sector of the Strait of Sicily (GSAs 15 and 16).



Scheme of MANTIS work packages





Project website:
<http://jadran.izor.hr/mantis/>

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