



## **MANTIS: Marine protected Areas Network Towards Sustainable fisheries in the North Mediterranean**

### **Report of the introductory meeting with stakeholders**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Introductory meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2017 on Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries in Split. With the partners that are familiarize of the project: WWF Adria and expert associates from the Institute, there were additional stakeholders who attended the meeting and are of a great importance regarding the issue of Jabuka Pit: local fishermen, presidents of the fisheries associations and associates from Directorate of Fisheries and Ministry (**Annex 1**).

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- ✓ Introduce the project to all relevant stakeholders
- ✓ Emphasize the information on the distribution of 4 target species (Hake, Mullet, Sole and Norway lobster - *Merluccius merluccius*, *Mullus barbatus*, *Solea solea* and *Nephrops norvegicus*) in North Adriatic (GSA 17)
- ✓ Present and discuss the problem with the Jabuka Pit among all stakeholders



## Report

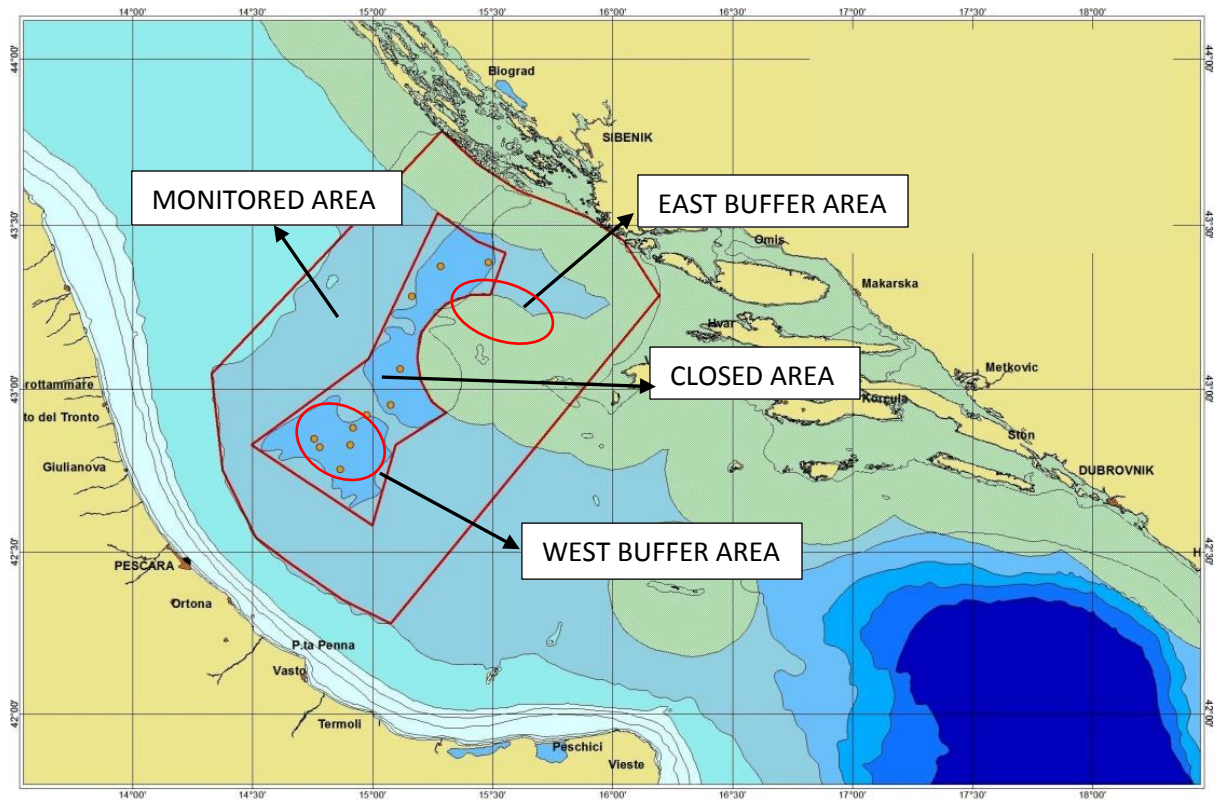
In 10:00<sup>h</sup> started the third introductory meeting (**Annex 2**). Following the introductory presentation of a particular stakeholder, the work package coordinator (PhD. Igor Isajlović) started the presentation in which he presented the MANTIS project:

- Partners included in the project
- General information about the project
- Objectives and issues.

After a brief presentation about the project, legal representative Prof. Nedo Vrigoč started his presentation: Implementation and achievements in the project - The present status of the protection of the Pomo Pit.

Some of the main problems, solutions and protection regime that Prof. Nedo emphasized are:

- Recent status of the main resources in the Adriatic Sea (especially Hake and Norway lobster) showing overexploitation
- Recent fisheries regulation measures are not enough to ensure recovery of the resources
- Jabuka/Pomo pit known as the most important spawning and nursery area in the Adriatic Sea
- Protection by establishment of non-take zone in 2015/2016 showed positive effect, but one year of closed fisheries was not enough
- CRO and ITA proposing to establish a new regime of closed fisheries in Jabuka/Pomo Pit
  - This area is not MPA or FRA then MMA
- Covered area – the same like in previous non-take zone
- Establishment of three areas
  - No take zone (in the middle of Jabuka/Pomo Pit)
  - Buffer zone
    - Western zone (“fondoletto”) - exclusively for Italian fishermen
    - Eastern zone (“džep”) - exclusively for CRO fishermen
  - Monitored area - whole Jabuka/Pomo Pit



- Definition of area by geographic coordinates and surface (TBD)
- Protection regime
  - No take zone
    - Prohibition of all demersal fishing gear (bottom trawl, bottom long-line, traps) and set net
    - Allowed: pair pelagic trawl, purse seiners, pelagic long line, big game
  - Buffer zone
    - Bottom trawl fisheries allowed only two days per week
    - Bottom long line allowed two day per week
    - Mesh size and mesh shape according MEDREG (EC1967/2006)
    - Closed minimally two months in spawning/recruitment season
  - Monitored area
    - Monitoring using VMS and/or AIS
    - Scientific monitoring with annual report
- Data collection on catch and effort in buffer zone
  - Special log book with data for catch and fishing effort
  - Common data base of authorized vessels, catch, effort and VMS data

After this presentation, several stakeholders involved with the topic of area of Jabuka/Pomo Pit stressed several issues:

- Fishermen expressed their satisfaction with this initiative and are very aware of the fact that it is necessary to protect the Jabuka Pit since it is the main nursery and spawning grounds for the commercially most important species such as hake and Norway lobster
  
- They support this initiative and also have a few deprecations:
  - They expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that the Italian side had unilaterally overturned the ban after a year and thus avoided the positive effects of the one - time ban on fishing
  - Agreeing with the permanent ban in Jabuka Pit and also
  - Suggesting permanent ban in South Adriatic for trawling where the depths are over 500 m so that the adult individuals are protected in terms of repopulation.

At the end of the meeting, dissemination kit was shared (polo shirts, hats and brochures) and the fulfilled questionnaires were collected. PhD Igor Isajlović expressed gratitude to all stakeholders and acknowledged their collaboration.





## ANNEX 1: List of participants



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Introductory meeting

Split, 25<sup>nd</sup> May 2017

### List of participants

NUMBER	NAME	E-MAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
1	VLADAN DOJIC	dandobojic@gmail.com	[Signature]
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## ANNEX 2: Agenda



### *AGENDA- MANTIS meeting*

*25<sup>th</sup> of May 10:00<sup>h</sup>, Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Šetalište I. Meštrovića 63,  
Split, Lecture room A*

#### *Agenda:*

1. Presentation of the project – PhD. Igor Isajlović
2. Implementation and achievements in the project - The present status of the protection of the Pomo Pit – Prof. Nedo Vrgoč
3. Exchange of experience and knowledge among stakeholders in the field of fisheries on various aspects of the establishment of the Marine Management Area (MMA) - all participants
4. Discussion and Conclusions - all participants