



Saving The Black Sea

Official Newsletter of
the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution

ANNIVERSARY ISSUE No. 15, July 2013

20th Anniversary of the signature of the Odessa Declaration



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Dear Friends,

This year we commemorate the 20th Anniversary since, following the signature of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution in April 1992, the Ministers of the Black Sea coastal states, understanding the importance of this political commitment and the fact that the Black Sea ecosystem can only be protected through joint efforts of all the parties involved, signed the Odessa Declaration on the 7th of April 1993.

During these years, this Ministerial Declaration became a powerful statement of the joint efforts and demonstrated the political will of the Black Sea countries to preserve the precious marine environment of the Black Sea and to ensure sustainable development of its coastal regions.

The Odessa Declaration added political commitment and stressed on the necessity for coordinated action in the implementation of the provisions of Bucharest Convention and its Protocols. It also served as a road map for the development of the Strategic Action Plan for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea (1996) and the Strategic Action Plan for the Environmental Protection of the Black Sea (2009). These both documents were built on and further developed the principles and approaches adopted in the 1993 Odessa Declaration.

Odessa Declaration for the first time set out the priorities of the sustainable development of the region, including the increased public participation, addressing the importance of regional cooperation and introducing the goal and target oriented approach for the environmental policy in the Black Sea.

The Odessa Declaration was later followed by Ministerial Declarations, inter alia, Sofia Declarations (in 2002 and 2009) and Bucharest Declaration (2007) further reinstating and developing the main principles laid out in the Odessa Declaration.

The signing of Bucharest Convention, Odessa Declaration and the other declarations, and successful collaborations among contracting parties give us hope and confidence on protection of our Black Sea and its healthy environment to the future generations.

I know that we are sharing same sensitivity and willingness to protect to the Black Sea against pollution. And I also believe that we will continue following this important goal and we will bring our Black Sea one step further with the co-operation and solidarity.

In my capacity of the Chairman of the Black Sea Commission, let me wish us all the success and congratulate with 20th Anniversary of the signature of the Odessa Declaration all the countries and stakeholders.

Mr. Ercan Tıraş

Preface to the 15th Newsletter of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution by Prof. Halil Ibrahim Sur, Executive Director, Permanent Secretariat

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

On the 7th of April we commemorated the 20th Anniversary since the first Ministerial Declaration on the Protection of the Black Sea was signed in Odessa (Ukraine) back in 1993.

On this important occasion, on behalf of the Black Sea Commission, let me extend sincerest congratulations to all who contributed to its successful implementation and to wish all every success as well as long years of prosperity and well-being.

The Odessa Declaration served as an important document which allowed us to deepen the commitments taken under Strategic Action Plan for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea (1996) and the Strategic Action Plan for the Environmental Protection of the Black Sea (2009). For the first time the Odessa Declaration emphasized on the priorities of the sustainable development of the region. I, therefore, hope that this experience of our successful cooperation set out in Odessa Declaration will be continued and further enriched.

You will find in this 15th Anniversary issue of our newsletter the text of Odessa Declaration, as well as articles on a selection of issues that are of regional and international importance, such as the International Black Sea Day 2012 held in Batumi, Georgia, GFCM – BSC partnership and updates on the EC MSFD, Baltic2Black, EnviroGRIDS, EMBLAS and PEGASO projects.

Let me inform you that during the year 2012 the Black Sea Commission has signed several MoUs with its partners, i.e. IMO, GFCM, ACCOBAMS. This newsletter will provide you with some further details of their implementation by the Black Sea Commission.

It will always be our pleasure to provide you with more information on our activities, so please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any requests or suggestions aimed at making the Black Sea cleaner and healthier!

Prof. Halil Ibrahim SUR

Odessa Declaration

Ministerial Declaration on the Protection of the Black Sea

Odessa, 7 April 1993

The Ministers responsible for the protection of the marine environment of the Black Sea coastal states assembled in Odessa,

Recalling the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and desiring to provide the policy guidance for the implementation of Agenda 21 in the Black Sea region;

Reaffirming the provisions of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution, its Protocols and the Resolutions adopted in Bucharest, on April 21st, 1992;

Concerned about the continued deterioration of the ecosystem and the degradation of its natural resources despite the measures taken by the coastal states;

Determined to individually and jointly take effective measures to ensure the sustainable development of the Black Sea;

Recognizing that the rehabilitation, protection and preservation of the Black Sea can be ensured only through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, including cooperation with relevant international organizations;

Convinced of the need for close cooperation with states and international bodies concerned with the rehabilitation, protection and preservation of the waters of the rivers flowing into the Black Sea;

Also convinced that public participation in appropriate local, national and regional forums needs to be encouraged;

Desiring to establish explicit environmental goals and a time-frame in order to concentrate national, regional and international resources on the most effective measures;

Declare that:

- The pollution of the Black Sea poses serious threats to the coastal states, and is a source of concern to their peoples and the international community as a whole;
- Efforts presently being made at the local, national, regional and international level are insufficient to protect and preserve the marine environment and attain the sustainable development of the Black Sea;
- Urgent, comprehensive, consistent and coordinated action at all levels is thus required;
- The aim of the measures adopted is to be the protection, preservation and, where necessary, rehabilitation of the marine environment and the sustainable development of the Black Sea;
- To these ends they confirm their commitment to integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas and the marine environment under their national jurisdiction and will base their policies on the following:
 - A precautionary approach
 - The use of low and non-waste technologies
 - Integration of marine environmental protection considerations into other policy areas
 - Market mechanisms, including the development of economic incentives for using low and non-waste technologies, user fees, and the polluter pays principle
 - Application of natural resource and environmental accounting and environmental impact assessment procedures to all sectors, including tourism;
- In the development of policies for the protection and preservation of the Black Sea environment the aim is to develop common targets. However, the specific measures taken by the different coastal states will be consistent with their national priorities while contributing to the agreed common targets;
- Any action developed at the region level to ensure the implementation of this Declaration shall be consistent and integrated with steps being taken to ensure the implementation of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution;

Decide to adopt the following actions:

Harmful substances

1. To develop, by 1996, common environmental quality objectives and, where possible, emission standards for inputs of substances listed in Annexes I and II to the Protocols on the Prevention of Pollution from Land-Based Sources and from Dumping of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution and to take the necessary measures to reduce inputs of these substances to the agreed levels.
2. To further, where appropriate, the use of low and non-waste technologies to achieve a reduction of inputs of harmful substances, including nutrients.

3. To protect public health by the urgent construction of sewerage systems and sewage treatment plants in areas where the local population is at risk or there may be detrimental effects to the sustainable development of the marine environment for such activities as tourism and fisheries.

4. To prepare, before 1996, coordinated national plans for the reduction of inputs of harmful substances, especially nutrients.

Disposal of radioactive materials

5. To ban, with immediate effect, the dumping of radioactive materials in the Black Sea.

Pollution from ships

6. To develop, coordinate and implement, by 1996, national plans for applying MARPOL special area requirements, including the urgent enhancement of harbor reception facilities, and to initiate action within the International Maritime Organization in accordance with Resolution 5 adopted together with the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution and its related protocols.

Transboundary movement of toxic wastes

7. To elaborate and adopt, before 1994, a Protocol to the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution, on the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and cooperation in combating illegal traffic thereof.

Natural resources

8. To encourage the development of comprehensive and coordinated plans for the restoration and conservation of biodiversity in the Black Sea in the spirit of the 1992 Biodiversity Convention.

9. To take appropriate measures for the restoration and conservation of biodiversity in the Black Sea in the spirit of the 1992 Biodiversity Convention.

10. To establish and improve nature conservation areas in the coastal zone of each coastal state before 1996.

Emergency response plans

11. To develop, by 1996, national and regional contingency plans identified by the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution for combating pollution in emergency situations.

Assessment and monitoring

12. To complete, before 1996, an assessment of sources and levels of the substances listed in annexes to the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution Protocols on the Prevention of Pollution from Land-Based Sources and from Dumping and to conduct preliminary studies of their environmental effects.

13. To establish, before 1997, a trend monitoring system for substances which have been identified as threatening or likely to threaten the sustainable development of the Black Sea environment.

14. In order to facilitate the implementation of the provisions on assessment and monitoring:

a. A common program for data quality assurance will be agreed; and

b. The capacity of at least one institution in each coastal state to participate in common assessment and monitoring programs will be enhanced.

Integrated coastal zone management

15. To elaborate and implement national coastal zone management policies, including legislative measures and economic instruments, in order to ensure the sustainable development in the spirit of Agenda 21.

Environmental impact assessment

16. To introduce compulsory environmental impact assessment of all projects in the private and public sector according to national criteria, which will be harmonized by 1997 where possible.

Arrangements for future cooperation

17. To select, by the end of 1993, activity centers based upon existing national institutions in order to provide technical support and coordinate the national and regional actions highlighted in this Declaration and as referred to in Resolution 4 adopted at the Bucharest meeting.

18. To take action to ensure prompt ratification of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution and its Protocols by all Black Sea coastal states.

19. To prepare and widely diffuse a consolidated triennial report on the status of implementation of the provisions of this Declaration. The report will be submitted to a Ministerial meeting convened within six months following completion of the triennium. This meeting will consider any actions required to enhance implementation or to amend the Declaration.

International Black Sea Day 2012: celebration activities and enviroGRIDS Project final meeting in Batumi, Georgia

The Black Sea Day 2012 celebrations were held on the 31st of October, 2012 in Batumi, Georgia back-to-back with EU FP7 enviroGRIDS project final meeting from 30th October to 1st November, 2012.

The Black Sea Day celebrations were organized jointly by the Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat, EU FP7 enviroGRIDS project and the Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia.

The morning session was chaired by Dr. Valeria Abaza, the PMA Officer of the BSC PS. Ms. Nino Tkhlava opened the meeting by giving a speech on behalf of Minister of Environment Protection of Georgia. The Black Sea Commissioners and their representatives extended their congratulations to the audience; they made their statements on behalf of respective Black Sea riparian countries. Then Prof. Halil Ibrahim Sur, the Executive Director of the BSC PS, took the floor and greeted the participants, extended gratitude to the local hosts, Ministry of Environment of Georgia for their hospitality and the enviroGRIDS project partners for the organization of this outstanding event. He also opened an Award Ceremony by announcing the Black Sea Medalists for the Year 2012.

The Black Sea medalists for 2012 are: Ms. Violeta Velikova from Bulgaria, Ms. Mariam Makarova from Georgia, Mr. Simion Nicolaev from Romania, Mr. Ruben Kosyan from Russian Federation, Mr. Ercan Tıraş from Turkey and Mr. Borys Aleksandrov from Ukraine.

Dr. Violeta Velikova, who unfortunately was not able to receive her

prize personally in Batumi, prepared a PPT presentation with some words of gratitude to her colleagues and wishes to people dealing with the conservation of the environment of the Black Sea. The rest of nominees received their medals from Prof. Sur and had a chance to say a few words on their contribution to the protection of the Black Sea environment.



Nomination of Bulgaria

Dr. Violeta Velikova

Dr. Violeta Velikova, born in Varna, Bulgaria is one of the most renowned scientists from the Black Sea region with reputation for professional expertise and personal devotion reaching far beyond the Black Sea region. During the last 20 years Dr. Velikova has lead scientific laboratories and participated in many international projects. She has lectured to students and supervised their work at the Master and PhD levels. As a Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer in the Black Sea Commission Secretariat (2007-2011) she managed to successfully lead the work of 6 advisory groups, the cooperation with a wide range of international partners, and the internationally funded projects of the BSC for the protection and rehabilitation of the Black Sea. Dr. Velikova is the author of numerous articles, scientific reports dedicated

to the Black Sea environment and four monographs.



Nomination of Georgia

Ms. Mariam Makarova

Ms. Mariam Makarova is a specialist in the field of the water resources management. She has an experience in elaboration/examination of water policy, legislative and various strategic documents in Georgian legislation, coordinated the activities of the international (EU, USAID, GEF-UNDP etc.) water related projects implemented in Georgia. She is a National Focal Point for the Advisory Group on Control of Pollution from Land-based Sources, a subsidiary body of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (2001-present). Participated in the elaboration of the new "Protocol for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Black Sea from Land-based Sources and Activities".



Nomination of Romania

Dr. Simion Nicolaev

Dr. Simion Nicolaev is a General Director/Senior Researcher of the National Institute "Grigore Antipa" in Constanta, Romania and a Chair of various committees and councils on marine issues.

From 1990 till 2000 served as a Director of Romanian Marine Research Institute, Constanta, Romania.

Started his scientific carrier in 1971 as a researcher at Romanian Marine Research Institute, participated in over 40 important scientific and technical conferences, 10 of them at high level; is a member in Association of Fisheries and Fishermen from Romania, Balkan Environment Association, etc.; taught university and post-university courses at Naval Academy, "Ovidius" Constanta University, "Lower Danube" Galati University.



Nomination of the Russian Federation

Prof. Ruben Kosyan

Prof. Ruben Kosyan works as a head of the coastal zone department of the Southern branch of the P.P.Shirshov Institute of Oceanology of the Russian Academy of Science, from 1971. He has more than 40 years of scientific and engineering experience. Engaged in problems of physical oceanography, marine geophysics,

ocean engineering and methods of dynamical processes' study in coastal region (first of all in the Black sea). He developed a number of methods and techniques of sediment transport measurements used in research works at many marine objects in different countries. He leaded a lot of international scientific projects and experiments, more than 50 different Russian national scientific projects and lectured on coastal zone dynamics in Universities of all continents, excluding Antarctica. Prof. Kosyan is a member of a number of national and international Committees and Associations. Prof. Kosyan released more than 350 scientific papers based upon the performed experiments (among them are ten monographs).



Nomination of Turkey

Mr. Ercan Tiras

Mr. Ercan Tiras graduated from Selçuk University Faculty of Engineering and Architecture Department of Construction Engineering in 1988. Worked in the private sector as an engineer between 1988-1994. Served in the duties of: Head of the Foreign Relations Department and Chairman of the Committee for Procurement and Authorization within the Prime Ministry Housing Development Administration of Turkey (TOKI); Deputy President of the Prime Ministry Housing Development Administration of Turkey; Member of the Board of the Greater Municipality Construction and Property

Ltd. Co. Appointed as the Undersecretary to the Ministry of Environment of Urbanization on 4th August, 2011. Mr. Tiras was appointed Member from Turkey of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution in 2011. In 2013 he is acting as Chairman of the Black Sea Commission.



Nomination of Ukraine

Prof. Borys Aleksandrov

Prof. Borys Aleksandrov is a Director of Odessa Branch of the Institute of Biology of Southern Seas by O.O. Kovalevsky, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. His areas of expertise are: marine ecology and biodiversity, species structure and spatial distribution of the zooneuston and zooplankton, invasive species, coastal ecosystems, biological pollution, biological and landscape diversity of the Black Sea and development of the scientifically based management of marine water quality by activation of the marine natural self-purification potential of the Black Sea. He participated in the GEF UNDP Black Sea Environmental Programs and in 1993 - 2006 - coordinator of preparation and co-author of the «Black Sea Biological Diversity, Ukraine» (1998) «Black Sea Red Data Book» (1998), par-

ticipation in preparation and update of the Annexes 1 «List of Species of the Black Sea Importance” and Annex «List of Species Whose Exploitation Should be Regulated by the Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol». Prof. B. Alexandrov was initiator and coordinator of the works for preparation of the List of the Benthic Communities of the Black Sea in line with EU classification system (NATURA 2000) for mapping of the benthic habitats of the Black Sea. Since 2004 till present Prof. Aleksandrov is a Chair of the BSC Biodiversity Advisory Group.

Dr. Valeria Abaza presented the main achievements of the Black Sea Commission. In particular, she emphasized on the role of ongoing projects being implemented in the Black Sea basin. She gave an overview of objectives and main expected outcomes of the Baltic2Black project, a project jointly implemented by BSC PS and HELCOM.

A high-level representative of one of our partner organizations, Mr. Abdellah Srour, UN GFCM Executive Secretary made a presentation on the activities of the GFCM in the Black Sea. He outlined the perspectives and main directions of

our cooperation and updated the participants on the state of implementation of the MoU between BSC and GFCM signed earlier this year in Morocco.

A representative from National Environmental Agency of Georgia, Mr. Kordzakhia, updated the participants on the issues related to the Environmental Monitoring in Georgia. Ms. Ekaterina Meskhidze and Mr. Gaga Hahubia from National Agency of Public Registry (NAPR), Ministry of Justice of Georgia made a presentation on the GEOCORS services provided by Georgia.

Prof. Bayram Ozturk representing the Istanbul University and TUDAV gave the outline of the developments in the frames of the CoCoNET project.

Dr. Elisaveta Peneva, representing the University of Sofia, outlined the main activities under the BuIArgo monitoring program in the Black Sea.

The Co-Chair of the Green Movements Georgia / Friends of the Earth organization, Ms. Nino Chkhobadze made her statement on the activities implemented by the young people in Georgia aimed

at cleaning-up the beaches of Batumi.

The second part of the day was devoted to the problems of Earth Observations and the Black Sea Catchment, in particular. EnviroGRIDS project is particularly targeting the needs of the Black Sea Commission and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River in order to help bridging the gap between science and policy. Our partners from enviroGRIDS project gave an overview of their main activities during the implementation of the project, they presented the following issues:

- enviroGRIDS in the Black Sea Catchment;
- enviroGRIDS Spatial Data Infrastructure;
- The analytical information on the Black Sea Catchment in the coming decades;
- SWAT for Black Sea Catchment;
- enviroGRIDS Observation System platform;
- Open Geospatial Consortium;
- Water in GEOSS etc.

The EC FP7 enviroGRIDS project, with 30 partners distributed in 15 countries, including Georgia, is contributing to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) by promoting the use of web-based services to share and process large amounts of key environmental information in the Black Sea Catchment (2.2 mio. km², 24 countries, 160 million inhabitants). The Black Sea Catchment is internationally known as one of ecologically unsustainable development and inadequate resource management, which has led to severe environmental, social and economic problems. The project addresses these issues by bringing several emerging information technologies that are revolutionizing the way we are able to observe our planet. EnviroGRIDS aims at building the capacity of scientist to assemble such a system in the Black Sea Catchment, the capacity of decision-makers to use it, and the capacity of the general public to understand the important environmental, social and economic

issues at stake. More information about the project is available at <http://www.envirogrids.net>.

The ICPDR Spatial Data Infrastructure was presented by Mr. A. Höbart. Within the same session, Mr. Mamuka Gvilava, the ICZM AG Focal Point for Georgia, presented the developments under PEGASO project (ICZM and SDI).

At the end of the session the participants were shown the Euronews movie on enviroGRIDS project.

The participants had a chance to further discuss the developments in their activities during the official dinner and to enjoy the concert reflecting the cultural achievements of the nationalities living along the Black Sea shore.

The Black Sea Day activities were also carried out in other Black Sea coastal cities, you may find below some information on celebrations in Romania, Turkey and Ukraine.

Celebrations of the International Black Sea Day 2012 in Constanta, Romania

1. NIMRD and Junior Ranger Club at the Natural Sciences Museum Complex

The Natural Sciences Museum Complex hosted, on October 27, 2012, an event celebrating in advance the International Black Sea Day. The event was organized in collaboration with the International Center for Natural Sciences within the Balkan Environmental Association (B.EN.A.) and the National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa" Constanta. The meeting was also attended by the members of the Junior Ranger Club, 20 students from the 2 Mai Elementary School, who presented with this occasion aspects of their activity carried-out during this summer season for the protection of the Black Sea environment.





as the dangers lurking on the coastal ecosystem.

The event was reported by the local media:

2. "Black Sea - Sustainable Development Opportunity for Romania"

NIMRD "Grigore Antipa" co-organized, together with the Natural Sciences Museum Complex and other prestigious institutions in Constanta the symposium entitled "Black Sea - Sustainable Development Opportunity for Romania". The event took place under the auspices of the Constanta County Council and the National Romanian Oceanography Committee.



The event was carried-out on October 31, 2012, in the conference hall of the Natural Sciences Museum Complex Constanta.

The discussions focused on several aspects concerning Romania's interests as a maritime sovereign state at the Black Sea, the coastal zone protection and rehabilitation masterplan, the endeavors of the Scientific Research Center for the Naval Forces in the field of marine environment knowledge, regional development European policies in the Black Sea basin etc.

The scientific director of NIMRD "Grigore Antipa", Dr. Tania Zaharia, outlined the current state of the Romanian Black Sea environment.

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Liderul de Opinie

Stiri din Constanta

Editorial: Cu o mână foarte mică, vocea scipa de candidații gen Mitică

Administrative - FrontPage: SC Neptun-Olimp în "trădentele" prichiturilor

HOME ADMINISTRATIE POLITICA SOCIAL EVENIMENT ACTUALITATE MAGAZIN DIVERSE TECH-IT SPORT

Stiri live - Conștientizare - Argajări - Horoscop - Vedete - Zecute rapide - Baza de știri - BLOGURI CT - FOTO (15+) -

Au marcat Ziua Internațională a Mării Negre

Data: 29 octombrie 2012
Stiri din categoria: Actualitate

Aruncă votul de 30 voturi

* **HOROSCOPI: miercuri, 7 noiembrie**
București: Se pare că nu va simți la farmă și se are șansa să finalizeze ocaz cu al timpului. Nu Căste...

Vremea în Constanta		
Miercuri, 7 Noiembrie	Joi, 8 Noiembrie	Vineri, 9 Noiembrie
Max: 11°C Min: 4°C	Max: 11°C Min: 2°C	Max: 13°C Min: 4°C
<small>Time Forecast</small>	<small>Time</small>	<small>Time Forecast</small>

NIMRD's experts underlined that, by its position, the Black Sea is a typically continental sea, subjected to pressures which are caused, most of the times, by the human factor (pollution, resource overexploitation, tourism etc.). It is, thus, imperative to find solutions to eliminate such pressures and restore the marine environment. One of these solutions is the establishment of marine protected areas. However, it is important that these protected areas should not be disparate oases, but function as a whole. The FP-7 Project CoCoNET (Towards COast to COast NETWORKS of Marine Protected Areas), in which NIMRD "Grigore Antipa" is partner, aims at inter-connecting individual marine protected areas, through coherent management

practices, and promote education and cooperation among various administrations and people who act and live in such areas.

On the Romanian coastline, there is a single marine reserve - the Vama Veche - 2 Mai Marine Littoral Aquatory (also declared special area of conservation within the Natura 2000 European ecological network, ROSCI0269) - under the custody of NIMRD "Grigore Antipa".

The activities carried-out here by the custodian, together with the Balkan Environmental Association, have been and are meant to increase the awareness degree of the broad public with respect to the future of the Black Sea, as well



3. „Black Sea in the Context of Green Economy”

Under the “Academic Impact” initiative of the United Nations, the Black Sea Universities’ Network, in collaboration with the National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore Antipa”, the “Ovidius” University Constanta, the Sinop University in Turkey, the Institute of Oceanology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the ASPIRE Group, organized, on October 31, 2012, an event dedicated to the International Black Sea Day, entitled „Black Sea in the Context of Green Economy”. The event included an assessment of the current state of the Black Sea issues and the identification of opportunities for initiating student actions with the view to protecting the marine environment and developing the Black Sea sustainably, by implementing the green economy principles. The event addressed students and young people, in general, concerned with the opportunities offered by the Black Sea environment, as a factor for sustainable development through the principles of green economy. The meeting took place in Hall P7, at the old headquarters of the “Ovidius” University, 124 Mamaia Blvd., and was actually a videoconference, with groups of students and master applicants (both from the “Ovidius” University and the “Mircea cel Batrân” Naval Academy, academic staff and experts from the host university, from the National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore

Antipa”, the Sinop University and the Institute of Oceanology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences). The topics referred to the current state of the marine environment, the collaboration stage in joint projects and opportunities to capitalize green energy. The students’ interest was materialized in lively discussions and the willingness to actually involve in these issues, including by means of organized bodies, such as non-governmental organizations.

This event was also reported in the local media.



4. Marine Strategy, on debate at NIMRD “Grigore Antipa”

Also within the activities dedicated to the celebration of the International Black Sea Day, the National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore Antipa” (NIMRD) organized, on November 2, 2012, the first consultation meeting of the stakeholders in the activity schedule of the MISIS Project - MSFD Guiding Improvements in the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring System. The MISIS Project is financed by European funding and is coordinated by NIMRD “Grigore Antipa”, having as partners the National Institute for Geology and Geo-Ecology Research and Development (GeoEcoMar), the “Ovidius” University of Con-

stanta, the Institute of Oceanology - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IO-BAS) and the Sinop University in Turkey. The meeting was also attended by the Romanian stakeholders (research institutes, environmental protection agencies, Water Basin Administration, ministries, directorates, universities etc. and economic operators connected to the marine environment).



The aim of the MISIS Project is developing a coherent activity program to improve the quality and efficiency of the integrated monitoring system of environmental data at the Black Sea, in accordance with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Whereas the main objective is supporting the efforts to protect and restore environmental quality and sustainable development at the Black Sea, the specific targets of the project are improving the availability and quality of physical-chemical and biological data, for the integrated assessment of the Black Sea environment state, increasing the number and extent of marine protected areas in the Black Sea, as well as their protection degree, increasing the involvement degree of stakeholders and raising the awareness of the public concerning environmental issues. Other initiatives supporting the MISIS Project NIMRD is partner in are the European projects FP7 PERSEUS (Policy-Orientated Marine Environmental Research for the Southern European Seas) and CoCoNET (Towards **CO**ast to **CO**ast **NET**-works of Marine Protected Areas).

The goal of the project is ensuring the scientific support required to elaborate the Measure Plan aimed

at leading to a Good Ecological State by 2020 (pursuant to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive).

This event was also reported in the local media.

Dr. Mariana Golumbeanu

Head of Technologic Transfer and Dissemination Department

National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa"
Constanta, Romania

Celebrations of the International Black Sea Day 2012 in Trabzon, Turkey

31st October Black Sea Day was celebrated with enthusiasm in Turkey.

Every year, 31st October is celebrated as "International Black Sea Day" with the representatives of the Contracting Parties of Bucharest Convention. In addition, a variety of local events organized by countries, studies on the protection of the Black Sea shared and aims to raise awareness on the issue. For this reason, the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of Turkey organized "31st October Black Sea Day Activities and Public Awareness" celebration event on October 31-November 1, 2012, in Trabzon, Turkey.

During the celebration event, in

order to ensure public participation and increase public awareness to protection of the pollution beach cleaning activity were organized and presentations on studies and implementations on conservation and ensuring sustainable usage of Black Sea were made.

There is no other Black Sea! Protection of this heritage for next generations is our duty!!!

Celebrations of the International Black Sea Day 2012 in Simferopol, Ukraine

Variety of activities and the round-table discussion "The Black Sea: the present and the future ..." have been organized on the occasion of the International Day of the Black Sea at the Crimean Scientific Center (Simferopol). The event was organized by the Institute of Biology of Southern Seas NAS of Ukraine, the Marine Hydrophysical Institute NAS of Ukraine, the Rus-



sian Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (Russia, Moscow), the Taurida National University and the Karadag Nature Reserve.

Oral scientific reports by Dr. Boltachev, Dr. Milchakova, D.Sc. Sovga and research assistant Karpova have been presented at the roundtable meeting. They discussed environmental problems of the Black Sea, its biological and mineral resources, the state of the marine and freshwater fish fauna, the role of maritime museums and collections for the promotion of scientific knowledge.



Presentations of new scientific and popular books published by the BusinessInform Publishers (Crimea) have been held during the Black Sea Day. Among them new illustrated handbooks were presented:

- AR Boltachev, EP Karpov "Marine fish of the Crimean Peninsula";
- EP Karpov, AR Boltachev "Fish of the Crimean Peninsula inland waters";
- VN Eremeev, AR Boltachev, BG Aleksandrov, SV Alyomov, YuA Zagorodnya, EP Karpova, LA Manzhos, VV Gubanov. «Biological di-



versity of the coastal zone of the Crimean peninsula: problems, preservation and restoration pathways».

Two exhibitions have been organized at the Crimean Scientific Center from 18th to 31st October as a part of the celebration of the Black Sea Day. One of them was the first solo exhibition of Anatoly N. Maikoedov (D.Sc., Director of the Russian Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Moscow) "My Black Sea" with about 60 pictures.



The second exhibition, "The Black Sea through the eyes of children", was organized by students of the Crimean small academy of arts and crafts. The best 30 works (watercolor, gouache) of talented young artists from all over the Crimea were presented.

Celebrating the Black Sea Day was completed with a small concert of classical music and performance of songs by the artists of the Crimean Philharmonic.

Celebrations of the 20th Anniversary of the Bucharest Convention

The Bucharest Convention was signed in 1992 on 22nd of April. To commemorate the event, the Black Sea Commission organized a 1 day round table event in Istanbul, Turkey in Novotel Hotel. The full event can be visualized on the BSC website at the following link: http://www.blacksea-commission.org/_20AnniversaryBuchConv.asp.

The event was honored by the presence of Mr. Fevzi Güneş, Deputy Governor of Istanbul. The event was chaired by Ms. Natalia Tretyakova, Member of the Black Sea Commission, Russia, who also delivered a key speech. Ms. Natalia Tretyakova, Member of the Black Sea Commission, Russia, noted the importance of the occasion in celebrating the common efforts of the Black Sea coastal states in protecting the Black Sea, mentioning the long road which has been covered since 1992, the political commitment expressed through Ministerial declarations and adoption of the Strategic Action Plan and the list of achievements, the importance of the commitment of international organizations such as the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the support of the European Commission. She reconfirmed the continuation of the efforts of the Black Sea countries in protecting and improving the Black Sea Environment.

The BSC Permanent Secretariat reinstated the commitment to continuing the work and presented the current activities and future priorities.

The special guests gave speeches related to the Black Sea environment protection and shipping safety, the importance of protect-

ing the Black Sea environment and its biodiversity from human activities, stressing the role of the regional cooperation for achieving these goals. The representative of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) restated the need for increasing cooperation between BSC and BSEC in the fields of mutual activities. Other organizations that couldn't be directly represented in the event sent their written statements.

Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program, 2012-2020

The development of the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program, as a tool for harmonized assessment of the state of the Black Sea ecosystem and efficiency of the environmental measures undertaken by the Contracting Parties the Bucharest Convention on Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution and the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan (1996, amended 2002) was started in 2001 and approved by the Black Sea Commission in 2006 for 5 years period (BSIMAP, 2006-2010). The BSIMAP, 2006-2011 was based on the Drivers-Pressures-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) model however designed at the principle of affordability due to economic situation in most of the Contracting Parties. In the absence of necessary procedures for quality assurance of the reported information, elaborated criteria for assessments, comparable data sets and, first of all necessary financial resources, the number of monitoring parameters and sites were rather limited.

The detailed analysis of the BSIMAP achievements and weaknesses carried out with assistance of European Environmental Agency in the "Diagnostic Report" to guide improvements to the regular reporting process on the state of the Black Sea environment (August 2010) identified the necessary

steps for the refining and improvement of the environmental monitoring and assessment process for the Black Sea. The findings of this study as well as experience gained by the Bulgaria and Romania in compliance with European Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) requirements were fully utilized for drafting the BSIMAP, 2012-2020.

The draft BSIMAP 2012-2020 was developed by the national consultants of the Black Sea states in framework of the EU funded project "Support to the Black Sea Commission for Implementation of the Marine Strategy" and submitted to the BSC Permanent Secretariat for further discussions and approval by the Black Sea Commission.

Development and implementation of the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program (BSIMAP) is stipulated in Article XV of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention) and its Protocols. BSIMAP is based on national monitoring programs, financed by the Black Sea states. Outside of national monitoring programs, thematic scientific surveys related to various environmental problems are carried out in the frames of different projects, financed by national authorities and/or donors, such as EU DG Research and DG Environment, NATO Science for Peace Program, UNDP/GEF and UNEP, and others.

The Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program shall be an integral part of the monitoring and assessment programs of the Contracting Parties to the Bucharest Convention based on the principles:

- Best available scientific knowledge on the state of the environment

- Quality assurance and quality controlled data and validated information
- Clearly described uncertainties and gaps
- Cost efficiency and resource saving
- Defined affordability for each Contracting Party to the Bucharest Convention
- Mutual assistance and cooperation.

The Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program shall introduce the regional dimensions in the monitoring and assessment programs of the Contracting Parties to the Bucharest Convention.

BSIMAP, 2012-2020 employs the DPSIRR (**D**ivers, **P**ressures, **S**tate, **I**mpact, **R**esponse, **R**ecovery) approach allowing detection of negative impacts as well as the effects of measures taken, thereby enabling the necessary corrective actions to be decided on and introduced in a timely manner. The choice of parameters to monitor is related to the main environmental problems recognized in the Black Sea region and re-evaluated every 5 years based on BSC reports – State of the Environment of the Black Sea and Implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea (www.blacksea-commission.org).

Approaches of the UN Global Integrated Marine Assessment and European Marine Strategy Framework Directive as well as other best available practices are taken into consideration.

The draft BSIMAP, 2012-2020 consists of the harmonized at the regional level definitions, well defined assessment process of the state of the environment of the Black Sea and progress in implementation of the provisions of the

Bucharest Convention and BS SAP 2009, Black Sea Environmental Monitoring Program, Quality Assurance and Quality Control, Black Sea Information System, Time-frame for Implementation of the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment program 2012-2020 and Annexes that define indicators necessary for comprehensive assessment of the state of the Black Sea environment and efficiency of implemented environmental policies and measures as well as monitoring sites, parameters and frequencies to be reported to the Black Sea Commission, that shall be further elaborated and procedures for organization of the reporting under the Bucharest Convention and BS SAP.

The draft BSIMAP provisions the elaboration of the target indicators, assessment criteria, determination the good environmental status of the Black Sea ecosystem. The thematic scientific studies and surveys and comprehensive quality assurance/quality control systems are the intrinsic parts of the BSI-MAP, 2012-2020.

Two EU-funded mirror projects MISIS (MSFD Guiding Improvements in the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring System, beneficiaries - BG, RO, TR) and EMBLAS (Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea, beneficiary – GE, RU, UA), aimed at the improvement of the environmental monitoring and assessment are running currently in the Black Sea region. BG, RO and TR are completing the upgrading their monitoring systems under the MSFD requirements; a large project for upgrading the monitoring systems of the GE, RU and UA was approved by the EC and implemented by UNDP. Although such support is very crucial, nevertheless, the implementation of BSIMAP, 2012-2020 is the national responsibility of the Contracting Parties to the Bucharest Convention.

UNEP-BSC Cooperation

Outcomes of the 14th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans

On the 1-3rd October 2012 the 14th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans took place in Nairobi, Kenya. The Black Sea Commission was represented at the above mentioned meeting by Prof. Halil Ibrahim Sur, Executive Director of the Black Sea Commission's Permanent Secretariat.

During the dedicated sessions the discussions and sharing of experiences took place on the following topics:

- Implementation of ecosystem-based management in the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, pathways to take up and mainstream ecosystem approach in their programmes;
- The meaning of the Green Economy for the Regional Seas Programmes;
- Possible action items to be included in the Strategic Directions: indicator development as part of the programmatic approach, capacity building and pilot on ecosystem-based management and ecosystem-based adaptation (EBM/EBA) etc.
- World Oceans Assessment (Regular Process) on Reporting and Assessing the State of the Marine Environment, including socio-economic aspects: discussions on how can the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans continue to play a leading role;
- GPA Implementation and the Regional Seas Programmes (The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities);

- Establishment of an Ad hoc Working Group on the Strategic Directions 2013-2016.

Regular Process: At the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, States agreed, in paragraph 36 (b) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), to "establish by 2004 a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments" (the so-called "Regular Process").

As a result of the 14th Global Meeting, the "Necessary Action for Ecosystem Approach to Regional Seas" was developed. UNEP proposed to carry out assessments based on indicators. It is suggested that the UNEP Marine Ecosystem Unit lead on the development of a set of indicators focusing on a number of common regional marine ecosystem issues and major sources of stress and threats to the functioning of these marine ecosystems based on existing indicators, including those developed for the Baltic Sea and for the Mediterranean.

The global set of indicators should also be in line with the items for assessment for the Regular Process, Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network and Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme and matched with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The indicator system would support the countries in their reporting to the Multilateral Environment Agreements. A sub-set of global indicators would be identified to be applicable to all the regions that should constitute key features and functions of the marine ecosystems, common to all marine ecosystems. In addition to these

common indicators, each regional seas programme should be able to choose additional indicators relevant to marine ecosystem issues in the region and relevant to the major causes for these regional issues. The indicators selected should be linked with the ecosystem-based objectives and targets so that indicator-based tracking of achievements would be possible.

For this purpose, each regional seas programme participating in the Ecosystem Approach to regional Seas should use a minimum set of common indicators, thereby allowing inter-regional comparisons.

During the Meeting the participants also considered the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20-22 June 2012).

The dedicated chapter of the Rio+20 Declaration "Oceans and seas" outlined that the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives "support the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, established under the General Assembly, and look forward to the completion of its first global integrated assessment of the state of the marine environment by 2014 and its subsequent consideration by the Assembly. We encourage consideration by States of the assessment findings at appropriate levels".

During the 28th Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Istanbul, 21-22nd November, 2012) the Black Sea Commission adopted the following Resolution: "The Commission supports the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects, estab-

lished under the UN General Assembly."

HELCOM-BSC Cooperation

Baltic2Black: Environmental monitoring of the Black Sea for nutrients

The cooperation between BSC and HELCOM in the field of environmental monitoring with special focus on nutrients continued under the project Baltic2Black financially supported by the European Commission.

In its second year of implementation significant progress was achieved. The Regional Data Base for Pollution (RDB-P) an important component of the BSIS developed by Regional Activity Centre on Pollution Monitoring and Assessment (RAC PMA) was further improved by including tools for calculation statistics and indicators to pollution data stored in it, and for identification of water quality classes. To determine the eutrophication status, the calculation of Trophic Index – TRIX (Vollenweider et al., 1998) was included in the RDB-P, being used by most of the Black Sea laboratories in reporting to BSC.

For future monitoring of eutrophication an important role might be played by the satellite observations; the work for perfecting a regional algorithm to estimate the Black Sea chlorophyll concentration from satellite images is ongoing. The experts from Marine Hydrophysical Institute (Sevastopol, Ukraine) considered elaborating and testing separate algorithms for shelf and deep waters of the Black Sea.

In order to enhance the monitoring effort for eutrophication parameters in the Black Sea the usage of automated systems must be considered in the near future by the BSIMAP. A feasibility study elaborated for the project showed

that in order to organize an effective basin scale monitoring some issues should be considered. Thus, it is known that Black Sea is totally divided into Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of the bordering countries. According to the Law of the Sea and national legislation, the neighboring countries should obtain permission to do measurements and to take samples in other countries' EEZ. This process is difficult when using instruments crossing marine borders like ARGO floats etc. Another obstacle is that national legislation limits the free exchange of operational data in real time. A regional international agreement between the Black Sea countries will be a good solution and will allow developing an effective instrument to assess the eutrophication in the Black Sea, which will provide reliable information for decision making process.

The Second Expert Workshop, "Eutrophication assessment in the Black Sea and experiences from the Baltic Sea", was organized in cooperation by both BSC and HELCOM secretariats in Istanbul, Turkey, on 20-21 September 2012 with the participation of the members of the Advisory Group on Pollution Monitoring and Assessment (AG PMA) and experts in eutrophication from both regions.

The 2-day workshop focused on eutrophication assessment and use of remote sensing and "human sensors" for indicator development. The first day of the meeting consisted of lectures by both the Black Sea and Baltic Sea experts dealing with these issues and the second day was a learning-by-doing workshop. The second day was of the most interest for the Black Sea experts that prepared and presented case studies from their own data applied to HEAT, eutrophication assessment tool developed for the Baltic Sea and its comparison with TRIX. As a follow-up of the workshop and based on HEAT, Dr. Jesper Ander-

son developed a tool to assess the eutrophication in the Black Sea and named it Black Sea Eutrophication Assessment Tool (in short BEAST1.0).

An important recommendation of the workshop was to promote extensive international collaboration to avoid resource overlapping, to harmonize operational processes and quality standards, in order to reach reliable, robust, sustainable and efficient monitoring system which is compliant with the highest European services and to bring value to ocean-related users and marine service providers on duty at national, regional and European levels. Another important recommendation was to jointly continuing the development of harmonized assessment tools based on the commonly adopted conceptual model of eutrophication (nutrients, direct as well as indirect effects).



2nd Expert Workshop on eutrophication assessment and transfer of experience from the Baltic Sea, Istanbul, 20-21 September 2012

The 3rd Expert Workshop on monitoring and reducing nutrient loads to the Black Sea was organized on 31st January – 1st February 2013 with the participation of Advisory Group on Pollution from Land Based Sources (AG LBS), experts from Baltic and Black Sea regions and International Commission for the Protection of Danube River (ICPRD). Also, the representatives of the EU FP7 Project EnviroGRIDS participated in the workshop, presented the results of the project found in its final stage and SWAT model used for the Black Sea watershed.

The aims of the workshop were to take steps towards developing a decision-support tool for reduction of nutrient inputs to the Black Sea making use of the Baltic Sea experience and to work towards finalizing the hotspot methodology for the Black Sea. In order to meet these goals, presentations by the Black Sea and Baltic Sea scientists/experts on the following topics were given: monitoring and assessment of nutrient loads to the sea; activities to reduce nutrient loads to the sea and evaluating nutrients in the sea. Each topic was discussed. The approaches used and the gaps in current knowledge were assessed and suggestions were made for future work.

One important conclusion of the workshop was that a precondition in the modeling work is availability

of good quality data, as models cannot replace proper monitoring and time series data. Derived from this, it was recommended to test different approaches to nutrients modeling and to choose the most suitable for specific conditions for elaboration of source apportionment in the Black Sea. In this respect a good guidance might be provided by the HELCOM Pollution Load Compilation (PLC).



3rd Expert Workshop on monitoring and reducing nutrient loads to the Black Sea, Istanbul, 31 January-1 February 2013

ICPDR-BSC Cooperation

Danube-Black Sea: enforcing the activity of the Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG) between the ICPDR and Black Sea Commission

On the 30th January, 2013 the meeting of the Danube-Black Sea Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG) between the ICPDR and Black Sea Commission took place in Istanbul, Turkey.



This Group was created in the spirit of implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the ICPDR and BSC signed in 2001 and was intending to establish a broader co-

operation aimed at harmonizing future activities, avoiding duplications and promoting synergies to ensure sustainable development within Danube and Black Sea basins.

The JTWG meeting was attended by the experts from ICPDR Secretariat, national experts from Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine, countries sharing the Danube river basin and representatives of the BSC Permanent Secretariat.

The participants discussed the amendments into the group's ToR and activities to be included into the JTWG Working Program for 2013. Among them: development of the regional monitoring program which would envisage the ecological status indicators, assessment methodologies and mutual reporting in line with ICPDR and BSC requirements, as well as taking into account the MSFD and WFD provisions and other relevant legal instruments in the field of environmental protection in the Danube and Black Sea basins.

IMO-BSC Cooperation

First joint activity under the updated MoU: regional training course on liability and compensation for oil pollution incidents

A three-day regional training course on liability and compensation for oil pollution incidents was held in Varna, Bulgaria from 28-30th May, 2012 designed for the representatives of the littoral states of the Black Sea region: Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine.



The training course was organised within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (BSC PS) for the 2012-2013 biennium. It was funded by the IMO Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme, implemented by the Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution, the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds) and was hosted by the Maritime Administration of Bulgaria in Varna.

The training course was dedicated to promoting the implementation of the international oil pollution compensation instruments, including the 1992 Civil Liability Convention, 1992 Fund Convention, 2002 Supplementary Fund Protocol, and Bunker Convention in the Black Sea littoral States.

The course was intended for those governments or other authorities with responsibilities in connection with major oil pollution incident that may incur costs for clean-up operations or preventive measures as a result of ship source oil pollution incident.

The participants of the workshop were trained by the experts from Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative (OSPRI) for Caspian Sea - Black Sea - Central Eurasia, claims departments of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds) and West of England P&I Club.

GFCM-BSC cooperation

Undoubtedly, the exploitation of marine living resources in the Black Sea, in particular fisheries, is an important economic sector with a substantial social impact. Given

the decline of fish stocks due to the overfishing and illegal fishing, the sustainable national and regional fisheries policies are highly demanded in the Black Sea region.

On 14-19th May, 2012 in Marrakech, Morocco the 36th Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) under the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) took place. Prof. Halil Ibrahim Sur, BSC PS Executive Director, participated in the abovementioned meeting on behalf of Black Sea Commission. He presented to the participants of the meeting the vision on the areas of possible cooperation between the Black Sea Commission and GFCM and publicly signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the GFCM and BSC.

During the meeting the similar MoUs were also signed between GFCM and ACCOBAMS, UNEP-MAP, MED-PAN, RAC-MED and EUROFISH. Such MoUs aim to build upon ongoing cooperation with selected Party organizations and institutionalize the implementation of programmes and activities jointly carried out with them.

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between GFCM and the Black Sea Commission will allow to enhance the collaboration and to multiply the efforts aimed at achieving the sustainable fisheries in Europe and in Black Sea region, in particular.

Highlights of this MoU are presented below:

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE COMMISSION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE BLACK SEA AGAINST POLLUTION AND THE GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

provide a framework of cooperation and understanding and to facilitate collaboration between the Partners to further their shared goals and objectives in relation to the conservation of marine environment and ecosystems and the sustainable use of marine living resources in their fields of competence.

areas of cooperation for this MoU:

- 1) Promoting ecosystem based approaches for the conservation of marine environment and ecosystems and the sustainable use of marine living resources;
- 2) Assessment of human-marine biodiversity interactions, including in relation to fisheries and aquaculture activities, and mitigation of their impacts on marine habitats and species;
- 3) Identification, protection and management of marine areas of particular importance in the Black Sea (hot spots of biodiversity, areas with sensitive habitats, essential fish habitats, areas of importance for fisheries and/or for the conservation of endangered species, coastal wetlands);
- 4) Integrated maritime policy;
- 5) Legal, institutional and policy related cooperation.

Organizational arrangements include holding bilateral consultations on matters of common interest, in accordance with an agenda agreed in advance by them, aiming also at the development/review of their joint activities

The Black Sea Commission and the GFCM will inform their relevant governing bodies on the progress made in implementing this MoU by including this issue in the agenda of each Ordinary Meeting/Annual Session of their respective governing bodies.

The Partners will encourage, and where possible promote, contacts, exchange of information and joint activities at national level between their focal points.

The Partners will undertake, within their global knowledge network and to the extent possible, to facilitate mutual access to relevant information and body of work as well as dissemination between them, including

ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE AREAS OF COOPERATION OF THIS MoU

1. Promoting ecosystem based approaches for the conservation of the marine environment and ecosystems and the sustainable use of its living resources

- Contribute to the formulation of a regional strategy based on agreed indicators and reference points (ecological, biological, etc.) to monitor the status of the marine environment and ecosystems and that of marine living resources;
- Cooperate in undertaking assessments of the state of marine environment and ecosystems and that of marine living resources, including socio economic aspects relating to the impact of the exploitation of fisheries on marine environment and ecosystems, the impact of the establishment of marine protected areas on marine living resources, and the impact of coastal and marine aquaculture;
- Also cooperate in promoting, within the respective mandates, the elaboration of measures contributing to the protection and preservation of the marine environment of the Black Sea and its living marine resources;
- Collaborate in developing key regional strategies to integrate the environment in social and economic development especially in relation to fisheries and aquaculture.

2. Mitigating the impact of fisheries and aquaculture activities on the marine habitats and species

- Collaborate in the elaboration, including extra-budgetary fundraising, of a joint regional project on the evaluation and mitigation of by-catch in endangered species and of the impact of fishing gears on marine habitats;
- Consider initiatives to develop the concept of marine spatial planning in a manner that takes into account fisheries and aquaculture activities, activities for the preservation of marine habitats and possible conflicts between these activities and other uses of the sea (e.g. shipping, marine renewable energies, etc.);
- Also consider strategies to prevent pollution of the marine environment of the Black Sea from any source for the better preservation of its living marine resources;

3. Identification, protection and management of marine areas of particular importance (hot spots of biodiversity, areas with sensitive habitats, essential fish habitats, areas of importance for fisheries and/or for the conservation of endangered species, coastal wetlands)

- Enhance collaboration with other relevant organizations as appropriate, including those whereby other MoUs have been signed, to create a common regional database of sites of particular importance for biodiversity conservation and for fisheries management;
- Monitor the status of living marine resources and collaborate, as appropriate, in the elaboration of plans for the prevention, reduction and control of any source of pollution that might have a negative impact on these resources;
- Cooperate in undertaking assessments of the state of coastal lagoons and other relevant coastal wetlands to be used for the formulation and dissemination of sustainable management measures and sustainable use of its living marine resources.

4. Integrated Maritime Policy

- Study the impacts of climate change on the marine environment and ecosystems and their living marine resources;
- Contribute to the formulation and adoption of appropriate fisheries and aquaculture adaptation and mitigation measures to climate change in relation to the environment, including enhancing knowledge and communication;
- Strengthening scientific advice on issues of common interest, including the negative effects of pollution of the marine environment and ecosystems on living marine resources;
- Explore new fields of investigation applied to the conservation of marine environment and marine ecosystems and the sustainable use of living marine resources to promote an integrated approach to environmental and fisheries related issues;
- Collaborate in initiatives related to the implementation and monitoring of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) approach.

5. Legal, institutional and policy related cooperation

- Consult regularly on policy issues of common interest to identify synergies;
- Exchange views regarding the governance of the Black Sea and take part, where possible, to ongoing initiatives aimed at improving the said governance;
- Organize joint side events, where necessary and including together with other organizations, while being in attendance of meetings held in other international fora that could be relevant to further the promotion of the goals and objectives of this MoU;
- Promote cooperation and exchange of information to address issues of common concern (e.g. discharges into sea, destructive fishing practices, etc.);
- Be involved, as appropriate, in those projects implemented by the other Partner;
- Be invited to regional/sub-regional meetings and subsidiary bodies meetings of interest as organized respectively by each Partner.
- Coordinate positions within international fora which involve both Partners.

Joint GFCM-BSC Workshop on IUU Fishing in the Black Sea (Istanbul, Turkey, 25-27 February 2013)

Recognizing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the Black Sea as one of the major threats to the environment of the Black Sea, the Black Sea Commission, as well as its dedicated Advisory Group on

the Environmental Aspects of Management of Fisheries and other Marine Living Resources (FOMLR) plays a major attention to the efforts aimed at preventing, reducing and controlling the illegal fishing in the Black Sea, as well as promoting the relevant international bilateral and multilateral agreements with same objectives in the Black Sea basin.

The Joint GFCM-BSC Workshop on IUU fishing was a first activity in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Black Sea Commission and the GFCM signed on 14th May, 2012 in Marrakech, Morocco, during the 36th Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).



the workshop looked into possible actions that could prove useful to States in countering IUU fishing. The main outcome of the workshop was development of a road-map identifying actions, objectives, means and actors of relevance for the Black Sea in order to fight IUU fishing. The roadmap is expected to be underpinned through the adoption of recommendations relating thereto by the GFCM and the Black Sea Commission at their annual sessions.

ACCOBAMS-BSC Cooperation

Renewal of MoU between ACCOBAMS and BSC

On the 5th of September, 2012 the Executive Secretary of the Permanent Secretariat of the Agreement on Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS), Ms. Marie-Christine GRILLO-COMPULSIONE, visited the premises of the BSC PS Permanent Secretariat. She discussed the issues of the cooperation of the ACCOBAMS and BSC PS with members of the BSC Permanent Secretariat.

The Parties discussed the following issues of common interest:

- Signing of the new Memorandum of Understanding between ACCOBAMS and BSC to facilitate the cooperation on cetaceans in the Black Sea basin;
- Black Sea workshop on ACCOBAMS implementation (28-29th June, 2012, in Istanbul);
- Involvement of the Black Sea riparian countries which are not members to ACCOBAMS into joint activities etc.

The MoU between ACCOBAMS and BSC was renewed during the 28th Regular Meeting of the BSC. Highlights of the MoU are given below:

The extent and the nature of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing was carefully assessed by the workshop participants. To this end, a number of presentations were delivered which allowed participants to express their views and feed relevant information to the workshop. These presentations will shed light on what drives IUU fishers while discussing the dynamics which are

together with measures available at international and regional level against it.

The National representatives presented the relevant IUU information, including data, legislation and current practices, based on the questionnaire circulated ahead of the workshop; the BSC PS representative made an overview of the regional fishing fleet.



typical of this dubious business. The consequences associated to IUU fishing were also examined

On the basis of the elements within the presentations delivered,

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING between the Permanent Secretariat of the Agreement on Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS) and the Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution concerning the Sub-regional Coordinating Unit for the Black Sea

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding is to strengthen the cooperation between ACCOBAMS and BSC PS, through studies and exchange of knowledge about scientific and technical issues concerning the conservation of cetaceans. In order to facilitate the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding, a Working Programme is set according to the priorities, Recommendations and Resolutions defined by both ACCOBAMS and Bucharest Convention Contracting Parties.

ROLE OF THE PARTIES

- Facilitating and promoting the implementation of the Conservation Plan of ACCOBAMS taking in consideration the guidance of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement;
- Collecting and assessing the information which will allow the aims of implementing the ACCOBAMS to be better reached, and an appropriate broadcasting of this information provided for;
- Providing administrative and technical support at the ACCOBAMS Black Sea sub region level for the Meetings of the Scientific Committee
- preparing a report for the Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the ACCOBAMS through the Permanent Secretariat of the Agreement on the implementation of the activities carried out within the ACCOBAMS framework in the area covered by the BS/SRCU;
- Providing the link with the measures and activities of the Strategic Action Plan for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea, with the view of ensuring that the activities carried out within the ACCOBAMS framework and those carried out in the context of the Strategic Action Plan for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea are in synergy to the extent possible;
- Providing the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat with the information and documentation that are necessary for implementing the present Memorandum, and for taking the necessary steps to facilitate BS/SRCU missions in the countries of the region;
- Preparing a report for the meeting of the Contracting Parties of the ACCOBAMS through the Secretariat of the Agreement on the implementation of the activities carried out by the BS/SRCU;
- Attending relevant meetings under the frame of ACCOBAMS;
- Informing about cetacean related activities developed under the auspices of the Black Sea Commission by non ACCOBAMS Parties;
- In consultation with the Scientific Committee and the Permanent Secretariat of the Agreement, the BS/SRCU: (a) will facilitate the preparation of a series of international reviews or publications, to be updated regularly including reports on the status and trends of populations, as well as gaps in scientific knowledge, a sub-regional directory of important areas for cetaceans, a sub-regional directory of national authorities, research and rescue centres, stranding networks, scientists and non-governmental organisations concerned with cetaceans.

The ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat will,

- Present sub-regional priorities and their budgetary implications, drafted in collaboration with BS/SRCU, for consideration by its Meeting of the Parties;
- Look for financial resources oriented to these priorities, notably through the Supplementary Conservation Funds and with the help of the BS/SRCU;
- Facilitate sub regional NGO participation to ACCOBAMS implementation and education;
- - Stress the need of capacity building for the sub region and facilitate exchanges with the Mediterranean and Atlantic contiguous zone sub region;
- Provide the BSC PS with the information and documentation that are necessary for implementing the present Memorandum, and will take the necessary steps to facilitate BS/SRCU missions in the countries of the region.

Every year, the Working Program appearing in Annex 1 to this Memorandum of Understanding will be revised according to the status of implementation of the activities and implemented the budget availability.

PEGASO Project (People for Ecosystem based Governance in Assessing Sustainable development of Oceans and coasts)



pegasoproject.eu

The FP7 collaborative project PEGASO involving 25 partners from Mediterranean and Black Sea institutions is now in its final stage of implementation. It aims in developing tools to help the Parties to the Barcelona Convention to implement their ICZM Protocol and the Parties to Bucharest Convention to develop cooperation in ICZM field.

Visions for future governance in the Mediterranean and Black Sea

A series of workshops have been designed by the PEGASO Steering Committee to gather views on the needs and the prospects for future implementation of ICZM in Mediterranean and Black Sea basins.

A Mediterranean Workshop took place in Arles (France) in November 2012 and it was oriented to explore future visions for the coastal zone of the Mediterranean Sea based on tools that support and integrated assessment. Experts, decision-makers, planners, ICZM Practitioners, as well as members of PEGASO End-Users Committee who work on the coastal zone issues at different scales discussed the types of ICZM policies and management activities that can achieve the goals of Barcelona Convention and its protocols. The main outcome of the workshop was a declaration that was taken forward to stimulate the discussions about future ICZM strategies at the regional workshop for the Black Sea.



The follow-up workshop devoted to the Black Sea was organized in Istanbul on 5-7 December 2012 and was hosted by the Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat. The ICZM Advisory Group of the Black Sea Commission took part in the discussions of the coastal issues in the Bucharest Convention area. Based on the lessons learned in the workshop in Arles, the participants were invited to review the need for ICZM and the way forward for the Black Sea and weaknesses and opportunities to develop and disseminate some

of the tools developed within PEGASO Project. It considered a range of key issues in the light of some future scenarios; the discussions included different topics such as: urbanization and its wider impacts; waste management; coastal erosion and changing currents; cross-border pollution, including radioactivity; infrastructure and transport development; and tourism and poor state of beaches. Governance issues and future and future governance mechanisms in the Black Sea were identified as the most important areas for debate. A tentative vision for the next decade was suggested involving the development of a regional ICZM Strategy for the Black Sea adopted by the Contracting Parties to Bucharest Convention and even an ICZM Protocol similar to that adopted for the Mediterranean.

The 3rd PEGASO General Meeting was organized in the capital of Morocco, Rabat between 19th and 22nd March 2013. The meeting brought together project partners, end-users and other stakeholders from the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The main topics discussed focused on: future tasks for all WPs, presentation of SDI's functionalities, building of indicators and the role of elaborated atlas, the progress in the CASEs and the latest evaluations and the presentation of the Integrated Regional Assessment. The last two days of the meeting were dedicated to a workshop where both project partners and end-users put into practice the Bayesian Belief Network (BBN) tool. A particular concern was to exploit the work done to develop the core set of ICZM indicators within PEGASO and use them to develop a medium term vision for both basins. A corollary was to better understand the opportunities and barriers to taking the goals of ICZM forward and the kinds of threats that might hinder sustainable development.

PEGASO CASEs and ICZM Indicators

The project developed a core set of indicators that aim to measure the implementation of ICZM policies and programmes. The indicators were selected according to the requirements of the Mediterranean ICZM Protocol and UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan taking into account the ICZM policy objectives and using the literature on methodologies and experiences from different regions. Regardless they were proposed for the Mediterranean being closely linked to the policy issues in the region, the indicators could be successfully used in the Black Sea area, as the coastal problems in the two regions are quite similar. The list consists of 15 indicators that intend to show the state of coastal zones in terms of environment, social and economic activities, threats and the status of ICZM implementation. A methodological fact sheet has been developed for each indicator to be tested by the project partners and especially by the project's CASEs (Collaborative Application SitEs).

The indicators address the following issues:

- - Added value per sector;
- - Area of built-up space;
- - Bathing water quality;
- - Commercial fish stocks;
- - Coastal and marine litter;
- - Economic production;
- - Employment;
- - Coastal erosion and instability;
- - Hypoxia;
- - Natural capital;
- - Number of enterprises;

- - Population size and density;
- - Risk assessment;
- - Sea level rise;
- - Water efficiency index.

The ten PEGASO CASEs took over the responsibility to test and validate the proposed core of indicators and all tools developed during the project at different spatial scales.



In the Black Sea, the CASE Guria Coastal Region (Georgia) adapted the ICZM Progress indicators to be used at national level first, and after providing the results on their use, the progress indicators were proposed to be used at the Black Sea level and introduced in the reporting format of ICZM AG.

Sevastopol CASE (Ukraine) gained useful experience in using water quality and pollution indicators, while the Danube Delta CASE is applying biodiversity indicators, involving species, habitats, fragmentation, etc. and also was testing LEAC (Land and Ecosystem Accounting) methodology in the protected area. The feedback pro-

vided by all CASEs on the assessment tools developed during the project at different scales was used to the regional assessment in both Mediterranean and Black Sea.

CLIMBIZ Project: Introducing the climate change in the environmental protection of the Black Sea

On the 13th of May, 2013 Istanbul hosted the workshop of the UNDP CLIMBIZ Project "Climate Change

vulnerability and impacts – formulating responses for the Black Sea region". The beneficiaries of this Project, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) and the Black Sea Commission (BSC), gathered together to review and discuss the potential pathways for climate change adaptation and mitigation in the Black Sea region as well as to reach a consensus view on the needs and priorities for a coherent regional response and advancement of a green economy.



The overall objectives of the project are: 1) to introduce climate change in the environmental protection of the Black Sea and to strengthen multi-stakeholder dialogue on climate change and green economy; and 2) to promote green entrepreneurship, competitiveness, trade, financing and investment opportunities in the Black Sea region through tangible development interventions as a means to contribute to low carbon and climate change resilient development.

Recent studies have highlighted that climate change poses a considerable threat to the Black Sea basin (implemented by IPCC, WB or EC). In the 21st century the Black Sea region will likely experience freshwater shortages originating from increasing temperatures and droughts, decreasing precipitation, decreasing runoff and diminishing groundwater levels, with consequent impacts on fisheries production, human health, tourism and agriculture.

Due to the limited understanding of the climate change threat, both on institutional and public levels, as well as the economic challenges faced by countries of the Black Sea basin, the current adaptive capacities are still weak. At the same time, the climate change concept is not yet fully integrated within the strategies and action plans of the two main regional multilateral bodies covering the Black Sea region, the BSEC and the Black Sea Commission (BSC). Despite the existing scientific knowledge and on-going research projects, no major attempt has been made so

far to compile the climate change relevant information and to move it up to the regional policy level.

The CLIMBIZ Project workshop became another step to incorporate the climate change into Black Sea strategies and action plans, it was attended by the members of the BSEC Working Group on Environmental Protection and by the members of the Black Sea Commission.

MSFD Project: "Support to the Black Sea Commission for Implementation of the Marine Strategy"

Overall objectives:

1. Progressing toward achievement of good environmental status;
2. Enhancing the cooperation between the Black Sea coastal states, signatories to the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution;
3. Providing institutional support to the Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution.

BSC PS is the implementing organization for this project.

In July 2012 a special consultative meeting with the representatives of all the Black Sea countries was organized in Istanbul to decide the steps forward in relation to the MSFD requirements in the Black Sea region and how the non-EU countries from the region will be involved in the process. As result, national consultants have been hired to help in producing the project deliverables and final report and their ToR have been prepared and agreed by the Black Sea Commission. The project was finalized in December 2012.

As a main result from the project the 5 year reports on the State of the Black Sea Environment and the

report on the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for the Environmental Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution will be aligned to match MSFD requirements allowing indicator based reporting and reporting on the implementation of the SAP together with the reporting under the programme of measures undertaken in Bulgaria and Romania which are EU Member States as well as being Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution.

Finalization of EnviroGRIDS Project (2009-2013)

"Building Capacity for a Black Sea Catchment Observation and Assessment System supporting Sustainable Development"



The project started in April 2009 and was finalized in March 2013. It has been carried out by Consortium of 27 partners from 15 countries and coordinated by University of Geneva (Dr. A. Lehmann) and UNEP GRID-Europe.

The goal of the project was to build capacities in the Black Sea catchment region to use new international standards to gather, store, distribute, analyze, visualize and disseminate crucial information on past, present and future states of this region, in order to assess its sustainability and vulnerability. To achieve its objectives, EnviroGRIDS built a Grid-enabled Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) becoming one of the integral systems in the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

The scientific aim of the Enviro-GRIDS project was to assemble an observation system of the Black Sea catchment that will address several GEO Societal Benefit Areas within a changing climate framework. This system incorporated a shared information system that operates on the boundary of scientific/technical partners, stakeholders and the public. It contains an early warning system able to inform in advance decision-makers and the public about risks to human health, biodiversity and ecosystems integrity, agriculture production or energy supply caused by climatic, demographic and land cover changes on a 50-year time horizon.

A powerful modelling tool SWAT (Soil Water Assessment Tool) will be used to create the hydrological model of the entire Black Sea catchment. The SWAT model allows predicting the impact of land management practices on water, sediment and agricultural chemical yields in large, complex watersheds with varying soils, land use, management conditions over long period of time.

The results of the SWAT calculations under different scenarios of changes (climate, land use, management etc.) will provide prognosis for water quantity and quality (nutrients, sediments, pesticides, bacteria, etc). Considering the complexity of calculation the SWAT will be executed at the computer grid coordinated by CERN.

The BSC PS took part in WP2 and WP7. During the first year BSC PS jointly with ICPDR carried out the first stage of the gap analysis of existing datasets and observation systems within the Black Sea catchment. Analysis was done at global, European, regional (Black Sea and Danube) and country levels. Cross-tables were produced to show availability of datasets and OS vs. end-user needs and GEO Societal Benefit Areas. The rec-

ommendations to cover gaps in data availability were taken into account by the project WP leaders when selecting two new partners for the project. On the second stage of the gap analysis the compatibility of datasets and OS with INSPIRE and GEO standards of interoperability has been analysed and recommendations on improving networks of data acquisition were elaborated. BSC PS took part in development of SDI, training and dissemination. In 2011 – 2012 BSC PS participated in the elaboration of policy brief document of the project, gender issue survey and project meetings (General Assembly meeting in April 2012).

The final project Conference has been organized jointly with BSC PS back to back with Black Sea Day celebration between 30th October and 2nd November 2012.

**The MARLISCO Project:
Raising awareness and
promoting co-responsibility
on marine litter across all
European seas**

The Black Sea Commission is a member of the Advisory panel of the MARLISCO Project, an FP7 EC Project dealing with marine litter awareness.

A 3-year FP7 project funded by the European Commission which aims to raise public awareness, facilitate dialogue and promote co-responsibility for a sustainable management of marine litter across all European seas.

Author: The MARLISCO Consortium



An example of Marine Litter

Marine Litter (ML) is any persistent manufactured or processed solid material that is discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment. It is globally recognised as an emerging threat to the environment, human health and safety, as well as livelihoods.

Marine litter originates from various land- and sea-based sources. It is a complex and challenging problem, which stems from the prevailing production and consumption patterns, and from how we deal with waste. Being aware of the importance of this problem, the European Commission (EC) has funded a 3-year project (2012-2015) called MARLISCO, MARine Litter in Europe Seas: Social Awareness and CO-Responsibility (FP7-SIS, Mobilisation and Mutual Learning Action Plans on Societal challenges).

Main objectives of the project are increasing the awareness of the consequences of societal behaviour in relation to waste production and management on marine socio-ecological systems, promoting co-responsibility among the different actors, defining a more sustainable collective vision, and facilitating grounds for concerted actions through the successful implementation of the MMLAP.

MARLISCO



Stopping Marine Litter Together

Main focus is providing and evaluating mechanisms to enable society to perceive the impact of litter on the marine environment, identifying the land-based activities that are involved and collectively arriving at solutions to reduce that impact – in particular solutions that can be implemented locally but have a regional effect.

Other specific objectives, which are related to explicit MARLISCO Project Work Packages (WPs) are the following:

WP1. Scoping study of the sources, trends and policy background regarding marine litter: providing a review of current understanding of the sources, type, distribution and fate of marine litter in Europe's Sea. This will provide an evidence base to support appropriate actions and to provide a baseline against which change can be measured (WP1);

WP2. Processes and solutions - moving towards better practice:

- Identifying good practices for the reduction of marine litter and facilitating their adoption via a range of dissemination materials, including a guide aimed at specific stakeholders and sectors; the best practice selection and evaluation is ongoing and the best practices will be published on the project web-portal (see WP3) and presented for evaluation during the stakeholder fora (see WP4);

- Providing an evaluation of key stakeholders' perceptions of marine litter, assessing current practices and potential solutions, and measuring the effectiveness of the

Action Plan at changing attitudes and perceptions; the first phase of the survey was launched in March 2013 throughout Europe; further surveys will follow to evaluate the debates, video contest and outreach/educational activities planned;

WP3. Web-portal and dissemination platform of Marine Litter in European Seas: developing a web based portal to promote the Action Plan, providing a source of information on marine litter, stimulating discussion and disseminating the results of the Co-ordination Action; the web-portal, www.marlisco.eu, is on-line and a web-documentary about ML will be also developed under this WP;

WP4. Empowering society through informed debate: providing a platform for structured dialogue (forum) among the key stakeholders from industry, end users, science and society, in 12 European Countries; this will help to identify and resolve barriers that currently retard the adoption of good practices; a general plan for the national forums has been set and the National Fora will take place within the end of 2014;

WP5. Views from European Youngsters: running a video contest in schools coming from 14 Countries around the European Seas in which children will be encouraged to develop short videos about the issue, embodying a multi-disciplinary process of getting in touch with the problem and addressing potential solutions as they see them; the video-contest will be officially launched on the 9th of September 2013 in each national country, having February 2014 as deadline for videos submission; the winners will be part of a European video about ML; some first activities to support schools participation have begun in some countries, as, for instance, the ones in the Italian pre-contest procedure;

WP6. Education, Outreach and Synthesis: increasing awareness and empowering general public and children through a series of national educational activities and innovative communication tools, while facilitating the integration of their views in the platforms of dialogue; the national and regional plans have been defined and they will take place in 2013 and 2014; the regional training activities are being planned and the serious game structure for training has already been defined.

WP7. Project Management: ensuring the overall objects of the projects, the internal communication plan definition and execution and the EC reporting.

Implementation of MARLISCO's activities in Europe: MARLISCO activities take place in 15 coastal countries located in the four European Regional Seas: North-East Atlantic, Baltic, Mediterranean and Black Sea. Such activities are nationally run but regionally organized into Regional Nodes (RN) representing the NE Atlantic, Baltic, Mediterranean and Black Sea. Each Regional Node includes partners from countries bordering one of the four Regional Seas and is coordinated by one of those partners. While the WP Leaders are responsible for the general coordination of the different activities foreseen under that group of actions, the Node Leaders are responsible for steering them from a regional perspective, integrating transnational aspects and making sure that regional partners are not working in isolation. Though the issue of ML requires implementation mainly at local and national levels, the issue itself does not respond to political frontiers. The MARLISCO Consortium is composed by a diverse group of 20 entities (local and regional authorities, researchers, NGOs, producers, recyclers and multimedia companies), with a wide geographic coverage:

Provincia di Teramo, Italy (Lead Beneficiary), Coastal and Marine Union (Netherlands), Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (United Kingdom), Plymouth University (United Kingdom), European Plastics Converters (Belgium), European Plastics Recyclers (Belgium), MerTerre (France), Regionalni Razvojni Center Koper (Slovenia),- University College Cork, National University of Ireland (Ireland), Mare Nostrum (Romania), Die Kuesten Union Deutschland (Germany), IsoTech Ltd (Cyprus), Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities (Bulgaria), Plastics Europe AISBL (Belgium), Universidade Nova de Lisboa (Portugal), Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (Greece), Turkish Marine Research Foundation (Turkey), Kommunernes Internationale Miljøorganisation (Denmark), Honky Tonk Film (France), Media Tools (France).

The MARLISCO activities are supervised by an Advisory Panel (AP) composed of technical and research experts of high international standing and relevance appointed by the project Consortium. The AP comprises a panel of experts who have showed high interest in the implementation of MARLISCO and have agreed to be available to advice on different aspects of the project. It includes representatives from various institutions, regional commissions, associations and projects, such as EC DG Environment, Commission on the Protection of Black Sea Against Pollution, MEDPOL, HELCOM, European Anglers Alliance Association and European Fishing Tackle Trade Association, ICES, Venice Platform, Group of Ten, Marine Board Forum, Angling Trust, OSPAR, CLEANSEA project, Alleanza Pescatori Ricreativi.



Working with and through the Panel, they act as an evaluator of the project work, facilitating the engagement with other stakeholders but mainly maximizing synergies with other programmes and strategies being carried out in respect or relevant to the issue of ML, in particular the process of implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Project facts

Project Title: MARine Litter in Europe Seas: Social Awareness and CO-Responsibility (MARLISCO)

Project Duration: 36 months from 1 June 2012 – 31 May 2015

Total EC Funding: 4.119.357 €

Programme Acronym: FP7-SIS

Programme type: Seventh Framework Programme

Subprogramme Area: Mobilisation and Mutual Learning (MML) Action Plans on societal challenges

Contract type: Support actions

Subject index: Social Aspects

Contact details

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Marine litter: "Message in the bottle" was found in Berlin

Outcomes of the International Conference on Prevention and Management of Marine Litter in European Seas (Berlin, Germany, 10-12 April, 2013)

It is now becoming quite obvious that our oceans and seas are increasingly becoming a waste dump. Plastic waste is floating in high quantities on the seas surface before it sinks to the bottom or degrades into micro-plastics. Marine habitats and coastlines worldwide are contaminated with man-made litter which can pose environmental, economic, health and aesthetic problems. It is widely recognized that marine litter is a global problem which requires international cooperation and involvement of different stakeholders at all levels.

Quite sound event dedicated to the marine litter problematic, the International Conference on Prevention and Management of Marine Litter in European Seas, took place

in Berlin, Germany, from 10 to 12 April, 2013.

The German Federal Environment Agency (UBA) on behalf of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the European Commission DG Environment were co-organizers of the conference.

At the meeting of the Marine Directors in December 2011, Germany offered to host an international marine litter conference to address the need to develop regional action plans. The issue gained further political momentum during the Rio+20 Summit, which committed to significantly reduce marine debris by 2025. In late 2012 the Commission published a Commission Staff Working Document providing an overview of relevant EU legislation, policies and strategies that touch on this problem. More recently, the Commission adopted its Proposal for a new "General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020: Living well, within the limits of our planet" (or 7th EAP). This document states that in order to protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital, the programme shall ensure that by 2020 "an EU-wide quantitative reduction target for marine litter is established".

The conference aimed to:

- Start filling in the obligation of Rio+20 through the facilitation and stimulation of cooperation between different stakeholders in order to stimulate the development of regional action plans.
- Be the European contribution to the Honolulu strategy as the global approach on what possible measures and actions to take in order to tackle the problem.
- Bring existing and planned marine litter initiatives to the attention of a wider audience, including politicians by providing a platform to

collect and share good practices and commitments.

- Support information exchange amongst Member States and a coherent implementation of the MSFD on European level in order to combat litter pollution of marine waters. Focus will be laid on the identification and implementation of programs of measures in 2015/2016 by MS as required for the further implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

Participants of the conference included: Public sector representatives from Member States, Regional Seas Conventions, EC representatives and local authorities, stakeholders e.g. representatives from private sector associations of plastic producers, converters, recyclers, packaging industry, retailers, ferry ships, cruise ships, fisherman, port authorities as well as consumer organizations, environmental NGOs and research institutes.



The Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat was invited to join the conference and contributed to its success by introducing the issue of the marine litter in the Black Sea to the audience, negotiating

with other Regional Conventions, UNEP and other relevant partners on the possibility to develop and support the implementation of the Regional Action Plans on Marine Litter in the Regional Seas, including the Black Sea.

As an outcome of the Conference, the Issue Paper on Marine Litter in the Regional Seas and so called "Message from Berlin" were developed and supported by participants of the Conference.

Finally, participants considered taking a number of priority actions contributing to the Rio +20 target, to regional action, to national measures, and to the EU quantitative reduction target under development, noting these would also constitute stepping stones towards achieving the goal of reaching Good Environmental Status for Europe's regional seas, such as:

1. Fully implementing relevant EU legislation, such as the Waste legislation, the Water Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and addressing the problem of plastic waste as part of the planned review of EU waste policy and legislation. This includes developing an integrated waste management infrastructure that supports waste prevention, collection, recycling and energy recovery and applying the waste hierarchy.
2. Promoting the green economy through increased resource efficiency facilitating sustainable consumption and production patterns, including improving life-cycle design, high quality recycling and sustainable packaging, encouraging extended producer responsibility and environmentally responsible fishing and maritime transport practices such as adequate port reception facilities.
3. Improving our scientific understanding of the sources, amounts, pathways, distribution, trends, na-

ture and impacts of marine litter, including the effects of microplastics and their additives and absorbed substances, on marine biodiversity and public health and identifying ways to better coordinate and improve marine litter data collection, including with a view to establish an EU baseline.

4. Developing ambitious targets to reduce marine litter at all relevant levels, giving priority to sources of marine litter with the strongest impact, such as for example microbeads or plastic bags.

5. Contributing to raising awareness on marine litter at all levels and facilitating initiatives preventing waste from entering the (aquatic) environment while putting emphasis on addressing the complex multi-sector issues surrounding littering behaviour and building the notion of waste as a resource.

6. Initiating and further developing Regional Action Plans on marine litter for the regional seas of Europe.

7. Collaborating with global, regional and sub-regional organisations, to address the transboundary aspects of marine litter and enhance the effectiveness of multi-lateral initiatives

aimed at preventing, reducing and managing marine litter.

8. Encouraging financial support for actions (including environmentally friendly cleaning actions) that contribute to the reduction of marine litter and its impact on the environment.

9. Sharing expertise to prevent, reduce and manage marine litter in particular through contributing to the conference follow up by providing further information on best practices and new initiatives collected in the Marine Litter Toolbox.

10. Participating in networks of stakeholders committed to take action to prevent, reduce and manage marine litter in Europe's four regional seas in an environmentally sustainable manner.

The message from Berlin can be found here: <http://www.marine-litter-conference-berlin.info/userfiles/file/Message%20from%20Berlin.pdf>.

The results of the conference, together with the Issue-paper, will be brought to the attention of the Marine and Water Directors of the EU Member States at their meeting in Ireland in May 2013.

EU-UNDP Project "Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea" (EMBLAS)

In 2013 the EU-UNDP Project "Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea" (EMBLAS) was launched.

The overall objective of the project EMBLAS is to set up initiatives that will help improve the protection of the Black Sea environment. The project is addressing the overall need for support in protection and restoring the environmental quality and sustainability of the Black Sea. The project will strengthen capacities of the respective national authorities for biological and chemical monitoring of water quality in

the Black Sea, in line with EU water related legislation (EU WFD and MSFD)..

The action will be implemented in Georgia, Ukraine and Russian Federation as part of the Environmental Partnership of the Black Sea Synergy (BSS) and will aim to support the Black Sea riparian partner countries in their efforts to establish cooperative approaches to common environmental challenges.

The action will contribute to improving regional cooperation for the environmental protection of the Black Sea among the Black Sea riparian countries, in particular the Bucharest Convention. The initiative will also strengthen national capacities of the relevant national authorities for biological and chemical monitoring of water quality in the Black Sea.

Relevant results and experiences of previous and ongoing projects will be duly taken into account. More specifically, the preparatory actions will establish coordination mechanisms with the MISIS project ("MSFD guiding Improvements in the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring System"), whose objectives match those of this action when it comes to marine environmental monitoring in Bulgaria, Romania, and Turkey.

The action should contribute to the conservation of the Black Sea basin environment by providing tool aiming at preventing and reducing the input into the sea of pollutants through river or direct discharges and by promoting the sustainable management and/or protection of its water and biological resources.

The action will support the development of partner countries' policies and strategies and will contribute to implement concrete monitoring activities in the field of marine water. It is required that significant effort will be put into training and capacity building and that local training institutions are involved. In order to promote ownership an extended engagement of local experts and organisations is encouraged.

Inception Workshop and First Steering Committee Meeting of the EU-UNDP Project "Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea" (EMBLAS) will be held in Odessa, Ukraine, 10-11 June 2013. The objective of the Inception Workshop is to present and discuss the Project's areas of intervention in order to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the planned activities, as well as their coordination with Black Sea-related initiatives of key partners in the region. The First Steering Committee Meeting will agree on the Committee structure and relevant management arrangements, discuss initial work plans and lay the basis for effective coordination and implementation support to the project and its planned activities.

MISIS Project: MSFD guiding Improvements in the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring System

The project is funded by EU DG Environment through Preparatory Action Environmental monitoring of the Black Sea Basin and a common European framework programme for development of the Black Sea region launched in 2011. It will be implemented in 24 months from 2012 until 2014. Leading institution is National Institute for Marine Research & Development Constanta, having as partners other two research institutions from Romania (GeoEcoMar and University Ovidius, Constanta), one from Bulgaria (IO-BAS) and

one from Turkey (Sinop University).

The overall goal of the project is to support efforts to protect and restore the environmental quality and sustainability of the Black Sea.

- To development of national integrated monitoring programs in line with the MSFD and WFD;
- To improved research and increase in knowledge on the state of the Black Sea and common understanding of GES toward devel-



The additional specific objectives of this project are:

- to improve availability and quality of chemical and biological data to provide for integrated assessments of the Black Sea state of environment, including pressures and impacts (in line with Annex I and III of the MSFD);
- to increase number and size of protected areas in the Black Sea as well as to increase their degree of protection;
- to enhance stakeholders participation and public awareness on environmental issues.

The project will contribute:

- To improving regional cooperation and agreements implementation for the protection of the Black Sea, in particular, the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (the Bucharest Convention), focusing on the alignment of partner countries' policies and strategies sensu MSFD and WFD;

opment of environmental targets in a harmonised approach;

- To strengthened capacities of relevant organizations for monitoring (focus on biodiversity, habitats) in the Black Sea (via training and other capacity building measures) taking into consideration the requirements of the MSFD and WFD;
- To strengthened capacities of relevant organizations to identify, designate, and manage protected areas;
- To development of new protected areas
- To improved stakeholders involvement and public awareness.

BSC is end-user of the project results and member of the Steering Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

4th Bi-annual Black Sea Scientific Conference "Black Sea - Challenges Towards Good Environmental Status"

Back-to-back events

Celebration of the International Black Sea Day - 2013

International Symposium "Protection and Sustainable Management of the Black Sea – 3rd Millennium Imperative"- 6th Edition

Jointly organized by

The Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Black Sea Commission)

Ministry of Environment and Climate Changes of Romania

National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa" (NIMRD) Constanta, Romania

Conference venue: Constanta, Romania

Conference dates: 28 – 31st October, 2013

SCOPE

To continue the concerted efforts initiated by the previous BSC scientific conferences to use science and information technology to understand and deal with the environment problems of the Black Sea, to strengthen science/policy interface and regional cooperation towards better governance of environment protection to preserve the Black Sea ecosystem as a valuable natural endowment of the region, while ensuring the sustainable use of its marine and coastal resources for the economic development, well-being, health and security of the population of the Black Sea coastal States.

The Conference will take place back-to-back with the Black Sea Day - 2013 and the NIMRD International Symposium "Protection and Sustainable Management of the Black Sea Ecosystem – 3rd Millennium Imperative" – 6th edition.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide the opportunity to the scientific community to meet and to discuss their achievements in order to improve scientific basis for the implementation of the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan
- Update the knowledge on the Black Sea ecosystems identifying the gaps in the scientific data/information; revise the environment priorities and way forward to achieve good environmental status of the Black Sea
- Discuss and assess the climate forcing mechanisms of physical, biological and biogeochemical processes at various time-spatial scales
- Review the decision-support tools available in the Black Sea region and give recommendations for further developments and their use in the implementation of the BS SAP
- Continue the integration of science in decision-making in the field of marine environment protection

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Session 1: Pollution and eutrophication

Session 2: Biodiversity and ecosystem functioning

Session 3: Socio-economic impact on marine environment

Session 4: Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Session 5: Climate change and its impact on marine ecosystems

Session 6: Ecosystem modelling

All sessions

Special sessions (31st October, 2013):

- Celebration of the International Black Sea Day - 2013
- Protection and Sustainable Management of the Black Sea Ecosystem – 3rd Millennium Imperative – International Symposium, 6th Edition

IMPORTANT DATES

First announcement: March 2013, including call for abstracts.

Second announcement: May 2013
Deadline for registration and abstracts: 31 July 2013

Deadline for papers submission: will be announced during the Conference

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission (BSC PS)

National Institute for Marine Research & Development "Grigore Antipa" (NIMRD) Constanta, Romania

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (provisional)

Prof. Dr. Boris Alexandrov – IBSS-NASU, Odessa, Ukraine

Prof. Dr. Ferdinando Boero – University of Salento, Lecce, Italy

Prof. Dr. Marian-Traian Gomoiu – GeoEcoMar, Constanta, Romania

Dr. Mamuka Gvilava – GeoGraphic, Tbilisi, Georgia

Dr. Galina Minicheva – IBSS-NASU,
Odessa, Ukraine

Dr. Snejana Moncheva – IO-BAS,
Varna, Bulgaria

Dr. Eng. Simion Nicolaev – NIMRD,
Constanta, Romania

Prof. Dr. Temel Oguz – METU, Er-
demli, Turkey

Dr. Andra Oros – NIMRD, Con-
stanta, Romania

Prof. Dr. Bayram Öztürk – Istanbul
University, Turkey

Prof. Dr. Evangelos Papathanasiou
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TAK, Marmara Research Centre,
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IBSS-NASU, Sevastopol, Ukraine

Dr. Barış Salihoglu – IMS-METU,
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Prof. Dr. Tamara Shiganova – P.P.
Shirshov Institute, Moscow, Rus-
sian Federation

Dr. Valentina Todorova – IO-BAS,
Bulgaria

Prof. Dr. Fokion Vosniakos – Uni-
versity of Thessaloniki, Greece

Dr. Eng. Tania Zaharia – NIMRD
Constanta, Romania

REGISTRATION FEE

50 Euro to be paid at the Registra-
tion Desk of the Conference that
will cover:

- o Conference materials
- o Book of Abstracts
- o Access to the Conference Ses-
sions

* Graduate students will be
charged 25 Euro (documents certi-
fying the students status are
needed)

* Participants from different pro-
jects are kindly expected to pay
the Conference fee from their pro-
ject budget.

PUBLICATION

All authors (oral and poster pres-
entations) will have an equal op-
portunity to publish their confer-
ence contributions. The selection
will be based on peer-review of the
manuscript by the members of the
International Scientific Committee
and external experts. Final selec-
tion of papers for publication will
take place after the conference
based on paper content and pres-
entation/poster given.

The BSC PS will explore the possi-
bility to publish the selected pa-
pers in a peer-review international
journal (preferably SCI indexed).

CONTACT

Permanent Secretariat of the Black
Sea Commission (BSC PS) (confer-
ence@blacksea-commission.org)

LOCAL TECHNICAL COMMIT- TEE - NIMRD CONSTANTA, ROMANIA

Dr. Simion Nicolaev, Dr. Tania Za-
haria, Dr. Luminita Buga, Dr. Florin
Timofte, Dr. Valodea Maximov, Mr.
Marius Nedelcu, Dr. Mariana
Golumbeanu, Ms. Magda Nenciu

The registration forms and other
relevant further information are
available at http://www.blacksea-commission.org/_4BlackSeaSciConference.asp.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

IMO Regional training course on ballast water management

In December, 2013 the BSC PS is
planning to carry out the Regional
training course on Compliance,
Monitoring and Enforcement (CME)
tools to strengthen national and
regional capacity for ballast water
management and to promote the
International Convention on the
Control and Management of Ships'
Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004
(BWM).

This activity is planned within the
IMO-BSC MoU and its main objec-
tive is to provide practical knowl-
edge on approaches to CME re-
lated to strengthen national and
regional capacity for ballast water
management and to promote the
BWM Convention. Enforcing ballast
water management requirements
typically involves flag and port
state control authorities inspecting
national and foreign ships, review-
ing ballast water reporting forms,
boarding selected ships to review
documents and inspect equipment,
and upon occasion using sanction-
ing powers to quarantine or fine
vessels for failure to meet their
legal obligations.

Selected experts from the benefi-
ciary countries will be provided
with training on CME approaches
and strategies. This activity will
also aim at strengthening national
and regional capacity for the utili-
zation of the BWM Convention
through development of standard-
ized methodologies and providing
training on such methodologies.
The recipient countries for this
activity are: Bulgaria, Georgia,
Russian Federation, Romania, Tur-
key, and Ukraine.

This activity is planned to be held
in December, 2013 in Turkey. For
further details please follow the
news on our webpage or contact

the Secretariat (secretariat@blacksea-commission.org).

PUBLICATIONS

Special Issue of the Turkish Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences.

The Proceedings of the 3rd Bi-annual BS Scientific Conference and UP-GRADE BS-SCENE Project Joint Conference (1-4th November, 2011, Odessa, Ukraine) were published in the Special Issue (volume 12) of the Turkish Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences dedicated to the Black Sea.

You may find the electronic version of this issue in the publications section of the web page of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution.

HIGHLIGHTS

OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION AND

THE COMMISSION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE BLACK SEA AGAINST POLLUTION

1. The Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter "MoU") is concluded between the International Maritime Organization (hereinafter "IMO") and the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (hereinafter "the Black Sea Commission") further referred to as Parties.

2. IMO wishes to promote the regional implementation of its Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) and Black Sea Commission wishes to implement the regional programme activities in the ITCP regarding marine pollution prevention and response for the Black Sea Region.

Objective

3. Under this MoU, IMO cooperates with the Black Sea Commission in the management and execution of those activities under the IMO's ITCP dealing with marine pollution prevention and response, specifically developed for the benefit of the countries of the region. I

OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN

IMO AND BSC

Work Programme to be managed and executed by BSC PS during 2012-2013 biennium

Regional workshop on liability and compensation

Objective: This activity will consist in a regional workshop on liability and compensation which aims at promoting implementation of the CLC PROT 92, FUND PROT 92 and FUND PROT 2000, OPRC and Bunker Conventions in the recipient countries. Participants will be informed of the importance and benefits of becoming party to the international oil pollution compensation regime instruments (CLC/FUND/Bunkers Conventions). They will also receive detailed knowledge of these conventions and the practical aspects of establishing the necessary mechanisms at the national level for their implementation. The recipient countries for this activity are: Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine

Regional training course on Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement (CME) tools to strengthen national and regional capacity for ballast water management and to promote the International Convention on the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM)

Objective: The main objective of the course is to provide practical knowledge on approaches to CME related to strengthen national and regional capacity for ballast water management and to promote the BWM Convention. Enforcing ballast water management requirements typically involves flag and port state control authorities inspecting national and foreign ships, reviewing ballast water reporting forms, boarding selected ships to review documents and inspect equipment, and upon occasion using sanctioning powers to quarantine or fine vessels for failure to meet their legal obligations. Selected experts from the beneficiary countries will be provided with training on CME approaches and strategies. This activity will also aim at strengthening national and regional capacity for the utilization of the BWM Convention through development of standardized methodologies and providing training on such methodologies. The recipient countries for this activity are: *Bulgaria, Georgia, Russian Federation, Romania, Turkey, and Ukraine.*

Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the signature of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (20 April 2012).



From left to right: Mr. Serhii Kravchenko, Consul General, at General of Ukraine in Istanbul; Ms. Nino Tskhadadze, Member of the Black Sea Commission, Georgia; Ms. Iryna Makarenko, Secretary, Permanent Secretariat, Black Sea Commission; Ms. Ekaterine Nakashidze, Head of Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Georgia; Ms. Bahar Özöğüt, Expert, Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, Turkey; Mr. Volodymyr Myroshnychenko, Project expert, Permanent Secretariat, Black Sea Commission; Ms. Katya Antonidze, Project expert, Black Sea Commission; Mr. Merab Sharabidze, Project expert, Black Sea Commission, Georgia; Prof. Halil Ibrahim Sur, Executive Director, Permanent Secretariat, Black Sea Commission; Mr. Yaroslav Movchan, Member of the Black Sea Commission, Ukraine, 1998-2006; Ms. Natalia Tretyakova, Member of the Black Sea Commission, Russia; Mr. Fevzi Gunes, Deputy Governor of Istanbul; Mr. Sedat Kadioglu, Acting Member of the Black Sea Commission, Turkey; Dr. Ahmet Günay, Director of Environmental Protection, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, Turkey; Ms. Oksana Tarasova, PMA Officer (2000-2006), Permanent Secretariat, Black Sea Commission, Ukraine; Mr. Gheorghe Constantin, Member of the Black Sea Commission, Romania; Ms. Ivelina Vasileva, Member of the Black Sea Commission, Bulgaria; Mr. Kiril Iliev, Project expert, Permanent Secretariat, BSC; Ms. Valeria Abaza, Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer, Permanent Secretariat, BSC; Ms. Nesri Ali, Consulate General of Bulgaria in Istanbul.

SAVING THE BLACK SEA

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Additional copies may be obtained on request by contacting the Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution.

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