

## PREFACE

### GECOMARS : INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ECOSYSTEM BASED MANAGEMENT, MARSEILLE, FRANCE, 4-5 FEBRUARY 2020

The ‘species-by-species’, or ‘stock-by-stock’ approach in the case of fisheries, characterized the 20<sup>th</sup> century ecology. The ecosystem-based approach, which in the case of fisheries emerged at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, represents the ‘new frontier’, the 21<sup>st</sup> century revolution in ecology.

According to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the ecosystem-based approach (EA) should enable us to understand and assess the functioning of marine and coastal ecosystems and their dependent services. As an integrated management process, this strategy promotes both conservation and sustainable use and provides benefits in a more equitable way via the social-ecosystem concept. First used for fisheries management, the EA has become a valuable tool for ecosystem services assessment and for marine protected areas (MPA) monitoring and governance, especially in the Mediterranean Sea but it could also be considered in the spatial planning and the management of other coastal areas. The perception that humans belong to ecosystems (socio-ecosystems) is a key feature of the EA and the catastrophic events due to

anthropic pressures, in the global change context, remind us the price to pay.

The aim of organizing a Workshop on Ecosystem-based Management in Marseille was to create the opportunity to gather managers, stakeholders and scientists to discuss this crucial topic within the framework of the Integrated LIFE Marha project, headed by the French Office of Biodiversity and funded by the European Union.

Aix Marseille University, Pythéas and the Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography, the Marseille’s city Tourism Office and Toulon Provence Metropole have also supported the organization of the event.

The upcoming challenge, in the current Global change, is to move forward to a suitable and carbon free management and use of our natural ecosystems. Only a concern at the Ecosystem scale will make it possible.

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