

Working Group of the CPMR « Aquamarina »
First Meeting in Brussels - 26th March 2008

PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EUROSTAT : DATABASE FOR THE EU
MARITIME POLICY

The action plan accompanying the Maritime Policy “Blue Book” announced the creation of an economic and social database on the EU’s maritime activities. An invitation to tender for the conception, architecture and construction of this database was launched by Eurostat in September 2007. The successful tender was submitted by a consortium made up of Ifremer (France), BALance Technology Consulting (Germany), MC Marketing Consulting (Germany), Nasca-Géomarine (France) and Claudio Sdogati (Italy). The project will be carried out from January to December 2008.

According to the terms of reference, the database must have a geographical dimension: delimitation of coastal zones, bearing in mind the maritime and island areas. In addition to the NUTS subdivision, an analysis which will help to improve the geo-referencing of the observed maritime activities is requested. In particular the following question arises, as specified in the terms of reference:

In which maritime sectors is it relevant to have a more suitable geo-referencing than NUTS?

Among the factors which are taken into consideration to answer the question, is the possibility to access reliable and regularly produced data, for a given maritime activity and a given geographical unit. However, it can also be useful to highlight the need for geo-referencing which, for the moment, comes up against a lack of data, but which identifies the data to be acquired or to be constructed in the coming years, in order to improve the database.

It would be useful for us to have the maritime regions’ opinion on this point.