

Diadfish network Workshop Report.

Brussels, Flemish regional government building,
12-13 march 2003

Introduction.

A network of European laboratories working on diadromous species was set up in spring 2002. At the first meeting in October 2002, those laboratories interested in the network decided to organize a workshop in order for laboratories to highlight their research interest and potential resources (human resources, specialized facilities) as well as to list and rank gaps in knowledge and technical expertise. The synthesis of these presentations will provide a better appreciation of the possibilities of research within the network and will help with the preparation of common research projects.

For more information about Diadfish have a look at our web site :
www.diadfish.org:8080

During the workshop we also planned:

- to edit and improve the draft of a formal agreement between a core group of institutes (Memorandum Of Understanding), signature of this agreement will mean the effective creation of the network
- to examine more carefully the funding possibilities in FP6 (especially Marie Curie research training networks and opportunities in “box 8”).

This workshop has been prepared by Eric ROCHARD (F) with the help of Willem DEKKER (NL) and Miran APRAHAMIAN (UK). The logistics were under the responsibility of Daniel DE CHARLEROY (B) and Johan COECK (B) thanks to the financial support of the Flemish regional government.

Invited : all the institutes involved in the Diadfish.

A new institute “Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute” has expressed it’s interest to join the network and has participated to the workshop.

Participants:

Eleonora CICCOTTI Roma University “Tor Vergata” I
Johan COECK, Institute of Nature Conservation B
Daniel DE CHARLEROY, Institute for Forestry and Game Management, B
Jaako ERKINARO Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute SF
Jacques FUCHS European Commission, Fisheries , UE
Frank KIRSHBAUM, Leibnitz IGB G
Hans LUNDQVIST, SLU S
Michael OVIDIO, University of Liège, B
Jean-Claude PHILIPPART Université of Liège B
Eric ROCHARD, Cemagref RAC F
Javier TOMÁS, IMEDEA (CSIC) E



Hilde VERBIEST Institute for Forestry and Game Management, B
Alain VIDAL, Cemagref SREI F
Håkan WICKSTRÖM, Institute of Freshwater Research S

Schedule

12 March 2003

•9h30-9h45 Opening session (Presentation of participants, final schedule of the workshop)

•9h45-12h00 Session 1 Presentation by laboratories and identification of their research priorities

- University of Roma "Tor Vergata" (Eleonora CICCOTTI)
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Hans LUNDQVIST)Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute (Jaakko ERKINARO)
- Instituut voor Bosbouw en Wildbeheer (Johan COECK)
- University of Liège (Jean-Claude PHILIPPART)

•14h-19h00 following Session 1

- Swedish National Board of Fisheries (Håkan WICKSTRÖM)
- Cemagref (Eric ROCHARD)
- Mediterranean Institute for Advanced Studies (Javier TOMÁS)
- Leibnitz Institute of Berlin (Frank KIRSCHBAUM)

- Discussion, identification of common fields of interest, trial of synthesis and framework of a research program

13 march 2003 Session 29h00-9h30 First Diadfish symposium (Eric ROCHARD)

9h30-10h30 What are opportunities for the Diadfish network in FP6 Human Resources and Mobility: Marie Curie (Hans LUNDQVIST)

10h30-11h30 Improvement of the draft Memorandum of understanding

11h30-13h00 Presentation of funding possibilities in "box 8" and in ERANET (Jacques FUCHS)

14h00-17h00 General discussion, tasks, schedule

Preliminary conclusions

Oral presentations and pro forma files transmitted by those laboratories, which were not able to attend the workshop:

- Danube Delta Institute (Ro)
- Fisheries Research Services Freshwater Laboratory (UK)
- Netherlands Institute for Fisheries Research (NL)

The presentations provided a clearer vision of research possibilities within the network. A first draft detailing the pro forma presentations has been prepared (attached file PF_Diadfish_unit_people.doc), several aspects (e.g. professional status) still require improvement and harmonization. Harmonization proposals will be suggested by the end of April 2003 (H. WICKSTRÔM). We urge laboratories which have not yet sent information to do so as soon as possible as it would be useful that an exhaustive document outlining research interests, resources, and facilities is available. This will, hopefully be completed during this summer / autumn.

At the moment not all the Institutions have completed the pro-forma, but it is apparent from the partial data already collected that the laboratories can be divided into two groups: one group of laboratories exhibiting a wide range of themes and disciplines and one group of more specialized laboratories.

It is important to remember that a network organization will enable a better use of present facilities. This may result in the development of more specialized facilities or more likely the improvement of present facilities (e.g. instrumentation) as well as the better coordination of actions. However, enhancing the performance of certain facilities could induce an increase in specialization of the teams.

Synthesis of the main gaps in knowledge show a lot of similarities between diadromous species, e.g.:

- conservation of threatened species (stocking strategies and practices, fisheries management, facilities to pass dams both upstream and downstream, key habitats rehabilitation ...) seems to be a preoccupation for a lot of teams
- population dynamics (temporal variability in natural production, influence of the environment on stock-recruitment relationships, exchange between populations, homing,) is also a question which concerned several teams working on quite abundant populations
- life history strategies and relationship with the environment (natural as well as modified)

This convergence will probably facilitate proposals of common research projects. Several issues however remain very specific like the marine reproduction of the eel and some pathological aspects

A first attempt at structuring these priorities into a framework for a program will be made by the end of April 2003 and will be used as a common umbrella for future applications.

The proposal submitted by INRA and Cemagref to organize the first **diadfish symposium** in February 2005 has been approved, a list of relevant themes are attached (cf. attached file). The announcement of the symposium will be published soon to enable practical and financial preparation., In order to reduce any overlap between the Diadfish symposium and the annual ICES Diadromous fish meetings the

chairman of the new ICES diadromous committee Niall O Maoileidigh has been contacted and informed of our proposal . No reply has been received to date.

The draft version of the **framework agreement** which will formally create the network and had been previously sent to all diadfish institutes was amended during the workshop (H. LUNDQVIST). There was particular concern regarding management of the network the particulars of which need to be outlined in more detail.. It is hoped that during the summer a core group of Institutes will have signed the FA.. However, there appear to be some difficulties for University laboratories those which a priori agree with the FA need to inform Eric Rochard by the end of July so that the signature procedure can be prepared. (improved draft version attached)

After a brief presentation of the many possibilities within the Marie Curie human resources and mobility programs, the participants considered these programs as having the greatest potential for the network. By the end of July those laboratories which are interested have had to read carefully the Marie Curie documents (one synthetic presentation [Mariecurieshort] is attached, see also <http://europa.eu.int/mariecurie-Actions>) and inform the steering committee of the pdD post doc or exchange of scientists they imagine (themes, duration, level of experience required, ...). We hope to prepare a proposal in July which includes one or more (?) proposal for the conference. It is planned to submit the proposal this autumn.

Accompanying measures and COST programs <http://cost.cordis.lu/src/home.cfm> will be examined as possible funding opportunities for the beginning of the network (F. KIRSCHBAUM, E. ROCHARD). It is hoped to do this by the end of June.
