

MEDIAS GSA 17 and GSA 18

Principal Investigator
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RV G. Dallaporta
category: Regional
gross register tonnage (GT): 285
length overall (m): 35.3
breadth (m): 7.7
depth (m): 4.1
draft (m): 3.0
service speed (kn): 11.5

Cruise Location
Adriatic Sea

Disciplines
Oceanography
Biology Resources
Marine ecology and monitoring

Activities
Water sampling
Fisheries sampling
Acoustic survey

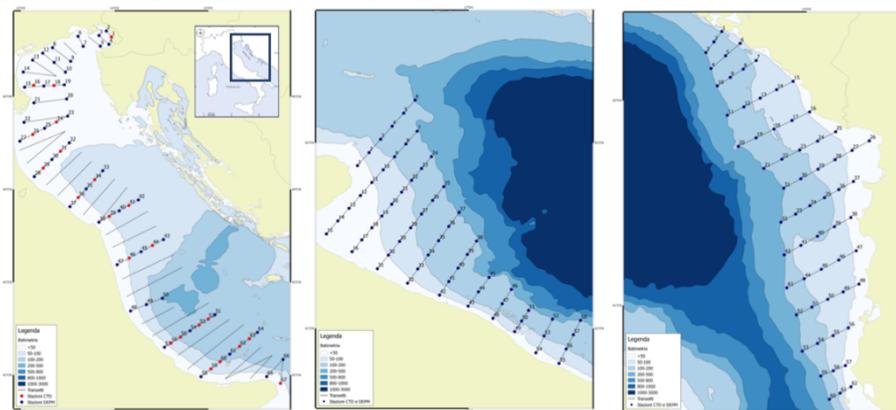
Main Equipment
SIMRAD echosounders, Olex system, SIMRAD Trawl sonar FX80, pelagic nets, CTD probe

Scientific collaboration
University of Marche
Institute of Marine Biology (Montenegro)
Instituto Español de Oceanografía - IEO
IFREMER
Hellenic Centre for Marine Research - HCMR
Fisheries Research Institute of Slovenia - FRIS
FAO-AdriaMed
Institute of Oceanography and fisheries - IOF

The acoustic survey in the Adriatic Sea, in 2018, will be done in the framework of UE DCF MEDIAS project (Mediterranean Acoustic Surveys, <http://www.medias-project.eu/medias/website>) aimed at the estimation of small pelagic fish abundance and distribution (*Engraulis encrasicolus* and *Sardina pilchardus*) in the Mediterranean Sea that foresees the participation of several UE countries carrying out acoustic surveys (Greece, Italy, Slovenia, France, Spain and Croatia). This project is part of the PLNRDA 2017-2019 - Italian National Programme for the collection of fishery data, funded by UE-MIPAAF. The extension of the MEDIAS to Montenegro and Albania waters will be carried out in the ambit of FAO-AdriaMed project.

The general aim of the MEDIAS project is to give to fishery decision makers in the Mediterranean information which allows to plan year by year the fishery activity taking into account the abundance of the resources of small pelagic fish. The acoustic survey in south-eastern Adriatic Sea completes the coverage of the entire Adriatic by CNR-ISMAR of Ancona in the western side and by IOF of Split in the north-eastern side. The Adriatic Sea, as far as small pelagic fishes are concerned, is by far the most productive, among the Italian Seas. Adriatic Sea landings from pelagic trawling and purse seiners account for 66.3% of the total from Italian seas, being 50336 t, assuming Apulia landings coming mainly from the Adriatic Sea. The pelagic resources in their complex, and also in their composition by species, are subject to wide variations in time and space because of the impact of environmental (physical, chemical and biological) and internal factors (interaction/competition among species). Therefore, it is crucial to know in time the status and the trend of resources both in total and per species, for an adequate planning. CNR-ISMAR of Ancona owns an historical series of biomass estimation of small pelagic fish in the Adriatic since 1976. The acoustic survey will be carried out along the Adriatic Sea from the Italian coast to the Mid-Line or bathymetric of 200 m, and along the Slovenia, Montenegro and Albania coasts (Fig. 1). The technology employed consists of split beam scientific multifrequency echosounders (38, 70, 120 and 200 kHz). During the acoustic prospection, biological samplings, by means of pelagic trawl, and oceanographic samplings (CTD probe) will be carried out. Moreover, a synoptically monitoring activity will be conducted with a specific plankton net on anchovy eggs and larvae, in order to estimate anchovy biomass by means of Daily Egg Production Method, and on zooplankton.

Figure 1: Investigated area: GSA 17 (Left), GSA 18 west (Middle) and east (Right)



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Brosset P, Fromentin JM, Van Beveren E, Lloret J, Marques V, Basilone G, Bonanno A, Carpi P, Donato F, Čičeš Keč V, De Felice A, Ferreri R, Gašparevič D, Giráldez A, Gücü A, Iglesias M, Leonori I, Palomera I, Somarakis S, Tičina V, Torres P, Ventero A, Zorica B, Ménard F, Saraux C. 2017. Spatio-temporal patterns and environmental controls of small pelagic fish body condition from contrasted Mediterranean areas. *Progress in Oceanography* 151: 149-162