



Acta Adriatica

ADRICOSM Proceedings

2nd Annual Meeting

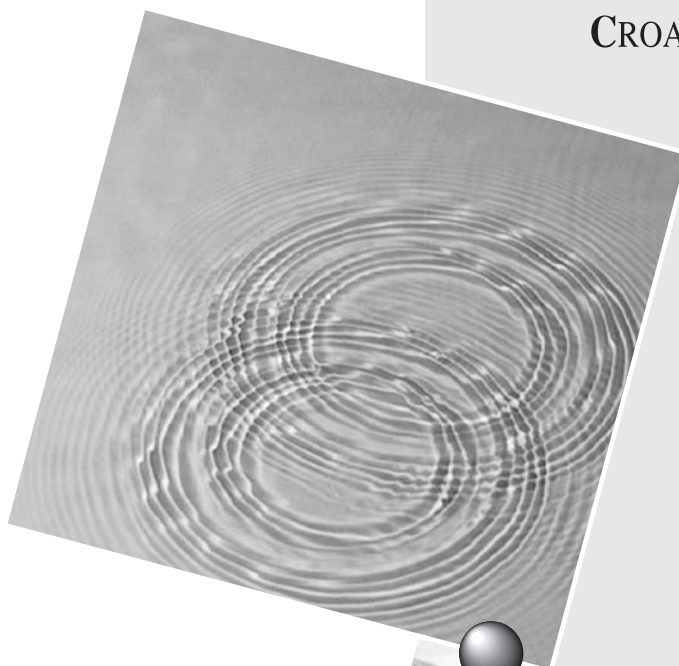
28-30 October, 2003
Split, Croatia

Final Meeting

22-23 March, 2005
Ravenna, Italy

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Until the end of 2005 there were 46 volumes published with total of 663 scientific papers.

Types of papers that can be submitted for consideration by the Editorial Board are:

- a) original research papers,
- b) conference papers,
- c) preliminary reports,
- d) short communications,
- e) scientific notes,

within the board field of marine and fishery sciences, referring preferably to the area of the Mediterranean or dealing with other areas, providing they relate to the Mediterranean in some aspect. Maximal length of one paper should not exceed 20 printed pages.

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Preface

The **ADRICOSM** Pilot Project
(The **ADRI**atic Sea integrated **CO**astal area**S** and river basin **M**anagement system Pilot Project)

PROCEEDINGS OF THE

2nd Annual Meeting

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&

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Ravenna, Italy

SPECIAL ISSUE

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Preface

The Adriatic Sea has almost 50 million people discharging wastes into the river basin system and then to the sea, with the load undergoing a tourism-related seasonal change. Moreover, the Adriatic Sea shows events of extensive algal blooms, mucilage and sea water anoxia that are of societal concern. A large part of the Adriatic riparian countries gross national product comes from fishing activities that need to be sustainable and efficient. Above all, the Adriatic Sea and its coastal areas sustain large vessel traffic making the safety of maritime transport a priority.

Sustainable development of this crucial marine area means applying principles of prevention, mitigation and adaptation to the changes that are induced by human activities, the main source of which being the river fresh water outflow of land derived nutrients and pollutants while the other derives from fisheries and maritime transport.

In May 2000 the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Adriatic-bordering riparian countries and Greece launched the Adriatic Ionian Initiative (AII) where an Environmental Round Table initiated a discussion about the Adriatic Sea environmental problems between the Adriatic riparian Ministries of the Environment. The AII implements pilot projects and activities in support of urgent societal questions such as the sustainable development of the Adriatic coastal areas, the exploitation of its resources and the protection of the coastal environment from anthropogenic loads as well as from natural hazards (e.g. floods).

The first project implemented within the auspices of the AII deals with the problem of the impact of land derived nutrients and pollution on the coastal marine system and was called the ADRICOSM Pilot Project. The Pilot Project lasted from 1 October 2001 to 31 March 2005 and was financially supported by the Italian Ministry of Environment and Territory, Division for Research and Development. Additional support was provided by the Slovenian Research Agency and the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports.

The objectives of the ADRICOSM Pilot Project were:

- to demonstrate the feasibility of Near Real Time (NRT) coastal current forecasts;
- to implement a river basin and wastewater management system in an Adriatic test site;
- to integrate the river monitoring activities with the coastal nowcasting and forecasting practices.

It is believed that the key step toward integrated coastal area and river basin management system is to connect the catchment basin runoff and wastewater management with marine environment monitoring and forecasting since the coastal areas are strongly forced by the drainage basin inputs and disperse these inputs in a complex hydrodynamic environment. The Pilot Project has successfully developed and maintained an operational forecasting system that gives weekly nowcasts and forecasts of currents at the basin level and has developed a prototype for an integrated river and coastal area management system.

The overall Pilot Project results are available at the web site www.bo.ingv.it/adricosm. Moreover, the work carried out in this Pilot Project is being demonstrated in the papers collected in this volume. The papers had been originally presented at two meetings, held in Split (28-30 October 2003) and Ravenna (22-23 March 2005), and they subsequently underwent the standard reviewing procedure of *Acta Adriatica*.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the support of the Italian Ministry of Environment and Territory, Division for Research and Development, and especially Dr. Corrado Clini, Director General of the Division, as well as the additional support provided by the Slovenian Research Agency and the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports. We also thank Dr. Mira Zore-Armanda, Editor-in-Chief, and Ms. Anita Marušić, Technical Editor of *Acta Adriatica*, for guiding the papers through a long and sometimes exacting editing process.

Guest Editors
