{rokbox title=|Echinaster sepositus :: Foto: Life+-INDEMARES (COB-IEO)| thumb=|images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/echinaster_640_thumb.jpg|}images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/echinaster_640.jpg{/rokbox}

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A regional network of sustainable managed areas as the way forward for the implementation of an Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management in the Mediterranean. Ocean and Coastal Management. Volume 65, September 2012, Pages 51–58.

Abstract: In the Mediterranean there are a number of key issues that demand attention in relation to the application of Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management. First, this region is considered a biodiversity hotspot where the pressures of human activities on ecosystems are predicted to increase. Second, fisheries in the Mediterranean, despite its significant impact, have not adopted the widely advocated ecosystem-based management. And third, the complex political situation in the Mediterranean, with many countries involved and a large fraction of international waters obstructs the adoption of a common management strategy. The way forward for ecosystem protection requires an enhancement of marine spatial planning, throughout the establishment of a network of sustainable managed areas. This network should be implemented at the Mediterranean regional scale, improving and integrating the best available knowledge to inform decision making and develop regional-based strategies. A regional management body should assume the coordination to ensure the success of a common strategy and safeguard the correct functioning of an ecosystem-based management. But first Mediterranean countries need to overcome their lack of cooperation and adopt a trans-boundary strategy.

Keywords: Mediterranean Sea, biodiversity hotspot, fisheries, ecosystem approach, management, ecosystems conservation, network of protected areas