

ENV.2010.2.2.1-1 North Atlantic Ocean and associated shelf-seas protection and management options

There is a need to improve the understanding of the variability, potential impacts, and feedbacks of global change and anthropogenic forcing on the structure, function and dynamics of the ecosystems of the North Atlantic Ocean and associated shelf seas and on their capacity to provide services.

The project should provide new data, analyses and the models necessary to:

- (1) understand and simulate the population structure and dynamics of broadly distributed, and biogeochemically and trophically important plankton and fish species; to resolve the impacts of climate variability on marine ecosystems and the feedbacks to the earth system;
- (2) develop understanding and strategies that will contribute to improve and advance ocean management (ecosystem approach). The project should develop methods to consolidate and integrate long term observations from EU and international databases for modelling and prediction of the Atlantic Ocean ecosystem and related services.

This work will be achieved in close collaboration with similar initiatives in the US and Canada. The coordination and complementarities of these EU and US/Canada initiatives must be described in the proposal. This will be considered in the evaluation. The participation of scientific institutions from US and Canada is welcomed.

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project (large scale integrating project)

Expected impacts:

It is expected to reinforce the knowledge base of the impact of global changes on the North Atlantic marine ecosystems and its regions, in particular, in the European perspective, the North Atlantic marine region, and thereby contribute to a better ocean management. Given the scale of influence of global change and the added value of co-coordinating the scientific activities of the EU and North American the project is expected to reinforce cooperation and coordination of research programmes between the two sides of the Atlantic. The project should also contribute to informing policy makers at national, EU and global level.

Budget: 7 Million Euros

Deadline for Submission: January 5th 2010