

## Available meteorological data series relevant to fishery ecology

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### Abstract

The Maltese archipelago covers an area of 246 square kilometres in the centre of the Mediterranean. The interest in the weather has always been present among the inhabitants of the islands, and for various reasons.

It is desirable that meteorological data bases cover a considerable number of years, while being scientifically sound. Although various meteorological data sets have been assembled in Malta in the last hundred years or so, one may say with confidence that the meteorological data obtained by the meteorological office possess the required scientific attributes.

The MedSudMed Project could take advantage of existing data bases of meteorological parameters that may be relevant to the ecological aspects of fisheries, such as: air temperature; sea-surface temperature; surface wind parameters; sea wave parameters; cloud cover; hours of sunshine; solar radiation; and atmospheric pressure distribution.

The international meteorological community has been interested in the weather of the Mediterranean for a long time, and for various reasons. An abundant scientific literature (in terms of scientific papers, books and atlases) exists in this regard. Furthermore, groups of scientists from different fields have quite recently assembled and analysed meteorological data. MED-HYCOS and MEDEX are just two examples of projects being sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization to further such scientific research and study.

The exchange of data and expertise among the experts participating in the MedSudMed Project would certainly add substance to the studies being carried out.

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