



SECRETARIAT EXECUTIF-
RAFISMER

**CONFERENCE MINISTERIELLE SUR LA COOPERATION HALIEUTIQUE ENTRE LES ETATS
AFRICAINS RIVERAINS DE L'OCEAN ATLANTIQUE**

**MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN STATES
BORDERING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN**

**Workshop Agenda "Presentation and discussion on a project about
the study and monitoring of marine biodiversity in West Africa"**

Casablanca (Morocco), September 29th 30th & October 1st, 2025

Monday September 29th	
9.-9.15 am (15 min)	Welcoming of the participants
9.15-9.30 am (15 min)	Welcome address (President of RAFISMER)
9.30-10 am (30 min)	Presentation of the participants
10-10.30 am (30 min)	-Context and objectives of the project (Dr. Kenza Mokhtar-Jamaï) -Principle of DNA Barcoding (Dr. Kenza Mokhtar-Jamaï)
10.30-11 am (30 min)	Overview of DNA Barcoding initiatives in West Africa (Dr. Jean-Dominique Durand)
11-11.15 am	Coffee break
11.15-11.45 am (30 min)	Discussion (DNA Barcoding)
11.45-12.05 pm (20 min)	Interest of classical taxonomy (Dr. Philippe Béarez)
12.05 -12.30 pm (25 min)	Workpackage: Integrative taxonomy through comprehensive DNA barcoding library (Dr. Kenza Mokhtar-Jamaï / Dr. Jean-Dominique Durand)
12.30-2 pm	Lunch break
2-3.05 pm (1h05 min)	Workpackage: Integrative taxonomy through comprehensive DNA Barcoding library (Dr. Kenza Mokhtar-Jamaï / Dr. Jean-Dominique Durand)
3.05-3.15pm (10 min)	Workpackage: Capacity Building and Regional Scientific Collaboration (Dr. Kenza Mokhtar-Jamaï)
3.15-4 pm (45 min)	Discussion (compilation of training needs in taxonomy and DNA Barcoding)
4-4.15 pm	Coffee break
4.15-4.35 pm (20 min)	Blue economy in West Africa challenge and perspectives (Pr. Pierre Failler)
4.35-5 pm (25 min)	Workpackage: Enhancing trade compliance for a resilient African Blue Economy (Dr. Kenza Mokhtar-Jamaï / Pr. Pierre Failler)
5-6 pm (60 min)	General discussion



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Tuesday September 30th	
9-9.20 am (20 min)	What is environmental DNA (eDNA)? (Pr. Sophie von der Heyden pre recorded)
9.20-9.40 am (20 min)	Applications of metabarcoding in West Africa: case study (Pr. Filipe Costa)
9.40-10 am (20 min)	Discussion (eDNA)
10-11 am (1h)	Discussion on the main fisheries in West Africa (target species and distribution) and eDNA sampling
11-11.15 am	Coffee break
11.15-11.40 am (25 min)	Capacity building at the regional level: Case of fishery stock assessment campaigns in the EEZ of Liberia and Benin by the National Institute of Fisheries Research of Morocco (INRH) (Dr. Najib Charouki and Ms. Soukaina Zizah)
11.40 am -12.10 pm (30 min)	Discussion (country sampling means)
12.10-12.30 pm (20 min)	Importance of standardization of eDNA study methods and methodological development (Dr. Alison Watts pre recorded)
12.30-2 pm	Lunch break
2-2.20 pm (20 min)	Workpackage: Mapping marine community structure using eDNA and Metabarcoding for fisheries management (Dr. Jean-Dominique Durand)
2.20-3 pm (40 min)	Discussion (eDNA)
3-3.40 pm (40 min)	Workpackage: Ichthyoplankton study through metabarcoding (Pr. Filipe Costa)
3.40-4 pm (20 min)	Omics data management AI and machine learning (Dr. Hassan Moustahfid)
4-4.15 pm	Coffee break
4.15-4.35 pm (20 min)	Workpackage: Data standards, bioinformatics, and decision-support tools (Dr. Hassan Moustahfid)
4.35-4.55 pm (20 min)	Discussion (Omics data management)
4.55-6 pm (1h05 min)	General discussion



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Wednesday October 1st	
9-10 am (60 min)	Project summary
10-11 am (60 min)	Discussion on project financing mechanisms
11-11.15 am	Coffee break
11.15-11.35 pm (20 min)	Biodiversity credits: Unlocking Investment for Ocean Conservation (representative of Arias Tech Solutions)
11.35-11.55 pm (20 min)	Discussion (Biodiversity credits)
11.55-12.30 pm (35 min)	General discussion
12.30-2 pm	Lunch break
2-4 pm (2h)	Discussion and closing of the workshop