



## **CoralFISH: Ecosystem based management of corals, fish and fisheries in the deep waters of Europe and beyond**

Anthony Grehan

Earth and Ocean Sciences, NUI Galway, Ireland (anthony.grehan@nuigalway.ie)

The CoralFISH project is a large collaborative project funded under the Environment Theme of the European Commission's Framework 7 programme. CoralFISH brings together a unique consortium of deep-sea fisheries biologists, ecosystem researchers/modellers, economists and a fishing industry SME, in a collaboration to collect data from key European marine eco-regions. CoralFISH is: i) developing essential methodologies and indicators for baseline and subsequent monitoring of closed areas, ii) integrating fish into coral ecosystem models to better understand coral fish-carrying capacity, iii) evaluating the distribution of deepwater bottom fishing effort to identify areas of potential interaction and impact upon coral habitat, iv) assessing the use of genetic fingerprinting to determine the potential erosion of genetic fitness of corals due to long-term exposure to fishing impacts, v) constructing bio-economic models to assess management effects on corals and fisheries to provide policy options, and vi) producing as a key output, habitat suitability maps both regionally and for OSPAR Region V to identify areas likely to contain vulnerable habitat. The latter can be used by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations as an aid to sustainably manage fisheries in the deep sea in accordance with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 61/105.