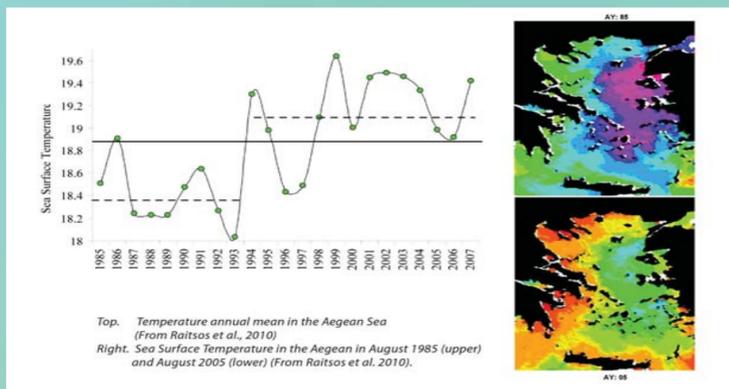


# What is the Impact of Lessepsian species on Eastern Mediterranean Fisheries?

- Migration of lessepsian species into the eastern Mediterranean is the result of the “tropicalisation” effect with an overall increase in sea temperature in the past 25 years.



- Some species are consumed in a number of countries but not in others. Marketing and commercialisation of such species should be conducted *Fistularia commensoni*.



*Fistularia commensoni* a commercially important lessepsian species in some countries but not in others.

- A network of experts on impacts of lessepsian species on Eastern Mediterranean fisheries was established by the EastMed project with experts from Cyprus, Egypt, Gaza Strip and West Bank, Greece, Italy, Lebanon and Turkey following a technical meeting.



Experts attending the Sub-regional Technical Meeting on the Lessepsian species

- Which species are causing damage to fishing gears?



*Lagocephalus scleratus* a species which is damaging the fishing industry by eating fish caught in nets and destroying fishing gear (photos by Nikolas Michailidis from Cyprus)

- Deadly species, education has a role in preventing potential deaths to humans.



*Plotosus lineatus* a dangerous fish that can poison humans



*Lagocephalus scleratus* is a poisonous fish which can be fatal if consumed (photo by Nikolas Michailidis from Cyprus)

- Some species have become of high commercial importance and are a positive impact on the fisheries.



On the right fish of the genus *Upeneus* with bright yellow lines along the entire length of the fishes body as seen in a fish market in Lebanon.



Fish of the genus *Siganus* are lessepsian species which have become commercially important in the Eastern (photo from Lebanon)



*Marsupenaeus japonicus* an new important commercial species in the Eastern Mediterranean (photo from Egypt)