

## **INTERCAFE@Lisbon meeting summary**

The meeting in Lisbon, Portugal was the first scientific meeting of INTERCAFE following the 'kick-off' meeting in Brussels (September 2004). This meeting was primarily aimed at promoting interdisciplinary interaction between natural and social science within INTERCAFE in order to engender a more holistic understanding of Cormorant conflicts across Europe. The participation of social scientists in Cormorant-Fisheries conflicts is relatively novel in Europe, and the issue tends to be dominated by natural scientists. Thus participating social scientists were asked to give short presentations of their work. Interdisciplinary integration of natural and social science was helped by an INTERCAFE facilitator who has wide experience of human:wildlife conflicts.

The three-day meeting (28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> January 2005) was also planned as a mixture of Work Group activities\*, plenary presentations/discussions, and interdisciplinary integration activities (within and between work groups).

Work Groups developed work programmes for the coming year which will feed into INTERCAFE's ultimate aims of:

- (a) Informing policy in relation to maintaining cormorant conservation status while sustainably exploiting fish stocks.
- (b) Integrating biological and social research programmes thereby offering management strategies for the benefit of local people and decision-makers.
- (c) Establishing and maintaining an information transfer network to facilitate improved communication, dialogue and participation amongst stakeholders.
- (d) Developing scientifically based management and conservation recommendations.

In addition, time was also allocated for the formation/work of a number of sub-groups looking at issues such as reducing cormorant conflicts at carp ponds, Pygmy Cormorant ecology, Baltic Sea research, historical databases etc..

This process of creating group and working identity for INTERCAFE will provide a sound basis for future meetings which will involve stakeholder groups such as recreational anglers, commercial fishermen/women, and policy-makers. An integrated, interdisciplinary scientific network (biological, social, economic) is also seen as important for the development of collaborative management strategies to address cormorant-fisheries interactions across Europe from local to international scales.

\* (WG1) Ecological databases and analyses, (WG2) Conflict management and resolution, (WG3) Linking science with policy and best practice.

