



FRB-CESAB-FFP 2026 Thematic call for synthesis proposals



Impacts of multi pressures and their interactions on the biodiversity of exploited marine ecosystems by fisheries in Europe (Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean)

Context, expectations and objectives

Marine ecosystems are subject to an increasing combination of pressures, including fishing, climate change, various forms of pollution, invasive species and other human activities (e.g. marine renewable energy, mining, tourism). While the impacts of fishing and climate change are relatively well documented, the interactions between the effects of these two pressures and the additional effects of others remain poorly understood.

These multiple stressors, whether acting synergistically or antagonistically, affect the physiology, biology and ecology of fish stocks and the resilience of associated marine ecosystems. These changes affect the social and economic dimensions of fisheries, including the industry, seafood value chain and coastal communities. Thus driving adaptive responses from fisheries management and in the value chain and communities.

Within this framework, and in partnership with France Filière Pêche, the FRB calls on the scientific community to submit projects to CESAB aimed at analysing, synthesising, and modeling existing data in order to quantify how the interactions among these multiple pressures affect the biodiversity of marine ecosystems, including exploited populations of the Northeast Atlantic and the Mediterranean sea, and the functioning of the associated ecosystems.

The objective is to improve an integrated understanding of how marine ecosystems exploited by fisheries respond to multiple pressures, in order to inform sustainable management strategies and strengthen the resilience of fisheries socio-ecosystems.

Projects may address any topic related to the impacts, quantification and interactions of stressors and their multiple effects on marine ecosystems and exploited resources and/or adaptive responses from the society, drawing on natural sciences, environmental sciences and/or the humanities and social sciences.

Projects exploring the relationship between biodiversity and the four other nexus domains *identified* by IPBES – health, water, food and climate – are particularly encouraged;

Innovative ideas, feasibility and scientific excellence will be key selection criteria, together with interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinary approaches involving stakeholders, including managers, policy makers, NGOs, the general public and those represented within the french fishing industry.

Consortium composition

A project submitted to the call must include a thorough description of its consortium, i.e. the working group that will be hosted at the CESAB during workshops. Successful groups consist of people with relevant expertise but also with the dedication and time to participate in the meetings hosted at CESAB as well as the time to contribute to the group goals.

The consortium is expected to meet at the **CESAB 5 times over the 3-year** duration of the project. Each **meeting lasts 5 days**. The group is **also expected to organize a 3-days virtual meeting** and regular short virtual meetings throughout the project duration.

The consortium is expected to have a one-hour informal presentation/discussion on the progress of the work with a consortium of stakeholders in the French fishing industry at each meeting at CESAB. It may also be consulted throughout the project if information is required on fishing industry activities relevant to the research work.

A project's working group must:

- be led by two principal investigators (PIs)¹ :
 - the first PI must be a scientist with a permanent position in a French research organization or a French university;
 - the second PI must have a permanent position or a contract that runs until the end of the project, within any organization worldwide. If he/she is a researcher, he/she must come from a different laboratory than the first PI ; if he/she is not a researcher, he/she must justify a scientific leadership background;
- consist of a maximum of 12 members (including the PIs, notwithstanding the post-doctoral fellow to be recruited);
- include international members; in order to reduce the carbon footprint, we advise the group not to have too many participants traveling from very far locations;
- be balanced and diverse in terms of gender, range of expertise, and career stage²; multidisciplinary groups or groups including non-academic stakeholders or practitioners are welcome;
- include at least one group member clearly identified as responsible for the management of data within the group. This person will be in direct interaction with the CESAB data scientists.

Any change in the list of participants after the selection of the project must be approved by the CESAB scientific director.

Post-doctoral fellow

The selected group will have the opportunity to recruit a postdoctoral fellow.

The recruitment will be led by the two PIs and the FRB-CESAB staff. The postdoctoral fellow will act as a catalyst for the working group. He/she will be fully involved in the dynamics of the project and be a

¹ There is no hierarchy between the PIs, who must equally share the scientific direction and the coordination of the group throughout the project. Their names will appear in alphabetical order on the project presentation materials.

² Please note that the group must be stable in composition for at least three years (including the year of the proposal evaluation), which is incompatible with including too many non-permanent members (we recommend one or two non-permanent researchers max if justified)

driving force behind the group's research. We expect the postdoctoral fellow to be independent and willing to contribute to the FRB-CESAB activities and collaborative opportunities.

He/she may be hired by either the FRB or the French PI's institution, depending on CESAB's hosting capacity and FRB Human Resources management policy; he/she will be hosted either at the CESAB in Montpellier (if hired by the FRB), or at the French PI's laboratory (if hired by the PI's institution).

Funding dedicated to interactions with the PIs (should the post-doc be hosted at CESAB) and development of skills and network is included in the budget of the project.

Budget and resources

One project will be funded under this call. The financial support includes:

- the **recruitment of a postdoctoral fellow for a maximum of 26 months** (duration for salary based on FRB reference wages, i.e. a junior researcher with a maximum of 4 years of postdoctoral experience), as well as:
 - **her.his computer equipment** (if necessary and within the limit of 2000 euros; second-hand equipment is preferred, should it meets the requirements);
 - **travel and accommodation dedicated to her.his skill and network development** (link with the PIs and/or the CESAB team, collaborations within the consortium between the workshops, training courses, ...), according to the terms and conditions of the post-doc charter;
 - **participation to national or international conferences** (registration fees and travel costs, up to 3000 euros);
- **the organization of the 5 project meetings and related costs:** transportation, accommodation, food and incidental costs for 12 participants + the post-doc, at CESAB, Montpellier;
- **An in-person seminar held at the end of the project** to present the results to the general public
- **publication costs** up to 5000 euros.

The FRB-CESAB team will also provide:

- workspaces at the CESAB and communication tools;
- support for data analysis;
- support for communication and promotion of the project and its results;
- support for financial and administrative management of the project.

The budget will be managed and handled by FRB³. The CESAB team will make all the expenses; it does not need to be detailed in the proposal.

Funding is managed by FRB-CESAB on a project-by-project basis and within the overall budget for the call for proposals. As a result, PIs do not have direct access to a dedicated budget that they can manage as they see fit. Only the items listed above are covered. It does NOT include, for example :

³ except if the postdoctoral researcher is hosted in the PI's lab, in which case the portion allocated to their salary and their computing equipment is transferred to the hiring institution

- salaries of projects members,
- travels costs for group members outside of the workshops, or unrelated to collaboration with the post-doc,
- internships,
- field work or data collection costs...

Deliverables

- The working group will provide a **mid-term report** (after 18 months - evaluated by both the CESAB scientific council and France Filière Pêche members to allow the continuation of the funding) and a **final report** (after the last meeting), based on a template provided by the CESAB team.
- Multi-author high-quality scientific **publications**, publication of datasets on European portals as well as outreach products are expected; publications in non-profit and society-owned scientific journals are strongly encouraged.
- Particular attention will also be paid to **knowledge transfer**. In particular, the following are expected: scientific publications and oral communications at international conferences, as well as other forms of knowledge dissemination tailored for communication with scientists, **managers and stakeholders in the fisheries sector**, construction of open-access databases, development of open access analysis and modeling tools, websites, organization of international workshops, training courses or official events and public outreach when relevant.

Governance and call process

The governance is provided by:

- a steering committee, composed of FFP officers, the FRB program manager and the CESAB scientific Director;
- the CESAB scientific committee;
- a strategic committee composed by FFP officers and administrator;
- the FRB board.

The call runs for 3 stages:

- one single submission phase;
- a scientific evaluation phase, conducted by the CESAB scientific committee. Only the projects considered scientifically excellent will proceed to the second evaluation phase;
- a strategic evaluation phase, conducted by the strategic committee; the PIs of the projects selected for the final round will be invited to present their projects to FFP members.

The **FRB board** approves the selection and the funding within the limits of the available dedicated budget.

Eligibility and evaluation criteria

Eligibility of the submitted projects

To be eligible, the projects submitted must :

- meet the requirements related to the **working group composition** (PIs and members)
- address the **synthesis of existing biodiversity data** (projects collecting new data in the field/lab are not eligible to this call, while projects aiming at gathering scattered existing datasets in a common database for further analyses should apply to the DataShare call)

Scientific evaluation of the submitted proposals

The projects will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- the **scientific quality and innovative nature** of the project;
- the **relevance** of the project to the objectives of CESAB;
- the quality of the **working group** (i.e. expertise matching the topic addressed and overall balance among disciplines, genders, career stages);
- the **feasibility** of the work program;
- the **impact** of the project's scientific data and results;
- and the **dissemination** and the knowledge transfer plan.

Strategic evaluation of the submitted proposals

If selected after the scientific evaluation, the PIs will present their project to the strategic committee (FFP board). The projects will be evaluated in regards with :

- Relevance of the project to the strategic priorities of the French fishing industry, particularly the development of more sustainable and responsible fishing practices that enhance the competitiveness of fishing enterprises while contributing to the preservation of fish stocks and the marine ecosystem.
- Expected benefits for fishing industry and the project's capacity for effective knowledge transfer.

Data management policy

The CESAB adheres to the principles of open science and reproducibility. The datasets produced/assembled by the funded projects and the associated scripts and codes used for the analyses must be made publicly accessible.

To achieve this objective, the CESAB expects that:

- the datasets synthesized during the research project at the CESAB are described in a relevant way (using international standards) and made publicly available within a reasonable amount of time (subject to confidentiality constraints for data on individuals and organizations);

- the raw data used to generate any scientific output are well documented;
- the associated scripts and codes used for the analyses must be made publicly accessible;
- the intellectual property rights of all data owners are respected when their data are used by CESAB working groups;
- Creative Commons BY 4.0 standards are applied as much as possible to all deposited data.

The CESAB offers a unique opportunity for scientists to benefit from the expertise of a team of data scientists (part of the CESAB staff). The CESAB does not offer any storage or hosting solutions for its groups. The hosting and deployment of databases, web services and any other product of the project is the responsibility of the PIs. In terms of numerical analyses, a computing station will be accessible (for medium performance computing only). According to this, the objectives and computing needs of the project must be described in the proposal submission.

Calendar

23 August 2026 at 13:00 (CEST): Deadline for submission of the proposals

1st September - 31 October: Scientific evaluation of the proposals

16 Nov: Oral presentation to FFP of the projects shortlisted after scientific evaluation

16 Nov - 30 Nov: Strategic evaluation of the shortlisted proposals

Mid-December 2026 : Announcement of the final results

Early 2027 : Virtual kick-off meeting with the FRB-CESAB team

Spring 2027 : Virtual kick-off workshop within the project team

Autumn 2027 : 1st CESAB workshop (= official starting date of the project)

Submission procedure and contact

All information is available on <https://frbcesabffp2026.sciencescall.org>

Contact : cesab@fondationbiodiversite.fr

Annexes

Annex 1 - Presentation of France Filière Pêche and the CESAB

Annex 2 - [Cesab synthesis project timeline](#)

Annex 3 - <https://padlet.com/cesab/cesab-groups-information-tools-and-tips-fr2rmhnharwgd38s>

Annex 1 - France Filière Pêche & the CESAB



FR - Face aux importants enjeux économiques, écologiques et alimentaires de la pêche maritime française, les acteurs de la filière ont décidé d'agir en créant, en 2010, l'Association [France Filière Pêche](#). Une volonté : oeuvrer ensemble sur le long terme en faveur de la production et de la commercialisation des ressources maritimes françaises. France Filière Pêche a réuni tous les maillons de la filière pour organiser le cadre d'une solidarité sectorielle et s'assurer de la mise en place d'actions efficaces.

Cette Association à caractère interprofessionnel regroupe les représentants des producteurs, mareyeurs, grossistes, transformateurs, de la grande distribution et des poissonniers détaillants en France.

Dès le départ, France Filière Pêche s'est fixé des objectifs précis pour répondre à ses ambitions :

- Développer une pêche plus durable et responsable par le soutien et la promotion de pratiques destinées à améliorer la compétitivité des entreprises de pêche tout en contribuant à la préservation des ressources halieutiques et de l'écosystème marin ;
- Favoriser la commercialisation des produits de la pêche française et les valoriser afin d'encourager leur consommation auprès du grand public : cet objectif a notamment abouti en 2012 à la création de la marque Pavillon France qui garantit aux consommateurs de pouvoir profiter en toute confiance de la diversité de la pêche française.

EN - Faced with the important economic, ecological and food stakes of the French fishing industry, all the actors of the sector decided to act by creating in 2010 the Association [France Filière Pêche](#). Its main objective is to work together over the long term to promote the production and commercialization of French marine resources. France Filière Pêche has brought together all the links in the fishing industry to organise the framework of sectoral solidarity and to ensure the implementation of effective actions. This inter-professional association therefore brings together among others, producers, fish wholesalers, wholesalers, processors, supermarkets and retail fishmongers in France.

From the start, France Filière Pêche has set itself precise objectives to meet its ambitions:

- to develop more sustainable and responsible fishing by supporting and promoting practices designed to improve the competitiveness of fishing enterprises while contributing to the preservation of fish resources and the marine ecosystem ;
- to encourage the commercialization of French fishery products and to enhance their value in order to encourage their consumption by the general public: this objective has notably led in 2012 to the creation of the Pavillon France brand, which guarantees that consumers can enjoy the diversity of French fishing with complete confidence.

Contact:

France Filière pêche, 11 Boulevard de Sébastopol 75001 Paris

contact@francefilierepeche.fr



FR - Le [centre de synthèse et d'analyse sur la biodiversité](#) est un programme phare de la FRB (Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversité) dont l'objectif est de mettre en œuvre des travaux innovants de synthèse et d'analyse des jeux de données déjà existants dans le domaine de la biodiversité. Initié en 2010 peu après le « Grenelle de l'Environnement » des Ministères de la Recherche et de l'Écologie, il a été créé par sept établissements publics de recherche public (BRGM, CIRAD, CNRS, IFREMER, INRAE, IRD and MNHN), rejoints en 2017 par l'Université de Montpellier.

Les chercheurs trouvent au Cesab les moyens et l'infrastructure nécessaires pour partager et valoriser les informations existantes et conduire des analyses qui répondent aux enjeux scientifiques majeurs de la biodiversité. Faire avancer les connaissances, développer la culture de la synthèse et de la collaboration, faciliter les liens entre toutes les disciplines scientifiques et avec les acteurs de la société sont les atouts principaux du Cesab. Il accueille de fait chaque année de très nombreux chercheurs, issus de tous les continents, au cours de sessions de travail échelonnées dans le temps.

Depuis plusieurs années, les équipes de chercheurs collectent, produisent et analysent de plus en plus de données sur la Biodiversité. Les informations acquises aujourd'hui fournissent des connaissances indéniables et essentielles pour mieux comprendre les contributions de la biodiversité à l'humanité. Et il est possible d'aller encore plus loin : assemblées et combinées, les données, idées et concepts existants peuvent générer de nouvelles avancées pour la recherche, qu'elle soit fondamentale ou appliquée. Ensemble, ces données existantes peuvent générer de nouveaux enjeux et faire progresser considérablement nos connaissances sur la biodiversité.

EN - The [centre for the Synthesis and Analysis of Biodiversity](#) is a key program of the FRB (French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity) and aims to implement innovative work to synthesize and analyze already existing data in the field of biodiversity research. Launched in 2010 after the « Grenelle de l'Environnement » by the Ministries for research and for ecology, it was created by seven public research institutions (BRGM, CIRAD, CNRS, IFREMER, INRAE, IRD and MNHN), joined in 2017 by the University of Montpellier.

Researchers can find at CESAB the necessary means and infrastructure to share and enhance existing information, and to conduct analyses that address major scientific challenges in biodiversity research. Advancing knowledge, developing synthesis research and collaboration, facilitating the links between all scientific disciplines: these are the main assets of CESAB which hosts a large number of researchers every year from all the continents, during work sessions spread over the project timeline.

For many years, teams of researchers have been collecting, producing and analyzing more and more data on biodiversity. The information acquired today provides undeniable and essential knowledge and allows us to better understand the contributions that biodiversity can provide for humanity. And it is possible to go even further: assembled and combined, existing data, ideas and concepts can generate new advances in both pure and applied research. Together, these existing data can supply new issues and significantly advance our biodiversity knowledge.

Liste des groupes Cesab / list of CESAB groups

<https://www.fondationbiodiversite.fr/la-frb-en-action/programmes-et-projets/le-cesab/>

Liste des publications Cesab / list of CESAB publications

<https://www.fondationbiodiversite.fr/les-publications-scientifiques-du-cesab/>

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