

Theme Session R

Potential changes in the EU Common Fisheries Policy: implications for science

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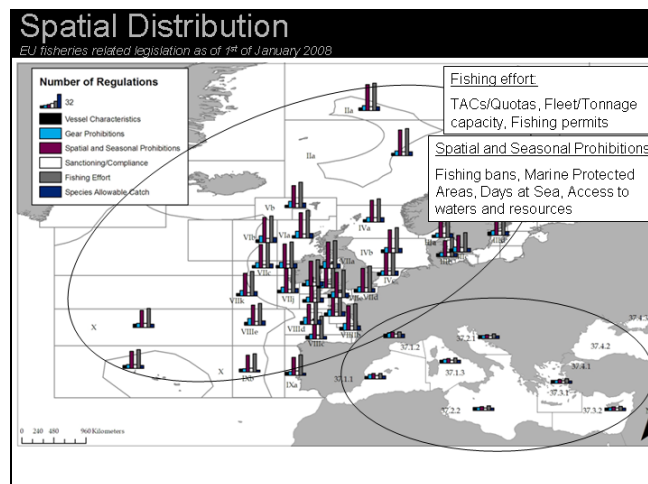
The Common Fisheries Policy is the governing framework for fisheries management in the European Union. It is under review with major changes expected in a reform by 2012. Just prior to the theme session Poul Degenbol (EC) gave an excellent keynote address on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy and the implications for a scientific organization like ICES. This set the general stage for the theme session that followed the keynote address.

The theme session was well attended and addressed a wide range of topics which were clustered into four themes: the policy framework, MSY and ecosystem approach, instruments and stakeholder involvement.


Some general conclusions presented during the theme session:

Policy framework

- EU is very differentiated in regulatory regime and there appears to be a clear north-south divide even in the amount of policy making between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic area in the EU.




- Although a formal (public) review of policy is an integral part of a policy process, there is very little review activities of the past CFP.
- The number of exceptions to the EU Effort regulations had rapidly increased over the years 2003–2007 but were lower again in 2008.



III – What is a métier?? b - seen by the EU Commission

Gear type	Cat./Speccon	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Demersal Trawls, seines, towed	Categories	3	3	3	5	5	5	3
	Special Con.	-	2	4	15	17	17	-
Beam trawl	Categories	1	1	1	4	4	4	2
	Special Con.	-	-	1	5	5	5	-
Static demersal nets	Categories	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
	Special Con.	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
Gillnets	Categories	-	-	-	2	4	4	1
	Special Con.	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Trammel	Categories	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
	Special Con.	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Longlines	Categories	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Special Con.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		6	10	13	35	39	39	8



DTU Aqua, Technical University of Denmark J09/2009

- Because of regional differences in the fishing fleets, the resources and the policy making, a regional approach to fisheries management is needed.
- However, as far as fisheries operating on widely distributed migrating stocks regionalization may not be a good solution as the stocks and thus fisheries management will have to extend across ecoregion boundaries. The industry may therefore prefer a traditional single stock approach. There appear to be conflicts between a regionalized ecosystem approach and a traditional fish stock assessment approach while an ecosystem approach would be consistent with a fisheries approach to assessment and management.
- The Doggerbank area in the North Sea is an interesting case study because it is at the intersections of different jurisdictional areas of the coastal states. An integrated approach would be needed to raise issues of international cooperation but at present there is no agreed framework for regional cooperation with regards to either fisheries, natura2000 or the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

MSY and ecosystem approach

- Conservation limits including MSY must be seen as constraints and not objectives.
- Some of the stakeholder organizations did not want to enter into a debate about MSY as an upper limit because they contested the concept of MSY.
- Maximum Economic Yield (MEY) is sometimes regarded as an alternative to MSY (for example to manage Australian stocks)
- Uncertainty has to be integral part of mindset. This includes uncertainties that you cannot quantify and that are context related. This means that we have to go beyond the classical model uncertainty.

Instruments

- With regards to mixed fisheries, often the only thing people agreed on was the word “metier” but not on what it meant.
- Operational fleet based approaches are currently developing.

- The scientific challenge is to deal with the information that is available instead of waiting for the information that you would want for a certain action or analysis. Bayesian techniques could be used to integrate knowledge better and to learn from previous experiences

Stakeholders

- A paper on stakeholder participation in Scottish inshore fishermen showed that stakeholders do not feel connected to the policy framework, despite the initiatives to include them via e.g. regional advisory councils.