

ODEMM: Options for Delivering Ecosystem-Based Marine Management

Funded by: EU 7th Framework Programme

Coordinator: The University of Liverpool

Duration: 1 March 2010-31 August 2013

The overall aim of the project is to deliver a set of fully-costed ecosystem management options that would deliver the objectives of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Habitats Directive, the European Commission Blue Book and the Guidelines for the Integrated Approach to Maritime Policy. This will be achieved by (i) providing a comprehensive knowledge base to support policy for the development of sustainable and integrated management of European marine ecosystems; (ii) developing Operational Objectives to achieve the High-Level Policy Objectives set by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive, and with reference to the proposed Maritime Policy; (iii) identifying Management Options (individual management tools and combinations of tools) to meet the Operational Objectives; (iv) providing a risk assessment framework for the evaluation of Management Options and to assess the risk associated with the different options; (v) conducting a cost-benefit analysis of a range of Management Options using appropriate techniques; (vi) identifying stakeholder opinions on the creation of governance structures directed towards implementation of the ecosystem approach, and elaborating different scenarios for changing governance structures and legislation to facilitate a gradual transition from the current fragmented management approach towards fully integrated ecosystem management; (vii) documenting the steps necessary for the transition from the current fragmented management scheme to a mature and integrated approach, and providing a toolkit that could be used to evaluate options for delivering ecosystem-based management; and (viii) communicating and consulting on the outcomes of the project effectively with policy makers and other relevant user groups.

Developing fisheries management indicators and targets (BADMINTON)

Funded by: Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Danish Food Industry Agency (MariFish)

Coordinator: Hellenic Centre for Marine Research

Duration: 31 August 2009-1 August 2012

Project aims:

- Develop the knowledge of discarding patterns and factors in European fisheries
- Evaluate the efficacy of selective devices and other discard management measures that have been implemented in the past.

- Improve methods to analyse, monitor, and manage bycatch and discarding in European fisheries.
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Uncertainty in Action - A Multi-Cultural Approach

PhD Project (Ditte Degnbøl)

Duration: 1 November 2008-31 October 2011

The broader focus for my dissertation is the handling of scientific complexity and uncertainty in environmental management. More specifically I look at the knowledge base for marine management where I will address two main questions:

- Which transformations have science and its use in EU's marine management undergone?
- How is science used in practical-political problem solving in marine management?

Addressing the first question I will study the history of science for marine policy in a transition period, laying out the broader context for the contemporary situation. Addressing the second question I will look more concretely on the Natura 2000 process of selecting marine areas for protection on the Dogger Bank. I will follow the negotiations among and between scientists, fishers, environmentalists, policymakers and managers about the scientific basis for the selection.

I will draw particularly on approaches from the field of Science and Technology Studies (STS).

Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management - Multi-level Governance and the Regional Level in EU Fisheries Management

PhD Project (Troels Jacob Hegland)

Duration: 1 November 2008-31 October 2011

Overall fish stocks in EU waters have not been in a good shape for the last 20 years or so. Today 88% of the EU fish stocks are overfished - compared with an average of 25% globally. The EU has continuously tried to reform (particularly in 1992/93 and 2002/03) or incrementally adapt the legal framework of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) to solve the problems, which include a substantial overcapacity in the fleet, but these efforts have - as evidenced by the numbers - been insufficient. Lately the Commission of the European Communities (Commission) has acknowledged that even the latest reform in 2002/03 - to which high hopes were attached - has, in effect, been unable to reverse the trend to the extent necessary; for 2008 the total allowable catches

(commonly referred to as TACs) for 49% of EU stocks were set above the scientific advice, which seems to indicate that the negative trend may very well continue to dominate (Commission 2008). The next reform of the CFP is scheduled for 2012/13.

The research conducted under this project, as well as the conclusions arrived at, is expected to be broadly relevant to the actors and institutions active in the policy process leading up to the upcoming reform of the CFP in 2012/13. Regionalisation, multi-level governance and the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, which can be seen as three key concepts of this project, are all of immediate relevance for the discussion on the upcoming reform, as well. In this way it is the hope and expectation that the project can contribute to the political task of finding an appropriate governance structure for fisheries management in the EU beyond 2012. The continued failure to set up an appropriate governance structure for fisheries management is one of the main explanations for the underperformance of European fisheries management compared to similar management systems in comparable settings around the globe.

Methodologically, the project will focus on the regional level as the neglected and necessary level of governance in EU fisheries management. The project will look at the perspectives and limitations of developing the regional level as a significant policy/management level in the governance structure. At the same time the project will explore the implications of regionalisation on the other relevant levels, particularly the EU and the member state level, as well as look into the political acceptability of regionalisation at the other levels and how political acceptance might be fostered.

Consequently, this project aims to contribute directly to the discussions related to an ongoing policy process, which will per definition be concluded in 2012 only 1 year after this project ends. The project could as such not be any timelier.

MEFEPO: Making the European Fisheries Ecosystem Plan Operational

Funded by: EU 7th Framework Programme

Coordinator: The University of Liverpool

Duration: 1 September 2008-31 August 2011

Since the reform of the EU Common Fisheries Policy in 2002, effort has been devoted to addressing the governance, scientific, social and economic issues required to introduce an ecosystem approach to European marine fisheries.

Fisheries management needs to support the ‘three pillars of sustainability’ (ecological, social and economic). Fisheries Ecosystem Plans (FEPs) were developed to further the ecosystem approach in fisheries management and as a tool to assist managers consider the ecological, social and economic

implications of their decisions. The FP5-funded European Fisheries Ecosystem Plan (EFEP) project developed a FEP for European waters, using the North Sea as a case study.

The core concept of the Making the European Fisheries Ecosystem Plan Operational (MEFEPO) project is the delivery of an operational framework for three regional seas. This is the necessary next step in the process. Furthermore, MEFEPO will, based on the lessons learned consider how FEPs can be made operational and developed for other regional areas. MEFEPO will focus on how best to make current institutional frameworks responsive to an ecosystem approach to fisheries management at regional and pan-European levels in accordance with the principles of good governance. This will involve developing new linkages and means of allowing dialogue between the disparate groups of stakeholders, the integration of the considerable body of ecological, fisheries, social and economic research which has been developed in recent years and investigate how existing institutional frameworks need to evolve to incorporate this information and develop both dialogue between the disparate groups of marine stakeholders and develop a decision-making process which integrates a wide breadth of interests. The three areas used by MEFEPO will be the North Sea RAC, North-western Waters RAC and South-western Waters RAC areas.

JAKFISH: Judgement and Knowledge in Fisheries including Stakeholders

Funded by: EU 7th Framework Programme

Coordinator: CEFAS, UK

Duration: 1 May 2008-30 April 2011

The project will investigate how different actors in the marine sector, including fisheries, make use of scientific knowledge, how the roles that scientists play help formulate policies and how governance approaches can be developed which enable policy decisions to address uncertainty and complexity based on research and with the participation of stakeholders. The project will collect and build on experiences from a diverse range of EU policy areas which address interactions between human activities and nature. The main objectives of the proposal are to examine and develop the institutions, practices and tools that allow complexity and uncertainty to be dealt with effectively within participatory decision making processes. The proposal will develop these institutions, practices and tools in respect to European marine management with a particular focus on fish harvesting and marine spatial planning via two linked strategies. Where Strategy One is to develop tools to facilitate participatory decision making processes based on recently developed bio-economic modeling techniques. While Strategy Two carries out a sociological analysis of the practices and institutional forms that can most effectively involve the wider community in debates over developing science-based policies.

UNCOVER: Understanding the mechanisms of stock recovery

Funded by: EU 6th Framework Programme

Coordinator: Federal Research Center for Fisheries, Germany

Duration: 1 March 2006-28 February 2010

The purpose of UNCOVER is to develop recovery strategies for EU fish stocks which are outside of safe biological limits. In order to develop these recovery strategies, the principle objectives of UNCOVER are to 1) identify changes experienced during stock decline and their consequences for the prospects of stock recovery 2) enhance the understanding of mechanisms of fish stock recovery. 3) provide recommendations for the recovery of EU fish stocks, which are outside of safe biological limits. To fulfill these objectives, UNCOVER will, utilizing a multidisciplinary approach, synthesise and integrate relevant information from previous and ongoing research programs to evaluate and develop strategies for the rebuilding of stocks. Findings will identify changes experienced during stock decline as well as key processes impacting upon the potential for stock recovery. Results will be integrated into a modelling framework in order to evaluate and develop management strategies incorporating biological and environmental factors as well as technical and socio-economic constraints. UNCOVER will investigate the failures and successes of previous stock recovery activities and will try to define optimal strategies for recovery plans for the future. Syntheses of these activities will result in the development of recommendations for rebuilding, as well as alternatives to existing recovery plans, if severe unforeseen problems in achieving their goals have been identified. Recovery strategies developed in UNCOVER will be area- and ecosystem-specific and tuned to key species and their fisheries in the Barents Sea, North Sea, Baltic Sea and Bay of Biscay.