



Annual Newsletter: 1

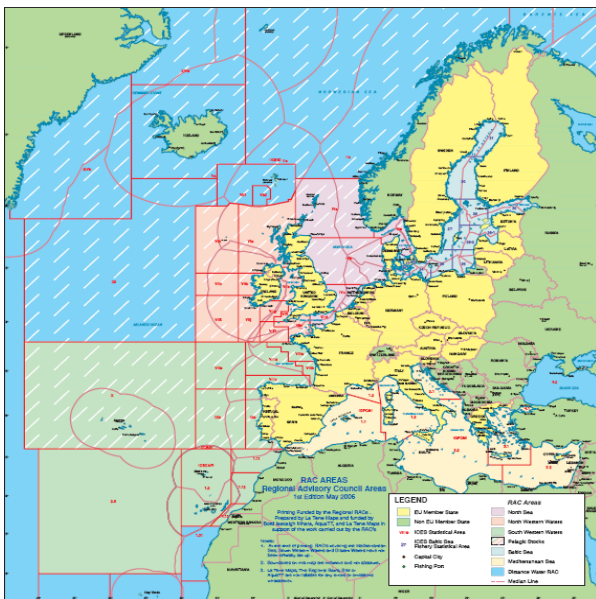
MEFEPO is focusing on how best to make current institutional frameworks responsive to an ecosystem approach to fisheries management at regional and pan-European levels in accordance with the principles of good governance.

This involves 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.

The project is now in it's second year.



Regional Advisory Council Regions



- North Sea (NS)
- North Western Waters (NWW)
- South Western Waters (SWW)

Project partners have been working closely with the 3 RACs to disseminate the findings of the project and have participated in RAC meetings to gain a better insight into the needs of the regional stakeholders.

MEFEPO has 3 specific objectives.

1) To show how an ecosystem approach to fisheries can be made operational within three major European regions (WP1, WP2, WP5, WP7).

2) To evaluate the different modes of fisheries governance to manage the fisheries to provide a transitional framework towards a mature ecosystem approach to fisheries management (WP3, WP4, WP6, WP7, WP10).

3) To develop operational FEPs for 3 major European marine regions targeted at non-scientists with managerial, policy and RAC roles, which provides a vision of an mature ecosystem approach and a description of how it can be delivered (WP9, WP8, WP10).

Specific outputs for year 1 are listed on page 2



INNOVATIVE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
- an Aalborg University Research Centre



INSTITUTO ESPAÑOL DE OCEANOGRAFÍA



Marine Institute
Foras na Mara



Industrial Sandeel Fishing

The sandeel fishery is the largest single species fishery in the North Sea. In tonnes, it is the largest segment of the Danish fisheries. Before 2002, the Danish industrial fleet involved fully or partly more than 300 vessels with 1,000 people on board the boats. This fleet has changed over time, moving towards fewer and larger vessels. This change was especially apparent in 2005, when only 98 Danish vessels participated in the fishery, compared to 200 vessels in 2004. The introduction of individual tradable quotas (ITQ) accelerated the change towards fewer and larger vessels, and in 2008 only 83 vessels participated. In 2006 only 6 Norwegian vessels were allowed to participate in an experimental sandeel fishery in the Norwegian EEZ. In 2007 and 2008, 41 and 42 Norwegian vessels with individual quotas participated. From 2002 to 2008 the average gross registered tonnage per trip in the Norwegian fleet increased from 269 to 507t. Since 1998 only 7 of the Norwegian vessels remained unaltered, all others were extended or had larger engines installed.



The Atlases for each region are being widely distributed through the local RAC's which are being attended by project partners. All documents are being made available on the project website along with other details about the project and it's partners.



The following reports have been published since the project's inception and are now available

- Technical review documents on the ecological, social and economic features of the NS, NWW and SWW regions
- Publication of non-technical Atlases on the ecological, social and economic features of the NS, NWW and SWW regions
- Technical documents developing management objectives for the NS, NWW and SWW regions
- Technical review document on the operational management instruments and adaptive management

Ecosystem based management (EBM) implies the application of a more holistic perspective when managing commercially exploited fish stocks in EU waters. A holistic perspective in turn requires the consideration of

- * other *users* (species) belonging to the same ecosystem
- * other *uses* (user groups) of the ecosystem



Ecosystem-based management of the Sandeel fisheries

Ecosystem-based fisheries management when it comes to sandeel implies increased emphasis on sandeel as prey for birds and larger species at the expense of sandeel as input to an industry. This is an argument for giving bird watchers organisations a say in the management of the sandeel, which most likely will mean more consideration to keep larger stocks and avoid stock fluctuations. The latter has been a problem in both the Danish and Norwegian sandeel fisheries the last decade. Giving this organisation a say in the management will reduce the TAC. The less the organisation care about economic considerations the more will the TAC be reduced. On the other hand, if it does not recognise economic considerations at all it may be less likely that the authorities will give them a say in the management.

For further information about the project, please visit our website: www.liv.ac.uk/mefepo
Or email: mefepo@liv.ac.uk

