

Using the EU-funded JAKFISH research project to build science-stakeholder partnerships

Background

The European policies for the marine environment are rapidly changing. The policies of the past were characterized by single-sector approaches (e.g. shipping, fishing, environment, etc) and by top-down regulations.

The policies of the future are characterized by multi-sector approaches, integrated thinking and stakeholder involvement.

The introduction of the Regional Advisory Councils (RAC) has already initiated the greater involvement of stakeholder organizations in the fisheries policy process. But stakeholders organizations like RACs will need to acquire scientific inputs into their policy contributions.



The JAKFISH project

The JAKFISH project that will run from 2008 until 2011 offers opportunities for stakeholders and scientists to work together. JAKFISH is short for "Judgment and Knowledge in Fisheries involving Stakeholders". When JAKFISH ends in 2011, we want to have tools, practices and institutions that facilitate participatory modelling and decision-making in fisheries policies.

Participatory modelling and case studies

Participatory modelling is the process whereby scientists and stakeholders jointly develop flexible and transparent models. This is expected to enhance a common understanding of the current biological, fishery and management issues. Risks for the stocks and socio-economic consequences for the fisheries will be addressed. The comparison of different scenarios could help in agreeing on robust management plans.

These approaches will be explored in four case studies:

- North Sea Nephrops fisheries: how to deal with data-poor stocks and fisheries that generate bycatches of other species
- Herring in Skagerrak, Kattegat and the Western Baltic: how to deal with stocks that mix and migrate over different management areas
- Herring in the Baltic Sea: how to assess and use the different mental models of stakeholders and scientists on herring dynamics in a comprehensive, Bayesian framework
- Swordfish in the Mediterranean: how to develop long term management plans for a stock that is shared over many countries with different interests.



Hellenic Centre for Marine Research

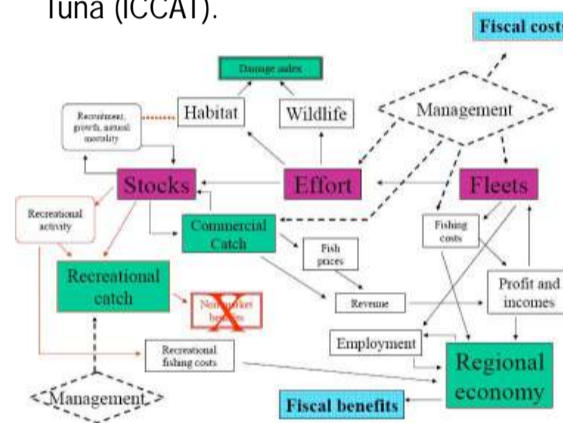


More information: <http://jakfish.eu/wiki/doku.php>
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What will we learn?

- how different actors in the marine sector use scientific knowledge and what roles scientists play in formulating policies
- how governance approaches can be developed which enable policy decisions to address uncertainty and complexity.
- what we can learn from experiences in other policy areas like river basin management and forestry management.
- how fisheries science and policy are linked in Australia, the United States and the International Committee for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT).



Participating institutes

The 10 participating institutions reflect a wide range of expertise: ecology, fisheries science, social science and communication science and are well equipped to deal with the broad questions:

- IMARES, The Netherland (Coordinator)
- CEFAS, UK
- Aalborg University, Innovative Fisheries Management (IFM), Denmark
- Estonian Marine Institute, University of Tartu, Estonia
- Danish Technical University, National Institute of Aquatic Resources, Denmark
- University of Helsinki, Finland
- Institute for Marine Research, Norway
- University of Portsmouth, UK
- DIALOGIK, gemeinnützige Gesellschaft für Kommunikations- und Kooperationsforschung, Germany
- Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Greece

Participating stakeholder organizations:
North Sea RAC, Baltic Sea RAC, Pelagic RAC.