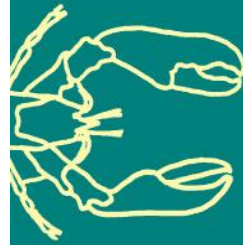


Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy – views of the Swedish Board of Fisheries

Axel Wenblad
Director General





Changes made at 2002 reform

1. Recovery- & management plans – longer-term perspective
2. Commitment to integrate environmental concerns
3. Increased stakeholder involvement - RAC
4. No compulsory fleet capacity reduction targets
5. Introduction of fishing effort to regulate level of fishing
6. No financial support for renewal of fleet diversification
7. Fisheries partnership agreements with 3rd countries





Main problems according to COM

- ✓ Fleet overcapacity
- ✓ Imprecise objectives and insufficient guidelines
- ✓ Short-term focus in decision-making system
- ✓ Insufficient responsibility given to industry
- ✓ Poor compliance





A new Common Fisheries Policy

1. Objective hierarchy
2. Scientific advice
3. Decision-making processes & stakeholder involvement
4. Rights-based management
5. Fleet overcapacity
6. Allocation of fishing opportunities – relative stability
7. The external dimension
8. Aquaculture
9. Monitoring & enforcement





Today's objective

The Common Fisheries Policy shall ensure exploitation of living aquatic resources that provides sustainable economic, environmental and social conditions





Objectives – must be:

Clearly formulated, mutually prioritised & provide guidance for management decisions, and broken down into time-based & measurable sub-objectives

Framework: the ecosystem approach - its goods & services

- Producing
- Regulating
- Supporting
- Cultural





Objectives, in order of priority, could be:

1. ...guarantee consumers wholesome food through utilising the aquatic ecosystem as close to maximum yield as possible without risk to the biological diversity and the system's resistance to disturbances.
2. ...contribute to the maritime policy... through taking the impact of the sector on the regulating & supportive functions of the aquatic ecosystem, such as oxygen production and the degradation of environmental toxins, into consideration.
3. ...create employment, income, recreational opportunities and serve as a carrier of cultural heritage. ...provide a reasonable standard of living for sector's practitioners, ...presupposes continuous adjustment of catching capacity...

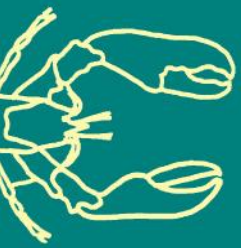




Scientific advice

- ❖ Based on fisheries & analyses of marine ecosystem
- ❖ Annual advice with longer time perspective
- ❖ Cost for advice vs gain from optimal harvesting
- ❖ Stakeholders must contribute
- ❖ Economic and social science impact analysis





Decision-making process & stakeholder involvement

Avoid focussing on short-term costs instead of long-term benefits

Distinguish between

- i) overarching & normative issues (objectives & guidelines)
- ii) implementing and detailed regulations





Decisions-making process & stakeholder involvement (cont.)

- » Implementing- and detailed regulations to COM: reinforced comitology procedure – mandatory consultation
- » Decision-making powers to MS, to suit regional conditions & increase efficiency
- » Delegation to MS at regional level based on guidelines from Council – legal aspects to consider
- » Regional comitology procedure?
- » Implementing decisions to stakeholder bodies?





Rights-based management

- ★ Time-limited user rights – not to be confused with ownership or privatisation
- ★ Part of management costs to be borne by industry
- ★ Trade in rights across national borders?
Certain areas, certain species?
- ★ Coastal zones purely for vessels with a certain specification & well defined conditions of association?

Implications for relative stability



Fleet overcapacity

- ❁ Complementary indicators (in addition to GT & kW)
- ❁ Remove all exemptions from entry-/ exit rules
- ❁ Compulsory capacity reduction for each MS corresponding to continuous technical creep
- ❁ Additional mandatory – real - cut-backs?
- ❁ Clearer user rights, for individuals or groups – to remove incentive for over-capitalisation
- ❁ Abolish subsidies – as far as possible





Relative stability

- Fleet's association to flag state's coastal community weaker – crew, landings, and trade in fishing rights
- Relative stability to be elaborated as a consequence of a new management regime – not be a hindering factor
- If trade in fishing rights between MS – keep stable shares for coastal zone fishing





External dimension - coherence

Account for impact on development policy and international marine environment in decisions trad. regarded as EU-internal

Group issues, instead of under the heading "external", e.g.

- ∩ Fisheries partnership agreements
- ∩ Bilateral agreements
- ∩ Regional management within the framework of UNFSA
- ∩ International organisations
- ∩ Specific issues: IUU fishing, fleet policy, trade issues...

Elaborate coherence objectives & implementing guidelines





The role of aquaculture in the CFP

- ✦ Ecosystem approach – a more defined role for aquaculture
- ✦ The collective ability of ecosystem to deliver goods – choice between harvesting a wild resource and cultivating it
- ✦ Need for fish feed – links to industrial fisheries
- ✦ Competition for fry – restocking or farming





Desirable future control regime

Simplification, standardisation, cost efficiency and reduction of administrative burden

- ◆ Gather rules in fewer regulations
- ◆ Differentiate between rules aimed at MS and at industry
- ◆ Impact analyses before new rules – possible to monitor
- ◆ Increased freedom for MS - based on risk analyses
- ◆ COM inspections with an audit perspective
- ◆ Technical development for traceability etc.

