

Summary Report

25th Meeting of Directors of Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Organisations (EFARO) of the EU.

Monday 2st – Thursday 4th June 2015

Meeting Location:
Bergen, Norway



Introduction:

This year the EFARO General Assembly was held in Bergen, Norway. The meeting started with a 'back-to-back' meeting with the ICES aquaculture stakeholder dialogue meeting. All EFARO members were invited to join the meeting on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning.

The topics in our program were directed at a dialogue with the European Commission (DG MARE and DG Research) focussing on the European fisheries advisory and data collection system under the revised Common Fisheries Policy and its financial pillar, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). We had interventions from the European Commission, ICES and EFARO on the topics and these were followed by a general discussion. The second theme was related to the latest developments in the European Fisheries and Marine Research landscape putting the different regional and overarching funding and programming initiatives into perspective while at the same time trying to shed light on their potential future. The Thursday was reserved for interactive discussions on more specific 'directors issues' and especially focused on the future organisational set up of the organisation.

Below you can find the most important issues as were discussed during the public sessions of the 2015 GA.

Session with the European Commission and ICES

Changes to the European Fisheries advisory and data collection system under EMFF
(Kenneth Patterson, DG MARE)

Mr Patterson explains

- The science advice needed; ICES annual advice, Improvement needed for annual advice in the Mediterranean, Multiannual advice based on F-Ranges, Future Multiannual plans cooperation in the Atlantic and Mediterranean regions and impact assessments.
- DCF changes; Move to EMFF financing, the obligations of the Member States on data collection and current review of the regulation (tight schedule, the new regulation will be ready in 2017), actions/grants to improve Member States cooperation.
- Regionalisation, STECF and ICES; Regionalisation responsibility of the Member States, STECF-ICES how to improve efficiency, distant-water RFMO's.

EFARO is concerned that another line of advisory needs (via the Regional Management Groups like Scheveningen Group, Baltfish) lacks international coordination and uses additional resources, which are drawn away from the internationally agreed advisory bodies like ICES. The Commission advises the EFARO members to go to their ministries to channel this additional member state specific advice to the established advisory channels. EFARO suggests to the commission to support pilot programs for better regional coordination with appropriate governance.

DCMAP / EMFF how does ICES envision future coordination of surveys and data collection under the new funding and programming structures
(Eskild Kirkegaard, ICES)

Mr. Kirkegaard explained in his presentation:

- DCF ToR
- ICES experiences a significant increase in fisheries dependent data, a lack on evaluation of quality of the data, the availability of data is hampered by incomplete datasets and data compilation/management is not sufficient. The costs of producing the ICES advice are for > 90% used for data collection. The coordination of data collection and handling is in hands of national programmes.
- Future developments. ICES will focus on a better balance between data collection and data management, better availability of data, better coordination and cooperation towards cross national plans/programmes in the data collection.

The EFARO members point out that the quality of the data has improved and at least the awareness on the importance of the quality of the data has increased. The members also think that an enormous amount of data is collected and not efficiently used (i.e. a waste of resources). The members need a clear answer from ICES on the question: what data do you **need** to have (not 'nice' to have) to be able to provide the advice needed (linked to this is the suggestions to move away from annual surveys and data collection and maybe

have these every three years to reduce the amount of surveys). EFARO is aware that scientists always want more and better data and are hesitating to cut in the survey (breaking time line, losing their 'babies')

ICES asks EFARO to set priorities on

- Balance between data collection and data management
- Availability of data in a structured way more detailed data (not more data)
- Coordination --> cooperation: EFARO together with ICES will launch an initiative to support Regional Coordination Groups in designing regional data collection plans (fisheries (in)dependent data and data management) and afterwards to move this into national plans (instead the other way round).

EFARO is in favour of collecting more socio and economic data. The Commission likes the approach to start with regional data collection plans (fisheries dependent data, fisheries independent data, data management) into the national programmes. Though EFARO thinks that its task is to coordinate the implementation and governance of regional data collection plans under the new DCF, it accepts the challenge to coordinate the design together with ICES because the optimisation of resources is concerned.

A small group between EFARO and ICES representatives made a plan:¹



- **November 2015**
- EFARO/ICES initiative & meeting at ICES-HQ
 - RCM chairs
 - ICES reps.
 - EFARO reps.
- ToRs & Position Paper by Eskild/Paul/Fritz/Tammo/Jorgen/Philippe
- Position Paper on general problem & solutions available prior to meeting
- Meeting goals include
 - Selection 2 pilot areas
 - focussing on stock assessment; MSFD issues at a side
 - Development of ToRs for these 2 pilots
- **March 2016**
 - Results pilots presented/discussed
 - Roadmap for further steps defined

The ICES resource management tool (Anne Christine Brusendorff, ICES)

Mrs Brusendorff presented the history and status of the Resource Management Tool that enables resource managers a better overview of the expert resources used in ICES work. At this moment it is not available for all individual managers but reports can be requested from the ICES secretariat. With the tool It is possible to arrange meetings in a more efficient way. What ICES needs from the EFARO members to be able to reach the full potential of the RCT: engagement from our network.

Now: Continually update skills of experts by this web link: <http://admin.ices.dk/rct/> on the 'personal pages'

Upcoming: Phase 2 – greater engagement through online nomination system and use of personal pages.

In long-term: Potential for institutes to link to our system (query the data)

How DG RTD is supporting Blue Growth (Nikos Zampoukas, DG R&I former DG RTD)

Mr Nikos Zampoukas gives an overview of current and future initiatives to support the BLUE GROWTH in EU. EFARO agreed to seek the member states funding possibilities (like JPI Oceans, COFASP ERAnet) for research on innovation in fisheries and aquaculture in the long term (BLUE Growth). And to integrate other topics (like at the same survey also collect data on water quality and litter)

EFARO will write a position paper on more detailed and real innovative fisheries research focussed on a cross cutting approach to provide input to the Blue Growth.

¹ This plan was agreed upon at the ICES Bureau meeting the week after the EFARO GA



European Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Organisations

The Commission is aware of the discussion that there are too many proposals entering the second stage. But also explains the large variety in quality of the proposals between the first and second stage makes it difficult to just cut the numbers of proposals.

EFARO agrees it is possible for some members to contribute to ocean literacy research. The commission welcomes those institutes that have this topic on their agenda.

COFASP

(Luc van Hoof, EFARO)

Luc van Hoof explains the status of the COFASP (ERAnet) project. EFARO has a role in two tasks: Foresight studies and strategic plans. There is a nice project database available: <http://cofasp.eurocean.org>

Research agenda for policy results of COFASP as outcome of the foresight study: Marine science in general (optimal use of the seas, value use of the seas), environment (Low impact products, sustainable use strategies), fisheries (monitoring and management, adaptation strategies, data use, recreational fisheries), aquaculture (market demand, organic aquaculture. Technology development, species enhancement), governance (control, license to produce, participation), value chain (increased sustainable efficiency, setting standards, information in the value chain), and seafood processing (towards more flexible production units, maximise processing efficiency, new products and new production technologies).

EFARO has tried to influence the SCAR foresight draft report to pay more attention to fisheries and aquaculture.

SCARFISH

(Paul Connolly, EFARO)

Nikos Zampoukas showed a SCAR (Standing Committee on Agriculture Research) video that will be presented in Brussels on the 4th of June 2015, which highlights the outcome of the SCAR foresight exercise (different scenario's). The draft SCAR foresight report is to be presented on the 4th of June 2015 and comments will be collected until the 9th of June. EFARO can contribute to this through the SCARFish platform.

The SCARFish platform represents the ministries view on the use of resources (research vessels). National ministries are alert on efficient use of the facilities.

The commission appreciates the SCARFish group is brought to life again and thanks Paul Connolly for his effort. Nikos Zampoukas informs the EFARO members from Greece and Spain and Black sea area that their ministries are missing within the SCARFish participants and miss an opportunity to contribute, could they encourage them to come?

Regional initiatives:

- Bonus phase 2 (Baltic + North sea) (Fritz Köster, EFARO)
- Mediterranean art. 1.85 in the Med (Maurice Heral, EFARO)
- Transatlantic perspective (Anne Christine Brusendorff, ICES)

The reason to put these regional initiatives on the agenda is the shift towards more regional activities and to inform the EFARO members on the ongoing activities.



EFARO Science Officer: Rian Schelvis
EFARO.IMARES@wur.nl

Mob: (+31) 0612889582

Organising Host: IMR
Institute of Marine Research, Norway

Contact Person:
Solveig Thuland
+ 47 55 23 85 00
solveig@imr.no