

To: INFORMAL MEETING OF EU WATER
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The Background

Currently there are two main EU policies that frame the way we survey and monitor our seas: the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the Maritime Framework Strategy Directive (MSFD). Collection of this data is a responsibility of the member states (MS).

Monitoring of the CFP has a longstanding tradition and is today executed under the Data Collection Framework (DCF) with the Regional Coordination Committees and ICES as key players for coordination of these efforts. The MSFD has a much shorter history and requires information on specific indicators related to Good Environmental Status (GES) that are currently under development. The implementation of the MSFD centres around the Regional Sea Conventions such as OSPAR, HELCOM and the Barcelona and the Bucharest Conventions, in a less institutionalised fashion compared to the CFP monitoring structured under the DCF.

While both CFP and MSFD intend to monitor developments at sea, responsibility over the two policies is split between DGMARE and DGENV and in most of the MS also over two ministries. Main question is, noting this structure and differing signature of the two policies, how can we coordinate and cooperate within MS and between MS in the monitoring of our seas?

The Challenge

Most of the surveys currently conducted under the DCF were designed 20-50 years ago and have been used since then in a very consistent manner. However, financial constraints, shifting and added priorities, both from within the CFP, MS requirements and added MSFD priorities, make it crucial to explore the possibilities for making our monitoring surveys more efficient and targeted to deliver the information needed. Given that implementing data collection is a MS responsibility, the Regional Seas Commissions (MSFD) nor the Regional Coordination Meetings (DCF) have been given the mandate

to take decisions in this matter. From this, there is a need to develop pilot cases which can demonstrate practical ways of achieving more effective and efficient design and cooperation in monitoring of the sea under CFP and MSFD, at the regional scale, initiated by the MS.

Potential benefits of a redesign of current data collection, and incorporating data needs for the monitoring of both CFP and MSFD, lay in a more effective and efficient use of current data collection efforts, hence collecting more (and additional) data at the same costs, collect necessary data for MSFD monitoring while optimising vessel time and implementing an ecosystem approach in collecting data for fisheries management. Examples for this could be monitoring of additional (non-commercial / fish) species, marine litter, bycatches, counting marine mammals and birds during international fish surveys.

Our Suggestion

In order to facilitate this effective and efficient design and cooperation in monitoring of the sea under CFP and MSFD, a number of questions need to be addressed, such as:

- From the perspective of policy and advice for policy development, which data do we really need?
- At what quality, quantity and precision?
- And what will be the most efficient and effective way of collecting, processing and presenting these data?

In order to promote this efficient and effective data collection within the budget available, to deliver the information needed under the two main frames of policy (CFP and MSFD), a redesign of current programmes with a strive for increased cooperation and coordination should be explored.

We know efficiency can be improved, the questions is how to do it. To start this process we would like to suggest a number of pilot cases, which can be implemented partly as desk study, to address how potential efficiency gains can be best achieved. An ICES-EFARO workshop in January 2016, organised to this purpose, identified a set of pilots focussing on three relevant areas (North Sea, Celtic Sea and Bay of Biscay) requiring 8 months and €650.000. The results of these pilots will provide sufficient information to start a proper discussion within the community on a possible redesign of the system of data collection and advice, its efficiency and priorities. In these pilots, several scenarios will be evaluated including a simulation of a theoretical cut in total available (national) budget in data collection (of 25% and 50%) to designing a new monitoring framework from scratch. The intention of this exercise is not to explore the possibilities for budget cuts, but to create a very strict setting for exploring room for improvement of survey efficiencies, given clear priority settings. We envisage that this analysis need be done in a regional approach. Note that this approach contrasts explicitly with current and past efforts exploring possibilities for adding MSFD monitoring to existing CFP/DCF surveys.

Support needed

In order to develop these ideas further we need the support of the individual Member States as they are in the driving seat of implementing and coordinating data collection under MSFD and CFP. This support can range from advocating national coordination of data collection to stimulating a regional cooperation pilot. As the MS play a pivotal

role in the RCGs in designing DCF surveys/priorities this provides the opportunity for the MS to take the lead to engage/collaborate on joint needs of the DCF and MSFD in collaboration with the Regional Sea Conventions.

We seek your support in this development by supporting the initiative and where possible assist in sourcing funding for the pilots. In particular we would like to invite the Marine Directors to:

- Note the potential for collaboration in data collection for the CFP/DCF and MSFD;
- Provide direction on how such collaboration could be further developed, including engagement of Member States, the DCF regional Coordination Committees and the Regional Sea Conventions in the regional development of the data collection programmes;
- Support the proposed set of pilot studies which will identify efficiency gains in data collection in several regions.
- If possible, regional pilots can also be taken on separately (instead of a total set with overall coordination), depending on commitments of MS in the various regions.

Sincerely Yours,

EFARO President Tammo Bult

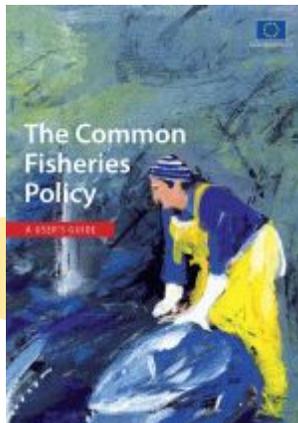


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Surveying the sea under CFP and MSFD

Tammo Bult, EFARO President



2 basic questions



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- How collect & manage best possible data/information?
 - efficiently, effectively, for the money available
 - by cooperation, coordination
 - and targeted rational decisions
 - to deliver on information needs
 - *...under 2 main frames: CFP, MSFD*
- How improve on current situation?
 - Ideas
 - Actions



- Data collection: longstanding tradition
- European level
- Data collection & assessments: well structured
- Data Collection Framework (DCF)
- Institutionalised: ICES, GFCM, RCGs



- Short history

- 2005: introduction
- 2008: Marine Directive adopted
- 2010: GES Indicators for implementation by commission
- 2017: update

- Under development

- Not at EU level but at MS

- Regional Sea Conventions



CFP-DGMARE; MSFD-DGENV



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- 2 policies, 2 frames
- 2 institutional settings
- 2 ministries
- 2 different signatures

Alignment: not an easy task



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- Increased demand in data and science
- One survey, two data collections?
- Traditional surveys: how prevent overload?



Are we stuck in tradition?



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- Pro-active?
 - Novel Techniques
 - Cooperation and alignment of efforts & ambitions
 - Updating sample design
- Time series continuation
 - Survey protocols versus survey outcomes



So



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- What data do we really need?
- At what quality/quantity/precision?
- Most efficient way of collecting?

And



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- Can we coordinate CFP and MSFD programmes?
- Can we get 1 survey programme?

EFARO-ICES initiative: background



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- “gut feeling”: room for efficiency improvement
 - New Challenges using “Old” Surveys
 - efforts focus on data collection; data management “undervalued”
 - MSFD sampling done on “DCF/CFP bandwagon”
 - few discussions on priorities and trade offs
- efficiency improvement not addressed
 - many “survey evaluations” focussing on Used/Useful?
 - efforts on Joint/Integrated Monitoring: “add-on” versus “from scratch”
 - few/none: “best/most efficient sampling for data required”

EFARO-ICES: pilots for evaluation

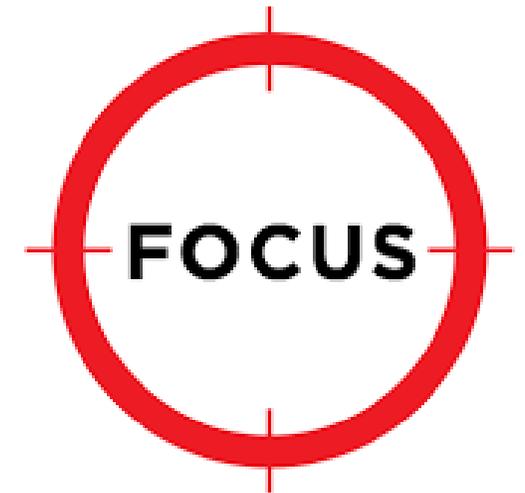


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- Pilots
 - desk study: focussing on ICES advisory products
 - regional approach: North Sea, Celtic, Bay of Biscay
- Goals
 - assess "room for improvement"
 - basis for discussions on efficiency of surveys & priorities
- Set up
 - set priorities
 - assume 25%, 50% budget cuts
 - design new survey "from scratch"
 - outline implications: certainty
- Costs
 - 8 months
 - 650 k€



Good idea: why not just do it?



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- EFARO directors
 - cannot change a survey they are required to do
 - funding needed for pilots & coordination
 - current H2020 calls do not address the issue
- ICES
 - coordinates but cannot command
- DG-MARE & DG-ENV
 - refer to member states
- Institutional, Financial, Technical reasons



What is needed



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- Support from member states
 - To take action at the regional level
- Pilots are a good start
 - To focus discussion on priorities, efficiency

