



Strengthening the links between European marine fisheries science and fisheries management

**27th / 28th June 2007
BRUSSELS**

7th Work Package

**ECOSYSTEM APPROACH OF FISHERIES
APPLICATION TO THE PILOT CASE STUDY
*The Channel***

Executive Summary of the meeting

17 participants from 6 countries had been attending the meeting. (Cf. annex 2. the list of participants). All the countries, bordering the regional sea and wishing to participate to that regional approach, were present except Ireland. **Paul Connolly** Director of the *Irish Marine Institute* was not able to participate but expressed by mail his strong interest for the approaches and his willingness to contribute to the common approach on habitat mapping.

Some different partners have sent their apologies :

Nina Hedland from *Norway* confirmed her strong interest for the study on ecosystem approach of fisheries for comparison studies (Barent sea) and for transversal thematic studies. Norway can co-found the call.

Carlos Vale from *Portugal* is interested in a later application and in an expertise in the channel on the contaminants

Annexe 1. Agenda of meeting 7th Work Package

Annexe 2. list of participants

I- Introduction to meeting & General discussion for the Ecosystem approach of fisheries

J.LOCK, coordinator of MARIFISH introduced the objectives and the background for the meeting.

In MARIFISH, we had activity going on since started on the projects to try to simplify where is it the level to get added value for collaborative research.

The work package 2 has been looking at the best practice and the best way to cooperate.

The work package 4 is looking very much in a socio economic side try to see how socio economic much more interested fisheries managers considerations.

Two other work packages (work package 3 and work package 5) are looking how all the research is going on actually in each national country, what are the partners ? where are the complementarities ? where are the gaps ? what are the new research priorities which are emerging in each country ?

Work package 6 start to try identify research topics which would be essential for fishery research. In the process, they are looking at all the research strategic documents witch have been prepared and published by the different partners. They analyse the future and research needs for the fisheries managers and the real priorities for the next ten years. The work package has planed a foresight exercise.

In this general and long process plan, the 7th work package is looking at increasing multinational cooperation at a regional scale. It has been decided that a fast track approach will be tested. All partners agreed, in the last steering committee, that the ecosystem bases approach in the channel could be a fast track selective area.

It is really a challenge to make partners working together to follow the process because each country is evaluating and funding his national programs.

All ERANETs try to achieve collaboration between the funding partners. For that reason, it is planned to have a common pot in which each partner will put public money to launch call for research proposals and the money in the common pot would be used to fund bases for new cooperation on common program.

There are two different models for a common pot. The all trades are when National countries are putting the money ; the money looses its flag as effectually it becomes just the money in the common pot and the best project will be funded. In another words, the countries are putting money into the common pot, the call for research proposals goes up and public institutes of all the countries answer to the calls, with the process of common evaluation and money goes into the countries services which have been selected on the base of their scientific excellence to reach the objectives of the call. There is no guaranty in common pot to get national control of the funds. For these reasons, only two ERANETs are really operating with a common pot.

Most of them, put the money in a pot but get the money back out from their own institutes, it is what it is called a virtual pot. We don't just have one institute getting the money with requirement collaboration. The collaborations might involved three or more institutes from the different countries. The money isn't just going to the common pot but in fact in their institute for increasing collaborative projects.

On the MARIFISH 7th work package, it is only planed a virtual pot where the money action is used by the national identity with a "juste retour" principle. It is not known what would be in a common pot as each country has his national program, for example in the British case, a five years project is beginning this year.

It is one of the objectives of that meeting to identify what is the strategy for each country in programming research in this area and how they can contribute to the pot.

In the Work package 7 , MARIFISH will have for main objective to increase cooperation between what has been planed by the national authorities. The major points of the collaboration need to be identified such as exchange of data chaired between the different partners, exchange of methodology and increase cooperation through practical ways .

M.HERAL, coordinator on the WP 7, began the workshop and thanked Sophie SERGENT, for her technical assistance in organising the meeting, giving to the workshop all facilities and in taking notes as rapporteur.

In preamble, it is stated that the commission has asked that MarinERA, MARIFISH and AMPERA will have to work more closely together to contribute to organise the European marine research. It is the reason why MarinERA is participating to that meeting to see if, in the fast track process, complementary calls on the same area could be launched

In the work package 7th, the objective is to have cooperation based on a regional approach, all the countries which are working around the sea could be more interested to have joint program. It is a way to identify five regional areas : North sea, Channel, Iberian sea, occidental and oriental Mediterranean. Baltic sea is covered by the ERANET BONUS.

These regional approaches are planed to begin only at the end of 2008 and the commission has proposed that a first pilot case study can be initiated by MARIFISH to demonstrate that groups of countries are able to have early active cooperation. For that propose, the MARIFISH Steering Committee proposes that the first pilot case study could be the channel.

The purpose of this workshop is to identify the works which are soon developed by the different agencies and the different laboratories.

On the agenda, Dutch, Belgians, French and British will present their national programs to analyse and compare them and to see what are the complementarities, what are the subjects which are not covered or duplicated.

The British Channel is a transition area between the Atlantic and the North Sea. In the program of the ecosystem approach of the fisheries in the channel, there are large anthropogenic impacts as well as climate change effect, gravel extraction, nutrients inputs and of course fishing impacts.....

To initiate that cooperation, it is also very important to increase the exchange facilities between the different laboratories (ex : students after the master, post-doctorate, senior scientists...).

One of the objectives of the meeting is to look if research is developed with the same approach, the same strategy, the same methodologies (using the same references, data base access...)

The agencies may also identify the gaps (economical activities, social aspects...) requested for better fisheries management scenarii.

France, Great Britain, Belgium, Ireland, Dutch are concerned by the management of the area, as well as for fisheries, and as well as for anthropogenic impacts. Next year, calls for joint approaches in North Sea and Mediterranean Sea will be prepared.

So some countries are interested to see how this approach will be developed in Channel and later to apply it to their regional case study areas. For example :

- the Norwegians agree to participate to the call, as they are doing comparable approach of ecosystem of fisheries in the Barent sea and as they support relevant thematic research on that topic.
- the Portugueses said they will be pleased to work on contaminants in the fish population, they can join the group to increase forces,
- the Spanish and the Greeks are interested as observers for latter application in Mediterranean Sea.

M. HERAL presented a POWER POINT (Cf. annexe 3 Power point presentation) which is illustrating the ICES paper about cooperation Research Report “Guidance on the Application of the Ecosystem Approach to Management of Human Activities in the European Marine Environment”. Ecosystem approach is not only ecology, but place human activities in the center of the ecosystem. There are strong relations between the management and the ecology but also with all the fisheries aspects.

“The aim of this guidance is to support the development and implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to the management of human activities in the European marine environment. The guidance gives the general issues underpinning the management of human activities in all regions and at all scales. It outlines an approach on how to achieve the benefits and environmental conditions sought through the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to the management of human activities, and hence on how to obtain sustainable development. It offers a practical guidance on how to reach established visions, strategic goals, and associated objectives”.

II- Relationship with the MarinERA pilot call

A.CARBONNIERE (Cf. annexe 4 Power point presentation) presents the results of the MarinERA 26th june meeting in Amsterdam in term of process, funding, topics. There is consensus that the Funding Model for the MarinERA pilot call will be a virtual common pot. A budget for monitoring the programme after the lifetime of MarinERA will be reserved.

- Priority regions selected : Channel and adjacent seas, Mediterranean
- 2.6M€ has been identified by the countries for a call on the channel and the adjacent seas and 2M€ for a call on the Mediterranean sea..
- Proposals that involve comparative regional studies are favoured to provide greater opportunities for the participation of more MarinERA partners in each proposal.

Before writing the call, research topics need to be focused [eg climatic changes, water mass interaction, intensive fisheries (modifications of habitats and the trophic chain), large dredging (change in erosion processes), nutrient inputs from large rivers (toxic algal blooms) and will be identified by the funding partners before September.

III- Funding model

Each national states will fund his national programs. A financial contribution is identified to increase the European cooperation between the national programs.

Partners	Financial Contribution
France	300 000
UK	100 000
Norway	150 000
TOTAL	550 000 Euros/year

Ireland, Poland, Greece & Spain : the cost of the national experts for working group will be covered by each country.

IV- Objective of the MoU

General agreement for the research topic in the Channel has been achieved on the following topic: *Mapping of fishing activities and fishing impacts in a metier based approach for fish and shell fish stock.*

In detail, It was agreed that research could usefully focus on an analysis of the interactions between fisheries and the environment in the Channel, as a step towards assessing the relative impacts of metiers in support of an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management. This research would require that national information on the distributions of habitats and biological communities in the Channel was compiled and summarised, and linked to compiled information on the distribution of fishing activities, by metier, in space and time. Subsequently, models could be developed to link changes in the distribution and intensity of fishing activity to expected changes in the impacts on habitats and biological communities.

- A MoU between the partners of this regional study has to be finalised.
- Partners and observers will be identified
- The MoU and its annexes (call) will be further elaborated according to the consensus in this meeting and will be presented as a draft proposal to the next steering committee in Helsinki the September 17th.

The main objectives are to produce extensive cooperations between the different partners such as :

- exchange of data
- exchange of methodology on habitat mapping, on metier based approach, on environmental impact of fishing activity
- exchange facilities between the different laboratories (ex : students after the master, post-doctorate, senior scientists...)

V- Presentation of research areas / Project(s) in the channel

Tammo Bult Imares (*Cf. annexe 5. Power point presentation*) presented the Dutch research on the south of North sea and the British Channel emphasis that very strong ecological interactions between North sea and the Channel (flow of nutrients and phytoplanktonic bloom) and strong economic connexion as well as for the fisheries (soles, scallops, sea bass) and for the dredging industry.

IMARES presented a new four year program which is on the way to be defined around carrying capacity concept and climate change impact and the connexion with the Channel.

Frank Redant ILVO (*Cf. annexe 6. Power point presentation*) presented an extensive presentation of the Belgium fishing activities. It has been noticed that studies on the by catches and the discards will give new information on the fishing impact on the marine biodiversity. The decline of cod is in relation with the fishing effort, the predation effect but also climate change. It as been mentioned that the Flemish ministry will support cooperation with MARIFISH by opening new position in ILVO. DCR (data collection regulation) has added value mainly by the building of common data bases. It is expected that MARIFISH will bring the same services with the ecological data bases related to fisheries.

André Carpentier Ifremer (*Cf. annexe 7. Power point presentation*) presented an extensive ecological approach of the Channel including as well habitat mapping, fishing activities, trophic web of the ecosystem, impact of climate change on the ecosystem functioning, ecosystem health.

This compete analyse presents main advantages to predict evolution of the Channel submitted to various anthropogenic impact function of different management scenarii.

It has been addressed in the discussion that the program isn't enough connected to the policy makers to sort priorities and defined the scenarii which are supported by the managers (dredging activities, inputs of nutrients, fishing activities).

Andy Payne CEFAS (*Cf. annexe 8*) outlined the UK's current research activities in the Channel that contribute to the proposed research initiative underpinning the current proposal for collaborative ecosystem research. The UK in this context is taken to be England and Wales.

UK is actively engaged in monitoring cruises and sampling, supporting either the DCR or the assessment advisory process.

Simon Jennings CEFAS (*Cf. annexe 9. Power point presentation*) presented the CEFAS well focused program on the environmental impacts of the fishing activities. It is based on a metier description, analysed of the impact of each metier and integration of VMS data on the position of the fleet.

The final product is a synthetic estimation of the fishing effect on the environment and its biodiversity.

This ecosystem approach is well in attendance with the request of the managers. Indicators will be proposed to follow the different impacts and to mitigate them.

Cristobal Suanzes IEO (*Cf. annexe 10. Power point presentation*) and **Alexis Conides** HCMR presented extensive programs on ecosystem approach managed by the relevant institutes. These programs aren't addressed in the Channel area but these two countries are very much interested to develop further applications in other regional case studies such as Mediterranean sea.

VI- Conclusions

A general agreement has been retained on “Mapping of fishing activities and fishing impacts in a metier based approach for fish and shell fish stocks”.

The following agenda is proposed :

- 1- Redaction of the draft MoU and propositions for the Call / end of august – begin of September 2007
- 2- Presentation and validation of the MoU by the steering committee / Helsinki 17&18th September 2007
- 3- Final version of the MoU and the Call for the Channel during the pilot implementation meeting / December 2007
- 4- Agreement and signature by the different partners of the MoU in the Channel with the relevant Call / January 2008.