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Strengthening the links between European marine fisheries science
and fisheries management

Main topics discussed

- A wide ranging discussion: 2 main areas emerged from our talk:

Science management process

Research topics



Science management process: drivers for change

What will it be like in 10 years?

- Increased collaboration – particularly to investigate larger scale questions e.g. climate change
- More regional
- Multiple objectives and more complex
- Flatter governance
- Increased data availability – electronic log books, industry involvement

HOW DO WE POSITION SCIENCE TO RESPOND TO THESE CHANGES?



Strengthening the links between European marine fisheries science and fisheries management

Science management process: drivers for change

- Need to encourage greater collaboration between scientists, fisheries managers and stakeholders at several levels, e.g.:
 - General management discussions
 - What research is needed
- Scientists should be involved more regularly in the RACs and also other stakeholder meetings
- We should discuss further how to ensure the independence of scientists when they engage with stakeholders.
- Address the shortage of scientists via PHD scholarships and also doctorate level work

Science management process: drivers for change

- Improved communication: of research to all stakeholders including policy maker and public.
- Better ways of accessing the research that has already been carried and how the results feed into policy
- Data management was regarded as vital and the EC would be devoting funding to develop this issue further

Research topics of the future

- The two burning topics of today are likely to continue in the future:
 - Climate change
 - Bottom trawling
- Both are likely to attract funding so perhaps not the most important topics for MariFish to cover.
- Ecosystems and trophic levels (food webs and predator-prey interactions) are important new areas and could influence policies on MSY
- Interdisciplinary research (socio-economic and institutional analysis) to understand the drivers behind fishers' behaviour
- Consumer to ocean/ocean to plate
- Ecolabelling and certification
- Spatial planning and carbon footprints

Additional thoughts

- Learning from climate change rigour – develop a unified model
- Knowledge management – fund science audits and taking stock of existing progress and ideas, improved database of research results.