



Best Practice of Fisheries Management:

Learning from other marine areas and applying it to the Baltic Sea context

Fisheries management has failed to deliver on its social, economic and environmental goals under the current European Fisheries Policy. Baltic Sea fisheries are a clear example, providing overwhelming evidence. As Baltic Sea Fisheries are regulated by the Common Fisheries Policy, initiatives on a national or regional level cannot improve the situation. However, the revision of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), initiated in the spring 2009, present an opportunity to change the situation for the better. It is the only opportunity to influence how Baltic Sea fisheries are carried out before 2020.

Project leader: Katarina Veem, Baltic Sea 2020
Scientific champion: Mike Sissenwine, Woods Hole, USA
Project duration: December 2008 – April 2009

There are a large number of experiences globally which point toward potential solutions to the ongoing fisheries crisis. It is important to incorporate this large, and rapidly increasing knowledge base into the process of revision of the CFP, in order to maximise the potential for a more sustainable policy for European fish stocks and fishermen.

Project team:

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Project phases:

Phase 1 – Rapid Assessment
Phase 2 – International Science Workshop
Phase 3 – Case studies
Phase 4 – Synthesis and elaboration of recommendations
Phase 5 – International Policy Workshop
Phase 6 – Synthesis and final recommendations – going public

Phase 1

Rapid Assessment November-December, 2008

A “rapid assessment” of successful fisheries management case studies and lessons learned. The assessment will cover recommended lists of scientific literature and relevant reports, drawing on and compiling key insights. A thorough review and synthesis of existing scientific reports will be carried out. Substantial scientific advances in this field have been achieved during recent years. However, older synthesis reports will also be reviewed. In addition to scientific literature, recent reports from FAO, World Bank, IEEP, OECD, Pew Oceans Commission, House of Lords Report and similar sources will also be reviewed. During the assessment phase the project team will engage internationally recognized experts in initial dialogue to ensure their participation.

Aim:

To produce a comprehensive and illuminating “smorgasbord” of known measures which curb negative economic, social and ecological impacts of fisheries management. The measures will be described and also the management systems applied to carry them out. Throughout the project the aim is to identify sustainable measures and suggest how these can be applied in a Baltic Sea/European context.

Output:

- Report 1, cataloguing various measures applied successfully in other marine areas.

Phase 2

International science workshop January 2009 in Stockholm

Report 1 will be the basis for discussions at an international workshop where internationally recognized fisheries management scientists will participate.

The workshop will take place during two days in Stockholm with not more than 20 invited scientists. All participants will contribute to deepening the assessment further, resulting in a background paper and scientific manuscript on “Factors of success for fisheries management in a global context”. It would also be appropriate to invite international experts from natural resource management, working with e.g. forests economists and governance of water management in order to extract relevant experiences also from these fields.

Aim:

To get substantial feedback and input (additions, amendments, omissions) to the report elaborated in phase 1. Identify “model areas” for applied in depth study of cases. Ensure the engagement of the world’s leading scientists in elaborating the material from this project in the coming months.

Output:

- Science Workshop report
- Report 2 (edited version of rapid assessment from phase 1)
- Begin developing scientific manuscript
- Recommendations for applied analysis of case studies/model areas



Phase 3

Case studies

January/February 2009

Based on recommendations from the scientific workshop the Project Team will strategically pick a small group (no more than 5) to carry out in-depth analysis of management, economic, social and environmental aspects of the "model areas". This will be done through meeting and engaging with stakeholders, managers and scientists active in the specific areas. It will provide in-depth understanding of elements of success pinpointing how and why fisheries management measures have been successful. Currently, experiences from measures reforming fisheries management in Norway, Iceland, New Zealand, Canada and United States have been identified. Regional/national characteristics will be investigated, examples of "non negotiable" changes/elements/influences as well as concrete management measures will be added to the outcomes of phase 2.

Aim:

In-depth understanding and documenting of underlying factors and successful management measures. Meeting relevant local and national stakeholders and managers. Preparing for phase 4.

Output:

- Report 3
- Conclusions incorporated into the work with scientific manuscript

Phase 4

Synthesis and elaboration of recommendations

February 2009

Synthesis of case studies, dialogue, reports and editing of all material accrued during phases 1 – 3 carried out by the Project Team. Policy recommendations, based on science/case studies/overall assessment, will begin to take shape in this phase.

Aim:

Continued work focusing on producing the relevant background documents which will facilitate the dialogue during phase 5.

Output:

- Background material for phase 5, describing identified best practices and how these could be applied to a Baltic/ European (CFP) context.
- Elaboration/drafting policy recommendations

Phase 5

International policy workshop: How can experiences become operational in the Baltic Sea/Europe? What changes need to be made?

March 2009 in Copenhagen

A workshop will be arranged using the background material elaborated in phase 4 as a baseline. How can the experiences be applied to a Baltic Sea context?

Specifically, how can the experiences be put forth as concrete proposals and contribute to the revision of the CFP? The workshop will target managing authorities and stakeholders (e.g. BalticRAC, national fisheries boards, green NGOs, European Commission) and participation will be limited to 30 participants.

It is not possible to be more precise about the preparation of the workshop at this time as phases 1-5 surely will influence orientation and purpose.

Aim:

Suggestions for how different known success-stories potentially could be applied to Baltic Sea fisheries and the revision of the CFP.

Output:

- Policy Workshop report
- Begin drafting final report.

Phase 6

Synthesis and final recommendations – going public

April 2009

All conclusions and discussions will be put together into a final report which will be completed by March 31 2009. The report will consist of highly qualified background material and illuminated by concretely pointing to measures that should be considered by the Member States when elaborating the Green Book on reforming European Fisheries.

Aim:

Final report which will be presented and discussed at a high level conference in Brussels during the first week of April 2009.

Output:

- Final report
- High level conference
- Finalizing scientific manuscript, incorporating conclusions from final report
- Printing and distribution of report

